Written in Bone

An Emory anthropologist makes history by unearthing the oldest-known DNA from Africa

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Written in Bone

Anthropologist Jessica Thompson was among the first to suspect that conditions in Malawi might have allowed ancient human bones to be preserved. Turns out she was right.

By Carol Clark

Education Innovation

From unexpected, cross-topic courses to brand-new majors to total curriculum overhauls, Emory is rethinking the delivery of liberal arts education with students’ future realities in mind.

By Hal Jacobs

Home, Cooking

Linton Hopkins 92C planned to become a doctor like his dad—until he discovered his flair for food. Five restaurants later, he’s a chef Atlanta knows by name.

By Maria M. Lameiras

MORE ONLINE AT EMORY.EDU/MAGAZINE

VIDEO: MALAWI’S ANCIENT SECRETS
Learn more about the place where human remains waited 8,100 years to be discovered.

VIDEO: THIS WON’T HURT A BIT
A painless flu vaccine patch shows promise.

EXPANDED FEATURE: MORE ON THE OBAMA LETTERS
Check out the full story from the Emory News Center.

ON THE COVER Field photo courtesy of Jessica Thompson.
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When I was a student, there was no internet.

I’m not saying I had to walk miles to school in the snow, but I did have to walk to the library. I had to find books and touch them. And there was this stuff called microfilm that required sitting for hours in the dark, watching old images flash by in a machine that made a strangely soporific whirring sound.

My son, an Emory junior, is more likely to type some words and hit “search.” When you think about it, the degree to which the web has transformed the student experience is incredible. What’s even more incredible is how quickly we’ve all come to take for granted that parallel universe where nothing is real, at least not in a physical sense, but everything is available. Nearly anything we might need or want to know is at our fingertips, nanoseconds away.

But there is something about encountering materials and objects “IRL” (in real life, as the kids say these days) that leaders at Emory believe is worthy and important. Research is more than pressing “search.” In our feature story on innovations in undergraduate education, Astrid Eckert, associate professor of history, observes, “Students know how to google before they get here, but we are trying to show them there are things you can do with a world-class research library.”

Those things include seeing letters handwritten by President Barack Obama when he was a college student himself. They include engaging with a range of materials from the Beat Generation, including photographs, correspondence, and first editions of works by some of the most influential voices of the time. As a research university, Emory is committed to showing students the value of evidence-based learning—from hands-on lab science to global experiences that immerse them in other cultures. And those are just a few opportunities we’ve covered in this magazine.

There’s perhaps no better example of the importance of primary evidence than our cover story on the work of Emory anthropologist Jessica Thompson, who recently made ripples around the world with her discovery of the oldest-known DNA from Africa. Although the conditions across most of the continent have not been kind to ancient human remains, Thompson believed the climate in the Malawi highlands might have allowed some to stay put.

She led a dig in a remote area of the country that uncovered human bones of hunter-gatherers—some of which were more than six thousand years old. Thompson’s research supplies information about human evolution that was previously missing.

As evidence goes, it does not get much more real—more primary—than ancient bones buried in the earth for millennia. To find them, Thompson and her team had to travel thousands of miles, dig into the soil, and touch physical pieces of history.

That’s an experience worth leaving the laptop behind. —Paige Parvin 96G
There Goes the Sun
Students gathered on the Quad August 21 to watch the first total solar eclipse visible in the contiguous US since 1979. Though Emory was not in the path of totality, the 97 percent coverage was totally amazing. Next chance for the US: April 8, 2024.
Man of Letters

“School. What intelligent observations can I glean from the first two weeks? I pass through the labyrinths, corridors, see familiar faces, select and discard classes and activities, fluctuate between unquenchable curiosity and heavy, inert boredom.”

These words, written just over thirty-five years ago, will feel familiar to most college students—far from home, starting a new academic year, “not having yet settled on the limits, and thus the form, that the new semester will take.”

Their author, writing to his girlfriend and pondering topics ranging from college classes to social class, could be any of us who ever wondered where we fit in the world. Except he went on to become the forty-fourth president of the United States, the first African American to hold the office.

The series of letters written by Barack Obama to his then-girlfriend, Alexandra McNear, are now part of the collection of Emory’s Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, where they are available to scholars and students by appointment.

Beautifully composed, the letters “reveal the search of a young man for meaning and identity,” says Rosemary Magee, Rose Library director. “While intimate in a philosophical way, they reflect primarily a college student coming to terms with himself and others. “In fact, they show the same kind of yearnings and issues that our own students face—and that students everywhere encounter,” Magee explains. “Thus they will serve as sources of both inspiration and reassurance to people of all ages and backgrounds.”

Spanning 1982 to 1984, the letters were written after Obama, who began his college career at California’s Occidental College, transferred to Columbia University in New York City. In page after page of neat script—written on lined yellow paper, typing paper, pages torn from spiral notebooks and even an index card—the future president poured out his thoughts and feelings to McNear, a fellow student from Occidental to whom he had grown even closer when she spent the summer of 1982 in New York.

The nine letters in Emory’s collection pick up on September 26, 1982, when both are back in classes at their respective schools on opposite coasts, and continue through
Emory has appointed Vikas Sukhatme, a distinguished physician and scientist, as the new dean of the School of Medicine. He also will serve as chief academic officer of Emory Healthcare and as Woodruff Professor.

“Dr. Sukhatme is a highly recognized and exceptional biomedical scientist, clinician, and teacher,” says Emory Healthcare CEO Jonathan Lewin. “I am confident that under his leadership, the medical school will continue its upward trajectory in reputation and impact and will further enhance the Woodruff Health Sciences Center’s place as one of the world’s premiere academic health centers.”

Sukhatme was formerly chief academic officer and Harvard faculty dean for academic programs at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston and the Victor J. Aresty Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

“With a stellar leadership team, an extraordinary faculty, an outstanding cadre of staff, trainees and students, and distinguished alumni and supporters, Emory’s future is bright,” Sukhatme says. “Now is the time to take on some of the most challenging problems in medicine and biology, and tackle them through innovative, interdisciplinary approaches.”

Sukhatme’s research spans numerous areas of medicine in both fundamental science and clinical care, including a longstanding interest in tumor metabolism and immunology.
Something to Talk About

A new series, Conversations with America, has been launched as part of Emory’s effort to advance and promote conversation and civil discourse on the most difficult issues facing the nation. Conducted with NBC/Wall Street Journal pollster Peter Hart, focus groups will be held in select cities to foster a deeper understanding of American views on issues such as immigration, race, education, and health care. At its conclusion, the research team will produce a full-length video and independent summary to the public.

One Fell Swoop

This fall for the first time, Emory, the University of Georgia, and Georgia Tech began accepting a single college application, streamlining the process for high school seniors in Georgia to apply to these three institutions. The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success Application now enables seniors to apply to any or all of the three schools with one admission application.

Newly Elected

The National Academy of Medicine has elected neurologist and neuroscientist Allan Levey (left, above) and global health expert Robert Breiman (left, below) to its 2017 class of health scientists and international members. Levey is internationally recognized for his work in neurodegenerative disease. Breiman is director of the Emory Global Health Institute and professor at Rollins School of Public Health.

Break a Leg

Brent Glenn, a theater studies lecturer who previously served as Theater Emory’s resident lighting and sound designer, has taken the role of artistic director. He aims to help the thirty-year-old organization become a more outward-facing institution while building on its strong tradition of innovation and new works.

Among the Best

Emory University is ranked twenty-first among the nation’s top universities and seventeenth among national universities offering the “best value” to students in US News & World Report’s new 2018 Best Colleges guidebook. Goizueta Business School, ranked separately from the university’s main undergraduate program, was fifteenth in the undergraduate business rankings.

Rise Up

The newly established Center for Reproductive Health Research in the Southeast (RISE) at Rollins School of Public Health has received a three-year, $6.8 million grant from an anonymous private donor to research and implement solutions for adverse reproductive health outcomes and disparities impacting women and families in the Southeastern US.

Hurricane Help

Eight Emory emergency medicine physicians assisted with a humanitarian relief effort for individuals in the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Maria on September 24. US officials air transported more than sixty-seven patients from St. Croix and neighboring islands to Dobbins Air Reserve Base, where doctors conducted rapid triage for patients with conditions including end-stage renal disease, preterm labor, and recent trauma.

Standing with Students

President Claire E. Sterk joined fifty-seven university presidents and chancellors who are members of the Association of American Universities in signing a September 7 letter urging Congress to immediately pass legislation allowing participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program remain in the US without fear of deportation.

Leading Lady

Lynell Cadray, vice provost for Emory’s Office of Equity and Inclusion, is among a dozen women who received the 2017 Most Powerful and Influential Woman Award from the National Diversity Council in October. The award seeks to recognize and honor women who have not only achieved personal success, but who have made it possible for others to more easily follow in their footsteps.
For people living with HIV, taking antiretroviral medication each day is a necessity. Without strict adherence to their treatment regimen, they risk further illness or spread of the disease.

That’s why Emory nursing professor Marcia Holstad created the LIVE Network, a seventy-minute simulated talk show and music program to educate and motivate men and women about their health and taking their medication. The network covers topics such as T cells, viral load, and dealing with side effects from disease and medication. The music—twelve songs from different genres—makes learning about HIV enjoyable in keeping with the program theme of “every dose, every day.”

When Holstad tested the LIVE Network a few years ago, study participants asked if they could share the MP3 program with family members to help them understand what it means to be HIV positive. Some participants used the program to disclose their HIV status.

Holstad saw potential in the LIVE Network as an education tool for HIV clinicians and had a developer repackate it as a smartphone application called Music for Health. The app includes twelve songs with music videos and content related to HIV, medication adherence, and symptom self-management.

A total of 149 adults, predominately African American, evaluated Music for Health at six sites in rural Georgia. Holstad and her collaborators in the Schools of Medicine and Nursing are now analyzing four years’ worth of data. So far, “We learned that we need to keep participants interested,” says Holstad. “Our app was built to include all twelve songs at one time. Ideally, it would be better to roll out a new song every few months and add some type of engagement to keep people’s interest. But people responded to the app and told us they shared the information with their children, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.”
SURE
Thing
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GETS REAL—AND GETS RESULTS

This past summer, ninety-six Emory College of Arts and Sciences undergraduates took a deep dive into the world of research through a renewed initiative known as SURE.

The Summer Undergraduate Research at Emory program, or SURE, provides those students with ten weeks of full-time, mentored, independent research working directly with professors in disciplines from philosophy to psychiatry. Two dozen of the student researchers attend partner institutions such as Agnes Scott and Morehouse Colleges, while six are Oxford College students.

The rest, like rising senior Kaela Kuitchoua 18C, are Emory College students who traded in a summer of flip-flops and beach reads for lab coats and access-card lanyards.

“Classes help explain previous research, but having the summer to devote to research is the real-life experience that makes what I’ve learned come alive,” says Kuitchoua, a neuroscience and behavioral biology major.

She has spent the summer working under an associate professor at the School of Medicine. Her job is to analyze MRI scans of socially housed Rhesus macaques that were raised naturally by good, competent mothers, or who received poor care from their mothers.

“It’s really allowed me to become more independent,” Kuitchoua says.

SURE is a continuation of an Emory initiative started twenty-eight years ago to support students in the natural sciences. Last year, Emory College’s Undergraduate Research Programs merged a parallel program in the social sciences and humanities with SURE to encompass all fields, says Gillian Hue, SURE director.

Students accepted into the highly competitive program live together on campus, comparing notes across disciplines and schools. Weekly workshops help explain best practices such as how to navigate research literature and what to expect in graduate school. Informal and programmed lunches and dinners also let the students discuss current issues in research, such as ethical concerns or digital work. But students spend the bulk of each week, at least forty hours, conducting research. Work in the hard sciences tends to
be tied more to the mentor’s research, while humanities and social sciences work tends to be more independent.

Cynthia Willett, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Philosophy, is helping direct a project for Mike Demers 18C as she attends to her own work in Europe. Demers, a philosophy and comparative literature major, is conducting an extensive study of the classical philosophical question of knowledge, with attention to how it implicates efforts to understand the current political climate.

Using his readings of French philosopher Henri Bergson as a baseline, Demers aims to show how particular facts may only encompass part of a truth or reveal a bias of the user.

Take the debate over crowd size at Trump’s inauguration. Demers says the political debate moved from facts into the grayer area of what that number meant.

“There was a conclusion some made that even if the crowd in the photo of Trump’s inauguration is smaller, he still has a broader cultural mandate legitimizing, in an almost universal manner, every decision he makes while governing. And that is much harder to classify as simply a disinterested, logical appeal to fact,” Demers says. “That changes how we understand how facts are used and suggests that often they fail to achieve freedom from the influence of bias and incomplete understanding.”

