Every field has its rock stars. In math, Professor Ken Ono is one of the brightest.
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There are times when the ties felt between past and present are especially strong—even eerily so.

There are times when the ties felt between past and present are especially strong—even eerily so. In her song “Virginia Woolf,” Emily Saliers 85C of the Indigo Girls describes reading the diary of the British novelist and immediately feeling a crackling connection—“on a kind of a telephone line through time.” (Incidentally, the alumnae duo will be performing during Emory Homecoming Weekend September 24 to 27; I hope you can join us.)

Math professor Ken Ono, featured on the cover, recounts his similar experience in his profound sense of affinity with the legendary Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. Ono and his father share a deep fascination with Ramanujan’s life and his mathematical genius, which has shaped Ono’s own brilliant career as directly as if Ramanujan had reached across history to guide his hand. The connection is so strong that Ono was asked to serve as an expert consultant on an upcoming movie about Ramanujan’s life.

“It is the story that gave my father hope and inspiration as a hungry mathematician coming of age in postwar Japan,” Ono says; and, “Following Ramanujan, whether I’ve meant to or not, has always been my destiny.”

As any archivist would tell you, historic objects can also carry the power to unite people across chasms of time and space. Daniel Wechsler 90C is a book dealer who with a colleague purchased a rare reference book that was published in 1580. As he closely studied the handwritten notations that appear throughout the volume, Wechsler cast his imagination back more than four centuries, envisioning the book’s owner scratching away with his quill. And the hypothetical conclusions that he eventually reached about that long-ago writer—speaking on a kind of telephone line through time, through a text whose preservation is noteworthy in itself—are truly startling.

Not all links between past and present are quite so dramatic. This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of Emory’s first class of Woodruff Scholars, and we celebrate with a retrospective of sorts, highlighting the rich cross-generational relationships forged by the prestigious scholarship program. Many Woodruff alumni show their appreciation for that legacy by helping to recruit new scholars, raising the bar of excellence for each class.

One graduate remembers an intimidating encounter with Robert Woodruff himself, the Atlanta icon whose generosity made the scholarship program possible. Separated by decades, the student suddenly felt a keen desire to be worthy of Woodruff’s investment and expectations. “I felt challenged and supported at the same time,” he says.

No doubt the incoming class of Woodruff Scholars—and all our new students, for that matter—have similar feelings about the challenges that lie ahead. It’s exciting to contemplate all they will accomplish in the days to come, before they take their places in the archival pages of Emory history.—PPP
I read with interest your article, “Invisible,” in the recent Emory Magazine. I was impressed with the accomplishments of those who were profiled. I want to offer a perspective from someone from a different era. I graduated from Emory in 1972. I have had a lifelong hearing loss. It is profound in my left ear; severe in my right ear. The time I was in school was vastly different. There was no ADA. The culture and environment were different. There were no resources and no others like me. I say this with the caveat that there may have been, but I was unaware of any. I was going to have to survive using my own wits and figuring out a way to adapt. It was a tough, bittersweet time for me, a struggle. I accept responsibility for not being more assertive and not handling it as well as I would have liked.

Somehow, I managed to deal with it and enjoy my career as a lawyer, be active in my community, and have a fruitful life. I am pleased that the world has changed for the better. I am glad Emory has been in the midst of that.

Gilbert Laden 72C
Mobile, Alabama

I really enjoyed (“Buried Truths,” spring 2015) and will share it with my fourteen-year-old daughter. I’m a native of Atlanta, and my parents and grandparents grew up in Lexington, Georgia. I appreciate you shedding light on Georgia’s past.

Tina Stovall-Goolsby
Conyers, Georgia

The “big picture” in the Winter Emory Magazine (“We Are United” student demonstration) is great. It shows that Emory students are concerned with what is happening in the world. One of the letter writers said the students did not see the “big picture.” Well, to see the big picture, one must know history and how it relates to relations today. You also have to factor in the lack of opportunity, and poor education. The big picture is the huge gap between the “have nots” and the “haves.” Emory did a lot for me. Teachers like Bill Mallard and Theodore Runyon opened my mind and imagination and prepared me for thirty years as a college chaplain and teacher in two good schools.

Talmage Boyd Skinner 60T 67T
Raleigh, North Carolina

The recent piece (“Invisible: Illuminating Disability, Inside the Classroom and Out,” spring 2015) piqued my interest and my hopes. I entered the article expecting to read of scholarly work on access for disabilities and the work at Emory to broaden understanding of the experiences of individuals with disabilities face. In many regards I was very happy with the coverage and the honesty in the article. However, I was concerned and frustrated that the truly “invisible” impairments; for example, autism spectrum disorders and mental health issues such as anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorder, were not even mentioned. Emory was the place where my love of learning and seeking to better the world was awakened. I hope and expect that the Disability Studies Initiative will include these groups in their work, since the experiences and unique perspectives of all individuals create an inclusive environment for all.

Kathryn Shultz Ransom 91OX 03C 66C
Nashua, New Hampshire

As the father of a third-year dermatology resident, I am always interested in reading about Match Day (“The Envelope, Please,” spring 2015). As one who has attended a Match Day, I believe that every student who matched is going to an “esteemed institution.” For Emory Magazine to state that some “are going to a variety of esteemed institutions” and naming just a few of the residency programs shows an educational bias and diminishes the accomplishments of those students who did not match with a program that is, in Emory’s view, an “esteemed institution.” It would have been more appropriate to list each student and the program they matched with. Emory should be proud of each student’s match.

Charles E. Gordon 72L
Winter Park, Florida

There seems to be an error in the article on Fahamu Pecou (“More Than Just a Pretty Picture,” spring 2015). A former mayor of Atlanta is identified as Shirley Jackson, but I think you meant Shirley Franklin. We Shirley’s look out for each other. Thanks for the interesting article.

Shirley May Banks 05PH 15T
Decatur, Georgia

Editor’s note: Many thanks to Ms. Banks for bringing this to our attention; we regret the error.

Has something in Emory Magazine raised your consciousness—or your hackles? Write to the editors at Emory Magazine, 1762 Clifton Road, Suite 1000, Atlanta, Georgia, 30322, or via email at paige.parvin@emory.edu. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. The views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or the administrators of Emory University.
Poetry Slam

Rhythm and rhyme rocked Emory’s Glenn Memorial Auditorium on July 15 when young poets from around the world congregated for a vibrant celebration of words on opening night of the eighteenth-annual Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam Festival.

PHOTO BY BRYAN MELTZ
Ebola A Year Later

EMORY TEAM SHARES LESSONS LEARNED FROM TREATING FIRST US PATIENTS

In the year since Emory University Hospital admitted the first patients infected with Ebola virus disease to be treated in the United States, Emory has become a resource for hospitals around the world, sharing best practices for preparedness, prevention, and treatment of the highly infectious disease.

Members of the multidisciplinary team that provided care for the patients—two American medical missionaries who were exposed to the Ebola virus in Liberia, and two subsequent patients—discuss the preparedness and protocols that led to their successful treatment in the July 28 issue of PLOS Medicine, a peer-reviewed publication that is openly accessible.

“The many challenges and the strategic and tactical lessons learned by Emory physicians, nurses, faculty, staff, and administrators in treating patients with Ebola virus disease provide us an opportunity to share information that may help others to prepare, prevent, and treat difficult emerging diseases,” says David S. Stephens, lead author of the article and vice president for research in Emory’s Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

“Our experience with Ebola virus disease as an academic health center demonstrates the importance of preparation, communications, and detailed implementation.”

The authors also address Emory’s decision to accept and treat the patients, which was made in coordination with the US Department of State and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and was based on medical need, Emory’s preparedness, and the potential to use the experience to advance knowledge.

As an academic medical center, Emory benefited from strong programs in health care delivery, quality, infectious diseases, infection control and biosafety, immunology, vaccines, biodefense, travel medicine, emergency medicine, and public health.

Emory has continued to disseminate best practice information and new knowledge about the treatment, complications, and clinical course of Ebola; serve as a national leader in education and training; create new university forums; develop education materials for residents, fellows, and the general public; present clinical and research findings; and engage in the broader policy issues of preventing and treating highly contagious diseases.

WE CAN FEAR, OR WE CAN CARE: As media attention intensified and public concern about Ebola mounted, Emory chief nurse Susan Grant wrote an op-ed that turned the tide, educating and easing fears.

Eagles welcome new athletic director

Michael Vienna has been appointed as Emory’s Clyde Partin Senior Director of Athletics. Vienna comes to Emory after 16 years at Salisbury University in Maryland. As athletics director, Vienna administered a successful 21-sport intercollegiate program with approximately 550 students participating in those varsity sports. He replaces Tim Downes, who is now athletic director at the Westminster Schools in Atlanta.

Dual degree will combine the spiritual and the practical

Emory’s Candler School of Theology and the University of Georgia School of Social Work have partnered to offer a dual master’s degree in divinity and social work, the first dual degree to be offered between the two universities. The Master of Divinity/Master of Social Work program will prepare professionals to deal with spiritual and practical issues related to aging, addiction, grief and loss, and other stressors.
EXCUSE ME, DID YOU SAY HILARY SWANK?

EMORY HISTORIAN DEBORAH LIPSTADT’s acclaimed 2005 book, *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier*, which chronicles her exoneration by a British court in a sensational libel trial, is being made into a feature film titled *Denial*.

The cast is notable, to put it mildly: Two-time Academy Award–winner Hilary Swank is attached to play Lipstadt, and two-time Academy Award–nominee Tom Wilkinson is attached to play Lipstadt’s barrister.

“I am delighted that this is coming to fruition,” says Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory. “It’s been in the works for a while, but I never quite imagined it would come to be.”

Adapted for the screen by writer David Hare (*The Reader, The Hours*), the book recounts Lipstadt’s legal battle for historical truth against British author David Irving, who sued her for libel when she declared him a Holocaust denier. In the English legal system, the burden of proof is on the accused, so it was up to Lipstadt and her legal team to prove the essential truth that the Holocaust happened and Irving had manipulated data to make history vanish.

The film will be directed by Emmy Award–winner Mick Jackson (*Temples Grandin, The Bodyguard*) and produced by Gary Foster and Russ Krasnoff under their Krasnoff/Foster Entertainment banner alongside Shoebox Films. “To have a script by David Hare, one of the great playwrights and screenwriters of our time, and to be played by Hilary Swank, who is not only winner of two Oscars but who has an uncanny ability to ‘become’ the character she is playing, is all a bit more than I ever imagined possible,” Lipstadt says.

As he addressed a gathering in the East Room of the White House in July, President Barack Obama gave a special shout-out to Maria Town 09C, who joined his staff in May as an associate director in the White House’s Office of Public Engagement. (After singling out Town as the “fantastic new disability community liaison,” the president added, “Yay, Maria!” to enthusiastic applause.) In this role, she will focus on incorporating the needs of people with disabilities in administration activities.

Also in the room during the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act was Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, Emory professor of English, bioethics, and women’s studies, and a renowned disability scholar and activist. The anniversary event was an unforgettable experience for both Garland-Thomson and Town, who had been a student of Garland-Thomson’s at Emory.

“Disability studies integrated across the curriculum in higher education prepares the next generation of leadership, like Maria and many other Emory alumni, to act on disability equity and social justice issues, no matter what their major or interests are,” Garland-Thomson says.

Town, who has cerebral palsy, is a full-time, permanent hire, according to White House officials. Prior to joining the president’s staff, Town worked as an adviser in the US Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy, where she focused on improving employment among young adults with disabilities.

Before moving to Washington to work in public service, Town graduated from Emory with a degree in anthropology. At Emory, Town was a Community and Diversity Fellow in the Office of the Provost where she aided in oversight, policy formulation, program development, and management of the Center for Women, the Office of Disability Services, the Office of University-Community Partnerships, and the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs. She also served as the university-wide Student Government Association president.

Since graduating, Town has returned to campus as a speaker and advocate, most notably as a featured guest during a series of events hosted by the university’s Disability Studies Initiative.

“You get students in freshman writing seminars who learn about disability studies, and they can then take that information to whatever major they choose—and it could be bioethics, it could be psychology, it could be medicine—and learn to apply it there,” Town says.

“So it’s taking your disability studies knowledge that you gain from the liberal arts and humanities and, ultimately, when you become that professional after you’ve graduated, you are aware and your perspective is informed by it.”

That perspective is now informing the work of the White House. To quote the president: Yay, Maria.—P.F.P.

Website reinforces importance of vaccines

Researchers from Emory’s Rollins School of Public Health, with funding from the Emory Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center, developed a website to educate the public on prenatal vaccinations, vaccine safety, and infant immunizations. The website, www.momvax.org, was developed by Allison Chamberlain Abramson 15G during her time as a doctoral student in epidemiology.

Brumer to serve on national cancer board

President Barack Obama appointed Emory’s Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Nursing Deborah Watkins Brumer to the National Cancer Advisory Board. Brumer is associate director of cancer outcomes research at Winship Cancer Institute and professor of radiation oncology at the School of Medicine. Her research focuses on quality of life, symptom management, and decision making for cancer therapies.
Emory Teams with Wounded Warriors

The Emory Healthcare Veterans Program has been selected by the national Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) to participate in a first-of-its-kind national medical care network.

Warrior Care Network will connect wounded veterans and their families with individualized care for two of the most commonly experienced wounds from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan: posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury. Emory joins Massachusetts General Hospital, the University of California Los Angeles, and Rush University Medical Center in the network initiative. The more than $15 million grant from WWP requires that each of the sites raise $7.5 million over a three-year period.

“Emory is privileged to be part of this collaborative effort to develop innovative approaches to treating, and ultimately healing, the individuals who have made tremendous sacrifices in serving our country,” says President James Wagner. “The blending of expertise from Emory’s Veterans Program, led by Dr. Barbara Rothbaum, with the world-class clinicians at our partner institutions, creates a vast platform for offering leading-edge treatment of our service members.”

Rothbaum is the Paul H. Janssen Chair in Neuropsychopharmacology, professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and director of the Trauma and Anxiety Recovery Program at the Emory Brain Health Center. She has specialized in research and treatment of service members with PTSD for more than two decades.

On Stage with the Stones

EMORY CHOIR ROCKS WITH MUSIC LEGENDS

You can’t always get what you want. But if you happen to be the Emory University Concert Choir, you just might get satisfaction.

The group received the invitation of a lifetime when they were asked to sing backup at the Rolling Stones concert on June 9 in Atlanta. Appearing before some fifty-five thousand fans at Georgia Tech’s Bobby Dodd Stadium, a select group of Emory singers took the stage to perform the iconic choir sequence that launches the Stones’ classic “You Can’t Always Get What You Want,” one of two encore numbers that closed the sold-out show.

As part of their 2015 “Zip Code” North American stadium tour, the Rolling Stones typically reach out to community choirs to provide vocal accompaniment on the song.

Concert Choir Director Eric Nelson, professor of music and director of choral studies at Emory, says that an invitation to perform with the legendary rock-and-roll band arrived in March under a thick layer of confidentiality.

Why Emory? Nelson says he likes to think “it’s because we have a reputation as being one of the finest choirs in this city. Emory has a long tradition of a really fine choral program, going all the way back to the 1940s.”

For Concert Choir President Katie Boice ’16C, a rising senior majoring in psychology and music, the experience was unforgettable.

“Just knowing that you are part of this experience for the audience—seeing this massive crowd on their feet and screaming and just loving it,” she says. “It really made us feel that we were valued as artists.”

Ticker

Emory among leaders in innovation
Emory is ranked No. 56 in the world among universities granted US utility patents in 2014, according to a report by the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) and the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO). The report, based on US Patent and Trademark Office data, recognizes the important role patents play in university research. According to the report, Emory was granted 35 patents in 2014.

Professor’s memoir awarded top literary honor
Clifton Crais, professor of history and director of the Emory Institute of African Studies, earned top honors in the category of memoir/autobiography at the 51st-annual Georgia Author of the Year Awards for History Lessons: A Memoir of Madness, Memory, and the Brain. The book, selected by Library Journal as a Best Book of 2014, recounts Crais’s largely unsupervised childhood with an alcoholic mother in Louisiana.
New Technologies, Improved Lives

THE COULTER FOUNDATION FUNDS EMORY, GEORGIA TECH BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Nine Emory and Georgia Tech biomedical research projects have been chosen to receive funding from the Coulter Translational Research Partnership Program. The $1.6 million in seed funding is intended to accelerate promising technologies developed in research laboratories with the goal of improving patients’ lives. This year’s projects include a rehabilitation device for children, a heart drug delivery catheter, and a disposable kit that checks for anemia.

The Coulter program, which partners with the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory, provides annual awards to research teams that develop products with great commercial potential and meet a well-defined health care need. Each research team pairs scientists or engineers with physicians. This year’s funding also includes $100,000 contributed by the Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute, an Emory-led Atlanta research partnership.

“We were very happy with the number of good projects we saw during this year’s funding round,” says Rachael Hagan, who serves as program director for the Coulter Translational Partnership Program. More than fifty applications were received this year.

