



Bryan Meitz

Three thousand four hundred eighty-nine—nearly 59 percent of whom were women—donned their gowns and mortar boards, May 15, as Emory celebrated its 161st Commencement on yet another glorious Monday morning. Children's Defense Fund founder Marian Wright Edelman delivered the keynote address, President Jim Wagner presided over the third Commencement of his presidency, and all of the graduates and their family and friends were even treated to a bit of juicy gossip, as rumors (which happened to be true) circulated of a certain Hollywood actor prowling the Quad (see photo, page 8).

COMMENCEMENT 2006

Class of 2006 takes its place in Emory history

BY MICHAEL TERRAZAS

In addition to continuing Emory's remarkable run of meteorological good luck as it sends its graduates forth into the world, the University's 161st Commencement ceremony, May 15, had a little something of everything: an inspiring speaker, last-minute changes, one or two impromptu moments, cheering graduates—and even a touch of Hollywood, thrown in for good measure.

"For most of your time at Emory, our nation has been at war," President Jim Wagner told the graduates filling much of the Quadrangle. "For us and for our country, Americans your age have fought and died in faraway places. In our own land, some of our fellow citizens have suffered devastating losses of homes and livelihoods from natural disasters. Both at home and abroad, the principles

on which our nation was founded have been put to severe and controversial tests."

The president added that Emory's graduation exercises were no place "to debate the politics of our day," but the keynote speaker chose to be provocative. Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund and one of the day's honorary degree recipients, wasted little time before touching on politics.

"Something is out of balance and out of kilter in the world that we live in when just 691 billionaires have wealth that is equivalent to 3 billion people living in our 89 poorest developing countries. About 347 are in the United States," Wright Edelman said in her address (see *First Person*, page 2). "They didn't need tax cuts in 2001, 2003, 2004 and again this year."

See **COMMENCEMENT** on page 8

OXFORD GRADUATION

Annual ritual a bridge between two campuses

BY MARY LOFTUS

The thin blue line of Oxford College graduates processed solemnly through the "Temple of the Trees"—just as graduates have done near that very spot for more than 160 years. Congratulatory balloons and bouquets, parents holding digital cameras, alumni returning for their class reunions, and elated relatives young and old gave a festive atmosphere to the May 6 ceremony honoring 289 graduates—the first to be overseen by Oxford Dean Stephen Bowen.

And, for the morning at least, it was all sunshine and blue skies.

"It seems like even the weather is celebrating the accomplishments of these students today—the singing birds, the whispering trees, the cool temperatures, make our hearts soar," said Oxford Chaplain Judy Shema, who led the invocation.

Rites and rituals were, appropriately, the theme of the day, made manifest not only by the ceremony itself but by Commencement speaker Marshall Duke, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Psychology.

"Let me begin with a confession: I love Commencement. I love the traditions, the bagpipe, the pageantry. It signifies that something special is happen-

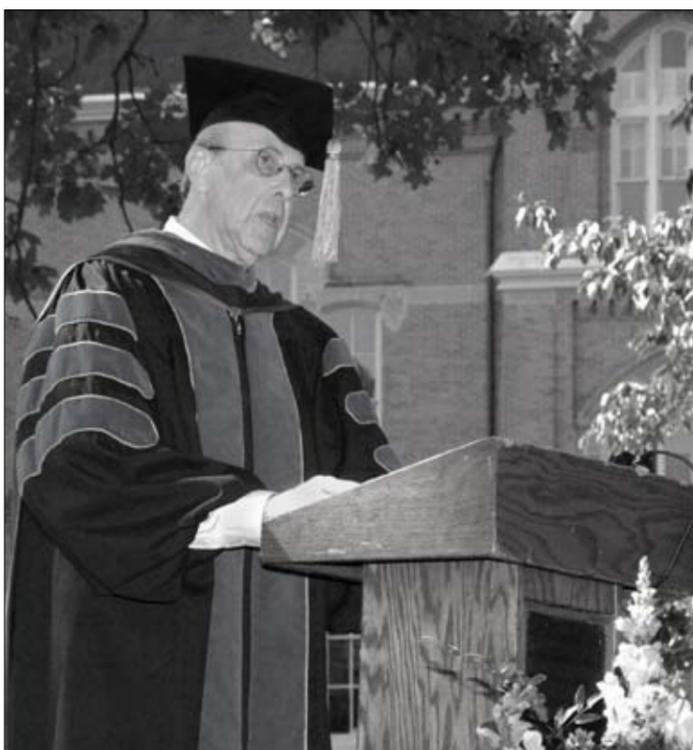
ing," said Duke, a faculty fellow at Emory's Center for Myth and Ritual in American Life, who has attended 36 Emory Commencements. "Rituals may be thought of as gateways between one condition in life and another ... at the very point of transition."

Just as rituals connect graduates from one year the next, and one generation to the next, so too does a sense of place, Duke said.

"Oxford is a place with which you have a relationship, a place you can love, be angry with, lean upon, wish to leave, wish to stay," he said. "It is a place you can carry with you, think back upon and long for. You have been nurtured in the warmth of this campus. The Seney [Hall] bell will silently sound every 30 minutes in your hearts."

Graduates who advance to the Atlanta campus, Duke continued, become living bridges between Oxford and Emory, and he urged those doing so next fall to take a moment to stand before the Haygood-Hopkins gate at the University's main entrance, honoring Atticus Greene Haygood 1859C (Emory's president from 1875 to 1884) and Isaac Stiles Hopkins 1859C (president from 1884 to 1888).

"Those two pillars joined together by a delicate steel span ... serve to cement the



Kay Hinton

Keynote speaker Marshall Duke told Oxford's graduates that they serve as living bridges between Emory's mother and daughter campuses during the school's Commencement exercises, May 13. "Oxford is a place you can carry with you," Duke told them.

'old' Emory to the new. They ensure and strengthen the relationship to those who began this great institution, on this spot, in 1836," Duke said, as he advised students to heed Haygood's saying inscribed on the gate: "We must stand by what is good, and make it better if we can."

Oxford Dean for Campus Life Joe Moon presented the

Eady Sophomore Service Award, given each year to an Oxford student for outstanding service to campus life "without seeking reward or recognition," to Marlon Abraham Rhine. During her time at Oxford, Rhine was a student government senator,

See **OXFORD** on page 8

EMORY WEEKEND

Weekend salutes alumni young and old

BY ERIC RANGUS

From Thursday to Monday, Oxford to Midtown and every corner of the University in between, Emory Weekend 2006 brought together the entire Emory community to send off the academic year—and the Class of 2006—in great style.

Emory Weekend is the Association of Emory Alumni's (AEA) most comprehensive program of the year and involves coordination with schools and units from all over the University. It's an ambitious undertaking (the schedule of events runs 10 pages), with a broad agenda, but with the work come rewards.

"This was our third Emory Weekend and the most successful one yet," said Gloria Grevas, AEA assistant director of programming for Emory Weekend and reunions. "We've gotten a lot of positive feedback so far. Not only were we able to reconnect alumni to the University, but I think we also instilled a lot of Emory pride in our new graduates." Many more students attended Emory Weekend activities than in previous years, Grevas said, something AEA will encourage in the future.

