Faces of the robed graduates as shafts of sunlight gilded the naled a break in the clouds. Weekend welcomes thousands of alumni graduation. Buoys the shared experience of happy, triumphant spirit that arrived on campus bearing the dismal economic climate — they on Commencement Day. Despite awoke to the patter of rain early a Class of 2009 celebrant tips his hat to economic realities. Class of 2009 ready to reshape world

By CAROL CLARK

Members of the Class of 2009 awoke to the patter of rain early on Commencement Day. Despite forecasts of more rain — and a dismal economic climate — they arrived on campus bearing the happy, triumphant spirit that buoyed the shared experience of graduation.

The sound of bagpipes signaled a break in the clouds. Shafts of sunlight gilded the faces of the robed graduates as they flowed into the Quad. They took their places amid rows of white plastic chairs that had been freshly washed by nature and lovingly dried by Emory staff volunteers, cheerful and dapper beneath their straw boaters.

A passing shower during the ceremony hardly ruffled a feather. It was civility that reigned that day — and every day for the class of 2009.

Each class seems to carve out a distinctive identity for itself," President Jim Wagner told the graduates. "You folks have understood earlier than most the value of civility. You have shown concern for those who are victims of incivility — incivility of a contrived and sophisticated sort, as well as incivility born of poverty."

Wagner noted that many of the graduates became leaders of the Transforming Community Project when it was launched during their freshmen year, to open up difficult conversations about race. They continued to provide forums for civil conversations, including the heated elections, including the heated politics leading up to the election of Barack Obama.

"As you go forward, may you be builders of civil society, even as you have worked toward that end in this community," he said. "It will be the legacy of the Class of 2009, and I look forward to watching you in action."

By MARY LOFTUS

When twins Seni and Tola Aijibade first showed up at Oxford College, their professors were sometimes confused: how could the same student be everywhere at once? But by the time the brothers graduated on May 9, they had each made a distinctive mark on campus, as had each of the 351 members of the Oxford College Class of 2009.

Dean of the Chapel and Religious Life Susan Henry-Crowe gave the invocation for the celebratory day, thanking "professors and mentors who opened new windows to the world" for the graduates, and praying that they have "the power to be aware and gentle."

Oxford Dean Emeritus William Murray, standing in for Dean Stephen Bowen, who was attending his daughter's graduation from Earlham College, introduced Commencement speaker and Emory President Emeritus James Laney. "The Emory we know today," said Murray, "is in many ways the product of his vision."

Laney, former ambassador to South Korea, who served as dean of the Candler School of Theology before leading the University from 1977 to 1993, had gained personal insight into the genius of Oxford after his son, Arthur Laney '77Ox–'79C, and four of his grandchildren attended the College, including Rachel Laney '09Ox, a member of this year's class.

"Graduates, Laney said, should be guided not by..."
Commencement

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Vicente Fox: Exercise your leadership every day

By VICENTE FOX

Every day, we must thank life for the gifts we receive. Like being in a university of excellence, like you have been here for four years, at Emory University. In Latin America, Africa, no more than 22 percent of kids of your age have the opportunity to be in school. What a big responsibility is upon your leaders’ shoulders . . . What a big responsibility it is to meet the challenges of today’s world . . . You are a leader. We are all leaders. We are born leaders, each and every one of us. And that’s the best and first gift of life. But not everybody has discovered that leadership. We have to make sure that through leadership . . . through helping our neighbor, through building our community, through building our world, we will find our own joy, our own satisfaction, our own happiness. That’s the power we carry within ourselves, so . . . exercise your leadership, every day of your life.

We need to reshape, you need to reshape, the world. To reinvent it, to bring new order and new justice, as the founding fathers of this great nation started 200 years ago.

Universities are pillars, fountains, where thought is generated, where freedom is nourished and where commitment is attained. So this is the world you are going to be in. You have to have high, very high, aspirations. Leaders don’t go for less. Changing the world, reducing poverty, increasing education, increasing wealth to all families and all peoples in the world. Heroic aspiration is the course of a leader.

I know you have dreams, big dreams, and you are going to accomplish each and every one of them. Because you are leaders. And those dreams you have to hook on the stars, up above, high, and they will make you grow each day, to be a better person. They’ll make you feel happy in your heart, because you are working for a better world, and for others.

Life is waiting for you . . . God bless you.

This is an excerpt of Vicente Fox’s Commencement address. To hear his complete speech, visit www.emory.edu/home/about/history/commencement--2009.htm.

By KIRSTEN TAGAMI

As president of Mexico from 2000 to 2006, Vicente Fox, who delivered the keynote address and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at Emory’s 164th Commencement, made immigration a priority. It was one of the first issues he brought up with President George W. Bush, and he boldly called for open borders with the U.S. as a “state-of-the-art” facility on Fox’s family ranch.

