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18 Show of Hands
Patient and physician Kent Brantly gives high fives to members of the Emory Healthcare team who helped him recover from Ebola virus disease on his way out of Emory’s Serious Communicable Disease Unit after his discharge on August 21. Photo by Jack Kearse.
Moving Targets

A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE YOU RECEIVED THE SUMMER ISSUE OF EMBRY MAGAZINE.

Until late July, Ebola virus disease had not been treated in the United States. The outbreak in West Africa was bad and getting worse, and concern was mounting among public health officials, but it was not yet making headlines here. That changed on the morning when American physician and missionary Kent Brantly woke up in Monrovia, Liberia, feeling sick and scared.

Since then, Brantly and fellow missionary Nancy Writebol have been successfully treated for Ebola virus disease at Emory University Hospital. After nearly a month in the care of a special Emory Healthcare team, they were released and returned to their families. Brantly and Writebol were the first two patients to be treated for the virus in the US, making their arrival and their recovery historic for Emory. Unfortunately, they were not the last. Additional patients with Ebola virus also have been treated at US facilities, and one has died.

It seems like a long time ago now that Ebola and Emory first became buzzwords, and a lot of other things have happened, too. For one, Goizueta Business School graduate Pavlo Sheremeta 95MBA, who accepted a position as finance minister for Ukraine back in February, resigned from the post in August, necessitating a revision of our feature profile by Steven Saum 89C 90G. That story, too, proved to be a moving target, and still the news of Ukraine’s struggle for stability evolves daily.

In September, Emory Professor Mahlon DeLong accepted the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, one of the most prestigious science honors in the world. In his decades of research, DeLong’s own moving target has been elusive structures at the base of the brain that have now proven to be effective sites for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease. His discoveries have transformed therapies for movement disorders, and that research continues to advance.

And a few weeks ago, the Class of 2018 arrived at Emory College and Oxford College, ready for whatever the next four years might bring. If a lot can happen in three months, imagine how much those students will grow, learn, and transform in four years. A handful of them are spotlighted in our feature story on shaping a new class, and their optimism and excitement about what they hope to accomplish at Emory shines. Their changing stories, and those of their approximately 1,800 classmates, will be followed and enjoyed by their professors, friends, and family—and no doubt some will find their way into future issues of Emory Magazine.

On a related note, since our last issue, my own son started his senior year of high school (as did Maria’s oldest). I began my work with the magazine the day after his fourth birthday, when the transition to prekindergarten, birthday party themes, and training wheels seemed like important concerns. Now he’s nearly eighteen, driving (kind of), and applying to college—inspiring emotions for his parents that are poignantly captured in our closing essay by David Raney 99PHD, who delivered a daughter to college and a son to daycare in the same week.

Talk about a moving target. —P.P.P.
I am nostalgic for my alma mater, given that my own daughter is starting college. The summer 2014 issue was, nevertheless, particularly poignant. I visited Emory in 1985, eager to fly bravely from my nest in west Texas. I did not expect to find myself a different sort of bird in this new place. I met people with very strong accents and political opinions, and not one of them exactly like mine. I fell madly in love with Emory, and truly in love with the self I found there. Bill Fox and Bobbi Patterson gave me flying lessons, and so to see their faces again was a gift. The fact that you chose to feature both SAPA (Sexual Assault Peer Advocates) and ELGO (Emory Lesbian and Gay Organization) in your graduation issue exemplifies what drew me to Emory in the first place. The way both articles featured multiple efforts and collaboration across the boundaries that too often divide makes me so proud to be from Emory. Thank you.

—Amy Laura Hall 90c
Associate professor, Duke University
Durham, North Carolina

I think this was an excellent piece (“Voices Rising,” summer 2014) and I’m glad to see that all Emory is doing to address an issue that has plagued society throughout human history. However, I was disappointed that there was no mention of the groups and initiatives that helped lay the foundation for the success of organizations such as SAPA. Before graduating in 2007, I was a board member of a Greek Life group (Sexual Assault Awareness Greek Advocates) that functioned exactly as SAPA does now. We engaged the community, and provided education, crisis response, and advocacy services. It was our group that helped bring Take Back the Night to Emory, and brought awareness to the problem of sexual assault with events and a very successful T-shirt campaign. Although we primarily focused on educating the Greek life community, we worked in the general Emory community as well. We had representatives from every fraternity and sorority on the board and were one of the first groups to work on educating young men. While it looks as though this movement has come a long way, I wonder if we would still love him once he traded his suits for a uniform, his warm handshake for a cold greeting. a) It was funny. b) He was humble. c) He knew that the mighty fall. In the end, even exotic travel and board service is a “fall” for a man so central to Emory’s work for so many years. d) He would be uncommonly good at greeting. e) All of the above.

Like many people in high places, he wondered if we would still love him once he traded his suits for a uniform, his warm handshake for a cart, his donor dinners for a cafeteria stool. The answer, Bill, is yes, and I hope like hell that you knew that.

—Susan Carini 04G
Executive director, Emory Creative Group
Emory in Teach For America top 20
Emory ranks among the top 20 medium-sized colleges and universities contributing alumni to Teach For America’s teaching corps. Emory has earned a spot in the top 20 for each of the seven years that the list has been released. Teach For America recruits outstanding graduates to commit to teach in high-need public schools. Some 22 Emory alumni joined Teach For America for 2014.

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Emory and Spelman to offer dual nursing degree
Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and Spelman College have joined forces to offer a dual-degree program that provides Spelman students the opportunity to obtain a degree in nursing. Students will study for three years at Spelman, then enroll at Emory for a two-year track that culminates with a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of science in nursing.

“Emory and Spelman to offer dual nursing degree”
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Our Changing Campus
GROWTH SUPPORTS COMMUNITY, SUSTAINABILITY

WHEN MORE THAN FOUR THOUSAND EOMY alumni and friends returned to campus for Homecoming weekend in September, some version of these words were uttered over and over: “Wow, I hardly recognize this place.”

Construction sites are such a fixture at Emory that it’s difficult to imagine the campus without them—all symbols of continued growth, improved quality, and increased sustainability for the university and Emory Healthcare.

Several key projects were completed over the summer, including Raoul Hall, Emory’s newest first-year residence hall, and phase II of the Candler School of Theology building, the new home of the Pitts Theology Library.

Named after Eleonore Raoul, the first woman to graduate from Emory School of Law and a lifelong supporter of equal rights for women, Raoul Hall opened with a community focus on social entrepreneurship. Residents will be encouraged to explore solving societal problems through creativity and innovation, employing organizations, faculty and community representatives, and educational opportunities.

Since 2006, Emory has opened new residence halls under a long-term freshman housing plan that links academic and residential experiences in living-learning communities rooted in themes such as citizenship, sustainability, leadership, and creativity.

“So much of what we do is about the push for building community across perceived boundaries, ensuring that every student has a sense of belonging,” says Ajay Nair, senior vice president and dean of campus life.

“Everything is intended toward that goal, helping students to be successful and feel a sense of belonging and ownership.”

And the growth continues this fall. Here’s a snapshot of what’s under way.

BRIARCLIFF PROPERTY
Site preparation has begun at Emory’s Briarcliff property for construction of a 55,000-square-foot Library Service Center, a joint project of Emory and Georgia Tech that will serve as an off-site library archive and processing center. Anticipated completion is fall 2015.

CHEMISTRY CENTER ADDITION
A five-story, 70,000-square-foot addition to the Atwood Chemistry Center will create additional research and instructional space for the Department of Chemistry, while renovation of 40,000 square feet of the existing Atwood Chemistry Center provides labs, offices, and support space. The addition is slated for completion in May 2015. “The building project sits right in the middle of Emory’s growing science commons,” says David Lynn, chair of the Department of Chemistry. “It was important to all of us that the architecture have an open, welcoming feel. This space is a great opportunity to pull the sciences together.”

OXFORD COLLEGE SCIENCE BUILDING
Featuring a classical design and modern amenities, the new science building at Oxford will include classrooms, wet labs, faculty offices and collaborative spaces for astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology, and physics. Anticipated completion is April 2016. “Having a science facility that can meet the needs of our thriving science curriculum has been a primary goal for a number of years,” says Oxford Dean Stephen Bowen. “The completion of this building will have enormous impact.”

TO BETTER HEALTH:
The new Emory University Hospital bed tower will add 210 patient beds and associated spaces.

LINK TO More construction news at www.emory.edu/magazine.
EMORY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BED TOWER
Construction continues for the new bed tower, located near Emory University Hospital on Clifton Road. The new tower will feature 450,000 square feet on nine levels, providing 210 patient beds as well as associated diagnostic and treatment spaces, ICU rooms, care units for cancer and transplants, and much more. Anticipated completion is 2017.

EMORY WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY
This facility will reclaim and process wastewater for nondrinking reuse in toilets and steam and chiller plants. It will include a 2,200-square-foot hydroponic greenhouse and 1,200 square feet of hydroponic wetlands to process up to 300,000 gallons of water per day, saving up to 1.46 million gallons of drinkable water annually. Construction is set to be complete by the end of 2014. “By using reclaimed water, Emory is modeling best practices in water conservation locally and globally,” says Ciannat Howett, director of sustainability initiatives. “Emory’s Water Reclamation Facility will relieve pressure on the local community’s aging and overtaxed water treatment system, reducing energy use impacts from treating and distributing water centrally, and helping the greater Atlanta region demonstrate responsible stewardship of one of Earth’s most precious resources.”

WOODRUFF LIBRARY TOWER LEVEL 10
University Libraries is renovating levels 9, 10, and 11 of the Woodruff Library as the permanent home of the Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL). This phase will renovate level 10 as the public face of MARBL, featuring an expanded reading room, interactive exhibit areas, technologically equipped classrooms, and gathering places. Renovation is scheduled to be complete next summer. “The project to expand and upgrade MARBL’s space and services is the culmination of many people’s efforts and dreams over the years,” MARBL Director Rosemary Magee says. “We’re thrilled with the opportunity to further strengthen one of Emory’s most distinguished and distinctive resources.”

Two Presidential Visits, Two Historic Days
On September 16, President Barack Obama visited the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for an update on the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa and the US response to it. The president later announced a significant expansion of efforts to combat the disease. “Faced with this outbreak, the world is looking to us, the United States, and it’s a responsibility that we embrace,” Obama said. “We are prepared to take leadership, to provide the kinds of capabilities that only America has, and to mobilize the world in ways that only America can do.”

He also met with Ebola experts from Emory Healthcare and members of the Emory University Hospital team who cared for the nation’s first patients to be treated for the disease (see our special report on page 18). “I have to commend everybody at Emory University Hospital,” Obama said. “I just had the opportunity to meet with Drs. Garland and Ribner and members of their team and the nurses who—sorry, doctors, but having been in hospitals, I know they are the ones really doing the work—and I had a chance to thank them for their extraordinary efforts in helping to provide care for the first Americans who recently contracted the disease in Africa.”

The following evening, former President Jimmy Carter visited campus for his thirty-third annual town hall meeting with Emory students, including an hour-long question-and-answer session. “I’m part of Emory’s family, and I am grateful to be here,” Carter, Emory University Distinguished Professor, told the hundreds of students who packed the Woodruff P. E. Center gymnasium for the September 17 event. The Plains, Georgia, native and Nobel Prize winner celebrated his ninetieth birthday on October 1.

Asked about the US response to the Ebola outbreak, Carter said, “I think what President Obama did yesterday when he came to the CDC is what we should have done a long time ago. Now I think they will get adequate support.”

And what advice would he give a first-year college student? Carter began by quoting a high school teacher. “‘We must accommodate changing times, but cling to principles that never change,’” he said. “There are principles that never change. To tell the truth, be compassionate to others, promote justice, promote peace, share whatever talent or ability you have with other people.”

Emory ranked highly by US News
Emory has been ranked 21st among the nation’s top universities in the new 2015 Best Colleges guidebook from US News & World Report. Emory was 18th among institutions offering the “best value” based on a combination of academic quality and the average level of need-based financial aid. The university also was cited for its economic diversity, with 21 percent of undergraduates receiving need-based Pell Grants.

Mayberg honored for advances in biological psychiatry
Helen Mayberg, professor of psychiatry, neurology, and radiology and Dorothy C. Fuqua Chair of Psychiatric Neuroimaging and Therapeutics in the School of Medicine, was presented with the Gold Medal Award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry. Established to honor pioneering contributions to the field, the award is presented for significant and sustained work that advances and extends knowledge.
Dual Identity

ON BEING MUSLIM AND AMERICAN

IT’S PROBABLY NOT A BOOK THAT A YOUNG man could write—and that is to its credit. The volume is boldly titled What Is an American Muslim? Embracing Faith and Citizenship, and the "old soul" behind it is Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na’im, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, associate professor in Emory College, and senior fellow of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion.

As the main title’s question implies, this is a book genuinely puzzling out American Muslim identity, in the process of which An-Na’im places his own identity cards on the table: he writes as a husband, father, and grandfather concerned for the future.

Nonetheless, it’s a work of unfailing optimism. The market for studies of Islamophobia has remained strong since 9/11, but An-Na’im refused to write such a book. There is no good reason, he says, why Muslims should “stand back to be either attacked or defended.”

Born in Sudan, a former resident of England, and an extensive traveler, An-Na’im has logged the miles to be able to say, “Comparatively, American Muslims are much better off than Muslims in many places, including Western Europe.” His eyes are open—he knows that there have been violent acts against Muslims here. But in twenty years of living in the US, An-Na’im never has had such an experience.

The key response, in his mind, is for Muslims to assert agency rather than retreat into victimization. “Socially, culturally, politically, there always will be good and bad,” he says. “The question is where do you stand? I am responsible for the square I am standing in, regardless of what goes on in the world.”

America’s checkered past with regard to religious oppression, ironically, can be a positive for Muslims. “There is a history to this,” An-Na’im says. “Muslims are not the first to face hostility. America is a country formed by pilgrims escaping persecution and by the richly layered histories of religious communities that have experienced persecution and fought back,” including Catholics, Jews, and Mormons. That resistance resulted in a cultural pluralism, of which our constitutional provisions are an

Business dean named ‘Woman of Power’
Goizueta Business School Dean Erika James was recently named one of 10 “Women of Power” by Black Enterprise. James appeared on the top list of women making an impact in education. James was named dean of the school in May, becoming the first African American woman to lead a top-25 US business school.

Grant to foster progress in biomedical informatics
Emory researcher Li Xiong has won a $1.06 million funding award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Xiong is an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Emory College and the Department of Biomedical Informatics at Emory School of Medicine. She will use the award to develop improved methods for building data registries.
Joyce Carol Oates on Writing—and Running

Literary icon Joyce Carol Oates shared her words and her wit at Emory’s Schwartz Center for Performing Arts in August as the opening keynote speaker for the 2014 Atlanta Journal-Constitution Decatur Book Festival. The evening featured a conversation between Oates and Greg Johnson 79PhD, former assistant professor of English at Emory and the writer’s authorized biographer.

GJ: When asked “Why do you write fiction?” Flannery O’Connor answered, “Because I’m good at it.” I wonder if you identify with this response or would you have a more nuanced answer?

JCO: “I think Flannery O’Connor would have been really good at Twitter. She has all these wonderful one-liners and she’s not afraid to be funny. I don’t think most people who are writers or artists really feel that they’re good at it. In just one morning I can have a gamut of emotions, from despair and despondency to mild curiosity over where this is going. I think that we all tell stories—our species is a storytelling species. We love to tell stories and we love to hear stories. So a writer or artist is someone who takes that impulse a little farther.”

GJ: You’ve been at Princeton for a number of years and before that at other universities. Evidently, the academic environment has been very congenial to your writing.

JCO: “When I asked John Updike why he didn’t want to teach, he said that he felt young writers sort of sucked his vitality, like vampires; they took his life’s energy from him. And I feel just the opposite. I really enjoy my students, and they’re not all young! There’s just something wonderful about people who care deeply about writing and who bring their stories and chapters of novels for us to read. Such an intimate sharing, there is something almost mystical about it.”

GJ: How does movement motivate you as a writer?

JCO: “I do a lot of running and walking fast—that’s where I really do a lot of my writing, in my head. I remember when I was a girl, and I lived on a small farm, some nights I couldn’t sleep and I would go outside in the light of the moon [and] run along our long driveway. There was such a feeling of some strange romance, smelling the fresh air—it was almost unspeakably exciting and beautiful. [Now] I run in my neighborhood. There is a country road that goes up a hill. And when I run up that hill—I’m not making this up—I feel that there will be ideas waiting for me, it’s like they’re waiting for me up in that place. So I run up there. If I just sat in a room it wouldn’t be the same thing.”—Kimber Williams

Emory welcomes new finance leaders

Carol Dillon Kissal has been named vice president for finance/chief finance officer, succeeding Edie Murphree and reporting to Michael Mandl, executive vice president, business and administration. Kissal joins Mike Andrehak, Emory’s chief university budget officer, who was appointed by Provost Claire Sterk in May. Kissal and Andrehak will work in tandem leading Emory’s finance and budget functions.

