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#DooleyCat

Emory students had the rare chance to capture one of thirty custom cats created by Atlanta artist Catlanta during Dooley’s Week. Broadcast on Emory’s social media channels, clues to hiding spots sparked frenzied searches for the coveted kitties across Emory’s campuses. Photo by Rory Hawkins.
Counting Days

This month, Emory celebrates the culmination of the academic year with Commencement. As days go, for universities, they don't get much bigger: more than fifteen thousand people on the Quad, regalia and flowers and ties and high heels, four honorary degrees, well over four thousand diplomas conferred, countless cell phone snaps, and one Salman Rushdie sending graduates off into the future with words that no doubt will linger for years to come.

But it's equally interesting to think about all the little days that led up to this big one. Four years ago, members of the Emory Class of 2015 were high school kids—studying for their final exams, planning their prom outfits, nervous and excited, texting and tweeting and posting, maybe applying for summer jobs or internships. During their time as Emory students, they studied, partied, called their parents, went on dates, worked out, cried, ordered pizza, stayed up all night with their friends, drank, laughed, and studied some more. They discovered things, learned things, made mistakes, figured stuff out. Most days.

Life is not made up of big days. It's made up of most days, the ones filled with ordinary things. Coffee, email, meetings, Facebook, deadlines, exercise, dinner. All punctuated by the unrelenting demands of your mobile phone.

Everyone's idea of a regular day is different. For some of the Emory community members spotlighted in this magazine, doing the everyday things that many of us take for granted—like typing an email, getting coffee, walking from the car to the office or classroom, finishing an assignment that's due—is a little harder. That's why the office of Access, Disability Services, and Resources is ramping up efforts to help Emory students and faculty members with disabilities have more of what most of us might consider ordinary days—days that are defined not by their disabilities and the challenges that accompany them, but by what they were able to accomplish.

Then there's a regular day for an African American person living in the Jim Crow South. Emory's class on the Georgia Cold Cases Project encourages students to dig deep into the history of civil rights-era crimes and uncover new, or hidden, facts about the victims' stories. What they're finding is that for blacks in 1950s and 1960s Georgia, most ordinary days were probably shadowed by some measure of fear; just walking down the street, buying lunch, driving one's own car, going to school, or showing up for work could take an unexpected and, at times, tragic turn. But the discoveries of the Emory students are building on knowledge and fostering understanding for surviving generations.

For scientists and researchers, such as those working with the Emory-headquartered Center for Selective C-H Functionalization and Yerkes National Primate Research Center, a typical day could revolve around the arguably tedious process of lab work: analyzing, recording, retesting, resetting, and launching an experiment into motion yet again. Same for an artist like rising star Fahamu Pecou, who might spend a day experimenting with a new technique, medium, or source of inspiration. It takes a lot of little days to reach a big one—the breakthrough, lifesaving discovery or the truly great work of art.

My son will graduate from high school this month. Of course I'm looking forward to his graduation day, when our family and friends will celebrate the milestone with us, with pictures and tears and speeches. But this fall, when he joins the Emory Class of 2019 as an Oxford College freshman, I know it's not his high school graduation day that I'll miss. It's the ordinary days. Scrambled eggs and CNN, swapping yawns on the drive to school, arguing about homework, demonstrating how to fold laundry, asking if someone will please feed the dog, debating whether we should cook dinner or order pizza, yelling at the dog, debating whether the dog has been fed, watching The Walking Dead. Catching priceless, fleeting glimpses of the adult my kid will become—when he will make, and remake, his own definition of an ordinary day.

Most days are not big days. As it turns out, the small days are the ones that count. If you order pizza for dinner, please give some to the dog; he may or may not have been fed. —P.P.P.
Thank you for the tribute to Kenneth Murrah (“Tribute: Dedicated Alumnus and Philanthropist,” winter 2015). Ken was a loyal Emory alumnus and a loyal, supportive brother of Alpha Tau Omega’s Georgia Alpha Theta Chapter at Emory. However, your tribute was remiss in not mentioning Ken’s oldest son, Bert Murrah 81C, who both attended Emory from 1977 through 1981 and was president of the ATO chapter at Emory. Bert preceded Ken in death, leaving us in the picture a sad insertion.

David Cohen 800OX 82C
Madison, Wisconsin

I was troubled, appalled really, to see the photo prominently displayed in your winter issue. The focus of my objection is not on the actions of the students, who can exercise their right to free speech as fecklessly as they wish, but on your editorial decision to provide prominent space to that activity. This is especially hypocritical because all lives DO matter, and yet Emory has not, to my knowledge, raised its voice to protest the killing of over 16 million African American preborn babies by abortion. Now why do you suppose that is?

Robert P. N. Shearin 75MR
Southhaven, Mississippi

Has something in Emory Magazine raised your consciousness—or your hackles? Write to the editors at Emory Magazine, 1762 Clifton Road, Suite 1000, Atlanta, Georgia, 30322, or via email at paige.parvin@emory.edu. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. The views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or the administrators of Emory University.
Emory joins Ebola vaccine research team
The Emory Vaccine Center is part of a government-academic-industry research partnership led by Inovio Pharmaceuticals to develop multiple treatment and prevention approaches against Ebola. The research team is funded by a two-year contract of up to $45 million from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Candler student wins Gates Cambridge Scholarship
Jeania Ree Moore ’15T was awarded the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, a prestigious, fully funded scholarship given to students outside the United Kingdom to pursue a postgraduate degree at the University of Cambridge in England. Since the award was established in 2000, Moore is the fourth Emory student to be named a Gates Cambridge scholar and the first from Candler School of Theology.

Sendoff: Salman Rushdie will serve as Emory’s Commencement speaker on May 11.

On the slums of Bombay, from exploring the intersection of disability rights and human rights to joining students for an impromptu read-through of Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Rushdie’s annual campus visits have contributed to a legacy of unique learning opportunities.

Rushdie’s relationship with Emory stretches back to 2004, when the award-winning author was invited to present an address for the Richard Ellmann Lectures in Modern Literature series. That visit would lead Rushdie to find a permanent home for his papers in Emory’s Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL), a decision that he credits with helping him complete his autobiography, Joseph Anton: A Memoir.

As University Distinguished Professor in the Department of English, Rushdie would embrace the role of visiting scholar, lecturer, and colleague, engaging the campus community on a wide orbit of topics. But as he concludes his professorial role at Emory, it is Rushdie’s congenial and generous classroom presence that many will remember best.

“One of the most remarkable things about a conversation with Salman Rushdie, whether one-on-one or in a large group, is the sense of the personal,” says Coalition of the Liberal Arts (CoLA) Chair Robyn Fivush, associate vice provost of academic innovation and Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology.

Watching Rushdie speak with faculty and staff at a CoLA conversation storytelling...
event, Fivush says she saw in him the embodiment of a true liberal arts scholar, both erudite and informed, with “an ability to speak across issues and disciplines in plain words that carry great meaning.”

“He is able to create an intellectual space that includes all of those in his presence,” she says. “His great joy in sharing ideas is palpable.”

For students, the CoLA event offered a rare glimpse at the man behind the book jacket. Hayley Silverstein ’99C found Rushdie’s account of conflict with his father over choosing a college major both humanizing and encouraging.

“A lot of college students think about choosing a major as a way to make money, not choosing the major that you love,” Silverstein says. “It was nice to hear that you can choose a major that you love and still be successful in life.”

During his annual two-week teaching visits to Emory, Rushdie earned a reputation as something of an intellectual chameleon. One afternoon, he might be found discussing contemporary India with students in an advanced Hindi class or exploring the writing craft with select faculty members.

Another day, he’s chatting with undergraduates about the books that have been his greatest influences, or joining a roundtable discussion about human rights and human disabilities with Eva Kittay, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Stony Brook University and senior fellow of the Stony Brook Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care, and Bioethics; English professor Benjamin Reiss; and Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, professor of English and bioethics, who codirect Emory’s Disability Studies Initiative. (See related story, page 26.)

“If there are such as a thing as rights, they must derive from human nature—those things which are in our nature to do as human beings,” Rushdie explained at the human rights forum. “You start with human nature, proceed through an idea of natural justice to human rights. I think that is true whether one is a disabled person or not. Start with the understanding of what we are as human beings.”

As a global citizen who has lived at the intersection of multiple cultures, Rushdie brought an accessible perspective to a vast range of classes and disciplines, says Gordon Newby, Goodrich C. White Professor of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies.

“Students could talk with him not only about how he deals with those intersections, not only in terms of his literature, but in terms of his life,” Newby recalls. “He always offered a great intellectual flexibility and is very open about himself. And so it becomes a conversation, as opposed to a kind of traditional show-and-tell lecture—not everybody is able to pull that off, not all students are able to pull that off. But here, it worked.”

Looking back on Rushdie’s tenure at Emory, Newby says, “We can be pleased that he was a professor with us and that our students were up to the challenge of working with an educator of his caliber.”

—Kimber Williams

And Now, Shakespeare

EMORY SELECTED FOR FIRST FOLIO EXHIBITION

Emory has been designated the Georgia site for display of First Folio! The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare, a national traveling exhibition of the Shakespeare First Folio, one of the world’s most treasured books.

The Folger Shakespeare Library, in partnership with Cincinnati Museum Center and the American Library Association, is touring a First Folio of Shakespeare in 2016 to all fifty states; Washington, D.C.; and Puerto Rico. The First Folio comes to Emory through a combined effort of the university; the Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL); the World Shakespeare Project; and the Michael C. Carlos Museum, where the exhibit will be on display. Planning is under way for numerous programs for the public around the First Folio exhibition, expected to arrive this fall.

“This is an extraordinary opportunity for Emory, MARBL, the Woodruff Library, and the Carlos Museum to focus on the strengths of our shared literary and cultural collections,” says Rosemary Magee B2PhD, director of MARBL. “Students, scholars, teachers, and the broader community throughout Georgia will come face-to-face with works of great achievement that continue to transform our sense of ourselves.”

The First Folio is the first collected edition of William Shakespeare’s plays. It was published in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare’s death. “The First Folio is the book that gave us Shakespeare. Between its covers we discover his most famous characters—Hamlet, Desdemona, Cordelia, Macbeth, Romeo, Juliet, and hundreds of others—speaking words that continue to move and inspire us,” says Michael Witmore, director of the Folger Shakespeare Library.

“Shakespeare tells the human story like no one else. He connects us to each other, to our history, and to themes and ideas that touch us every day.”


Four new AAAS members

Four members of the Emory faculty have been elected members of the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences: James W. Curran, dean of the Rollins School of Public Health; David Eltis, professor of history emeritus; Stephen T. Warren, William Patterson Timmie Professor of Human Genetics and Charles Howard Candler Chair in Human Genetics; and Carol Worthman, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Anthropology.

Clinical trial uses patients’ cells for ‘personalized’ treatment

Physician-researchers at Winship Cancer Institute and the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta are conducting an innovative clinical trial using the science of “personalized” cellular therapy. They have begun enrolling patients suffering from a life-threatening complication of bone marrow transplantation in which donor immune lymphocytes attack the organs of the recipient.

Total applications to Emory College exceeded twenty thousand for the Class of 2019, setting a new record in a successful undergraduate admission season for the university. Across the board, by nearly every measure, markers of student interest in Emory have grown dramatically this year: Emory College applications rose 15 percent to 20,519, exceeding 20,000 for the first time; Oxford College applications jumped 31 percent to 9,736; applications to the highly selective Emory Scholars Program grew 108 percent to more than 6,700. For both campuses, admission letters went to an ever-widening pool of international applicants and—also for the first time—students in all fifty US states.

Overall, Emory College admitted 4,796 students—23 percent of those who applied. Oxford College admitted 3,715, or 38 percent.

A sharp uptick in applications this year not only creates a stronger, more competitive pool of potential students, it has allowed Emory admission representatives more flexibility in shaping the Class of 2019, says Dean of Admission John Latting, assistant vice provost of undergraduate enrollment.

The surge in applications at Emory’s Oxford and Atlanta campuses this year can be attributed to both a strengthening economy and the cumulative effect of a range of achievements that have helped showcase the university’s strengths, Latting adds. “Good things are happening on many fronts at the same time,” Latting says. “More people are hearing the Emory name, and hearing it for good reason.”

A Century in Atlanta

Emory Traditions Made Brighter by Anniversary

This year, Emory celebrates one hundred years in Atlanta. The milestone added a special note to Founders Week in February, and festivities continued with Dooley’s Week in March, when students were treated to trendy performances, social events, and, of course, the traditional and much-anticipated release from class by the mysterious Lord of Misrule himself.

A new twist this year was a scavenger hunt for specially designed, frantically sought-after Dooley cats created by local artist Catlana (see photo on page 3).

The “100 Years in Atlanta” celebration, which honors the 1915 university charter that brought Emory to the city, will continue throughout the year.

The Envelope, Please

Emory Med Students Find Their Match

At precisely noon on Friday, March 20, fourth-year medical students at Emory’s School of Medicine participated in Match Day 2015, joining their peers across the US as they dashed across the room, ripped open envelopes, and simultaneously learned where they are headed next on their journeys to become physicians.

The students were among thousands receiving positions at US teaching hospitals through the National Residency Match Program (NRMP), which annually matches students with residency programs, where they will care
for patients under the supervision of attending physicians.

“Finding out where you’ll spend your residency is a memorable day in the life of a medical student,” says J. William Eley, executive associate dean for medical education and student affairs. “The Emory School of Medicine Class of 2015 has achieved wonderful results in this year’s match. We are excited that they are going to outstanding medical centers to continue their training.”

Of the 137 Emory graduating seniors, 133 participated in a match program. Some of the most popular specialties chosen by Emory’s graduating seniors were internal medicine, pediatrics, and general surgery. Twenty-eight graduating students will spend all or part of their residencies in Emory’s Residency Training Programs, with others going to a variety of esteemed institutions including Harvard, UCSF, Northwestern, Cleveland Clinic, University of Washington, University of Pennsylvania, Mayo Clinic, Cornell, Columbia, Yale, Brown, Duke, Johns Hopkins, and Vanderbilt.

The now-computerized match process was established in 1952, at the request of medical students, to provide a fair and impartial transition to the graduate medical education experience. According to the NRMP, last year more than forty thousand applicants vied for some twenty-nine thousand residency positions at institutions across the country.