On May 10, Fox was honored for his outstanding leadership with Goizueta Business School’s Global Innovation Award. He also received The Halle Institute’s Head of State Award for his pioneering contributions to democracy.

Fox’s great-grandparents were German immigrants to the U.S. and his grandfather later moved to Mexico.

“President Fox never loses sight of the fact that immigration involves real human beings,” said Ranchod-Nilsson. “He knows that immigration is a complex issue that involves national security and labor markets. But he never forgets that there are real people trying to improve their lives in the midst of broader debates.”

Mexican leader and Emory are scholarly partners
DIPLOMA CEREMONIES

President Jim Wagner’s daughter, Kimberly, graduated from Candler School of Theology.

EMORY LAW GRADUATES

Daniel Blumenthal did not intend to make a political speech but then again, the public health field is political. From tobacco control and safe water, to health care reform, public health experts advocate change to protect the health of populations. "Change at the top will not take place until you hear from those at the grass-roots level," said Blumenthal, professor and chair of community health and preventive medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine. "I hope you will not forget to focus on community, because that’s where change starts."

The RSHS Class of 2009 included 222 Master of Public Health, 19 Master of Science, and 15 dual-degree recipients.

—Pam Auchmutey

EMORY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

"Sitting before me are the leaders of our generation," class orator Ashley Tran said of Emory College’s 1,259 graduates, 43.2 percent of whom earned a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or more. Facing an uncertain future, Tran urged her fellow graduates to be idealistic in their dreams. "Will we be the generation remembered for its accomplishments in the face of adversity? The generation that meaningfully contributed to the world despite social, political and economic pressures?" asked Tran. "These are not questions that are easily answered. Our circumstances are not easy, and our challenges will be great. "We must not be disheartened by these challenges. We must hold steadfast to pursuing our goals."

—Kim Urquhart

GRADUATE SCHOOL

This year the Graduate School outgrew the traditional location for its ceremony — the Schwartz Center — and needed to move to two separate ceremonies: one to award 129 master’s degrees, and one to award 226 doctoral degrees. Dean Lisa A. Tedesco congratulated all the graduates and urged them to go forward “with something of the spirit of Emory in your character, and with a commitment to pursuing knowledge that will shape our future by addressing the most difficult and important problems of this day."

Tedesco was joined by Provost Earl Lewis and the graduates’ advisors, and afterward all enjoyed a Graduate School brunch celebrating the graduates.

—Ulf Nilsson

GOIZUETA BUSINESS SCHOOL

Dean Larry Benveniste said to the Class of 2009, “We are blessed that Goizueta Family is leading us as the Board. The school awarded 709 degrees: 284 BBAs, 203 full-time MBAs, 80 Evening MBAs, 33 Modular Executive MBAs, and 49 Weekend Executive MBAs.

The Board, welcomed the graduates into the Alumni Association. Olga C. de Goizueta, widow of Roberto C. Goizueta, congratulated and shook hands with each graduate.

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—Victor Rogers

ROLLINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

"The need for law remains and, in fact, rises in times of need; Most Outstanding Third-Year Student Brent Douglas told his classmates. "I assert that every lawyer has an obligation to ensure that all persons subject to our laws are viewed equally before them."

Most Outstanding Professor Dorothy A. Brown encouraged the 222 graduates to embrace uncertainty. "Uncertainty creates the space for you to pause and ask, ‘What do I really want to do with my career? What am I passionate about?’"

—Liz Chila

SCHOOL OF LAW

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The School of Medicine had a total of 209 graduates, including 21 with dual degrees (seven MD/PhDs, 13 MD/MPHs, and one MD/MA). Valedictorian speaker William Wood, former chair of the Department of Surgery, told those about-to-be physicians, including one about an entrepreneur who learned in his younger years not to worry when others got credit for something he himself had done, and in his older years not to be surprised when he got credit for the genius of others.

McCauley told his classmates, “I assert that every lawyer has an obligation to ensure that all persons subject to our laws are viewed equally before them.”

Most Outstanding Professor Dorothy A. Brown encouraged the 222 graduates to embrace uncertainty. “Uncertainty creates the space for you to pause and ask, ‘What do I really want to do with my career? What am I passionate about?’”

—Liz Chila

Health Professions

In the medical school’s ceremony for health professions, 68 students received degrees in the following programs: 25 in medical imaging, four in physician assistant, one in ophthalmic technology, and 16 in physical therapy. The ophthalmic tech student was the last to graduate from that program as it transitions from a master’s to a certificate program.

Nathanial Thomas was Emory’s first graduate to receive a dual DPT/MA.

—Karon Schindler

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Graduates of the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing have the potential to succeed like no other class because of their place in history, said Dean Linda McCaulay, who spoke to 92 master’s degree and 91 bachelor’s degree recipients as their Commencement speaker and new dean.