The highly competitive SURE program not only brings students from other institutions to Emory, it sends undergraduates to research labs and on projects across Emory’s nine schools.

Kuitchoua is working at Yerkes National Primate Research Center under the guidance of Mar Sanchez, a Yerkes researcher and an associate professor in the School of Medicine.

Sanchez’s lab works to understand the effects of social experiences on primate brains, specifically how early social experiences and maternal care affect the developing brain.

That calls for observation of the monkeys that live in social groups at the Yerkes field station, watching for the good and suboptimal care that monkey moms naturally provide their offspring. The work will translate into better understanding of maternal care in humans and could eventually help provide interventions for, say, helping foster children cope with early trauma.

“This is very difficult work for an undergraduate to do, with a very long learning curve,” Sanchez says. “It requires a significant amount of ethical thought and intense training, but it’s very rewarding for mature and motivated students.”—April Hunt

“Emory wants to be a global player and produce global leaders, having a global community on our campus is critical for our international scholars and American scholars alike,” Butt says. “We believe our American students benefit from having conversations on campus they haven’t been able to have anywhere else.”

**BRITISH IMPORTS**

**HIGH-ACHIEVING UK STUDENTS CHOOSE EMMORY THROUGH SUTTON TRUST**

While Emory offers many opportunities for undergraduate students to study abroad, it also is a destination for many international students seeking to study in America.

This year, three first-year students from the United Kingdom were accepted to Emory through the Sutton Trust program, which works with the US-UK Fulbright Commission to help high-achieving, lower-income students from the United Kingdom study abroad.

Olivier Niyibizi 21C and Rebecca Tinkler 21C are the first pair of Woodruff Scholars to come from the Sutton Trust program. A third Sutton Trust scholar arriving this year, Neil Tramsen 21C, received international financial aid to attend Emory, says Mark Butt, the associate dean of admission and international recruitment. Other Sutton Trust students at Emory include Woodruff Scholars Alida Haworth 18C, Kieren Helmn 19B, and Craig McHugh 20C, and international financial aid recipient Flora Allum 20C.

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**LIVE FROM THE LAB**

Thanks to the SURE program, Kaela Kuitchoua is getting hands-on research experience.
Non-Traditional Approach

**COURSE TITLE**
REL 100: Illness, Suffering, and Healing

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
Historically, a 100-level intro to religion course sticks with traditions. But what about a more organic approach derived from universal human experiences? “Making the distinction between Western and Eastern religions doesn’t work as well as we used to think it did. More profoundly, there is a sense that maybe the notions of discrete, coherent, bounded religion is not the only or best way to teach introduction to religion,” says Associate Professor of Religion and Jewish Studies Don Seeman. This course explores the human condition through the prism of religious life as it intersects with suffering and illness. Case studies include practices of healing, such as prayer, anointing, and religio-medical rituals; the AIDS and infectious disease pandemics; contemplative practices; and cases of genocide and political violence. The idea is to help students draw connections using a broad area of human experience—to which every religious tradition must respond.

**FACULTY CV**
The course is co-led by Seeman and Bobbi Patterson. Seeman holds joint appointments as an associate professor in Emory College Department of Religion and the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies. An anthropologist by training, his research interests include the anthropology of experience and phenomenology of religion, modern Jewish thought and mysticism, medical anthropology, and the ethnography of contemporary Israel. Patterson is professor of pedagogy in the American Religious Cultures concentration within the Laney Graduate Division of Religion (GDR). Trained in feminist theory intersecting with psychoanalytic theory and constructive theology, her current research and teaching focuses on comparative contemplative practices and pedagogies often related to questions of place and thriving/sustainability. GDR teaching assistants include Emmy Corey 13MDiv 24PhD, Cara Curtis 24PhD, and Rachel Fuller Wrenn 24PhD.

**TODAY’S LECTURE**
Wrenn leads a discussion-based class analyzing the religious expressions of suffering through four “lament” Psalms, including Psalms 13, 35, 86, and 88. In addition, students responded to examples of modern religious, and secular music that correlated in some way with the Psalms, including “Humble Me” by Norah Jones and “Devils and Dust” by Bruce Springsteen.

**QUOTES TO NOTE**
“These Psalms, these expressions of suffering, have been connecting with people for millennia. But they are from thousands of years ago, so we have to dig down under the text to get to the context.”
—Rachel Fuller Wrenn

**STUDENTS SAY**
“I am an anthropology major interested in going into health care, and the cultural and religious experience of suffering often goes along with the physiological experience of suffering. In order to be a good physician or health care worker, you have to understand the experience of psychological suffering as well, not only the biological.”—Gordon Hong 18C

**RELIGIOUS INTERPRETATION**
Don Seeman (above, right) combines religious studies, anthropology, and theology to introduce students to new ways of considering the human condition.
Is Our Research at Risk?

HELPING ACADEMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS PREPARE FOR DISASTERS

With more than $27 billion in assets and investments at risk, the academic biomedical research community should improve its ability to mitigate and recover from the impacts of disasters, from such natural phenomena as recent hurricanes to cyberattacks.

Alex Isakov, executive director of Emory’s Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response, helped to author a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine showing that investments of the US federal government and other research sponsors are not uniformly secure and recommends ten steps that academic research institutions, researchers, and research sponsors should take to bolster the resilience of academic biomedical research.

For example, academic research institutions should implement mandatory disaster resilience education for research students, staff, and faculty. And the National Institutes of Health should convene a consortium of stakeholders to discuss efforts research sponsors can take to enhance the disaster resilience of the biomedical research enterprise.

The report was authored by a committee that includes representatives from research universities, medical centers, public health organizations, laboratories, and engineering and informatics organizations.

“Convening this group of national experts to carefully consider and report on these important security issues is a critical step in protecting our nation’s investment in biomedical research and our ability to continue our future work and safeguard our personnel and resources,” Isakov says.

SEEKING STRATEGIES

Emory expert contributes to report on curbing opioid addiction crisis

Reducing the growing number of deaths related to both prescription opioid overuse and illicit opioid use will take years of sustained and coordinated efforts by physicians, patients, federal and state agencies, and the public, according to a report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Anesthesiologist Anne Marie McKenzie-Brown, director of the Emory Pain Center, served on the committee charged by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to review science on pain research, medical care, and education and identify actions needed to address the opioid crisis. Drug overdose is now the leading cause of death from unintentional injury in the US, and most of those deaths involve an opioid.

Some of the strategies the committee recommended include enhancing education for both health professionals and the general public to improve awareness of the risks and benefits of opioids, FDA review of the safety and effectiveness of all approved opioids, reducing the supply of prescription opioids in the community to help curtail access while determining other pain-reducing options for patients, and providing universal access to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder by states and federal agencies.

The report shows that more research is needed to better understand the neurobiological interaction between chronic pain and opioid use, and what has driven our society into the opioid epidemic of today.

“We need better tools for identifying those at risk for development of and effective, affordable treatment options for those with opioid use disorder,” says McKenzie-Brown.
State of Mind

New book explores the notion that racism is a mental illness

Sander Gilman, Distinguished Professor of the Liberal Arts and Sciences and professor of psychiatry, is an intrepid cultural historian with more than seventy volumes to his credit—including Seeing the Insane and Jewish Self-Hatred.

His tenure at Emory began thirteen years ago with the publication of Fat Boys: A Slim Book, and he has since authored or edited more than twenty books and been honored as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Last year, Gilman teamed with James Thomas, a sociologist at the University of Mississippi, to write Are Racists Crazy? How Prejudice, Racism, and Antisemitism Became Markers of Insanity—part of a provocative new series by New York University Press.

During a drive to a conference at the University of Mississippi, Gilman and Thomas discovered that they “shared a deep interest in the difficulty and complexity of thinking about race and psychopathology as a cultural problem, indeed as a litmus test for our complicated understanding of race, racism, and mental illness,” Gilman says.

In the book, the two men describe a 2012 experiment at Oxford University—a randomized, double-blind experiment in which researchers administered a beta-blocker to one group while the other received a placebo. Both then completed the implicit association test, whose score “refers to how fast a person matches certain words or images to evaluative concepts (e.g., white people/good, black people/bad).” Those taking the beta-blocker demonstrated lower levels of subconscious racial bias.

There has been a legal precedent for recognizing racism as a delusional disorder.

The “pill-for-prejudice study” scored mass media attention. Alarmingly, the subsequent conversation revolved around how, and when, a medical “cure” for racism would be available. Ignored, say Gilman and Thomas, was whether the study had appropriately conceptualized racism’s scope and scale.

Then, in a 2015 Dutch study, researchers claimed to have removed phobic responses—in this case, to spiders—through the same beta-blocker. But, as Gilman and Thomas ask, “Should the overall claim of the Oxford study now be understood as arguing that racism is really merely a phobic response to an imagined terror that can be cured through the application of a drug and re-exposure to its cause?” In other words, is all we are lacking a public health model that could target antisocial behavior as it had targeted infectious diseases?

Gilman and Thomas also touch on the legal arena, pointing out that “for more than thirty years, there has been a legal precedent for recognizing racism as a delusional disorder, allowing perpetrators of racially targeted violence to evade justice for their actions.”

Beginning in mid-nineteenth-century Europe with antisemitism, Are Racists Crazy? jumps the pond to the US and proceeds to the present day, all in the service of understanding how racism became a mental illness. For Gilman and Thomas, racism “can manifest itself as a symptom of an individual’s disease process,” but ultimately it is a political phenomenon.—Susan Carini 04G
We’ve Got the Beat

Exhibition showcases US counterculture

Wander through the Schatten Gallery at the Woodruff Library any time between now and mid-May, and you’ll encounter an original Dreamachine, built around 1960 by writer and artist Brion Gysin. Made of a paper tube with cutouts of slits and designs, it spun on a record turntable with a light in the middle, which created a strobe-light effect. When a person sat close to it with their eyes closed, the play of light through the eyelids induced a dreamlike state.

The Beat Generation emerged at the forefront of US counterculture in the years following World War II. The Dream Machine: The Beat Generation & the Counterculture, 1940–1975, drawn from collections in the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, showcases the Beat spirit of exploration and experimentation in politics, art, and community building.

“The Rose Library has many important and exceedingly rare materials that are featured in this exhibition,” says Rose Library Director Rosemary Magee. “The Beat Generation moves us beyond a literary movement to a significant historical moment, one that still speaks to us.”

Materials include photographs, correspondence, first editions of seminal works, and early poem and prose drafts. Some of the materials are from the Rose Library’s Raymond Danowski Poetry Library, a significant collection of twentieth-century English-language poetry and literature. The Rose Library also holds several collections of Jack Kerouac materials.

The exhibition was cocurated by English PhD candidates Aaron Goldsman 17PhD and Sarah Harsh 21PhD, who is also a Woodruff Fellow. Poet Kevin Young, former Rose Library curator of literary collections and of the Danowski Poetry Library, provided curatorial oversight; Young, an Emory University Distinguished Professor, is now director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York.

Though the Beat Generation is usually identified with three writers—Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and William S. Burroughs—many others had an impact on the movement, including poet Anne Waldman, who is featured in the exhibition and appeared at the opening.

“It was a diverse group of people in this movement, united despite their differences by a commitment to radical experimentation and resistance to the mainstream,” Goldsman says. “There were women writing, there were people of color writing. We really want to tell their stories as well.”

One of the show’s highlights is a sixty-year-old letter that is credited by Kerouac as the inspiration for his novel On the Road, recently acquired by the Rose Library. Written by Kerouac’s friend and fellow Beat icon Neal Cassady and long considered lost before it resurfaced in 2012, the “Joan Anderson letter” (named for a girlfriend of Cassady’s mentioned in it) was discovered in 2012 in the archived files of Golden Goose Press.

Living Poetry

GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNIZED FOR CONNECTING VERSE TO ‘EVERYDAY EXPERIENCES AND CONCERNS’

Sumita Chakraborty 18PhD, who is studying English in Laney Graduate School, is a recipient of the 2017 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship—one of the most prestigious awards offered to young US poets.

Chakraborty is one of five recipients of this year’s fellowship, which brings an award of $25,800. The Poetry Foundation and Poetry magazine select the winners, who must be between twenty-one and thirty-one years old.

Chakraborty’s work explores “how thinking about poetry as a mode of thought and feeling and looking at those modes that are connected to everyday experiences and concerns—arranging them differently, coming at them differently, and playing with them differently—can shed light and help us contend with contemporary realities,” she says.

Her work has appeared in Cultural Critique, the Los Angeles Review of Books, Gulf Coast, Boston Review, and POETRY, among others. She also is poetry editor of AGNI literary magazine and art editor of At Length.
Neeru Jayanthi and Spero Karas on Helping Kids Have a Ball

Neeru Jayanthi and Spero Karas are sports medicine physicians at Emory and national experts on youth sports, injuries, and training patterns. They recently discussed some of the challenges that serious young athletes can face—and offered advice on how to prevent unnecessary injury, stress, and burnout.