Among the nine project awardees are AnemoCheck, a simple, disposable, handheld biochemical device that is inexpensive, accurate, and provides a quantitative evaluation of anemia in less than two minutes; Cardiovascular MR Imaging, a method of uploading, displaying, and automatically analyzing cardiovascular magnetic resonance function, viability, and perfusion studies; InvisiCool, a gel to alleviate heat-related pain while not otherwise affecting the effectiveness of laser treatments; and KIDS, a low-volume, low-error continuous renal replacement therapy device for pediatric patients.

These newly funded academic projects were chosen by a committee composed of Emory doctors, Georgia Tech biomedical engineers, and technology transfer representatives from each institution. The other half of the selection committee included industry experts, venture capital specialists, serial entrepreneurs, and angel investors.

“Since our inception, our collaborative biomedical engineering department has leveraged academic, industry, and donor support to create some of the best physician and engineering teams in the world,” says Ravi Bellamkonda, chair of the Coulter Department. “Our entrepreneurial spirit and culture, combined with the world-class facilities at Georgia Tech and Emory, result in a unique environment that fosters innovation. We are fortunate to be able to provide funding to accelerate the development of these promising biomedical technologies so they can reach patients faster and be successfully translated from the laboratory to clinical use.”

WHERE INNOVATION HAPPENS: Erika Tyburski, a research specialist in pediatric hematology at the School of Medicine, led the team that developed AnemoCheck along with Georgia Tech’s Wilbur Lam.

Emory relies on ‘Momentum’ to fund special projects

Emory has launched its own crowdfunding site, dubbed Momentum, to support programs, projects, and initiatives that are meaningful to members of the Emory community and beyond. The projects, managed by the office of Annual Giving, will typically have goals ranging from $5,000 to $15,000 and a time frame of 30 days to meet the goal. Projects are volunteer driven and donations are fully tax deductible.

Emory swimmer wins nationals, trains for shot at Olympics

Emory senior Andrew Wilson 16C placed first in the 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 59.65 seconds at the 2015 Phillips 66 USA Swimming National Championships in August. He was the only competitor out of 89 in the preliminary round to finish the 100-meter breaststroke in less than a minute. He will compete in the 2016 US Olympic Trials in both the 100-meter and the 200-meter breaststroke.

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NEW FELLOWSHIP FOSTERS HUMAN RIGHTS

THREE EMORY STUDENTS WERE selected to receive the John Lewis Fellowship, a new human rights-focused educational program launched in partnership with the Atlanta-based National Center for Civil and Human Rights (NCCHR) and international educational organization Humanity in Action (HIA).

The new fellowship—named for civil rights icon, US Representative John Lewis—brought an inaugural class of thirty international scholars to Atlanta for a four-week summer program exploring the history and contemporary politics of diversity and minority rights in the United States.

The Emory students named as 2015 John Lewis Fellows include:

Lamija Grbic 17C: Born in Germany after her parents emigrated from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Grbic is a double major in sociology and philosophy.

Mahamed Omar 16C: Born in Kenya and raised in the US, Omar is majoring in political science with a minor in economics.

Erica Sterling 15C: A recent alumna with a dual major in history and psychology, Sterling conducts research for the Georgia Civil Rights Cold Case Project.
DABNEY P. EVANS 98 MPH

DAY JOB: Assistant professor of global health in the Hubert Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health

SECRET LIFE: Avid practitioner of the Brazilian martial art of capoeira.

From the moment Dabney Evans saw capoeira masters perform the graceful, powerful movements of the “game” during an exhibition, she knew she wanted to learn the martial art that combines elements of dance, acrobatics, and music.

A self-described “type-A” personality, Evans admits that repetitive classes such as step aerobics or spin class couldn’t command her attention for long, and the ever-adaptive nature of capoeira, as well as its international origins, appealed to her. Unlike most other martial arts, there is very little contact in capoeira. Instead, it involves a graceful, fluid give-and-take—or “question and answer,” according to Evans—between capoeiristas, in which each move can be anticipated and countered in numerous ways. Capoeira combines dance, acrobatics, music, and a variety of kicks and spins. Matches between participants are referred to as “games.” There is no winner or loser and no way to keep score; capoeira is focused on each participant reaching his or her own personal best in the practice. After eight years, Evans has reached the sixth of fifteen levels of capoeira mastery, each represented by a single- or multicolored braided cord worn around the waist.

Evans began studying capoeira in 2007, as well as setting out to learn Portuguese with the goal of visiting Brazil. She traveled there for the first time in 2008, already conversant with the sport and the language. She returned to the country in 2009, meeting and training with contra mestre, or capoeira master, David de Lima. The two quickly became friends, and eventually more; they were married in 2010, and de Lima moved to Atlanta, where the couple opened a studio called Dance, Fight, Play in east Atlanta where they offer classes in capoeira, Portuguese, and other cultural arts.

HER WORDS: “There are no strikes or punches; if I kick at you, I am asking you a question. How you get away from that is your answer,” Evans says. “There is a flow that happens that is really beautiful. People have one of two reactions when they see capoeira—either I could never do that,’ or ‘I’m going to do that.’”

“Capoeira is not just a physical activity. It creates a sense of community, like a family. It is so much more than a bunch of people in a room kicking,” she says. “Part of the philosophy of capoeira is that there is a place for everyone. It is not necessarily about who is the strongest or the buffest. Everyone has qualities they bring to the game.”—M.M.L.

Emory University Hospital tops Best Hospitals listing

For the fourth year in a row, US News & World Report has ranked Emory University Hospital (EUH) the No. 1 hospital in both Georgia and metro Atlanta in its 2015-2016 Best Hospitals guide. EUH includes EUH at Wesley-Woods and Emory Orthopedics & Spine Hospital. Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital is ranked 5th in Georgia and 3rd in metro Atlanta. EUH Midtown ranks 11th in Georgia and 5th in metro Atlanta.

Emory rocks Top Docs listing

More than half of the physicians recognized in the July “Top Doctors” issue of Atlanta magazine are Emory Healthcare doctors, Emory Healthcare Network doctors, or Emory School of Medicine faculty. This year’s list includes 209 Emory physicians, making up 58 percent of all of the top doctors recognized in the issue. The listing is based on research providing information about education, training, and special expertise.
Better Diagnosis of Brain Tumors

A groundbreaking study that is part of the Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network will change the way patients with diffuse gliomas, a form of brain tumor, will be diagnosed and treated in the future.

More than three hundred researchers from forty-four institutions contributed to a molecular analysis of the tumors. They found that molecular diagnostics are much more precise and reproducible than looking at tissue under a microscope for classification.

This is a major step in starting to classify and treat brain tumors based on their genetic makeup rather than their microscopic appearance, which has been the traditional diagnostic approach for over a century. The findings will be published online in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Lead study author Daniel J. Brat, a researcher and neuropathologist at Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute, explains, “The use of the biomarkers in the diagnosis of these forms of brain tumors will lead to a much more consistent manner of diagnosis and patient management. It will also allow us to investigate these tumors as unified groups.”

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Hometown Heroes

**Emory Emergency Medical Services Wins Top Regional Honors**

As a student volunteer with Emory’s Emergency Medical Service (EEMS), Morgan Taylor ’16 has seen her share of the unexpected. But nothing prepared the twenty-year-old rising senior for the shock of being named Emergency Medical Technician of the Year at the 2015 Region III EMS Awards this spring.

Emory EMS Director Rachel Barnhard knew the honor was deserved. Since Taylor applied to join the EEMS as a freshman, Barnhard has watched her grow into a trusted, talented student leader and mentor.

“She’s the type of person who takes any setback and says, ‘What can I learn from this, how can I do better?’” Barnhard says. “Patients love her and will often ask if Morgan can ride with them in the ambulance.”

Taylor’s father, W. Robert Taylor, and her mother, Kathy Griending, are both faculty members in the Emory School of Medicine. This summer, Taylor is working as an intern at the medical school’s Office of Research and Strategic Initiatives. In April, she was appointed chief of the EEMS, the program’s highest-ranking student role.

“Applying for the program was probably one of the best decisions I could have made,” she says. “I’ve loved the chance to get involved with patient care, to accept responsibility for my patients. I like making that connection.”

EEMS, the university’s student-operated, volunteer emergency medical services provider, earned top honors at the Georgia Region III Emergency Medical Services banquet, garnering awards for EME Service of the Year as well as EMT of the Year. Alex Isakov, executive director of Emory’s Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR), and associate professor and director of the Department of Emergency Medicine’s Section of Prehospital and Disaster Medicine, was recognized as Medical Director of the Year.

The Region III awards are presented to EMS professionals and programs in eight counties throughout the metro-Atlanta region.

Being honored amid a field of full-time professional EMS programs was especially meaningful to members of the student-operated service—the only university-based emergency medical service in Georgia, Barnhard says.

Although EEMS has won national recognition among collegiate-level peer services, this marks the first time the program has garnered top recognition among other professional EMS programs in Georgia, Barnhard notes.

“We’ve been working very hard over the past five or six years to be better integrated with EMS programs in Georgia—that’s part of why we’re so excited about these awards,” she says.

Founded in 1992, EEMS is a unit of the Uniform Division of the Emory University Police Department. The volunteer force of about forty licensed Advanced EMT’s is composed almost exclusively of undergraduates, who provide round-the-clock EMS coverage for the campus and adjacent roads and businesses when the university is in session.—Kimber Williams

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Philanthropy funds training combining law and religion

The Center for the Study of Law and Religion at the School of Law has received a $1 million anonymous gift to expand training in religious freedom for law students and bring new scholarship and fresh voices to the field. The gift will fund “Restoring Religious Freedom: Education, Outreach, and Good Citizenship,” a project that will run for four years, starting in September.

Emory remains one of nation’s greenest universities

Emory ranks among the top 10 “greenest universities” in the country for 2015, according to BestColleges.com. Emory placed eighth on a list of the top 39 schools, drawn from evaluations of more than 200 colleges and universities. Ratings are based on academic curriculum and research, campus and community engagement, operations, and planning and administration.
Helping Hand
AMANDA GARCIA-WILLIAMS
2015 BRITAIN AWARD WINNER

As an Emory student, Amanda Garcia-Williams 15C devoted her academic research and community service to reaching others—from encouraging handwashing to prevent the spread of disease to extending a hand to support those experiencing extreme emotional duress.

A doctoral candidate in Laney Graduate School’s program in behavioral sciences and health education, Garcia-Williams is the 2015 recipient of the university’s highest student honor, the Marion Luther Brittain Award, which is presented each year to a graduate who has demonstrated exemplary service to both the university and the greater community.

Garcia-Williams grew up on a walnut farm in Winters, California, supported and inspired by parents who “are always trying to help people in some way,” she says.

While an MPH student at Rollins School of Public Health, Garcia-Williams worked at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, and her master’s thesis examined the perceptions of those asking and being asked to perform hand hygiene among health care workers and the general public.

A member of her extended family died by suicide before Garcia-Williams entered her PhD program, spurring her interest in the problem.

Working with her PhD adviser, Nadine Kaslow, professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine, on a campuswide suicide prevention program called Emory Cares 4 U, Garcia-Williams helped develop a comprehensive suicide prevention website and remained involved when Emory’s counseling center took over the program.

“If your gut’s telling you something isn’t right, don’t be afraid to ask someone if they need help,” she says. “You may be able to help them access the resources they need to get out of a dark place.”

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

Garcia-Williams has been accepted into the 2015 class of the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) at the CDC, an elite corps of “disease detectives” who investigate outbreaks and other public health crises.

Garcia-Williams says her greatest lesson remains the generosity of spirit she learned from her parents. “Everyone can be engaged in helping people,” she says. “It doesn’t have to be a huge thing. You just have to try to do something” —Kimber Williams

Welcoming Heart
JOVONNA JONES
2015 MCMULLAN AWARD WINNER

Jovonna “Jojo” Jones 15C is no stranger to feeling left out, different, and lonely. The leader and founder of an impressive list of Emory organizations and programs, Jones says she struggled with feelings that she didn’t belong on and off since childhood.

“I sometimes felt, growing up, that I didn’t belong or that people weren’t welcoming me. It’s always been my mission to make sure others don’t feel that way,” Jones says. “Part of that is getting people comfortable with dissonance, to orient themselves around embracing difference and not letting it always be a negative experience.”

During her time at Emory, Jones devoted herself to helping others feel heard, motivated, and accepted through her work with organizations such as the Center for Women and Black Student Union. This dedication to inclusion has helped make Jones the 2015 recipient of the Lucius Lamar McMullen Award, which recognizes Emory College graduates who show extraordinary promise for future leadership and rare potential for service to their community, the nation, and the world.

Originally from Randolph, Massachusetts, Jones worked with a program called Transitions during high school to help first-year minority students feel welcome and comfortable. She also joined VISIONS, a Boston-based nonprofit organization that trains in diversity, inclusion, and effective communication. She now serves on the board of directors and as a youth consultant.

Jones continued her personal mission at Emory as president of the Black Student Alliance. In 2013, she helped found the Black Student Union, a space dedicated for black student programming, organizing, and community.

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

Jones combined her extensive community service with exceptional academic achievement, majoring in African American studies with a minor in philosophy. She will pursue a master’s degree in fine arts in photography at Georgia State University this fall.

“I’m interested in using that time to prepare myself for a different framework for how I think about policy and issues,” she says. “Ultimately I want to take that knowledge and use it for nonprofit or policy work.”

—Megan McRaney
**GOT IT COVERED: EMORY IN THE NEWS**

**Senior Stars**
In addition to providing coverage of Commencement, local NPR-affiliate WABE produced feature stories about the research and service projects of two Emory graduating seniors, Kwadwo Sarpong 15C (above, left) and Nathaniel Meyersohn 15C.

**Focus on Ferguson**
Emory's announcement that it would hold a university-wide, multidisciplinary course focused on the events in Ferguson, Missouri, within the larger discussion of race, politics, and power in the United States, attracted widespread notice, with coverage from USA Today, the Associated Press, and others. The course will focus on the "impact of [Michael] Brown's death" and how it has affected "contemporary society," Emory Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and law professor Dorothy Brown told WABE-FM.

**Chemistry Experiment**
The Wall Street Journal took a look last spring at Emory College's plans to revamp its chemistry curriculum to meet the needs of students, and highlight the thrill and importance of new discovery. "Instead of just introducing topics and saying, 'Trust me, this is important, you'll need it later,' students can understand why the concepts matter," said Doug Mulford, director of undergraduate studies in chemistry. Emory received a $1.2 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute last year to pursue the overhaul.

**Waste Water No More**
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and WABE-FM highlighted the opening of the Emory Waterhub (shown below), the first of its kind in the nation. The facility cleans wastewater—up to 400,000 gallons a day—through a solar-powered facility using plants, microorganisms, and other treatment methods.

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**Rushdie to Class of 2015: 'Be Larger than Life'**
The keynote address at Emory's 170th Commencement by outgoing University Distinguished Professor Salman Rushdie was covered by the Chronicle of Higher Education, NPR, TIME, CNN.com, and other local and national outlets including the New York Times, which published this excerpt: "The novelist's job...is to plunge his hands as deep into the stuff of life as he can, all the way up to the elbows, all the way up to the armpits, and come up with the stuff of life. What's really going on in people's heads, what music is in there, what movies, what dreams...It's not such a bad plan for life, either....Plunge in. Dive into the deep end. Sink or swim. Well, if possible, don't sink. If you learned anything at Emory, you should have learned how to stay afloat."

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**Omega-3 for Depression?**
In a study published in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*, researchers found that the omega-3 fatty acid EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) appears to boost mood in patients with major depressive disorder (MDD) who have high inflammation levels.

"The diversity of both symptoms and underlying variations of the progression of major depressive disorder confounds the development of targeted treatments for the disease," says study author Mark Hyman Rapaport, principal investigator and Reunette W. Harris professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the School of Medicine. "The discovery of biomarkers that characterize subgroups of patients with MDD is critical to the understanding of its pathogenesis, and to the development of personalized therapies."

In a randomized trial, EPA was found to be effective for a group of patients who had high levels of at least one of four markers of inflammation in their blood.

The authors call the finding a proof of concept for the idea that anti-inflammatory treatments can be effective in subgroups of patients with inflammation-driven depression.
Why Women Rule

MEL KONNER TAKES A STAND FOR FEMALE SUPERIORITY IN HIS LATEST BOOK, WOMEN AFTER ALL

WOMEN CAN FORGET EQUALITY WITH MEN, warns Mel Konner.

It's even better than that. Why should women embrace 'mere' equality when their movement is toward superiority? It is male—ness that has Konner worried in his latest book.

And at just this startling juncture, the author pauses politely to let an audience of both genders catch their breath. As they do, picture the pages of gender history flipping furiously forward.

In Women After All: Sex, Evolution, and the End of Male Supremacy, Konner—an MD and Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Program in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology—sees it all through the lens of biology.