McCaulay recently read Malcolm Gladwell’s “Outliers,” which she said held a number of life lessons for nursing graduates. “Gladwell says that who we are and what we are depend on our place in time,” she said. “It’s not brightest that succeed, but those who are given opportunities and have the presence of mind to seize them. The health care crisis puts each of you in a time to make a significant difference in history . . . This day, this time, this era that you are entering nursing practice gives you a huge advantage to make a difference.”

—Kay Torrance
When Kenneth Stein was in Washington recently for a conference, he contacted 15 former students, stretching back to the early 1980s, and invited them to lunch. “I sat back and listened to them talk about what they had accomplished,” he said. “I’ll do the same thing with a group of students when I’m in New York this week. Sometimes I’ll see a business card being passed. It can be networking opportunity for the students, or ‘Let’s just have lunch with Ken and tell stories.’ I do it because it’s fun.”

Wherever Stein travels in the United States, or even abroad, he’s likely to know many people nearby — the bounty of 33 years of teaching at Emory. His interest in the lives of his students past and present helped earn him the 2009 George P. Cuttino Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

Stein has no shortage of accolades: A prolific author, he is also the William E. Schatten Professor of Contemporary Middle Eastern History, Political Science and Israeli Studies, director of the Middle East Research Program and director of the Institute for the Study of Modern Israel — which he founded in 1998.

But the numerous teaching awards he has received over three decades are among his proudest achievements. “The Cuttino Award, to me, is the equivalent of having two major scholarly books published,” Stein said. “It’s the body of my work. How do you evaluate the contribution you may have made to 4,500 kids? I’ve had a lot of lunches and dinners and meetings over the years with former students. Maybe that time could have been spent drafting another chapter, but I think it was time well spent. It’s important to make time for people, even in a busy world.”

As a teacher and a mentor, Stein strives to instill a sense of confidence that goes beyond the walls of a classroom. “Every student needs to be able to make themselves marketable, to set themselves apart from the next person.” He said.

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Fineman a pioneer for social equality

By KIM URQUHART

One of the world’s leading feminist theorists and family-law scholars, Martha Fineman has encouraged colleagues, lawmakers and students to challenge the status quo.

“In my academic career I have found pulling stock perceptions, concepts and arguments apart, and then putting them back together in novel and interesting ways, to be among the most rewarding intellectual exercises,” Fineman said.

The Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law was chosen to receive the University Scholar/Teacher Award by Emory faculty on behalf of the United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the third law faculty member to receive this honor.

Fineman has published more than 60 scholarly texts. Forthcoming is “The Vulnerable Subject: Anchoring Equality in the Human Condition.” In her writings, Fineman explores issues such as the nature and function of the family as a societal institution, the economic and political consequences of welfare and divorce reforms, and the meanings of dependency in American society and politics.

“The growing inequality in America over the past decade has convinced me that there is a pressing need for us to develop a more substantive approach to issues of equality,” she said, “one that is attentive to the differing contexts in which individuals find themselves,” such as inequalities in income, education and wealth.

An important component of Fineman’s scholarly work is the Feminism and Legal Theory (FLT) Project, which she founded in 1984 at the University of Wisconsin. The core purpose of FLT is to foster interdisciplinary examinations of laws, social policies and structures that are of particular interest to women. Her research, scholarship and activism have helped to define the field of feminist legal theory and family and marriage law.

A dedicated teacher and mentor, Fineman also carries forward the themes and methods developed in her research and the FLT Project.

“I consider my teaching successful if I can get my students to raise questions they haven’t asked before, or to question assumptions that they have previously left unexamined,” said Fineman. “I try to present the same type of challenge to the readers of my books and articles — always asking them to consider the why and how of the legal, social and cultural arrangements in which we all are enmeshed, as well as understanding how the world might be seen and understood differently.”

Fineman’s exemplary scholarship and teaching have earned her national recognition, such as the Harry Kalven Prize for Distinguished Research in Law and Society.

Fineman joined Emory Law in 2004 from Cornell Law School, where she held the first endowed chair in feminist jurisprudence in the United States.

Her advice for the Class of 2009?

“Never take anything, or anyone, for granted, and don’t be afraid to ask hard questions, particularly of yourself.”
McMULLAN AWARD

Dorsainvil shares wealth of education, passions

Monique Dorsainvil
By BEVERLY CLARk

Monique Dorsainvil’s dedication to cultivating positive social change both on campus and beyond led to her winning the 2009 Lucius Lamar McMullan Award, one of Emory’s highest student honors which also comes with $20,000.

In addition to saving up for graduate school, Dorsainvil plans to start college savings accounts for her two younger brothers. “I believe that education is one of the most liberating and enabling gifts that can be given,” said Dorsainvil. “With the education I have, I really feel like I can do anything now.”