See **EMORY WEEKEND** on page 7

NUMBERCRUNCH

Total number of 2005 graduates: **3,489**

Total number of degrees awarded: **3,521**

Undergraduate degrees awarded: **1,829**

Graduate degrees awarded: **1,213**

Professional degrees awarded: **469**

Joint degree recipients: **32**

Percent of female graduates: **58.5**

Number of international graduates: **416**

Countries represented (in addition to the U.S.): **88**

U.S. states represented: **45**

Age of youngest graduate: **20**

Age of oldest graduate: **71**

Age of oldest bachelor's degree recipient: **57**

Number of degree recipients over 50: **41**

Number of honorary degree recipients: **3**

Average GPA of Emory College graduates: **3.34**

Percentage of Emory College graduates with a GPA of 3.5 or higher: **42.4**

Time length of opening procession: **24 minutes 49 seconds**

Time of Marian Wright Edelman keynote address: **25 minute 52 seconds**

Number of 1GB cards shot by University Photography: **25.47**

FIRSTPERSON MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

'Enduring values'



Kay Hinton

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, was the keynote speaker at Emory's 2006 Commencement ceremony.

Mark Hatfield, a wonderful former Republican senator from Oregon, asked: How can we stand by as children starve by the millions because we lack the will to eliminate hunger, yet we have found the will to develop missiles capable of flying over the polar cap and landing within a few hundred feet of their target? This, Hatfield said, is not innovation; it is a profound distortion of humanity's purpose on earth. The agrarian poet Wendell Berry said the most alarming sign of the state of our society is that our leaders have the courage to sacrifice the lives of young people in war but have not the courage to tell us we must be less greedy and less wasteful.

Something is out of balance and out of kilter in the world that we live in when just 691 billionaires have wealth that is equivalent to 3 billion people living in our 89 poorest developing countries. About 347 are in the United States. They didn't need tax cuts in 2001, 2003, 2004 and again this year in the midst of two costly wars, when Katrina's children and families are suffering without mental health and health care and education. When we have the highest debt in our history, the highest trade and budget deficits in our history, and the gap between the haves and have-nots is at the largest since we have been recording them. I want to remind us again that something is out of balance, as Dr. [Martin Luther] King tried to remind us and Dwight Eisenhower tried to remind us, when we continue to spend more on military needs than on needs of human uplift.

In 1953 Dwight Eisenhower talked about the stark life trade-offs in our national choices and reminded us that every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone; it is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. I hope all of us today will engage in a national and moral debate about how we can change our moral compass and

direction so that everybody can have enough in this rich world and in our rich nation.

I go back to my childhood, where the values were clear, more often than ever, and I hope that many of you graduating today will wander off the beaten path and help redefine success in the 21st century world, asking not "How much can I get?" but "How much can I do without and share?" Too many of us are absorbed with, "How can I find myself?" Figure out how you can *lose* yourself in service to something that's bigger than yourself.

When I was growing up, and my brother Harry is here today, when we were growing up in little Bennettsville, S.C., service was as much a part of our upbringing as eating and sleeping and going to school. Caring black adults were buffers against the segregated prison of the outside world that told me, as a black girl, that I wasn't worth very much. But I didn't believe it because my parents said it wasn't so, my preacher (my daddy) said it wasn't so, and my teachers said it wasn't so.

The childhood message I internalized was that, as God's child, no man or woman could look down on me, and I could look down on no man or woman. I couldn't play in segregated public playgrounds or sit at segregated lunch counters—and I am pleased that I sat in first at the city hall and there's a black woman sitting in [Atlanta's] city hall today, so we have made progress—but my parents, whenever they saw a need, tried to respond. They built a playground/canteen behind our church. There were no black homes for the aged in my hometown, so my parents began one across the street. We children had to help cook and clean and we sure didn't like it at the time, but that was how we learned it was our responsibility to take care of our elderly relatives and neighbors—and that *everyone* was our neighbor.

Black church and community members were watchful extended parents; children were considered community property. They reported on me when I did wrong, applauded when I did well, and they were very clear that doing well meant being helpful to others, achieving in school and reading. All the Wright children figured out early on that the only time Daddy wouldn't give us a chore was when we were reading—we were all great readers. Children were taught by example that nothing was too lowly to do, and that the work of our heads and hands were both valuable.

Our families, religious congregations and the black community made children feel useful and important. And while life was often hard and resources scarce, we always knew who we were and that the measure of our worth was inside our heads and hearts, and not outside in personal possessions and ambition. We were taught that the world had a lot of problems, but we could struggle and change them; that intellectual and material gifts brought both the privi-

lege and responsibility of sharing with others less fortunate, and that service is the rent every one of us pays for living. It's the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time or after you've reached your personal goals or earned that first million or billion.

I'm very grateful for these childhood legacies of a living faith reflected in daily service, the discipline of hard work, a capacity to struggle in the face of adversity. Giving up was not a part of my childhood lexicon; you got up every morning, and you did what you had to do, and you got up when you fell down, and you tried as many times as you had to until you got it right.

Our elders had grit. They valued family life and family rituals, and tried to be and expose us to good role models, and those role models were of two kinds: [There were] those who achieved in the outside world. We were blessed—I always felt so lucky to be who I was when I was with the convergence of great events and great leaders. I went to Spelman [College], and in chapel (which was compulsory) I got to hear Dr. King, Dr. [Benjamin] Mays, Dr. Howard Thurman, Dr. Mordecai Johnson, and all had a single message, which was the message of my parents: Those of you who are educated are obligated to give back and make the world better. (I opposed compulsory chapel when I was a student; the first thing I did when I became chair of the Spelman board was reinstitute compulsory chapel so that young people would have a chance to know what we adults felt was and is important.)

So, outside role models—Daddy used to drive us anywhere we could hear great speakers to let us know the world was all ours. I remember in our church vestibule a lesson that made me understand I was part of a global community. He had a picture, which we looked at in church every Sunday or anytime we went in, of a very wealthy white family at a table laden with food and surrounded by groups of thousands of emaciated people, and the caption under this cartoon said: "Shall we say grace?" That struck me very much about the obligation of those who have much, sharing with those wherever they are in the world who have too little.

But the role models I remember equally well were those without much formal education or money but who taught by the special grace of their lives: Christ's and Tolstoy's and Gandhi's message that the kingdom of God is within. Every day I still try to be half as good as those ordinary people of grace who shared whatever they had with others.

I was 14 the night my daddy died with holes in his shoes. He had two children who'd graduated from college, another in college, another in divinity school, and a vision he was able to convey to me even dying in an ambulance—that I, a young black girl, could do and be anything, that race and gender are shadows, and that character,

self-discipline, determination, attitude and service are the substance of life—I want to convey those same messages to you graduates today as you graduate into an ethically polluted nation and world, where instant sex without responsibility, instant gratification without effort, instant solutions without sacrifice, getting rather than giving and hoarding rather than sharing, are the too frequent signals of our mass media, popular culture and political life.

A standard of success for too many has become personal greed rather than common good; the standard for striving and achievement has become getting by rather than making an extra effort or helping somebody else. Truth-telling and moral example have become devalued commodities, and nowhere is the paralysis of public and private conscience more evident than in the neglect and abandonment of millions of our children, whose futures will determine our nation's ability to compete and lead in the new era and in the globalizing world.