AND BOY, IT LOOKS BLEAK
Konner announces his thesis with a light touch, but collectively his findings feel heavy, at least as he does the initial roll call. With maleness comes a shortened life span; higher mortality at all ages; an inability to reproduce; premature hair loss; brain defects resulting in attention deficit, hyperactivity, and conduct disorder; and an excess of outward and self-directed aggression. Flip these levers, says Konner, and women appear. “Their trustworthiness, reliability, fairness, working and playing well with others, relative freedom from distracting impulses, and lower levels of prejudice, bigotry, and violence,” writes Konner, “make them biologically superior.”

HE SAYS; SHE CAN'T
Konner's bona fides are unassailable: four decades of teaching and writing about medical anthropology. Add to these one more: being the male author of a book celebrating women. For, indeed, not everyone armed with similar knowledge could capture this narrative. As Konner acknowledges, “A woman writing a book about why women are superior to men can obviously be accused—however unfairly—of special pleading.”

MORE THAN TWELVE ANGRY MEN
At least one reviewer of the book seemed uneasy with Konner's rejoicing. As Joanna Scutts of the Washington Post writes, referring to Konner’s previous fieldwork with the !Kung San, “Before we arrive at Konner's female—focused utopia, we need to take a more modest lesson from the !Kung San and allow women to be part of the inner circle around the fire, free to speak out even—or especially—when it makes men uncomfortable.”

Scutts's musings, though, are the mild stuff. The last line of the book jacket reads: “Provocative and richly informed, Women After All is bound to be controversial across the sexes.” As Konner acknowledges on his personal website, the first murmurings came about after a short adaptation of the book ran in the Wall Street Journal; hundreds of angry men responded in a couple of days. His wife, home alone during that period, double-locked the door. Konner's editor at the journal apologized for failing to instruct him not to read the comments. For his part, Konner is hiding in plain sight, saying, “Clearly, I've touched a nerve, and I'm happy about that.”

BIRDS DO IT
Konner freely turns the emotional volume up and down—up when expressing “bio—fantasies” (“we could theoretically see men fully replaced or literally kept in small numbers for sexual services”), down when contextualizing human and animal history of gender relations.

He provides the charming lesson that not all animal marriages involve doting mothers and world—conquering fathers. From the cassowary (“a gorgeous flightless Australian bird” whose female “is man—sized” and leaves the chick rearing to her opposite—sex counterpart) to Jacanas (another species of bird with “hit—and—run moms”) to bonobos, the sexes often don't play to type. In fact, Konner is not opposed to “bonobizing” humanity. And what would that look like? According to the author, “unshakable female coalitions … and males who are not unhappy but never get out of hand.”

HERSTORY
Our history also takes interesting shape in Konner's hands. As he considers the hunting—gathering era—which constitutes the majority of human time—men and women's relations were not far from being equal. There followed what Konner calls “the darker part of history, the thousand of years in which war and preparations for war predominated.” This … enabled men to form coalitions that fully excluded women for the first time and demoted them to a private space away from the public sphere.” It was not until two centuries ago, he says, that “women's voices began to be heard again in a substantive way.”

Konner is clearly genuine when he talks about a future that his grandson will inherit, a “new world” that “will be better for him because women help run it.”

If you count down from fifty, he promises, it will be here before you know it. — Susan Carini ofG
IN CLASS

FILM 380: VIDEO GAMES

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What is a video game? Is it best described as an interactive narrative that can be analyzed according to the conventions of literature and film? Or should it be thought of as a playful activity standing in a long line of human games, from make-believe to chess to Monopoly? This course serves as an introduction to the history, theory, form, function, and culture of video games. Students perform theoretical and formal analysis of the various genres of video games over the course of their history, from the first arcades in the 1970s, to the home consoles (like Atari) and home computers of the 1980s and 1990s, to the networked, multiplayer, online, and mobile games of today. The focus is on the aesthetic strategies video games use to activate various pleasures—corporeal, intellectual, narrative, competitive. Discussions also cover the relation of video games to society, exploring gamer/fan communities, video game regulation, the social effects of gaming, and avatar identities.

FACULTY CV: Tanine Allison joined Emory in 2013 as assistant professor in film and media studies after a two-year American Council of Learned Societies New Faculty Fellowship in Film and Media Studies with the department. She earned a PhD in English with certificates in film studies and cultural studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 2010, and she is working on a book revision of her dissertation, “Screen Combat: Recreating World War II in American Film and Media,” which reevaluates the World War II combat genre by looking at it through the lens of the digital. Allison developed the class as a fellow at Emory and has taught it twice during regular semesters. This is the first time the course has been offered in the Maymester format. Daniel Reynolds, who co-taught the class during Maymester, will teach the class in fall 2015. He received a PhD in the Department of Film and Media Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara. Reynolds is developing a book project on the relationships between media and the embodied mind.

TODAY’S LECTURE: Allison and Reynolds led class discussion on the topic of narrative and space in video games. Students discussed two articles, Henry Jenkins’s “Game Design as Narrative Architecture” and Reynolds’s essay titled “Letters and the Unseen Woman: Epistolary Architecture in Three Recent Video Games.” Students played two games in class, The Sims, a life-simulation game; and Gone Home, a first-person interactive story adventure game, and were assigned a paper to compare and contrast any two video games to draw a conclusion about the history of video games—use of genre, ease of game play, game space, visual style, and gameplay mechanics.

QUOTES TO NOTE: “We are hoping to show students that there is a whole lot more to it than just playing games. Video games can be appreciated as aesthetic and cultural objects that have meaning within the games and in what is created for players that reflects and influences culture.”—TANINE ALLISON, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES

“Unlike other media, video games provide a fluid filter of experience for each player. Players can have experiences that are both similar and radically different from other media.”—MATT CASSEDAAY 16C, CREATIVE WRITING AND ENGLISH MAJOR

STUDENTS SAY: “This class has given me a better understanding of the narrative and culture of video games. They are often criticized in society as isolating players, but I’ve discovered there is a whole culture and community around gaming.”—JORDAN MARCUS 15C, ECONOMICS MAJOR
McTyeire Makes Way for Campus Life 2.0

**CALL IT THE END OF AN ERA—AND A NEW BEGINNING.**

Emory’s McTyeire Hall is undergoing demolition, a project that will help provide additional space for the future renovation of the Dobbs University Center (DUC). The leveling of the seventy-four-year-old residence hall marks the formal completion of the 2005 Emory Housing Master Plan.

The recently finished Raoul Hall, a living and learning community with a focus on social entrepreneurship, was the final step in the creation of a new grouping of freshman residence halls just north of the DUC. With expanded space gained through the new freshman quad, the outdated McTyeire Hall was no longer needed.

For now, the site will become an open green space. When plans are finalized for a renovation of the DUC to create a revitalized Campus Life Center, the new design may spill over into part of that space.

But if the spirit of McTyeire Hall remains, it will no doubt be a place that fosters community—as a recent freshman described it, "homey and full of life."—P.P.P.

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**New Dimensions**

**EMORY ENTERS THE REALM OF 3-D PRINTING**

In the computing center on the second floor of Cox Hall, where students study, work, surf, and game, sounds coming from an adjacent room are reminiscent of the noisy daisy wheel printers of the 1970s and 1980s.

But there’s nothing old school about what’s happening here: this is the modern voodoo of 3-D printing.

The lab is a project of Emory’s Academic Technology Services, which is part of Libraries and Information Technology. Three printers extrude soft but solid plastic—"like frosting on a cupcake"—to create objects, building them up from the bottom layer to the top. A fourth printer uses a liquid resin with a laser to quickly cure items that turn out with smoother surfaces and greater detail. Elshuwon Mitchell, a junior majoring in computer science and minoring in physics, explains that the printers are hooked to a computer with programs that offer a seemingly infinite variety of objects, from castles to horses to unspecific designs.

“We have been soliciting faculty who teach various things to come up with ways to utilize this as a service,” says Robin Horton, who runs the lab. Projects related to anatomy and biology are among the most common for the 3-D printing lab. “A lot of the neuroscience students have been through here, printing neurons and full brains and things of that nature.”

The facility has been dubbed TechLab, and its mission is broader than 3-D printing, says Horton. “The purpose of this space was to bring in new technology and see how we can apply it to academic life—whether it’s a new kind of smart board, 3-D scanning, 3-D printing, or some other technology,” he says. “There are all kinds of fantastical things that are happening. We are hoping to be able to give everyone a chance to make their own fantasies realities.”—Leslie King
Super Bugs: An Emory Expert Has the Buzz on Bees

Honeybees are essential to American health and agriculture—a fact that is gaining public awareness as their populations decline. It’s estimated that pollinators, primarily bees, are responsible for one in three bites of food we eat.

Their plight has caught the attention of President Barack Obama, who recently announced an ambitious national plan to protect insects.

“It’s an important wake-up call,” says Emory biologist Berry Brosi, an assistant professor of environmental science whose research encompasses both managed honeybees and wild bees. “It’s past time for us to realize the vital links between biodiversity, our environment, and our own well-being. Ultimately, that’s what this national plan is about.”

Many pollinators, including bees, birds, butterflies, bats, and other animals, are in serious decline in the US and worldwide. Brosi is one of seventy-five authors working on a global assessment of pollinators for the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel for Biodiversity Ecosystem Services.

“In some places in China, people are hand-pollinating apple trees because they don’t have enough of an insect workforce to do it,” Brosi says. “Examples like that should be sobering. Pollination is an extremely labor-intensive task that bees are specially evolved to do. This isn’t about saving an exotic animal in a faraway place. We’re talking about the possibility of not having nuts and fruits for our breakfast, shortages of tomatoes and melons, and rising milk prices due to a lack of alfalfa pollination.

“The fate of bees,” Brosi adds, “will affect people very viscerally.”

—Carol Clark

Five Reasons Why You Should Care—Really Care—about Bees

1. They Really Get Around. Honeybee pollination alone is worth more than $15 billion to US agriculture, “providing the backbone to ensuring our diets are plentiful with fruits, nuts, and vegetables,” the White House pollination plan states. And bees are important to more than just food crops, says Brosi. Cotton plants, for example, need pollination to produce the fibers that are a cornerstone of the garment industry.

2. Their Numbers Are Dying. Currently, about two thousand commercial beekeepers in the US manage their bee colonies as “livestock,” traveling across the country to service pollination contracts with farmers and honey producers. Each year, however, the number of bee colonies has gone down even as beekeepers struggle to rebuild them. Since the 1940s, the number of managed colonies has shrunk by nearly half, according to the USDA. “Wild bee populations are also declining wherever we look, although we don’t have good long-term data,” Brosi adds.

3. They Have Connections. The reasons for the loss of bee populations appear to be myriad and complex, ranging from shrinking habitats to parasites, diseases, and pesticide use. The phenomenon of the winter migration of the monarch butterfly, from across the US to Mexico, is also imperiled, another indicator that bees are in big trouble. The three lowest overwintering populations of the Eastern monarch on record have occurred during the past decade. Emory evolutionary biologist Jaap de Roode, who runs one of the few labs in the world focused on monarch butterflies, says that most of this decline is due to disappearing habitat—especially the milkweed plants that monarchs feed on as caterpillars. “Preservation of remaining milkweed and restoration of habitat are key to maintaining the spectacular migration of this iconic insect,” he says.

4. Bees Are Just the Beginning. Ninety percent of flowering plants and many other animals, not just humans, depend on pollinators for their survival. “There could be a lot of hidden declines occurring in association with declines in pollinators that we won’t pick up on for a long time,” Brosi says. “That’s frightening, and one of the areas I’m most concerned about.”

5. The Bugs Can Bounce Back. One optimistic note is that bees and other insect pollinators tend to be highly resilient, Brosi adds. “They can thrive in places you wouldn’t expect, such as cities. It’s an interesting conundrum that pollinators do the worst in industrial agriculture areas where we need them the most. When you limit the diversity of plant species and douse fields with pesticides, it can have a lot of unintended negative consequences. A bigger solution to this problem needs to be reimagining the ways in which our agricultural system functions.”
What Absence Feels Like

NEW THERAPIES GIVE HOPE TO AMPUTEES EXPERIENCING THE COMMON PHENOMENON OF ‘PHANTOM PAIN’

EUGENE HULL STILL FEELS SENSATION IN HIS RIGHT ARM, EVEN though cancer forced its amputation at the shoulder, along with a portion of collarbone, nine years ago. Not long after surgery, the fifty-three-year-old father of three began experiencing “phantom pain” in his absent limb. He describes the feeling as a “tingling like needles” similar to what people mean when they say their foot or arm has fallen asleep.

“That’s a constant,” says the thirty-four-year veteran of the Columbus Department of Fire and EMS, who attained the rank of lieutenant as a firefighter and now works as a training officer. “But every two or three weeks I would get sharp jolts of pain that radiated up my fingers and into my shoulders. I described it one time as like sticking a hot wire up my arm and shooting electricity through it. At times you couldn’t get a whole lot done because it was so debilitating.”

He discovered an interesting trick with his left hand: Rubbing the back of his thumb with his forefinger stopped the pain, “but as soon as I quit, it came back. Anyway, you can’t rub the back of your thumb all day long.”

Hull’s orthopedic surgeon recently read about clinical studies on alleviating phantom pain conducted by J. David Prologo, an assistant professor and interventional radiologist at the School of Medicine. For the past decade, Prologo has worked with cryonic techniques to mitigate the severe, difficult-to-treat pain accompanying heart disease, cancer, and other conditions. More recently, his attention has turned to applying...
the procedures to the phantom pain frequently experienced by amputees.

“For a long time, people studied whether or not these feelings are initiated in your brain or initiated peripherally,” Prologo says. “Then evidence started to suggest that you could get some pain relief if you could shut down the nerve peripherally.”

When an appendage is amputated, whether by trauma or surgery, the nerve is cut. Scar tissue called neurona forms at the end of the damaged nerve.

“It’s not normal tissue, but it sends false signals to the brain about the missing arm or leg, producing phantom pain,” Prologo explains.

To stop the symptoms, Prologo uses a technique called cryoblation therapy. First, the severed nerve is identified and located by sonogram or CT scan. Nerves in the human body serve very defined areas, Prologo notes, so symptoms are specific to certain nerves. In most situations it’s just one nerve producing phantom pain; it’s usually not more than two. Then a cryoprobe is inserted through the skin precisely at the neurona site and left in place for twenty-five minutes as it lowers the neurona’s temperature to freezing, creating an ablation zone and effectively shutting down nerve transmissions. The entire process takes about an hour and is performed on an outpatient basis.

Cryoblation therapy to extirpate pain in non-amputee situations has provided significant relief for up to a year in 90 percent of his patients, Prologo says. It’s still too early to know what kind of long-term results can be expected for amputees, which is why more clinical trials are necessary.

Hull contacted Prologo and underwent the procedure this past May. Except for some discomfort caused by swelling around the ablation site, it went well.

“I’m feeling optimistic,” Hull says. “Dr. Prologo is very positive with everything, so I’ve got a lot of faith in him.”

Hull has since reported positive results from the procedure. He can also take heart from the example of Joan Burton. Complications from diabetes forced the amputation of her right leg above the knee nearly six years ago.

“The phantom pains started about three or four months after the surgery,” says Burton, seventy-five, a great-grandmother and retired educator. “I was not aware of what was causing the pain because it was in a limb that no longer existed, so it was very confusing for me to understand what was going on.”

Over the years, “the pain would come and go, but finally at one point its ferocity became more than I could bear,” she continues. “I was grinding my teeth and having an enormous amount of difficulty, and that’s when I was referred to Dr. Prologo.”

Following cryoblation therapy, she was pain free for six or seven months, until symptoms resurfaced, but from a different nerve affecting a different part of her missing leg and foot. A second treatment brought improvement.

“Once in a while I get a twinge,” she says. “It’s not in the leg and foot, it’s at the end of the stump. But right now it’s bearable.”

Prologo believes military veterans who experience phantom pain after losing an arm or leg in combat are excellent candidates for cryoblation therapy. He is applying for a grant from the Department of Defense to fund an ambitious, multisite clinical trial at Emory, Massachusetts General Hospital, Brooke Army Medical Center, Washington University in St. Louis, and Brown University.

“Injured veterans want to return to society, get jobs, and walk with their kids,” he says, “but because of severe phantom pain, their use of orthotics and prosthetics is limited or they don’t want to wear their prosthetics at all. We think we can change that with effective cryoblation therapy.” — Gary Goettling

A Healthier Lifestyle May Help Curb Mental Illness

For people with serious mental illness, help doesn’t have to come solely from treatments like medications or medical procedures. Making positive lifestyle changes also can have a significant impact on health and well-being, according to a recent study published in the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry.

Individuals with serious mental illness die at an average of eight years younger than members of the general population, with cardiovascular disease and related risk factors accounting for the majority of deaths. Emory researchers sought to synthesize the common factors for success in lifestyle interventions, and to identify specific considerations in adapting these models for those with serious mental illness.

“People with serious mental illness often lead sedentary lives and eat more saturated fat and fewer fruits and vegetables than the general population,” writes study author Martha Ward, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the School of Medicine. “Additionally, these individuals have elevated rates of tobacco use, metabolic syndrome, obesity, and diabetes factors that create significant risk for cardiovascular disease.”