Eagles Still Rule the Pool

The Emory Women’s Swimming and Diving Team sustained a serious winning streak this spring, claiming the team title at the 2015 NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships in Shenandoah, Texas. The championship is the sixth straight for the Eagles and the eighth overall in the program’s history. Emory also claimed six more individual All-America finishes on the final day of the NCAA Championship meet. The Emory Men’s Swimming and Diving Team finished fourth in the 2015 NCAA Division III Championships. Junior Andrew Wilson ’16C was named the NCAA Division III Swimmer of the Year after capping off the meet with his third individual championship, winning the national title in the 200-yard breaststroke.

Emory ranks in top tier for endowment returns

Emory’s endowment market value ranks 16th in the nation for the 2014 fiscal year out of the 832 US schools surveyed for the 2014 National Association of College and University Business Officers Commonfund Study of Endowments. Emory continues to hold last year’s 16th overall ranking in market value of its endowment. The endowment increased in FY2014 from $5.8 billion to $6.7 billion.

Emory professor wins Guggenheim Fellowship

Professor of English Benjamin Reiss was selected as a Guggenheim Fellow in April by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Reiss’s current research project is a cultural history of sleep from the industrial revolution in the nineteenth century to the present. He is specifically interested in how sleep has become a “problem” in contemporary culture.
Rollins-CDC partnership expands public health in Africa
The Hubert Department of Global Health at Rollins School of Public Health has entered into a $7.49 million, five-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to implement the African Centre of Excellence for Public Health Security, a program to improve preparedness and response to health threats in low-income countries, with a focus on West Africa.

Smarter ICU arrives at Emory
Emory University Hospital is using software for a pioneering collaboration to create advanced, predictive medical care for critically ill patients through real-time streaming analytics in its Intensive Care Units. Emory is testing a system that can identify patterns in physiological data and instantly alert clinicians to danger signs in patients.

R. L. FELIPE LOBELO

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

SECRET LIFE: Soccer player

After years of playing soccer on the high school and club level in his native Colombia, Felipe Lobelo had a choice to make: pursue soccer professionally or give it up to go to college. Although his heart was set on the sport, his parents had different ideas, and Lobelo agreed that his best course was to enroll in a six-year program at El Rosario University in Bogota to earn his undergraduate and medical degrees. However, he bucked tradition by continuing to play soccer during college and medical school. During his medical school clinical rotations, Lobelo says, he had to switch with other students or plead with his professors to switch his hours so he could attend practices and go to tournaments. After medical school, Lobelo pursued a PhD at the University of South Carolina in the state’s capitol of Columbia, where he was the only graduate student on the university’s club soccer team. When he moved to Atlanta in 2008 to work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, he recruited colleagues to play for local soccer teams, eventually organizing the VaHi ATletic Football Club in 2012. In 2013, in addition to playing with the local team in the Atlanta District Amateur Soccer League, Lobelo joined the US Medical Soccer Team. The team is composed of physicians from across the country and represents the United States in the World Medical Football Federation’s annual World Medical Football Championship.

HIS WORDS: “There is an association in people’s heads that if you are into sports, you are not as gifted academically, but research statistics show very strongly that cognitive abilities are better among people who are fit and athletic. Exercise is one of the main areas used to improve cognitive development in kids and to combat Alzheimer’s disease in the elderly. Soccer is a sport that you can play at different levels of intensity—you can play for decades. It lets you stay healthy and active and engaged. I’ve been exposed to the world through soccer; it is a truly international sport and an interesting way to learn about the world.” —M. M. L.
Shake It Up
IS SALT SO BAD FOR THE HEART?

A study published in January in the online edition of *JAMA Internal Medicine* shows that salt intake was not associated with mortality or risk for cardiovascular disease and heart failure in older adults based on self-reported estimated sodium intake.

Researchers from the School of Medicine, led by Andreas P. Kalogeropoulos, looked at the association between dietary sodium intake and mortality, cardiovascular disease, and heart failure in a group of 2,642 adults ranging in age from seventy-one to eighty years old. Approximately 51.2 percent of the participants were female and 38.3 percent were black.

Kalogeropoulos and his coauthors examined ten-year follow-up data from the older adults participating in a community-based study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health focused on the aging process. The participants’ dietary sodium intake was assessed at baseline with a questionnaire.

“There is ongoing debate on how low should we go when it comes to dietary sodium restrictions, and not much data on restriction among older adults, especially those with their blood pressure on target,” says Kalogeropoulos, assistant professor of cardiology.

According to the study, achieving a sodium intake of less than 1,500 milligrams a day, as currently recommended for adults over fifty, can be difficult because of long-held dietary habits.

The scientists found that after ten years, 881 of the participants had died, 572 had developed cardiovascular disease, and 398 had suffered heart failure. Sodium intake was not associated with mortality or new development of these heart problems, according to study results.

Division of Labor
STUDY ASKS HOW MEN REALLY FEEL ABOUT DISHES

In countries where men and women share housework more equally, married men are more likely to be unsatisfied with their share of household duties as they report taking on a greater share of household chores, according to a new study by researchers at Emory and Umeå University in Sweden.

In other words, men are more likely to feel it’s unfair when they tackle a greater share of household chores in countries where a more egalitarian division of labor is considered the norm.

It may seem odd that men in countries where both men and women are expected to tackle chores would feel more dissatisfaction and a sense of unfairness.

“We presume that living in a more egalitarian society highlights the importance of housework in general, making men more conscious of it and thereby sparking a more negative response the more of it they do,” says Sabino Kornrich, assistant professor of sociology at Emory and lead researcher in the study (Maureen Eger, a sociologist at Umeå University, was the coauthor). “That suggests there’s a norm when men and women live in egalitarian countries that housework is an important, shared responsibility.”

The study, published in the journal *Social Politics*, included survey responses from roughly fourteen thousand men and women from thirty countries; all were under age sixty-five and married or living as married. Across all countries, women reported doing on average 75 percent of the housework. Men reported doing on average 31 percent of the housework. These numbers don’t equal 100 percent because they are based on self-reports of respondents’ own behavior as well as that of their spouses.

So where are the men who report doing at least 50 percent of the housework? Roughly 30 to 38 percent of men from Poland, the US, Australia, Denmark, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Latvia, and Sweden reported handling at least 50 percent. Roughly 15 percent or fewer of men in Portugal, the Czech Republic, Chile, and Japan (Japan ranked dead last with only about 6 percent) said they did at least 50 percent of housework.

Men from more gender-egalitarian countries, such as the US, Sweden, and Australia, were the most likely to believe they were doing an “unfair” amount of housework when they perform a large share of the household duties. Interestingly, men who do more household work in countries where men, on average, do less, such as Japan, were less likely to feel that their chore burden was unfair.

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Board of Trustees elects new members

Emory’s Board of Trustees has elected four new members: Tom Barkin, Lee Miller B2L, Greg Vaughn B7C, and Mark Weinberger B3C. Miller, a managing director with the Glenmede Trust Company, N.A.; Vaughn, CEO of Bauerfeind USA Inc; and Weinberger, global chairman and CEO of EY are alumni trustees. Barkin, an executive with McKinsey & Company, is a term trustee. All will serve six-year terms.

Emory honored for service, community engagement

Emory has been named to the 2014 US President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll—the fourth time in seven years that the institution has been so honored. Emory also received the 2015 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Emory is one of 240 US colleges and universities honored by Carnegie this year.
Big Ideas  GIVEN A CHANCE, STUDENTS WILL INNOVATE, EARLY AND OFTEN

INVENTION REQUIRES MORE THAN VISION; it requires resources and support. Emory student entrepreneurs are finding those in abundance—right from their first day on campus.

During the past year, Emory has stepped up efforts to support undergraduate students who are seeking a network to help further their entrepreneurship interests. Raoul Hall, the newest First Year at Emory (FYE) residence hall, opened last fall as a Social Entrepreneurship Living-Learning Community (LLC) designed “to inspire students to explore for- and not-for-profit businesses that provide innovative solutions to society’s most engaging problems.”

So far, it’s working. Rostam Zafari ’18C moved into Raoul Hall in the fall already committed to the idea of social entrepreneurship. Inspired by a challenge issued on the first day of class in Introduction to Biology, Zafari and classmate Brian Goldstone ’18C developed Rapid Ebola Detection Strips (REDS), a portable, fast, less expensive, user-friendly approach to detecting Ebola virus in the field. The duo is now beginning testing on the design.

“Addressing the world’s social issues is going to take creativity and innovation. It is so valuable to teach that in college because it challenges you to find new perspectives on ongoing problems,” Zafari says. “Bill Gates is a role model for me who has both the capital and the mind-set to solve problems in the world. He does good, and he does well, and he impacts millions, if not billions, of lives. That is what I want to do.”

Ambra Yarbrough, resident complex director for Raoul Hall, says the new LLC is staffed by specially chosen student and resident assistants and social entrepreneurship resident fellow Raj Ramakrishnan ’16MBA.

“The goal of the Student Entrepreneurship Committee last year was to create an umbrella hub that all the entrepreneurship endeavors can fit within,” Yarbrough says. “Before this, students were just scrounging around campus finding anyone who was willing or interested in talking to them about their ideas and figuring out how to piece things together.”

Having the social entrepreneurship LLC “taps into a huge niche” at Emory for first- and second-year undergraduate students who want to start exploring innovation early.

“Students don’t really exist from nine to five, since they are usually in the classroom, but they really come alive after five p.m., which is when most administrators leave campus. To have us and the assistants available after hours, and running programs surrounding the topic of social entrepreneurship, allows them to think of things in a real-world aspect,” Yarbrough says.

Entrepreneurship efforts on campus have been spearheaded by the Committee on Undergraduate Student Entrepreneurship, cochaired by Andrea Hershatter, senior associate dean for undergraduate education at Goizueta Business School. One result was the Emory Entrepreneurship Ecosystem (E3), a program to coordinate resources and provide better support for students interested in business development—especially social entrepreneurship.

In January, Campus Life launched the E3 Living Labs, a communal space in Few Hall
This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of Emory’s milestone move from its original Oxford campus to Atlanta. As its physical presence spread outward from the iconic Quadrangle, the university morphed so dramatically during the past century that it’s difficult to imagine what it might have looked like in the years before the Internet.

Now you don’t have to. Emory’s Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL) has placed nearly fifty archival photos of the early Atlanta campus and student life on Historypin.com, a website for sharing historical photos and videos. Since MARBL joined the site last September, its profile has had more than one thousand hits on its images, gaining popularity more quickly than expected.

Historypin uses Google Maps to “pin” each historical photo to its location on a current map, so site visitors can click various points on the Emory campus to see photos from 1840 to the present day. The Google Maps “street view” allows users to overlay the archival photos on their modern day locations; for instance, one can see the Haygood-Hopkins Memorial Gate in 1939, when it was undergoing repair, and in 1949—both superimposed over a street view image of the gate today.

Alumni are also encouraged to pin their own photos of campus to MARBL’s Historypin page.

“We have been seeing a lot more public libraries, museums, and academic institutions using Historypin, which is great because more history is being shared in ways that wouldn’t have been possible otherwise,” says MARBL outreach archivist and research library fellow Matthew Strandmark, who heads the project. “We can post photos of Emory alumni at a sporting event, alumni can comment and say who was in the photo, and then they can share it, too. This is the whole idea of the project, to build a collective history.”

Strandmark also has created a mobile app tour using MARBL’s historical photos of the Quad. “It will walk you through where to line up your phone so you can see exactly where the image was,” Strandmark said.

Strandmark and MARBL research fellow Anne Donlon are creating another mobile application that will generate walking tours of campus from the archive’s historical photos. The app will employ the same technology used in the Battle of Atlanta website and application, an open web tour of historical Civil War sites in Atlanta created by Emory’s Center for Digital Scholarship. Users will be able to scroll through the photos and watch videos of people speaking about the sites depicted in the photos.

Until that app launches this fall, check out Historypin.com, where you just might rediscover a corner of Emory you once knew.—P.P.P.

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**DOOLEY NOTED**

**Time Machine**

**HISTORYPIN LETS USERS VISIT THE CAMPUS OF PAST AND PRESENT**

Hershatter says the next step will be to establish an incubation space for entrepreneurship ventures that are more mature in their progress and need office space and equipment; then, potentially, a storefront for student ventures.

“The intention is to help students move from the pitch and conceptual stages through to having the resources to put together a plan,” she says. “EE is helping students move those plans forward. These ideas are coming from freshmen and sophomores, and when they have these concepts, they don’t want to wait for their academic training to catch up. They have a real need to rapidly connect with intellectual resources to help them think about deployment.”—M.M.L.

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**Of Note**

where like-minded student entrepreneurs can take advantage of networking opportunities to develop and implement their own ideas. On Tuesday evenings, students can listen to topical presentations by guest speakers who have entrepreneurial experience and engage in question-and-answer sessions. On Wednesdays and Thursday evenings, the Multimedia Den in Few Hall is reserved for peer-to-peer networking.

Emory College senior Kaeya Majmundar ’15, who last year appeared on the popular television show Shark Tank and who also served on the Student Entrepreneurship Committee, says the program expands the number of resources available to student entrepreneurs.

“‘There has been a lot of interest in entrepreneurship among students at Emory, but it has been scattered. This facilitates partnerships for students and provides education from people who are experienced,” says Majmundar (below).”

“There are a lot of things seasoned entrepreneurs can teach people who are just starting out. The more people we can bring in who have that experience, the better for students.”

Hershatter says the next step will be to establish an incubation space for entrepreneurship ventures that are more mature in their progress and need office space and equipment; then, potentially, a storefront for student ventures.

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**Survivor:** Shark Tank contestant Kaeya Majmundar.

**Now:** the Haygood-Hopkins Gate.
Lessons Unlearned

MEMOIR TAKES A HARD LOOK AT A CHILDHOOD MARKED BY RACISM

IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT FEELS HALTING IN JIM GRIMSLY’S MEMOIR, HOW I SHED MY SKIN: UNLEARNING THE LESSONS OF A RACIST CHILDHOOD—EACH CHAPTER LIKE THE SOUND OF A CAR’S MOTOR STRAINING TO CATCH AND ROAR, FINALLY, TO LIFE—IT’S UNDERSTANDABLE, GIVEN THE BOOK’S KNotty SUBJECT: GROWING UP WHITE IN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE 1960s. IN FACT, BY ITS CONCLUSION, THE READER IS INCLINED TO INTERPRET GRIMSLY’S TENDENCY TO LAY OFF THE GAS MID-CHAPTER, AND THEN GUN IT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT, AS A LITERARY DEVICE, DEPLOYED IN SERVICE OF A TOPIC THAT BROOKS NO DEFINITIVE DECLARATIONS NOR EASY CONCLUSIONS.