I agree with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the great German theologian who died opposing Hitler's Holocaust, who said the test of the morality of a society is how it treats its children. America flunks Bonhoeffer's test every minute of every day. Every nine seconds of the school day, one of our children drops out. It's a recipe for national disaster. Every 35 seconds as we sit here, a child will be neglected or abused. Every 36 seconds in the richest nation on earth, we let a child be born into poverty, the majority of their families working and playing by the rules but can't escape poverty. We lead the world in health technology yet every 42 seconds a baby is born without health insurance. And every minute a teenager or child has a child. We could fill up the city of Atlanta each year with the number of babies born to teen mothers. We can do better. We've got to do better.

I believe we've lost our sense of what is important as a people. Too many of our young people of all races and classes are growing up unable to handle life in hard places, without hope and without steady compasses to navigate a world that is reinventing itself at an unpredictable pace both technologically and politically. My generation learned that to accomplish anything we had to get off the dime; your generation must learn to get off the paradigm, over and over, and to be flexible, quick and smart about it.

Despite all the dazzling change, I do believe the enduring values of my childhood still pertain. I agree with Archibald MacLeish, the poet, that there is only one thing more powerful than learning from experience, and that is *not* learning from experience.

This essay is edited for length. For the full version of Wright Edelman's address, visit www.emory.edu/EMORY_REPORT.

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JEFFERSON AWARD

Law school's Alexander recognized for career dedicated to service



Key Hinton

Interim law Dean Frank Alexander (right) accepts the Thomas Jefferson Award from President Jim Wagner.

BY MICHAEL TERRAZAS

It's a safe bet that never has Emory bestowed its Thomas Jefferson Award—given each year to a faculty member or administration officer for significant service to the University—to a more deserving person than the 2006 recipient.

Frank Alexander, professor of law and interim dean of the School of Law, received the award from President Jim Wagner at Emory's 161st Commencement, held May 15, but Alexander has spent virtually his entire professional life earning it, at least if one broadens one's idea of "service to the University."

To be sure, the last year qualifies even under the strictest of definitions; Alexander took over the school's reins last summer after former Dean Tom Arthur stepped down. Within months of assuming the deanship, Alexander was confronted with a problem more vexing than he could have possibly anticipated, as Hurricane Katrina ripped

through New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, leaving hundreds of law students from several schools academically homeless for the semester. Immediately, Alexander stepped up to help.

"In this year of transition, blessings came from unexpected quarters," Alexander wrote in a year-ending letter to the school. "Throughout the fall semester our lives and our community were enriched and strengthened by the presence of 30 students from Tulane and Loyola law schools and several of their faculty and staff. Their own enthusiasm and strength in the face of adversity reminded us of the things that are truly important and the power of pulling together."

Alexander said the year was bookended by this spring's passing of former Professor Bill Ferguson after a long bout with cancer, which though painful served to bring together the school's faculty, staff and alumni to mourn their beloved former colleague.

In between and around those emotional experiences, there was also plenty of accom-

plishment: The school more than doubled the total funding for public interest law fellowships, awarded through the Emory Public Interest Committee. It grew a loan repayments assistance program, created two new clinical arms in the Indigent Criminal Defense Clinic and Juvenile Justice Clinic, celebrated many new arrivals and appointments, and watched its faculty publish some 22 books and 35 articles.

Not too bad for an interim dean.

"It's been such a joy," Alexander said. "To meet so many of my former students as I've traveled around the country, to be able to work in new ways with our current students and to see the excitement they have and the staff has for our common endeavors. I'm more excited about Emory law school—and, indeed, Emory University—than at any point in the past."

Of course, service is nothing new for Alexander. A longtime scholar of and advocate for affordable housing and urban redevelopment, he helped create the mixed-income development in East Lake and more recently has spent time working on comparable projects in Flint, Mich., and Little Rock, Ark.

"I have a real passion for being involved in the community, and one of the privileges of being at Emory is the invitation and even the encouragement to be engaged with a much larger community," Alexander said. "The first thing I did last summer [as interim dean] was say, let's devote the year to celebrating the profession of service, and that's become the moniker on which we based everything all year."

FACULTY AWARDS

The following professors received the 2006 Williams Award for Distinguished Teaching, established in 1972 by alumnus Emory Williams:

- Peter Bing, associate professor of classics
- Eric Brussel, associate professor of math & computer science
- Frank Pajares, associate professor of educational studies
- Lucas Carpenter, professor of English
- Henry Moon, assistant professor of organization & management
- Corrine Abraham, instructor of nursing
- Howard Abrams, professor of law

In addition to the Emory Williams Award, the University's schools give out their own teaching awards. 2006 recipients for these teaching citations include:

EMORY COLLEGE

• **Center for Teaching & Curriculum for Excellence in Teaching:** Eric Goldstein, professor of history and Jewish studies, Richard Rambuss, professor of English, and Eric Weeks, professor of physics.

GOIZUETA BUSINESS SCHOOL

• **Marc F. Adler Prize for Excellence in Teaching:** Kristy Towry, assistant professor of accounting;

• **Donald R. Keough Awards for Excellence:** Julie Barefoot, associate dean and director of MBA admissions, and Rich Metters, associate professor of decision and information analysis;

• **Modular Executive MBA Distinguished Educators:** Rich Makadok, associate professor of organization & management, and Shehzad Mian, associate professor of finance;

• **Weekend Executive MBA Distinguished Educator:** Rob Kazanjian, professor of organization & management;

• **Evening MBA Distinguished Educators:** Joe Labianca, assistant professor of organization & management, and Rich Metters, associate professor of decision & information analysis;

• **BBA Distinguished Educator:** Allison Burdette, assistant professor of business law; and

• **Full Time MBA Distinguished Educator:** Marty Butler, assistant professor of accounting, and Nicholas Valerio, associate professor of finance.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

• **Evangeline T. Papageorge Award:** David Feliciano, professor of surgery.

SCHOOL OF LAW

• **Most Outstanding Professor Award:** Richard Freer, professor of law.

ROLLINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

• **Professors of the Year:** Jose Binongo, professor of biostatistics; Rob Stephenson, assistant professor of global health; and

• **Thomas F. Sellers Award:** Richard Letz (deceased), professor of public health.

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

• **Outstanding Service:** David Petersen, professor of religion;

• **Excellence in Teaching:** Roberta Bondi, professor of religion.

SCHOLAR/TEACHER AWARD

English's Foster receives award surrounded by love of family



Key Hinton

Accepting her University Scholar/Teacher Award from President Jim Wagner, Frances Smith Foster smiles toward her family in the crowd.

BY MICHAEL TERRAZAS

As a young scholar confronted with a wide world full of history to study, Frances Smith Foster said she made her choices by keeping her nieces and nephews in mind. "What kind of things would

be helpful to them, to help them do what it is they were setting out to do," said Foster, Charles Howard Candler Professor of English and Women's Studies, and chair of the English department. "I'm trying to give information to people that I think might help them make better use of their lives and come

closer to getting their dreams without the hindrance of wrong or inadequate information."

In other words, to Foster, scholarship is teaching, and that's one reason she was honored at Emory's 161st Commencement with the University Scholar/Teacher Award, awarded each year and supported by the United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

In fact, the inverse—that teaching is scholarship—is also true for Foster, or at least it is now. She admits that with greater tenure has come the freedom to pursue academically what interests her, and experiences in the classroom often lead to those interests.