The researchers found that successful lifestyle intervention programs include multiple components, are tailored to specific patient needs, are of longer duration, provide frequent contact, and require trained treatment providers. They might include education about healthy food choices, through visits to grocery stores and cooking demonstrations; recommendations for daily exercise; personalization of diet and exercise habits to increase patient participation; tailoring diet to patient food preferences, occupation, family environment, and social support; and the use of cognitive behavioral strategies including goal setting, self-monitoring of food intake, and physical activity.

They also recommend treatment duration of at least four to six months, and the engagement of multidisciplinary teams that include both professionals and lay leaders.

The researchers noted that though similar interventions in the general population may influence the creation of programs for those with serious mental illness, addressing the unique needs of these patients also is an important step in program development.

According to the study, “Intensive and multifactorial programs may be necessary to combat symptoms of mental illness, and creative solutions to socioeconomic limitations are essential.”
THE LIFE BRAIN

A NEW GENERATION OF MATH GENIUSES GATHERS STEAM

BY MARIA M. LAMEIRAS

PHOTOS BY BRYAN MELTZ
Current and former students of Ken Ono agree that their mentor’s methods—intense attention to projects, a gift for creating working groups, and raw passion for his field—combine to craft an educational experience that brings out the best in each one of them. We asked new graduate students, seasoned scholars, and postdoctoral veterans to share notes on Ono’s style. Pictured clockwise from top left: Jesse Thorner 16PhD*, Robert Schneider 17PhD*, Lea Beneish 20PhD*, Michael Griffin 15PhD, Ian Wagner 15C 20PhD*. Sarah Trebat-Leder 18PhD*, Robert Lemke Oliver 13PhD, and Olivia Beckwith 18PhD*.

*Anticipated completion year.
The son of a mathematician—Johns Hopkins University Professor Emeritus Takashi Ono—Ken Ono displayed remarkable mathematical aptitude from a tender age. As a child, Johns Hopkins psychologist Julian C. Stanley observed him for his study of exceptional talent.

"I was one of 'those' kids, but I didn't want to be one of those kids. Who wants to be the only Asian kid in an all-white neighborhood who is good at math?" says Ono, the youngest of three sons whose parents escaped from post-World War II Japan because of his father's mathematical talent. "My parents thought that the only way their kids could succeed was by becoming superstar scientists. That is what they trained us for. I kind of rebelled against that."

At sixteen, he was desperate to find a different path when a "yellowed, delicate, rice paper envelope covered in exotic stamps" arrived in his mailbox and Ramanujan entered his life for the first time.

The carefully handwritten letter, addressed to his father, was from Janaki Ammal, the widow of Ramanujan, thanking the elder Ono for his donation to help fund the commissioning of a bust honoring her late husband.

"My father tells me the most incredible story, the true legend of Srinivasa Ramanujan," Ken Ono recalls in his book. "It is the story of an Indian man who overcame incredible odds to become one of the most romantic and influential figures in the history of mathematics. It is the story of a self-taught dropout...it is the story that gave my father hope and inspiration as a hungry mathematician coming of age in postwar Japan."

It’s also a story that gave the younger Ono hope that his course did not have to follow the rigid expectations of success set by his parents.

"I could tell immediately why my father loved the story of Ramanujan. It's a romantic tale of what becoming a mathematician could be. He tried to live it. Then, on the other hand, you don’t have to be the straight-A student who has to succeed. That is what I got out of the story," he says.

Ramanujan would become something of an academic spirit guide for Ono, cropping up throughout his life at times when he needed motivation or inspiration and was essentially the first of several important mentors Ono would rely on for guidance.

Shortly afterward, Ono quit high school and went to live with his middle brother—Santa Ono, now president of the University of Cincinnati—who was then a PhD student at McGill University in Montreal. He worked in his brother’s lab for a year, then applied to the University of Chicago, where he was accepted on his test scores.

Even given this chance, Ken Ono didn’t apply his full
effort and talent to his studies. Initially a premed major, he scored a C+ on his first chemistry exam because he "wasn't willing to do the work." He switched his major to math because it had always come easily to him and he could get by without studying.

"My reputation was that I never did homework, I rode my bike, I was a disc jockey at local parties, that was what I did," Ono says.

Toward the end of his junior year, a junior professor in complex variables called Ono to his office.

"He tells me I know your dad, and I have to tell you, you really shouldn't pursue a graduate degree in mathematics. You don't have to do it just to please him," Ono recalls. "And I got so angry. He had no idea that I wasn't even coming to half the classes. I wasn't taking any notes."

That summer, Ono was sitting on the couch in his fraternity house, flipping TV channels, when he landed on the local PBS station playing an episode of Now called "Letters from an Indian Clerk." Ono recognized the story of Ramanujan his father had told him years earlier.

"It made me think. I realized I owed it to myself and to my parents not to be the kid who wasn't smart," he says. "I went from being the kid who missed class or who sat in the back row trying not to be seen in class to the kid that sat front and center in the front row."

That fall, Ono took a graduate-level course from Paul Sally, a beloved professor at the University of Chicago, and ace the class. Sally, who had heard of Ono's slacker reputation, met with him and listened to his backstory. Sally then relayed his own story of being a star basketball
Once in graduate school, Ono began to struggle academically. His classes were harder than he expected, and he hadn’t developed the rigorous study habits his peers had worked on for years. When he took his qualifying exam in abstract algebra to move on to PhD candidacy, he fell short by five points. Desperate, he requested a photocopy of the exam and took it home, scouring each problem to see where he’d erred.

He discovered a ten-point problem that had been graded as wrong because he hadn’t given the expected solution. The next morning, he called Richard Elman, the professor who’d scored the exam, to argue the grade. Elman reviewed the answer and recognized it as correct.

“He said, ‘That’s clever, that’s right, you get ten points, you pass, but I’m not going to pass you.’ I argued that a pass was a pass, but he said, ‘No, Ken, a pass is a pass if you want to advance to candidacy, but if you want to find a good adviser and become a professor, you really need to know this material better. If you really want me to pass you, I will consider it, but I don’t want to pass you.’ So I failed,” Ono says.

Shortly afterward, Ono was driving from UCLA to Montana—where he and his then-fiancée, Erika, were to be married—with Elman’s words echoing in his mind. His anger and sense of injustice were slowly replaced by the realization that if he was going to have a career as a professor, he couldn’t just pass.

Upon his return to UCLA, Ono immersed himself in work. He retook the exam and got a nearly perfect score.

“It was a huge relief. It showed that I had what it takes to rise to the level where I had mastered the subject and earned the right to contribute to the subject,” he says.

The next semester, Ono took a class from the man who would become his PhD adviser, Professor Basil Gordon. Unorthodox by mathematical standards, Gordon began each class by discussing poetry, art, or music and encouraged his students to question and contradict him in class. One day, while discussing real class groups, Gordon began to write a proof to the phenomenon on the board. Ono waited until his professor finished, then presented his own very different proof relating to elliptical curves as analogs of ideal class groups.

After that class, Gordon asked Ono to be his last PhD student. Ono agreed, and Gordon advised Ono on his thesis, which was focused in an obscure field, the theory of modular forms and Galois representations.

“Maybe twenty people in the world were thinking about it then, but Gordon told me, if I found it beautiful, that is what we would pursue, and we would worry about it later whether anybody cared,” Ono says.


Three months later, as Ono searched for a job, his email inbox started overflowing with hundreds of messages. Professor Andrew Wiles of Princeton University had just announced during a lecture at Cambridge University that he had proved Fermat’s last theorem, an “overarching statement about what solutions are possible for certain simple equations.” Posited in 1677 by French mathematician and physicist Pierre de Fermat, who died without revealing his proof, the problem had eluded mathematicians ever since, and it was widely considered impossible to prove.

One of Wiles’s main tools in proving the theorem was the theory of modular forms and Galois representations.

“I was, by accident, one of the twenty people on the planet who studied both modular forms and Galois representations. After Wiles, everyone wanted to know about them,” Ono says.

The new recognition of Ono’s work led to adjunct faculty jobs at the University of Georgia and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, followed by an invitation to take a two-year position at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) at Princeton with “no duties, just to be around and work on problems.” There Ono began proving some of Ramanujan’s conjectures, drawing the notice of mathematics departments across the country.

After the IAS, he spent three years at Penn State, then a decade at the University of Wisconsin before joining Emory in 2010 to start the number theory group.

Building on the work of Ramanujan and others, Ono and his team have made major mathematical breakthroughs, unlocking the divisibility properties of partitions and developing a mathematical theory for “seeing” their infinitely repeating superstructure. They also devised the first finite formula to calculate the partitions of any number.

Then last year, Ono, his student Michael Griffin 15PhD, and Case Western Reserve University professor John Duncan proved the umbral moonshine conjecture, a formula with potential applications for everything from number theory to geometry to quantum physics. Many of the mock modular forms that appear in the conjecture are among examples Ramanujan listed in the final letter he wrote to Hardy before he died.

Because of his work, Ono caught the attention of film director Matt Brown, who asked him to serve as one of the primary math experts consulting on an upcoming film about Ramanujan’s life based on The Man Who Knew
Infinity, the same book Ono read with Gordon while working on his PhD thesis. Ono has spent much time over the past year in London at Pinewood Studios, where he coached lead actors Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons to ensure they could discuss the math convincingly onscreen.

The film explores what Ono feels is the central message to be taken from Ramanujan’s astonishing story, one he feels strongly connected to personally.

“The idea of Ramanujan is that talent has to be recognized and it also has to be nurtured. Without either you can end up losing great people,” says Ono, who is chronicling his own metaphysical connection with the legendary mathematician in an autobiography.

“What people like me and my students and others who really feel the story get is the idea of Ramanujan. As a professor, as a teacher, as a parent, it is important to recognize talent when it’s there and to recognize it not necessarily by the ordinary measures—straight A’s or test scores. Then, once you recognize it, taking the responsibility that goes along with nurturing it,” he says.

Robert Lemke Oliver 13PhD followed Ono to Emory when he left the University of Wisconsin.

“One of the things that is remarkable about Ken is that he’s legitimately excited about your work,” Lemke Oliver says. “When you are working on something day in and day out, it is easy to lose sight of the big picture and the excitement, and he can give that to you.”

Now a postdoctoral student at Stanford University, Lemke Oliver will join Tufts University in 2016 in a tenure-track research faculty position.

“Ken has brought out a lot of good in me. I would not be the mathematician I am today if I’d had almost any other adviser. Some students are going to be successful in graduate school no matter what. I don’t think I was one of those students,” Lemke Oliver says.

A word that’s often used to describe Ono is “intense,” but Griffin, who worked with Ono on the ultraline moonshine conjecture, doesn’t feel the term quite fits.

“He likes to be involved with his students, and he recognizes that some people need more space or more motivation than others at different times in their development,” says Griffin, who will begin a postdoctoral position at Princeton University this fall. Ono also is adept at finding problems that reveal a student’s aptitudes.

“The first problem Ken had me work on was in an area of math where I had absolutely no expertise. But he knew my prior preparation made me well-suited to do the problem, even though I didn’t realize it at the time,” says Jesse Thorne 16PhD.

Before joining Ono’s group, Thorne earned a master’s degree in math at Wake Forest University. His graduate adviser was Jeremy Rouse, who earned a PhD at the University of Wisconsin under Ono’s advisement.

“When I started working with Ken, it became obvious to me why Jeremy was such a good adviser,” Thorne says.

“If there were two people I could emulate, they would be Jeremy and Ken.”

Within the field of mathematics, students who share an adviser, or “mathematical parent,” are known as “mathematical siblings,” says Sarah Trebat-Leder 18PhD, adding that Ono has a knack for identifying which students will work well together on problems.

“He’s very good at coming up with problems that people in the math community will be interested in, and that will help get you where you want to go in your career,” Trebat-Leder adds.

For Robert Schneider 17PhD, that academic path is different from most of his “math siblings.” He started college more than twenty years ago studying poetry, philosophy, and music composition at the University of Colorado. He dropped out in his senior year to pursue a music career that included composing, performing, starting a record label, and producing music. When his 1970s-era audiotape machine malfunctioned, and he needed to learn electronics to fix it, he became interested in math.

“I realized that everything I loved in art and music was possible because of math,” says Schneider.

A survey calculus course at a local college led Schneider to a bachelor’s degree in math from the University of Kentucky in 2012, while still pursuing music, including inventing a musical scale based on logarithms. After he gave talk on mathematically inspired music at Spelman College, a professor invited Schneider to meet with Ono.

“I’d never sat and talked heart-to-heart about math like that with anyone before,” Schneider says of Ono.

“I could tell he was kind of grilling me to figure out what I knew, which wasn’t a lot.”

It must have been enough, because Ono invited Schneider to join his group. Schneider appreciates Ono’s approach to choosing each student for the program based on his or her individual merits.

“If you look at the list of students Ken has had, there are a lot who are very nontraditional as people and as students. There are conventional graduate students, but there are oddballs and mavericks, athletes and artists; it is a stream of interesting characters,” Schneider says.

One of Ono’s greatest loves is seeing his students find their own paths. “The world is not short on talent. What is rare is inspiration and passion—people who you know, when they walk into the room, have the potential for success,” Ono says. “A lot of people get good test scores, but that’s not important to me. If you’re perfect and everything looks great on paper, I probably can’t help you.”
A major Gates Foundation grant will help an Emory-led initiative shed new light on why too many children are dying—and how more lives can be saved

**cause of LIFE**

The Child Health and Mortality Prevention and Surveillance Network, or CHAMPS, is a global health surveillance program created to gather data through a faster, more accurate, and more effective process than current methods. By identifying the most common causes of death for children in high-risk areas, leaders hope to improve health and quality of life, help local health officials address the root problems earlier, and prevent unnecessary deaths.

"For some time, the Gates Foundation has been interested in getting a firmer, more evidence-based grip on the causes of child death," says Jeffrey Koplan, vice president for global health at Emory and CHAMPS executive director. "There is a belief that many children die of preventable causes, and a better sense of these causes would lead to better policy actions and increased funds allocated to addressing these particular problems."

After months of study, the Gates Foundation invited fifty institutions to pursue the grant, and twenty-four submitted proposals. Emory was one of two finalists and was selected to spearhead CHAMPS earlier this year.

The initiative involves an extensive network of partners, including the Emory-based International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI); the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII), a program of the Emory-affiliated Task Force for Global Health; and Deloitte Consulting.

IANPHI is a global network of almost one hundred CDC-like organizations that has established a robust health infrastructure in many developing nations and relationships among governments, health care institutions, and global aid organizations. The Gates Foundation has provided funding support for IANPHI since 2005.

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**here are places in the world** where children under age five die at a staggering rate—more than fifty of every one thousand live births. And in some areas, including parts of sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia, that number is greater than one in ten. In the United States, the average child mortality rate is fewer than six in one thousand.

In much of the developing world, too many children are being lost, according to public health leaders. That's why the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has dedicated up to $75 million to a new initiative led by Emory's Global Health Institute that is focused on bringing that number down during the next twenty years.
CHAMPS leaders are in the process of reviewing some fifty possible sites in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia based on a range of factors, including what type of health care and laboratory infrastructure, if any, is already in place. The eventual sites will have an area population of at least one hundred thousand with a child mortality rate of at least fifty per thousand live births. Initially, six sites will be identified for the launch of the program, but CHAMPS is envisioned as a twenty-year project that will eventually expand to as many as twenty locations.

In addition to having some of the highest child mortality rates in the world, the places being studied lack reliable techniques for gathering and analyzing data about the reasons for those deaths. Often, by the time a sick child is brought to a health clinic for care—which might require days of difficult travel over long distances—the illness has progressed to the point that secondary symptoms, such as electrolyte imbalance or respiratory distress, may obscure the original problem. It is also common, says Koplan, for “verbal autopsies” to be conducted up to one to three months after a child has died through an interview with the family by local health officials. By then, critical details about the early stages of illness may be forgotten or clouded in the minds of grief-stricken parents and relatives.

The CHAMPS project aims to provide a clearer picture in such cases by collecting tissue samples using a minimally invasive sampling of tissue, or MIST, procedure. The network will collaborate with ISGlobal/Hospital Clinic—University of Barcelona to develop and apply state-of-the-art tissue sampling and multiple diagnostic techniques, reducing guesswork and assumptions in favor of scientific evidence collected immediately and at the source.

“What makes this unique is that we will be able to depend on actual measurements and visualization to find evidence for the cause of death,” Koplan says. “We will not be modeling conclusions on extrapolation from one subject to another, but providing routine delivery of accurate data.”

The network will develop a long-term approach to information management, laboratory infrastructure, and workforce capacity, with the main lab analysis for all sites conducted within the country. As a robust disease surveillance system is established, this system and other aspects of prevention and clinical care will be gradually transferred to local governments and national public health institutes with the help of IANPHI.

“A really important aspect of the structure is that we will be building local capacity to do pathology. Many of the questions we have gotten from people in the field at the potential sites have been about building capacity at the local level,” says Lisa M. Carlson 93MPH, CHAMPS associate director of management and operations.