Saint Joseph’s recognized for cardiac care

Emory Saint Joseph’s Center for Advanced Heart Failure has earned the Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval for its ventricular assist device (VAD) program. The VAD is an artificial heart pump that can be used as a bridge to transplant or as a “destination therapy” for certain patients in which transplantation is not an option.

—Susan Carini aja
Home Away from Home
STUDENTS MAKE DORM ROOMS THEIR OWN

College means both learning to live independently for the first time and as part of a community of peers. For many students, there’s a degree of culture shock; but the process of setting up a dorm room and bonding with a roommate can go a long way toward creating a new home at Emory.

Sophomores Ayman Elmasri ’17C and Mark Kravitz ’17C became friends when they lived across the hall from one another as freshmen in Evans Hall. The two have much in common—a shared sense of humor, a double major in neuroscience and behavioral biology, and dads who are doctors. They also both were selected as sophomore advisers for their floor in Evans, so they chose to become roommates as well.

Along with their many similarities, the two have some differences to work through.

“He has ridiculous taste in shoes, and I have normal taste in shoes,” says Elmasri, gesturing toward at least a half-dozen pairs of shoes next to Kravitz’s bunk.

“He has horrible taste in music, and I have great taste in music,” Kravitz jabs back.

The pair decided it was “absolutely essential” to bunk their beds to make maximum use of their 10-foot, 8-inch by 12-foot, 5-inch living space. Elmasri will occupy the top bunk until the end of first semester, then Kravitz will get top billing for second semester. “It’s the only fair way to do it,” Elmasri says.

Lining the walls are full-sized flags that are meaningful to each of them. The flags of Sudan and Germany represent Elmasri’s dual heritage, while an American flag and an Ohio state flag salute Kravitz’s home state. A Hong Kong flag was a gift from a friend, and a rainbow peace flag represents dedication to providing a safe space for all and supporting equality.

Personal items include drawings from Kravitz’s girlfriend, an art student in Virginia, and a ceramic “angry monster” jar Elmasri made with a cousin from Germany, which guards a stash of peanut butter cup candies.

Requisite comforts include two gaming systems—an Xbox 360 and a classic Nintendo 64. The room also offers plenty of chairs for hall mates to come in to talk or join in a game. “We have lots of residents coming in all the time,” Elmasri says.

Skylr Martucci ’13B ’15C began planning the decor for her Emory dorm room halfway through her senior year of high school in her hometown of Monroe, Georgia.

“My mom and I like to go antiquing. There are a lot of antique malls near where I grew up and you can find treasures for great prices,” Martucci says, pointing out an antique lamp adorned with flowers that she’s designed the room around. “I am looking for quality pieces that I can use after graduation, so it is an investment.”

SPACE SAVERS:
“Every single thing in this room has a purpose—everything,” says Ayman Elmasri (left, on left), with his roommate Mark Kravitz. (right),

HOMEMADE: Skylr Martucci (right) and her mom sewed pillows and slipcovers for her dorm room by hand.

TICKER
Two new fund-raising leaders appointed
Emory has appointed Bill Kotti and Mathwon Howard, fund-raising professionals with a combined 40 years of development experience, as associate vice presidents to the senior leadership team of the Division of Development and Alumni Relations. Kotti was previously the president of the Medical College of Virginia Foundation; Howard joins Emory from Duke University, where he was director of major gifts.

Candler celebrates a century
Candler School of Theology, founded in July 1914, celebrates its centennial beginning this fall with an opening convocation in Cannon Chapel, the publishing of a new book on its history, the dedication of a new building for Pitts Theology Library, and a series of events throughout the academic year, culminating in an academic conference.
LEADERSHIP

Emory Welcomes New Senior Leader

Jerry Lewis joined Emory University on September 1 as senior vice president for communications and public affairs.

Lewis served for the past seven years as vice president for communications at the University of Texas at Arlington and previously was vice president for communications at the University of Miami. He brings almost three decades of experience in higher education strategic communications to Emory.

“Jerry Lewis has done it all in university communications and has done it superbly well,” says Emory President James Wagner. “He knows firsthand the distinctive contours of a major research university with an academic health sciences and health care center. He is a proven team builder who values and fosters the success of colleagues and staff. And he is a thoughtful person with a vision for how to tell the Emory story effectively to our broad range of constituencies.”

While at UT Arlington, Lewis developed a robust, integrated program that brought together all facets of strategic messaging, media relations, marketing, multimedia, print and online communications, social media, issues management, and institutional identity. He also was responsible for community engagement and developing priorities for strengthening government and civic relationships.

Prior to that, Lewis served for twenty years in leadership positions at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, including chief communications officer at the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, and ultimately vice president and chief communications officer for the university. He also was founding editor of the university’s alumni magazine, Miami Magazine.

Emory has earned its place among the upper echelon of the nation’s most prestigious universities. It’s a venerable brand with an amazing story to tell,” says Lewis. “I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to help leverage Emory’s significant strengths to further advance its reputation, nurture recognition, and engender support among its most important audiences.”

Lewis is responsible for the effective coordination of communications, government relations, and community engagement, both locally and nationally.

A native of Virginia, Lewis earned a bachelor’s degree in communications from the University of Virginia. Lewis went on to receive a master’s of science degree from the University of Miami and a master’s of business administration from the University of Texas at Arlington. He also completed the executive education program at the Harvard Business School in 2010.

Under his leadership, the communications teams at Miami and UT Arlington received more than three hundred awards from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the American Marketing Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, and other professional organizations.
At-Home Anemia Testing?

A simple point-of-care testing device for anemia could provide more rapid diagnosis of the common blood disorder and allow inexpensive at-home self-monitoring of people with chronic forms of the disease, which affects two billion people worldwide.

Erika Tyburski, a research specialist in pediatric hematology at the School of Medicine, led the team that developed the test device (prototype at left) through a 2011 undergraduate senior design project in the Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory. Device development was a collaboration among Emory, Georgia Tech, and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

The disposable self-testing device analyzes a single droplet of blood using a chemical reagent that produces visible color changes corresponding to different levels of anemia. The basic test produces results in about sixty seconds and requires no electrical power. A companion smartphone application can automatically correlate the visual results to specific blood hemoglobin levels.

By allowing rapid diagnosis and more convenient monitoring of patients with chronic anemia, the device could help patients receive treatment before the disease becomes severe, potentially heading off emergency room visits and hospitalizations.

Senior Project: Team leader Erika Tyburski.
Freshman Seminar AMST 190: News Coverage of Ethnic Minorities

**FACULTY CV:** Nathan McCall is a senior lecturer in the Department of African American Studies. He received his bachelor's degree in journalism from Norfolk State University in Virginia. In 2008, he received an honorary doctorate of humane letters at Martin University. McCall has worked as a reporter and editor for newspapers including the Washington Post, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and the Virginian-Pilot Ledger-Star. McCall's research interests center on constructions of racial identities and the impact of those constructions on African Americans and other ethnic groups. He also explores media representations of ethnic minorities and trends in popular culture that reflect and promote social constructions of race. He has published three books, including his autobiography, *Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America*; *What's Going On*, a book of essays exploring politics, race, and culture; and *Them*, a novel that captures the tension between blacks and whites in today's urban neighborhoods.

**TODAY’S LECTURE:** An examination of newspaper coverage of Native Americans dating back to the American colonial period and how newspaper representations led to the entrenchment of negative stereotypes. McCall demonstrates through lecture and discussion how public institutions including schools, churches, government, business, and media perpetuated negative stereotypes about Native Americans in order to justify displacing them from their land. The class discussed how the perception gap about ethnic minorities that emerged in colonial times is still recognizable in media coverage today.

**QUOTES TO NOTE:** “As a journalist, I have had the experience of interviewing people who hate the media because reporters so often overlook the cultural nuances in issues and events they cover. Your ability to grasp the cultural context in a situation is so important. One reason I enjoy teaching courses such as this is that they help equip students with the tools they'll need to navigate—with cultural sensitivity—in an increasingly diverse society.”

“Racism is so deeply entrenched in our society that we shouldn’t avoid talking about it. In here, not only is it OK to talk about it, but we can do so without fear of what others will think. It is both comforting and important to have a place where we can do that.”  
—HANNAH CONWAY 18C, STUDIO CITY, CALIFORNIA

“I never thought racism would be perpetuated through newspapers like it is. I did not realize race was such a determining factor in how news was covered and how that is shaping people’s perceptions of race.”  
—ZAHRA PUNJA 18C, LAWRENCEVILLE—M.M.L. 

**STUDENTS SAY:**

“Racism is so deeply entrenched in our society that we shouldn’t avoid talking about it. In here, not only is it OK to talk about it, but we can do so without fear of what others will think. It is both comforting and important to have a place where we can do that.”  
—RIVER BUNKLEY 18C, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

“The media is very influential in shaping public perceptions. I try to encourage students to transform from passive consumers of news to being engaged, critical thinkers. This generation of college students, which is so immersed in segmented news, has got to step up and think more broadly and critically about information so that they don’t repeat the same racial mistakes as their predecessors.”  
—NATHAN MCCALL

**TYPE CAST:** Students study historical and current news coverage and examine how it has contributed to public stereotypes, attitudes, behavior, and policy directed at ethnic minorities.
Six Tips for Getting Better Sleep

1. **Ditch the Devices.**
   Too many people are in the habit of monitoring a laptop, cell phone, or tablet throughout the evening, Collop says. Whether you’re working, socializing, or a combination of both, continually responding to emails, text messages, and social media is stimulating to the brain—as is the light that emanates from those screens. Collop recommends turning devices off at least an hour—or better, two—before bedtime.

2. **Be Consistent.**
   Children aren’t the only ones who benefit from a regular bedtime. "I saw someone today who told me she goes to bed anytime between 10:00 p.m. and midnight," Collop says. "That’s a broad range. It’s better to have a routine"—preferably going to bed and waking up within an hour of the same time each day.

3. **Get Off the Treadmill.**
   While exercise is great for supporting quality sleep overall, physical activity revs up the heart rate, blood pressure, adrenaline, and other body processes that take a while to slow back down to normal—longer for some people than others. Although a common rule is no exercise at least two hours before bed, Collop suggests that three to four hours might be a more effective window for winding down. And don’t follow an evening workout with a hot shower. “When you go to sleep, your body temperature falls, which actually aids your ability to fall asleep,” Collop says. “So a hot shower right before bed might feel relaxing, but it’s not so good for sleep.”

4. **Resist the Bedtime Snack (and Sip).**
   Eating high-fat-and-calorie foods shortly before bed increases your risk of acid reflux and other gastrointestinal discomforts, especially since gravity works against you when you’re horizontal and digestion slows down. When it comes to beverages, “Obviously, don’t drink anything with caffeine—I tell people after three or four in the afternoon,” Collop says. And although alcoholic drinks can help people fall asleep quickly, those who indulge before bedtime are more likely to wake up in the night and get only fitful, poor-quality sleep afterward.

5. **Kill Your Television.**
   Okay, not really—but at least get it out of the bedroom. "The bedroom should be a place where you go to sleep, not to watch TV," Collop says. “This is often a sticking point with couples, because for some people it’s not really a problem and for others it is. We do know that the light, noise, and content of TV are stimulating even when it doesn’t necessarily feel like it. A lot of people will fall asleep with the TV on, and then wonder why they didn’t sleep well.”

6. **Bed Is for Sleeping.**
   If you’re not sleeping, don’t lie in bed for hours wishing you were. Part of the behavioral therapy conducted at the Emory Sleep Center is designed to help people associate bed with sleep, Collop explains, so wakeful patients are encouraged to get up and go do something relaxing—such as reading—elsewhere in the house. And when trying to fall asleep, the old remedy of counting sheep may actually work—anything that’s both progressive and monotonous can help calm the mind. Collop often suggests mentally reliving your day from the beginning, step by step, down to brushing your teeth and tying your shoes. “That gets boring pretty fast,” she says—hopefully boring enough to help you drift off to dreamland.

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**NANCY COLLOP**

**Catching Some ZZZzs**

The act of sleeping might seem like the most natural thing in the world. At the end of the day, we grow tired, lie down, close our eyes, and drift into restful oblivion for seven or eight hours. Right?

For many of us, it’s just not that simple—which is why Nancy Collop, director of the Emory Clinic Sleep Center, and her team treat hundreds of patients each year who have trouble sleeping. An expert in sleep disorders such as restless leg syndrome and sleep apnea, Collop begins by asking patients numerous questions about their sleep habits to determine whether basic changes could improve their night’s rest. While some solutions may seem obvious, it’s surprising how many people slip into routine behaviors that adversely affect their sleep, Collop says.

“Sometimes we are able to pick up on problematic patterns that are clues to their sleep difficulties,” she says. “Do they have a sleep disorder, or is there something else going on?” — P.P.P.
Battling Parkinson’s on Two Fronts
RESEARCHERS EXPLORE DIFFERENT PATHS TO IMPROVED DOPAMINE FUNCTION

DOPAMINE IS A JACK-OF-ALL TRADES. IN THE brain, it’s a neural-signal transmitter that plays a central role in a range of functions including arousal, motivation, and cognition. Dopamine also is involved with motor control, and low levels of the chemical are responsible for the motor-control impairment characteristic of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s.

In separate preclinical projects, Emory researchers Gary Miller and Malu Tansey are exploring new ways to optimize dopamine levels that may improve treatment for Parkinson’s and other diseases of the central nervous system.

When a cell produces dopamine, it is stored in small packages, or vesicles, by a protein called the vesicular monoamine transporter (VMAT 2), according to Miller, professor and associate dean for research at Emory’s Rollins School of Public Health. Dopamine is released, finds its receptor, and then is brought back to the cell for reuse.

“Dopamine gets used thousands and thousands of times, but it can be reused only if it is packaged correctly by the VMAT 2,” Miller explains. “If the process is disrupted and the dopamine is not stored correctly, or if it’s leaking out into other parts of the cell, it can cause Parkinson’s-like degeneration problems. Dopamine needs to be stored at the right place in order for it to do its job.”

Rather than looking at ways to increase the amount of dopamine in the brain, Miller’s approach focuses on the packaging side of the process. “It’s all about increasing the efficiency of the system,” he says of his research.

Miller’s team worked with transgenic mice with increased VMAT 2 levels and found a corresponding increase in dopamine release along with increased movement. The researchers also noted improved outcomes in terms of anxiety and depressive behaviors, as well as protection from MPTP, a chemical that can cause Parkinson’s-related damage in the brain.

“Now the idea is to see if we can improve the storage of dopamine pharmaceutically,” says Miller.

Therapeutic enhancement of VMAT 2 might also be conducted in tandem with L-dopa, the current drug of choice for treating Parkinson’s. A metabolic precursor of dopamine, L-dopa increases the amount of dopamine in the brain, but it carries serious side effects—muscle spasms, abnormal heart rhythms, and gastrointestinal problems, among others—and its effectiveness diminishes over time.

“If you can enhance the storage of the dopamine that comes from L-dopa, if nothing else, you could take less of the drug,” Miller notes. “And anytime you take less of a drug, you tend to decrease the side effects.”

The research indicates that sustainable, improved VMAT 2 function also could help treat a variety of central nervous system disorders that involve the storage and release of chemicals besides dopamine, including serotonin and norepinephrine.

Miller’s study was published in the June 17, 2014, edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Another aspect of the motor-control impairment associated with Parkinson’s is the loss of dopamine-producing neurons due to chronic inflammation, according to Tansey, associate professor of physiology at the School of Medicine.

For reasons not yet fully understood, these nerve cells appear to be susceptible to damage and death by soluble tumor necrosis factor (TNF), an inflammatory molecule.

With support from the Michael J. Fox Foundation, Tansey and her research group are investigating an experimental anti-inflammatory drug, XPro1595, that may significantly slow the advance of Parkinson’s symptoms by neutralizing the damaging effects of soluble TNF on dopamine-producing neurons.

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“You’ll lose some dopamine-producing neurons just in the aging process, since inflammation goes up as you get older,” she explains. “Certain neurons in the brain handle inflammatory stress less well than others, so it’s possible that as you age, the inflammation in certain parts of the brain becomes too much to handle, perhaps because of external factors that are known risks for the development of Parkinson’s. And if you lose, say, 70 percent of your dopamine-producing neurons, that’s thought to be close to the threshold where you start experiencing the motor symptoms that would allow a neurologist to do a clinical diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease.”

Using a model of Parkinson’s in rats, the researchers found that an injection of XPro given shortly after symptoms appeared resulted in only a 15 percent loss in dopamine-producing neurons, versus a 55 percent loss in the control group. Motor-skill impairment was reduced accordingly.

However, when the injection was delayed, neuron loss rose to 44 percent, suggesting that XPro’s effectiveness may depend on early intervention.

“Recent clinical studies indicate there is a four- or five-year window between diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease and the time when the maximum number of vulnerable neurons are lost,” Tansey notes. “If this is true, and if inflammation is playing a key role during this window, then we might be able to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson’s with a treatment like XPro.”

Tansey estimates that the drug, injected under the skin, could delay the disease’s advance by ten or perhaps even twenty years.

Another key advantage of XPro is that it’s specific only to soluble TNF, she says. Anti-inflammatory drugs on the market don’t discriminate between soluble TNF and another form of the molecule, membrane-bound TNF. The latter protects against infection and promotes the health of the myelin sheath that facilitates the transmission of nerve signals. So while current drugs neutralize soluble TNF, they also disable the beneficial TNF, leading to a higher risk of infection and other unwanted side effects.