FIVE TIPS FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG ATHLETES

LOSE FOCUS. Jayanthi encourages parents to not push their children toward one sport too soon. “I’ve noticed a paradigm shift in youth sports—early specialization in younger and younger children,” says Jayanthi. “This poses a risk for kids not seen in previous generations—young, developing bodies are put under the stress of executing maneuvers and skills designed for adult bodies.”

ALL WORK, NO PLAY? Even for young athletes in low-impact sports, the grueling practice schedule can wear them down, cutting into their sleep and self-care time. In the long run, that can be counterproductive and even harmful for talented, ambitious kids. Figure skater Aspen Ono ’18C began training at the age of four and worked tirelessly at her sport until eighteen, when she stopped competitive training to concentrate on her college studies. Most mornings, Ono was at the rink by 5:00 a.m., warming up for a two-hour practice; she completed a full day of school and was back at the rink again for two more hours of training. “I was diagnosed with arthritis in my back by the time I was fifteen,” she says. “Years of jumping and smashing my spinal vertebrae together has left me with minimal padding between them. I now see physical therapists, massage therapists, physicians, and chiropractors routinely.”

KNOW THEIR LIMITS. Emory sports medicine physician Spero Karas sees young athletes pushing themselves beyond their limits every year—especially as students get ready to impress college and pro scouts in the “Combine,” a showcase of the area’s best young hopefuls. “Athletes who prepare for the Combine are really pushing themselves,” Karas says. “I see a lot of overuse, over-exertion type injuries—strained pecs, hamstrings, quads.” Injuries that affect the joints, like tearing the ACL or shoulder dislocation, are the most critical because they render the area highly unstable. “They require surgery, putting the athlete out of training for weeks at a time, as well as leaving the affected region nonfunctioning for the time it takes to heal,” he says. “Arthritis is yet another possible effect of long-term joint trauma.”

GET SOME COACHING. Sports medicine physicians can address the range of challenges that young athletes face and help stave off injuries and stress before they become serious problems. For instance, Jayanthi works with tennis players, sometimes conducting on-court evaluations with video analysis to help identify stroke mechanics that may need to change for players to return safely to play. “Taking care of young players includes injury prevention, performance training, nutrition, even mental health counseling,” he says.

EYE ON THE BALL. In general, Jayanthi says, young people should not be training more hours a week than their age, and shouldn’t specialize in a single sport before age twelve. “Young athletes who are already dedicated to one sport should be spending at least a month after the season to rest and recover, and at least three months off per year, total,” he says. “Sports are a great way to exercise, but not respecting the body and its limitations can lead to burnout and injury.”—Melissa Mickiewicz
Pest Control

*Fire ants could offer a new treatment for psoriasis*

Compounds derived from fire ant venom can reduce skin thickening and inflammation in a mouse model of psoriasis, Emory and Case Western Reserve scientists have shown. The results were published in *Scientific Reports.*

The findings could lead to new treatments for psoriasis, a common autoimmune skin disease. Topical steroids are now most frequently used for mild to moderate psoriasis, but they have side effects such as skin thinning and easy bruising.

Solenopsins are the main toxic components of fire ant venom. They chemically resemble ceramides, which are lipid-like molecules essential for maintaining the barrier function of the skin. Ceramides can be found in many skin care products.

Ceramides can act as a double-edged sword, says lead author Jack Arbiser, professor of dermatology at the School of Medicine. Under certain conditions they can be converted by cells into S1P (sphingosine-1-phosphate), an inflammatory molecule.

Arbiser and his colleagues devised two solenopsin analogs that look like ceramides, but can’t be degraded into S1P. They then tested them in a mouse model of psoriasis, applying the compounds in a 1 percent skin cream for twenty-eight days. The mice treated with solenopsin analogs displayed decreases in skin thickness compared with controls (about 30 percent). The treated mice also had fewer (around 50 percent less) immune cells infiltrating the skin.

When applied to immune cells in culture, the compounds decreased the cells’ production of the inflammatory signal IL-22 and increased production of anti-inflammatory IL-12.

“We believe that solenopsin analogs are contributing to full restoration of the barrier function in the skin,” Arbiser says. “Emollients can soothe the skin in psoriasis, but they are not sufficient for restoration of the barrier.”—Quinn Eastman

NEW AND IMPROVED

**CHANGES BLOOM ALONG CLIFTON ROAD**

Emory’s Clifton Streetscape—a project to improve access, safety, and aesthetics along Clifton Road—is now a wide, tree-lined corridor welcoming students, faculty, staff, patients, and other visitors to university and Emory Healthcare facilities. The extensive construction effort at the southern end of Clifton Road included the widening of the road and sidewalks, a bike lane, repaving, new landscaping, and improved visibility at intersections.

Also completed is the new Emory University Hospital Tower, a 450,000-square-foot, $400 million state-of-the-art hospital facility, across Clifton Road from the current hospital. The tower allows for an expansion of services and expert care, while creating an integrated and spacious environment for patients and their families.

The hospital addition comprises 232 patient beds, including forty critical care beds, adding 128 net new beds to its overall capacity.

“The opening of this tower is the first major expansion at Emory University Hospital in years,” says Robert Bachman, executive director for expansion/renovation at Emory University Hospital. “When we admit the patient, we admit the family, and we want this building to truly represent the importance of interdisciplinary, patient- and family-centered care.”
While pedestrians and drivers alike often pass over the bridges of Emory without really recognizing them, their presence is worth celebrating. Here’s a look at a handful, both historic and present.

Widening Georgia’s Science Network

After a decade of research collaboration, the Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute will now be known as the Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance (Georgia CTSA), reflecting a new statewide focus.

This alliance is expanding across the state through a five-year, $51 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Emory-led Georgia CTSA will focus on transforming the quality and value of clinical research and translating research results into better outcomes for patients.

The Georgia CTSA unites the strengths of its academic partners—Emory, Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Tech, and most recently, the University of Georgia (UGA).

“Continuing such an alliance and involving these leading state institutions is extremely important and in line with Georgia’s goals for the promotion of clinical and translational research, innovation, and development,” says Georgia Governor Nathan Deal. “Having an active Clinical and Translational Science Awardee in Georgia has brought our citizens cutting-edge cures and the latest in clinical and translational research.”

Georgia CTSA is one of sixty-four Clinical and Translational Science Awards at major academic medical centers across the country, funded by the NIH’s National Center for Advancing Translational Science, and the only one in Georgia. The award will fund cores focused on improving quality, efficiency, and collaboration of the research process; provide consultative support and new tools in bioinformatics and biostatistics; pilot funding for new research projects, training, and workforce development; while integrating special populations and focusing on participant interactions; and creating local centers tackling clinical trial inefficiencies.

“The Georgia CTSA creates a unique opportunity for synergy among historic partners in health care, education and cutting-edge research, and has emerged as an innovative and integrated environment where clinical and translational researchers can flourish,” says Robert Taylor, Georgia CTSA principal investigator for Emory.
**EMORY IN THE NEWS**

**WHAT’S IT LIKE TO BE A DOG?**
Emory neuroscientist Gregory Berns studies how dogs think and believes that there are a lot more similarities between dogs and humans than previously realized. His new book, *What It’s Like to Be a Dog*, sparked a nationwide conversation about man’s best friend in outlets including *Good Morning America*, the *New York Times*, and *Scientific American*.

**THE PERSUASIVE POWER OF FOX NEWS**
Channel-surfing voters who stumble across Fox News first in their cable news channel lineup are more likely to vote for a Republican presidential candidate, according to a study from Emory political scientist Gregory Martin. The study capitalized on a previously documented quirk of cable viewers—they’re more likely to watch stations with a lower channel number—to study the effect that watching cable news has on their votes. While many viewers of Fox News, CNN, or MSNBC may select that channel based on existing political ideology, *some viewers may select a channel simply because it’s the first news channel they hit* while clicking their remotes. In zip codes where Fox News had a low channel position, voters had a higher probability of voting Republican in presidential elections. The study was covered by the *Washington Post*, *Vanity Fair*, and *Vox*.

**CHEERING FOR OUR TEAM, BUT WHY?**
Erin Tarver, assistant professor of philosophy at Oxford College and the author of the new book *The I in Team*, wrote a piece for the *New York Times* about the motivations and moral contradictions behind football fandom. “The extraordinary reach of football into fans’ lives makes perfect sense when we see it for what it is: the most popular mechanism in contemporary America for cultivating a sense of self that is rooted in a community,” Tarver, a lifelong football fan, writes. “In a world of uncertainty, fragmentation, and isolation, *sports fandom offers us clear winners and losers*, connection to family and community—and at its best, the assurance that we are really No. 1.”
No Pain, Big Gains
MICRONEEDLES MAY MEAN MORE FLU VACCINATIONS—AND LESS FLU

In a phase I clinical trial, Emory researchers have demonstrated the effectiveness and safety of a microneedle patch that could change the way flu vaccines are administered to patients and increase the number of people who opt to get the vaccine.

The dime-size patches consist of an array of one hundred tapered microneedles thinner than a human hair at the tip, 350 microns in diameter at the base and 650 microns in length. “They are so small, they’re difficult to see,” says Nadine Rouphael, associate professor of medicine at Emory and principal investigator for the study.

The dissolvable microneedles are filled with the same amount of flu vaccine found in the regular flu shot. When pressed into the skin, the microneedles dissolve in a few minutes, releasing the vaccine and generating the desired antibody response.

The patch is mounted on an adhesive strip for ease of handling and application, and is removed and discarded after use. “You can do it yourself because it’s as easy as putting on a Band-Aid,” says Rouphael.

For children and adults who dread needle-and-syringe injections, the patch could be a convenient and pain-free alternative, she observes.

The clinical trial was conducted at the Hope Clinic of the Emory Vaccine Center, led by Mark Mulligan and supported by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering of the National Institutes of Health. It was a collaboration between Emory and a team of Georgia Tech researchers led by Mark Prausnitz, Regents professor and J. Erskine Love chair in chemical and biomolecular engineering, who invented the microneedle patch.

The Georgia Tech group worked with Emory researchers led by Richard Compans to fine-tune the patch’s efficacy in mouse models in anticipation of a phase I trial in humans.

For the trial, a flu shot or microneedle patch was administered to one hundred adult volunteers ages eighteen to forty-nine divided into four random groups. In one group, the patch was applied by a health care provider while participants in another group applied the patch to themselves under a nurse’s supervision. The third group received vaccinations via injection by a health care provider, and the fourth group was administered a placebo patch by a health care provider.

The researchers found that flu vaccinations delivered by the patch were safe and effective with no serious adverse effects. Local skin reactions to the patches were primarily faint redness and mild itching that lasted two to three days. Blood sample analysis revealed that the antibody response was similar in those who used the patch compared to those who received a needle-and-syringe injection, and their respective immune responses were still present after six months.

Members of the group who self-administered the patch experienced no problems in terms of safety, how to apply it or the amount of vaccine they received, indicating the patches had been applied correctly, according to Rouphael.

“It worked as well as if the nurse had applied it,” she says. “When we asked participants in this trial how they felt about it, 70 percent said they preferred the patch over the syringe.”

An examination of used patches showed that the needles had dissolved completely, meaning that patches could be discarded as regular waste, unlike the special handling required of used hypodermic needles.

Flu vaccine patches remain stable at room temperature and have a shelf life of more than a year, she notes. They are easily packaged for transportation and can even be delivered by mail. And since they can be self-administered, the use of patches could eliminate visits to a doctor or health clinic.

Perhaps most important, flu vaccines save lives, Rouphael emphasizes, “and without facing the anxiety and discomfort of
Researchers at Emory received $628 million from external funding agencies in fiscal year 2016-2017. This marks the eighth consecutive year that research funding has exceeded $500 million, and with an increase from $574.6 million in FY16, is the largest amount of research funding in Emory’s history.

Federal agencies awarded $384 million, or more than 61 percent of the total, led by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with $320 million in awards. NIH funding represented more than 83 percent of total federal dollars awarded to Emory.

“Research funding at Emory has continued on a strong upward trajectory over the past decade due to the hard work of our dedicated research faculty, trainees, and administrative staff, and the enthusiastic support for research from Emory’s leadership,” says David Stephens, vice president for research in Emory’s Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

“Despite continued funding challenges at the federal level, our research programs have continued to attract support because of demonstrated groundbreaking results and the promise of future discoveries with the potential to change the face of science and medicine.”