GRIMSLY, EMBERY PROFESSOR OF CREATIVE WRITING, WAS RAISED IN JONES COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, GROWING UP HEMOPHILIC AND, HE REALIZED AT AN EARLY AGE, GAY, IN A POOR FAMILY. HIS MEDICAL CONDITION PRECLUDED THE KIND OF ROUGHHOUSING TYPICAL OF PREADOLESCENT AND TEENAGE BOYS, SO HE WAS ABLE TO WATCH THE RELATIONSHIPS IN HIS CLASSROOMS AND HIS COMMUNITY FROM A CERTAIN REMOVE. THAT DISTANCE AND HIS OWN SENSE OF ALONENESS ENDOWED HIM WITH A GREATER DEGREE OF EMPATHY FOR THE BLACK CHILDREN WHO WERE INTEGRATED INTO HIS SCHOOL IN 1966, BUT IT HARDLY MADE THE SOCIAL UPEHAVAL EASIER TO NAVIGATE.

THOUGH HE FELT CURIOUS ABOUT AND COMPASSIONATE TOWARD THE INTEGRATING STUDENTS, GRIMSLY REALIZES NOW—and had an admirable degree of recognition as a child, too—that his own upbringing was steeped in racist ideologies that compelled him to view African American children differently. FOR THE MOST PART, THOSE IDEOLOGIES WERE SUBTLE, TRANSFERRED TO HIM, AS HE WRITES, “BY GENTLE PEOPLE, BELIEVING THEMSELVES TO BE SHARING GOD’S OWN TRUTH.” IN CHURCH, HE LEARNED THAT WHITE WAS THE SYMBOL OF PURITY AND GOODNESS, WHILE BLACK WAS THE SYMBOL OF EVIL AND DEATH. THE SAME COLOR BINARY PLAYED OUT ACROSS POP CULTURE, WHERE COWBOYS WEARING WHITE HATS WERE THE GOOD GUYS (THE GUYS IN BLACK HATS WERE INEVITABLY THE NE’ER DO WELL VILLAINS) AND A BRIDE IN A WHITE DRESS REPRESENTED PURITY AND A NEW LIFE (VERSUS A WIDOW IN A BLACK DRESS MOURNING DEATH). SO TIDY AND COMPLETE WAS THIS ORDERING OF THE WORLD BY COLOR THAT GRIMSLY FOUND THE SCHEMA HARD TO ABANDON EVEN WHEN HE REALIZED ITS DANGERS; “IT WAS TOO USEFUL IN THE MAKING OF METAPHOR,” HE WRITES.

THE SPECTERS OF MORE OVERT, VIOLENT RACISM HOVERED AROUND THE EDGES OF GRIMSLY’S LIFE AS WELL. JONES COUNTY FOSTERED THE Ku KLUX KLAN, AND IN ONE CHAPTER, HE WONDERS WHETHER HIS OWN FATHER MIGHT HAVE BEEN A KLANSMAN AS HE WATCHES HIS MOTHER DOCTOR HER HUSBAND’S FACE WHEN HE COMES HOME, DRUNK AND CUT UP. BECAUSE HIS FATHER WAS “IN EVERY CASE A VIOLENT MAN,” GRIMSLY NEVER ASKED WHAT HAPPENED. INSTEAD, HE “PRESUME[S] THIS MOMENT OF VIOLENCE HAD SOME CONNECTION TO BLACK PEOPLE,” THOUGH HE ADMITS TO “FORCING THE CONNECTION BEYOND MY MEMORY.”

THE ISSUE OF FORCING MEMORY’S CONNECTIONS IS A CRUCIAL ONE IN ANY MEMOIR, OF COURSE, AND IN HOW I SHED MY SKIN IT IS PARTICULARLY CENTRAL, RAISING—but not necessarily answering—IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GENRE. EACH CHAPTER OF GRIMSLY’S BOOK IS ORGANIZED AROUND AN ANECDOTE FROM THE AUTHOR’S CHILDHOOD; THESE ARE PRESENTED IN A LINEAR WAY, BUT NOT AS AN UNBROKEN, CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE OF HIS EARLY YEARS. DETAILS ARE OFTEN FUZZY, BLURRED, AS MEMORIES INEVITABLY ARE. BY BOTH THE PASSAGE OF TIME AND THE ADULT WRITER’S DESIRE TO IMPOSE MEANING UPON EVENTS THAT HAPPENED DECADES AGO. TIME AND AGAIN GRIMSLY ASSERTS THAT THE “MOMENTS ARE TRUE, EVEN IF THE CONVERSATIONS . . . ARE NOT QUITE LITERAL,” AND SIGNALS TO THE READER THAT HE CANNOT RECALL WHAT PRECEDED OR PROVOKED A CERTAIN EVENT. HE ALSO ADMITS THAT HIS INTERPRETATIONS MAY BE INFORMED MORE BY IMAGINATION THAN ACTUAL FACT, AS IN THE CHAPTER “THE DROWNING,” WHEN HE RECALLS A GROUP OF AFRICAN AMERICANS WALKING TOGETHER THROUGH THE TOWN AFTER THE DROWNING DEATH OF A YOUNG BLACK BOY. “I NEVER KNEW EXACTLY WHAT GROUP THIS WAS,” HE WRITES, “BUT I EXPECT A MINISTER LED THEM TO THE RIVER TO PRAY . . .”

SUCH MOMENTS ARE PROBLEMATIC BECAUSE OF THE NATURAL CONSTRAINTS OF THE MEMOIR AS GENRE, BUT EVEN MORE SO, BECAUSE OF THE VERY SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH GRIMSLY WRITES. THE LACUNAE UNDERSCORE THE DIVIDES BETWEEN BLACKS AND WHITES IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS–ERA SOUTH, A GAP GRIMSLY HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS LIFE TRYING TO BRIDGE. HOW I SHED MY SKIN Recalls those efforts and serves to remind us that, decades later, there is still much more work to do. THAT WORK IS COMPLICATED, FULL OF FITS AND STARTS, INVOLVING ALL OF THE SAME CHALLENGES THE READER SEES IN GRIMSLY’S MEMOIR.

IT BEGINS, HOWEVER, WITH SHARING OUR STORIES, AS HE HAS, WITH PAINFUL HONESTY AND SELF-AWARENESS AND THE INTENTION OF ARRIVING AT A GREATER UNDERSTANDING—NOT ONLY OF OTHERS AND ONE’S MOMENT IN HISTORY, BUT OF ONE’S OWN SELF.

—JULIE SCHWIEERT COLLAZO 97OX 99C

FACULTY BOOK
HOW I SHED MY SKIN
BY JIM GRIMSLY
ALGONQUIN BOOKS
Seeing the Big Picture of the ‘Big C’

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Drawing on the expertise of six Emory graduate students in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities, this freshman seminar class covers a mash-up of subjects—including social cognition in primates, the history of railroads, memory and the brain, and new approaches to cancer treatment. Selected as one of two ORDER (On Recent Discoveries by Emory Researchers) courses offered at Emory last fall, this course exposed freshmen to an array of interdisciplinary perspectives and graduate research currently under way at Emory, with lectures ranging from the origins and treatment of cancer and how drug therapies are developed to data analysis, creative cognition, and neurobiology and memory. The graduate students merged scholarly interests to develop this course under the supervision of David Lynn, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Chemistry and Biology, and Leslie Taylor, professor of theater studies.

**FACULTY CV:** David Lynn is an internationally recognized researcher in biomolecular chemistry, molecular evolution and chemical biology, the evolution of biological order, and the origins of life. Lynn joined Emory in 2000 as the Asa Griggs Candler Professor in Chemistry and Biology. In 2002, he was named one of twenty inaugural Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professors, receiving $1 million to translate his passion for science to the undergraduate classroom. Leslie Taylor has served for the past ten years as chair of the Department of Theater and Dance. She also is executive director for Emory’s Center for Creativity & Arts.

**TODAY’S CLASS:** Led by doctoral candidates MaKendra Umstead 16PhD and Jasmine Miller-Kleinheinz 16PhD, students cooked dinner for some sixty cancer patients and their families at the American Cancer Society’s Hope Lodge, a residential center on the Clairmont Campus for patients receiving care at Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute and other area treatment centers. Students then sat and talked with them, borrowing from all they’ve learned about the disease, its treatment, and the arduous process of developing new drugs to help fight it.

**QUOTES TO NOTE:** “That’s what my lab does—helps identify new targets for cancer therapy. We do that by thinking about the cancer cell as a network, a complicated, nonlinear, messy network. Mutations deregulate cell signaling within those protein-to-protein interaction networks. . . . We use high throughput screening and molecular biology to pinpoint what interactions contribute to that.”
—MAKENDRA UMSTEAD 19PhD, COINSTRUCTOR

“Jasmine and MaKendra have done a marvelous job helping students understand the concept of cancer, but they’ve put such a human touch on it—particularly for freshmen. For many, it’s an experience they might have never had.”
—DAVID LYNN, ASA GRIGGS CANDLER PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY

**STUDENTS SAY:** “These contributions to my education, particularly introducing me to cervical cancer research . . . have changed the course of my scholastic career.”
—EBONI FREEMAN 18C

“As a freshman, who gets to do anything like this? I went home over Thanksgiving break and, honestly, all I could talk about was this class.”
—DIANA BENDER-BIER 18C (LEFT)
Making a Splash

EPA VISIT SPOTLIGHTS WATERHUB

GINA MCCARTHY, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE US ENVIRONMENTAL Protection Agency (EPA), visited Emory in February. Partly at the urging of her chief of staff, Emory law graduate Gwen Keys Fleming, she came to tour the new WaterHub water reclamation facility and to speak with a class of environmental law students at the School of Law.

At the greenhouse-like WaterHub—the first and only one of its kind in the country—McCarthy (below) was greeted by Ciannat Howett, director of the Office of Sustainability Initiatives. “We have an opportunity here to model best practices in water stewardship and build a culture of conservation,” Howett said. “And we hope to further the acceptance of reclaimed water.”

The WaterHub, which uses a natural, plant-driven treatment process to clean and repurpose up to four hundred thousand gallons of campus wastewater a day, is expected to save Emory millions of gallons of water a year by replacing drinkable water previously used for processes that don’t need it. The ecological water re-use system will provide nearly 90 percent of utility water needed and 40 percent of the campus’s overall water, reducing Emory’s drain on Atlanta’s overtaxed municipal water supply by up to 1.46 million gallons annually.

“This sort of project is important for the EPA,” McCarthy said. “We have to start treating nothing as waste.”

McCarthy also was impressed with the research component of the Water-Hub, which is being studied by students in the Rollins School of Public Health and in connection with the Center for Global Safe Water at Emory. Data from the WaterHub will be used to determine if similar facilities can be effectively utilized in developing countries.

“It’s great that this campus has such a strong health care component,” McCarthy said, “because that’s where you really have to tie these issues together.”

The WaterHub includes a 50,000-gallon emergency water reserve that will allow Emory’s heating and cooling systems to function for up to seven hours if there is a disruption in water supply.

“With this facility, we’re taking a major step forward in becoming one of the first in the nation with this technology for cleaning our own wastewater,” says Matthew Early, Emory’s vice president for Campus Services. — PEP

HEADLINES: EMORY IN THE NEWS

Conspicuous Absences: The seventy-fifth anniversary of Gone with the Wind provided a venue for film and media studies professor Matthew Bernstein to discuss his research related to racial tensions around the film’s 1939 Atlanta premiere, including the exclusion of black actors on the guest list (Hattie McDaniel, who won an Oscar for her performance as Mammy, was asked not to attend). An Associated Press story ran in outlets across the country, including New York Times.com, ABCNews.com, Washington Post.com, Yahoo! News, and People.com.

Creating New Bonds: Whether it’s a new drug, a new fertilizer, or a new solar panel, chemists have been stuck using the same methods to make their inventions. PBS News Hour profiled how the work of the Center for Selective C-H Functionalization, run by Emory organic chemist Huw Davies, is breaking the mold. The center is developing strategies related to transforming and building upon carbon-hydrogen (C-H) bonds, traditionally considered “unreactive.” (See more, page 32.)

Don’t Call It a Comeback: A measles outbreak traced to Disneyland sparked a fierce national debate about parents who choose not to vaccinate their children. Emory experts Saad B. Omer (left), associate professor in the Rollins School of Public Health, and Walter Orenstein, associate director of the Emory Vaccine Center and professor of medicine, tackled misinformation and fears related to the measles and vaccinations. They were quoted on topics from how to talk to parents reluctant to vaccinate to immunization schedules and effectiveness, in outlets including the New York Times, Associated Press, Wall Street Journal, National Public Radio, and USA Today. Public health historian and Vaccine Nation author Elena Conis provided historical and cultural perspective on why some people opt out of standard vaccinations for outlets including the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Bloomberg News, Slate, and Buzzfeed.

Don’t Fly Away: Jeffrey A. Rosensweig, associate professor of international business and finance at Emory, contributed to a New York Times story about Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport’s determination to stay the nation’s busiest airport and its importance to Atlanta’s economic success. “The airport has been almost uniquely crucial to the rapid and sustained development of metro Atlanta and, frankly, of Georgia,” Rosensweig said.
Avoid Sticky Situations. Sometimes holding it all together can seem so right, but is actually the worst thing you can do. “In terms of preserving materials, the things most people have readily at hand—Scotch tape, glue—are almost always the wrong things to use,” Burkett says. “We have gotten scrapbooks held together by duct tape, which is a disaster to try to deal with. I would say that’s the No. 1 problem in self repairs; people want to save and preserve their things, but the easiest way may work for six months, or a few years, and all of a sudden the tape becomes darkly yellowed, impossible to get off, and ultimately does more damage than doing nothing.”

No Photo Synthesis. Light, heat, and moisture—which can be abundant in storage spaces like attics and basements—are all bad for aging materials of nearly any kind. Store historic valuables such as letters and photographs in airtight containers and away from windows. “Color photographs can fade incredibly quickly when exposed to light,” says Burkett, “and too much heat is always worse than too little.”