“We think this will be the right drug for chronic inflammatory neurological diseases, not only because it spares the membrane-bound TNF, but also because it can get into the brain and do its work there, whereas the molecules of other drugs are too large to get into the brain,” Tansey says.

Her next step is to test XPro in a nonhuman primate model of Parkinson’s.

The results of her research were published in the July 24, 2014, edition of the Journal of Parkinson’s Disease. —Gary Goettling

DOOLEY NOTED

The Hardback Years

Right now, chapters of Emory life are continuously unscrolling on the digital pages of Facebook, in the moving pictures of YouTube, in staccato bursts on Twitter feeds, and on countless websites that mark time with daily or hourly updates.

It’s easy to forget that, for more than a century, the university’s academic years were celebrated in a more concrete format: annual yearbooks. Founded by students in 1893, Emory’s first yearbook, the Zodiac, chronicled scholarly and social life on campus, including a snapshot of each class—a brief “history,” class chant or song, and students’ names and hometowns. The annual, later called Campus, also highlighted clubs and societies, fraternities, the Glee Club, athletic teams, and even oddball organizations such as the Ugly Men’s League (Emory Magazine readers with information about this little-known group are encouraged to share with the editors).

As decades passed, the yearbook kept pace with Emory’s social and cultural evolution.

The 1920s brought a popular section titled “Southern Beauties,” featuring some of the student body’s female friends and companions and showing off the styles of the day. Editions from the 1940s and 1960s reflect wartime changes; following the famed Woodruff gift of 1979, the generosity of the Woodruff Foundation was noted in the Campus pages, along with a tongue-in-cheek song referring to Emory as “the Coca-Cola School.”

The yearbook ceased publication in 1999, but for university alumni and friends, its volumes have found new life in the digital realm. Emory Libraries staff have digitized the collection to make it available electronically, a project featured in a special exhibit now on view in the Robert W. Woodruff Library. “Gone Digital: 100+ Years of Emory Yearbooks Now Online” will run until March 8, 2015, in the Level 2 gallery space.
A HOT VIRUS FROM THE RAINFOREST LIVES WITHIN A TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR PLANE FLIGHT FROM EVERY CITY ON EARTH. — RICHARD PRESTON, THE HOT ZONE


EBOLA
FROM MICROSCOPE TO SPOTLIGHT

BY MARIA M. LAMEIRAS
Twenty-nine days after the July morning he awoke in Monrovia, Liberia, feeling feverish, Kent Brantly stepped out of the isolation unit at Emory University Hospital, a survivor of infection by the deadly Ebola virus.

His wife, Amber Brantly, had not been able to touch her physician husband since July 20. That was the day she and the couple’s two young children kissed him good-bye, then boarded a plane for Texas to attend a wedding.

The moment he emerged from his hospital room free of Ebola, she walked to his side and, taking his left hand, she slipped his wedding ring back onto his finger.

The extraordinary efforts that led to this moment brought together public and private entities from around the world in a race not only to save American lives, but also to learn more about a virus that has decimated thousands in West Africa.

International media coverage of the treatment of patients at Emory University Hospital (EUH), two patients sent to the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, and two cases at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas has focused attention on the Ebola crisis and spurred increased response from the American government and governments around the world. This support is critical, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), which warns that the disease could become endemic, infecting more than one million people by January, if efforts to thwart its spread are not “drastically escalated.”

At Emory, infectious diseases specialist Bruce Ribner had been preparing for twelve years to treat a case like Brantly’s. In 2002, officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approached Emory with the request that the two organizations work together to develop a special isolation unit at EUH. They wanted a secure place to bring CDC employees—from the headquarters or from the field—who had been exposed to or infected with any number of dangerous pathogens.

“We agreed, and over the course of several months came up with a model for developing a unit that could care for individuals with any communicable disease with any mode of transmission,” says Ribner, director of Emory’s Serious Communicable Disease (SCD) Unit, who served as Emory’s principal investigator in developing the isolation unit.

Since it was established, the health care team charged with staffing the unit have done their jobs “quietly, effectively, and efficiently,” regularly training for every eventuality, including Ebola, Ribner says.

Then, on Monday, July 28, Ribner received the call from the US Department of State asking for permission to come visit the unit. A team arrived on Tuesday, and on Wednesday morning Ribner received a call from the agency asking to bring Brantly from Liberia to Emory for treatment.
Flight for Life

WHAT IT TAKES TO FLY AN EBOLA PATIENT SAFELY BACK FROM LIBERIA

A PILOT SINCE HIS TEENS, Randall “Randy” H. Davis Jr. turned his love of flight into his life’s work, earning a law degree and specializing in aviation law.

He is general counsel for Phoenix Air Group in Cartersville, Georgia, one of the largest international air ambulance and special mission companies in the world. In August, he traded his suit and tie for a pilot uniform as part of a three-pilot team that brought missionary Nancy Writebol from Liberia to Georgia for treatment at Emory.

Phoenix is under contract with the US Department of State as the only air carrier in the world with the capability to transport highly contagious patients using an airborne biological containment system (ABCS).

The ABCS is a flexible, clear plastic, sealed environment tent erected inside a metal exoskeleton fabricated by Phoenix Air, which holds the tent erect. Inside the tent is a stretcher, along with a toilet and task lighting. There is an airlock, allowing specially suited medical technicians to enter the negative-pressure, sealed patient isolation chamber to administer care if necessary. Depending on the severity of the contagion, the tent can be collapsed and removed from the aircraft as the patient exits, allowing all virus contaminants to be encapsulated inside the tent, which is then autoclaved to sterilize the contents and incinerated by a special contractor. The metal exoskeleton and air filtration systems remain contaminant-free and can be used again when a new tent and HEPA filters are installed.

The air inside the tent is highly filtered as it enters and leaves the isolation chamber, and specially designed HEPA filters are disposed of after use. Currently the two special-missions Gulfstream G-III jets owned and operated by Phoenix Air are the only two aircraft in the world certified by the CDC, Department of Defense, and Federal Aviation Administration for deploying the ABCS.

Phoenix Air holds a contract with the CDC to store ten complete, hermetically sealed ABCS units in its climate-controlled warehouse. Only the director of the CDC and the Secretary of Health and Human Services can authorize deployment of one of these government-owned ABCS units, including the units used to transport Kent Brantly, Nancy Writebol, and a third, unidentified American doctor to Emory, and physician Richard Sacra and journalist Ashoka Mukpo to Nebraska Medical Center.

The pilots would take turns in control of the airplane, with each taking a few hours at a time on the flight deck. “We’d talk to the medical personnel about the patient’s condition. On a normal flight, if something started to go really wrong with the patient, we would land at the closest suitable airfield, but not with these patients. We were told that, other than for an aircraft emergency, we could not land anywhere but Dobbins Air Force Base,” Davis says. “Our medical team is good at dealing with any emergency in the air, and the patients and their families understood this. Our mission was to get them here.”

Extraordinary precautions were taken with the patients, including masking the entire interior of the airplane around the ABCS with protective sterile sheeting to avoid contamination, even though the patients were brought into and out of the chamber in full biocontainment suits. Pilots exited and remained outside of the plane while the patients were being brought in and out.

“When we were on the ground [in Liberia] we had to be careful. The airline terminal was fairly primitive. People do not shake hands, and there were huge dispensers of bleach water outside the terminals where everyone washed their hands,” he says.

Taking on these highly specialized missions is Phoenix Air’s business, and part of what attracted Davis to his unique role with the company.

“Anytime you are flying folks for a specific purpose, especially people who are as sick as these patients were, this airplane, this equipment is the only way to get them where they need to go safely, efficiently, and in a timely manner,” he says. “That’s what our aviation work is all about.”
The Ebola outbreak had been raging in Africa since March, but it was not until Brantly and fellow missionary worker Nancy Writebol were infected that the story caught fire in the news media, sparking a tumult of speculation about the Americans’ fates.

“I discussed it with a group of administrators—Bob Bachman, chief executive officer for EUH; Bryce Gartland, vice president of operations; Ira Horowitz, chief medical officer; and Nancy Feistritzer, vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer—and immediately they said yes,” Ribner says.

‘WE WERE FINALLY GOING TO USE OUR TRAINING’

The next two days were a frenzy of focused activity—preparing the SCD unit, recruiting trained health care volunteers to staff it, and preparing for the media onslaught that was sure to come to Emory along with the first American with Ebola ever to be treated in the United States.

“Somewhere between the excitement and anticipation among the team—we were finally going to use our training, we were going to be the first people in the developed world to manage patients with Ebola—we began to get pushback from some employees. There was a lot of anxiety,” Ribner says.

To address those concerns, Bachman coordinated systemwide town hall meetings for each shift to educate staff about Ebola and to answer questions about the disease and how Emory would care for these patients while protecting the safety of the staff and the other patients in the hospital.

“We knew when we agreed to take these patients here that only 5 percent of the problem would be taking really good care of the patients. The other 95 percent would be to manage the message and the media and the overall public reaction,” Bachman said at one of the town hall meetings held in the early days of Brantly and Writebol’s treatment (see sidebar on Emory’s media and communications response). “We realized we needed to have these conversations about this disease, which really does strike fear in the minds of many people.”

Crystal Johnson 00N has been on the staff of the SCD unit for eight of her fifteen years at Emory. She convinced her colleague Laura Mitchell 95Sx 97N to join the unit as well. Despite her own enthusiasm for the assignment—she’d wanted a chance to work with high-level infectious diseases since seeing the 1995 film Outbreak—Johnson admits being nervous when the unit was activated.

“Our previous protocol did not have us wearing the full protective suit,” Johnson says.

OPEN MIC:
Bruce Ribner, director of the SCD unit, addresses reporters’ questions at a press conference.

Then they called us in the day before the patients arrived and told us they were changing our PPE [personal protective equipment]. From that day I felt that, yes, we were going to care for the patients, but the number one priority was our safety, the safety of everyone else in the community, the rest of the hospital, and out in the world. I felt confident going in.”

All the members of Emory’s SCD unit are highly skilled and trained volunteers, like Johnson, who work in many different units at EUH and Emory University Hospital Midtown (EUHM). In all, more than 125 Emory staff members—from doctors and nurses to lab technicians and maintenance personnel—helped care for Emory’s Ebola patients.

Jason Slabach 13N was not part of the SCD unit before it was determined that two Ebola patients would be treated at Emory at the same time. Before earning his nursing degree at Emory, he practiced as a paramedic for three years in Virginia; for the past year he has been on the staff of a medical cardiac unit at Emory. He agreed, after speaking with his wife, Katie Allen Slabach 100x 12N, a nurse in a medical cardiac unit at Emory.

“She had some apprehension early on, as did I,” he says. “But receiving the training made me feel completely comfortable that the things we were doing would be 100 percent correct.”

Slabach remembers encountering the subject of Ebola as a high school student in Virginia when he read The Hot Zone by Richard Preston. The 1994 best seller examined the origins of the Ebola viruses and gave vivid descriptions of early outbreaks in Africa and one in a primate facility in Reston, Virginia, that had government agencies frantically working to identify and contain the deadly virus.

The gruesome depictions of Ebola’s symptoms in the book and in movies like Outbreak, as well as the widely publicized 40 to 90 percent mortality rate of the disease, were fuel for the explosion of negative public reaction that accompanied the first announcement that
I STRONGLY FELT THAT THE MORTALITY RATES QUOTED IN AFRICA WERE NOT WHAT WE’D ANTICIPATE IN THE UNITED STATES. IT WOULD BE THE EQUIVALENT HERE IF WE TOOK ALL OF THE PATIENTS FROM OUR INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AND SENT THEM ALL HOME TO SEE HOW WELL THEY WOULD DO.” —BRUCE RIBNER

But international concern about Ebola virus has blossomed along with the current outbreak, in part because of the havoc Ebola wreaks on the human body and the lack of previous knowledge about the disease.

“IT IS ONE OF THOSE VIRUSES THAT CAN BE VERY DEVASTATING BECAUSE IT ATTACKS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM DIRECTLY. THE VIRUS INFECTS IMMUNE CELLS AND BLOCKS THE ABILITY OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM TO RESPOND,” SAYS ANEESH MEHTA, assistant professor of infectious diseases at Emory’s School of Medicine. “ONCE THE DENDRITIC CELLS AND MONOCYTES ARE INFECTED, IT GETS INTO THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM, WHICH ALLOWS IT TO SPREAD RAPIDLY AND TO HAVE A DEVASTATING EFFECT. IT IS USING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND KILLING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AT THE SAME TIME.”

Mehta, who was the first Emory physician to care for Ebola survivor and fellow physician Kent Brantly, says treating Ebola patients in American facilities offers the opportunity to look in depth at the science, pathogenesis, and transmission of Ebola virus in order to develop better approaches to treatment.

“The ability to do that in the countries where outbreaks usually happen is lower, because there is not a good health care infrastructure for treatment and even less of a research infrastructure to look at the disease process,” he says. “In all of the US hospitals that have treated patients, with the help of the CDC and other federal agencies, we are able to put together the data being collected and study these patients to improve treatment in a way that has never been done before. We hope that knowledge will lead to better approaches for patients in the future.”

Although the level of care delivered to patients in the US can’t currently be transferred to those in West Africa, Mehta says there are key measures that can be taken in less-developed health care environments.

“Good electrolyte replacement and the ability to have lab testing close by could potentially have huge impact on controlling this outbreak. Whatever we can bring to Africa may lower the fatality rate of the disease and result in more survivors leaving treatment centers,” he says. “That will hopefully encourage more patients to come into treatment centers earlier in the disease process. All of those things are needed to contain an outbreak like this—not just equipment and people, but the confidence of the communities where this is occurring.”

Strengthening health care infrastructures and keeping cultural differences in mind are important aspects of improving overall health in developing areas, especially as the world becomes more interconnected by international travel, Mehta adds. “It is a lesson for all of us in the international community that, whenever there are places where people can’t access good health care and basic measures they need to improve health, it can lead to ripple effects that can influence us all,” Mehta says. “There is nothing like an infectious disease to show that.”
of infection, not because of stupidity or carelessness, but lack of equipment.”

The treatment of patients just down the street from the CDC has offered an unprecedented opportunity to study the disease.

“Ebola is only a young disease in terms of epidemiology and what we have learned about it. After learning the patterns of this disease and the virus and increasing what we know about it, we can figure out new strategies for treatment,” Ribner says.

Now that Brantly and Writebol have recovered, they have agreed to work with the CDC on Ebola research. Their blood is being monitored for abnormalities during follow-up care, and the CDC is undertaking a research project on their bodies’ immunity to the disease.

“Even though the CDC has been dealing with Ebola for forty years, the laboratory facilities are so limited in Africa that this level of research has never before been possible. They were trying to collect blood samples on filter paper in Africa to do studies,” Ribner says. “This is the first opportunity that most of our colleagues at the CDC have had to do the intensive testing they have wanted to do, and the patients both have expressed an interest in helping us understand this infection.”

Ultimately, the goal is to provide effective treatment strategies to health care workers on the front lines of Ebola outbreaks in Africa.

“We continue to provide feedback and information to health care providers in Africa in the hopes that we can bring the mortality rates down,” Ribner says. “If we can give them advice on changing the fluids and the content of the mineral solutions they are providing to their patients and help them understand ways to improve survival in a developing environment, then everything we have done was worth doing, no matter the outcome.”

‘WE COULD SAVE LIVES’

The notion that the United States would not have seen Ebola cases if these patients hadn’t been brought here is “foolish,” Ribner says.

“To this point, the United States had just been a little lucky, with all of the outbreaks on the African continent, that it had not come here,” he says. “Anytime [someone] traveled to another country in Africa by airplane, they could just as well have come here.”

Because of the proximity of the CDC and its special pathogens lab, Emory was the logical choice for treating the first US Ebola patients, Ribner says.

“It was important to show that we could effectively take care of Ebola patients. It was a good idea to bring these patients to our unit, where we have this training and where the resources of the CDC were right down the street. If we could do this safely, and show that our personnel would be safe, we could save lives,” he says.

The care that EUH provided its patients and the safety protocols it followed are transferrable to other health care facilities. The isolation unit at the Nebraska Medical Center, built in 2005, was modeled after Emory’s unit. Ribner spent hours on the phone with Phil Smith, medical director of the Nebraska unit, sharing information after the decision was made to bring a third American Ebola patient, Richard Sacra, to the Nebraska unit for treatment. A fourth American, Ashoka Mukpo, arrived for treatment in Nebraska on October 6.

A man who arrived in Dallas, Texas, from Liberia on September 20 became the first diagnosed Ebola case in the US after becoming symptomatic several days after his arrival. Thomas Eric Duncan was admitted to an isolation unit at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital on September 28. He died on October 8.

The operation of Emory’s SCD unit—which was reactivated on September 9 when a third American Ebola patient was admitted to EUH for treatment—requires elaborate coordination among Emory Healthcare staff; university administration; federal, state and local government organizations; and foreign governments.