Researchers in the Woodruff Health Sciences Center (WHSC) received more than $584.8 million in FY17, or more than 93 percent of the university total, with $353.7 million in federal funding, including $307.7 million from the NIH. The WHSC includes the Schools of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing; Yerkes National Primate Research Center; Winship Cancer Institute; and Emory Healthcare.

The School of Medicine received $355.7 million, the Rollins School of Public Health received $131.7 million, Yerkes National Primate Research Center received $79 million, Emory College received $35.4 million, and Emory’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing received $15 million.

In the US, flu season typically begins in October and November and peaks between December and March, sometimes lasting as late as May.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the influenza virus kills between 3,300 and 49,000 people a year in the US. An exact number cannot be determined because flu-related deaths in adults are not compiled separately. Yet only about 42 percent of adults received a flu shot during the 2015–2016 flu season, the CDC reports.

Records are more precise for children under seventeen, 101 of whom died from influenza infections during 2015–2016, when 60 percent of all children received a flu shot, the CDC report stated.

Although complete information on pediatric mortality during last year’s flu season is not yet available, the CDC notes that in years past, between 80 percent and 85 percent of flu-related child deaths occurred in children who had not received a flu vaccine.

Rouphael and her research team hopes their next step is a phase II trial involving a greater number of participants representing a wider age range to include young children and elderly, two groups particularly at risk for contracting the influenza virus, Rouphael explains.

Given the amount of time required to conduct a clinical trial, it’s difficult to estimate when a microneedle flu-vaccine patch might become available to the public, she says, “but if everything goes well, it could be on the market five years from now per the manufacturer.”

In the meantime, Emory Associate Professor of Pediatrics Evan Anderson is heading the collaboration with Georgia Tech; Micron Biomedical, a startup founded by Prausnitz to license microneedle technology; the Gates Foundation; and the CDC to study the patch as a vehicle for delivering vaccines for measles, mumps, and polio by testing a placebo patch in young children.

“This has been a true team effort and a perfect example of a successful collaboration between Emory and Georgia Tech,” Rouphael says. “The credit goes to the dedicated participants in the study and the wonderful Hope Clinic staff, particularly the lead coordinators, Michele Paine and Regina Mosley.”

IT WORKED AS WELL AS IF THE NURSE HAD APPLIED IT... 70 PERCENT SAID THEY PREFERRED THE PATCH OVER THE SYRINGE.
With a major discovery in Malawi, Emory anthropologist Jessica Thompson has filled in millennia of missing human prehistory of hunter-gatherers in Africa.
Emory anthropologist Jessica Thompson was at a human origins conference years ago when she heard a presenter lament: “Of course there is no ancient DNA from Africa because of the poor preservation there.” That’s when it clicked in Thompson’s mind: She had visited a place in Africa—the highlands of northern Malawi—that had neither extremes of heat or wetness—two main environmental factors that degrade DNA.

She also knew that scant archaeological research had been done in the region, although a team had unearthed several ancient skeletons there decades ago.

“It’s a strange and fascinating landscape,” says Thompson, who made that 2005 visit as a tourist and was struck by the surreal beauty of the high mountain grassland.

It’s also remote and off the radar of most of the world. “We saw maybe three other tourists while we were there,” she recalls.

That trip laid the groundwork for discoveries of the oldest known DNA from Africa. In September, the journal Cell published an analysis of the new discoveries, shedding light in thousands of years of human prehistory of hunter-gatherers in Africa, led by Harvard geneticist David Reich.

Thompson is second author of the paper. She contributed and described the cultural context for nearly half of the fifteen new DNA finds, including the oldest samples. Her fieldwork in Malawi uncovered human remains that yielded DNA ranging in age from about 2,500 to 6,100 years old. And her work is ongoing at a site where a skeleton recovered in 1950 was just dated to 8,100 years old and also yielded DNA.

The other DNA in the Cell paper ranges in age from five hundred to three thousand years ago and comes from South Africa, Tanzania, and Kenya.

“Malawi is positioned in between where living hunter-gatherers survive,” Thompson says. “For the first time, we can see the distribution of ancient hunter-gatherer DNA across Africa, showing how these populations were connected in the past.”

Ancient hunter-gatherers don’t have a lot of living representatives in Africa today; they occur as remnants of people scattered across the continent. The remains of Malawi hunter-gatherers that Thompson is studying may represent a population that was once thriving but subsequently was pushed into marginal areas during the expansion of agriculturalists and pastoralists during the past three thousand years. Some of this population may have survived until much more recently.

“There are legends in Malawi of the original people who came there, passed down through oral histories,” Thompson says. “They are described as hunters and little people, short in stature. There is also a story of a last, epic battle, about two hundred years ago, when these people got eradicated.”

Thompson was a graduate student when she spent a summer working on a dig in the Serengeti. She and two companions decided to make a road trip before returning to the United States, including a stop in Malawi.

The landlocked country is located in southeast Africa, bordered by Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique. It is one of the least developed and smallest countries in Africa, about the size of the state of Tennessee, and runs north to south along the Rift Valley. An enormous body of water, Lake Malawi, makes up about one-third of the country.

“My traveling companions wanted to relax by the lake in the lowlands,” Thompson recalls. “I had read about the Malawi highlands and really wanted to see this unique ecosystem, so I convinced them to go there instead.”

Her companions complained of the cold—it’s windy and regularly freezes in the highlands of Malawi and summer temperatures peak at around 65 or 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Despite the cold, Thompson admired the rugged, isolated beauty of rocky outcrops and grasslands studded with orchids and fairy ferns where zebra and shaggy antelope grazed.

Thompson, who joined Emory as an assistant professor of anthropology in 2015, dug through the archaeological literature surrounding Malawi and started making exploratory trips there in 2009. She learned of two
I've really been into bones since I was little. I don't know why,” says Alexandra Davis 18C, an anthropology major. “Not fresh bodies, though. No soft tissues or blood. Just bones.”

In fact, Davis loves bones so much that she was willing to spend seven weeks in Malawi with Emory anthropologist Jessica Thompson and four other of her students this past summer, excavating bones and other artifacts at ancient hunter-gatherer sites, assisted by a team of locals.

Now Davis stands before a counter in Thompson’s lab, sorting through the thousands of bone fragments the team recovered—cleaning them, categorizing them—then placing them into clear, plastic Ziploc bags. The bags labeled “Metapodial” and “Phalanx” contain bones from the hands and feet of mammals.

“We think this one might be from a human,” Davis says, pointing to a phalanx set aside from the other bones, which are all likely from animals. “My friends who aren’t into anthropology would be like, ‘Oh, no! A human toe!’ But we were all really excited,” she adds, indicating her fellow students at work in the lab.

Anthropology PhD candidate Grace Veatch 20PhD is passionate about taphonomy—studying bones to learn how an animal died and its remains decayed. “Ultimately, I’m trying to understand the evolution of the human diet,” she says.

She opens a specimen drawer and pulls out two small, plastic boxes. One contains loose pieces of fur from a rat. The other holds a few

“It was impossible to accurately do radiocarbon dating on bone in 1950. The skeletons became, quite frankly, forgotten over time.”

The archaeological sediments suggest that Fingira was a place where the dead were buried, although the skeletal material has become scattered over time. Human bones are mixed with the bones of animals that they hunted and ate, as well as with stone tools and shell beads used for ornaments.

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The 1950 dig turned out to be led by the renowned archaeologist J. Desmond Clark, who Thompson calls her “academic grandmother.” Although Clark died before Thompson could meet him, he served as the mentor to her mentor, Curtis Marean.

On the slopes of Mount Hora—a striking 1,500-meter peak and a major landmark in the highlands—Clark uncovered two skeletons: A woman who had died at around age twenty-two and a nearby male, who had died in his forties. The skeletons had been taken out of the country, to the Livingstone Museum in Zambia, and were never dated.

“It was impossible to accurately do radiocarbon dating on bone in 1950,” Thompson explains. “The skeletons became, quite frankly, forgotten over time.”

Guided by the clues from the previous excavations, Thompson began heading digs in the Malawi highlands. A site at a landmark outcrop, known as Fingira Rock, is particularly isolated, requiring the team to hike up a mountainside to more than two thousand meters on the Nyika Plateau. “Working there you feel the wind, you feel the chill,” Thompson says. Poachers are a hazard in the area, along with the occasional black mamba—one of the world’s deadliest snakes. The Fingira site had not been excavated since 1966.

“We were appalled to discover that it had been heavily disturbed since then,” Thompson says. Her team uncovered two human leg bones from two different adult males, yielding DNA that was about 6,100 years old.

In the back of a cave, they found fragments of a child’s skull in a termite mound. A tiny leg bone next to it indicated that the remains were from a baby younger than age one. DNA analysis revealed that she had been a girl and radiocarbon dating showed that she had died about 2,500 years ago. The analysis also showed that the bones from the infant and the two men were from the same hunter-gatherer population—even though they were separated by thousands of years.

The archaeological sediments suggest that Fingira was a place where the dead were buried, although the skeletal material has become scattered over time. Human bones are mixed with the bones of animals that they hunted and ate, as well as with stone tools and shell beads used for ornaments.
fragments of the rat’s bones, including a couple of teeth. These are the dissected parts of a modern-day owl pellet, she explains—the indigestible bits from an owl’s meal that it regurgitated as a compacted mass. After the surfaces of the ancient Malawi animal bones are cleaned, Veatch will compare them to these modern samples.

Veatch will also check the animal bones for telltale signs of cut marks from the stone tools of the hunter-gatherers. Rock shards from the Malawi toolmakers are spread out on a nearby table where Alexa Rome 20C and Aditi Majoe 19C, both anthropology and human biology majors, pore over them with magnifying glasses. Many of the shards are barely bigger than a thumbnail—likely the flakes that shattered and fell as the hunter-gatherers shaped a tool from a stone core.

“Quartz is relatively easy to break, and you can get really sharp edges from it,” Majoe says. “It’s hard to examine, though, because it’s clear.” She eyes the edges of a luminescent flake to determine whether it is lithic—altered by human hands.

“The tools that Stone Age people used are a really important part to their story,” she says. “You can learn a lot about their behavior from the things that they made.”

“I’m the shell person,” says Suzanne Kunitz 10C, who is majoring in anthropology and

"Ultimately, I’m trying to understand the evolution of the human diet.”

FROM FIELD TO LAB Stone tool fragments from the hunter-gatherer sites await analysis in the lab (above); Jessica Thompson in Malawi (left) next to rock art paintings, likely made by hunter-gatherers.

FROM FIELD TO LAB Stone tool fragments from the hunter-gatherer sites await analysis in the lab (above); Jessica Thompson in Malawi (left) next to rock art paintings, likely made by hunter-gatherers.

drilling ancient skulls to recover DNA from them (see related story). Sirak was a visiting researcher at UCD and teamed up with Thompson and Morris to see if ancient DNA could be extracted from the female skeleton.

The petrous bone, which contains components of the inner ear, is the most promising site to drill for ancient DNA. The skeleton’s petrous bone had already broken away from the skull, so only this tiny, triangular-shaped piece of the skeleton was sent to Dublin.

“It was extremely fragile,” says Sirak, whose job was to drill into the petrous bone and get about two hundred millimeters of bone powder without shattering the specimen.

Sirak was successful. Her colleagues in Dublin processed the sample and then sent it to the genetics team at Harvard Medical School for DNA analysis—also successful. Meanwhile, radiocarbon dating revealed that the skeleton was 8,100 years old.

“It was like Christmas,” Sirak says, “knowing that we had DNA data on such an ancient specimen.”

The skeleton’s genetic analysis connected her to the same population of hunter-gatherers who died thousands of years later and were found seventy kilometers away at Fingira.

Another surprise revealed by the genetics of the Malawi hunter-gatherers: They did not contribute any detectable ancestry to the people living in Malawi today, descendants of the Iron Age agriculturalists and pastoralists who began sweeping across the African continent about three thousand years ago.

“In most parts of Africa, you see quite a bit of a mixture,” Thompson says. “When you take genetic samples from modern people who are living today, you find that they are a combination

"When you visit the site,” Thompson says, “you wonder, why were these people living up here where it’s not the most comfortable conditions you can imagine? What was bringing them here? Why were they burying their dead, over and over again, for many thousands of years, in the same place?”

Meanwhile, Thompson tracked down the skeletons that Clark had discovered at Mount Hora in 1950, learning that they had been moved from Zambia to the University of Cape Town in South Africa. She contacted the curator of the skeletons to ask about the possibility of sampling their DNA. Alan Morris, now professor emeritus of physical anthropology at the University of Cape Town, had had the same idea. A sample of the female skeleton was already slated to be sent to one of the top genetic labs in the world, at University College Dublin (UCD) in Ireland.

Enter Emory graduate student of anthropology Kendra Ann Sirak 18PhD, who developed a minimally invasive technique for drilling ancient skulls to recover DNA from them (see related story). Sirak was a visiting researcher at UCD and teamed up with Thompson and Morris to see if ancient DNA could be extracted from the female skeleton.