Get It Together. Make choices about what to save for future generations and get rid of the rest. Regardless of family history or stature, most people value personal items such as photographs, letters, and family Bibles above things like financial records or decades’ worth of National Geographic magazine. Label photographs—gently, in pencil, on the back—with dates and names whenever possible. If you envision your great-grandchildren exclaiming, one future day, over a picture of you on a pony at your fifth birthday party, make it easy for them; label containers by date and type of material. And if you are discarding identifying documents such as tax records, don’t forget to use a shredding service—you never know who may poke through the trash.

Don’t Delay. It’s easy to put off archiving projects, but the less organized your belongings, the more likely that items of real value—whether sentimental or historical—will simply be lost in transition. You may have materials that hold interest for research institutions like universities, museums, or historical societies; many collect items such as Civil War–era letters, rare periodicals, and old yearbooks. “Unless you know what you have and understand its value, it’s very easy for stuff to just get away,” Burkett says. “You or your family members may not be able to take the time to really go through things later, so it’s best to do it when you can give them the attention they deserve.”

Think Outside the Boxes. Many organizations that might be interested in helping to preserve your family materials are just a phone call away. For more information, visit the Library of Congress website on “Preserving Your Family Treasures”—www.loc.gov/preservation/family—where you can find tips on storage, matting and framing, insuring valuables, emergency preparedness, and how to make a family time capsule, scrapbook, or album.

What about those Emails? Yes, we are aware that personal archives are increasingly found in bits and bytes rather than cardboard boxes. For tips on organizing digital materials, visit www.emory.edu/magazine to find this story with a bonus section on your e-archive.-P.P.

Six Tips for Organizing Your Personal Archive

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immunology Research May Lead to Long-Sought TB Vaccine

LATENT INFECTIONS MAY BE KEY TO FUTURE PREVENTION

Emory Scientists are looking for ways to control an ancient disease by solving one of its key mysteries: Why is it that most people with a latent tuberculosis (TB) infection never develop TB symptoms, but others do?

The answer is likely to be found in studying and comparing the immunology of the two affected groups, according to Henry Blumberg, professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the School of Medicine and professor of epidemiology and global health in the Rollins School of Public Health.

Blumberg is principal investigator for an Emory-led Tuberculosis Research Unit (TBRU), one of four such collaborations recently established by an $18 million, seven-year grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Co-investigator is Joel Ernst of New York University, one of seven Emory TBRU partner organizations.

“When people say ‘tuberculosis’ they usually mean active TB disease,” Blumberg says. “These people are generally very sick, and they have symptoms that may include cough, fever, weight loss, and night sweats. If they have pulmonary TB or the disease is in their lungs, they can spread it to other people through the air.

“But there’s another state called ‘latent TB infection’ where someone has been exposed to someone with active TB disease and they became infected, but they don’t have symptoms and they can’t transmit the disease while asymptomatic. In most cases, their immune system keeps the bacteria in check for the rest of their lives, but in some cases, the onset of symptoms is only delayed temporarily, anywhere from weeks to years after the initial exposure and infection.”

According to numbers from the World Health Organization, an estimated two billion people—one-third of the world’s population—have latent TB infection, of which between 5 and 10 percent will develop active TB. About nine million people became ill with active TB in 2013, and 1.5 million died from the disease. More than five hundred thousand children developed TB that year, and eighty thousand died from the infection.

People with latent TB infection can progress to full blown TB when their immune systems are weakened. The risk of developing TB is up to twenty times greater in people living with HIV, and one in four AIDS-related deaths is due to TB.

“We’re trying to learn more about the spectrum between asymptomatic, latent TB infection and active TB, especially as it concerns T-cell immunology and the factors associated with controlling infection,” Blumberg explains.

“To control TB throughout the world, we need an effective TB vaccine, and we don’t have one right now. So, we’re hoping that some of our findings could help the people who are trying to develop one.”

The research effort is divided into three projects. In project one, researchers are searching for a better way of measuring whether or not someone carries the TB bacteria. Existing tests—notably the TB skin test—will produce a positive result if a latent TB infection is present. But it also comes back positive if the bacteria had been present at some earlier point but have since been cleared by the immune system.

Instead, scientists hope to identify certain characteristics or signatures in T-cell response that would accurately indicate whether or not there are TB bacteria inside a person’s body.

“If you can identify the people who are actually at risk,” explains project co-principal Cheryl Day, assistant professor in the Department of Global Health at the Rollins School of Public Health, “then you’ll be able to target treatment more efficiently and effectively.”

Both projects one and two involve a set of cohort studies in which researchers monitor the health of TB-infected people over a period of time at two sites: one in the US and the other in Kenya. Blood samples are obtained at regular intervals and detailed immunological studies are performed. In project two, since some of the participants in Kenya will likely develop active TB, the expectation is that study data will reveal characteristics of the immune response that signal long-term control of TB infection as well as immune-system changes that occur when a latent infection becomes an active one.

The third project, a collaboration between Yerkes National Primate Research Center and the Tulane National Primate Research Center in Louisiana, uses a nonhuman primate model to determine the profile of immune responses that correspond with latent TB infection versus treated infections versus reactivation of the TB bacteria, says Francois Villinger, codirector of project three and chief of the Yerkes Division of Pathology.

“We have some understanding of what can make a latent TB infection become active,” says Villinger, referring to pathogens such as HIV that compromise the immune response. “But
GOIZUETA FOUNDATION $25 MILLION GIFT WILL TARGET ALZHEIMER’S EARLY DETECTION

Emory’s Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRC) will receive a transformational donation to support advanced research into early detection of Alzheimer’s disease. The Goizueta Foundation is committing $25 million toward research aimed at fundamentally changing the way Alzheimer’s disease is detected and treated.

“Because Alzheimer’s disease starts decades before symptoms begin, research to determine who will develop the disease is crucial,” says Allan Levey, director of the Emory ADRC and chair of the Department of Neurology at the Emory School of Medicine. “This transformational gift will allow us to discover ways to predict Alzheimer’s disease long before the first signs appear—a key first step that will enable us to develop new treatment targets and prevent the disease for future generations. And as we learn more about risk factors for Alzheimer’s disease, we also gain a better understanding of its relationship to vascular, immune, and other key health concerns that many Americans face as they age.”

“Our father believed in making smart investments where the outcomes may be uncertain but the rewards could be great,” said Olga Goizueta Rawls, the foundation’s chair and CEO. “It’s likely that everyone in the Atlanta community and beyond knows someone who has been affected by some form of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s. We believe that strengthening Emory’s ADRC will help generate the much-needed support for innovative research for all neuro-related diseases.”

Emory’s ADRC is one of just thirteen comprehensive research centers supported by the National Institutes of Health and the only such entity in the Southeast. “The goal of each of these centers is to bring together scientists from different disciplines to work collaboratively on research into Alzheimer’s disease and related conditions,” says Levey.

The Alzheimer’s Association estimates that, in 2014, the cost of providing care for Alzheimer’s patients in the US was projected at $214 billion per year including $150 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid. If present trends continue, this cost is projected to grow to $1.1 trillion per year (in 2014 dollars) by 2050.

To see a video of Levey discussing the work of the ADRC, visit www.emory.edu/magazine.

Emory and WellStar Begin Work on a New, Unified Health System

Emory’s Board of Trustees and the WellStar Health System Board of Trustees have announced plans to begin the design process for a new, unified health system combining Emory Healthcare and WellStar Health System. The goal is to provide world-class health care to patients through the integration of education, discovery, and health care delivery.

The strategic intent, according to leaders, is to combine the best of academic medicine and community-based care into a health care system that will create innovative, accessible, and cost-effective delivery models and be a leader locally, across the state, and nationally. During the anticipated yearlong design phase, leaders at the two organizations will finalize all elements of the new health system’s structure, including the name of the new health system, corporate office location, governance, structure, and other details. The new system will continue to be non-for-profit, reinvesting back into the communities it serves.

“While both Emory Healthcare and WellStar Health System are strong and thriving, by coming together we can do something truly unique that neither could do alone. As a result, we expect to be even more effective in pursuing our mission,” says Michael Mandl, who was recently appointed Emory Healthcare president and CEO. “We intend to realize even higher excellence in patient care delivery through geographically dispersed access points, a large population for coordinated care, and expanded platforms for, and investments in, our signature programs, medical education, and health sciences research.”
Standing in front of the tiny frame house where she lived until she was twelve, Verda Mae Brazier Bush shifts between memories of playing with her three younger siblings in the large, grassy yard and the life-shattering Sunday afternoon in 1958 when police officers dragged her father away, mercilessly beating him in full view of his screaming family and horrified neighbors.

Five days later, on April 25, 1958, James C. Brazier died of injuries caused by blunt force trauma to the head. In the next few months and years, the Brazier family would find no justice. Local authorities impeded an FBI investigation into the case through intimidation of witnesses, and an all-white grand jury failed to bring an indictment against the white police officers accused of beating James Brazier to the point of death.

In 1963, Brazier’s widow, Hattie Bell Brazier, suffered another loss when a jury ruled against awarding her damages in a civil suit she filed in federal court.
The case would become folklore in the African American community in Terrell County and Dawson, Georgia: a hardworking family man and friend killed at the hands of those sworn to protect and serve. 

In 2006, as part of the US Department of Justice's commitment to investigating and prosecuting civil rights–era homicides, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) began its Cold Case Initiative—a comprehensive program to identify and investigate racially motivated murders committed decades ago. The effort was reinforced in 2008 with the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act, and community groups, nongovernmental organizations, and higher education began to join the Department of Justice and the FBI in their efforts.

Since 2011, Emory has offered an interdisciplinary Civil Rights Cold Cases class examining incidents that occurred in Georgia. Cross-listed in journalism, history, African American studies, and American studies at Emory College, the class arms students with historical perspective and principles of journalistic practice, then releases them to pursue new information related to the cases. In January, Emory’s Civil Rights Cold Cases Project launched a website, coldcases.emory.edu, that is the product of more than fifty students’ work during seven semesters of the course.

Taught by Hank Klibanoff, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation and James M. Cox Jr. Professor of Journalism and Brett Gadsden, associate professor of African American studies at Emory, the class developed after Klibanoff worked with newspaper and television reporters who were investigating civil rights cold cases in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Driven to pursue a similar project in Georgia, Klibanoff approached Rudolph Byrd, founding director of the James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference (JWJI) at Emory. With encouragement from the JWJI, Klibanoff launched Emory’s Cold Cases Project.

Klibanoff and Gadsden created the class to build on the work of the project, putting undergraduates to work investigating the cases, then writing and editing academic and journalistic articles on what they found.

“Doing this as a blend of history and journalism is a great idea. What he calls research, I call reporting,” Klibanoff says of Gadsden. “There are rigors to both that are similar.”

Klibanoff already had received the FBI files for the James Brazier case and was gathering documents in preparation for teaching the class in the 2011 fall semester.

“This class is different because it is run like a research seminar, with intense focus on individuals’ lives and attention to the historical context in which these folks lived,” Gadsden says. “These stories come alive for students. They aren’t just presenting cases or telling the stories of lowly black victims. They are really trying to understand what happened, what the circumstances were, what happened to the people, how they lived, how they died, who killed them, and why, but understanding these victims’ deaths as a part of the historical record.”

Students prepare both a ten-page academic paper on their topic of choice and a condensed article for publication on Emory’s Cold Cases Project website. “It is not just about what they find, but how they present and explain what they’ve found,” Klibanoff says.

“In most classes, students are writing for faculty. In this class they are writing for the professors, for each other, and also for a public of both academics and nonacademics,” Gadsden adds. “They are accountable to the descendants of the lost, and that comes with a special responsibility—one that the students embrace.”

Setting the Record Straight

Growing up in suburban Atlanta, Sonam Vashi 15C had a broad knowledge of the civil rights struggle in the South, but she couldn’t grasp what that meant in the day-to-day lives of African Americans at that time.

“History can be this distant, removed item of information, but I think that these cold cases bring history to a very personal, human level that you can’t ignore,” Vashi says. “You carry these stories around in your heart and mind more than something you might just learn on a factual level.”

Once you do research on primary sources—to engulf yourself in the time period to understand what it was like—it hits home to see the full spectrum of the Jim Crow South.”

—SCOTT SCHLAFER 15C
The experience has influenced how Vashi approached serving as executive editor of the Emory Wheel during her senior year.

“It is important to find stories no one else is looking for, ignored stories, because you will find they have value,” Vashi says. “Even though the people we are reporting on with these cold cases are dead, there is still meaning in giving a true historical record of what happened and setting the record straight.”

One notable aspect of the course is the license students are given to consider the cases from any avenue they choose.

“Usually in a class, it is the professor imparting information to the students. What we are trying to do here is trust in the students to take ownership of the class. History, journalism, creative nonfiction—students with different interests and skills approach it in different ways,” Gadsden says. “What really matters is that students are doing original research that generates fresh information we don’t know anything about. On any given day I don’t know what someone is going to bring in.”

In their research on the James Brazier case, students have dissected FBI files, pored through public records, and discovered long-hidden trial transcripts from the civil case brought against Dawson police by Hattie Bell Brazier, James Brazier’s widow.

Senior history major Erica Sterling 15C took the Cold Cases class in spring 2014 and this spring undertook an independent study project to delve into the cases of Joseph Jeter, a housing project manager shot and killed by a white police officer in Northwest Atlanta in September 1958, and Maceo Snipes, a World War II veteran shot in the back by alleged members of the Ku Klux Klan for daring to vote in a 1946 Taylor County primary election.

Sterling says the research is tricky because students aren’t quite sure what they’ll find.

“I’ve gone through newspaper articles from the time, NAACP records, FBI files—you sort of have to close in on it and build around it. You look at what is public record, and you try to come up with answers. In many instances, no one has looked at what we are looking at until now,” she says. “I would say the most challenging aspect is not finding anything. There are times when you are searching for information, and hours will have gone by and your work has yielded very little. That is frustrating, but if you don’t find what you are looking for, you might find something you don’t expect. You just have to trust the process and keep working.”

Students have examined the case through lenses of economics, medical neglect and malpractice, feminism, sociology, and witness intimidation by local law enforcement during the FBI investigation.

“The class is constantly evolving because the FBI investigation continues. We are thinking of the classes as generations, and what you are looking for, but if you don’t find anything, it was really a part of every single aspect of his life. And it ended up killing him.”

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History major Nathaniel Meyersohn 15C says using primary documents—from FBI files to NAACP records to newspaper archives—offered a new window into history. “When you are reading FBI interviews with witnesses, these things really jump off the page,” he says. “All of these materials show just how hard it was for blacks to receive justice—how the local...
police, state officials, and even the federal government were really opposed to using their full resources to investigate civil rights cases.”