“They understand that the potential long-term benefits are significant.”

Eventually, according to Koplan, the CHAMPS Network hopes to collect tissue from every deceased child at established sites—but he and his colleagues realize there is a challenge to be overcome. Much like the need for education about the benefits of organ donation, advocates of the CHAMPS project will be working to cultivate understanding in local communities that even in the face of shattering loss, there may be an unprecedented opportunity to help other children.

“Seven million children die from preventable causes annually around the world,” says Koplan. “Many of these deaths from diseases such as pneumonia, meningitis, malaria, tuberculosis, and diarrheal diseases, and from poor nutrition and accidents could be prevented with better vaccines, antibiotics, diagnostics, advanced medical procedures, improved nutrition, behavior modification, and access to care.”

As the work of the CHAMPS Network expands, the project will yield a growing body of data that will be analyzed and relayed back to area health authorities. While the CHAMPS Network is focused on surveillance, analysis, and communication, the new information can then be used to educate health officials and workers at every level, retool public health policy, increase awareness in communities, shape research priorities, and help strengthen the case for increased prevention and treatment measures. Information about disease prevalence also will help attract more research funding for vaccines and drugs for the most lethal and widespread infectious diseases.

“We will be gathering very complex data sets that interconnect with each other, and we want this data rapidly accessible,” says Robert Breiman, director of Emory’s Global Health Institute and CHAMPS director of science. “We see this as open access almost immediately, with direct dissemination to a vast array of people who can use it to develop new public health prevention efforts. A fundamental cornerstone of this project will be cultivating leaders at the local level who bring back this data and become champions of new solutions.”

The Public Health Informatics Institute will design, develop, and manage the systems and network needed to help health officials understand causes of death and serious illness in their countries and to have the information they need to intervene effectively.

“Translating data into the language of actions that reduce child mortality guides our thinking about systems and technologies,” says PHII Director David Ross.

The CHAMPS Network team envisions a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to the project, involving Emory faculty and students in anthropology, environmental health, and business as well as the schools of medicine, nursing, and public health.

“There are enormous opportunities in the field for students,” Breiman says. “For example, for young physicians and nurses in training, exposure to global health challenges helps them become better physicians and nurses. When you do clinical work in the field, you have to develop and rely on your acumen, and you become familiar with diseases that we see less often here. Also, knowledge transfer goes both ways, with clinicians in country also learning from visitors with a different set of experiences.”

The twenty-year commitment by the Gates Foundation—an unusually long span of time for a grant, Carlson points out—puts the CHAMPS initiative in a somewhat unique position of having the time and resources to see outcomes realized.

“The childhood mortality rate is totally unacceptable. That’s why the Gates Foundation is funding this,” Breiman says. “If things go well, there is no doubt that we will be able to provide useful, interesting, and important evidence. We will not get there overnight, however. Knowing that ultimately this work will have a positive, life-saving impact will help to keep our eyes on the prize.”
T HIS IS THE STORY of how two learned booksellers arrived at an audacious theory: They had acquired Shakespeare’s dictionary. After years of careful study, they presented their conclusion and the evidence behind it in *Shakespeare’s Beehive: An Annotated Elizabethan Dictionary Comes to Light*, recently released in a revised and expanded second edition. Not surprisingly, their theory has created a stir among scholars of Shakespeare, and the ensuing drama continues to unfold.

In the world of antiquarian bookselling, most dealers are specialists who have spent years developing expertise in a genre, a period, or both. Daniel Wechsler '90C is a rarer breed—a generalist who cares less about first editions than about the backstory of a book. What interests him most are the relationships between books and their readers: what books mean to people and how they use them. “Whenever there’s a personal connection between the owner and the book,” he says, “I’m interested.”

That interest has altered the course of Wechsler’s life, taking him down the unexpected path that he still travels today. It is a journey that, at times, has created anxiety about his reputation and his career, and has overshadowed other parts of his life.

“My wife is really eager for this to be over,” he says, not quite joking.

“This” began in spring 2008, when a colleague, George Koppelman, an antiquarian bookseller, came across a book on eBay he thought would be of interest to Wechsler. It was a text titled *An Alvearie, or Quadruple Dictionary*, assembled by one John Baret. Published in 1580, the *Alvearie* (Latin for beehive) was a sixteenth-century dictionary of sorts, but, Wechsler points out, “not a dictionary in the modern sense; it’s almost more of a thesaurus, a proverbial phrase book.” The “quadruple” in its subtitle is a nod to the number of languages included in the text: English, French, Latin, and Greek.

Apart from the book’s age, Koppelman thought it would pique Wechsler’s interest for another reason: It was filled with thousands of handwritten annotations. The book hit all of Wechsler’s sweet spots as a bibliophile and book merchant. He and Koppelman decided to enter a bid together.

“The auction started at one dollar,” Wechsler recalls. Koppelman wanted to enter an initial bid of two thousand dollars. Wechsler suggested they bid higher, and the men settled on $4,300. They entered the figure, pressed the “Place Bid” button, and took a deep breath. All they could do was wait.
EAMS ARE MADE ON

WHO'S THE RAREST OF THEM ALL?
When the auction ended, the final sale price was $4,050. Kopelman and Wechsler were the newest in a centuries-long line of owners of Bare's Alvearie, which, they would discover later, was one among what was probably only a thousand copies printed by the London-based publisher Henry Denham.

If it seems strange that two highly respected antiquarian book experts would be trawling eBay for texts to buy with the goal of eventually reselling them, perhaps you haven’t been on the site in a while. Bookselling is a brisk business on eBay, and there’s an entire subsection devoted exclusively to antiquarian and collectible books. On any given day, there are more than a million listings in this subsection alone. Wechsler says it’s not unusual for antiquarians to keep an eye on the site, looking out for choice finds.

“You might have better luck buying [rare books] on eBay than at Sotheby’s,” he says.

And sometimes you might get a lot more than you bargained for. When Wechsler and Kopelman came into possession of the Alvearie, which was listed by a Canadian seller, they knew they had made a worthy purchase—but they hardly imagined the narrative that they had set in motion.

“The very first thing we did was open up the box and take a look at the book, and you could tell right away that it wasn’t in the original binding anymore, but the actual text block—the pages themselves—were in pretty good condition,” Wechsler says.

With books, as with other collectibles, the more intact the original elements of the book, the better. But this big-ticket purchase was hardly a disappointment. The more the two thumbed through the pages of Bare’s Alvearie, the more unexpected elements and intriguing possibilities they discovered—particularly in the handwritten notes.

“When you find a sixteenth-century book with notes in it, it really is a lot more interesting,” Wechsler says. “Now there’s a real movement toward trying to understand

SHAKESPEARE’S HANDIWORK?

THANKS TO SHAKESPEARE SLEUTHS Wechsler and Kopelman, a complete digital version of Bare’s Alvearie is available on the Shakespeare’s Beehive website. Here’s a glimpse of what’s inside.

SPOKEN WORD
The Beehive authors use the term “spoken” annotations for those occasions when the annotator adds words to either the margins or within the text columns.

SHAKESPEAREAN SHORTHAND
The spoken annotations are frequently formulated from “mute” annotations—printed text within Bare that the annotator has addressed, using little circles, slash marks, and underlining.

READ BETWEEN THE LINES
Both the mute and spoken annotations are continually interrelated throughout the book from beginning to end, as part of a most unusual and characteristic method.
as much as you can about the period, and you can often do that through studying the handwriting and the note taking, the methodology of how someone was thinking."

As Wechsler and Koppelman studied the Alvearie text, they began to notice that the author of the many annotations had what Wechsler refers to as “poetic turns of phrase, a certain poetic quality of mind.” And then they picked up on an attribute of the notes that suggested, when considered alongside a growing pile of evidence, that the anonymous author of these marginal musings actually might have been one of the most famous literary legends of all time.

“There are two printed capital letters from the Baret, and two letters only, that the annotator, whoever he was, occasionally imitates this ornate design of—just the “W” and just the “S,”” Wechsler says, “and we began to have fun with the idea that, well, you know, could it have been Shakespeare?”

The thought was dizzying. “There are no books from Shakespeare’s library that have even been authenticated,” Wechsler says, “if you say, ‘This is Shakespeare’s dictionary, and you discovered the book, what you’re getting at is that you’ve found the holy grail of humanism.’

For all the flights of imaginative fancy the booksellers’ minds were taking, Wechsler knew that even entertaining the question was the professional equivalent of entering a hornet’s nest, and the stings could be painful. “If you come out and say something like this, there’s such a career risk,” he explains. “We’re reasonably respected guys. And what do you do? To suddenly announce to the world, you know, ‘Hey! I think I’ve found Shakespeare’s dictionary, and it’s got all his notes in it!’ I mean, we knew how that was going to sound.”

Wechsler and Koppelman didn’t rush to any conclusions. “We spent several more years working on our study, studying Shakespeare in greater depth, and studying source books in greater depth,” he explains. The more they learned, the more Wechsler and Koppelman were convinced that their copy of Baret’s Alvearie once belonged to the bard himself.

As the booksellers grew closer to making a public case for Shakespeare as the hand that penned the annotations in their copy of the Alvearie—a case they would lay out assiduously on a meticulously designed website; in the thoroughly researched book Shakespeare’s Beethive: An Annotated Elizabethan Dictionary Comes to Light; and before local, national, and international press, including the New Yorker and the Guardian—two milestone years in Shakespearean history approached: 2014, the 450th anniversary of the bard’s birth, and 2016, the 400th anniversary of his death. Amidst such heightened public attention, it was obvious that there would be high demand for evidence to support the booksellers’ claim that Shakespeare was the author of the annotations— but would Wechsler and his colleague potentially be accused of profiteering from these anniversaries?

Ultimately, they decided, all they could do was present their case and watch reaction unfold.

“We just felt that no one else would ever feel comfortable saying it first,” Wechsler says. “From there, hopefully, there would be a conversation that would take place in a productive way.”

While there was certainly lively discussion, many scholars and experts stopped short of describing Shakespeare’s Beethive and its claims.

“Even the most skeptical scholar would be thrilled to find a new piece of documentary evidence about William Shakespeare,” wrote Michael Witmore, director of the Folger Shakespeare Library, in a blog post last spring. “Scholars, however, will only support the identification of Shakespeare as annotator if they feel it would be unreasonable to doubt that identification. This is a fairly high evidentiary standard, since it requires one to treat skeptically the idea that this handwriting is Shakespeare’s and to seek out counterexamples that might prove it false..."

“As the library of record for Shakespeare and the leading documentary source for his works, the Folger will be one of the places where Koppelman and Wechsler’s claims are evaluated by scholars. At this point, we as individual scholars feel that it is premature to join Koppelman and Wechsler in what they have described as their leap of faith.”

Wechsler anticipates that the second edition of Shakespeare’s Beethive, scheduled for release in late summer or early fall, will help spur the conversation along, as new discoveries will be revealed. The timing of the book’s second edition is also interesting in light of Wechsler’s Emory connection; the university is exhibiting Shakespeare’s First Folio this fall.

“To suddenly announce to the world, you know, ‘Hey! I think I’ve found Shakespeare’s own dictionary and it’s got all his notes in it!’ I mean, we knew how that was going to sound.”

It was at Emory that Wechsler’s love of Shakespeare was ignited. After graduating with a degree in English, he tried his hand at writing, but decided he might do better selling books. After getting his start at a local bookstore, he eventually felt he had picked up enough knowledge of the trade to hang out his own shingle.

He spent the next two decades building his career and reputation. While his current project has exposed him to a certain degree of criticism, he hints that more recent developments will likely dispel some naysayers.

Wechsler admits that the Shakespeare’s Beethive project has exacted an extraordinary amount of time and commitment—not to mention sleep. “A lot of sleep,” he says.

But it has also given him a great deal. “If you’d asked me who my favorite writer was after college, I would’ve said, ‘Shakespeare.’ Overall, the Alvearie has led me to a tremendous knowledge of Shakespeare and the language of the period that I’m so grateful for,” he says. “I fully admit to sort of worshiping Shakespeare on a personal level. I think he was one of the most extraordinary human beings who ever existed.”

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On November 9, 1979, the front page of the New York Times trumpeted news of a $100 million gift to Emory from Robert W. Woodruff. If it seems odd that a philanthropic gesture, however grand, would make the cover of the nation’s newspaper of record, consider it evidence of a growing awareness that Emory was beginning a deliberate transformation, shaped by the pursuit of academic prestige and a rise to national prominence. Part of Woodruff’s record gift targeted students who were Ivy League-bound and whom Emory wanted to recruit in its “fight for greater recognition,” as the Times described it. The Woodruff Scholarship, a full ride earmarked for top students who met distinct criteria, was a centerpiece of this endeavor.

Instead of heading to Harvard and other schools in the Northeast, those high achievers came in batches of a dozen or so a year to Emory College. While the WoodPEC and other buildings arose from Woodruff’s generosity, the early classes of Woodruff Scholars were not as noticeable. Funded by an Atlanta icon who was seven decades older, they followed his lead of calling little attention to themselves. They didn’t set themselves apart; no acronym after their names, no secret handshake—just a shared dedication to the best an Emory education had to offer.

“Robert Woodruff was an imposing guy, in his nineties when we met him, with a handshake like iron,” said Haynes Brooke 85C, one of the first twelve Woodruff Scholars, who became a Hollywood actor (and stars in Jimmy Dean commercials as the sun character). “He looked us all in the eye, and when he looked at me, he was extremely gracious. Yet I felt very unsubstantial. I got the feeling that he thought, ‘There’s not much to this kid yet,’ and that felt like a challenge. At the same time, he had endowed my scholarship, so he had invested extraordinary generosity in me. I felt supported and challenged at the same time.”

This fall, as Brooke and the inaugural class celebrate their thirtieth reunion, the largest recruiting class of Woodruff Scholars will enter
In 1985, Emory College’s first twelve Woodruff Scholars graduated, including cardiologist Russ Bailey ’85C. As the first in his family to attend a four-year college, Bailey majored in biology and philosophy, went to medical school, and has practiced cardiology in Charlotte, North Carolina, for almost two decades. In this excerpt of a speech at Emory in May 2015, Bailey challenges the Woodruff Scholar graduates to continue to explore and achieve for the good of others.

IN THE EARLY 1980s, the program was a work-in-progress. While we had group events, retreats, and opportunities to meet with faculty and administrative staff, there were times we struggled as to what our collective contribution should be to the college. We quickly—and I think humbly and wisely—recognized there were all sorts of creative and engaged and bright people throughout the college doing great things. While the twelve of us were a reflection of the very diverse students at Emory, we had no monopoly on talent. We concluded we should focus on doing the various things that we were passionate about, share those interests when possible and engage our fellow students, and simply be active participants in the university.

This was a group of very different individuals who, after Emory, have gone on to include a computer systems consultant, five physicians, one professor of world language and literature in Oregon, one professor of English in New Zealand, a teacher of math in Seattle, a city council member in New Jersey, a social entrepreneur in Maryland, and the Jimmy Dean sunshine man.

I have found hints that [being a Woodruff Scholar] is still a special experience. This program has not been limited to bringing in outstanding students as recipients of these scholarships, but because it exists, Emory attracts many more talented students who might not otherwise have come. In his annual report to the Board of Trustees in 1985, [President James T.] Laney described his vision that Emory was creating a “community of scholars.” I would say he succeeded. I know that if I applied today, I wouldn’t have a prayer of making the cut… but I would still be excited about being a student at Emory.

You have had extraordinary opportunities and experiences. As you take your next steps toward careers or further study, you now have the opportunity and obligation to define what it means to be a Woodruff by what you do going forward. You will define it in your careers and communities, in your family life, and in your relationship with the university. You will also define it in your relationships with each other. And as time passes—and it will pass quickly, let me assure you—your appreciation for what this experience has meant to you will deepen considerably.

Emory College for the first time—thirty-three of them. They chose Emory over other top-tier schools partly because other Woodruff Scholars helped persuade them.

“Seeing all the great finalists made me realize how blessed I am to be a Woodruff Scholar,” says Victoria Umutoni ’18C, a sophomore human health and economics major from Kigali, Rwanda. “It was great to share my experience at Emory and hear about their dreams for the future.”

During their campus visit in April, finalists heard from Woodruff alumni Doug Shipman ’96C, founding CEO of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights; Greg Vaughn ’87C, CEO of leading orthopedic braces manufacturer Bauerfiend USA and the first Woodruff Scholar named an Emory trustee; Matthew Biggerstaff ’01X ’03C ’06PH, an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Emily Cumbie-Drake ’10C, the farm-to-school coordinator for Georgia Organics; and Joanne Abrams Mello ’99C ’99G, chief counsel to SouthStar Energy Services.

More Woodruff alumni pitched in to recruit virtually. Holly Gregory ’96C, a children’s TV producer in New York and voice-over director for Dora the Explorer, helped sway Leigh Schlecht of Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, a published poet and founder of a literary magazine who had a tempting offer from the University of California Berkeley.