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“In most parts of Africa, you see quite a bit of a mixture,” Thompson says. “When you take genetic samples from modern people who are living today, you find that they are a combination
human biology and psychology. She opens a specimen drawer and brings out the shell of an African giant land snail, from the genus Achatina. The shell is a bit longer than her palm. Its brown-striped whorls decrease in size to form an elongated spear shape.

On a table nearby are Achatina shell beads recovered from Malawi—flat discs, about the size of aspirin tablets, with holes poked through their centers.

“Not much research has been done on ancient shell beads, but to me they’re really interesting,” Kunitz says. “I’d like to know whether all the hunter-gatherers wore the beads and why they wore them. Did they have a ritual purpose? Or were they just for decoration?”

The students stayed in tents in the Malawi highlands where it was too cold to even think about using the crude camp showers.

And then at this point,” Thompson says as she moves the cursor on her computer screen, “you see the introduction of pottery and iron technology. And right after that you see this fundamental change in the way that the site was used. People are no longer going there frequently. They’re no longer making these big bonfires. And they’re no longer interring their dead there.”

Ultimately, Thompson seeks to understand how and when the earliest members of our species—Stone Age Homo sapiens—interacted with one another and with their environments in Africa.

“One thing that’s really easy to forget, when we look at the way people live today, is that for most of our evolution we lived as hunter-gatherers,” she says. “So, if we want to understand our own origins as a species, we have to know what those lifeways looked like in the past.”
UNUSUAL SKULL SET
How a grad student invented the go-to technique for drilling skulls

A PhD candidate in anthropology in Emory’s Laney Graduate School, Kendra Ann Sirak 18PhD has developed a specialized technique for drilling into ancient skulls to remove DNA samples. Her skills are in demand; she’s flown to more than a dozen countries and drilled more than one thousand skulls.

Sirak was the last graduate student of the late George Armelagos, Goodrich C. White Professor of Anthropology and one of the founders of the field of paleopathology. Armelagos spent decades working with graduate students to study the bones of ancient Sudanese Nubians to learn about patterns of health, illness, and death in the past. The only piece missing in studies of this population was genetic analysis.

So in 2013, Armelagos sent Sirak to one of the best ancient DNA labs in the world, University College Dublin, with samples of the Nubian bones.

“I had no interest in genetics,” says Sirak, who was passionate about studying human bones and paleopathology. “But George believed DNA was going to become a critical part of anthropological research.”

Sirak was hooked when she saw how she could combine her interest in ancient bones with insights from DNA. She formed collaborations not just in Dublin but at Harvard Medical School’s Department of Genetics and elsewhere, working on unsolved mysteries surrounding deaths going back anywhere from decades to ancient times.

As genetic sequencing techniques keep improving, anthropology and DNA analysis are becoming increasingly complementary. In 2015, another breakthrough occurred when researchers realized that the petrous bone consistently yielded the most DNA from ancient skeletons.

But the way the petrous bone is wedged into the skull makes it difficult to access without shattering the cranium. Understandably, museum curators were reluctant to allow DNA researchers to tamper with fragile, ancient skulls.

So Sirak set about developing a technique to drill into a skull and reach the petrous bone in the noninvasive way possible, while also getting enough bone powder for DNA analysis. The journal Biotechniques recently published her method, which involves drilling through the cranial base, where the spinal cord enters the skull. The drill bits she uses are a mere 3.4 to 4.8 millimeters in diameter.

“It was human remains, part of an elbow joint. That was a big moment.”

“Hopefully it will become the gold standard for both anthropology stewardship and DNA analysis,” Sirak says.

She is now finishing up her dissertation, a bioethnography of the ancient Nubians. “Anthropological genetics is a huge and growing field,” Sirak says. “[Armelagos] was a good mentor. He introduced me to something that I didn’t know existed and let me run with it.”

“It was human remains, part of an elbow joint,” Veatch says. “That was a big moment.”

“It was cool to find a human bone,” Rome says. “I love looking at stone tool flakes, don’t get me wrong. But when you find human remains it feels a little more real. That was an actual person.”

Ultimately, the experience of sifting through the human past made Rome feel more connected to people in the present.

“We all got really close over the seven weeks we spent together in Malawi,” she says. “Our last night there, we went out to dinner at a vegetarian Indian place. The food was really good. We had finished all the hard work and we were talking and laughing, joking around. That was one of the best times of my life.”
David Kulp 20C felt somewhat anxious when he signed up for an introductory chemistry course at Emory last year.

Understandably so. His last taste of chemistry dated back to sophomore year of high school. On top of that, he spent a gap year away from the classroom.

Now he was putting his dream of a medical career on the line with a deep plunge into basic chemistry that, while not a true weed-out class, could still prove extremely abstract.

“I’m more of a big-picture guy,” he says.

Fortunately for him and his classmates, timing was good. They were the first students in Emory’s College of Arts and Sciences and Oxford College to experience a pilot program of the Department of Chemistry’s major overhaul of everything from introductory courses to capstone senior seminars. Called “Chemistry Unbound,” the program is one of the first from a major research university to completely rethink the way chemistry is taught.

“The idea is that you’re not just learning the facts, but also learning the chemistry behind how the world works,” says Doug Mulford, a senior chemistry lecturer and director of undergraduate studies for Emory’s chemistry department. “You’re also seeing how to construct a scientific claim and use evidence and reason to explain your argument. That level of critical thinking transcends chemistry.”

Four intradisciplinary courses take the place of yearlong studies of sub-areas such as organic and inorganic chemistry. The new program provides a more cohesive grounding for the many students who take foundational chemistry into other fields.

“It’s still science, just more understandable,” says Kulp, now comfortably in his sophomore year with medical school still in his sights.

Emory’s drive for academic excellence begins in the classroom, where the research enterprise meets innovative teaching and a comprehensive curriculum that emphasizes how to weigh evidence, encourages difficult questions, and brings students and professors together in the process of discovery. The college is prioritizing support for teaching excellence, creativity, and innovation that builds on existing strengths to make Emory a national leader in delivering a liberal arts and sciences education.

Take the class The Ferguson Movement: Power, Politics, and Protest. Mackenzie
Aime 18C, who is interested in public health and food science—a blend of biology, chemical engineering, and biochemistry—says the class “was one of the most transformative, personally and intellectually” she’s taken.

The course was convened by three instructors from different disciplines—Dorothy Brown, professor of law; Pamela Scully, professor of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies, and professor of African studies; and Donna Troka, an adjunct assistant professor in the Institute for the Liberal Arts. Together with a roster of nearly two dozen faculty from public health, business, law, medicine, and theology, they addressed the August 2014 police shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, within the larger discussion of race, politics, and power in the US.

The class taught Aime, an Idaho native, the importance of bringing race and social issues into other classes. “I started thinking about what social problems are not being talked about in hard science classes,” she says. “These things are often left out of the conversation.”

Likewise, students who sign up for the Shipwrecks, Pirates, and Palaces course taught by Sandra Blakely, associate professor of classics, discover connections they couldn’t have imagined among accounting, globalization, responses to risk, mobility, the relationship between warfare and profit, and information flows in the ancient Mediterranean.

Blakely recalls hearing a few years ago from one of her students after a job interview in which he described the coursework to the recruiters.

“They saw from his description that he could think across cultural boundaries when it came to issues of the creation of value, the way economies are embedded in larger cultural structures, and our own limitations of understanding when we are seeking to piece together how another group thinks,” Blakely said in an email. “Those skills were immediately relevant to the job for which he was interviewing (and yes, he got the job).”

Emory’s liberal arts framework allows students to experience different perspectives and methodologies, ultimately developing more nimble thinkers. Astrid Eckert, associate professor of history, likens the class Perspectives on the Past to speed dating—in the sense that students meet a different instructor for each session, presenting a history topic from their research.

One week could be ancient Rome (Judith Evans Grubbs, Betty Gage Holland Professor of Roman History);
another the Jim Crow era in the South (Hank Klibanoff, professor of practice in English and creative writing); and another on symbols in public life (Emory College Dean Michael A. Elliott).

Eckert, the self-described “custodian” of this departmental effort, says that, “We’re all drumming in the message that historians work with primary material. This is an evidence-based approach—it’s not coming out of thin air. Students know how to google before they get here, but we try to show them there are things you can do with a world-class research library.”

This emphasis on evidence in the curricula became de rigueur when the Emory community selected the theme of “The Nature of Evidence” for its Quality Enhancement Plan in 2014. From day one, first-year seminars give students a solid foundation in making informed decisions based on evidence as well as using campus resources such as the university’s Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library and the Michael C. Carlos Museum.

Anheuser-Busch recently hired one of Eckert’s students who combined a history major with a Goizueta business degree. The ability to write well, move forward on the basis of new evidence, and know how to tell stories was a good fit with the marketing department of a company that holds a 45.8 percent share of the beer market.

In the course What Does It Mean to be Human?, Kim Loudermilk, senior lecturer in the Institute for the Liberal Arts and director of the program in American Studies, shares the teaching duties with graduate students from the fields of psychology, immunology, and comparative literature. Students may not arrive at a definitive answer posed by the class, but in this case the interdisciplinary journey is the destination.

Loudermilk works with some of Emory’s most passionate young proponents of the liberal arts in the interdisciplinary studies (IDS) major. Along with the American studies major, the IDS major (ranked the No. 1 accredited integrative studies program in the US in 2017 by BestColleges.com) is the only major at Emory that allows students to structure their own program of study around a field of interest that they define for themselves. Faculty coadvisers provide up-close encouragement along the way and, in the process, have fostered a collaborative environment where IDS majors share ideas in research involving sustainability, water issues, and social implications of health care, just to name a few.

In spring 2015, the IDS department started the IDEAS (Interdisciplinary Exploration and Scholarship) Fellows program as a way to spread this interdisciplinarity more broadly across the university and address a concern that students needed to better understand the connections between their liberal arts and sciences courses.

A key moment for Loudermilk was hearing someone say that he didn’t really understand the value of liberal arts until after graduation. “It wasn’t until he had a job that he realized the issues and problems he was dealing with required more than what he learned in his major,” she says. “It required a lot of the stuff he had learned in his liberal arts classes.”

Eboni Jalea Freeman 18B joined the IDEAS Fellowship program after discovering a passion for the “combinatorial play” of other disciplines. She thoroughly enjoyed an economic-and-literature-based analysis of subliminal messaging in cosmetic marketing targeting women of color. Now, in addition to having a Google internship under her belt, she’s an enthusiastic ambassador of the liberal arts and sciences as an IDEAS Fellow.
Undergraduates from across disciplines and schools can apply—there were fifty applications for eight slots in spring 2017. They can enter the program as sophomores and remain throughout their college careers, with the veterans playing an important role mentoring the newbies. During their tenure, these twenty-four or so fellows meet weekly over lunch with IDS faculty advisers, hold special events like Professors at Kaldi’s Getting Coffee (in which professors and fellows talk over java) and plan activities for the broader student body.

For instance, IDEAS Fellows help out at Emory Telling Our Stories events. Sponsored by the Community Engaged Learning Program of the Center for Faculty Development and Excellence and usually organized around a prominent speaker (President Claire E. Sterk was featured in spring 2017), a mix of faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, staff, and administrators enjoy a meal together before gathering in smaller groups. Then fellows break out a story circle at each table.

At a fall 2017 event, Freeman led off with this question for her tablemates: Which two classes from different disciplines did they find an interesting connection between? She reports that they “discussed the beautiful balance of music, dance, and biology; the contention inherent between short-term economics and long-term environmental impact; and how tools of business ethics can be applied to global humanitarianism.”

“That Tuesday night provided a great example of how every Emory community member can learn from one another when they open their minds to new ideas and perspectives,” she says.

NEW MAJORS ADDRESS CHANGING TIMES
Roundtable talk. Courses that pull in faculty and students from across schools. Business students comajoring in the college. As both provost and now president, Sterk has championed the building of stronger connections and more organizational flexibility among the four schools offering undergraduate programs—Emory College, Oxford College, Goizueta Business School, and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. She’s now joined by Provost Dwight McBride to prioritize new teaching pedagogies and ways of learning.

In this atmosphere, new majors and approaches are being encouraged that reflect the changing times and interests of faculty and students. The newest major approved by the college, starting spring 2018, is public policy analysis, a joint program between the Department
of Political Science and the new kid on the block, the Institute for Quantitative Theory and Methods (QTM). Launched in 2014, QTM and its associated major have become a national model in helping students gain data analysis skills and apply them to any area of study across the sciences and humanities (see sidebar).