Even the smallest details—such as the kind of car James Brazier drove—add context to the cases, Klibanoff says.

“We know James Brazier was driving a new 1958 Chevrolet Impala. That leads to questions about the state of black consumerism in 1958,” Klibanoff says.

In the testimonies from witnesses throughout the Brazier case, it was noted that the officers involved—Weyman Burchle Cherry and Randolph Ennis McDonald—had targeted Brazier in the past for traffic stops and arrests and were resentful of Brazier’s car, with Cherry at one point allegedly saying “You is the n****r who is buying a new car, and we can’t hardly live. I’ll get you yet.”

“Police were clear in why they targeted James Brazier. Our question is, what was the cultural importance or significance of that make of vehicle at that historical moment?” Gadsden asks. “It is an end, but it also is a means, to finding larger truths of what was going on in that time period. The details of these deaths, what the circumstances were around them, tell us about the historical place and time. When we are doing it right in the classroom, that is what’s happening.”

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Alumna and radio journalist Mary Claire Kelly (below left) continues her work with the Cold Cases Project; Verda Mae Brazier Bush (below right, on left) listens to Lucius Holloway describe the civil rights struggle in Terrell County.

**Everyone’s Story**

For her final paper in the Cold Cases class, Mary Claire Kelly 12OX 14C examined the economics of James Brazier’s case—from his higher-than-average earnings from multiple jobs to the fact that he drove a new car that was out of reach for many residents of the town at the time. Accompanied by Klibanoff and Gadsden, Kelly traveled to Dawson and Albany to meet with James Brazier’s surviving relatives, including Verda Mae Brazier Bush.

The experience was profound for Kelly—academically, professionally, and personally.

“When I went to Terrell County as a student, and I began my thesis, I remember thinking, who am I to tell this story? I am a young, white woman who is originally from Baltimore. Am I the right person to look into this? But I realized this is my story. This is the story of the country I live in and was raised in,” she says. “It shouldn’t be a separate history. This is my story because it is everyone’s story and everyone’s responsibility to learn about the place where we live.”

Since graduating, Kelly has worked for Klibanoff on a freelance basis alongside her job as producer for the newsmagazine A Closer Look that airs on Atlanta National Public Radio station WABE.

“In school, we’d look at Jim Crow laws or civil rights, usually during Black History Month, but it was kind of skimmed through,” she says. “For the first time, I understood a really important part of my history. It made me realize how much of what the South is like now is because of things we don’t like to speak about.”

**Bearing Witness**

James Brazier’s family has kept his memory alive over the years, but it often has been painful. Bush is the only member of the family who will still speak about her father’s death to outsiders. Her sister, Hattie Mae Brazier Polite, initially spoke to Klibanoff, Gadsden, and Kelly about the incident, as did one of James Brazier’s sisters, Sarah Brazier, but reliving the family’s tragedy became too difficult. Her brothers—James Jr. and Willie James, whom the family called Ruddy—died in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

“My mother never talked about it to us. Children kept their place; nothing was discussed with children back at that time. We talked to each other about what happened and how awful it was. My brother James had a lot of hatred behind this incident; he hated to think about it,” Bush says. “If you tried to talk to him about this he would get angry and say ‘Don’t come to me with that s***’. He took it very, very hard until the day he died.”

By contrast, Bush’s daughter has heard the story of her grandfather’s death “ever since she could hear.” Bush also has shared the story over and over again with her four grandchildren.

“Young people today don’t understand the struggle our forefathers went through,” Bush says. “They were born into an integrated society. Mixed-race dating is normal to them, but I remember when people used to be hanged for that. When Hank (Klibanoff) sent me printouts of the website, my youngest granddaughter looked it up on the Internet. All they could
do is just shake their heads like they couldn’t believe it.”

Bush has listened to her grandchildren as they declared what they would do in a similar situation—that they would not have put up with such treatment.

“They don’t understand that we were powerless against the law. Powerless. Everyone was afraid in that time. Every time you’d look around, someone was being beaten up or killed, all black men. [Police] would just beat them up because they could,” Bush says. “We just had to sit back and accept it, there was nothing we could do.”

Walking around the edge of the property her parents used to own, Bush mentions absentely that the house used to be green before pointing to a shallow, overgrown trench that runs beside the house.

“They drug him through that ditch,” she says, remembering the fear of the day her father was taken from his family and the confusion that came after for her and her younger siblings.

“I don’t remember that much about what happened during that time. Adults didn’t talk to children like they do now. We had to stay in a room with the other children,” Bush says. “I remember a lot of people were there at the funeral; everyone was standing outside talking and whispering. I had no real concept of what was going on, but I do remember that was the first time I was allowed to wear stockings.”

One of the neighbors who witnessed the beating and arrest was Lucius Holloway, who saw the events unfold as he sat on the front porch of his father-in-law’s house, located diagonally across the street, with his parents-in-law and his wife, Emma Kate, who was pregnant with the couple’s first child.

Recently, Holloway and Bush stood and talked in the street in front of the Braziers’ former home, where Holloway’s son now lives.

“They used to say that if a woman saw something bad it could do something to the child, so I scooped Emma Kate up and carried her in the house. They nearly beat him to death right there,” Holloway recalls, pointing. The incident left a lasting impression on him, and he has spent the intervening years fighting for civil and voting rights as an activist with the local NAACP and as the plaintiff in several lawsuits seeking equal African American representation on various city and county boards.

He has written his own history of civil rights for his first child. “Any time a man or woman, boy or girl doesn’t know where they are, where they come from, or where they are going, they cannot succeed. I think it is very helpful for this generation and for future generations to know these things happened here,” Holloway says.

From a small storefront office on Dawson’s Main Street, Ezekiel Holley mans the Terrell County branch of the NAACP. President of the chapter since 1994, Holley has worked for justice in big cases and small over the years.

He says that, regardless of the outcome of efforts like the Cold Cases Project, exposing the problems of the past and revealing the truth of what happened in these cases can only yield positive results.

“We have to educate the people, black and white, about the struggle we went through to be where we are. We still have a long way yet to go,” he says.

Arianna Skibell ’14C, who is now pursuing a master’s degree at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York, says the class challenged her. In an age of instantly accessible information, it’s easy to think any answer can be found online, she says.

“In this class, you can’t rely on someone else to gather and sift through information. You can’t rely on Wikipedia. You have to comb through primary documents and synthesize the information yourself. As a journalist it is really important to know how to do this, and to know that finding new truth is still possible.”

This class is not about convicting criminals. It’s about a rectification of history, which Skibell believes can be equally important.

“We’re not trying to solve these crimes,” she says. “In most cases the people who committed them are dead. And often there’s no case to solve; it’s clear who committed the crime. But we’re here to bear witness, to tell these people’s stories.”

On the first day of the semester of each new Cold Cases class, Klibano shows students a photograph of James Brazier’s headstone. Long blades of grass have grown up around tattered silk roses placed above the grave, and the carved writing on the discolored concrete stone is so weathered it is illegible.

“We ask them to look closely at the headstone,” Klibanooff says. “We tell them we can’t bring him back to life, but we can bring him back to visibility so he is no longer an invisible man, no longer a cipher in history.”
Illuminating disability, inside the classroom and out
If you are fortunate enough to receive an email from Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, Emory professor of English and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, you will no doubt note this caveat beneath her signature:

“Because this message was composed using dictation rather than keyboarding, it probably contains distinctive mistakes. Dictation never misspells, but it frequently uses the wrong words and misspells names. Thank you in advance for reading creatively, considering the larger context when my words are confusing or hilarious, and tolerating missing salutations and random capitalizations.”

That sort of wry, intelligent, here-I-am humor is typical of Garland-Thomson, who was born with a total of six fingers and one arm that is half the length of the other and does not type. In the emerging academic field of disability studies, where much of her scholarship is focused, she is something of a rock star.

Garland-Thomson has many titles. One of the more recent is codirector of the Disability Studies Initiative (DSI) at Emory, a broad-based program created in 2013 to spotlight and support the study of disability. Garland-Thomson leads the initiative with Benjamin Reiss, a fellow professor of English whose research focuses on connections between literature, medicine, and disability in nineteenth-century American culture.

The DSI is at the forefront of a national, interdisciplinary movement that builds on wide-ranging academic research to challenge assumptions about human difference and shared definitions of life well and fully lived. One of the objectives, says Garland-Thomson, is to expand the umbrella known as “diversity studies” to encompass variations in physical, sensory, and cognitive ability, as well as other kinds of identity.

“Although much recent scholarship explores how difference and identity operate in such politicized constructions as gender, race, and sexuality, cultural and literary criticism has generally overlooked the related perceptions of corporeal otherness we think of variously as ‘monstrosity,’ ‘mutilation,’ ‘deformation,’ ‘crippledness,’ or ‘physical disability,’” she writes in the first chapter of her seminal 1997 book Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Culture and Literature. “Yet the physically extraordinary figure these terms describe is as essential to the cultural project of American self-making as the varied throng of gendered, racial, ethnic, and sexual figures of otherness that support the privileged norm.” The book is one of five that Garland-Thomson has written, edited, or co-edited; she also is currently pursuing a master’s degree in bioethics at Emory.

“Emory is a micro-community that reflects the aspirations of an inclusive and diverse community, which the disability rights movement and other civil rights movements sought out and, to a remarkable degree, achieved. Learn about this.”

—Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, Emory Convocation address, 2013

STORY BY PAIGE PARVIN 96G • PHOTOS BY ANN BORDEN
Interest at Emory is spreading across disciplines. From literary and cultural portrayals to medical ethics and theology, a range of research was on display in the second Disability Scholars Showcase in November, where five scholars presented overviews of their works in progress as they relate to the study of disability in their fields. Two scholars with backgrounds in literature discussed how ideas about disability become encoded in different cultural systems. On the other side of the spectrum, applied disability studies were highlighted by a neonatologist and a neuroethics scholar, who discussed the ethics involved in diagnosing conditions like autism or genetic anomalies and how they are presented to patients and their families. And a religion scholar is exploring how an Atlanta church is making new meaning, narrative, and symbolism by including people with mental illness.

In his introduction, Reiss noted the diversity of the projects presented. "One of the best things is simply people saying, 'I had no idea that somebody over in this part of the university is doing something that's connected to what I'm doing," he said.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted in 1990 to prevent discrimination and require reasonable accommodations for disabled people. Since then, fixtures such as curb cuts, access ramps, reserved parking spaces, and automatic doors have become commonplace in public spaces; but as Garland-Thomson points out, it's easy to overlook the fact that those accessibility features serve everyone, not just people with disabilities.

"The disability rights movement created a transformation of the built environment that had the unintended benefit of creating diversity inclusion and equity for other groups—the elderly, caregivers of small children, transgendered people, travelers," she says. "A federal mandate has led to a more inclusive world for everyone. That's the whole point of disability studies. I believe that the development of big strollers and wheeled suitcases was made possible by the ramping of the world."

The ADA also helped lead to a dramatic expansion of the meaning of disability, which now includes conditions such as attention deficit disorder (the most common at Emory and on most college campuses), autism spectrum disorders, forms of psychiatric disability such as depression, learning disabilities, asthma and allergies, and a range of neurological differences known as "neurodiversity."

Many of the fifty-plus Emory community members involved in the DSI do not identify themselves as disabled. One is Joel Michael Reynolds 16PhD, a graduate student in the Department of Philosophy, Laney Graduate School Disability Studies Fellow, and DSI program coordinator, whose mother and late brother are disabled (see his essay on page 68). While pursuing his doctoral research on how concepts of ability and disability affect ethical theorizing—concepts that have historically led to misperceptions about quality of life for people with disabilities—Reynolds also sends out weekly updates to the DSI email list promoting a startling array of events, speakers, meetings, performances, and opportunities to participate in academic projects. A recent message invited DSI followers to hear a guest lecture about disability and aesthetics, attend a seminar on deafness and universal design, join a dance class for all body types, and participate in two different research studies (one creating a smartphone app for wheelchair users).

"Medical professionals tend to understand disabilities as individual tragedies," Reynolds says. "What's so exciting about the DSI is that it examines disability as a concept, a subject worthy of exploration and dialogue. The point is not..."
subject worthy of exploration and dialogue. The point is not that Emory is doing everything right, but that Emory is engaged in these questions, socially and academically."

Many would agree that while the Disability Studies Initiative and related efforts put Emory at the leading edge of the field, the day-to-day reality for people with disabilities on the Emory campus has not always kept pace with their needs. Lynell Cadray, associate vice provost in the Office of Equity and Inclusion, says that as the number of students, faculty, and staff who identify as disabled has increased, so have the responsibilities of the disability services team, now called Access, Disability Services, and Resources (ADSR). The office is in the process of developing a strategic plan that includes a community survey, staff training, better automation of information, and improved customer service and academic support.

“I’m very optimistic that the work we are undertaking will benefit the entire university,” Cadray says. “We want to be more than compliant—we want to do the right things for our community.”

The person charged with implementing these efforts is Allison Butler, new ADSR director and ADA compliance officer, who came to Emory in April from the University of Maryland University College. With fifteen years’ experience in disability services, Butler has been reaching out to all areas of the Emory campus to build a network of support, advocacy, and expertise.

Some of the most common needs of Emory students with disabilities include extended time for supervised test-taking, assistance with note-taking in the classroom, and accessible instructional materials; Butler says she is working to strengthen the policies and procedures around all these services. Her broader vision for Emory is focused on applying the principles of universal design—a movement founded on the idea that the physical environment should be accessible to everyone. Much like Garland-Thomson’s push to position disability studies within the broader field of diversity scholarship, Butler’s interest in universal design represents a shift toward viewing the campus as one community with a wide range of abilities, rather than separating the needs of people with disabilities.

Universal design has expanded to areas beyond architecture; for instance, at Emory, it might call for a more deliberate integration of disability services with academic resources, such as classroom technology that benefits all students.

“I am thinking about compliance and access at a macro level,” Butler says. “Universal design is a broad concept that can guide all our decisions across all areas of the university. At the same time, I want our approach to students to be very individualized. There is their diagnosis, and then there is what they really need to be successful here.”