At the center of this complicated web are...
I HAD TO TAKE A MOMENT TO REALIZE THAT THIS WAS REAL AND THAT EVERY DECISION I MADE HAD TO BE CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT FROM THAT MOMENT ON. EVERY PERSON ON THAT TEAM AND THOSE PATIENTS' LIVES DEPENDED ON IT. —Carolyn Hill, Nursing Director of Emory’s SCD Unit

WHILE THE MEDICAL TEAM at Emory University Hospital devoted complete and constant attention to caring for the first two American Ebola patients, other Emory staff also worked around the clock to respond to the intense interest of the media and the community.

“To have the eyes of the world on us was the biggest event our office has handled in the twenty-four years I have been here,” says Nancy Seideman, associate vice president of communications and executive director of media relations at Emory. “Our initial priority messages focused on safety, reassurance, education, and the fact that Emory has the expertise to treat deadly infectious diseases.”

The concentration of media focus reached new levels for communications staff, whose guiding principle was protecting patient privacy while educating the public.

“We had to provide consistent messaging to an unprecedented volume of media inquiries. Our team worked day and night to respond,” says Vincent Dollard, associate vice president for health sciences communications. “We also had the complicated task of working with external groups, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, SIM, and Samaritan’s Purse to control the messages that were released. At the core of all of this was the fact that every day we worked for the best interests of our patients.”

Between July 31 and September 22, 42,410 stories went out on broadcast media and 18,369 print media stories were written mentioning Emory and Ebola.

The story also exploded on social media. Through Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter, and other outlets, Emory alumni, friends, and others rallied around the health care team and Emory. The story is the most-viewed ever for Emory online news; visits to news.emory.edu in the week after the story broke increased 247 percent over the same period in 2013.

“This focus gave us the opportunity to communicate something about Emory’s identity and values,” Seideman says. “Caring for the patients was the right thing to do, but it also is part of Emory’s mission to advance knowledge, research, and learning for the benefit of society.”

SOCIAL NETWORK:
More than three million people saw and shared Emory’s social media posts in August 2014. From July 31 through September 22, Emory and Ebola were mentioned approximately 137,800 times in social media posts.
Health Care Team: Jack Kearse

August 2, SCD nurse Crystal Johnson watched worry what the person does before you, what when I took care of him that night I saw he were cardiac deaths caused by cardiac enzyme care for the patients.

other safe while providing the best possible exposed to the patients, nurses had to handle of Ebola infection were present—hemor -

rhaging from the eyes, petechiae (small red unit, Johnson says every member of the team made sure that, if things happened in the room, you wouldn't panic and put everyone else in the family at risk. We take that for granted. When we work on our regular units, what another nurse does isn't important to you. You think, 'That isn't me, I am going to do what I have to do.' But here you have to worry what the person does after you, and what you are going to do, because one mistake can kill us all.’ "And that is how we became a family, that Friday afternoon," Mitchell adds. Family is how the team came to think of itself, agrees Sharon Vanairsdale, clinical nurse specialist for the SCD unit. "We had to be a family, we relied on each other to be safe. It was so nice to see the physi -
cians, the nurses, the staff, all working together on that level. There were no egos—there couldn't be," Vanairsdale says. "Everything that went into and out of the unit was controlled by the family. We all had a lot on our minds, more than just what was happening in the isolation unit, so we had to take care of each other.”

Carolyn Hill, nursing unit director for the SCD, and Vanairsdale monitored the nursing staff in both isolation rooms at all times from the anteroom at the unit’s center, making sure all procedures were followed and supporting the nursing staff with any needs that came up. "We all really worked and functioned as a team. It was truly collaborative, not just among the nurses, but the staff, the physicians, the lab. If something changed, we would walk through the process as a true team decision," Hill says. Following the strict procedures required for patient care provided a level of comfort for the team in a highly stressful care environment. "We spent a lot of time being instructed in the PPE, a lot of practicing putting it on and taking it off—donning and doffing, we call it. We memorized the steps, but we also practiced this with people observing us who are experts, people who have written books and traveled the world talking about containing viral hemorrhagic fevers" Slabach says. "They explained where there were possible weak points, possible areas of making mistakes so we understood those.”

Every moment of the team's time in the unit was carefully scheduled by “logistics officers” Hill and Vanairsdale. “We wanted the nurses to be concerned only with patient care,” Vanairsdale says. “We scheduled everything to eliminate any distraction from the patients—when the physicians came in, when to perform the labs, when they would take breaks, when the families visited—it was all very well coordinated so the nurses at the bedside could take care of the patients and protect themselves.”

As physically devastating as the disease was for Brantly and Writebol, the emotional strain for both—and for the care team—was equally great. Writebol told one of the doctors caring about containing viral hemorrhagic fevers” about Ebola. He went over there to take care of day-to-day people in Africa and an outbreak happened. He explained that his unit was the only one still standing, all of the other isolation units had
ON SEPTEMBER 16, as a third patient with Ebola virus was being cared for at Emory, President Barack Obama visited the CDC for an update on the outbreak in West Africa and to discuss the US response.

During that visit, the president met with Emory physicians, nurses, and others involved with the treatment of Ebola patients here.

As the on-call physician for the SCD unit, Colleen Kraft was working what would become a seventeen-hour day during the president’s visit. Her mind was consumed with caring for the critically ill patient who had been in the unit since September 9.

“I’d been in the patient room for five hours, and when I came out, I looked at my phone and fifteen people had texted me about meeting the president. Before, these things would have been huge to me, but we were so focused on doing everything we could for the patient that it almost didn’t even register,” she said the following day.

“I realize I met the president yesterday, but in the grand scheme of things it was not the most important part of my day.”

Even when she is not scheduled as “doc of the day” in the unit, Kraft spends most of her time there. The morning after meeting the president, she was back, helping to monitor the patient’s progress and consulting with unit director Bruce Ribner and the nursing staff.

“Everything we are doing is new and is under a lot of scrutiny. We work daily with the CDC when the unit is activated. We are kind of giving a case report on each day for others to learn from. We have gained some great information from our patients, but it is not something that is easy to do,” says Kraft, medical director of the EUH microbiology lab.

The health care team routinely spent hours on phone calls with entities such as the WHO, the CDC, and health care providers in Europe and elsewhere in the US.

Although she says the schedule has been grueling—fourteen- to seventeen-hour days at the hospital away from her husband and three young children—Kraft is proud that Emory’s administration agreed to treat the Ebola patients. She believes awareness and advocacy will continue to increase, leading to greater understanding of the virus and much-needed assistance for patients in Africa.

On his visit, President Obama announced plans to scale up US response to the Ebola crisis. Since then, the Department of Defense has sent nearly four thousand military personnel and three mobile labs to Liberia, with plans to send four more labs and to build seventeen one-hundred-bed units to treat Ebola patients.
shut down. His unit was the only one ready to receive patients.”

Despite the negativity, both patients knew they had the support of their families and countless others around the world.

“I prayed with both of them at the bedside, and I made sure they knew that millions of people were praying for them who didn’t even know them,” Slabach says.

Both patients were interested in learning about the people caring for them, always concerned with how they were feeling and inquiring about their lives and families outside the unit. In turn, Slabach and his colleagues supported Brantly and Writebol emotionally as well as physically.

“Toward the end of their time at Emory, they were feeling great, and we had the opportunity to try to make their lives easier and more fun, to help them deal with the emotional side of kind of being in a prison, being cut off from the outside world,” he says. “We were their link to the outside world. They could talk to their families through glass, but we were the ones going out and coming back in every day.”

Johnson says the nurses had a “spa day” for Writebol, bringing in lipstick and treating her to a pedicure; another nurse brought in a Nerf basketball set for Brantly’s room.

“Kent beat me first game, but I told him that you really can’t win playing a guy with Ebola, it is a lose-lose situation,” Slabach laughs. “I told him I gave him a handicap, but he told me I had no excuse losing to a guy with Ebola.”

Writebol and Brantly could see one another through windows on the doors to their rooms and often spoke to each other by phone during their recovery, praying together and even making a competition of who was recovering faster once the imminent danger had passed.

On the day Writebol was discharged, Brantly stood at the door of his room with Johnson, watching his friend as she joyfully walked out of her room. The pair blew kisses to one another through the glass and Writebol called out to him, “See you in a couple of days.”

Two days later, Brantly finally got the news that his blood had tested negative for the Ebola virus on two consecutive days.

“We had him take a shower and put on a set of scrubs, he came out of the room over the red line—the red line was a no-no for him before—and he walked into the anteroom and then into the hallway. His wife walked up to him and put his wedding band back on his finger. That was the ‘wow’ moment,” Johnson says. “He hugged us all without any of the Tyvek suits on, then he turned and grabbed his wife’s hand and they walked down the hall like they were getting married again. That was just beautiful.”

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**On the Front Lines**

**WHAT IT TAKES TO FIGHT EBOLA IN WEST AFRICA**

REBECCA DAY MERRILL **01C** WAS DEPLOYED from the US to Liberia on August 13 as one of more than fifty disease specialists sent to West Africa by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help slow the spread of Ebola, a virus that, as of October 8, the World Health Organization estimates has infected 8,400 people in West Africa, resulting in 4,033 deaths.

Although her position as an epidemic intelligence service (EIS) officer is with the International Micronutrient Malnutrition Prevention and Control Program, Merrill volunteered for the mission because she felt the epidemiology and field skills she developed as a Peace Corps volunteer and as a researcher in maternal and child health in Bangladesh could support critical Ebola response efforts.

“I took an opportunity to be able to focus more on disseminating information to vulnerable communities, health workers, and other populations at risk,” Merrill says. “I chose to go on this deployment to be able to provide dedicated time to supporting activities to end the transmission of Ebola.”

In Liberia, CDC team members worked twelve- to fourteen-hour days, seven days a week, to improve surveillance systems, field response efforts, education materials, and more to try to stem the outbreak.

The goal of the CDC mission is to support the government of Liberia, along with other partners, to end the Ebola outbreak by building capacity and systems to enable the region to fight this and other outbreaks as they may arise in the future, she says.

“The community is united to end the spread of Ebola and is working so hard to make that happen,” Merrill says. “I am inspired by all the hard work Liberians are doing to protect their countrymen. This deployment has changed me. I’ve seen struggles and desperation, as well as sheer joy when a family member is pronounced a survivor.”

**Rebecca “Bex” Levine ’13PhD**, an EIS officer with the CDC’s Infectious Disease Pathology Branch, was also deployed to fight the outbreak by meticulously tracing the movements of Ebola victims to determine how they contracted the virus and with whom they came into contact.

“These are so much more than just numbers. Each one is its own heartbreaking story,” Levine said in an interview with CNN. “During our time there we were able to make improvements in contact tracing, but ultimately the need for resources is very, very dire. We need more beds in isolation centers and treatment centers, and we need more staff that are trained there to care for these patients.”
SHAPING A FRESH CLASS
FROM MORE THAN 17,000 APPLICATIONS TO ONE CLASS OF 2018
BY PAIGE PARVIN 96G • 2018 CLASS PHOTO BY ANN BORDEN
IT’S A FRIDAY MORNING IN LATE MARCH

and the windows of the Office of Undergraduate Admission are spattered with fat raindrops, beyond which gray storm clouds roll. Inside, though, the atmosphere is bright; a sense of energy and excitement floats through the hallway.

Boxes of folders, each bearing the iconic image of Dooley, are everywhere—lining the long corridor, stacked on every table, covering the floors of offices. Staff members in jeans and baseball caps are paired up, one reading from a list of names while the other checks the folders. Admission counselors get excited when they find acceptance folders marked for “their” students—those from their geographic territories or their interest groups who they have championed throughout the process. From one office, the voice of pop star Beyoncé instructs everyone to “put a ring on it,” making heads bob in distracted rhythm.
“As soon as we get these in the mail, it’s time to celebrate,” says John Latting, assistant vice provost for undergraduate enrollment and dean of admission for Emory College, who has just gotten off a phone call with a high-school college counselor.

This is “admit day,” and it’s a big one in the annual cycle of Emory’s undergraduate admission process. Several thousand folders shouting “YOU’RE IN!” will be stuffed, sealed, and mailed within about twenty-four hours, bound for the mailboxes of keyed-up high school seniors.

The select group of about 4,500 students admitted to Emory College and Oxford College represents months of intense and dedicated work by the admission team. The colleges received a record number of applications for the class of 2018—Emory 17,822 and Oxford 7,425—and every application is read at least twice. The large applicant pool demands tremendous time and effort by the staff, but it also allows them to shape the strongest possible freshman class by admitting students who are genuinely right for Emory, and for whom Emory is the right place.

That’s a theme that Latting has been reinforcing since his arrival as dean in 2011. Metrics like test scores and GPAs are important, he says, but they’re part of a much bigger picture—and he wants to ensure that his team looks at the big picture of every single student.

“It’s about remembering that we are not evaluating the application, but the applicant,” he says. “It is very important to me that everyone involved understands the application is just evidence—a window onto a real person. It’s much quicker to evaluate applications alone, and technology has certainly made that very easy. But it’s a trap we really try to avoid falling into.”

Building on more than two decades of experience in college admission, Latting came to Emory after ten years as dean at Johns Hopkins University, charged with implementing a fresh vision for undergraduate recruitment. One way to describe Latting’s approach is admission defined from the inside out rather than the outside in. He has spent much of the past two years learning Emory’s culture, values, strengths, and people, in order to understand the students who thrive here. His aim is to match students to Emory, not to paint Emory to fit the ever-shifting demands of the market.

“Emory’s story should come from Emory,” he says. “The people up and down this hallway need to be able to authentically reflect that story. We define for ourselves what we value in our students and make decisions accordingly.”

“The young people who receive an acceptance letter from Emory are academically well prepared, talented, and ambitious,” says Claire Sterk, provost and executive vice president of academic affairs. “They indicate several reasons for applying to Emory, including academic reputation as well as the quality of the Emory undergraduate experience—one that is supportive of their intellectual and interpersonal growth. This is a research university with the liberal arts present in all schools and colleges.”

KIDS TODAY

THE COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS HAS evolved considerably since Latting started as a counselor at Stanford some twenty-five years ago. One of the biggest changes is the steady advance of the Common Application or “Common App,” a standardized tool now used by more than five hundred universities, including Emory and Oxford.

In addition to streamlining the application process for students, the Common App makes it easier for them to apply to more schools than they might have a decade ago. A recent study by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) showed that
in 2011, the percentage of students applying to seven or more colleges rose to 29 percent, up from 12 percent in 2000. Institutions that accept the Common App for the first time can expect up to a 20 percent increase in applications.

For some schools, the Common App has thrown admission forecasting off balance, but that doesn’t seem to be the case for Emory. In addition to internal expertise, Latting’s office engages external experts to learn more about what factors influence those who are admitted to enroll at Emory or elsewhere. But Latting is quick to stress that the probability of a student enrolling has little, if anything, to do with whether they are admitted.

“We admit the best students for Emory. Some we think have a high probability of enrolling, and some a low probability. In all cases, though, we will compete with any university for that student,” Latting says. “And we work really hard to convince all the students we choose to choose us.”

Emory’s admission strategies and forecasting have proved remarkably accurate in recent years. That’s partly the power of big data and good yield modeling. Latting says, but it also indicates that Emory holds a stable position in the higher education market, its reputation remaining consistent over time.

That relative stability is worth noting in light of another factor the Internet has brought to the table—a virtual explosion of available information about universities, from their own carefully crafted websites and email campaigns to personal discussions on social media, and everything in between. Whereas the glossy college viewbook was once the classic admission showpiece, now it’s just one in a whole box of marketing tools, says Daniel Creasy, communications director for Emory admission.

“We do it all—print materials, website, email, and social media,” he says. “We have not let anything go.”

Then there’s the proliferation of online companies offering digital college guidebooks, matching services, and open message forums where prospective students (and parents) can swap news and opinions. At a recent NACAC conference, Creasy wandered through an exhibit hall filled with more than two hundred such vendors.

“The Internet is something of a double-edged sword,” Creasy says. “There is so much more information out there, which is wonderful—students can really home in on what they are looking for. On the other side, though, there is a lack of credibility with a lot of sources, which can be frustrating.”

The selection process itself has changed, too. With more than three million high school seniors graduating each year—about two-thirds of whom are college bound—many schools, including Emory, have phased out the traditional one-on-one admission interview. But technology lets admission offices create connections through personalized mail and email to interested and desirable students.

There are new opportunities for personal connection as well. A few years ago the admission office partnered with the Emory Alumni Association (EAA) to revitalize the alumni interview program, inviting selected students to meet with trained alumni volunteers for interviews that are “both informative and evaluative.” Last year, some three hundred alumni in twelve cities met with prospective students and completed an evaluation.

“It’s important to us that applicants are able to engage with alumni to learn more about the university, and the alumni are trying to glean more information about that student that we may not see in their application alone,” says Maddie Monahan 84ox 86c, assistant dean of admission, who helps coordinate the program with the EAA.

Of course, high numbers of prospective students visit Emory’s campuses for open house events, admission tours, and special programs where they can meet with faculty and current students. Another change that Creasy has noted is the increase in high school juniors who are actively initiating the college search process, creating a parallel cycle for recruitment.