Nearly a third of Emory College students double major, with some pairings clearly complementary and others inviting more creative cross-talk. In fall 2017, the college created a joint degree for a popular double major, the growing area of Spanish and linguistics. There also is a new BS in applied math and statistics, a joint BA in Spanish and Portuguese, and three new programs in physics: physics for life sciences, biophysics, and engineering sciences, which replaces the previous major in applied physics. For a traditional engineering degree, students can still enroll in the dual-degree program with Georgia Tech.

**TAKING IT GLOBAL**

Emory College student Reilly Dugery ’19C kicks off the discussion of office culture by confessing her bafflement that supervisors don’t see email as the formal communication she does.

Nisaa Maragh ’19C notes that workers stand out in her office when they dress professionally, since casual is the order of the day.

Linguistics professor Susan Tamasi lets other students chime in before she explains office hierarchy and generational difference as cultural components in the work world.

She ends the day’s Intercultural Discourse class by telling her students to continue their ethnography as a way to hone the skills needed to navigate that world. Then Tamasi gets back to work in her Emory office, as Dugery does the same in a Dublin coffee shop and Maragh returns to her Toronto job.

This is the academic portion of Emory’s Global Internship Program, which places thirty undergraduates with companies worldwide and serves as a model of how Emory conducts online classes.

The program, which grew out of a hybrid structure of online and study abroad program development, stands apart from many online college offerings because it demonstrates how a liberal arts education can translate into the workplace. Student interns meet regularly online to apply what they’re learning with other members of the class in a real-time environment.

"One of the biggest questions in the liberal arts focuses on what it means to be part of a culture."

The exchange among students and instructors can be just as rigorous as in the classroom: instructors interact during discussions and can privately message students.

“One of the biggest questions in the liberal arts focuses on what it means to be part of a culture,” says Tamasi, professor of pedagogy and chair of linguistics. “This online component is how I can connect their experiences in their new cities and in their offices to the theoretical framework of exploring a different culture.”

“The online forum allows me to continue to share my opinion as frequently as I want, yet I hear more perspectives than usual,” Maragh says. “The level of discourse is elevated by the experiences each student shares.”

“Big data” has graduated from a buzzword to an expanding field of expertise, and job recruiters across industries are looking for data-driven people with critical thinking skills to staff up their departments.

Emory’s Institute for Quantitative Theory and Methods (QTM) is partnering throughout the college and university to help meet this demand. The mission is simple: To embed cutting-edge data science skills into an elite liberal arts education. The institute’s curriculum is accessible to students with a wide variety of academic interests and mathematical backgrounds.

The institute supports the Quantitative Sciences (QSS) major with sixteen tracks, a joint major in Applied Math and Statistics, a new joint major in Public Policy Analysis, and a pending QSS secondary major for business schools students. QTM’s partnerships allow the 150 enrolled students to specialize in areas such as English, psychology, sociology, economics, biology, women’s gender and sexuality studies, and Latin American and Caribbean studies.

“The obvious partnerships, like economics, political science, and biology, are going to be immensely valuable," says Clifford Carrubba, director of the Institute for Quantitative Theory and Methods in Emory College and chair of the political science department. “But I think the humanities partnerships will lead to some of the most creative opportunities.”
Any Way You Slice It
Chef Linton Hopkins (left), with Resurgens culinary director Damon Wise, breaks down a side of beef for the evening service at his reimagining of the great American steakhouse, C. Ellet’s.

Home, Cooki
C. Ellet’s—the newest establishment of Atlanta restaurateur and chef Linton Hopkins 92C—is packed with guests eager for a taste of the menu and the atmosphere.

Situated on a prime corner in the Battery at SunTrust Park, the new home of the Atlanta Braves, the restaurant is a short stroll to the ballfield gates. A walk-up oyster bar and patio offers passing patrons an opportunity for an elevated pre-game bite of raw, fried, or roasted oysters and draughts that soar far above your typical red hot and brew in a plastic cup.

Around the corner, the main entrance gives way to two dining spaces; a curvaceous, modern Club Room with floor to ceiling windows, scenic murals, and a sweeping bar, and a lush dining room with richly padded leather booths, sleek tables, and opulent accents of wood, marble, and brass.

Attentive servers circulate deftly through the crowd, offering briny fried oysters with remoulade and crisp hush puppies with spicy sorghum butter. Astute sommeliers stationed at linen-draped tables provide tastings from the restaurant’s vast wine list, representing a global array of vintages.

A line of enthusiastic invitees snakes from the dining room through the upholstered leather doors to the sparkling kitchen. They file past a platter offering morsels from a mountainous, buttery Karst cheese—a cave-aged hybrid of cheddar and Gruyere—presented with sweet slivers of melon and hand-carved wisps of savory acorn-fed ham.

Inside the bustling kitchen, just an arm’s length from the evening’s guests, cooks perfectly sear cuts of meltingly tender beef, accompanied by gently prepared seasonal vegetables, and a decadent take on macaroni and cheese.

With the practiced ease of the most gracious Southern hosts, proprietors Linton and Gina Hopkins glide through the space, stopping along the way to give full devotion to the perpetual, brief, intimate conversations initiated by guest after guest seeking to capture a moment’s attention.

This is genuine warmth and hospitality, honed to an art by years spent crafting not only a growing roster of acclaimed and beloved restaurants, but a philosophy that values personal connection and service above the bureaucracy of business.

Hopkins formed an attachment to the idea of service early, watching his father, longtime Emory neurologist and professor emeritus Linton C. Hopkins III, attending to others through four decades of medical teaching and practice, and his mother, Priscilla Hopkins, who shepherded the family and cultivated her son’s love of family and food.

However, as a young man, Hopkins had no idea he would build his life around food.

An anthropology and premed major at Emory at the juncture of the 1980s and 1990s, Hopkins had planned to follow his father into medicine, the only career path he saw open to him.

“All the careers I saw ahead of me were in medicine or law or finance or real estate. That’s what everyone’s parents were doing and what I saw in my father,” Hopkins says. “My father loves medicine; it was not just a job, it was so much more to him, and I wanted that.
I loved the challenge of medicine and premed classes, but it just wasn’t who I was."

From his young teens, the younger Hopkins had worked in the food industry—dishwasher then register worker at a small catering and takeout company, delivering pizzas for Domino’s, working at the Mellow Mushroom in Little Five Points as a college freshman, and later in the commissary at the Masquerade nightclub—and he loved being a part of feeding people.

It was from another of his great passions—books and bookstores—that Hopkins was inspired to pursue a livelihood rooted in his love of food and nourishing others.

"I was walking through a bookstore, and I saw a book called *Guide to Culinary Schools*. And it was one of those ‘A-ha’ moments people talk about. I picked it up, and it talked about the history of cuisine and being a chef in the business and the honor of that and the pathway. It totally sold me. Within a day of reading it, I told my parents I wasn’t going to medical school. I’d just finished up at Emory that summer of 1992, and within three weeks I’d submitted my application to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA),” he says.

By the end of the summer, Hopkins was on his way to Hyde Park, New York, enrolled as a student in the CIA, the nation’s top-ranked culinary school.

Watching his son blossom in his chosen career has been rewarding for Hopkins III.

“Hospitality is a concept most people don’t really view as important in medicine as it is in a restaurant, but fundamentally medicine is a hospitality-type profession. Our job is to make people comfortable and to serve them and to make them happier. We are united by that,” the elder Hopkins says. “I’m really proud of the way he approaches his profession, seeing the depths of it and how nutrition and fresh food to him is as important as working through medical things is to me.”

Coupled with his early education at the Westminster Schools and his undergraduate training at Emory, Hopkins says the CIA prepared him not only as a chef, but how to run a business based on the values he holds dear. Those values—integrity, dedication, learning, achievement, and diversity—form the foundational philosophy for Resurgens Hospitality Group, the management company for Hopkins’s restaurants.

“In your early twenties, you are figuring out who you are. It is even more clear to me—as our business has grown and we’ve seen all of the young people coming through it—that I want to help people figure out who they are,” he says. “We’ve had such great people come through our kitchens and go on from here. I’ve seen the role of stewardship, of training, develop. It is giving the opportunity to people with real talent to embrace the amazing business you are a part of.”

Hopkins’s own entrée to the professional kitchen started in one of the nation’s most iconic food cities, New Orleans, with an externship at the famed Brennan’s Restaurant,

*[My intent was to make places that are so much a part of Atlanta, Atlanta can’t imagine them not being there.]*
followed by a position at the Windsor Court Hotel.

In 1998, Hopkins moved to Washington, D.C., to help his friend Chef Jeff Tunks open his dream restaurant, D.C. Coast, as his sous chef. It was there that Hopkins met Gina, who was working as a server at the restaurant.

The couple fell in love, married, and had their children, Linton Jr. and Avery, while living in Alexandria. When they decided it was time to open their own restaurant, location was never a question.

“That always meant Atlanta for me,” Hopkins says. “I always referred to Atlanta as home.”

The couple moved their family to Atlanta in 2002 and spent the next months scouting for the perfect location and pouring their whole hearts and full resources into opening Restaurant Eugene, carefully crafting the menu, mood, and philosophy.

“I’m from Atlanta, but I had no name in the food and restaurant community. I had to come in and establish my identity as a restaurateur. It takes a while,” says Hopkins, who made himself and his intentions known by introducing himself to four chefs who represented, for him, the nobility of the Atlanta restaurant scene—Günter Seeger, Anne Quatrano, Kevin Rathbun, and Gerry Klaskala.

“They were all so gracious and nice, and especially Gunter Seeger, who opened a whole world of local farms for me,” says Hopkins, who has since become a champion of farm-to-table dining and local sourcing of ingredients. “I didn’t know what to buy or where to buy it. I didn’t know the local food scene, and they helped me with that.”

He says Quatrano—“one of the most tremendous talents our industry has ever had and just a magnificent person: funny, kind, generous”—has been a guiding influence. Hopkins also credits a friendship with the late Anne Brewer, founder of the Morningside Farmer’s Market, for introducing him to local farmers and food artisans and helping him build relationships, and menus, around their products.

“To build a successful restaurant and identity as a chef depends on what relationships you have with people,” he says. “We’ve got people from all over the city who have really created and knitted together a beautiful food community, and we are a better city for it. I love being surrounded by that.”

When Restaurant Eugene opened in 2004, the first few months moved slowly in terms of building a customer base.

“The first people eating at Eugene were real Atlantans, family and friends; one of our first patrons was my high school English teacher,” Hopkins laughs.

Eventually the word spread and the restaurant gained popularity, but less than a year in, just when reviews and revenues were looking up, a burst water pipe in the condos above the restaurant flooded the building, wreaking hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage and threatening the early blooms of success. With determination and effort, they rebuilt, and Restaurant Eugene climbed to the top of the Atlanta food scene, becoming a destination for local and visiting gastronomes alike.

Working in the restaurant business is challenging, especially for a couple with a family, but Gina Hopkins says it has always been the couple’s normal.

“Linton and I met each other at work and we’ve always worked together, so it has been a part of our life and relationship,” she says. “Because we’ve gone through everything together, you can draw on those past experiences. It is great to have someone you can trust completely and who you can soundboard with because you have shared experiences and you can relate to each other.”

Hopkins says those “little and big hardships” served as lessons that ultimately benefitted the couple’s businesses, which have grown to include Holeman and Finch Public House, H&F Burger at SunTrust Park and in Ponce City Market (PCM), Hop’s Chicken at PCM, and now C. Ellet’s. The group also generated affiliated businesses including Eugene Kitchen and H&F Bottle Shop, begun to provide the highest quality products for its restaurants, which have taken on lives of their own.

A common thread among Hopkins’s businesses is how the names connect to his family and his hometown. Restaurant Eugene was named for his mother’s father, Eugene Holeman, and Holeman and

What All the Fuss Is About
The famous “H&F burger” began as a special at Holeman and Finch, available only at 10:00 p.m. each evening, with only twenty-four prepared each night, packing the restaurant nightly with hamburger hopefuls. On the restaurant’s website, it’s described as

“A griddled double cheeseburger, topped with red onion and house-made pickles, served on a freshly baked pan de mie bun (butter-toasted on the griddle) with from-scratch ketchup, and mustard on the side.” We’ll pause here so you can go get a napkin.
At C. Ellet’s, the silhouette of a ram makes appearances in the decor. For Hopkins, the ram symbolizes his ancestor Charles Ellet, a Union Civil War hero.

Finch for his grandfather and his former partner’s grandfather. Charles Ellet Jr. (1810-1862), for whom C. Ellet’s is named, was Hopkins’s great-grandmother’s grandfather, a US Army colonel and civil engineer credited with designing a fleet of steel-bowed Union Army ram-boats, known as the “Ellet Rams,” that sank the Confederate fleet at the Battle of Memphis.