Leslie S. Leighton 15PhD
Graduate student and graduate instructor
Progressive neuromuscular disease (muscular dystrophy)

What I Do: No longer able to practice medicine as a physician because of profound muscle weakness, fatigue, and the inability to ambulate well, I decided to pursue other educational opportunities and ultimately a PhD in the history of medicine in the Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts at Emory. My disability has limited my ability to walk and climb stairs but not to do scholarly work, research, and learn. I became very interested in the history of coronary heart disease (CHD) as a graduate student, and my research and dissertation are directed at elaborating the specific reason for the initial decline in CHD mortality that occurred in this country in the late 1960s. Accommodations made for me through the Office of Access, Disability Services, and Resources (formerly ODS) have made it possible for me to study at Emory and pursue my educational goals. Without their help, this would not have been possible.

How I Do It: I arrive on campus in the morning and have designated parking close to the library and my academic department. I ambulate around the campus with the use of crutches and the shuttle bus system. Emory has provided me with parking on campus and the Cliff bus system helps me get around from building to building as walking is very difficult.

Day to Day: Emory is a hilly campus, so getting around on foot for an individual with a physical disability can be difficult at best, and often just impossible. I was having particular difficulty getting in and out of the Woodruff Library, so I went to the library administration office to see if I could get special access to the rear door of the library—which has somewhat easier
access to the shuttle buses—but the library could not grant me access
to use the rear door for liability reasons. The disability office, however,
provided me with designated parking that made access to the library for
my research possible.

Graduating from Emory appeared to be very daunting for me. I all but
decided not to participate in Commencement exercises because I felt it
was going to be too difficult for me to keep up with much younger able-

bodied graduates in line and also to ascend stairs. I contacted the Laney
Graduate School and told them that I did not think I could participate in
Commencement exercises because of my disability. They arranged for me
to have special access, without stairs, to the ceremony and a special chair
from which I could stand much more easily. They would not hear of my
disability limiting my participation in Commencement, and they made
it happen for me. I will be able to participate in graduation with special
accommodations, and I am grateful to the staff of the Laney Graduate
School for their assistance in this endeavor.

How I Do It: Living with a disability often takes a great deal of
intentionality. For me, that plays out in every area of my life at Emory,
from arriving on campus with ample time before class because I do not
know if there will be any open handicapped parking near my building
to the way that I carefully plan out everything that goes into my bag
so that I am not carrying any additional weight, which could throw off
my balance with crutches or cause my shoulder to sublux or dislocate
when I take my bag off and on. It can mean knowing what floors have
bathrooms with door openers when I am using my wheelchair and which
hills are steep enough to cause a wheelchair to flip.

Day to Day: Living with a degenerative illness is challenging, as you
must constantly adjust to a new “normal,” which can make comfort in
and acceptance of your own body difficult. Last fall I marched with Emory
in the Atlanta Pride parade, but had to use my wheelchair, something still
new to me. At one point along the route, I saw a little girl in a wheelchair
watching the parade. When she saw me, she became so excited and was
practically bouncing up and down, waving enthusiastically while pointing
me out to her parents. I am pretty sure that I was just as excited waving
back at her as it was a moment when neither one of us was being made
to feel different or “othered” because our bodies are different. One of the
most challenging things for me in relation to my disability is when others
take on an identity of being victimized by it. If I don’t feel like a victim in
my own body, chances are, you’re not a victim of my body either.

If I don’t feel like a victim
in my own body, chances
are, you’re not a victim
of my body either.
—Anna Hull

Anna Hull 16T
Master of theological studies candidate
Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a degenerative, genetic
connective-tissue disorder

What I Do: I chose to pursue a masters in theological studies because
of my interest in how spirituality affects medical decisions. I am currently
applying to the bioethics program as well, and I hope to eventually
work in the field of medical ethics for a hospital while also serving as
a chaplain who is able to discuss medical decisions with patients and
help them make choices congruent with their own beliefs. My inter-
ests largely stemmed from my own medical issues and the disconnect
between these two fields that I have witnessed as I have been in and out
of hospitals.

I ascribe much of my
continued success
to the flexibility that
academia has allowed
me in terms of self-
accommodation.
—Adam Newman

Adam P. Newman 17PhD
Doctoral candidate in the Department of English
Fibromyalgia, a chronic illness that entails widespread chronic pain and
fatigue; depression; and a two-time brain tumor survivor

What I Do: I am a George W. Woodruff Fellow in the Department of
English, and my research fields broadly defined include nineteenth- and
twentieth-century American and African American literature and culture and disability studies. Currently I am writing a dissertation about the ways race and disability have been thought about in relation to each other, particularly in literary representations of dependency and care that involve individuals of one race caring for individuals of another race.

**How I Do It:** Dealing with a chronic condition like fibromyalgia—which can flare up quite unexpectedly in relation to things like weather changes—means I have to have a much more flexible routine than many others, as I just don’t know how I will feel one day to the next and thus need to adapt each day to how much energy I have. I ascribe much of my continued success to the flexibility that academia has allowed me in terms of self-accommodation. The biggest accommodation that Emory has made for my disability is in regard to my comprehensive exams, which graduate students in my department take in their third year. For the written examination, over a period of seventy-two hours, students have to write three ten-page papers in response to questions posed by their committee members. But since my energy and abilities can vary quite unexpectedly day to day, my department and the graduate school allowed me to have an extra twenty-four hours for my written exams, which then allowed me to have wiggle room in case I had a flare-up on one of those original three days. While I had to actively advocate for such an accommodation, I give the university a lot of credit for recognizing the importance of such an accommodation for my continued success.

**Day to Day:** Because of my disabilities, I have had the incredible fortune in the past decade to become a member of a number of incredibly invigorating social, political, and intellectual communities of people with disabilities and those thinking critically about disabilities. Whether it is the DSI here at Emory, or the national Society for Disability Studies, or the Children’s Brain Tumor Foundation, these various communities—which I never would have even known about, let alone become a member of, if not for my disabilities—have facilitated some of my most powerful friendships, influential professional relationships, and happiest memories.

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**Catherine Howett Smith 84C 99G**

Staff member since 1985; associate director, Michael C. Carlos Museum
Progressive neuromuscular disease

**What I Do:** I have a graduate degree in art history and attended the Getty Museum Management Institute at UC–Berkeley. I am associate director of the Michael C. Carlos Museum. Since most of my work uses my brain, rather than my body, I can excel in spite of my disability. My greatest obstacle is not being able to visit donors at their homes or attend events held in patrons’ houses because private residences are rarely handicap accessible. I feel somewhat confined to the accessible environment I’ve made for myself at my home and in my office.

**How I Do It:** I am able to work a flexible schedule as needed in order to manage the pain and fatigue associated with my disability, and I telecommute one day a week. My building is accessible to me, but when I need to attend meetings in other spaces, go to lunch, or visit a colleague, I often encounter barriers such as vehicles blocking curb cuts, inaccessible bathrooms, able-bodied people using the only accessible bathroom stall instead of the other choices they have, inaccessible salad bars, broken electronic door openers, etc. I’m always looking for the back door, the side door, or the special entrance while everyone else goes in the front entrance. My hope is that the world will someday embrace and implement the idea of universal design, not only in public buildings, but also in private residences, so that everyone can participate in the life of the community with dignity.

**Day to Day:** I have had many difficult experiences with accessibility. One occurred in 2007. I was a former chair of the President’s Commission on the Status of Women and was invited to an anniversary recognition ceremony to be held at Beckham Grove, which had recently been built outside Woodruff Library. I arrived to discover that this newly built space was completely inaccessible. I left the event and missed the ceremony; I felt excluded. The next day I reported the problem to the appropriate university department. They removed a section of the landscaping chain to open a path through the grass at the back, but rolling a wheelchair over thick grass and mud is not the kind of physical access that makes that space welcoming to everyone. I was shocked that accessibility was not considered so many years after we were legally required to provide access.

A positive experience I had was when I was a senior at Emory College in 1984. I had struggled so much with physical issues and accessibility in college and wanted to share my experience before I left so that things could hopefully be improved. I wrote a letter to then-President Jim Laney. Much to my surprise, he called me and invited me to come talk to him. We sat in his office for hours discussing my love for Emory as well as my experiences and challenges. Dr. Laney made me feel valued, and I felt that I had been heard.
Near the end of a four-month stay in Japan during summer 2014, Kathryn "Katie" Chepiga 18PhD hiked up Mount Fuji. An Emory graduate student of organic chemistry, Chepiga was immersed in an international research project through an exchange program of the National Science Foundation's Center for Selective C-H Functionalization (CCHF). She and her Japanese counterpart at Nagoya University had made a significant finding involving a new method of organic synthesis. Now she wanted to cap her experience abroad by summiting Fuji, Japan’s highest mountain and an active volcano.

“It was really cold, rainy, and foggy. We couldn’t see more than a few feet ahead of us,” Chepiga says of the first eight-hour leg of the hike. She was accompanied by Emory senior Michael Wade Wolfe 15C, who had recently arrived in Japan as part of the same CCHF exchange program.

The lack of visibility made all the pain and effort of hiking up one of the world’s most scenic peaks seem like a futile exercise. Soggy and freezing, they trudged on until they made it to a hiker’s communal way station where they could change into dry gear and get a few hours of sleep.

When they awoke before dawn, the rain had stopped and the fog had lifted. They continued their trek on a fresh blanket of snow. “The last few hundred meters, we walked single file, in a line of people wearing little headlamps,” Chepiga recalls. “It’s high altitude and slow going. It feels like you’re only moving a few steps every twenty minutes.”

Snow fell as they neared the crater rim. “You could see city lights peeking through the clouds below us,” Chepiga says. “It got more and more beautiful the higher we went. Then the sky turned from dark gray and black to orange and red. That sunrise was amazing. It was definitely worth the climb.”

Summiting Fuji was a walk in the park compared to the CCHF research that took Chepiga to Japan. She joined forces with Atsushi Yamaguchi, a graduate student from Nagoya University, to demonstrate how a newer, more efficient strategy can be applied to synthesize natural compounds that hold potential medicinal benefits. “We ran into a lot of obstacles and dead ends, but we kept at it,” Chepiga says. “If you just keep putting one foot in front of the other, you know you can climb Mount Fuji. But in science you have to keep trying a lot of different approaches, even when you’re not sure you will achieve your goal. It’s much less certain and concrete.”

Their persistence paid off. In January, the Journal of the American Chemical Society (JACS) published their findings, showing how C-H functionalization speeds up synthesis of two promising marine alkaloids from a sea sponge, known as dictyodendrin A and F.

“We were able to cut the number of steps needed to synthesize these products nearly in half, compared to previous, more traditional methods,” Chepiga explains. “The ability to more efficiently synthesize them greatly improves the chances that they will be produced on a larger scale so that more can be learned about their biological properties and potential benefits.”

Story by Carol Clark • Photography by Kay Hinton
Previous research has found that dictyodendrin A inhibits telomerase, suggesting its potential for cancer chemotherapy. And dictyodendrin F inhibits an amyloid-cleaving enzyme, hinting at its potential to treat Alzheimer’s disease.

The students shared lead authorship of the JACS paper. Their professors and mentors are coauthors, including Kenichiro Itami and Junichiro Yamaguchi from Nagoya and Emory organic chemist and professor Huw Davies.

“This paper shows the power of the global network the CCHF has developed,” says Davies, director of the center, which is based at Emory. “We hope this work serves as a model for others to emulate and to expand upon—both the new methods of doing chemical synthesis and the new ways for organic chemists to combine their expertise and collaborate, rather than compete.”

The graduate students completed the synthesis of the two products over the course of one year.

“It’s common for a total synthesis project to take four to six years,” Davies says. “It’s amazing that they achieved it in such a short time. Emory had one area of expertise needed to complete the project, and the University of Nagoya had the other area. Katie and Atsushi bridged cultures and continents and brought these two areas together.”

The project began in fall 2013, when Atsushi Yamaguchi traveled to Atlanta to spend three months working in the Davies lab. He brought with him an idea from the Itami lab in Nagoya—to apply C-H functionalization methods to synthesize dictyodendrins.

Traditionally, organic chemistry has focused on the division between reactive, or functional, molecular bonds and the inert, or nonfunctional bonds carbon-carbon (C-C) and carbon-hydrogen (C–H). The inert bonds provide a strong, stable scaffold for performing chemical synthesis on the reactive groups.

C-H functionalization flips this model on its head: It bypasses the reactive groups and does synthesis at the inert C-H sites.

The CCHF is at the forefront of this major paradigm shift in organic chemistry. It brings together scientists from leading research universities across the United States, Asia, and Europe—as well as from private industry—with the aim of making organic synthesis faster, simpler, and greener.

At the same time, the center is preparing students for a new era of collaborative chemistry on a global scale. Undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows can participate in national and international exchanges, learning the techniques of other labs while bringing in new ideas of their own.

When Yamaguchi arrived at Emory, he hit the ground running, Davies recalls. “The culture of our lab is very different from the way they work in Japan, but Atsushi just jumped right in and embraced it. He was very focused and extremely determined to learn all that he could and to make his project work.”

Chepiga shares a similar determination, as well as the desire to gain varied experiences. She entered Emory’s graduate program in chemistry in 2010, drawn by the exchange opportunities offered by the CCHF.

The center began with a network of top research universities across the United States when it launched in 2009. Since then, it has expanded through the Na-
tional Science Foundation program Science Across Virtual Institutes (SAVI) to also include organic chemistry labs and research centers in Japan, Korea, England, and Germany.

“In organic chemistry, you might spend your whole PhD program just learning the techniques and expertise of one lab and one professor,” Chepiga says. “When I heard how the center was changing that concept, I wanted to be a part of it. I’m gaining a range of expertise and learning how to adapt to different lab settings. And I have a much bigger network of professors and students to bounce ideas off of when I run into a problem. It never feels like there is a dull moment in a project because we can come at it from so many different angles.”

Last spring, Chepiga traveled to Nagoya to help Yamaguchi complete the synthesis project. “I loved the cultural experience and working in a new environment,” she says. “I found the members of the Itami lab to be incredibly friendly and helpful.”

The challenge facing the two graduate students was to perform controlled, sequential functionalization of four C-H bonds on a pyrrole core—a basic, organic unit common in many medicinal compounds.

The Itami lab specializes in C-H arylation, a process that converts a C-H bond into an elaborate structure needed for the synthesis. The Davies lab is specialized in using rhodium catalysts to directly insert a carbene fragment into C-H bonds, another critical step. “We definitely struggled at times,” says Chepiga of the problems involved. “We worked a six-day week, every week.”