"At one point I didn't have permission [to study what I wanted]," Foster said. "I'm a much better teacher and scholar now that I'm grown up."

Concentrating on feminist sexual ethics and antebellum African American families and

religion, Foster has written or edited some 10 books, including *Written By Herself: Literary Production by African American Women, 1746–1892*. The titles of her seminars include "Becoming a Woman" and "(W)right Things Wrong in 19th Century African American Literature."

Lately Foster has taken another project: Along with anthropology's George Armelagos, she is co-leading Emory's "Race and Human Difference" strategic initiative. And though she admits she accepted the duty at the behest of Provost Earl Lewis, she added that the University has a real opportunity.

"I think Emory can and already is a laboratory to work out its own theories," Foster said. "In the old days, doctors used their bodies to test their vaccines, and had they not done that I'm not sure we would have had those vaccines. I'm not suggesting we put ourselves in harm's way to test our theories, but if

we've got good theories we ought to show that."

As for the validation of her own "theories" that came in the form of the Scholar/Teacher Award, Foster said the occasion in which she received it meant just as much if not more than the award itself—and perhaps more than any previous award she'd received. Joining her at Commencement was a gaggle of family, including her 84-year-old mother who made the trip from Ohio.

"When she found out about the award, first she said, 'That's nice, dear,'" Foster said of her mother. "Then my sister said, 'That's a big deal,' and [my mother] said, 'If I can get there, I'm going to be there.'"

"There's nothing they could have done to make me happier," she said of her family. "That was the most fun; that was what I loved. I don't think I've ever had an award that gave me more personal satisfaction."

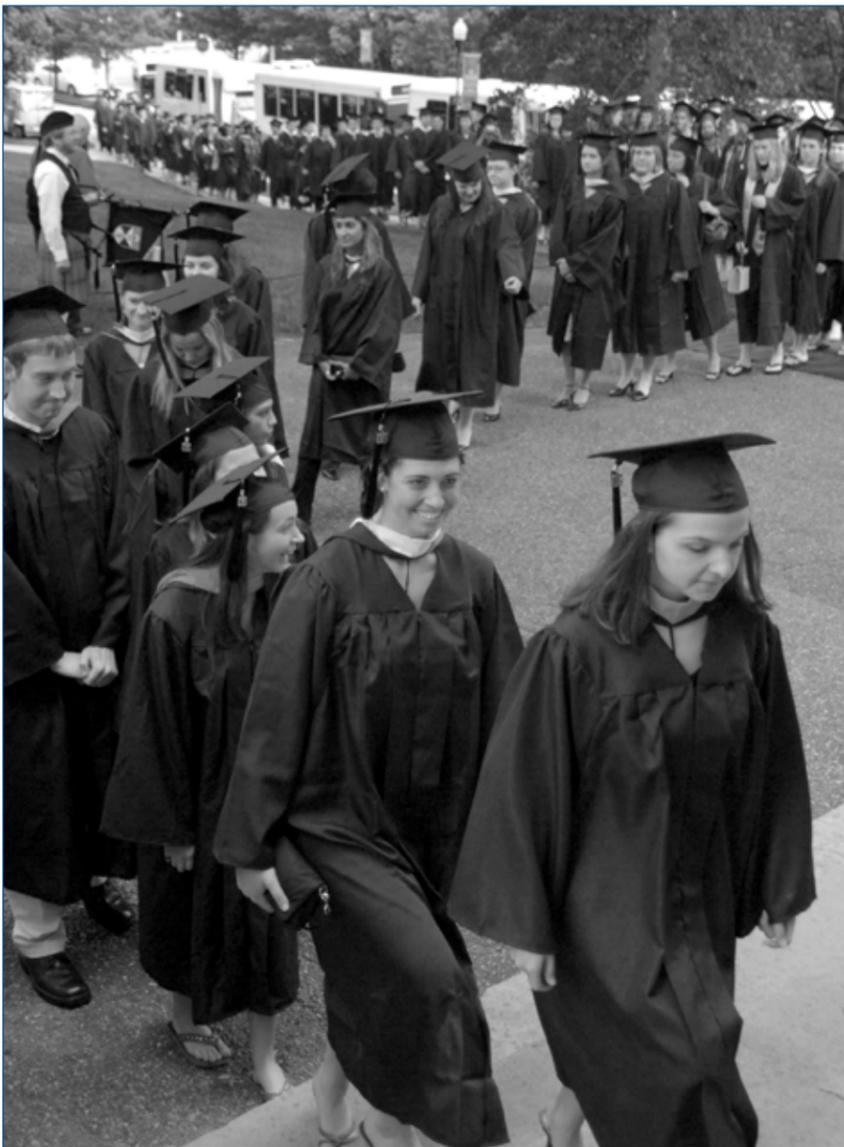
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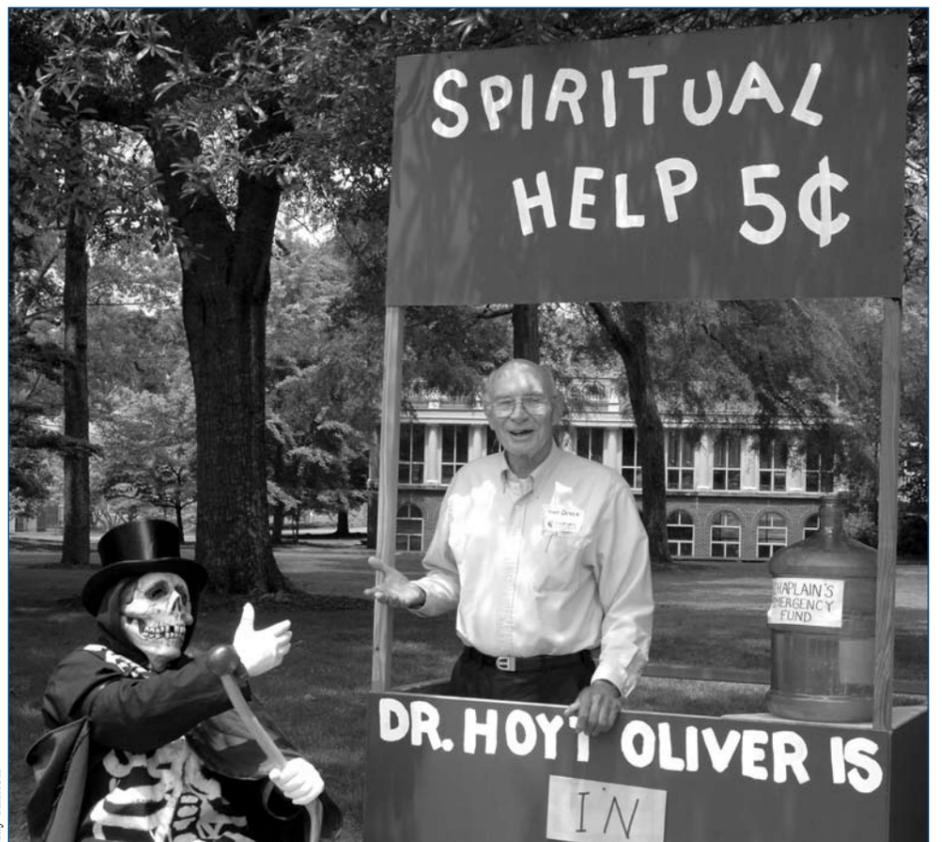
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Bryan Meltz



Key Hinton

This page (clockwise from top left): A Swoop for the new millennium made his debut during Emory Weekend's Block Party on McDonough Field; members of the Class of 2006 sign a banner after completing the Candlelight Crossover via the Houston Mill Road bridge, a journey that symbolizes their transition to Emory alumni; emeriti professors Art Dietz, Bob DeHaan, Herb Karp and Marie Nitschke all were honored at an Emeritus College reception; Lord James W. Dooley receives some (much needed) spiritual guidance from religion Professor Hoyt Oliver, who is retiring after 40 years at Oxford; members of Emory College's Class of 2006 file into the Baccalaureate ceremony in Glenn Auditorium.