“We have a few things in common—I was also an English and creative writing person and went on to do a master of letters via the Emory Bobby Jones Scholarship in Scotland,” Gregory wrote in an email to Schlecht. “Congratulations [on the offer of a Woodruff Scholarship]—what an honor, what a gift—it must be a tribute to your uniqueness.”
High expectations will greet Schlecht and her thirty-two Woodruff peers as they settle in on campus. This group was selected from the deepest pool of applicants in Emory’s history. More than 20,519 students applied to the Class of 2019, and applicants who requested consideration for the Emory Scholars Program—of which the Woodruff Scholarship is the signature award—more than doubled to 6,716. Of those applicants, 721 were selected for Woodruff Scholarship consideration and, after committee review, eighty-six finalists visited the campus in April 2015.

“Our excitement about this year’s class goes far beyond the numbers,” says Emory College Dean Robin Forman. “These new scholars bring a diversity of intellectual interests that span the arts and sciences, and they have already accomplished amazing things, including founding new organizations, publishing novels, and carrying out original research. They are already leaders. Each year the Woodruff Scholars program recruits students who energize the entire campus—both inside the classroom and beyond—and I believe that this cohort will surpass all expectations in this regard.”

In follow-up interviews, the thirty-three reported choosing Emory over schools including Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Chicago, MIT, Duke, Penn, Dartmouth, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, Washington University in St. Louis, Cornell, Brown, Vanderbilt, and Rice.

For Schlecht, Emory stood out because “the opportunities were too amazing to turn down,” she wrote to Gregory.

“Our conversation really helped me to recognize all the great things I could accomplish at Emory.”

“I plan to apply for NASA’s astronaut program.”

BECCA BOWLES of Athens, Texas, chose Emory for its astronomy major on her way to a career in the sky. She plans to pursue a master’s degree and doctorate in astrophysics, possibly working with a space corporation or university on the life of stars. “During my career I plan to apply for NASA’s astronaut program,” she says. “I think that the Woodruff Scholarship will prove to be invaluable to me in achieving this goal. It provides such a strong network of connections. It also will allow me to be surrounded by people with dreams as large as my own and to learn from them.”

“I’m a firm believer in borrowing from other subject areas to craft creative solutions to problems, thinking on an interdisciplinary plane.”

MATTHEW RIBEL of Chantilly, Virginia, is preparing for a career as a pediatric neurosurgeon, inspired by his work in a therapeutic riding program for developmentally disabled children. He played varsity lacrosse for four years, conducted independent environmental engineering research, and founded BiPAC-tisan, a bipartisan political action committee and consulting group. “It was the exposure to so many enthusiastic students and faculty members that was a huge part of my decision to pick Emory—I’ve never seen a group of people so in love with a place.”

“I want to challenge my creative thinking by forming connections between my past knowledge and new information.”

WILLI FREIRE of Boca Raton, Florida, is interested in studying law and intern at The Carter Center. He is passionate about community service, and he spent two years volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. “I see myself carrying on the ideals of Robert Woodruff wholeheartedly,” he says. “I plan to challenge myself educationally and never take yes or no for an answer, but find out the reasoning and explanation behind those one-dimensional answers. I also want to be a leader both in the classroom and in many organizations at Emory, and contribute to my community by continuing my involvement in Habitat for Humanity and growing as a person.”

“Some of the current scholars’ stories have inspired me and made me believe that anything is possible when you find the right group of people who share the same vision as you do.”

KIEREN HELMD of Preston, Great Britain, plans to study business administration and classical civilizations. He managed his school’s rocketry program, which twice reached the national finals. He runs a website that gives advice to young entrepreneurs, and Emory’s support of start-ups was one reason he bypassed Brown and Penn. He sees himself starting his own business, perhaps in the STEM arena. “I anticipate that the Woodruff Scholarship will help me achieve these goals by connecting me with other scholars who have similar passions,” he says. “Some of the current scholars’ stories have inspired me and made me believe that anything is possible regarding this minority group. So the fact that [the Emory administration] fearlessly disclosed information on this topic immediately convinced me that Emory is the continuously progressive university community I want to be involved in.”

“Some of the current scholars’ stories have inspired me and made me believe that anything is possible when you find the right group of people who share the same vision as you do.”

“I want to challenge my creative thinking by forming connections between my past knowledge and new information.”
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.

EXPANDING GLOBAL HEALTH

The Emory Global Health Institute (EGHI) is making the world healthier through research, global partnerships, and education. You can be a part of this valuable work by supporting EGHI programs that improve health in your community and around the world. The many giving opportunities at EGHI include the Field Scholars Awards Program, which combines academic study with practical field experience to train a new generation of global health leaders.

To learn more about supporting EGHI, contact Roseanne Waters at 404.712.8524 or roseanne.waters@emory.edu.

RAISING LEWIS'S LEGACY

After an anonymous donor pledged $1.5 million to establish a professorship honoring civil rights pioneer John Lewis, Emory Law committed to raise an additional $500,000 to elevate the position to a chair. The John Lewis Chair in Civil Rights and Social Justice will support a distinguished scholar who will contribute to the diversity of the law school faculty.

For more information, contact Director of Development Robert Jackson at 404.727.5773 or robert.l.jackson@emory.edu.
ILLUMINATING RARE BOOKS

Seeking new insights in the oldest of books, scholars like Daniel Wechsler 90C treasure Emory’s Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL). In 2016, Emory will host “First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare,” a national traveling exhibition of Shakespeare’s First Folio.

To support scholarship at MARBL, contact Emory Libraries Director of Development and Alumni Relations Alex Wan at 404.727.5386 or alex.wan@emory.edu.

SUPPORTING BREAKTHROUGHS IN PAIN CARE THERAPY

Interventional radiology at Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital targets phantom pain, and interventional radiologist J. David Prologo is a national leader in the application of image-guided medicine.

To find out more about opportunities to invest in research and other projects at Emory Saint Joseph’s, contact Senior Director of Development Steven Wagner at 404.727.9110 or steven.wagner@emory.edu.

CARING FOR VETERANS

Emory’s Veterans Program ensures that returning troops and their families receive expert care for service-related conditions such as PTSD and TBI. Unrestricted gifts support transportation, lodging, and meals for out-of-town veterans receiving intensive treatment; prescription medications or co-pays to eliminate financial barriers to care; and alternative treatment options.

Find out more from Courtney Harris, director of development for neurosciences, at 404.727.5282 or courtney.harris@emory.edu.

AMPING UP EMORY MUSIC

Emory University Concert Choir’s performance with the Rolling Stones is only one example of Emory’s musical excellence. The Emory Jazz Quartet was among three American ensembles selected for a June 2015 trip to perform and teach in Colombia.

To support the choir tour, Emory Jazz Alliance, or the program at Emory College that sparks your passion, contact Director of Development Rhonda Davidson 82OX 84B at 404.727.8002 or rhonda.davidson@emory.edu.
Character Education

Those looking for a good read might do no better than to pick up the latest book by David Brooks, *The Road to Character*. Known as a conservative-leaning pundit who writes regularly for the *New York Times* op-ed pages, he keeps politics pretty much out of this book and instead demonstrates a remarkable range of reading across the disciplines of history, theology, psychology, philosophy, and literature. The point of his argument is simple: we develop character through internal struggle against our besetting personal weaknesses. Brooks tests and elaborates that argument through illustrative biographies of exemplary historical figures.

These are not saints (okay—one of them, Saint Augustine, actually is), but they are mortals who had to work to overcome an array of obstacles and harmful susceptibilities. In the process, they forged what Brooks calls character: “a set of dispositions, desires, and habits that are slowly engraved during the struggle against your own weakness.” In this view, "character" is not measurable by external achievements. Rather, character is the result of wrestling with deeply personal moral questions that lead one to a vocation in the noblest sense of that word—a calling that matches one’s gifts and talents with the world’s needs.

The book advances an ancient and well-pedigreed understanding of how moral judgment is formed. But two quotations in the book bring the thesis home for anyone involved in education. The first is by Mary Woolley, one of the first female graduates of Brown University and a president of Mount Holyoke in the early twentieth century. She wrote, “Character is the main object for education.” The second quotation is from the British philosopher Alfred North Whitehead: “Moral education is impossible without the habitual vision of greatness.”

What I find provocative about Brooks’s book is its implications about the role of educational institutions. Emory has a long history of thinking about education in moral terms. Most recently, our vision statement holds out the prospect of Emory as an “ethically engaged” community.

There is a danger inherent in this kind of language. It suggests to some listeners a kind of piety or self-importance that risks being called out for hypocrisy or cynicism when the institution falters.

Many educators therefore prefer not to push too far in the direction of the moral dimensions of education. Or, rather, they want to insist that whatever moral functions education has are limited to the honor code: “I will not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate others who do.” This is the position of the well-known pundit and scholar Stanley Fish, who has written extensively about higher education from his decades of experience as a literary scholar, teacher, and dean.

In his 2008 book *Save the World on Your Own Time*, Fish insists that academic professionals have only one job, and that is to introduce a new generation to a body of knowledge and to the intellectual tools for analyzing and managing that knowledge. Political and moral views—whether of the left or the right or somewhere off the scale—have no place in the classroom, except as ideas to be analyzed structurally, studied historically, measured sociologically, and so on; ideas are not held up in the classroom for recruitment of new disciples. Nor, for that matter, should any university have “a position” on a host of policy issues. Fish approvingly quotes a provost who, when asked about his university’s position on a particular matter of world affairs, said that the university “has no foreign policy.”

Among the descriptions of college that Fish finds repugnant is the phrase “transformative experience”—believing that the only transformation worthy of a college is the one that occurs when a student comes to understand an algorithm, a lab procedure, an era of intellectual history, a closely argued reading of a poem.

Fish’s position has a lot to recommend it, and as an argument for what professors ought to be doing, I agree with it. But he misses a lot of what a residential liberal arts university like Emory is about. Inside the classroom his rules should apply. But a campus of nearly fifteen thousand students and more than twenty-eight thousand faculty and staff members is a complex community that needs to order itself to be able to function.

At Emory we have spent a lot of thought and energy and time over the past decade in thinking about how to order our community of scholars. Through our Class and Labor Committee, our Advisory Committee on Community and Diversity, our Respect Program, our Emory Healthcare Pledge, and other measures, we attempt to hold up that “habitual vision of greatness” that Whitehead suggests is the foundation of moral education. We are not indoctrinating students into a particular set of moral values. But I hope that we are encouraging them to explore the possibility of developing a character worthy of Emory’s vision.
Some of the most electric moments of learning come when the concepts on the page leap to life. Saying, "Comment allez vous?" in the classroom is quite different from saying it on the streets of Paris and having a native speaker respond. Travel can be like a laboratory section in the study of science or studio time for art. It builds on and extends what students learn in the classroom. This can be so for many disciplines, and to that end, Oxford is quickly expanding its opportunities for experiential learning through international travel.

Incorporating travel into the curriculum is not a new idea at Oxford, however. In fact, the move is inspired in part by the success of long-term programs such as Professor of Geology Steve Henderson’s trips with students to study the terrain of the desert Southwest and Professor of Sociology Mike McQuaide’s travels to indigenous villages in Ecuador’s Amazon Basin with his course in socialization in developing countries. These have been in place since the 1990s, and in recent years, Alicia DeNicola, assistant professor of anthropology, and Bridgette Gunnel, lecturer in Spanish, have brought together students from their courses for travel to Costa Rica.

Says Jessica Todd 16OX, who went to Costa Rica this past spring, “I learned that Spanish is only a portion of understanding the depth of the culture and life surrounding the language…. [The trip] changed my life for the better.” Nathaniel Kranz 16OX adds, “I could see the theories and lectures actually coming to life in the actions and experiences of the people I met in Costa Rica.”

“We recognized the positive impact these programs were having on our students,” says Ken Anderson 89G 91PhD, dean of academic affairs and chief academic officer. “We want to make more such courses available to more of our students. Our goal is to make it possible for virtually any student to take advantage of these opportunities without a heavy financial burden.”

Previously, all students who took courses that included a travel component had to pay added tuition to cover the cost of the trip. Under the new structure, continued on page 42
DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Friends of Oxford:

Each fall for the past decade, Oxford has enrolled a freshman class that is better prepared for college-level study than the last. In terms of SAT scores, that statistic we regard with some skepticism but on which much of the world relies, the Oxford freshman class average increased nearly one hundred points from 2004 to 2014, and it is projected to increase another thirty points to 1333 (math and reasoning) in fall 2015. This change has had profound effects. The dismissal rate due to academic difficulty has declined significantly. The average GPA has improved. We no longer teach remedial courses in math or English. Instead, the Oxford students are hungry for more advanced courses and higher levels of challenge, and you can be sure that the Oxford faculty loves this. We hear from Emory College faculty and administrators that they really value this trend, too. The expansion of travel courses, internships, and creation of the Oxford Organic Farm described in this issue are all initiatives that offer greater opportunities and greater challenges to Oxford’s students.

But the essential characteristics of the Oxford students have not changed. They are still eager to be actively engaged with their faculty and their classmates. Our faculty members who have taught at other institutions say they tend to be more interested in learning for learning’s sake than in grades. They are collaborative learners who form study groups at their own initiative. Many are committed to community service even while in college, and a large proportion are involved in leadership development and filling leadership roles. They really seem to enjoy each other’s company; they have a lot of fun.

This all reminds me of what recently retired Dean of Academic Affairs Kent Linnville liked to say about Oxford, that it was in the process of becoming a better version of itself.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Carpenter Retires after Thirty Years with Oxford

“I can’t imagine doing anything else.” Lucas Carpenter, Charles Howard Candler Professor of English, answers the question of why he chose to teach. “I knew from an early age that was what I wanted to do.”

Since beginning his forty-year teaching career, which includes thirty years at Oxford, his passion for the life of the mind and ability in teaching others how to read with insight and write with clarity have inspired countless students. Carpenter retired from Oxford at the end of the 2014–2015 academic year.

Accolades during his Oxford career include the Fleming Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Emory Williams Award for Distinguished Teaching, and the Phi Theta Kappa Teaching Award. He was named a Fulbright Distinguished Senior Scholar in 1999, and in 2003 he was awarded Emory University’s Scholar/Teacher of the Year award. He was also Oxford’s first faculty member to be named Charles Howard Candler Professor.

Alumni Lend Insights to Career-Minded Students

Knowing that someone out there has been in your shoes, talking with them about the path they chose, and learning about their successes, failures, and bumps along the way provides encouragement and affirmation. That is exactly what the sophomore students participating in the Oxford College Mentor program are looking for at this crucial time for them—someone outside their sphere of family or friends to talk with them candidly about career choices and provide insight and perspective based on personal experience.

“I achieved a sense of confidence and optimism for my future given all the wonderful suggestions and advice provided by my mentor,” says Mia Benevolenza ’15OX 17C. “I know I am supported and cared about by someone who is genuinely interested in my progress.”

Created in 2008, the program is a collaborative effort between the Office of Development and Alumni Relations and Oxford’s Office of Student Career Services. Students are paired with alumni in their chosen career field to serve as mentors. The students and mentors are asked to commit to connect with one another—either to talk on the phone, email, or meet in person—once per month. It doesn’t matter where alumni live; about half of the current participants are “e-mentors” who don’t live within driving distance of campus.

Senior Director of Alumni Relations at Oxford College Tammy Camfield ’89OX 99C highlights a specific benefit of the mentor program; all Oxford graduates share the
he received the Bronze Star, I earned a master’s degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a PhD in English from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. I taught at the State University of New York’s Suffolk College and was tenured, but I was ready to do something else. I saw an opening at Oxford and applied.

*How did your experience in the military inform your career?*

Despite whatever else I might feel about the draft, it brought together an extraordinary mix of people from all backgrounds, ethnicities, and parts of the country. Vietnam pops up in my thoughts and occasionally finds its way into my writing. Matt Morris (Oxford professor of French emeritus, who died in 2014) was also a Vietnam veteran, and he and I taught a course called The Vietnam Experience. We incorporated all aspects of the war into our teaching—political, cultural, literary, historical.

*Poetry is a focus of your scholarship, and you were elected to the Poetry Society of America in 1985. What have been your other intellectual pursuits?*

Southern literature has always been my main interest. I became interested in the Imagists —particularly expatriate writers such as Ezra Pound—and Southern Modernism, especially the poet John Gould Fletcher. I am the general editor and principal contributor to a seven-volume series devoted to the life and work of Fletcher, published by the University of Arkansas Press. During the course of this work I became friends with the poet Miller Williams, professor of poetry at Louisiana State University and father of singer Lucinda Williams. We brought him to Oxford for a reading in 1995.

Carpenter has published three poetry collections; the latest, *The Way Things Go*, was published in 2013, and at Carpenter’s request, book sale proceeds were donated to Oxford. Dozens of his poems, essays, and short stories have also been published in literary journals across the country. He and his wife Judy are serious collectors of art, and he has turned this interest into an alternate writing career in art criticism. In 2010 he was invited to cover the prestigious Bienalle at its exhibition in Sydney for the publication *Art Papers*. His art reviews have also been widely published.