But her hosts also made sure she saw some of the beauty and diversity of Japan outside the lab. Most Sundays, Chepiga would take train or bus trips with colleagues to visit a scenic spot. “We saw wild baboons walking toward us in the snow,” Chepiga recalls of a trip to Kamicohi, known as the Japanese Alps. “Japan has incredible beauty and diversity. There is so much to see. And I’d look forward to getting back to the lab on Monday because the work was so exciting.”

Chepiga especially appreciated a custom of the lab members to greet each and every colleague daily. “It’s a good feeling to have forty people tell you ‘good morning.’ It’s a great way to start the day,” she says.

While her work at the Davies lab has focused on catalyst development and applications, the exchange project required Chepiga to learn new techniques for synthesis and for analyzing the products of small-scale reactions. “It reinvigorated me to learn so many new skills,” she says.

The published results of the project open new possibilities for chemistry. “We’re hoping that other researchers will want to explore the potential therapeutic benefits of dictyodendrins A and F, now that the synthesis is more practical,” she says. “And we also hope that our synthesic methods can be applied more broadly to many other compounds with interesting biological properties.”

Combining the expertise of different labs not only boosted the pace of discovery, it also speeded up Chepiga’s academic career. She is on track to finish her PhD program within a few months, for a total of just four and a half years, and she has already secured a postdoctoral fellowship in Germany.

“My experiences in Japan made me want to see even more of the world,” Chepiga says.
A rising star in the art world, Fahamu Pecou has found an intellectual home as a doctoral student at Emory, pursuing studies that amplify his edgy creative work. Story by Kimber Williams. Photography by Bryan Meltz.
The public caught a glimpse of Pecou’s unique vision with \textit{GRAV\textbullet{}i\textbullet{}TY}, the recent exhibit at MOCA GA and the culmination of his fellowship through the Working Artist Project, and in \textit{Imagining New Worlds}, works inspired by the legacy of twentieth-century artist Wilfredo Lam, which opened in February at the High.

Both exhibits showcase bold, culturally engaged art with an unexpected twist. In \textit{Imagining New Worlds}, Pecou combines aspects of modern hip-hop imagery with his own interest in Yoruba, spiritually rooted in African culture, and Négritude—the midcentury movement by black Francophone intellectuals to create a black identity separate from that of their French colonizers.

Through a series of drawings, paintings, language, and soundworks, \textit{GRAV\textbullet{}i\textbullet{}TY} embodied a clever triple entendre, exploring not only a physical concept and the sense of something serious, but also the controversial trend of “saggin’”—a low-riding style of wearing pants that puts boxer shorts on full display.

The exhibit was informed by Pecou’s broader research into contemporary representations of black masculinity in popular culture—one focus of his studies at Emory. Like other forms of resistance in mar-

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**The Black Walt Disney**

When Fahamu Pecou was younger—before he had consciously claimed art as a means of self-expression and survival—he invented a superhero, a cartoon character named “Black Man.”

Armed with pencil and paper, Pecou found refuge in sketching the edgy adventures of Black Man, the alter ego of Ahmad, a brilliant young man whose father had died in an accident while trying to develop a molecular transformer. Sifting through his father’s notes, the grief-stricken character would discover a way to build the transformer himself—morphing into a superhero with superhuman qualities.

Super strong. Super smart. A skinny black kid with the power to save the world, who would rise up to become a great avenger of wrongs, battling crimes that resonated deep within the black community.

Back in Hartsville, South Carolina, where Pecou (pronounced “pay-coo”) sold his serialized comic strip for fifty cents an installment, high school friends teased that Ahmad looked suspiciously like the boy who had created him.

They were right.

“The character was based on me and the things I aspired to, that I hoped for,” acknowledges Pecou, an Atlanta-based visual and performing artist now pursuing doctoral studies at Emory’s Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts (ILA), whose critically acclaimed work has been exhibited in galleries from Paris to Panama, Switzerland to South Africa.

Even now, Pecou uses himself as a model, not in an autobiographical sense, he explains, but as an allegory, capturing traits “typically associated with black men in hip-hop and juxtaposing them within a fine art context . . . both the realities and fantasies projected from and onto black male bodies.”

Today, his artwork can be found displayed throughout notable public and private collections. Pecou has a much-anticipated exhibition and collaborative project on display at Atlanta’s High Museum of Art, on the heels of his first solo museum exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia (MOCA GA), which showcased some of his largest works to date. This summer, another show will open at the Backslash Gallery in Paris—by all measures, an artist on the ascent.

For Pecou, the journey—from a boy who once seized upon art as a refuge to a celebrated international artist noted for the shrewd cultural commentary that infuses his work—has been a jagged odyssey indeed.
And so it was that Pecou invented Black Man—the superhuman boy who stood strong against his enemies. “Art was my saving grace, my go-to place when things got a little rough,” he recalls.

Pecou was nine years old when he discovered what a cartoon animator was, reading about the profession in an encyclopedia. “From that moment until the time I got to college, it became my singular focus,” he says. “I told my friends that I was going to be the black Walt Disney.”

**Life after Death**

During Pecou’s first class at Atlanta College of Art, an instructor scratched the words, “What Is Art?” on the blackboard.

To Pecou, “it was just something that I did.” Hesitant to enter the conversation, he said nothing. But the question would haunt him.

During his freshman year, a friend insisted that there was more to art than the cartoons he labored over. He remembers her “dragging me by the hand to the High Museum of Art,” his first trip to a museum or gallery. “It blew my mind,” Pecou recalls.

“I saw a different potential for myself as an artist,” he explains. “I started painting more and ultimately changed my major from animation to painting. There was something about it that made me feel more alive.”

In time, Pecou was creating paintings of his cartoon characters, wryly imposing his superheroes onto the covers of popular magazines, such as *Ebony* or *Essence*. While taking an independent study class at Spelman College, his work caught the eye of Arturo Lindsay, an artist-scholar known for ethnographic research on African aesthetics in contemporary American culture, who christened Pecou’s work ”Neo-Pop.”

When Lindsay challenged him to create on a larger scale, Pecou produced six-foot-tall canvases of the magazine covers, wrestling with them during MARTA commutes. Art was taking on new possibilities, and with it, Pecou found himself in search of deeper meaning.

One night during his junior year, a fellow art student who worked with found objects stopped by Pecou’s room. From a construction site, he had salvaged a battered, wooden box—an old cement mold. “There was something about it that resonated within me,” Pecou recalls.

Later that night, listening to a Goodie Mob song, “Guess Who,” the lyrics spoke to him anew: “There will never be another that will love me like my mother . . .”

“I must have listened to it on replay for hours,” he says. “When I came out of my fog, I had transformed that battered cement mold into a spirit box, a tribute to my mom. It was powerful for me in ways I could not explain, motivated me for the first time to really engage with the story of my mom and my family.”

As if by collective agreement, Pecou, his brother, and sisters had never spoken of the night their mother died, stabbed in the chest with a machete. Closing his eyes, Pecou could summon fragments, but was never sure if they were only dreams.

Inspired, he interviewed his siblings, reawakening their own splintered impressions—fleeing the apartment, bloodstains on their father’s shirt, and a cold walk to the police station, where his father announced that he was ”Jesus Christ” and had just “killed the devil.”

From those excavated memories, Pecou would create *Life after Death*, a senior project that laid bare the turbulent love, pain, and truth of his own past.

The experience was transformative.
“When that exhibition opened I was a little nervous, because it was very personal,” Pecou recalls. “People walked in and their faces opened, glistening with tears. Some were so moved they shared with me incidents of their own childhood tragedy. My work gave them the courage to face things they had shied away from.”

“From that point on, I decided never to make art for the sake of making a pretty picture, but to move people and change the world,” he says.

After such a dynamic debut, the years that followed were a creative struggle.

Following graduation in 1997, he “lied his way into a graphic design job” at a small, boutique agency in New York, working with rising performers, nightclubs, and restaurants. Noting how different rappers often were from the personas they projected, Pecou wondered: Why doesn’t someone market a visual artist the way we do a rapper?

The question drew him back to Atlanta, where he joined a friend to create a new design firm, Diamond Lounge Studios. They sought clients door-to-door, hitting up clubs and studios with a growing portfolio of hip, urban material.

At the same time, Pecou was trying to get his own artwork into galleries, with little success.

In 2001, Pecou had an opportunity to do work for former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Jackson’s inaugural campaign. Soon, Pecou and his partner shared a running joke—in order to get into art galleries, he would need his own election committee.

Beneath the sarcasm, Pecou saw some truth. Building upon his own ideas about marketing visual artists, the young artist decided to create a brash, tongue-in-cheek underground campaign: “Fahamu Pecou Is The S--t,” paid for by the Committee to Officially Make Fahamu Pecou the S--t.

It was a subversive experiment, a parody of a promotional campaign “with no rhyme or reason,” Pecou admits. “And it was a hit.”

As the slogan, along with a graphic image of a tough, shirtless Pecou, began to appear on fliers, stickers, T-shirts, and a viral email campaign throughout Atlanta, the buzz began to build: Who was this Fahamu Pecou?

Pecou took it a step further, inserting his image on a fake magazine cover, which he printed on a reader response card; those who returned the card would receive a free copy of the magazine. When Pecou slipped the cards into real magazines on newsstands, hundreds were mailed back.

Painting that magazine cover was more than an elaborate joke. It also kindled his creativity, resulting in the creation of NEOPOP, a series of paintings that played on celebrity, hip-hop, and culture. His artistic rhythm was back. In 2004, Pecou was invited to join Art, Beats and Lyrics, a group art show at the High Museum of Art.

In the past, Pecou had walked door-to-door seeking art galleries to show his work, save one—the Ty Stokes Gallery, located directly across the street from his own Diamond Lounge Studio in Atlanta’s Castleberry Hill Art District. As neighbors, Pecou had frequently chatted over coffee with gallery owner Bill Bounds, but never to trumpet his own art. Stepping into Pecou’s studio to retrieve a Pecou T-shirt, the gallery owner noticed the bold NEOPOP canvases leaning against the walls.

He stood motionless, studying them. “You should put these in my gallery,” Bounds finally said.
The Dallas show, *NEOPOP Goes the World*, sold out before it even opened. Paintings were still in bubble wrap leaning against the walls “and people were coming in, pointing and saying, ‘I’ll take that one,’” Pecou recalls.

Over the next few years, Pecou’s work would be featured in more than a dozen group shows or exhibits. Paintings that he’d once struggled to sell for $100 were suddenly fetching thousands of dollars. Interest in his bold, urban work and challenging viewpoint was spreading.

But it was the birth of his children, daughter Oji and son Ngozi, that would bring him to a deeper, more introspective place. “I began to think about my own journey from boyhood to manhood—not having a father around had affected me,” he explains. “I wanted to use my work to have a broader conversation with young black men about their identity, their masculinity, some of the inherited and imposed expectations that young black men face.”

**The Artist as Scholar (or, Fahamu Mania)**

Although Pecou likes to think his work has always radiated deeper meaning, in light of events such as the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, Missouri, its themes have taken on new urgency.

“I shifted from *NEOPOP* celebrity to really looking at black masculinity and how it could be influenced with various representations,” he says.

It’s a focus also reflected in Pecou’s work at Emory, where he’s now in his third year of graduate studies at the ILA. Though research has always been a part of his art, Pecou says he came to the university driven by “a deep yearning to be challenged in an intellectual environment.”

Pecou recalls venting his frustration one night at “Yo! Karaoke,” a local karaoke event he helped host at Pal’s Lounge on Auburn Avenue. “I wanted to go back to school, but couldn’t find a program to suit my needs,” Pecou recalls telling his friend and fellow karaoke disciple Michael Leo Owens, who happens to work at Emory.

Owens, an associate professor of political science, suggested the interdisciplinary flexibility offered in Emory’s ILA would be a good fit.

“Everyone who knows Fahamu knows that he’s a true Renaissance man,” Owens says. “He has an incredible set of talents—it seems there’s nothing he can’t do or won’t try, and he’s successful at it all.”

What his art invites, Owens says, “is a really nice, long conversation and critique about not only black culture, but American culture, along with the potential to help young black men and women to believe there is a greater, broader set of opportunities available to them.”

Pecou attended an ILA open house at Emory and quickly submitted an application, complete with samples of his art, recalls Kimberly Wallace-Sanders, associate professor in African American studies and director of graduate studies in ILA, who would become his adviser.

“We were all fighting over his application,” Wallace-Sanders laughs. “It was our first introduction to Fahamu mania.”

As a student, Wallace-Sanders has found Pecou “open to everything I can throw at him, from feminist theory to philosophy—he’s always thinking of ways to add another layer of meaning to his art, always thinking about the right questions to ask.”

“I can’t tell you what it’s like to witness his mind at work,” she says. “He’ll show me something on a sketchpad, then on a computer, then it’s a conversation, then it’s on a canvas, then he’s flying off somewhere to present a paper about it.”

Pecou says his academic experience has “freed my work. I find that I can address some of the concerns and ideas I have academically, which amplifies my art.”

The scholarship and artistry often work hand in hand. Pecou expanded upon themes from his *GRAVEITY* exhibit to write a research paper that he will present at the international conference “Black Portraiture(s) II: Imagining the Black Body and Restaging Histories” in Florence, Italy, later this spring.

At times, it’s hard to tell where one discipline ends and the other begins. Working in Emory’s Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library to help catalog the library of the late Emory professor Rudolph Byrd introduced Pecou to early twentieth-century magazines he’d never before discovered. That influence can be seen in his *Imagining New Worlds* exhibit at the High Museum. One of his paintings depicts a stylized self-portrait on the cover of *Negro Digest*, a magazine originally published in the 1940s as an alternative to *Reader’s Digest*.

Through his studies at Emory, Pecou has been able to engage with leading theorists around “black masculinity, hip-hop theory—all of these viewpoints coming together that have allowed me to really think through my own ideas.”

“I can talk to a kid on the street about saggin’ or a room full of scholars about oppositional fashion and have them understand the same message,” he adds. “I think that’s really powerful.”
As the world grappled with news of an unprecedented outbreak of Ebola virus disease during the past year, more than two million people around the world were grappling with a new HIV diagnosis.

And while AIDS is now managed with medications, something like chronic conditions such as diabetes, that’s not good enough, says Guido Silvestri, chief of the Division of Microbiology and Immunology at Yerkes National Primate Research Center and a professor at Emory School of Medicine.