Bryan Meltz



Kay Hinton



Kay Hinton

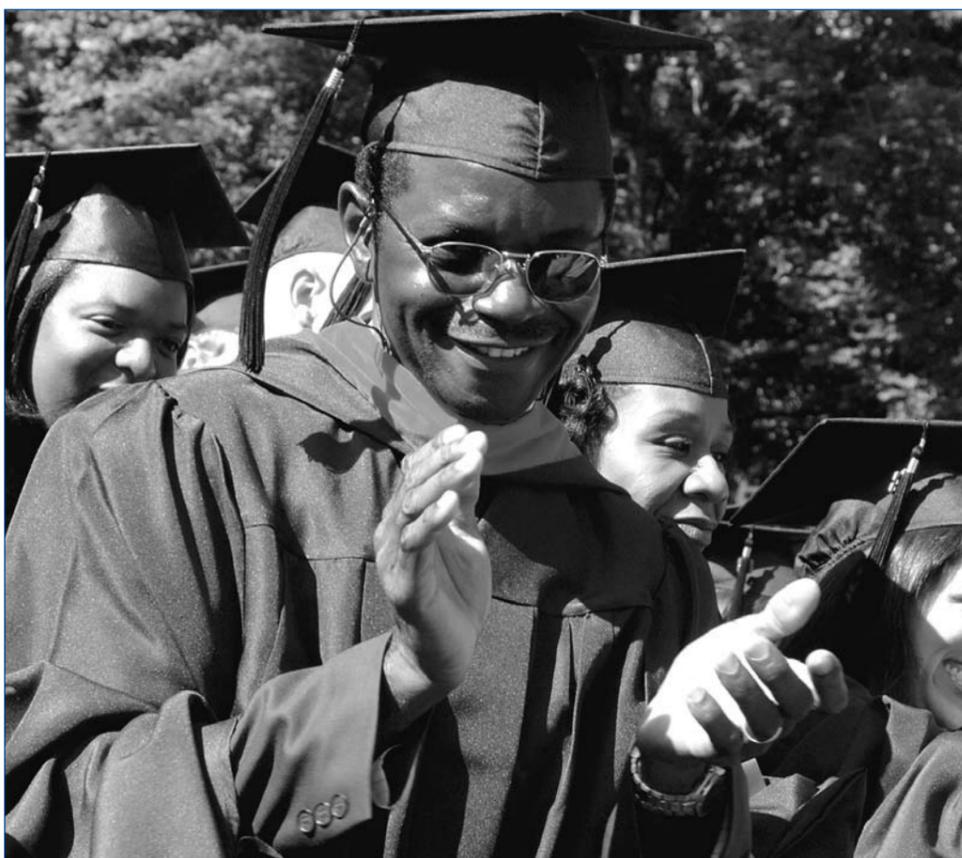
This page (clockwise from above): honorary degree recipient Stephen Bright is hooded by Provost Earl Lewis and University Secretary Rosemary Magee; an Emory ring shines with the luster of the gold and blue; honorary degree recipient Marian Wright Edelman minced few words in her keynote address; friends and families scrambled to get just the right shot of their proud graduates during the Emory College diploma ceremony; Ahamefula Echeke from Nigeria is grateful for the blessing of the master of divinity degree he's about to receive; University Marshal Ray DuVarney and a corps of bagpipers lead the Commencement morning procession onto the Quadrangle.



Jon Rou



Kay Hinton



Bryan Meltz

EMORYWEEKEND

Wagner spreads the good news at Presidential Town Hall



Ann Borden

At Emory Weekend's first Presidential Town Hall, Jim Wagner talked about "how fortunate Emory is to have been able to take a couple years and just dream" by creating the strategic plan.

BY MICHAEL TERRAZAS

For thousands of alumni returning to campus, Emory Weekend was a chance to reacquaint themselves with their alma mater, to see first hand the new places and faces that define the University these days. On Saturday, May 13, a group of about 50 alums, as well as a healthy number of Emory faculty and staff, decided to get their update straight from the top by attending the weekend celebration's first Presidential Town Hall, held in Winship Ballroom.

"I'm here to talk about what Emory's been up to lately," President Jim Wagner said, adding that he looked forward to plenty of questions at the end of his remarks. "I want to have a lot of time to learn from you."

Wagner gave a thumbnail description of the University's various planning activities of the past couple years, focusing mostly on the strategic plan's crosscutting initiatives such as Global Health, Predictive Health and Religions and the Human Spirit. Regarding the latter, Wagner remarked that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the *Time* magazine cover that asked, "Is God Dead?" That question was prompted by the scholarly work of Thomas Altizer, then a faculty member in the Candler School of Theology.

"I'm proud—and scared—that Emory has decided this will be one of its focal areas going forward," Wagner said.

His synopsis of University strategic planning complete, the president opened the floor

to questions, and the first (from Dan Dunaway, a 1961 medical school graduate who lives in Memphis) asked Wagner what he envisioned happening in the future to government funding of health care. The president flatly admitted to harboring hopes for universal health coverage, a highly political prospect that has not enjoyed majority support in the current Washington climate.

"I'm hoping for some creative ideas to move toward a single-payer system, because with all due respect to Tom Friedman, the world is not flat when it comes to health care," Wagner said, referring to the *New York Times* columnist whose most recent book, *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century*, deals with the increasingly global business environment.

Another questioner asked Wagner to explain Emory's role in drug development, and the president explained the nature of partnerships the University forms with pharmaceutical companies, which are especially critical when it comes to the clinical-trial phase. Perhaps anticipating the audience member's thinking, Wagner admitted that the temptation to "cut corners" does exist when such vast sums (witness last summer's \$540 million Emtriva sale) await the successful development and marketing of the most important drugs.

"But that's where Emory's being an ethically engaged university comes in," Wagner said.

He also elaborated on another recent example of such ethical engagement; after students pointed out that parts of Emory's endowment are invested in companies that help fund the Sudanese government's oil infrastructure—and thus indirectly support the genocide in the country's Darfur region—Wagner said the University instructed its endowment fund managers to begin divesting Emory of holdings in those companies when they reevaluate their portfolios.

Other questions touched on everything from how much Emory's enrollment will grow in the next 10 years (said Wagner: "Not much.") to how the University should work with the Atlanta and Decatur communities, to the role Emory College plays in the strategic plan and its crosscutting initiatives (answer: a major one, Wagner said, including primary leadership in several), to how baseball "fits in" with the University's plans.

That last question, as it was intended, drew a few laughs. But

Wagner took the opportunity to deliver a serious, two-part answer. Having recently attended a meeting of Association of American Universities meeting in Washington, Wagner said the meeting was "somewhat of a downer," with several of member schools dealing with difficult and even painful crises, such as presidential ousters and the now-infamous situation concerning Duke's lacrosse team.