Hopkins welcomes the opportunity to blend his family history and Emory education with his culinary experience.

“The totems and magic and ritual of food is pure anthropology, and that is how I approach cuisine, as an anthropologist, and an archaeologist as well,” he says. “For me, food is everything. It defines us and who we are. Anthropology and education are a part of why Southern food is something I am passionate about. This is living anthropology and living study.”

Mel Konner, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Emory, has been both a colleague of Hopkins III and a teacher to Chef Hopkins when he was an Emory student. He sees parallels between the neurologist and his son in the respect and precision with which they approach their professions.

“Dr. Hopkins is an Emory institution and Chef Linton is now an Atlanta institution. Each has accomplished a great deal in very different areas of life, but art and science and craft are involved in both of these professions, as is caring about people,” Konner says.

The constant hunger for knowledge—and the desire to share it with others—are the traits Gina Hopkins admires most in her husband.

“Linton is driven by knowledge. If the average person goes ten steps, Linton goes a hundred. He wants to learn everything he can about every ingredient we source for the businesses,” she says. “Whether it is sorghum or soft shell crabs or beets or radishes, he gets as deep into the history as possible. And when he is gathering all that information, he’s putting it into his Rolodex of what he wants to share with our teams and teach the people who work with us. That is what impresses me the most, him wanting to share that with others.”

Although he is part of the wave of chefs who have redefined Southern food and Southern cooking, Hopkins resists the title of Southern chef.

“There is so much about the idea of American food that is still in discovery,” he says. “Cultural phenomena are not museum pieces, they are still alive and dynamic as long as the South’s history and culture are constantly changing. Southern food is now an immigrant story, a story of Central America and Vietnam and so many other places. In Atlanta—with an international corridor that is so uniquely American Southern—it keeps that alive and it influences how I cook.”

As much as culture influences food in Atlanta, Hopkins wants his restaurants to become touchstones in the city.

“New Orleans taught me a lot about how important a restaurant community is to the cultural identity of a city,” he says. “What I am trying to do for Atlanta is establish how important food institutions are for who we are in Atlanta. Mary Mac’s or the Majestic or Chik-fil-A or the Varsity, I honor and respect those places and they hold me accountable to be better for our city. When I was forming Restaurant Eugene and Holeman and Finch, my intent was to make places that are so much a part of Atlanta that Atlanta can’t imagine them not being there.”
Artistic Process

Chris Salter 89C combines computer programming, lighting, and architecture to create awe-inspiring art installations that are part performance, part technology.
FLYING HIGH
AUTHOR OF POPULAR YA NOVELS WORKS ON FILM ADAPTATIONS

Unearthly shadows and haunted memories trail after Luce Price as she enters the gates of the Sword and Cross reform school in Savannah, and it isn’t long before she is inexorably drawn to a stranger who seems impossibly familiar.

This is where we meet the protagonist of the film Fallen, a story of cursed teen lovers based on the 2008 novel Fallen by internationally best-selling author Lauren Kate. The series captured the imagination of readers all over the globe, topping the New York Times bestseller list, and the film rights for the book were optioned the day it published. Released first in Asia and Europe, the film hit US theaters September 8 and was released on DVD October 10.

Fallen author Lauren Kate—full name Lauren Kate Velevis Morphew—graduated from Emory with majors in creative writing and French, and has gone on to write four follow-up novels to Fallen—Torment, Passion, Rapture, and Unforgiven—and a collection of short stories, Fallen in Love. The books came in at No. 67 on NPR.com’s list of 100 Best-Ever Teen Novels in 2012.

Still Moving Forward
JUSTICE LEAH WARD SEARS LOOKS BACK IN NEW BIOGRAPHY

Leah Ward Sears 80L is the subject of a new biography by Rebecca Shriver Davis, Justice Leah Ward Sears: Seizing Serendipity. The first woman and youngest justice to sit on the Supreme Court of Georgia, Sears later became the first African American woman to serve as chief justice of any state supreme court in the country.

The biography—the first on Sears—traces her childhood in a military family through her time at Emory Law, her early work as an attorney, her rise through Georgia’s court systems, and her career path after leaving the supreme court in 2009. The title celebrates “how Sears made her own luck by demonstrating a sharpness of mind and sagacious insight, a capacity for grueling hard work, and a relentless drive to succeed.”

“Justice Leah Ward Sears is important not only because it tells Justice Sears’s remarkable personal story and discusses her many contributions to law and history, but also because it does all of that in the context of political, legal, and electoral events important to all of us,” writes Angela J. Davis, author of Arbitrary Justice: The Power of the American Prosecutor.

In a 2006 interview with Emory Magazine about her appointment as chief justice, Sears described the challenges of serving on Georgia’s supreme court as an African American woman—a touchstone of the new biography. Asked how she became so confident, she answered, “I’m not. I’m scared all the time. What I decided was, when I felt down or not confident, I would nonetheless move forward in spite of my fears. I would just not let it get the best of me. I would move forward anyway.”

Sears is now a litigation partner with Atlanta firm Smith, Gambrell, and Russell, and serves as an Emory trustee.

Davis is an associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology and founding director of the Office of Pre-Law Advising at Georgia Southern University.

Leah Ward Sears looks back in new biography

The wide popularity of the young adult novels has been a happy surprise for Kate, who initially planned to study political science at Emory, only discovering that her love of writing could become a career thanks to an Introduction to Fiction Writing class with Emory creative writing Professor Jim Grimsley.

“One day of the course I remember he held up a book he’d been working on, and it showed me how real it could be, to make a life writing,” Kate says.

During the planning and production of the Fallen movie, Kate worked with the screenwriter and director, visiting the set in Budapest, Hungary, and meeting the actors.

“I had finished the whole series by the time of the filming, so I had perspective on the mythology of it. It needed to be gotten right in the first movie so the rest of series could follow,” she says. “I went to the set, and it was a great experience watching it happen.”—Maria M. Lameiras
2017 Scholars

ALUMNI BOARD HONORS EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

For the past decade, Emory Alumni Board has awarded scholarships to Emory students making a positive impact on their community. This year, the four $10,000 award recipients are a diverse group that includes an undergraduate who has been involved in almost every aspect of Emory life since he stepped foot on campus his first year and a graduate student working to implement race-based curricula and committed to inclusion and diversity work alongside her own studies. Another is back for her second Emory graduate degree and spent the years in between programs as a highly committed alumna in Beijing and Shanghai. The fourth recipient works to forward the goal of ensuring health care is a right for the most vulnerable populations.

ELIZABETH ODUNAIYA 18 MPH
New York native Elizabeth Odunaiya will graduate this spring from the Rollins School of Public Health with a master’s degree in public health in behavioral science and health education and a certificate in human rights. During her time here, Odunaiya has been active in student government, furthering student diversity and inclusion efforts, and working to develop race-based curricula at Emory.

MAY PANG 18L
Chinese native May Pang 09MBA is back for her second Emory graduate degree. A Goizueta alumna who expects to complete her law degree this spring, Pang spent the years in between her 2009 graduation and her return to Atlanta as an active alumna. She served in various leadership capacities in the Shanghai chapter, then was instrumental in launching and leading the Emory alumni chapter in Beijing.

JEFFREY YOU 18B
From his very first days on campus, New England native Jeffrey You has immersed himself in Emory life. He’s served in leadership roles in his fraternity, executive roles with the Student Alumni Board (most recently as current copresident), played violin with the symphony orchestra, and most recently was an orientation leader for the incoming first-year class.

REGINA ZUNIGA DE LA CERDA 18MPH
A practicing physician in her native Guatemala, Regina Zuniga de la Cerda focused her skills on the reproductive and maternal health of indigenous women in rural settings. This led to an interest in public health, focusing on the right to health care in vulnerable populations. At Emory, she has been engaged in a study of African American women in the postpartum period, studying health care from the woman’s perspective.

Bring Emory Everywhere

INCOMING PRESIDENT SEeks to engage fellow grads

As the Emory Alumni Board (EAB) begins the new year, we are pleased to introduce our newest board members. Please see below for information about each of them. They are enthusiastic and engaged alumni, and along with their peers on the board, well-equipped for the year ahead.

Under the leadership of incoming EAB President Ashley Grice 97MPH 03MBA, the board will focus attention this year on raising Emory’s profile in the community, through engagement, service, and storytelling.

“This year, we have established a goal of raising Emory’s profile in the community, not just here in Atlanta, but in the thousands of global communities that are your own hometowns. To quote the oft-repeated phrase, ‘Emory is everywhere you are,’” Grice says. “Every day, you each have the opportunity to represent Emory through participation in chapter events, community volunteerism, current and future student outreach, and peer-to-peer collaboration.”

New board members include: Chris Arrendale 99Ox 01C, Moses Kim 01C, Megan McCamey 01T, Martha Pacini 82C 82G, Jane Preiser 81C, Mark Shurett 73Ox 75C 80D, and Joshua Teplitzky 82C 86B 86L.
Joshua Sigel 02BBA of San Francisco is the chief operating officer at Innit, an “eating technology” company behind the world’s first platform for the connected kitchen. Sigel is responsible for all day-to-day operations at Innit including engineering, culinary tech, product and platform strategy, design, marketing, sales, and business development. Sigel has worked with Natural Markets Food Group as CIO, with United Natural Foods as a vice president of technology, and in a succession of roles with increasing responsibilities at Millbrook Distribution Services. When not working, Sigel is reading up on biohacking and is frequently invited to speak about the future of food, technology, and retail.

Laurence Belkoff 78C has excelled on a national level, successfully embodying missions of patient and community care, advocacy, teaching, innovation, and research in Philadelphia. Belkoff was awarded the 2017 Extraordinary Doctor Lifetime Achievement Award by the Philadelphia Business Journal, honoring his leadership as the managing partner of Urologic Consultants of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Belkoff is chairman of the Department of Specialty Surgeries and the Division of Urology at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and clinical professor at Drexel University College of Medicine.

Flavia Mercado 84C 88M 89MR 14MPH, assistant professor of pediatrics at Emory School of Medicine, is medical director of Portal de Salud, a nonprofit health ministry in Lilburn, Georgia, serving members of the Hispanic/Latino community. Through a network of health care resources, Portal de Salud connects clients to health services, health education, and health screenings and holds a free annual health fair serving thousands. Mercado also is director of the Department of Multicultural Affairs at Grady Health Systems and was named one of “Atlanta’s Top Latino Physicians” by MundoHispanico.

Andrew Cooper 12L is a senior staff manager and attorney at United Parcel Service (UPS) in Atlanta where he manages intellectual property and procurement matters, provides legal counsel, engages in strategic counseling and tactical negotiation, and manages vendor and customer transactions. Previously he was an intellectual property attorney with Shook, Hardy, & Bacon in Kansas City, Missouri. Cooper served as a 2015 Epps Scholarship Fund Evaluator for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, an instructor for Street Law, and a fundraiser for the United Way of Greater Atlanta. He was accepted into the American Law Society in June.

Tony DelCampo 88Ox 91C has forged an illustrious career on both sides of the judicial bench. As a state court judge for nearly a decade, he presided over many complicated and high-profile civil cases before leaving the judgeship in 2011 to found Atlanta firm Delcampo & Grayson. He is a member of the Georgia Bar’s Board of Governors, is the past president and current board member of the Georgia Hispanic Bar Association and past regional president for the Hispanic National Bar Association. He has been named as a Georgia Super Lawyer every year since leaving the bench and has been selected for Leadership Georgia and Georgia Trend’s “40 Under 40” list.

Marilyn Margolis 89MN chairs the Chamber of Commerce in Johns Creek, Georgia, where she is chief executive officer of Emory Johns Creek Hospital. Margolis has worked for Emory Healthcare for more than 35 years, beginning her career in the intensive care and critical care units at Emory University Hospital (E Uh) and later as director of the emergency department and then director of E Uh nursing operations. She was named chief nursing officer at Emory Johns Creek Hospital in 2011 and CEO in 2015. “When nurses move into leadership, they broaden their ability to influence what happens at the bedside,” she says.
Experiential Art

ARTIST CHRIS SALTER
BLEND ENVIRONMENT AND
SENSATION TO CREATE
INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCES

On a summer night in Montreal in the Museum of Contemporary Art, the past and the future are caught in a web of sound and vision: steel cables suspended in the central rotunda and strung with LEDs, flashing to a humming soundtrack being written anew as it plays, driven by an algorithm and sensors throughout the room, a new order constantly in the making. I circle the room for a new perspective, staring up, transfixed: Machine learning can be beautiful.

Tonight is the opening of *In Search of Expo 67*—a multi-artist homage to Canada’s coming-out party half a century ago. Here at ground zero is *N-Polytope: Behaviors in Light and Sound*, a project created by Chris Salter 89C and inspired by composer Iannis Xenakis’s installation in the original expo.