The Mellin Mayis Undergraduate Fellow spent a summer in Thailand to work with the transgender Kathyoe culture. She volunteered with the Ashraya Initiative for Children in India, and traveled to Haiti and with the Emory Development Institute to Tanzania and Ethiopia.

Next year, she plans to apply for joint. 3/4 PhD programs in women’s studies and law, with a focus on public interest. “I have many passions. Currently I’m focusing my energy on government and political advocacy,” she said.

She has been a programmer at the Center for Women, on the President’s Commission on the Status of Women and co-founder of Feminists in Action. She also has been active in Emory’s Transforming Community Project.

BRITTAin AWARD

Lundy inspired by gift of people at Emory

Nicola Lundy
By BEVERLY CLARk

“I’ve simply tried to be of benefit to the groups I’m involved in, and to not sit back and take what I have for granted,” said Nicola Lundy 90C. “I’ve been deeply inspired by the people around me at Emory. It’s really been a gift.”

The Alpha Tau Omega fraternity president saw Emory’s chapter garner one of the most liberating and enabling gifts that can be given,” said Dorsainvil. “With the education I have, I really feel like I can do anything now.”

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She has been a programmer at the Center for Women, on the President’s Commission on the Status of Women and co-founder of Feminists in Action. She also has been active in Emory’s Transforming Community Project.

The Phi Beta Kappa Scholar earned Emory’s highest student honor: The Marion Luther Brittain Award.

The Brittain Award, which comes with $5,000, is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated exemplary service to the University and the greater community without expectation of recognition.

“One of everything I did at Emory, I’m most proud of Greeks Go Green,” said Lundy, who was co-founder and co-director of that sustainability initiative.

The four-year varsity letterman in track and field specializes in the 800-meter relay and was team co-captain this year. He holds the University record in the 4x800 meter relay and the Distance Medley Relay.

Lundy has been a frequent volunteer and mentor at an Atlanta Boys and Girls Club.

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The Alpha Tau Omega fraternity president saw Emory’s chapter garner top honors in the nation, at Emory and in North America. He led an effort that successfully secured a $150,000 grant for an ATO scholarship fund.

The philosophy major plans to work in the nonprofit sector to “learn more about life outside the classroom,” and then pursue degrees in medicine and/or public health.
Oxford: From one generation to the next

Continued from the cover

"self-preoccupation, but by a loftier sense of purpose. . . . We have seen where excellence without a soul, where that leads us." Leadership at its best, he added, is about getting others "to sign on with you, not beating them out."

The late president of the Coca-Cola Company and Emory benefactor Robert W. Woodruff was the embodiment of "excellence with a soul," Laney said. To put it bluntly, he "gave a damn."

"Education," said Laney, "instills the discipline, knowledge and mastery necessary for everyday life. But the best education offers something more — more than a pragmatic way to make a living. That 'more' is what you've received here in the past two years."

In addition to the graduates and their families and friends, also in attendance at Oxford's 164th Commencement were 40 Golden Kake participants, the greatest number the College has had participate. The Class of 1959 was out in full force, with the number the College has had participate.

Among the class was Anne Worrell '58Ox, who met her husband, Chuck Worrell '58Ox, when they were walking across that campus," she said, "Our first kiss, everything." Their son, Charles III, "Moon," "brings her head and heart to all she undertakes."

Ronald Schuchard was the embodiment of Oxford Professor Emeritus Judy Greer's Oxford Fellowship, sang in the choir and was president of a sustainable garden, was president of Oxford College graduates. The Virgil Y.C. Eady Sophomore Service Award, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year and was presented on what would have been Dean Eady's 110th birthday, was given to Helen Hill '89Ox, who served in Leadership Oxford, was a College tour guide, worked in the sustainable garden, was president of Oxford Fellowship, sang in the choir and did research in Botswana and Namibia. "Helen," said Dean of Campus Life Joseph Eady '09Ox, who served in Leadership Oxford, said of her name the class has established a scholarship.

When Ronald Schuchard first came to Emory in 1968, one of the first committee he was appointed to was the one to select the recipient of the University's Thomas Jefferson Award.

"As a junior member of the University faculty, observing and listening to the proceedings, I was deeply impressed by achievements and contributions of the nominees and it gave me a strong, new sense of a rich, full and rewarding University life," he said.

"I want to always support the Emilian Literature and do everything in my power to see that it is endowed and a permanent part of University life," he said. "All great universities have major lecture series. It's important for Emory to have and preserve such a lecture series and I am working to secure its endowment."

As a Jefferson award winner, he said, "I feel like I need to redouble my effort to become worthy of the award. I feel a new charge to continue to find ways of filling absences and dealing with needs."