"It got me to thinking how fortunate Emory is," Wagner said, "to have been able to take a couple years and just dream [through the strategic plan]."

But specifically, the Duke situation—as well as the seemingly endless scandals concerning high-profile Div. I sports teams at colleges and universities around the country—reminded Wagner of the beauties of Div. III athletics. "I love Div. III sports," he said, informing his audience that the average GPA of Emory's varsity athletes is higher than that of the overall student body.

Myron Steves, a 1934 graduate of Emory College, ended the town hall on a nostalgic note, talking about how different Emory was during his undergraduate days in the 1930s. America was in the middle of the Depression, he said, and the sums of money involved in Emory activities would have been unimaginable back then—including the cost of tuition, which he said was \$75 per quarter (before Emory switched to semesters).

With some good-natured mock chagrin, Wagner smiled from the podium. "Thanks, Myron. You're a big help."

BRITAINAWARD

Akbik quietly assembled sterling service, leadership record



Ann Borden

Emory College graduate Feras Akbik, in addition to improving the College Council he served as both president and vice president, helped bring science into the classrooms of Atlanta-area students.

BY BEVERLY CLARK

Through quiet leadership and a tireless dedication to making a difference, Emory College Class of 2006 graduate Feras Akbik will leave his alma mater having changed the way students

experience—and will experience—the University for years to come.

First as vice president, then as president of the College Council this past year, Akbik represented the concerns of more than 6,000 undergraduates to Emory's administration and oversaw the distribu-

tion of more than \$300,000 in grants to fund student-run events. During his tenure, he helped create new campus traditions, including the Great Debate lecture series, Battle of the Dorms and Screen on the Green. Behind the scenes, he led an overhaul of College Council's internal structure so it would run more efficiently, remain fiscally responsible and better serve the Emory community now and in the future.

"Feras is a person who cares deeply about the college experience for students here, and is truly unsung for his work and dedication," said Karen Salisbury, director of student activities in Campus Life. "He is someone who dove in to work on the inside for positive change instead of standing on the outside and pointing out what is wrong."

Akbik's achievements earned him Emory's highest student honor, the Marion Luther Brittain Award, given to a member of the graduating class in recognition of his or her service to the University. Akbik received the award (which

carries a \$5,000 gift) during Commencement, May 15.

The Atlanta native said he was surprised to receive the honor, and grateful for his Emory experience. "College is as much about developing as a person as it is about academics. By getting involved, you learn a lot of different life lessons that you wouldn't learn in the classroom," he said.

In addition to his leadership on College Council, Akbik worked closely with the Muslim Student Association (MSA). He helped to plan and oversee events that furthered campus education on Islam, including the first MSA Art Gala. His work with the association helped it achieve recognition as a three-time Organization of the Year on campus. He also represented Emory's Muslim community on the Inter-Religious Council and at interfaith services.

Akbik planned the sixth annual "State of Race Debate," which this year tackled an international topic for the first time. He also helped found the Kappa Sigma fraternity chapter

at Emory. A double major in biology and philosophy, he has maintained a near-perfect GPA as a Goodrich C. White Scholar.

Akbik's work to make a difference extended beyond campus—he helped teach science classes last year at an Atlanta public school as an undergraduate fellow in the PRISM (Problems and Research to Integrate Math and Science) program, an initiative to improve science education by pairing teachers with Emory students in the sciences to develop problem-based, hands-on science lessons.

He spent a summer as a volunteer with the Emory Scholars and Service program, working with at-risk youth and leading bicycle tours around Atlanta. This semester, Akbik also worked as a tutor with local public high school seniors to help prepare them for the Georgia High School Exit Exam in science. Next year, he plans to attend Washington University in St. Louis to pursue a career in medical research.

MCMULLANAWARD

Emory's 'yin & yang' take unprecedented double honors

BY BEVERLY CLARK

J.B. Tarter and Devin Murphy are a study in contrasts: Tarter, a diehard conservative from the heartland of Idaho, has strong aspirations for a career in politics and policy. Murphy, a true blue liberal from Spartanburg, S.C., plans to become a professor and ultimately the provost of a major university. Put the two together, and you have what people call the "yin and yang" of Emory College's Class of 2006.

They are the first to admit they rarely agree on much. They do, however, have a lot in common. Outstanding scholars, campus leaders and devoted volunteers, each received one of the University's top student honors, the 2006 Lucius Lamar McMullan Award—which includes \$20,000 each, no strings attached. Described as "joined at the hip" in their dedication to work together for the common good during their college careers, the pair is being honored for their collective and individual service with the unprecedented decision to award both a fully funded McMullan Award.

"Interdependency remains a word that many people embrace, but do not enact. J.B. and Devin acted interdependently—in the Emory Scholars Program, the Student Government Association and a number of Emory organizations," said Bobbi Patterson, outgoing director of the Emory Scholars Program and faculty member in religion.

"Part of the beauty of how they worked and lived interdependently involved their willingness to be different, to approach an issue or a problem from

alternate perspectives, to use different theories and methods, to argue—and then work their way into a shared and innovative next step," Patterson said. "These two men, with their high levels of maturity, lived interdependency at its best at Emory."

The two, both Robert W. Woodruff Scholars (the University's most prestigious academic scholarship), are described as natural leaders who assume leadership positions in almost every group they join. They first got to know each other when they were paired together their freshman year as partners in Emory's nationally ranked debate program, the Barkley Forum.

Nearly four years after they met, Tarter and Murphy say they both started laughing when they found themselves summoned together to the dean's office. "It had to be either really good—or really bad. We had no idea what to expect," Murphy said.

Both say they are humbled to have received the award and happy, as well. The money will be used to help fund their graduate careers: Murphy is headed to New York University to study for a Ph.D., while Tarter will go to Harvard Law School.

A nationally ranked debater in high school, Murphy used his verbal skills to lead the campus through many sensitive debates on race relations and sexual orientation, demonstrating, as one letter of support said, "the character to resist the subtle seduction that comes with power, by employing responsible advocacy (rather than) self-centered advocacy."

Similarly, Tarter also stood out in his four years at Emory as a mature and politically conser-

vative voice on campus. Through his involvement with the College Republicans, student government and his writings in student publications at Emory, he led the campus in openly and candidly debating the important issues of the day in a way that built community instead of dividing people more, his nominators noted.

Through Emory's Student Government Association (SGA), Murphy and Tarter worked together closely on many issues. Together, they addressed what they described as "common sense" issues that affected students and the University as a whole, whether it was student government election reform, chartering new student groups, discussing controversial changes to student meal plans, or working with DeKalb County on a sound ordinance that resulted in a reasonable compromise on outdoor events with the surrounding community.

"We both love Emory and want what's best for the community. So when we come together on an issue, we bring different strengths and constituencies," Tarter said.

"Often we'll agree on the same course of action for totally different reasons," Murphy said. "We essentially strived to bring people together in dialogue to work on positive change."

Individually, Murphy is graduating with a bachelor's degree, with highest honors, in interdisciplinary studies in society and culture. Besides receiving the McMullan Award, he also served as the 2006 Class Orator. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year, Murphy has received two national scholarships: the Mellon Mays Undergraduate



Bryan Meitz

As is appropriate, Emory College graduate Devin Murphy is on the left and classmate J.B. Tarter is on the right; the two ably represented both ends of the political spectrum during their time at Emory.