“It continues to pleasantly surprise me how much earlier they are getting started,” he says. “It creates an interesting balance for all of us. In March, as we are shaping the class, we are

**MEET THE CLASS**

**MURRAY SKOLNICK**

**BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**How did you choose Emory?**

I attended one of the accepted students’ weekends in April, and I got an amazing sense from the school and the city of Atlanta as a whole. I was especially impressed by the beauty of the campus and the facilities. Upon touring the math and science facilities (particularly the chemistry labs), I could see myself at home at Emory. I also was very tempted by the Georgia Tech dual-degree program, a rare opportunity that piques my interest and will prepare me for the future.

**What is your top academic passion, and how do you plan to pursue it at Emory?**

I am fascinated by chemistry and biochemistry—particularly their applications in medicine and pharmacology—and I would like to study them at Emory. Obviously Emory’s close affiliation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention creates exciting internship opportunities unique to the school that I wish to be a part of. In addition, after learning that the HIV medicine Emtriva was discovered at Emory, I am excited to join a community dedicated to helping the world through science. This summer I’ve spent time learning about computational chemistry/biochemistry, so I am also eager to explore the applications of computer programming in chemistry, and Emory seems like the perfect place to do so. Lastly, the dual-degree program with Georgia Tech will allow me to pursue my interest in biomedical engineering. I believe that the two degrees will complement each other well, and fulfill my desire to learn about applied sciences in the study of medicine.

**What are you most passionate about outside of academics?**

I have been a violinist for thirteen years. The majority of that time was spent studying classical at New England Conservatory Prep School, but in the last few years I also studied jazz violin at my high school. In the last two years I’ve explored Afro-Cuban jazz music (I actually went to Cuba with my jazz band for a week in March 2013). I am eager to join one of Emory’s jazz ensembles and explore jazz violin even more.

Image: Courtesy of the Students
Already beginning to interact with the next wave of applicants. And in April, when our visit numbers are at an all-time high, we need to split campus visits between juniors and admitted students,” says Sterk. “At this stage, it’s really less about individual cases and more about the class as a whole,” Latting says. “What we’re doing now is just identifying the best students; it’s about Emory and who we want to bring here. You can think of it literally like shaping a block of clay that’s too large—where can we narrow it down to make the class better? This is a special university with a history, an identity, and excellence in certain areas. We fit the class to this place.”

Although all applicants are reviewed by several staff members, their primary champions are the admission representatives for their geographic region, who typically encounter applicants first and know them best. As the process wears on, it’s often up to those regional officers to make cuts from their admitted groups—and that’s where the term to be notified, Latting kicks off an afternoon of committee work as Emily Simmons, associate dean of admission, hands out updated spreadsheets showing the current statistics on admitted students. Applicants have been evaluated for academics, geographic region, academic interest, and various other strengths; this is where some more targeted fine-tuning begins to take place.

A recent survey among US college freshmen shows that a strong academic reputation grounded in faculty excellence is important, and slightly more important among those enrolling at Emory versus those who attend peer institutions, Sterk says.

“As part of the decision to join the Emory community, those admitted will use the web and other venues to learn more about Emory’s faculty and their teaching and learning,” says Sterk. “Many of our faculty are scholar-teachers. Prospective students who visit campus have the opportunity to talk with current students and faculty and, if their schedule allows, to attend a class and talk with the professor.”

**BIG DECISIONS**

A FEW WEEKS BEFORE ADMITTED STUDENTS are to be notified, Latting kicks off an after-noon of committee work as Emily Simmons, associate dean of admission, hands out updated spreadsheets showing the current statistics on admitted students. Applicants have been evaluated for academics, geographic region, academic interest, and various other strengths; this is where some more targeted fine-tuning begins to take place.

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“territory” can take on double meaning.

“I know you all think these cuts should come from some other region and not yours,” Latting says, drawing rueful laughter. There is some good-natured ribbing about who is the biggest “sofie” and will have the most work to do, but in reality, Latting says, “We don’t like to deny these kids. We’re the admission office, not the denial office.”

Simmons says she especially enjoys the admission committee meetings, when the staff emerges from the more solitary work of reading applications and brings an initial batch to admitted status. These meetings are designed to examine that group from multiple perspectives, gradually narrowing it down based on a wide range of factors. There are committees focused on racial and ethnic minorities, international students, academic interests, alumni legacies, children of employees, home-schooled students—even twins.

Later that afternoon, one of these committees is taking turns bringing up applicant files on a big screen and reviewing each student. “This student has done well, but her recommendation letters don’t really speak to her impact on the community,” says a counselor. “The question is, how will she contribute to campus? She’s clearly capable and seems very independent, but what will she bring to the community?”

“What’s her home situation?,” asks another member. Eventually it’s decided that a move midway through high school may have affected the student’s community involvement. “Maybe it was a tough high school and hard to get to know people,” says Timothy Fields says, associate dean. “I think it’s fine to move her up.” All agree.

Another applicant presents a confusing picture: her class ranking is high, but her test scores are not, and her coursework is not especially rigorous. “She would struggle here,” a counselor says. “She would probably graduate—but not thrive.” She stays on the wait list.

This sort of in-depth committee discussion, according to Simmons, is not necessarily typical for all large universities; at Emory, it’s driven largely by Latting’s leadership and his emphasis on reading between the application lines. Similar conversations, marked by care and attention to detail, are taking place up and down the halls of the admission suite.

“I have to bring something to write with when I go to Emory. I would like to keep a thorough written account about what occurs during my college years so I can look back and see how much I have grown once college is over. I am actively trying to become a better writer and may even take a stab at writing a novel during my time at Emory as well. A writing utensil is necessary to take notes in class, too, of course!”

“What high school achievement are you most proud of?

I am very proud to have given a call to action speech at my high school’s National Honors Society ceremony for new inductees. I was chosen to do so because I was the first Gates Millennium Scholar to ever come out of my high school. I enjoy empowering youth and it was rewarding to have a few peers in the audience come up to tell me how much they enjoyed what I had to say, and explain how my words impacted their perspective regarding their ability to be an agent of change. I plan to get involved in a few youth empowerment projects in Atlanta.

What is one item you have to bring with you to campus, and why?

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“John has really expanded the committee structure since he came on board,” Simmons says. “He likes to dissect the applicant pool into such special and different groups, and to hear every voice, from the newest counselor all the way up. I think we all realize that these students are real people who really want to come here. We treat applicants like we would want our own sons and daughters to be treated, and I feel really proud of that.”
average high school GPA was 3.69 to 3.98. Their academic interests also reflect breadth and depth—particularly through an increase in students coming to Emory to study the arts and humanities.

“Each year we get a little better in terms of the overall strength of the class,” Simmons says. “The students’ interests are expanding with more interested in the humanities, such as creative writing—that’s a positive trend. And our international student representation and diversity are stronger than ever before.”

Oxford has seen its applicants—many of whom are dual applicants to both colleges—rise steadily in the past decade, says Kelley Lips, dean of enrollment services. “There also has been a significant expansion of applicants’ geographic spread and a dramatic uptick through early decision: nearly half of the Emory College class and 35 percent at Oxford. Ethnic diversity has continued to increase, with about 22 percent of the Emory College class composed of African Americans, Latino- and Hispanic-identified students, and other historically underrepresented minorities. Overall, more than 42 percent identified as non-Caucasian in Emory College. There are slightly more women than men, at 56 and 44 percent.

Among Emory College freshmen, the
IN COMMITTEE: An admission committee discusses applicants, one student at a time.

VICTORIA UMUTONI
KIGALI, RWANDA
WOODRUFF SCHOLAR

How did you choose Emory?

After finishing high school, I joined Bridge2 Rwanda, a gap year program that helps some of the outstanding students in Rwanda to apply to international universities. We learned English, critical thinking, leadership, and discipline. We prepared for and took the SAT and TOEFL as they are different from the Rwandan National Exam. My college counselor told me about Emory, and I was impressed by all the interesting things it has to offer. However, my interest grew after I participated in the Emory Scholars Finalist Weekend. Hearing from current students and faculty made me confident that Emory was the best place for me to study. And I look forward to explore as much as I can and go back ready to work for my country. I will pursue my interest in health by being involved in health activities, discussion about health, and doing internships related to the health sector.

What high school achievement are you most proud of?

In grade ten, along with other young people and with the help of a literature club, Sembura, we started to teach small children of the neighborhood to read. We brought them together in one place. I was surprised by how the children liked these activities a lot, how much fun we had. Parents were happy because now their children were using their holidays wisely. I am very proud to know that I played a role in the education of those children and that they became more interested by reading.

What is one item you have to bring with you to campus, and why?

Recently, I was shopping for some items to bring with me to Emory when my mom reminded me to go with our traditional clothing, imikenyero. Rwandans wear the imikenyero on special occasions like a wedding or graduation. This clothing is our culture, our history. Bringing it to Emory, it will be the Rwandan culture I would be introducing to Emory. I am very proud of my country, and I know that every time I will wear it, it will remind me of who I am, where I come from and where I want to be in the future, and where I want Rwanda to be in the future.

in international students, with 17 percent this year.

“One of the benefits that helps us stand out is having the name and brand recognition of Emory,” Lips says. “We don’t know of any other program that functions the way Oxford and Emory do, with Oxford offering a parallel curriculum in a smaller community setting.”

Between Emory and Oxford, about two hundred first-year students are alumni legacies—a group that Monahan, a legacy herself, takes special pride in.

“Emory alumni have laid the foundation for what this university has become, and are playing an integral role in what it will become in the future,” she says. “When a legacy submits an application to Emory College and Oxford College, we understand the importance of that action and the relationship that may have influenced them to apply. Our admission process is deliberate and thoughtful, and the legacy connection is strong and meaningful to us.”

The admission office also works with the Department of Athletics to recruit outstanding student athletes—nearly two hundred joined this year’s freshman class and the Eagles’ eighteen varsity sports teams. As an NCAA Division III institution, Emory cannot offer athletic scholarships, but its combination of quality academics and athletics appeals to a particular type of player.

“These are students who want the best of both worlds,” says William Segura, the senior admission counselor who works with the athletics staff. “They are incredibly motivated, and they want that balance—to play at a high level and study at a high level.”

More than half of all Emory undergraduates receive some form of financial support, including a wide range of scholarships. Emory is in the midst of a scholarship fund-raising initiative that will give the university a competitive edge in recruiting the most qualified students by providing scholarship support at levels that meet or exceed those at peer institutions.

Latting is proud of Emory’s efforts to make its education more accessible. But when it comes to competing for the best students, he says, cost is only one consideration; academic excellence and location are equally important.

“There is a lot of talk about the rising cost of higher education, and we do worry about that,” he says. “But the fact is, we are competing on quality. The kinds of students we are dealing with are interested in a sense of excellence, quality, and distinction. Emory has a core identity and values that students should understand and want to be a part of.”

In addition to overseeing the admission office, Latting manages his own admission territory, which includes areas of Atlanta. He first met Zachary Denton 18c at a college event at his high school last year and was immediately impressed by his motivation, his positive spirit, and his passion for languages.

Denton is just one of about 1,840 reasons why Latting is proud of this year’s class.

“The two biggest questions that we ask are how a student will benefit from being a part of this community and how they will contribute to it,” he says. “We are interested in what motivates them—not just in what they can do, but what they will do when they get here.”
How do you pull Ukraine back from the brink of economic collapse and change a system that’s plagued the country for decades—knowing that all those before you have failed? That’s part of the job PAVLO SHEREMETTA took on in February.

*It turned out to be even harder than he imagined.*
a political maelstrom only to have its economy, which had been on the brink of ruin for months, finally fall apart altogether.

Why Sheremeta? After receiving his MBA from Goizueta Business School, he became well-known for his role as a business school leader and for his writings and talks on economic reform, and he brought international experience as a consultant. He was not a political veteran, nor was he beholden to the system. One side of that coin: He brought a freshness of ideas, a combination of energy and pragmatism that could help transform Ukraine's troubled economic landscape. The other side of the coin: He brought no experience helming a hide-bound ministry of 1,300 employees that, in turn, is part of a government structure not known for its friendliness to business.

It was a given that dealing with parliament would be an ordeal; the president’s departure in February wasn’t accompanied by a housecleaning in the legislature, dominated by supporters of the former administration. March brought the Russian annexation of Crimea. Summer brought a full-blown civil-cum-proxy war around Donetsk and Luhansk.

For Sheremeta, a few months into the post there were reports of clashes with the prime minister—including, in August, over who should be appointed Sheremeta’s deputy to direct work on economic integration with the European Union. At a meeting of the cabinet of ministers, a candidate was approved for the post over Sheremeta’s objection—the same official who had headed EU discussions for two years for the Yanukovych government.

To Sheremeta, this wasn’t the first line that was crossed. But, after half a year in government, it was the last. He submitted his resignation on August 20. The sense of frustration was clear enough in interviews and his brief post on Facebook the next day: “So, rather than continue to fight with yesterday’s system, I decided to focus on working with people of tomorrow who will create tomorrow’s system.”

That’s far more hopeful than the dark questions previous months seemed to serve up.

Here’s a scene from the midpoint of Sheremeta’s term as minister. On a morning on the cusp of summer, he takes the metro to Independence Square in the center of Kyiv. He heads up the escalator and through the glass doors and out into the square the world came to know simply as Maidan: epicenter of peaceful and then violent protests that began in November 2013. Along with the remnants of tent encampments, there are memorials to the fallen and the missing, barricades of tires, burned-out carcasses of trucks and buses, flags and candles, and a sense that the work of revolution is not done yet.

From the square, the trim, forty-three-year-old Sheremeta hoofs it up the hill, climbing a street where protesters and riot police once hurled improvised explosives at his office in the hulking, gray building of the cabinet of ministers. At a breakfast meeting with his chief of staff, as Sheremeta is enjoying a view over the city and the broad-leaved chestnut trees in the park across the way—a bit of calm before the day’s inevitable storm—he proposes, “Let’s position this as a case discussion.”

“The people who turned out didn’t come out for lower taxes, they didn’t come out for lower interest rates. They came out because what they wanted to have is democracy and human rights.”

I first traveled to Ukraine exactly twenty years ago, teaching at a university with the Peace Corps before directing academic exchanges for the US embassy. This past May brought me back as an observer with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which judged the election as free and fair. At the same time, violence already roiled the areas around Donetsk and Luhansk and prevented voting, and few Crimeans made their way to mainland Ukraine to vote. But over much of the country, it seemed that political uncertainty at last might come to an end.

The process and results of the election carry, Sheremeta says, “a strong message that we are a mature democracy.” Then he purses his lips and he qualifies that. “A maturing democracy.” That’s far more hopeful than the dark questions previous months seemed to serve up.

The people who turned out didn’t come out for lower taxes, they didn’t come out for lower interest rates. They came out because what they wanted to have is democracy and human rights.
This one is epic: a country that’s been running a double-digit fiscal deficit and a trade deficit for years; a revolution; a president and government fled in disgrace, succeeded three months ago by an interim government tasked with cleaning up corruption, beginning sweeping economic reforms, and sustaining a sense of clear moral purpose in the work of governing forty-five million people. A positive development for the scenario—two days before, in a single round of elections, the Ukrainian people overwhelmingly elected a new president, Petro Poroshenko. Hope is in the air.

For the case study, grappling with the economic and moral conundrum means, Sheremeta says, starting with a sense of detachment. Remember: “It’s not us. If we add our emotions, especially if we add ego and pride, we’re just dead.” Then ask the questions that need to be asked.

We were sitting in his office on Hrushevsky Street. Dark haired with gray-blue eyes, Sheremeta wore a pale blue shirt and dark slacks, his jacket draped over the back of his desk chair. Truth be told, he looked tired. But as we got into the conversation, his brow furrowed and his eyes picked up the intensity seen again and again when he’s speaking to a crowd; he spun a black pen in his fingers and tapped it on the table, demarcating a circle on the wood. His English is as rapid-fire as his Ukrainian or Russian.

After three months on the job, there was still a sparseness to the office that made it seem he had just moved in; hindsight is tempting now. An oval wooden conference table and brown, leather-padded chairs took center stage. Glass-doored cabinets lining one wall were all but empty. A few objects hung on the wall: an enormous topographical map of the country, photos of the holy Pechersk Monastery, a portrait of poet Taras Shevchenko (this year marks the 200th anniversary of his birth). But my eye was drawn to a framed set of portraits: the Nebesna Sotnya, the “heavenly hundred”—martyrs of the Maidan, many killed by snipers as the violence of revolution reached its apex in February.

“Maidan is still there,” Sheremeta says, echoing a phrase he used in a meeting with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development ten days earlier. There meant not only in a physical sense, but also as a moral force and metaphor.

“The people who turned out to Maidan and in other squares around the country, they didn’t come out for lower taxes, they didn’t come out for lower interest rates,” he tells me. “They came out because they were sick and tired. … The first thing was corruption, the second thing was European integration, but also that was in terms of values. So, what they wanted to have is democracy and human rights and rule of law.”

How did that shape the agenda of the country’s top economist? This is where lofty ideals meet the fine print of legislation, with billions of dollars at stake: for starters, in developing a new corruption-free public procurement act. The landmark legislation was shaped in collaboration with public activists and vetted by the EU, the World Bank, and Transparency International. The bill was passed in March with a plurality of one vote. But the afternoon that Sheremeta and I talked, detractors were still nibbling at the edges of the legislation.