But Salter has technology at his disposal that Xenakis could only dream of. Which means, like scientists and philosophers grappling with our new creations, he wants his art to answer questions we’ve never quite had to face in the same way. Salter has a propensity to rattle off the ideas of economists and art historians and philosophers whose ideas are shaping his current work, and when he is in the throes of a project, orchestrating architecture and lighting and programming, he’s positively manic. But tonight in Montreal he is in his element. He is also home—he teaches at Concordia University—though only for a few days: just in from Vienna, where another installation, *Haptic Field*, was part of the Wiener Festwochen. The day after the Montreal opening, he boards a plane for Berlin, where *Haptic Field* is about to open at the Martin Gropius Bau, one of the city’s premier exhibition spaces. Berlin is also home for Salter and his wife, translator Anke Burger; they split their time between Germany and Canada.

Once upon a time, Salter wanted to be a lawyer. He arrived at Emory to study economics and philosophy. That he did. But he also discovered theater: the student improv group, directing his own productions, and performing under the guidance of the professional leadership of Theater Emory, which set him on a trajectory exploring performance and technology, a doctorate in theater at Stanford, and onward. (Another little-known fact Salter shares: “Emory was so much more radical than Stanford.”) Not coincidentally, some of the stuff he first waded into in Existentialism and Phenomenology with Professor Tom Flynn at Emory animates the art he makes to this day. “I tell my really good students how lucky we were,” he says. And, like any good artist-educator, he hopes they might feel the same way some day.

The word *haptic* denotes relating to the sense of touch. And *Haptic Field* is participatory and immersive: Visitors don clothing and goggles that plunge them into an experience that blurs senses of touch, vision, and hearing. You are aware of others in the room, but in a dreamlike fog. “You can see, but you can’t really see,” Salter says. Fundamentally, the encounters become about touch. “I wanted to know: Can we share touch?” Salter says. “It’s a complicated phenomenological question.” This convergence of art and science tries to answer that.

While Salter calls two cities home, every other week there’s a good chance he’s headed off to work on another project: in China or Australia or India or France or Japan. But as *Haptic Field* takes form in Berlin, his perspective is tempered by the wisdom of fifty years. “In the past I would have had a nervous breakdown,” he says. “Now my assistant does that.”—Steven Boyd Saum 89C 89G

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As executive director of the Human Rights Data Analysis Group, Megan Price 09PhD oversees the development and use of statistical data to shine light on human rights abuses, connecting her passion for social justice with her love of biostatistics. Those analyses include a series of reports over five years for the United Nations and Amnesty International, part of an effort to fully understand the extent of mortalities in the Syrian conflict. Other projects include creating a mathematical model to identify probable locations of hidden graves in Mexico and a review of “predictive policing” algorithms in the US.

Joya Abrams 14T was appointed associate pastor Decatur First United Methodist Church in June. Abrams, a second-career clergywoman, previously worked as an industrial engineer before answering her call to ministry in 2010. Her previous appointments include pastor in charge at Tenth Street Underwood Memorial UMC and associate pastor at Impact Church. This summer, Abrams and Decatur First pastor Dalton Rushing 08T hosted the North Georgia Conference Candler Club, Candler School of Theology’s United Methodist alumni gathering.

Dalton Rushing 08T was appointed to serve as pastor at Decatur First United Methodist Church in June. Rushing, who also serves as senior pastor of the Missional Partnership between Decatur First and North Decatur United Methodist Church, is ordained as an elder in the North Georgia Conference. He serves as a member of the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District Committee on Ordained Ministry, an ordination candidacy mentor, an associate secretary of the annual conference, and a teaching supervisor for the Contextual Education program at Candler.

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FINDING FORGIVENESS: When she was an eighteen-year-old first-year student at Emory, Stephanie Marban Cassatly 83B faced a tragedy that would change the course of her life when her mother, Jeanne Marban, was shot and killed in a convenience store robbery in New Orleans. The murder changed every preconceived notion Cassatly had about the world and what it meant to feel safe. Twenty years later, she found her mother’s killer and forgave him, just before he died in the notorious Angola State Penitentiary. With searing honesty, Cassatly comes to see that finding and forgiving her mother’s killer was ultimately a journey to find herself. Cassatly is an adjunct professor at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida.

UNEQUAL FOOTING: In Counter-History of the Present, Gabriel Rockhill 03G 06PhD contests, dismantles, and displaces one of the most widespread understandings of the contemporary world: that we are all living in a democratized and globalized era intimately connected by a single, overarching economic and technological network. Noting how such a narrative fails to account for the experiences of the billions of people who lack economic security, digital access, and real political power, Rockhill interrogates the ways in which this grand narrative has emerged. Rockhill is associate professor of philosophy at Villanova University and the author of books including Jacques Rancière: History, Politics, Aesthetics and Interventions in Contemporary Thought: History, Politics, Aesthetics.

LIFE OF THE PARTY: Networking events, interviews, even dates can be filled with awkward and uncomfortable moments, but it doesn’t have to be that way. In her new book Captivate: The Science of Succeeding with People, author and human behavior researcher Vanessa Van Edwards 07C provides science-backed relief for anyone who’s ever felt awkward. Captivate teaches readers how to work a room, read faces, and talk to anyone, and is packed with tips and tricks for any situation and will completely change how people interact.

MEDICINAE IMAGINIBUS: Drawn from the collections of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the National Archives, the National Museum of Health and Medicine, the Smithsonian Institution Archives, and the Rudolph Matas Library of the Health Sciences at Tulane University, Images of America: US National Library of Medicine includes more than 170 black-and-white reproductions of a variety of historical images illustrating the history of the NLM. Coedited by Jeffrey Reznick 95G 99PhD, the book reveals the work of generations of visionary leaders and dedicated individuals who experienced the American Civil War, the world wars, the Cold War, and the dawn of the Information Age. A hardback version of the book will be available from booksellers, and an electronic version of the complete book is available online via collections.nlm.nih.gov.
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Trinh Huynh

Born in Saigon, Vietnam, into the crushing wake of violence and war, Trinh Huynh 04L was just a toddler when she and her family joined the hundreds of thousands who escaped their homeland by boat. In the US, where her family settled in Gainesville, she thrived—attending Princeton University and then Emory’s School of Law.

She was respected and well-liked in the Atlanta legal community. After beginning her career at top firms Powell Goldstein and Alston and Bird, she became an in-house attorney for UPS and was a board member for the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Huynh also mentored students on the Grady High School mock trial team and was a member of the advisory board of the Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network.

On April 3 of this year, Huynh, forty, was shot to death in a crosswalk in midtown Atlanta on her way to catch MARTA to the office. Police believe she was targeted by the attacker, a man with a history of mental illness and violence, although no motive was specified. He was arrested and indicted in Huynh’s murder.

In January, Huynh posted on her Facebook page that she was a “proud refugee.” “I am thankful for the opportunities this wonderful country has afforded me and my family,” Huynh wrote. “I would not be here if the state of Georgia and this country had closed their doors and hearts to my family. I think this great state and the US have more love to give.”

Raymond Tran 18L was recently awarded the first scholarship in honor of Huynh given by the Vietnamese American Bar Association.

Friends and colleagues left flowers at the midtown location where Huynh was slain.

Lynna Williams

Lynna Williams, an associate professor of English and creative writing who was instrumental in shaping Emory University’s acclaimed Creative Writing program, died July 29 after a brief struggle with cancer. She was sixty-six.

Williams arrived at Emory in 1990, the first year the Creative Writing program was offered, and went on to serve as the second director of the fledgling program. She is credited with encouraging the hires of several award-winning faculty, including Pulitzer Prize–winning poet and nineteenth US Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey, novelist Joseph Skibell, and playwright and novelist Jim Grimsley.

Williams is remembered as a gifted writer and for her honesty and humor, generous mentorship, and dedication to students and colleagues.

Williams began her career as a political reporter in Texas and a reporter and political speechwriter in Minnesota before she began writing fiction. Her first short story, “Last Shift at the Mine,” addressed unemployment on the Minnesota Iron Range and won a Loft-McKnight Award and a Loft Mentor Series Prize. She received a master’s degree in fine arts in fiction from George Mason University in 1990. Since then, her short fiction has appeared in the Atlantic Monthly, Lear’s, the Oxford American, and Crab Orchard Review, among other esteemed literary magazines. Her short story, “Sole Custody,” was nominated by Atlantic Monthly for the National Magazine Award in Fiction, and she was one of four writers featured in the magazine’s story on “New American Voices” in contemporary fiction. Five of her stories have been included in the “100 Other Distinguished Stories” list in the annual Best American Short Stories anthology. Her first collection, Things Not Seen and Other Stories, was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year.

At the time of her death, Williams was working on a new story collection and an essay collection inspired by a year spent teaching English to a group of Kurdish women in a small Georgia town. Editor’s note: Jim Grimsley and Kimber Williams contributed to this article.
Of only Grady Memorial Hospital had elevators that worked, internal medicine residency would take two years instead of three. That was my recurring thought as I joined the 7:00 a.m. crowd gathered in silence, listening for a familiar mechanical whir, placing wagers on the next set of opening steel doors. I was on call and, out of habit, running a bit late.

Like moon phases and ocean tides, the call cycle was a geologic phenomenon that dictated my daily life. Today was long call, which guaranteed a fresh onslaught of new admissions from the ER. It was anyone’s guess what cases would land on Grady’s doorstep, but it was a sure bet that I’d see something I hadn’t encountered before. The large county hospital was fertile ground for both rare diseases (e.g., pure red-cell aplasia) and rare presentations of common diseases (e.g., euglycemic diabetic ketoacidosis). Even at the end of my first year, I was but a newborn learning to see the world through Grady’s eyes.

To a layperson’s eyes, the hospital might seem like a curiously vintage place. The marble corridors take on a jaundiced hue beneath a layer of dust. Doctors carry clip-on plastic pagers that appear to belong to the 1990s. An intercom system crackles overhead—playing a lullaby for each birth of a “Grady baby” and blaring a panic alarm for each cardiac arrest. The stark juxtaposition of life and death is not lost on me.

Through countless iterations of the fresh-faced Emory resident. Like all those before me, I began to recognize Grady for what it was—a de facto cornerstone of an enduring community.

Being a “Grady baby” is a declaration that’s at once proud and defiant. The latter is on display even through the thickest encephalopathy; “where are we” and “what year is it” are standard mental orientation questions, but “who’s the president” and “who won the Super Bowl” turn out to be better metrics of sarcasm than delirium. This is especially true for the octogenarians whose medical records read like biographies.

As I was welcoming one such patient to my primary care clinic, she reminded me flatly she’d been coming here for ages, having gone through countless iterations of the fresh-faced Emory resident. Like all those before me, I began to recognize Grady for what it was—a de facto cornerstone of an enduring community.

Being a Grady doctor has its challenges, typically in the form of “frequent flyers” and their repetitive rendezvous for using street drugs and never their prescribed ones. Caring for an underserved population can be a lesson in cynicism—until it isn’t. People don’t change—until they do. One attending physician would ask for our “pain score” each morning, a question frequently directed toward patients. The idea that doctors could also have pain was as obvious as it was validating. That awareness would resurface on call days, which were their own patented blend of struggle and triumph.

After one particularly chaotic call day, my team of residents ventured to the rooftop helipad. We planted our feet atop the summit and peered out as the sun sank beneath the concrete canopy of downtown Atlanta. Standing there together seemed to amplify a communal feeling, that working here gave us not only a sense of purpose but also a sense of place. That there were many places to be a patient or a doctor, but for both parties, there was only one place to be Grady made.

John Chen is a second-year resident in internal medicine with the Emory School of Medicine Residency Training Program.
Natalie H. Ford
She works at a nonprofit in Chicago that helps people with job training and employment.

Her planned gift establishes the Myra B. Ford Scholarship at Emory College in honor of her mother’s roots in Georgia and commitment to education.

“MY MOTHER WAS 18 WHEN SHE LEFT GEORGIA to attend college in Chicago. There, her brother introduced her to his friend whom she would eventually marry. Her kindness, humility and compassion left an indelible imprint on my heart. I want her legacy for good to cascade down like rain for generations, and I reached out to colleges in Georgia to set up a scholarship. Emory responded with tremendous advice and support. Establishing the Myra B. Ford Endowed Scholarship will allow her commitment to helping others live on in perpetuity.”

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THE GANG’S ALL HERE Both Emory College and Oxford College experienced double-digit increases in applications for the Class of 2021, with a 19 percent increase for Emory College and a 63 percent jump for Oxford, totaling 37,837 applicants for the incoming class of 1,886 students. About 56 percent of applicants asked to be considered for admission to both colleges. Overall, applications arrived from all fifty states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and more than sixty-five countries.