Fellowship in 2003 and the Beinecke Scholarship in 2005.

Though he spent most of his life wanting to be a lawyer, Murphy now hopes to join the academy to examine race, gender and sex from a philosophical and cultural perspective; at Emory, he served on the president's commissions on both Race and Ethnicity and LGBT Concerns. At NYU, Murphy plans to pursue an interdisciplinary doctorate in American studies.

Tarter will receive both a bachelor's degree, with highest honors, with a triple major in political science, economics and history (with a math minor), and a master's degree in political science. He has received many accolades, including induction into Phi Beta Kappa and the Levitas Award for most outstanding political science graduate.

He also was deeply involved in the Emory Scholars Program. He revamped and oversaw an

advising and mentoring program for freshman scholars, and coordinated events for the program's annual recruitment weekend. He also served on the Center for Ethics advisory board as a student representative.

After law school, Tarter said he hopes to enter the national political arena as an adviser and policy maker. This past year, he served as the Sen. Sam Nunn Presidential Fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency in Washington. In addition to internships at the Heritage Foundation and two Senate offices, Tarter served on the Georgia Secretary of State's student advisory committee, developing ways to decrease voter apathy and increase civic participation by college students. He also has done interviews and commentary on politics with CNN International, BBC Radio, NBC, the *Chicago Tribune* and National Public Radio.

EMORY WEEKEND from page 1

Beginning on Thursday, May 11, with an Emeritus College award ceremony and a reception for Oxford College continuees, then running through Commencement on Monday, May 15, the Emory campus buzzed with activity.

The theme of Emory Weekend 2006, "The Eagle Has Landed," came to the forefront on Saturday at the Block Party on McDonough Field. The Department of Athletics was another of AEA's partners, and Emory Weekend was the venue for the campuswide debut of Emory's new mascot, Swoop. (Emory's old mascot is also named Swoop, but the 20-year-old bird has been showing his age and was in need of an update.)

With an estimated 1,800 attendees, including a raucous core of several hundred Guster fans (the event's headlining band) packed together near the stage, the Block Party was the largest single event of Emory Weekend. The Friday night Soirée drew some 800 graduating seniors to the Emory Conference Center—many of them graduating students with their families—for a night of dancing.

Some of the smaller gatherings were no less enjoyable. The GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alumni) Blue Jean Brunch on Sunday was a friendly blend of alumni, students, staff and faculty; also on Sunday, the Classical Concert featured Emerson Professor of Piano William Ransom, several alumni performers and nearly 100 guests and was an artistic highlight; and President Jim Wagner was all over campus: hosting an open house at Lullwater, meeting with guests at a Town Hall meeting, toasting the Class of 2006 at the Soirée and making other appearances.

Several classes from across the University held reunions, chief among them the Class of 1956, many members of which were inducted into Corpus Cordis Aureum. Members of the 1996 reunion class numbered about 100 strong and, following their formal event in the Carlos Museum, adjourned to Midtown Atlanta where assorted reunion activities continued on into Sunday morning.

New events included a reception for the Alumni Presidents Club, an organization of past presidents of alumni organizations of Emory's various schools. The club's first meeting, a standing-room-only affair at the Houston Mill

House on Thursday, preceded the Candlelight Crossover. More than 800 graduating seniors (double the number from the initial event three years ago) carried candles over the Houston Mill Road bridge, symbolizing their transition to alumni status.

Sunday's Legacy Reception was not a new event, but it did introduce a new element. For the first time, alumni presented graduating family members with specially designed medals. This was rarely accomplished without emotion and proved to be one of the highlights of the entire weekend.

"We are thrilled by the success of Emory Weekend 2006," said Allison Dykes, vice president for alumni relations. "It is wonderful to see the many faces of the Emory community—alumni, students, parents—all celebrating together. This University is such a diverse place with a remarkable variety of personalities, but that makes for a wonderful blend, and I think we saw that over Emory Weekend."

For the first time this summer, a full review of Emory Weekend 2006 complete with photos from many of the events will be posted to the Association of Emory Alumni's website at www.alumni.emory.edu.

FACULTY LECTURES

Faculty lectures circle bases of study

From baseball in Atlanta to the poetic words of an award-winning writer, to the complicated mind of the American voter—these were the places explored by the trio of faculty lectures that took place during Emory Weekend 2006.

Dana White, Goodrich C. White Professor of Liberal Arts, led off the schedule with "Baseball: A Mirror of Modern Atlanta?" on Friday, May 12, in Candler Library. Following a screening of the 1991 documentary *How We've Played the Game* (an episode of the Emmy-nominated PBS series *The Making of Modern Atlanta*), which White co-wrote and co-hosted, he discussed the changes brought to Atlanta by the arrival of the Atlanta Braves from Milwaukee in 1966.

Drew Westen, professor of psychology, discussed one of the most universal subjects around: politics. "The Political Brain: Reason, Emotion and American Politics" explored how the American electorate makes decisions regarding their leaders and how what they know isn't necessarily as important as what they feel. Westen said that if he is aware of what a voter knows concerning facts about a candidate as well as that voter's belief system, he can predict their vote with an 85 percent chance of success.

Concluding the schedule was a poetry reading by Atticus Haygood Professor of English and Creative Writing Kevin Young immediately following Westen's lecture. Attendees included a camera crew that was taping footage for a profile of the award-winning Young to be broadcast on PBS later this year. Young joined the faculty last fall as professor and curator of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library, and his reading included selections from each of his four collections of poetry. —Eric Rangus

CUTTINO AWARD



Mentor Bright awarded for years of wisdom

"Senior faculty do and should provide guidance to students and other faculty, not just by teaching but also by doing whatever they can to make the academy run better and ensure that the academy has a functioning roll in the community," said

David Bright, professor of classics and the 2006 recipient of George P. Cuttino Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

Bright, who is retiring next year, came to Emory in 1991 as vice president for arts and sciences and dean of Emory College and served as chair of the Department of Classics until 2005. Although he held roles in administration he never failed to continue teaching, leading a freshman seminar every year since he's been here. "I tell students to think of me as a resource," Bright said. "I've stayed in touch with many students, some only having taken one class from me."

"I'm so gratified and touched about receiving this award and the values it represents, which are based on my own views," he said. "Faculty are in a position to make a difference in areas they may not even know differences are being made."

RETIRING EMPLOYEES

The following individuals are retiring members of the faculty, administration and staff. Date indicates year of initial employment at the University.

FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS

Lee Alderman, Environmental Health and Safety (1993)
 Roberta Bondi, Theology (1978)
 John Bonner, Rehabilitation Medicine (1967)
 Pamela Catlin, Physics (1974)
 Robert Chen, Physics (1964)
 Patricia Douglass, Assistant Vice President, HR (1982)
 Daniel Gallina, Endocrinology (1985)
 June Garber, Rehabilitation Medicine (1980)
 Alfred Grindon, Pathology (1977)
 Charles (Ted) Hackett, Theology (1972)
 John Herbert, Psychiatrist, University Health Services (2001)
 Rodney Hunter, Theology (1971)
 Helen Jenkins, University Food Service Liaison (1945)
 Joseph Kinkade Jr., Biochemistry (1970)
 Jeffrey Lichtman, Radiology (1978)
 Ming-Chang Lin, Chemistry (1988)
 Edward Livingston Jr., Dentistry (1982)
 Walter Lowe, Theology (1971)
 Janet Lutz, Director, Nursing Staff Support Services (1990)
 Stephen Margolis, Health and Policy Management (1994)
 Johnnie Morgan, Rehabilitation Medicine (1974)
 Douglas Murray, Surgery Oncology (1969)
 Charles Nicolaysen, Director of Academic Services (1974)
 Eric Nitschke, University Libraries (1972)
 Ruth Pagell, University Libraries (1994)
 Clark Poling, Art History (1973)
 John Pooler, Physiology (1969)
 Oliver Puckett Jr., Physics (1962)
 Rachel Schonberger, Family and Preventive Medicine (1976)
 Edwin Douglas Shires, Pathology (1987)
 Euclid "Neal" Smith, Anthropology (1974)
 Perry Sprawls, Radiology (1960)
 Yung-Fong Sung, Anesthesiology (1971)
 JoNell Adair Usher, Assistant Dean, Public Health (1984)
 David Vroon, Pathology (1972)
 Margaret Elaine Wagner, University Libraries (1975)
 Yi-Chong Wang, Psychiatry (1987)
 William Seth Weintraub, Cardiology (1986)
 Yi-Yi Yu, Microbiology and Immunology (1990)
 Jacqueline Zalumas, Family and Preventive Medicine (1995)

STAFF

(Twenty-five or more years of service)

Charles Cherry, Operational Services (1968)
 Beverlyn Leverett Cooper, University Libraries (1979)
 Larry Darnell Finch, Animal Resources (1970)
 Yvonne Flowers, Association of Emory Alumni (1980)
 Judith Gore, Biology (1973)
 Marianne Hitchcock, Heart Center Information Services (1977)
 Sherrill King, Association of Emory Alumni (1980)
 Elizabeth McDonough, Dermatology (1975)
 Patricia Moore, Winship Cancer Institute (1978)
 Sara Anderson Moses, Network Communications (1976)
 Jodie Ringer, Facilities Management (1972)
 Mark Roberts, Parking and Community Services (1964)
 Eleanor Floyd Scarborough, Oxford College (1972)
 Willie Warbington, Operations and Maintenance (1978)

COURTESY SCHOLARS

The following Emory employees were scheduled to earn degrees this year through the University's Courtesy Scholars program:

Jewel Adams
 Jadranka Bozja
 Kathryn Bradley
 Amy Branch
 Erica Bruce
 Hannah Cluck
 Lakeysha Daniels
 Rodrick Esaw
 Lorna Fagan
 Hannah Feinberg
 Quarkina France
 Kevin Gelé

Raphael Gershon
 Kathryn Glas
 James Goff
 Hans Grossniklaus
 Robin Hitchcock
 Jill Jones
 Zoher Kapasi
 Shelley Kozlowski
 David Lower
 Linda Mbah
 Adlene McElroy
 Molly Morton

Michelle Mott
 Iruka Ndubizu
 Minh Nguyen
 Masayo Nishiyama
 Ann North
 Suzanne Robertson
 Samantha Schmidt
 Jennifer Spann
 Ilya Teplinskiy
 Cassandra Walker
 Megan Williams
 Liping Zhao

COMMENCEMENT from page 1

But the keynote speaker kept her political barbs—mostly—in check, delivering instead a tough-love message of inspiration to the day's graduates, hearkening back to the values imbued upon her in childhood by a generation of African American parents, friends and neighbors who viewed children "as community property" and treated all as their own. "Our elders had grit," she said.

"I'm very grateful for these childhood legacies of a living faith reflected in daily service, the discipline of hard work, a capacity to struggle in the face of adversity," Wright Edelman said. "Giving up was not a part of my childhood lexicon; you got up every morning, and you did what you had to do, and you got up when you fell down, and you tried as many times as you had to until you got it right."

Joining her onstage as an honorary degree recipient was Stephen Bright, president and senior counsel for the Southern Center for Human Rights, an organization dedicated to social justice, especially among prisoners and people facing the death penalty. Bright, a sometimes teacher in Emory's School of Law, was presented by interim law Dean Frank Alexander.

A third honorary degree recipient, Dietrich von Bothmer, distinguished research curator at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, was unable to attend the ceremony due to sudden illness, Wagner announced. Jasper Gaunt, curator of Greek and Roman art at the Carlos Museum and a former student of von Bothmer's, accepted the

award in his place.

With the honorary degrees awarded—along with the Thomas Jefferson and University Scholar/Teacher awards, which went to Alexander and to Frances Smith Foster, respectively (see stories, page 3)—it was time for Wagner to award degrees, and he called forth each dean to present her or his class as each was officially bestowed the reward for their years of study—along with "all the rights, honors, privileges and responsibilities" thereto.

There were, as every year, cheers from each group of graduates. But diplomas were not the only things causing excitement that day; moving inconspicuously about the Quad, here on the Administration Building steps, there behind the glass doors of Pitts Library, was a small camera crew led by a gruff, no-nonsense-looking man in a brown leather jacket.

That man was Hollywood actor Sean Penn, who was on location shooting scenes for an upcoming film based on Jon Krakauer's book *Into the Wild*. The story is that of Christopher McCandless, a 1990 Emory College graduate who, after receiving his degree, promptly donated a sizable savings account entirely to charity and moved west. After some time traveling, McCandless was found dead in the Alaskan wilderness, along with a journal and photographs that helped Krakauer piece the tale together.

The film, which is untitled but tentatively starring Emile Hirsch, Debra Winger and

William Hurt, has not yet set a release date. Penn is directing from the screenplay he wrote.

Meanwhile, in the morning's main attraction, Wagner announced that the University would revive a dormant tradition by singing the alma mater to conclude the main Commencement ceremony. So, after a multifaceted benediction delivered in turn by representatives of the Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Jewish faiths, 2006 master's of music recipient Jeremy Wirths led an a cappella rendition as yet another class of graduates hailed the gold and blue.

OXFORD from page 1

an orientation leader, a member of Leadership Oxford, Dooley's spokesperson, and an intramural soccer star. She even shared musical talents as a guitarist for a tsunami relief benefit and Peruvian orphanage fundraiser, among other activities.

"Marlon came early and stayed late," said Moon, "to support campus events."

Dean of Academic Affairs Kent Linville presented the Emory Williams Award for Distinguished Teaching to Charles Howard Candler Professor of English Lucas Carpenter for his "innovative and effective teaching strategies, and encouraging students to think independently." Carpenter, who has taught at Oxford for two decades, holds the college's first endowed chair and was the first Oxford professor to be honored with Emory's University Scholar/Teacher Award.

COMMENCEMENT 2006



Alum's life inspires film

Actor and director Sean Penn made an appearance at this year's Commencement, shooting scenes for an upcoming movie based on Jon Krakauer's book *Into the Wild*. The book tells the story of 1990 Emory graduate Christopher McCandless, who gave away his worldly possessions to charity and sought an ascetic life in the wilderness. McCandless eventually was found dead in the Alaskan backcountry, but the journals and photographs he left behind helped tell his story. Penn is directing a movie from the screenplay he adapted; the film has not yet set a release date.