Behind him on the wall was a sign from a conference about Polish and Ukrainian economic development. Poland, now a member of the EU, has a population of about thirty-eight million; Ukraine’s is forty-five million. But GDP per capita in Poland is triple that of Ukraine. Economically, the countries were on a comparable level in 1991, Sheremeta pointed out. But to reform its economy, Poland implemented shock therapy; Ukraine has instead had “shock without therapy for twenty years.”

Although Sheremeta was not a political player in Kyiv before, he did not arrive a stranger to government altogether. He’s advised the city administration in Lviv—a western hub known for attracting international investment, and where Sheremeta was raised and began his studies. While a student he assisted a member of the Ukrainian Parliament. He then started his MBA at the Central European University in Budapest before being offered the opportunity to complete the program at Emory.

Sheremeta came to Emory and Goizueta in 1994 as an Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellow, a prestigious program that brings emerging leaders in key professional fields from Eurasia to the US for one to two years of graduate study. Jeff Rosensweig, associate professor of finance, teaches an MBA course in global macroeconomics, and remembers well Sheremeta’s sharp mind and keen interest in the subject.

“Pavlo was a mature individual and a serious student,” Rosensweig says. “His brilliance was apparent, and he had a real interest in digging deeper into subjects. Obviously I am delighted to see that he took some of what he learned at Emory and developed a distinguished career as a business school professor and leader before applying it to economic policy.”

In addition to completing his MBA, Sheremeta made lasting connections at Emory: Rosensweig recently heard from an alumnus who met Sheremeta for dinner in Europe a few years ago. During a conversation about fiscal policy, Sheremeta grabbed a napkin and sketched, from memory, an original economic model from Rosensweig’s course. “It certainly impressed us that he not only remembered it, but was able to apply it in novel ways to problem areas in the Ukrainian economy,” Rosensweig says.

While recalling Sheremeta’s time at Emory, Rosensweig is reminded of another Muskie Fellow who completed his MBA at Goizueta—Lado Gurgenidze, an investment banker and entrepreneur who served as prime minister of Georgia from 2007.
to 2008. He, too, was faced with steep challenges and initiated positive economic reform.

“I am proud that Goizueta trains people who, although not at all political animals, will step up and apply their knowledge, talents, and integrity when their nations need just those qualities,” Rosensweig says. “I feel certain that Pavlo would have been able to achieve similar economic reforms and success if the conditions could have warranted.”

Four years after graduating from Emory, Sheremeta founded the Kyiv Mohyla Business School, part of a university whose roots reach back to the early seventeenth century. In 2012, Sheremeta was named president of the Kyiv School of Economics. In between, he directed the Malaysia Blue Ocean Strategy Institute and served as economic adviser to the government in Kuala Lumpur. He cites his experience in Asia when he talks about the need at home to improve the ease of doing business: for that, Malaysia is ranked number six in the world; Ukraine is number 112.

Sheremeta has worked in St. Petersburg and Moscow, including teaching at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration—helpful factors in working with his Russian counterpart and earning trust with audiences throughout eastern and southern Ukraine.

Sheremeta also understands the virtues of symbolic gestures, like taking the metro instead of being chauffeured to work. Early on in his tenure as minister, he cut the fleet of ministry vehicles by 85 percent. On Sheremeta’s Facebook page, you’ll find charts and infographics on “Why Ukraine Needs Reform.”

His 2012 TedX Kiev talk (in Ukrainian) is less the stuff of economic policy than of attitude, pacing off rules such as: Expect nothing (“nobody creates a vision for us,” “nobody gives us power voluntarily”) and blame no one (“world, crisis, country . . . parents, deans, professors”). He also advises fellow Ukrainians: “We need to teach our nation how to smile.” By that he means a genuine expression of welcome and joy—since cross-cultural social skills are part of an information economy that also values “critical and creative thinking.”

In autumn 2013, Ukraine seemed on track to ink an association agreement with the European Union, bringing closer economic cooperation and, soon, visa-free travel in Europe. Understandably, the prospect sparked excitement across the country. But on the eve of the Vilnius Summit, where the signing was to take place, Sheremeta wrote (in Russian) in his regular column for Forbes Ukraine that a piece of paper didn’t automatically create conditions for economic growth. “It is not the end but only the beginning of a complex, tortuous path full of obstacles and unfriendly competitors,” he warned.

At the summit, then-President Victor Yanukovych didn’t sign. Students and others came to Independence Square in protest. Sheremeta joined them in the cold on Maidan, microphone in hand on the night of November 23, speaking with encouragement and conviction about why, sooner or later, Ukraine would be in the European Union: “Ukraine is absolutely a European country. Kyiv is not in Africa or Asia or America, it is in Europe . . . Ours is a large country, a large market, a rich country, with people with talents that are necessary to Europe.”

When police forcibly disbursed the protests a few days later, people returned in greater numbers than ever. After the new year, the revolution came to a head; then Yanukovych fled. Sheremeta, who is married with two daughters, saw that as a chance to take a breath of fresh air following several intense months. “The kids had their winter vacations, and I said, ‘Let’s get out, and let’s bring some normalcy to our life.’” They left for skiing in Austria on a Saturday. Three days later, he got the phone call asking him to join the interim government.

“It was less than a week after all those terrible shootings.” Sheremeta pointed to the framed set of photographs near his desk. “These guys paid such a heavy price. Whatever we do is such a small, small, small thing compared to the price that they paid.”

Within Ukraine, Sheremeta soon learned, many people have expectations for economic reform that are much higher than those of international financial institutions. Though it’s those institutions—and US and EU economic aid—that have so far,
and might still, help rescue Ukraine in the short term.

In February, when Sheremeta took the minister post, Ukraine was running a double-digit fiscal deficit; trimming that in half was a condition for the IMF to disburse the first tranche of a $17 billion loan.

But what about the austerity that comes with cutting government spending? "Those who were in business in Ukraine in the past three to four years and not connected to government know that was worse than austerity," Sheremeta says. "You could not protect your property in the courts."

The outlook at the beginning of the summer was bad, and that was before fighting in the east turned horrific. Nobody projects economic growth for 2014. But it's not just economic growth that will serve as an important milestone for Ukraine, Sheremeta told me. "Marker number two—equally important—is that you come to our next presidential election and you say that what you have seen is a free, fair, and democratic election."

What troubled Sheremeta most during our visit back in May wasn't what might happen next. It was what might not happen. "My greatest fear at this point is that we wouldn't have enough strength to break the system." He tapped his pen on the table for emphasis. "It's not even change the system. Change would not be enough." He nodded toward the photographs on his wall. "Again, that's something that we owe to these people."

In July, the governing coalition of Ukraine collapsed, and Prime Minister Yatseniuk submitted his resignation. What played out was actually a showdown with parliament—forcing a confidence vote and enabling the passage of some reform legislation. Parliament voted not to accept Yatseniuk's resignation. August was a different story.

When Sheremeta submitted his resignation on a Wednesday, his wasn't the first of the week; that Monday, the head of the national anticorruption committee, investigative journalist Tetiana Chornovil, quit her post, writing in a column: "There is no political will in Ukraine for an uncompromising, wide-scale war on corruption."

Although technically Sheremeta's resignation didn't take effect until it was approved by parliament, he made it clear that his work in the ministry was done; operations would be turned over to his top deputy. In a televised briefing, he cautioned, "The economy will never advance if the government continues to behave like a predator toward business."

Since his resignation was accepted by parliament in September, Sheremeta has given a few talks at business schools. As for his own work on economic reform, many of his supporters hope it will continue. Like many things about Ukraine's future, that remains to be seen.

Steven Boyd Saum is editor of Santa Clara Magazine at Santa Clara University in California
WHEN EMORY’S MAHLON DELONG (LEFT) BEGAN HIS RESEARCH ON THE BRAIN IN THE LATE 1960S, LITTLE WAS KNOWN ABOUT THE ELUSIVE STRUCTURES OF THE CEREBRAL HEMISPHERE CALLED BASAL GANGLIA. DELONG MADE DISCOVERIES ABOUT THESE COMPLEX NUCLEI THAT HAVE LED TO TRANSFORMATIVE TREATMENTS FOR PARKINSON’S DISEASE.

Switching off the Symptoms of Parkinson’s Disease

Decades of discovery lead to a Lasker Award for Emory’s Mahlon DeLong

BY PAIGE PARVIN 96G
As you read this story, your eyes will follow the words on the page; you will hold your head and hands relatively still; and your body might perform an action associated with concentration, such as tapping a foot or grasping the upper corner of the page in anticipation of turning it.

All this is more or less automatic, done without conscious thought—although you can choose to change these behaviors if you wish. But deep in the cerebral hemispheres of your brain, an intricate system of structures called basal ganglia are going about their work, helping to direct movements as seemingly minor as eye tracking.

When Emory’s Mahlon DeLong began his research on the brain in the late 1960s, little was known about the basal ganglia; they were, in his words, “uncharted waters.” In the ensuing decades, DeLong made discoveries about these mysterious nuclei that have led to revolutionary treatments for diseases marked by movement disorders, most notably Parkinson’s disease.

In September, DeLong, the William Timmie Professor of Neurology at the School of Medicine, received the 2014 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award from the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation. DeLong shares the award with Alim-Louis Benabid of Université Joseph Fourier of Grenoble, France.

The two scientists were honored for their roles in developing deep brain stimulation of the subthalamic nucleus, a surgical technique that reduces tremor and restores motor function in patients with advanced Parkinson’s disease. Their work has resulted in an effective treatment for more than one hundred thousand patients worldwide.

“I join numerous other scientists and physicians at Emory, as well as patients and families around the world who have benefited from his work, in our gratitude to Dr. DeLong and our admiration for his scientific insights, his creative genius, and his perseverance in helping resolve one of the most devastating diseases of our time,” says Christian Larsen, ’80C, ’84M, ’91B, dean of the School of Medicine. “We are extremely proud of his accomplishments and this outstanding recognition.”

The Lasker Awards, which are among the most respected science prizes in the world, honor visionaries whose insight and perseverance have led to dramatic advances that will prevent disease, reduce disability, and diminish suffering. The awards have championed major advances in medical research for sixty-nine years.

DeLong is the second Emory faculty member to receive a Lasker Award. In 2001, William Foege, Presidential Distinguished Professor of International Health in the Rollins School of Public Health, was named one of the School of Medicine’s Game Changers, outstanding faculty performing breakthrough research. Link to a video at www.emory.edu/magazine.

“I don’t recall when I realized I wanted to do research, but I have always enjoyed understanding how things work. A growing fascination with how the brain controls behavior led me to medicine and then to neurology,” DeLong said. “This took a clear direction when I found a choice research position at the NIH in the laboratory of renowned researcher Edward Evarts. Because the other obvious brain regions were already assigned to other fellows, I was asked to work on the basal ganglia, a cluster of poorly understood brain structures, and to determine their role in the control of bodily movements.”

DeLong began studying and mapping the basal ganglia around the same time a promising therapy for Parkinson’s disease, known as levodopa or L-dopa, was just starting to show its dark side.

Before the emergence of L-dopa, doctors mainly treated the disease surgically, by inflicting intentional damage—or lesions—on regions of the brain thought to be the source of the debilitating symptoms. This technique often worked, significantly reducing the symptoms of the disease, but targeting sites in the brain by trial and error also resulted in complications and, in some cases, neural destruction that could not be reversed.

By the 1960s, scientists had established that Parkinson’s disease originates from a deficiency of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the basal ganglia. Leading researchers also had identified L-dopa, the metabolic precursor of dopamine, as a potential treatment—but its toxicity presented a challenge.

The late George Cotzias, a Greek American scientist, developed a meticulously phased approach to treatment that transformed the drug into a viable and effective option for Parkinson’s patients. Cotzias received the Lasker Award for Clinical Medical Research for this work in 1969.

GAME CHANGER:
In 2013, DeLong was named one of the School of Medicine’s Game Changers, outstanding faculty performing breakthrough research. Link to a video at www.emory.edu/magazine.

“...”
Although levodopa is still widely used to treat Parkinson’s disease, it has not proven to be the miracle cure that Cotzias and other scientists once hoped. For many patients, after several years, the window of the drug’s effectiveness begins to narrow, upsetting the balance between its benefits and the considerable side effects it can cause. L-dopa, DeLong says, “was only part of the answer.”

During the 1970s, deeply immersed in the painstaking process of developing a model of the basal ganglia, DeLong didn’t know that his work would eventually reveal another answer to Parkinson’s disease. What he did find, studying primate models, was that the basal ganglia are a network of distinct neural circuits, similar to stations along a path, emitting signals alongside one another to guide particular tasks. By measuring neural activity while monkeys performed trained behaviors, he was able to match circuits with actions and map the organization of the network—which now appeared to be more influential than previously understood, affecting not only movement, but cognitive and emotional processes as well.

“It showed how diseases of the basal ganglia could present in so many ways,” DeLong said in an interview with the Lasker Foundation.

DeLong became particularly interested in a substratum of the network, the subthalamic nucleus, which sends excitatory signals to the output portion of the basal ganglia that inhibits motor activity. He and his colleagues developed the hypothesis that this circuit was in overdrive—signaling excessively—and causing slowness of movement and muscular rigidity. But how to find out?

Street heroin might seem an unlikely aid to scientific research. But in the 1980s, a contaminant finding its way into synthetic heroin was linked to a syndrome among drug users that caused Parkinson’s-like symptoms. DeLong discovered that the chemical created a condition in nonhuman primates that closely mirrored the pathology of the disease; the animals stilled, then stiffened, and developed tremors. The stage was set to test DeLong’s theory. The results were, in his words, dramatic.

“The direct test was to inject a neurotoxin into the subthalamic nucleus, into that motor part of the structure that would inactivate these cells,” he told the Lasker Foundation. “And there was dramatic, sudden reversal of Parkinson’s disease. Before our eyes, the animals started to move, the tremor lessened, the stiffness resolved. It was everything you would want—and it could be replicated.”

DeLong had pinpointed a tiny, troublesome area of the brain where many of the worst Parkinson’s symptoms originate, and discovered that destroying or “lesioning” a few millimeters of gray matter could significantly alleviate those symptoms. But damaging the brain is tricky business, especially in the elusive, intricate basal ganglia. And that’s where an accidental finding by neurologist Alim Benabid in Grenoble, France, became another breakthrough.

In 1987, Benabid was preparing to create a lesion on the thalamus of a patient with essential tremor. To make sure he was targeting the correct area of the brain, he inserted a probe and delivered an electrical pulse to the site while observing the awake patient. This was routine, but then Benabid did something different: he increased the frequency of the electrical stimulation to nearly twice what he had previously used. The patient’s hand, which had trembled uncontrollably for many years, became still.

“That was the ‘ah-ha!’ moment,” Benabid told the Lasker Foundation. “We could stop tremor without having to make a lesion, possibly avoiding a side effect or complication.”

Three years later, DeLong published a major paper detailing his research and findings regarding the subthalamic nucleus and its relationship to Parkinson’s disease. Benabid realized that the region could be a prime target for what is now known as deep brain stimulation (DBS)—the continuous delivery of high-frequency electrical impulses that act to control the abnormal firing of cells, much like a cardiac pacemaker.

In 1995, Benabid reported results from the first Parkinson’s disease patients who received bilateral, high frequency stimulation of the subthalamic nucleus, and eight years later confirmed the results in an expanded study. The surgery restored motor skills, suppressed tremor, improved the ability to conduct normal activities of daily living, and allowed people to significantly reduce their medication doses and avoid side effects.

In a video interview with the Lasker Foundation, a patient with severe Parkinson’s disease describes experiencing DBS for the first time. “When they hooked me up, right then and there, it was . . . like a light switch,” he says, with tears in his eyes. “He has, in the most literal sense, given me my life back.”

In 2002, the US Food and Drug Administration approved high-frequency stimulation of the subthalamic nucleus for treating advanced Parkinson’s disease. DBS has since been used to treat an ever-expanding range of movement disorders, including essential tremor, dystonia, and Tourette syndrome. More recently, it has shown promise in cases of severe psychiatric illness, such as medication-resistant depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Emory’s Helen Mayberg, professor of psychiatry and the Dorothy C. Fuqua Chair in Psychiatric Neuroimaging and Therapeutics, has been at the forefront of that field.
Mayberg spoke with the Lasker Foundation about the impact of DeLong’s and Benabid’s work. “To see a patient who can’t get out of a chair, to actually watch the instant when someone who can’t hold a cup of coffee flip[s] a switch and watch it stop—it makes you unable to breathe to watch it,” she said. “Their approach, their strategy, their logic has really created a field that allows for neuromodulation of brain circuits across diseases that we never would have thought possible.”

DeLong is a faculty leader of the Jean and Paul Amos Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders Research Program. He also is codirector and founder of ENTICe (Emory Neuromodulation and Technology Innovation Center), whose goal is to foster advancement of neuromodulation and the development of innovative neuromodulation technologies for the treatment of neurological and psychiatric disorders.