So in retirement, what does he plan to do? Write, of course. “I have loved teaching, but rarely in the past have I had sustained time to write. Now I will have that. Writing will always have a meaningful role in my life.” For one who has taught and inspired so many others in the art and craft of writing, it is a fitting reward.

unique collegiate experience of two years at Oxford before transitioning to their junior year. Alumni mentors speak with mentees about their personal continuation process, the experiences they went through, and adjusting to the Atlanta campus.

Sophomore students attend an information session about the program and complete applications in October. Alumni and students are then matched based on their academic interests, career fields, and student activities. The program begins with a kickoff reception on campus in November when students and their mentors are introduced and have their first opportunity to informally meet, and alumni share Oxford stories and their professional experiences with the group. Forty-five students were mentored in the 2014–2015 academic year.

Mentors often participate year after year and see spending time with the students as a meaningful way to give back to Oxford and be engaged in the life of the college from near or far. Warren Brook 70Ox 72B lives in Atlanta and has been a mentor for several years. “I’m still in contact with all three of my Oxford mentees. One graduated in 2014 and another in 2015. My third mentee will be a junior this fall,” remarks Brook. “I stay in touch with them over meals, over the phone, and via email and Facebook.”

Coordinators are exploring ways they can expand the program in the future to possibly incorporate elements of internships, job-site shadowing opportunities, and networking. “There is a high correlation between mentoring and networking opportunities and job placement upon graduation,” says Ami Hernandez, coordinator of Student Career Services. “The more access we can give our students to exploring the marketplace, the more they learn about themselves, the better they can articulate the ways in which their strengths can make a positive impact on the workplace, and the more confident they are in assuming their professional identity.”

For more information about mentoring an Oxford student, please contact Tammy Camfield, senior director of alumni relations, at 770.784.8414. —Ansley Holder
Travel Courses continued

students will be expected to pay only for the actual costs of travel with the final amount determined in accordance with the students’ financial aid status.

In addition to the anthropology/Spanish course in Costa Rica and sociology trip to Ecuador, three other courses are under development for consideration as the first offerings under the new program.

- Cuba: Evolution and Revolution is under development by Gunels. The proposal is for students to take a literary journey to Cuba through narrative, drama, and film, with special attention to the history of migration to the US since 1959, the rise of the arts, and current economic and political complexities. Students will travel to Havana.
- Art, Cinema, and Literature in France is a course envisioned by Matthew Moyle, assistant professor of French. Students will read literary texts and see cinematic works from French writers, artists, and directors. A trip to France will allow students to experience the places that informed the works they have studied.
- Contemporary Political Economy and Sustainability in a Globalizing World is under development by Deric Shannon, assistant professor of sociology. This course would involve classroom work studying issues of sustainability, farming practices, and political economies. These focused studies would be followed up with a course component in Spain, with an emphasis on visiting cooperatives.

Most travel will be one or two weeks in length and will take place during fall break, spring break, or immediately following the semester. Travel curricula will be overseen and assisted by Oxford’s Center for Academic Excellence. The Pierce Institute for Leadership and Community Engagement will lend financial support.

Brief News

In May, visiting lecturer in religion Jill Petersen Adams and Molly McGehee, associate professor of American studies, accompanied a group of nine students on a Global Connections trip to Japan. Entitled “Seeking Peace: Embodying Peace and Justice in Postwar Japan,” the twelve-day trip included Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, and Hiroshima. The group visited major memorial sites and peace museums. This year marks the seventieth anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb. Global Connections is sponsored by Oxford’s Office of the Chaplain and the Pierce Institute for Leadership and Community Engagement. Its aim is to connect students’ religious and spiritual convictions with issues of justice.

Oxford men’s tennis team won the NJCAA Division III national tournament on May 14, beating out eleven other teams. Coach Pernilla Hardin was named NJCAA Division III Coach of the Year. This is the fourth time an Oxford men’s tennis team has won a national title.

Sheilah Conner, executive administrative assistant to Dean Stephen Bowen, retired on July 3 after a record fifty-one years of service to Oxford College.

In its first full academic year, the Oxford College Organic Farm provided hands-on, experiential learning to hundreds of students. Work on the farm was part of the curriculum for nine courses during the year, in subjects ranging from environmental science to biology, sociology, economics, and philosophy.

Oxford was named in February to Tree Campus USA, a program of the Arbor Day Foundation. Tree Campus USA recognizes colleges and universities that most effectively manage and care for their trees, connecting them to students and the community.

Ruth Geiger has recently joined the Oxford Organic Farm as farm apprentice. In this role, she is involved in all aspects of the farm’s operations, including fieldwork, interacting with student workers, and marketing.
Making Memories

Wonderful Wednesday offered the perfect opportunity to capture some final moments on campus for graduating seniors Adrian Kinkead 15C (left) and Taqwa Elmubarak 15C.
Emory Everywhere

GOOD CLEAN FUN: Oxford freshmen join in a shaving cream fight during Own Oxford, a summer program that helps connect new students to the community by teaching them about campus traditions and lore, as well as providing tips on physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness.

WE'RE GOLDEN: Emory Class of 1965 classmates and friends (from left) Adair White 65C 79G, Jo Ann Hunter Kiley 65B, James Kiley 63C 67M 68MR, and Ann Estes Klamon 65C 76L catch up at the 2015 Corpus Cordis Aureum celebration honoring their class during Commencement weekend.

SOCIALIZING AND SOCIOLOGY: Brian Tsang 12B (above left, from left), GintWook “Jin” Lee 15B, Edric Goh 15C, and Jin “Jamie” Back 16B joined 150 alumni and students from thirty-five industries at Emory Network Night New York in May. The event was sponsored by Kim Tyson Chenevey 02OX 04B and John E. Chenevey 07M 08MR 11MR, the EAA, the New York Chapter of the EAA, the Goizueta BBA Career Management Center, and the Emory University Career Center. Pellom McDaniels III 06G 07PhD (above right) discussed “Race and Sports in American Culture” at a Boston-area Emory in Your City event, sharing stories from his book, The Prince of Jockeys: The Life of Isaac Burns Murphy, about the three-time Kentucky Derby–winning African American jockey who was forced out of thoroughbred racing because of his race. Alumni also viewed artifacts from the student-athlete-curated MARBL exhibit He Had a Hammer: The Legacy of Hank Aaron in Baseball and American Culture.

WITH MORE THAN 333,000 Emory alumni in all corners of the world, your Emory Alumni Board represents the diverse interests of our alumni body to the university. Together with Emory thought leaders, we will address opportunities to help Emory excel as a global university and provide access and equity of experience for all students.

We all have fond student memories of Emory, and our current students are making their own memories. This year, our goal is to foster shared connection between students and alumni, beginning with admission events, interviews, and Destination Emory parties. We encourage alumni to “hire Emory first” and create student internship opportunities that will open for them the world of professional possibility. No matter where you live and work, you can stay involved with the Emory student-to-alumni experience. Invite a local student to attend a chapter event with you or join forces for a project on Emory Cares International Service Day in November.

We recognize that alumni are in different stages of life, whether newly employed, building a career, or nearing retirement. Wherever you find yourself, you share an important common thread: Emory. Strengthen that connection today by registering to explore the Emory network in your new online community at www.alumni.emory.edu. Please join me in making this a rewarding year.

Michele Davis 87C
Incoming President,
Emory Alumni Board

Upcoming Alumni Events

09 | 26 GALA: Emory LGBT Alumni Blue Jean Brunch, Dobbs University Center, Winship Ballroom.
10 | 18 Jake's Halloween Open House, Miller-Ward Alumni House.

For more, visit alumni.emory.edu/calendar.
A Cure for the Wintertime Blues?

Kari Leibowitz 12C (left) was one of eight Emory students to be awarded a Fulbright grant in 2014—a record percentage of recipients for the university.

As a Fulbright Scholar, Leibowitz spent a year in northern Norway, studying positive mental health and its correlation with levels of seasonal depression in the region.

“Located over two hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle, Tromsø, Norway, is home to extreme light variation between seasons,” Leibowitz wrote in a feature article for the Atlantic that was published in July. “During the polar night, which lasts from November to January, the sun doesn’t rise at all. Then the days get progressively longer until the midnight sun period, from May to July, when it never sets. After the midnight sun, the days get shorter and shorter again until the polar night, and the yearly cycle repeats.”

Leibowitz and her adviser, a professor at a Norway university, developed a survey tool to assess how Tromsø residents handle the long weeks of semidarkness. To her surprise, Leibowitz discovered that those experiencing the polar night do not necessarily resign themselves to feeling sadness or depression, and attitude can have a significant impact on an individual’s response.

Having a positive “wintertime mindset” was strongly associated with indicators of overall mental health, such as life satisfaction and the pursuit of personal growth.

“Our research data—and my personal experience—suggest that mindset may play a role in seasonal well-being, and the area appears ripe for future research,” Leibowitz writes. “I hope to conduct some of this future research myself; when I leave Tromsø, I will head to Stanford University to pursue my PhD in social psychology.”

At Emory, Leibowitz majored in psychology and religion. After graduating, she worked as program coordinator for the Emory-Tibet Partnership where one of her primary responsibilities was coordinating His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama’s 2013 visit to Emory.—P.P.P.
Virtual Front Door

CHECK OUT THE REDESIGNED EAA WEBSITE, WHERE STAYING CONNECTED IS EASIER THAN EVER

THE VIRTUAL FRONT DOOR OF THE Emory Alumni Association (EAA) has upped its curb appeal with a new online community and a new web address as its welcome mat at www.engage.emory.edu.

“We are so excited to launch our entirely new web presence,” says Sarah Cook 95C, senior associate vice president for alumni affairs at the EAA. “It is built to be interactive, with changing content, vibrant images, and easy navigation. The site is loaded with features and stories that showcase the fascinating lives and achievements of our alumni and students.”

The new online community offers alumni easier access to tools to search for classmates, post personal and professional updates, find career contacts and alumni chapters, and search Emory-only classified ads.

Finding Focus
ALUMNUS DISCOVERS PURPOSE AND PERSPECTIVE THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS

AS A STREET PHOTOGRAPHER, JASON LEE 10OX 13C captures life in all its guises: the beautiful, the ordinary, the heart-wrenching, the triumphant, the unforgettable.

Inspiration often comes in a glance, a quick glimpse of something that begs for deeper understanding.

This resonates with Lee because, as a child, he was often judged at first sight. Born three months prematurely; doctors diagnosed him with cerebral palsy; telling his parents he would never walk and would probably show signs of developmental delays as he aged.

Lee's parents, who immigrated to the United States from Taiwan, supported and encouraged him and, at six, he took his first steps. Despite this triumph, he still faced obstacles.

“Being born with a disability, I was made fun of a lot as a kid. It is hard to be expressive when people make fun of you. You want to stay in a corner and shrink up so no one will notice you,” Lee says.

Lee found his outlet in photography, an artistic offshoot that grew out of his film major at Emory. “I realized I was a terrible film major in the sense of making movies, but I was good at using a camera to get still photos,” he says. “I was the quiet, lonely type during college. Photography was able to help me conquer those fears and express myself without fear of judgment. No matter who you are or what you look like, your art is totally independent of that.”

Although he'd initially planned to go to law school, then considered film school, Lee says he realized in his senior year that neither path suited him. After discussing his dilemma with his older brother, Lee decided to start a photography business while pursing a master's degree in hospitality management as a way to pay the bills. He is enrolled in Cornell University’s Master of Management in Hospitality “2+1” program, which requires him to work for two years in the industry then complete one year of coursework.

Before he graduated from Emory, Lee had secured a position with Intercontinental Hotels in San Francisco. Within a week of graduating, he packed up and moved across the country. During his two years there, he started a "virtual" photography studio, providing portraiture services while pursuing his passion for street photography.

Over time, Lee compiled a large portfolio of photographs of people and street scenes in San Francisco and, at the encouragement of friends, he launched a Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign to publish both electronic and hard copy photo books of his work, titled Of Places and People: San Francisco.

"That is what photography means for me. A chance to tell a story. A chance to connect people with something. An opportunity to create a memory," Lee says. "I'm always looking for something that conveys something deeper.”

—Michelle Valigursky ■
Breaking Away

The goal of alternative breaks is to develop active citizens who deepen their connection to community and are mobilized to work for positive social change with others throughout their lives. In Working Side by Side: Creating Alternative Breaks as Catalysts for Global Learning, Student Leadership, and Social Change, Melody Porter ’95 CorT and coauthors Shoshanna Sumka of American University and Jill Paciott, executive director of the national alternative break organization Break Away, provide a guide for student and staff leaders in alternative break programs, offering practical advice, outlining effective program components and practices, and presenting the underlying community engagement and global learning theory. The book advances the field of student-led alternative breaks by identifying the core components of successful programs that develop active citizens. It describes how to address complex social issues, encourage structural analysis of societal inequities, foster volunteer transformation, and identify methods of work in mutually beneficial partnerships.

RIGHT TO BEAR WITNESS: In the wake of the Sandy Hook school massacre in Connecticut, the gun rights movement headed by the National Rifle Association appears more intractable than ever in its fight against gun control laws. The core argument of Second Amendment advocates is that the proliferation of firearms is essential to maintaining freedom in America, providing private citizens with a defense against possible government tyranny and safeguarding all our other rights. In Do Guns Make Us Free? Democracy and the Armed Society, Firmin DeBrabander ’02PhD examines claims offered in favor of unchecked gun ownership in an analysis and philosophical examination of every aspect of a contentious, uniquely American debate.

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: The latest in a series of books by David B. Dillard-Wright ’99 CorT, At Ganapati’s Feet: Daily Life with the Elephant-Headed Deity offers a direct path to spiritual illumination through a series of aphorisms the author has gained through meditation on the beloved Hindu deity Ganesha, the elephant-headed “remover of obstacles.” Author Dillard-Wright shows readers how to cultivate self-realization and create positive work spaces and offers practical guides to daily rituals, along with personal vignettes.

PASTORAL CARING: A spiritual community can be a powerful source of support for its members; in Christian Concepts for Care, authors Mary Runge Jacob ’74 MSN and David J. Ludwig offer a detailed resource that delivers understanding of mental and emotional disorders and a perspective on their spiritual nature. Jacob and Ludwig also provide explanations of how pastors and congregations can work in positive ways to support members during and after treatment for mental disorders as part of a healing community that includes professional help and spiritual care. As a result, readers can gain a new perspective that gives hope and a practical way to apply faith.

TIME’S A’WASTING: What if you had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to erase your past mistakes and failures? What would you risk to recover the years you’ve wasted? Jack Player desperately needs a break. Stuck in a dead-end job, with a failed marriage behind him, he’s broke and pushing forty. Facing too many days without meaning, he sees no future for himself—until his best friend suggests a way out, an easy, painless score to turn everything around. What could possibly go wrong? In his second novel, Wasted, author David Darracott ’75C tells a suspenseful story that earned praise from judges and the distinction of 2015 Georgia Author of the Year in Detective/Mystery fiction from the Georgia Writers Association.

MORTALITY TALE: In I Watched You Disappear, author-poet Anya Krugovoy Silver ’97G offers meditations on sickness but also celebrations of art, motherhood, and family, as well as a sequence of poems based on the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm. Throughout her collection, Silver examines feelings of pain, anger, and urgency caused by a serious illness and presents the struggle to cope in a lyrical and moving way. Never overwhelmed by her own mortality, Silver manages to speak with beauty and grace about a terrifying subject. In her poems based on Grimm’s fairy tales, Silver subtly interweaves retellings of these tales with reflections on life and death. The book, Silver’s second volume of poetry, earned her the 2015 Georgia Author of the Year in Poetry award from the Georgia Writers Association.

DIVINE INSPIRATION: Drawing on their experiences as women of the church, bound together by a deep commitment to ministry, Deborah E. Lewis ’96T, Stacey Simpson Duke ’96T, and fifty other female clergy members reveal what it really means to be a woman and faith leader in There’s a Woman in the Pulpit: Christian Clergywomen Share Their Hard Days, Holy Moments & the Healing Power of Humor. Representing fourteen denominations, Lewis and her compatriots share the details of their intimidating balancing act juggling the expectations of perfection from their congregations and the shared human realities of everyday life. Intended for laypeople, women hearing a call to ministry, and clergy of all denominations, these stories and prayers are intended to resonate with, challenge, encourage, and amuse anyone who has a passion for their work and faith.

STUDENT DOCTOR: What I’ve Learned from You explores relationships and the human condition from the point of view of a physician who longed to find serenity in a world of conflicting ideas and aspirations. Author Scott A. Kelly ’92G OOMR based the book on journal entries chronicling life lessons he learned as a young doctor from patients and their families who opened their hearts to him. Now Kelly shares these stories of love and pain, healing and sickness, birth and dying, and all the beautiful things in between.—M.M.L.
Food for Thought

ATLANTA FOOD WALKS HIGHLIGHT THE ROLE OF FOOD IN SOUTHERN HISTORY

If anyone had tried to use her undergraduate degrees in accounting and philosophy as a kind of tea leaf reading to predict the future for Akila McConnell 01B, it’s unlikely they would have come up with lawyer-turned-food and travel blogger-turned-founder of a walking tour company.