“Probably the most remarkable thing is how [DBS] has been extrapolated to treating even psychiatric disorders, such as depression . . . with Helen Mayberg’s work,” DeLong says. “And it all goes back to that original discovery that the basal ganglia are more than movement. What this whole field has experienced is really tremendous growth and application to areas well beyond where it started . . . it’s been a very exciting era.”

In his Lasker Award acceptance speech, DeLong also noted the chance events, occurring across oceans and decades, that ultimately brought together his work and Benabid’s—for instance, his being assigned the basal ganglia for study at the NIH, the contaminated heroin that created Parkinson’s-like symptoms, Benabid’s decision to turn up the electrical pulse to see how it would affect his patient. “Some of our real progress and breakthroughs are made, I believe, serendipitously, while we are doing other things,” DeLong said, “like just trying to understand how things work.”
If you’ve been touched by the stories in this issue of Emory Magazine, these windows can open up ways for you to turn your inspiration into action. Here you’ll see how you can invest in the people, places, and programs found in these pages and beyond. Gifts to Emory produce powerful, lasting returns; they help create knowledge, advance research, strengthen communities, improve health, and much more.

During more than forty years of research, Mahlon DeLong has made key discoveries about Parkinson’s disease. The award-winning Emory neurologist holds an endowed chair—he is the William Timmie Professor of Neurology at Emory School of Medicine—and is a leader in the Jean and Paul Amos Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders Research Program. He also is codirector and founder of ENTICe (Emory Neuromodulation and Technology Innovation Center), which develops new technologies for treating neurological and psychiatric disorders. You can invest in this life-changing research. To learn more, contact Katie Dozier at 404.712.2211 or katie.dozier@emory.edu.

The right habits can help most people get a good night’s sleep. For people with sleep disorders needing treatment, there’s the Emory Clinic Sleep Center. One of the nation’s leading diagnosis and treatment centers for all kinds of sleep problems, the Emory Clinic Sleep Center is part of Emory School of Medicine and Emory Healthcare. To contribute to the center’s work in patient care and sleep research, contact Stacia Brown at 404.727.9030 or stacia.brown@emory.edu.

Science education has long been one of Oxford College’s strengths, and data from the Higher Education Research Institute show that Oxford students complete science degrees at rates far exceeding the national average. Oxford’s new Science Building—now under construction—will enable future scientists to learn scientific methods and thinking. To help equip this facility through the One Square Foot of Science initiative contact Kevin Smyrl at 770.784.4637 or kevin.smyrl@emory.edu.

windows
OF OPPORTUNITY

LIFE CHANGER

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NUCLEUS OF KNOWLEDGE

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GETTING ZZZZS
WITH THE SLEEP DOCTOR

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LIVE AND LEARN

Emory’s Office of Residence Life helps students integrate what they learn into their daily lives. The Second Year at Emory program, for instance, is celebrating its tenth year of supporting sophomores during this critical transitional year. Emory’s Living-Learning Communities attract students interested in subjects such as globalization, sustainability, ethics, and foreign languages. Gifts to residence life support these and other student programs. Contact Jessi Grizzard Amidis at 404.712.4682.

GLOBAL MISSION

Author Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na‘im, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, directs Emory’s Center for International and Comparative Law (CICL). Through teaching, research, and scholarly exchange with educational institutions around the world, the CICL helps create reform in judicial systems, fight corruption in law enforcement agencies and educational systems, and support business development and job creation in struggling nations. You can support the CICL’s mission with a gift. To learn more, contact Joella Hricik at 404.727.9172 or joella.hricik@emory.edu.

Pavlo Sheremeta, who came to Goizueta Business School with the help of fellowship funding, is an example of the power of student awards to attract the best students. Each year Goizueta awards both graduate and undergraduate scholarships totaling more than $15 million. Only 10 percent of that support comes from the school’s endowment and private gifts. The rest must be funded from the school’s operating budget (more than 85 percent of which comes from tuition)—funds that could be used to build academic programs, improve facilities, retain faculty, and support other priorities. You can help Goizueta recruit the world’s top students with your scholarship gifts. Contact Jeff Colburn at 404.727.7573 or jeff.colburn@emory.edu.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

One of the best ways to build a strong freshman class is by offering competitive scholarship packages. You can help create the highest caliber incoming classes by supporting scholarships at Emory College and Oxford College. For Emory, contact Jamie Clements at 404.727.5863 or jamie.clements@emory.edu. For Oxford, contact Allison Kaczenski at 770.784.8406 or allison.kaczenski@emory.edu.
The “Why” Behind
The Shaping of a Class

Emory is fortunate to be among the universities whose applicants for admission far outnumber the spaces available. That phenomenon has led to an artful process described by Paige Parvin elsewhere in this issue—the art of shaping a class, a creative process that in turn suggests that there is an end in view. What are we shaping a class for? What is our purpose in bringing these students together?

Since at least as far back as Cardinal Newman’s *The Idea of a University* (published in 1852), the question of higher education’s purpose has seesawed between answers. Is the purpose to train people for work, or to prepare them for life more broadly? Is the purpose to broaden their minds or deepen their hearts? Is the purpose to ensure the continuity of culture or to foster creativity and innovation—and thus disruption of culture?

Of late this debate has grown sharper as the costs of higher education and the jobless rate of twenty-five-year-olds both have risen. President Obama wants to rank colleges on how affordable they are and how easily their graduates launch careers. On the other hand, the writer and former English professor William Deresiewicz—in apparently the most-read article ever published in the *New Republic*—belittles the notion that universities or their students should focus principally on career preparation. Rather, he claims, they should focus on soul preparation—on the development of personhood as defined by a moral outlook and an identity informed by the humanities and the arts.

It is a vast, complex, and important debate, because it helps to determine policies and investments. For Emory, though, it is a debate that was settled long ago by Emory’s founding commitment to educate the heart as well as the mind, and to prepare people for careers, yes, but really vocations—in service to a good beyond themselves.

This ethos is captured admirably by Joseph Mackel, an employee at our Yerkes National Primate Research Center. He had the winning entry in Emory’s first “Compliance and Ethics Essay Contest,” sponsored by our Internal Audit Division. While this division aims to foster an ethically principled business culture, Joseph’s essay points to a larger purpose that goes to the heart of Emory. And although I want to single out Joseph’s essay here, it is interesting that it echoes the comments of many staff members across the university who share similar thoughts with me in town hall meetings and emails from time to time.

Joseph quotes an early version of Emory’s mission statement, which rests on “the premises that education is the most powerful social force of our time for enabling and ennobling the individual, and that the privilege of education entails an obligation to use knowledge for the common good.” It is that combination of enabling while simultaneously ennobling that brings together the practical dimensions of education—“enabling” students to pursue careers, participate in society, become productive citizens—and the more high-minded dimensions—“ennobling” the spirit, sharpening the conscience, lifting up the standards of excellence, integrity, and clear-eyed hope.

Joseph’s essay also reminds us of the privilege that education bestows and, most interestingly, the difference between this kind of privilege and other kinds of privilege. As he notes, education is “unique among the assets and privileges that many enjoy. In contrast to other advantages, such as money, health, status, and power, education . . . turns those with its advantages towards, instead of away from, those who lack it.” While wealth and power can shield the rich and mighty from those who are poor and powerless, education rightly accomplished opens our eyes and provides what Joseph calls “an accurate, though complex, view of the world” that moves the educated person toward others, not away from them—toward solutions for the world’s ills, not into retreat from them.

In the debate about whether a university education is principally about intellectual enrichment, psychological maturing, aesthetic refinement, or moral strengthening, Emory’s answer has always been—yes. It is all of these things: the education of the whole person.

James W. Wagner
President
Emory University
Homecoming Games

During the annual Big Bold Blue and Gold Homecoming Parade, alumni watched students from residence halls, Greek life, and student groups, like this one from Hamilton Holmes Hall, compete for cash prizes and bragging rights. Photo by Michelle Valigursky.
Emory Everywhere

FROM THE EAA

HISTORY AND HOMECOMING: Morgan Clemons 05OX 06C (above left, on left) and Wande Okunoren-Meadows 02C at the “Local Roots to Global Impact” Emory in Your City event hosted by the EAA at Atlanta’s new Center for Civil and Human Rights on September 4. Members of Emory’s 2014 Spirit of Emory Homecoming Court—(above right, from left) Zhe Wu, Jessica Simon, Niyeti Shah, Kevin Satterfield, Berit Reisenauer, Stacey Leiman, Akshay Goswami, Adam Chan, and Orli Berman—were chosen for scholarship, leadership, campus involvement, and community service.

STARTING STRONG: Members of the Student Alumni Board were welcomed to the new academic year by President James Wagner. At a September planning meeting, the group gathered in front of the Warren Fountain at the Miller-Ward Alumni House. Copresidents Uma Veerappan 16C (on Wagner’s left) and Kayiue “Tom” Zhu 16B (on Wagner’s right) said, “We are inspired by the selflessness and commitment that Emory alumni demonstrate. Our goal is to continue to foster student and alumni interaction, spirit, and tradition on Emory’s campus. We are very excited to welcome our newest members, and are looking forward to another incredible year.”

WELCOME HOME: Incoming first-year students Hae-Rim Lee 18C (left) and Minseo Kim 18C, both from Korea, visit the Miller-Ward Alumni House for the Emory Alumni Association welcome event and “history hunt.” The students participated in a three-week summer Academics and Culture at Emory University (ACE) Program.

GREETINGS, FRIENDS.

The autumn leaves are changing, and Emory’s campus is buzzing with excitement as the academic year begins. We are embarking on a new season of caring here at Emory. Our alumni are sharing that tradition in their communities as we approach our twelfth-annual Emory Cares International Service Day on November 8, in partnership with Volunteer Emory. Under the banner of “The Spirit of Community,” this year Emory Cares embraces the theme of social justice.

Emory’s eighth president Atticus Haygood said, “Let us stand by what is good . . . and try to make it better.” This phrase has become a touchstone for many of us as we extend comfort and care to others. Making “good” better has also become a guiding force for our Emory thought leaders who draw reference from our shared history, challenge the convention of our everyday lives, and pave the way for innovative thinking, advances in medical care, and social justice. In the recent “Local Roots to Global Impact” at the new Center for Civil and Human Rights, we were reminded that positive change can begin in the efforts of a single individual. One change for the better can lead to two, which can lead to a shared habit, which, in turn, can quickly become a community effort. Doing good catches on.

Emory alumni share a unity of spirit rooted in human connection. As our beloved former Dean of Alumni Judson C. “Jake” Ward Jr. 33G once said, “Spirit is what endures, both for individuals as well as for institutions.” Please embrace that enduring Emory tradition of “making good better” this Emory Cares International Service Day and register to participate in a service project today.

Sarah Cook
SARAH COOK 95C, SENIOR ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Upcoming Alumni Events

Everywhere: November 8—Emory Cares International Service Day
Virtual: November 14—Alumni Networking Hour
Virtual: December 12—Coach Chat: “What Does It Take to Have a Remarkable Career?”
For more, visit alumni.emory.edu/events.
The Spirit of Community

Emory Cares
International Service Day

EMORY CARES. 12 years.
118 organizations served.
More than 10,000 members of the Emory community showed kindness and provided support to thousands of people.

Please register for Emory Cares International Service Day by signing up to join one of our Emory Cares projects in dozens of cities around the world or participate in Emory Cares Everywhere.

For more information on an upcoming project near you, please visit www.alumni.emory.edu/emorycares
Alumni Board News

The Emory Alumni Board (EAB) gathered at Miller-Ward Alumni House during Homecoming Weekend in September to welcome nine new members and plan for the coming year.

Under the leadership of incoming EAB President Doug Shipman ’95C, the board will continue its focus this year on Emory’s scholarship endowment initiative, increased alumni visibility on campus and in the regions, and building a leadership pipeline that will ensure the continued success and growth of the university, while reflecting the diversity of its student and alumni bodies.

The Emory Alumni Board Leadership Scholarship, created in 2007, recognizes students whose actions, beliefs, and passions have improved the community in the arts or sciences, in academic or extracurricular pursuits, or through mentorship, social outreach, or other avenues.

The 2014–2015 recipients are Lurit Bepo ’16M, a student in the School of Medicine and president of Emory’s Student National Medical Association, which focuses on mentoring and supporting under-represented minority medical and premedical students in local communities; and Jessica Hirst ’15N, an undergraduate in the School of Nursing and a leader with Best Buddies, an international organization that aims to form close peer friendships with individuals who have developmental or intellectual disabilities.
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Antique Indo-Persian Ceremonial Weapons

The item depicted in the photo is a Fakir’s Crutch from India. Religious beggars are not supposed to carry weapons so they used forms concealed as crutches. This item is one of a collection of four (4) different weapons on offer. Provenance and price available upon request.

JOEL DICK ’73 LAW
407. 648-0909 OR DICKLAW@EMBARQMAIL.COM
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Learning to Serve

Global Travel Organization Gives High School Students New Perspective

THIS SUMMER, JUSTIN CAPONE, A HIGH school senior from Albany, California, spent ten days in Guatemala, working in a community garden in the mountainous village of Santa Clara La Laguna near Lake Antitlan.

He described the experience in a blog post. “Coming into this program, none of us knew what to expect,” he wrote. “We had no idea if we would make friends, if we would like our host families, or if we would enjoy our stay. We all found that not only did we achieve all of the above, but we learned something about ourselves. Traveling to a country and performing a service for someone less fortunate than us is not only a rewarding experience for them, but also for ourselves. The close-knit village of Santa Clara showed us the impact a few people can make on a much larger scale.”

That kind of meaningful international experience is just what Luke Mueller ’02C had in mind when he cofounded Walking Tree Travel with two childhood friends.

At Emory, Mueller majored in sociology with a minor in Latin American history, and spent a semester studying in rural Mexico. “I had a lot of friends at Emory who were international students,” Mueller says. “That went a long way to push me in a more global direction.”

After college and a year teaching and working in Costa Rica, he reconected with two friends, Paul Laurie and Gabriel Duncan, in their hometown of Denver, undecided about their majors because he loved Spanish and had traveled extensively in Latin America. “We had taken a trip in high school that was very generic. We envisioned a different, more authentic experience.”

The three marshaled their resources and found some investors, and in 2006, organized their first program for twelve students in Costa Rica. That number jumped to thirty-six the next year, then one hundred; today there are nearly 2,500 alumni of Walking Tree programs. The organization now has a presence in twelve countries and drew six hundred high-school student participants this year.

Walking Tree was named for trees found around the world that gradually move toward sunshine and water. The name reflects the founders’ goal of putting down roots and establishing genuine, longstanding connections in the program’s host communities—a message they hope to convey to the students who travel with them.

“Sometimes there is a disconnect between service and results, especially for kids this age,” Mueller says. “We do our best to ensure the usefulness of our programs. We want to foster a genuine exchange of ideas and attitudes between ourselves and our hosts. We’re not the only company that has service component, but we may be unique in the sense that we really encourage structured reflection about what we are doing during each program.”

“We expect a lot from these kids,” Mueller adds. “We think sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds are capable of profound accomplishments.”—P.P.P.
Over the past year, gifts from Wise Heart Society donors have gone to work immediately at Emory, supporting scholarships, strengthening academics, and helping care for patients. Here are just a few examples.

**THERAPEUTIC MUSIC PROGRAM**
Gifts to the Emory Healthcare Partners in Health Fund support a therapeutic music program that places live musicians performing soothing music in patient care and waiting areas.

**THOMAS J. LAWLEY PROFESSORSHIP**
Physician-scientist Jack Arbiser has been named the first Thomas J. Lawley Professor. A practicing dermatologist, Arbiser has discovered a way to slow the progression of several cancers.

**OXFORD COLLEGE LIBRARY AND ACADEMIC COMMONS**
The facility, built in 1970, has been renovated and re-opened in August with a new, 10,000-square-foot addition, wireless technology, and collaborative learning spaces.

**EMORY ALUMNI BOARD LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**
2013–14 recipient Leia Clement 11C 15L has dedicated time to Student Legal Services and done pro bono work through the Emory Public Interest Committee.

**ROLLINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS**
Unrestricted gifts support graduate students like Peter Lyu 14PH, who is pursuing a career in health care policy research.

**YOUR GIFT GIVES OPPORTUNITY.**
Become a part of the Wise Heart Society by making a leadership-level annual gift of $1,000 or more* to the area at Emory that is most important to you.

annualgiving.emory.edu/WiseHeart
A Most Stirring and Significant Episode: Religion and the Rise and Fall of Prohibition in Black Atlanta, 1865–1887, is the first book-length study of African American involvement in the nineteenth-century temperance movement. Author H. Paul Thompson Jr., chair of the Department of History and Political Science at North Greenville University in South Carolina, examines the ideology, institutions, and processes through which white and black Northerners introduced temperance to postbellum black Atlanta and provides an analytical and colorful description of Fulton County, Georgia’s 1885 and 1887 “local option” prohibition elections. These elections proved to be a turning point in the Southern temperance movement and to have national political implications. The Southern temperance-turned-prohibition movement could never again be the same after white reformers concluded that black Atlantans’ votes had overturned prohibition.

ME AND MY SHADOW: Richard Anderson was the last person to see his friend Melanie alive. She vanished when they were six and, while the police never found Melanie, a part of her remained—a living shadow that is now Richard’s closest friend. For ten years, Richard has never questioned the shadow that keeps him company—until a new girl moves to town, claiming to be Melanie. In his sophomore novel, All Those Broken Angels, young fiction author Peter Adam Salomon 89C follows up on his 2012 debut novel Henry Franks, which was named one of the ten “Books All Young Georgians Should Read” by the Georgia Center for the Book in 2014.

A MAN OF HIS WORD: The word integrity comes at us from every angle, context, setting, and venue. An Atlanta apartment complex is named “Integrity Heights.” A car dealer promises on its outdoor sign, “We sell integrity.” A mortuary declares, “We offer integrity when you need it the most.” A United States senator describes a Supreme Court nominee as “a man of integrity.” During the recession, in a letter to the Wall Street Journal, one citizen wrote, “Wall Street was where integrity went to die.” In Integrity: The Indispensable Element, author Jim Thomas 64L tackles the abstract definition of integrity and bridges the gap between the virtue in thought and action. Thomas, a retired attorney and founder of the consulting group Alliance for Integrity, also is author of Individual Integrity.

THE ‘IN’ CROWD: With the Teen Popularity Handbook: Make Friends, Get Dates, and Become Bully-Proof, authors and identical twins David Bennett 02T and Jonathan Bennett 02T promise that by following their tips and advice, “Any teen can become popular.” Throughout the self-help book, the authors use personal anecdotes from their youth and adulthood as examples and lessons for young readers to learn from and either follow or avoid. They offer tips on attitude, body language, confidence, flexibility, and humor, and then assign “homework” at the end of each chapter they say can help kids who seek popularity to attain skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.—M.M.L.
Helping Hands, Caring Hearts
Emory Cares International Service Day at Cumberland Academy

PLANTING NEW GARDEN BEDS
and organizing school supplies were just a couple of the tasks tackled by Emory volunteers at last fall’s Emory Cares International Service Day project at Cumberland Academy of Georgia, a school specializing in the needs of children with social and learning differences.

“It’s deeply rewarding to know that volunteering a few hours can make such a difference for so many people,” says participant Lynn Garson 81L. “This Emory Cares project allowed me to make a really special school just a little more beautiful for the kids—and that feels great.”

Sponsored again this year by the Emory Alumni Creative, the Cumberland Academy of Georgia project will focus on beautifying the school’s garden beds, painting, and organizing donations and maintenance spaces. “We are so appreciative of the volunteer efforts of Emory alumni,” says Tori Andrews, Cumberland Academy’s director of philanthropy. “Their assistance in checking off our wish list tasks allows our team to focus on what matters most—ensuring an engaging education and a rich academic experience for our students.”

Now celebrating its twelfth year, Emory Cares International Service Day is a partnership between the Emory Alumni Association and Volunteer Emory. “On November 8, Emory Cares and Emory Cares Everywhere projects will continue to connect with more organizations in need,” says Venus Miller, program coordinator for Emory Cares. “Around the world, any Emory alumnus can sign up to take part by visiting www.alumni.emory.edu/emory-cares to register for a project that inspires you.”

Since its inception, Emory Cares has worked in collaboration with Volunteer Emory to serve 118 organizations in thirty-two cities and six countries around the world. With more than ten thousand volunteers already lending their hearts and time to worthy projects, Miller says, “Emory Cares International Service Day will continue to represent the best of Emory’s commitment to bettering our communities.”

—Michelle Valigursky
As a recent candidate for the Florida State House of Representatives, Ben Sorensen '00C, a small business owner, author, and pastor, brings a mix of corporate experience to help individuals in corporate, governmental, and nonprofit organizations improve communication skills, deliver effective customer service, and increase organizational savvy—as explained in his book, Customer Tells: Delivering World-Class Customer Service by Reading Your Customer’s Signs and Signals (Kaplan Publishing, 2007). Sorensen earned a master of science in strategic intelligence from the National Intelligence University (2013) and a doctor of ministry from Amridge University.

“Double majoring in international studies and Spanish at Emory provided me a rich context for understanding the world and how to begin to address challenges both globally and locally. This foundation and desire to work with others as seen through the work of The Carter Center provided a strong inspiration for me to run for elected office,” Sorensen says. He is currently in the US Navy Reserve and is attached to the Pentagon supporting the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Harold Fritz McDuffie ’39G has lived in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, since 1950, and tells Emory Magazine that he would be happy to hear from classmates. Now confined to a wheelchair, McDuffie remains active with physical and occupational therapy, and is learning Spanish online. He and his wife, Elizabeth, will celebrate 70 years of marriage in November. McDuffie enjoyed a career in chemistry, primarily at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the reactor development program. He has a number of Emory alumni connections including two brothers and a son. “I was especially fortunate that my fraternity, Kappa Alpha, made it clear to the incoming freshmen that scholarship was the main reason for being at Emory,” he says.

James Watson III ’72D received the Leon Schwartz Lifetime Service Award at the 2014 National Dental Convention in Orlando. Watson has served as a double-term president of the Florida Dental Health Foundation and is currently a member of the FDA Council on Governmental Affairs. Additionally, he has served on the American Dental Association delegation for many years and is currently an American Dental Political Action Committee board member.
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The information and dates above are based on information provided by our travel vendors as of September 2014 and are subject to change. Individual trip brochures will be available to be mailed out approximately 9-12 months prior to the trip’s departure. All Emory Travel Program tours require that participants be in good physical condition. Each traveler must be capable, without assistance, of walking a minimum of one mile over uneven terrain and of climbing staircases that may not have handrails. Participants should have sufficient stamina to keep pace with an active group of travelers on long days of touring. If you have any questions about your ability to participate in a tour, please call the Emory Travel Program at 404.727.7150.
WORKING IT: NURSING
Patricia L. Starck 60N 63MN is transitioning to a new career phase after 30 years as dean of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Nursing. After a sabbatical, Starck will return to UTHealth as senior vice president for interprofessional education, a role she took on in 2013. Among her many accomplishments as dean are launching the first doctor of nursing practice program in Texas and the Accelerated PhD Program, designed to grow the number of nursing faculty. She also oversaw fund-raising and construction for the School of Nursing and Student Community Center, opened in 2004.

Share your career news and updates with E-Class Notes. Visit www.alumni.emory.edu/updateinfo.

WORKING IT: GRADUATE
Althea Grant 98PhD is chief of the Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch in the Division of Blood Disorders of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Grant has specifically been recognized for her contribution to developing public health programs and resources for sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait. She serves as CDC’s project director for the RuSH (Registry and Surveillance System for Hemoglobinopathies) program, the first population-based public health surveillance system for sickle cell disease and thalassemia. She received a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology from Emory.

Share your career news and updates with E-Class Notes. Visit www.alumni.emory.edu/updateinfo.

WORKING IT: MEDICINE
Nate Gross 12M is the co-founder of Rock Health, a full-service seed fund for health start-ups, and Doximity, the largest medical professional network for physicians in the United States. Physicians use Doximity to connect with other health care professionals, securely collaborate on patient treatment, grow their practices, and discover new career opportunities. Gross earned an MBA from Harvard Business School before graduating from Emory School of Medicine. He serves on the advisory board for the SXSW Accelerator and the Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation at Children’s National Medical Center.

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WORKING IT: PUBLIC HEALTH
Thomas H. Prol 89OX 91C 97MPH is first vice president of the New Jersey State Bar Association (NISBA) and a partner in the environmental and government affairs group of Laddey, Clark & Ryan in Sparta, New Jersey. The first openly gay officer in state bar association history, Prol has been an outspoken advocate for marriage equality and a 2011 state law to combat bullying in public schools. He is on track to become state bar president in 2016 and also has served as associate general counsel with the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, a professor at New York Law School, and an environmental scientist and enforcement officer with the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Share your career news and updates with E-Class Notes. Visit www.alumni.emory.edu/updateinfo.

WORKING IT: LAW
Ari Luxenberg 06L is a director of legal affairs at Warner Bros. Television. He primarily serves as production attorney for various Warner Bros. television shows, and handles responsibilities including development deals, negotiating writers’ contracts, and reviewing scripts for copyright and trademark issues. This year his roster involved juggling about 10 shows and pilots, including Children’s Hospital on Adult Swim and HBO’s new series The Leftovers. Luxenberg secured his present “dream job” in 2012 after taking a leap of faith from a corporate job at a well-established Atlanta law firm to a starting-rung job at a large Beverly Hills talent agency in 2008.

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WORKING IT: THEOLOGY
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in San Antonio, Texas, has hired Beth Knowlton 04T to be its next rector, making her the first woman to fill this position at the historic downtown congregation. Knowlton previously served the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta as canon for liturgy and prayer since 2006. Her first service at St. Mark’s was August 10, and her installation was September 18.

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WORKING IT: BUSINESS
Robert D. “Danny” Flanigan 82EMBA of Decatur is the winner of the Community Service category in the 2014 CFO of the Year Awards sponsored by the Atlanta Business Chronicle in partnership with the Association for Corporate Growth Atlanta chapter. Flanigan is chief financial officer for Spelman College where his responsibilities include administration of a $100 million operating budget and management of the college’s $360 million endowment fund. Flanigan serves on multiple boards and is active in civic organizations including 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Atlanta Business League, and Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Share your career news and updates with E-Class Notes. Visit www.alumni.emory.edu/updateinfo.

WORKING IT: MEDICINE
Matthew Oster 10MR 11PH has developed a smartphone application that will improve newborns’ cardiovascular conditions by the time they leave the hospital. A graduate of University of Pennsylvania medical school, Oster developed the tool after witnessing the inaccuracy of traditional pulse oximetry interpretation methods on newborns. “In the scenarios where the correct answer should have been ‘fail’—so for the child where you might be worried they have a congenital heart defect—health care personnel only got the right answer 65 percent of the time,” says Oster. The Pulse Ox Tool greatly reduces the risk of error, and is available for iOS, Android, and Windows mobile devices.

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WORKING IT: LAW
GrayRobinson attorney Charles L. Siemen 67C has received the honor of being among the South Florida Business Journal’s Power Leaders in Law and Accounting. In his many years of experience, Siemen has covered issues in a variety of fields across 30 states and territories. In addition to being an attorney for GrayRobinson, Siemen also dedicates his time to lecturing at the Florida Atlantic University School of Urban and Regional Planning.

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Please note that all class notes may appear online as well as in the printed *Emory Magazine*. Notes may not appear for up to six months following submission. *Emory Magazine* does not publish engagement announcements; submit wedding announcements after the ceremony has taken place. Birth announcements should include the names of both parents. Please provide a daytime telephone number in email submissions. Thanks for sharing your news.
Generous Spirit

FRANK H. HUFF

REMEMBERED FOR HIS KINDNESS AND encouraging nature, Frank H. Huff considered the Emory community his family and maintained his ties to the university after retiring as Emory’s treasurer and vice president of finance in 2003.

Huff, a native of LaGrange, Georgia, passed away June 29, 2014, after battling pancreatic cancer. A memorial service was held on July 22 at the Miller-Ward Alumni House.

“Many people knew Frank as a money man, the head of the finance division of the university, who had a great capacity for making sure that the financial keel of the ship was solid, balanced, and trim. But he also had a passion for music, the arts, good books, and funny stories,” says Emory Vice President Gary Hauk.

Before joining Emory in 1985, Huff worked at Georgia Institute of Technology from 1965 until 1984, including six years as comptroller. Former Emory President William Chace adds that Huff was a valuable source of expertise.

“In my years at Emory, I knew that if I had any questions about the finances of the university—and many of my questions were, owing to the complexity of the institution, likely to be complicated—I could always proceed to Frank Huff’s office, ask my question, and then be given an answer that was cogent, lucid, and without ambiguity or frills,” Chace says. “Frank knew his stuff, and he knew it well, for he had spent a good part of his professional life dealing with every level of Emory’s financial situation. Forthright, calm, and resolute in all respects, he touched everything with his own integrity. Emory was made stronger by his presence.”

When Isha Edwards joined Emory in 2002, Huff encouraged and inspired her.

“Mr. Huff was my first supervisor at Emory, and I will remember the many ways he sought to teach and to challenge me as well as to push me forward,” says Edwards, now marketing and events specialist for Emory’s Emeritus College. “Everyone needs a foundation to build on or a bridge to cross, and Mr. Huff was that for me.”

Huff’s wife, Marina Huff, says Emory held a special place in her husband’s heart.

“The members of the Emory community and his colleagues organized a remarkable and touching memorial service for Frank,” Marina Huff says. “He loved and cherished this institution and was so proud to be a member of the Emory family. Frank was one of the most kind-hearted people anyone could meet. He always made you feel good when you were around him and always had a friendly and encouraging word to share. May his memory be a blessing to us all.”

Huff also is survived by three sons, Scott Montgomery Huff, Pace Taylor Huff, and Brent Asher Huff.—M.M.I.
The Drop-Off

BY DAVID RANEY 99PHD

KIDS GROW UP TOO FAST. LIKE EVERY CLICHÉ, this one’s worn to the nub, but it’s also true—although it can take life slapping you like a newborn sometimes to realize it.

Eleven years ago this fall, my wife and I took our daughter, Danielle, to college for the first time. That same week, in case this wasn’t jarring enough, we left our eight-month-old son, Steven, at his first day care. It felt like driving over speed bumps.

Are we ready? Are they? Do we have any idea what we’re doing? It wasn’t the first time we’d ask, or close to the last.

Sending your kid away to college after eighteen years is a Rubicon, whether “away” means across town, state, or country. And despite months—years—of SATs, applications, and financial brow-furrowing, it still takes both sides by surprise. Maybe every large transition does. The best you can do, probably, is prepare to be unprepared.

The night we dropped her off, Danielle was invited to a party. She said, “Maybe. I’ll see if I can go,” before realizing, as she said the other day, “there was no Mom and Dad to get permission from anymore.” (I told her she could have phrased it less darkly.) At the party she grew apprehensive around 10:00 p.m. as curfew loomed—and then vanished the same way. Habits die hard, even ones you’ve been chafing at for years.

Losing limitations is scary, but also exhilarating, and necessary if you want to grow. All of which sounds good as a Hallmark sentiment, but it is harder to reconcile when it’s your kid on the loose. And let’s face it, we head to college at a time when we’re drawn to the strange and reckless, trying on new skins like party clothes—girls and boys, as you’ll know if you’ve parented both, or if you’ve been alive and eighteen and either.

Part of the project that autumn day in 2003 (an August day actually; September start-ups having gone the way of rotary phones) was to be excited for our daughter, and proud. And we were. Also apprehensive, which we tried to hide, thinking she didn’t need our help with that. Another part, classically, is the delivery of stirring words of wisdom, but Danielle says she doesn’t recall any speeches, so I must have resisted my natural tendency to mount the podium. Or, just as likely, she was too busy picking up keys and dodging U-Hauls to listen.

One difference between day care and college is that we knew Steven was perfectly safe in his soft room with trained caretakers, whereas all of us remember college—however tragically distant from it we must seem to our children—and safety may not be the first descriptor that comes to mind. The sense of dislocation is much the same, though, whether your fledgling is pre-toddler or pre-adult.

A website devoted to easing parents’ anxiety claims that it’s “typical to feel a mixture of pride, panic, and grief when letting go of someone [you] used to diaper.” Fair enough. Another, also well-intentioned, gets it wrong: “You’ve taught her how to be an adult! Congratulations!” But . . . you don’t know that yet, do you?

My wife is as good a mother as they come, but she dreamed of the day she’d forgotten to feed Steven or to teach basic cooking skills to Danielle, whom she envisioned gnawing raw chicken in her room. You can’t help but worry. Food featured in the non-dream drop-off too. We bought our newly independent daughter a few groceries—this wasn’t boot camp, after all—but got the bags mixed up and inadvertently left her with baby food. Paging the irony police.

One of Danielle’s suitmates had what we would now call a helicopter parent, a mother who lined up soup cans in the pantry, unpacked underwear, did everything but hang paintings. And then stayed the night. Whereas we incline toward the other end of the scale, by experience as well as temperament. I had station wagon parents. They helped me with my bulky stereo and world-class T-shirt collection, gave me bear hugs, and drove off. (My twin brother was moving the same day, a hundred miles west: same speed bumps, different generation.)

I write this sentence in the Indianapolis airport, returning from a visit to my eighty-six-year-old mother, who is facing transitions of her own. More of Hamlet’s “thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to.” In a sense, we’re always waving good-bye. She and my dad did the college drop-off four times, and I asked her if it ever got easier. “Kids always think adults know what they’re doing,” she said. “Then at some point you realize your parents are making it up as they go. And so did their parents.” I’m fairly certain that was a no.

In a line often attributed to Emerson, Henry Stanley Haskins once wrote, “What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.” I don’t know whether Haskins was a father, but I know one way to discover this is to go to college. Another is to watch your new freshman grow small in the rearview mirror, waving.

David Raney 99PhD, managing editor of Habitat for Humanity International, lives in Atlanta with his wife, Deanna, and their son, Steven—at least for a few more years.
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EXPANDED O’CONNOR: Iconic Southern author Flannery O’Connor’s school composition book and an illustrated story from her childhood are among many new artifacts donated to Emory’s Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library in October.

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