McConnell herself certainly wouldn’t have imagined the trajectory.

After graduating from Emory and earning her law degree, she was was a practicing attorney for five years before quitting to travel around the world with her husband, Patrick McConnell 01C. “I didn’t really have a plan as to what I would do once we came back to the US,” she says.

While on the road, McConnell started a blog, The Road Forks, to share her travel food stories. It turned out people were hungry for the kind of posts she was serving, and the blog generated a loyal following. Meanwhile, McConnell was getting a glimpse of her future.

“I did dozens of food tours and cooking classes across the world, and I particularly loved the tours that focused on the history and anthropology of food while introducing guests to unexpected locations and neighborhoods,” she says. “Every time I came back to Atlanta, I wished somebody here was developing a food tour like that.”

McConnell and her husband traveled full time for more than three years before they returned to Atlanta. In 2013, McConnell started to get serious about the idea of developing her own food tour. “I realized nobody was focusing on Southern foodways or exploring historic downtown Atlanta,” she says. She threw herself into intense research after a Facebook debate erupted among friends about differences among soul food, Southern food, and down-home cooking. The incident led McConnell to think more about Southern foodways and history and, she says, about the fact that “while there are a lot of scholars and researchers writing and talking about Southern food history, there aren’t any food tours—which reach people on the ground—talking about this history.”

She knew she could fill that void, and in May 2015 she launched Atlanta Food Walks.

“As I look at my food tours as an opportunity to celebrate Southern food, which has a long and proud history. It’s more than greasy, butter-laden, fried fare; it’s an amalgamation of West African, Native American, and British cuisines, influenced by the history of the South from slavery to the civil rights movement,” she says.

As McConnell researched, she was struck by how much there was to learn, and became excited to share it. The tour has a special focus on the civil rights movement.

“Dr. King was a serious foodie,” McConnell says. “His first childhood memory was watching men standing on the breadlines during the Great Depression. He chose Paschal’s Restaurant as the meeting place for civil rights leaders. The last long conversation he had was about what they were going to eat for dinner on that spring night in Memphis. He loved food and wrote about it in his letters and his diaries.”

She shares these stories and many more in her tours, which are held Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays in downtown Atlanta.

—Julie Schwietert Collazo 97OX 99C
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, NATIVE SIDNEY YARBROUGH ILL 59C 63M 67MR 70MR has demonstrated his natural loyalty with decades of dedication to the health of his hometown community, and with service to his alma mater through professional and philanthropic efforts.

His devotion was recognized with the 2015 Judson C. Ward "Jake’s" Golden Heart Award during Commencement weekend.

"I was humbled, for sure, and proud," Yarbrough says. "I am very honored. Not many people have been thanked like I have been thanked, and that was a beautiful thing."

Four generations of Yarbrough’s family have ties to the School of Medicine. James DeLamar, grandfather of his wife, Becky Yarbrough, attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons, a forerunner of Emory’s medical school, in 1902–1903. Yarbrough’s father, Sidney Yarbrough Jr., was in the class of 1932 at Atlanta Southern Dental College, which also was affiliated with Emory. Yarbrough’s son, Robert Yarbrough 01M, is an orthopedic surgeon in Cumming.

Yarbrough initially wanted to attend Auburn University, but his plans changed after his father unexpectedly died of a heart attack during the summer between Yarbrough’s junior and senior years of high school.

“I realized I needed to go to a school that had a medical school. My father was an oral surgeon, he was an Emory alumnus, and I used to go to alumni meetings with him in Columbus. That was my first real exposure to Emory,” he says. “I knew it was going to be a long shot, but I got in at Emory. I went for four years, and I had a scholarship for three of them that made things easier for my family.”

Once at Emory, Yarbrough worked hard to accomplish his goals.

"Somebody told me if you made an A in organic chemistry you’d get into medical school, so I did that. I spent a lot of time studying and a great dedication of effort, but it was worth it," he says.

Yarbrough and his wife, Becky Yarbrough, married in June 1959 after he graduated from Emory College and she from Huntington College in Montgomery, Alabama, then returned to Emory in the fall for him to enroll at the School of Medicine. Becky Yarbrough worked at the Emory Clinic while her husband earned his medical degree.

After graduating from the School of Medicine, Sidney Yarbrough served in the US Air Force, then returned to Emory for residency training in orthopedic surgery.

In 1970 the couple returned to Columbus, and Yarbrough opened a private orthopedics practice that he maintained until retiring in 1997.

Both Yarbroughs served on the School of Medicine board of advisers, supporting education, research, development, and advocacy. In 1998, Becky Yarbrough established the Sidney H. Yarbrough III MD Endowed Scholarship in Medicine, the first of the couple’s many philanthropic gifts to the university. The scholarship has helped more than fifteen students pay for medical school.

In 2004, the Yarbroughs sponsored the Emory School of Medicine’s 150th anniversary celebration, and in 2005 they contributed to help name a group-learning room in the James Williams Medical Education Building. Yarbrough also has supported Emory Orthopedics, participates in Emory regional programs, and hosts events in his home for alumni, friends, and prospective students, including Charter Day celebrations to mark the university’s founding.

As a patron of the arts, Yarbrough serves on the board of advisers for the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory. In Columbus, he serves as a member of the Stewart Community Home Board and is a supporter of the Muscogee County Library Foundation, the Columbus State University Foundation, and First Presbyterian Church of Columbus.

“I always appreciated Emory inviting me to attend medical school, and I toted the load and produced and I didn’t let them down,” he says. “I had four good years of medical school, and I developed a lot of good friends that I have to this day. It was not difficult for me to do what I have done for Emory, and I will keep on doing it. I’ve enjoyed it. They took me on and kept me there and treated me better than right. I’m just paying it back.”

Yarbrough is the seventh recipient of the Jake’s Golden Heart Award, which was established by the Emory Alumni Association in 2010 to honor alumni who graduated fifty years ago or more.—Michelle Valigursky
Living the Legacy

FAMILIES CELEBRATE NEW MEMBERS OF THE EMORY ALUMNI COMMUNITY DURING COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND AT THE LEGACY MEDALLION CEREMONY

THE GANG’S ALL HERE: The Rusiecki family celebrates its newest alumnus. Pictured (from left) are Eric Rusiecki 10OX 13C, Laura Rusiecki 09C, Eugene Rusiecki, Ryan Rusiecki 13OX 15C, Barbara Rusiecki, Jennifer Rusiecki 03OX 05C, and Gregory Rusiecki 08C.

PROUD PARENTS: Fredrick Leon 19C (from left) looks forward to joining the Emory legacy that started with his father, Edgar Leon 88G, and brother, Kristoffer Leon 15C, supported by his mother, Ulrika Leon.

CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK: Alumnus Richard Zack 86C shares a moment with his son, Jacob Zack 15C.

LIKE MOTHER: “Sharing in Alex's graduation as her mom and an Emory alum is a memory I will hold forever,” writes Judi Renbaum Kletz 85C (right) pictured here with her daughter, Alex Kletz 15B, at the 2015 Legacy Medallion Breakfast.

LIKE MOTHER: “Sharing in Alex's graduation as her mom and an Emory alum is a memory I will hold forever,” writes Judi Renbaum Kletz 85C (right) pictured here with her daughter, Alex Kletz 15B, at the 2015 Legacy Medallion Breakfast.
Running Man

ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR RUNS ACROSS THE US TO RAISE HEALTH AWARENESS

When Bryce Carlson took on the extraordinary challenge of running a marathon a day, over the course of 140 days, as part of Race Across USA, he had bigger goals in mind than fitness.

The Purdue University assistant professor of anthropology prepared for months in advance—not only to train, but also to organize colleagues from a range of institutions in seven targeted research projects. Compiling information from runners along the journey, the researchers are studying a range of topics related to extreme exercise and health.

Carlson’s research at Purdue focuses on how, evolutionarily, humans have used food as a means of relationship with the environment. “With this project, I was looking at how the runners used food to buffer the stress of running and to facilitate biological adaptation to such extreme physical challenges,” he explains.

Personally, Carlson viewed the race as a way to challenge himself mentally and physically while supporting the race’s larger mission of inspiring a healthier generation.

Although he trained for fifteen months leading up to the race—running from fifty to a hundred miles per week—he says the cumulative experience of a lifetime of running was a more important factor for him.

“It is not important to be in the best shape of your life at the starting line. It is knowing how to adapt on the fly,” he says.

And while he consumed mostly quality sources of nutrients, carbohydrates, and protein, Carlson also developed a new appreciation for something he’d previously considered a dietary evil—fast food.

“Being a professional who studies humans’ relationship with food, it was easy to blame fast food for our nutritional ills,” Carlson says. “But for us as runners, [fast food] was a godsend at various parts of the journey. Many days we were exhausted; we wanted and needed food right away, and there was a McDonald’s.”

The experience also changed Carlson’s broader views.

“One of the enduring lessons I learned is that so much of our experience in life is about our perspective. One day you might wake up and look at the road ahead as vast and beautiful and have a really positive experience. The next day, you could look across the same space and see it as desolate and lonely and boring. The view was the same, but the way you perceived it was totally different. From that point forward, I made an effort to go into each day with a positive attitude, and every day became so much more enjoyable.”—M.M.L.
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Nursing Pioneer Helped Integrate Emory

A NATIONAL NURSING ICON AND GEORGIA nursing leader, Verdelle Bellamy 63MN died on April 22. She was eighty-eight.

Bellamy was known as a pioneer in the nursing profession. She was one of the first two African American students to graduate from Emory in 1963, where she earned a master's degree in nursing from the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing.

Bellamy was a nationally recognized nursing leader in veteran health care. She also was the first African American administrator at the Atlanta VA Medical Center (VAMC) when she became the associate chief of nursing for geriatric services. She eventually rose through the ranks at the VAMC to become chief of long-term care nursing.

Bellamy's leadership led to major improvements in patient care, including the design and implementation of the state-of-the-art VA Nursing Home, where she worked tirelessly until her retirement in 1998. Bellamy played an instrumental role in advancing veteran-centric nursing care nationwide by serving in leadership positions for the Nurses Organization of Veteran Affairs, which is the largest organization dedicated to shaping nursing care within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Bellamy served as a board member, secretary, and vice president for this important organization.

In 1974, Bellamy became the first African American to receive a gubernatorial appointment to the Georgia Board of Nursing from then-governor Jimmy Carter. She was honored in 1980 in the US House of Representatives, and the following year, she received the Alumni Merit Award from Tuskegee University. In 1993, she was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing, the most prestigious honor for nursing professionals. She earned Emory’s highest alumni honor, the Emory Medal, in 2005. She also was recognized as an Emory University Maker of History during Emory’s 175th anniversary in 2011.

“Verdelle Bellamy’s passing is a great loss for Emory’s nursing community,” said Linda McCauley 79N, dean and professor of the School of Nursing. “She was a visionary leader and a change agent for patient-centered care for veterans. She is one of the most influential alumnae to ever graduate from Emory by becoming its first African American graduate. Countless Emory nursing students and VA patients have and will continue to be touched by the legacy Verdelle has set forth.”

Bellamy was born on March 15, 1927, in Birmingham, Alabama. She earned a bachelor's degree from Tuskegee University before attending Emory.

Gary Hauk 91PhD, vice president and deputy to the president, noted Bellamy’s role in integrating Emory and the lack of controversy compared to some other Southern universities.

He described Bellamy as “big of heart, large of purpose, noble of vision” and recalled how she described her experience integrating Emory after she received the Emory Medal in 2005: “I just didn’t think about it. I felt excited and good … but not overwhelmed. I wanted to be seen and treated like the other students. When the press got word of the integration, I was called to be interviewed, but I refused. I said, well if [being interviewed] is the pattern for all students, yes, but since this is not the way all students are accepted at Emory—with a press conference—I didn’t want to be any different from any other student.”

Angela Amar, assistant dean for BSN education at the School of Nursing, praised Bellamy for helping pave the way for other students and future nurses.

“I had the honor of meeting Verdelle when I first joined the faculty at Emory,” said Amar, who joined Emory in 2012. “I was struck by her dedication to the school and its future. During my short time with her, it was evident to me that she was a change agent for social justice, nursing, and Emory.”

“I am so grateful to Verdelle for her courage to help integrate Emory University, the Atlanta VA Medical Center, and the Georgia Board of Nursing. Because of her pioneering efforts, thousands of nurses have been able to go beyond the status quo and achieve higher levels of success in health care,” she said. “I count myself among the African American nurses who have benefitted from Verdelle’s courage to integrate large institutions during some of the nation’s most turbulent times in the 1960s.”

—Pam Autschmeyer
Counting Stars
BHAGIRATH MAJMUDAR REFLECTS ON A LIFE IN MEDICINE

A scenic journey of more than forty-four years of uninterrupted teaching at Emory School of Medicine, when halted by retirement, calls for a pause to ponder. It looks like a prolonged period on a scale of time, but it passed like a blissful blink.

During this time, I saw six deans and four chairs each in the Department of Pathology (my primary appointment) and Gynecology-Obstetrics (my secondary appointment). The journey reached an undeniable peak when current Dean Christian Larsen was appointed, as I distinctly remember him as a second-year medical student. I also remember Brenda Fitzgerald, the current health commissioner of Georgia, as both a second-year medical student and as a gyn-ob resident.

But I am after all a teacher, gratified but unaffected by the glorious achievements of a few of my students. They are only a few of the thousands of students who modeled my life and to whom I am deeply grateful.

“How vacant the night will look, if only moon was allowed to shine, and not the million stars,” said the Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. I am happy to have seen innumerable such stars at Emory, and they have guided me as stars always do. As men and women, they were mortals in themselves, but together they secured the immortality of our institution. Dislodged stars do not leave an empty sky behind.

The growth of Emory School of Medicine has been spectacular, symmetrical, and harmonious during the past few decades. The school for sure has changed, but the change has been disciplined and well planned. The medical student has always been the foundation around which the school has been built and has grown. This ideology has become the core of my devotion to Emory.

The students are chosen by their versatility including scholarship, personality, idealism, integrity, compassion, a cohesive and supportive nature, and many other traits that go toward making fine human beings besides “complete” physicians, an expression employed by the late John Stone, Emory’s poet-physician.

I can verify this because I have been a member of the admission committee for twenty-six years. My gratitude to the school for this invaluable opportunity is twofold. First and foremost, I got to share the personal lives of hundreds of young men and women as I read the personal accounts that came with their applications. I could understand the occult power of young men and women from this and other countries, their inner family structures, and the enormous hard work and adventures they had undertaken to reach their goals. Many of them were unforgettably phenomenal. I sifted from them the much-sought security that the future of this country is safe. At the end of each interview, however, I could not help feeling a sigh of relief that I was not competing with them. At the same time, there was also a twinge of guilt at not being able to accept all the students who were worthy because it was impossible to do so.

I would like all of Emory’s medical students to be aware of the pride and responsibility of graduating from Emory School of Medicine, as they were selected with vigilant scrutiny.

Grady Memorial Hospital, now called Grady Health System, has been my foremost source of happiness. I had an uncanny feeling auguring growth and security when I entered Grady for the first time. This was instantly substantiated by the sight of evergreen medical students, rushing residents, supportive faculty, and trusting patients. I recognized that for me, Grady was the mecca of medicine.

That feeling never deserted me for a moment during my entire stay. I was integrated as a member of the Grady family, by both medical and nonmedical staff, and showered with love, warmth, and practical support, which facilitated my professional progress.

If the longest journey of the world starts with a first step, a journey of mission does not ever have its last step. When one pilgrim of the journey has to step out of the line, he helps others reach their journey’s end so that pilgrims continue to progress. “Beginning of an end is only an end of beginning,” was an expression employed by Sir Winston Churchill. I feel fortunate to have a firm foothold, not on the last, but on a lasting step of my journey. The job ends but the commitment continues.

I will conclude with a locus classicus by Shakespeare—"Life is a story, told by an idiot, full of noise and fury, signifying nothing”—modified by me by dint of a poetic license: Life is a story, when heard by a wise man, is full of poise and no hurry, dignifying everything. The dignity of Emory will constitute my “everything.”

BHAGIRATH MAJMUDAR is a professor emeritus of pathology and an associate professor emeritus of gynecology—obstetrics in the Emory School of Medicine. He was the 2009 recipient of the Evangeline Papageorge Award, the highest award for teaching given by the School of Medicine and has been the recipient of numerous teaching awards chosen by the dean and students of the medical school.
Dirk Brown 90MBA
Software Executive
Atlanta, Georgia

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SETTING THE STAGE: Grammy-winning folk-pop duo Indigo Girls—Emory alumnae Emily Saliers ’85C and Amy Ray ’86C—will headline Emory’s 2015 Homecoming concert, part of a full schedule of festivities planned for students and alumni during Homecoming Weekend, September 24 to 27.

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