Paul Johnson, the new director of Yerkes, agrees; that’s why he is ramping up efforts to help write the last chapter on HIV. To do so, he is making connections between Timothy Brown, the first and only patient out of an estimated 78 million affected by HIV to be cured of the disease since it was first identified, and research with nonhuman primates to try to answer the question that is captivating AIDS researchers around the globe: What exactly was it about Timothy Brown’s treatment that cured him?

Brown’s story—detailed in the New England Journal of Medicine almost thirty years into the epidemic—has reinvigorated the field of AIDS research, providing hope that the disease might, in fact, have an end in sight.

“AIDS research made tremendous progress because we were able to identify enough aspects of the virus’s life cycle that can be targeted with certain drugs, but it’s still not ideal,” Silvestri says. “If you’re a person living with HIV today, you need to take the drugs for life. And even if everything goes well and you don’t have a lot of side effects, HIV is still very expensive for society, and there’s still some residual mortality and morbidity. You’re never back to normal. You need a vaccine, and you need a cure.”

Under Johnson’s leadership, scientists at Yerkes and across Emory are working on both. Johnson, who took over as Yerkes director last summer, is furthering research collaborations among Yerkes, the Emory Center for AIDS Research, the Emory Vaccine Center, and Emory’s adult and pediatric infectious disease programs.

Johnson, Silvestri, and their colleagues have several ideas they’re currently testing through research. As part of his treatment, Brown had two bone marrow transplants and received infusions of bone marrow. “A key question for the field is what elements of those procedures were essential for the long-term cure,” says Johnson. Because of medical ethics around experimentation, it’s impossible to replicate that procedure on humans.
That’s why the nonhuman primates at Yerkes are essential. Silvestri has spent his career examining the similarities and differences between simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) and HIV. Unlike HIV’s effect on humans, SIV does not cause disease in sooty mangabeys, the African monkeys that naturally become infected with it, making it of particular interest to researchers.

It’s been difficult for scientists to figure out how to treat SIV-infected primates in a way that would help researchers pursue a cure for HIV. But, says Johnson, “there are now regimens and combinations of drugs that allow this to be done routinely. The availability of these improved regimens has greatly accelerated interest in HIV cure research in nonhuman primate models.”

Since the news of Brown’s cure, Silvestri has been hard at work using primate models to explore what aspects of Brown’s bone marrow transplants may have made the difference. Says Johnson, “It’s difficult to design these experiments for humans, and Guido Silvestri has established a program here that allows one to look at the components of the bone marrow transplant in...”
Despite the Yerkes advantage, the work of finding a cure and vaccine for HIV isn’t always easy. Conducting new research without new technology is difficult, if not impossible, and technology is expensive. It can be challenging to attract research funding for HIV without pilot studies, and to do pilot studies without funding. “Obtaining that preliminary funding is often one of the biggest barriers that scientists face in their research,” says Johnson.

In addition, he says, finding funding for young investigators is especially challenging given that the success rate for securing National Institutes of Health grants reached an all-time low in 2013.

Driving Yerkes’s success in this environment will be private gifts from people who believe in the research center’s work. “My hope is that the work done at Yerkes will pave the way to identify new concepts and new therapies that can ultimately be translated into clinical practice to help achieve HIV cure,” Johnson says.

Silvestri agrees. “I hope we’re going to develop a vaccine that prevents AIDS and figure out a way to cure the disease for those who are living with it. It’s not going to be easy. It’s not going to happen tomorrow. But we’re so fortunate to have a fantastic group of colleagues, with primates right here, research capabilities, new leadership, institutional commitments, and national and international visibility. I’m very optimistic.”

Nonhuman primates exhibit a degree of genetic similarity and neurologic function that serve as excellent models for human diseases.
WHY BRING YOUR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO EMIN>//Y?

Yerkes has a very rich tradition that goes back to the 1930s. It is very well integrated within Emory University and particularly the Woodruff Health Sciences Center. As a physician, one of the very attractive features here is the opportunity to work more closely within the medical community and to try as director to build those bridges of translational research projects that address human health issues using nonhuman primate research.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE ONGOING CHALLENGES OF HIV RESEARCH?

Continuing challenges are efforts to decrease transmission and improve our prevention efforts. A key component of those prevention efforts would be the development of an HIV vaccine, but it has to be complemented by other measures as well. Despite public education campaigns, new HIV infections continue to occur in the US at a rate of forty to fifty thousand annually, and worldwide that figure exceeds four to five thousand new infections per day.

My particular area of study has been looking at a live attenuated vaccine, in which animals are vaccinated with a weakened version of SIV. The majority of successful viral vaccines in clinical use are live attenuated vaccines because they have the ability to mimic natural infection without inducing disease. For HIV, that balance between efficacy and safety is just too delicate, and so live attenuated HIV vaccines are off the table.

IS THAT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF NATURAL ABILITY OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM TO FIGHT IT?

And because HIV infection is forever. A weakening of HIV still poses the risk of sometime in the future that HIV could mutate, and be host immune responses, and induce disease. So this is not a viable vaccine concept, but it is a way, in an animal model, for us to say what immune responses are important for protection. I think one general theme of what we have learned is that this ongoing, low-level stimulation of the immune system by the attenuated virus is important in order to induce the sort of antibody and T-cell responses necessary to contain or prevent HIV or SIV infection. So the challenge is to try to take this information and develop novel vaccine vectors or vaccine modalities that are able to have some of these characteristics while still maintaining an appropriate safety profile that could be used in human vaccine trials.

HOW DOES THIS INFLUENCE WHAT IS GOING ON AT YERKEs?

HIV vaccine efforts are one key area. The other is HIV cure and eradication research. HIV as a retrovirus integrates itself into the DNA of a cell. As long as that cell survives or divides to produce other cells, those other cells will be infected. Although the drugs we have are very effective in suppressing HIV replication, in the vast majority of people who are taken off these antiretroviral drugs, the virus comes back, generally within a matter of weeks. There is a very intensive effort by multiple research groups, and strongly supported by the NIH, to explore ways we can eradicate HIV infection and not require that patients take these antiretroviral drugs for the rest of their lives. There is a very important role that nonhuman primate work will play in terms of identifying the types of cells that serve as the latent reservoir for the infection and determining novel strategies for eradicating those reservoirs. We see this as a very important area for nonhuman primate HIV research for years to come.

WHAT ARE OTHER AREAS OF STRENGTH AT YERKES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED?

One of the things that attracts me is the very vigorous neurosciences programs that are ongoing here. There is ongoing research into behavior, social interactions, and neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, and Huntington’s disease, as well as psychiatric disorders and autism. I have been working very hard over the past several months to learn more about those research programs and to learn how we can support them moving forward and to increase our ties with people performing neuroscience and psychiatric research within the Woodruff Health Sciences Center. One other area that I want to highlight is the impact of the advances in genetics and genomics that have transformed human clinical care and clinical research. Getting the detailed genetic information from sequencing DNA and RNA from tumors is leading to a better understanding of the mechanisms of carcinogenesis, as well as the development of new therapies. It is affecting the way we give drugs and helping the emerging field of pharmacogenomics, and helping to provide insights into previously undiagnosed diseases, particularly in pediatrics. Those same advances in genetics and genomics that have transformed clinical care are well poised to transform the way we do nonhuman primate research over the next five to ten years.

ARE THERE OTHER ASPECTS OF YOUR VISION FOR YERKES THAT YOU’D LIKE TO SHARE?

We need to continue to emphasize the training of young investigators. That’s critical for the future of science.
windows

OF OPPORTUNITY

If you’ve been touched by the stories in this issue of Emory Magazine, these windows can open up ways for you to turn your inspiration into action. Here you’ll see how you can invest in the people, places, and programs found in these pages and beyond. Gifts to Emory produce powerful, lasting returns; they help create knowledge, advance research, strengthen communities, improve health, and much more.

CREATING A HEALTHIER FUTURE

At Emory’s Yerkes National Primate Research Center, new director Paul Johnson is helping lead efforts to develop an HIV vaccine. The center’s researchers also collaborate on other infectious disease research and are increasing ties with neuroscience and psychiatric research within the Woodruff Health Sciences Center. Gifts to the Yerkes Fund for Excellence help open new avenues of research, educate and train promising young scientists, and engage the public more fully in the center’s work. For more information, contact Jonathan Russell, director of development, at 404.727.9567 or jrusse5@emory.edu.

STOKING STUDENTS’ PASSION FOR RESEARCH

Many students choose Emory for the variety, depth, and accessibility of research opportunities, and their curiosity is ignited by innovative classes. Donor gifts support student research through two avenues: Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE), a nationally recognized program with a twenty-five-year record of training undergraduates in leading-edge science research; and Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE), which promotes undergraduate research projects through grants, faculty-student research partnerships, and summer research stipends. To invest in Emory’s undergraduate researchers, contact Heather Kersey, assistant director of annual giving, at 404.727.4635 or heather.kersey@emory.edu.
RAISING RENAISSANCE SCHOLARS

The Laney Graduate School offers students like Fahamu Pecou 16PhD the opportunity to merge their creativity, curiosity, and research in innovative ways that challenge perceptions and advance scholarship. This flexibility produces Renaissance-like scholars in science and humanities. To give to graduate programs, contact Robin Harpak, associate director of development, 404.712.9341 or robin.harpak@emory.edu.

BEARING WITNESS

Through the Georgia Cold Cases Project and the website www.coldcases.emory.edu, the Center for Digital Scholarship connects the public with Emory students’ original research into unresolved civil rights cases. Distinctive digital resources like this are a hallmark of model research libraries. To support the center through the University Libraries Fund for Excellence, contact Alex Wan, director of development, at 404.727.5386 or alex.wan@emory.edu.

SUSTAINING EMORY

Emory’s WaterHub, the innovative new facility expected to save Emory more than 110 million gallons of water annually, is just one of Emory’s many efforts that perform double duty: It supports a healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable campus and enhances educational experiences for students. To invest in Emory’s Sustainability Initiatives Fund, visit emory.edu/giving, click on the gold badge, and designate your gift to the Office of Sustainability Initiatives.

POOLING RESOURCES

With eighteen national championships, including the most recent women’s swimming and diving title, Emory has one of the most successful NCAA Division III athletic programs. Donor gifts can support individual varsity, club, and intramural teams and strengthen the student-athlete experience. To contribute to the Swim and Dive Endowment Fund, contact Jessi Arndis, director of development, at 404.712.4682 or jessi.arndis@emory.edu.
Thank You, Atlanta, for the Past Hundred Years

The nineteenth-century Emory president George Foster Pierce once referred to the little college in Oxford, Georgia, as “an amaranthine plant”—in other words, a hardy weed that would not die, no matter how poor the soil, how scant the rain, or how hostile the environment. Kind of like kudzu, that invasive vine that later “ate the South.” Pierce’s day was a tough period, but Emory did survive.

In this centennial year of Emory’s transplantation to Atlanta, in 1915, another botanical reference suggests itself—wisteria. This beautifully flowering plant is known for its tenacious roots, its astonishing rate of growth, and its capacity to climb and spread above us in the springtime. A hundred years ago, like wisteria, Emory reached a long tendril from its original soil in Oxford to set down a new root system in Atlanta. In the century since, the university has sunk its taproot ever more deeply into the city, has grown with it, and consequently has reached up and out to join the broad canopy of institutions throughout the US that carry forward the intellectual and scientific work of our nation.

This is a remarkable development, because not every university similar to Emory remains similarly rooted in its home environment. But these past hundred years have wrought a kind of mutually assisted evolution for the university and our city.

Emory and Atlanta have grown up together. The city’s leaders have served as Emory trustees, given generously to the university, and sent their daughters and sons to us as students. In return, Emory has graduated lawyers, physicians, clergy, teachers, nurses, and public servants who have helped to shape the city’s culture, its commerce, its race relations, its historical memory, and its science.

It is hardly conceivable that the growth of Emory to its current stature as a liberal arts–based research university in less than seventy years, since the start of PhD programs after World War II, could have occurred without the rich soil watered by Emory’s alliances throughout Atlanta. And while a host of men and women with no connection to Emory helped to build the city into the vital capital of the Southeast, it is indisputable that Emory has contributed to that transformation in countless ways.

One of those ways is through our research enterprise, which for five years in a row has garnered more than half a billion dollars in externally sponsored funding. Through technology transfer and start-up companies and on-campus research, this funding is multiplied many times over to help make Atlanta a hub of biomedical and biotechnological development. Emory’s research activity helped make possible the formation, in 1990, of the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA), which in turn makes it feasible for Emory to partner with sister institutions to attract some of the most eminent research scientists in the world to our campuses. Five years after the formation of the GRA, Emory was invited to join the Association of American Universities (AAU), the sixty-two most prestigious research universities in North America—universities that help set and pursue our nation’s science agenda. Clearly Emory has flowered on the national and global scene while remaining deeply rooted in our home city and community.

If we can learn something from Emory’s relationship with Atlanta, I would venture four lessons.

First, we must continually demonstrate Emory’s worthiness of great trust—whether that trust leads to the planting of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) next door or the great gift from the brothers Woodruff in 1979 or the request to send Ebola virus disease patients to our hospital. Preparation, follow-through, and integrity are essential.

Second, Emory must continue to stay alert to opportunities for service that also expand our capacity for teaching and research. We are doing this through our partnerships with the CDC, Georgia Tech, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, and other great institutions in our city, as well as through the Gates Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and other great funding sources whose branches extend across the globe.

Third, Emory should expect that real partnerships will enhance not just Emory but all parties to the collaboration, including the city as well as the nation. This is the case with our work through the AAU to insure against a growing “innovation deficit” by fostering greater investment in graduate programs, basic research, and technological development.

Finally, Emory’s earned and privileged place as a globally connected and influential institution does not diminish the university’s local commitments. While we belong to the world, we serve it best by remembering and tending to our roots.

Thank you, Atlanta.
Volcano Hopping

Bill Slate 62OX caught this amazing shot of a fellow traveler crossing lava fields near the Kilauea Iki trail at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park during Emory Travel’s Authentic Hawaii trip this spring, where he hiked, explored lava tubes, and took in the botanical gardens.
DEAR FRIENDS,

What does the future hold? Where will life take me? As we explore what it means to be part of a global alumni community, we continue to ask ourselves these important questions.

Change, we know, is constant. Careers begin and pivot, relationships and families grow, and life often takes us down paths we can never fully anticipate. There is an unending sense of wonder and expectation.

As Emory alumni, you are part of a vast global network of individuals with myriad skills and connections. When you try to envision your own future, ask yourself which career connections can help get you there. Who might have the experience to inform your journey?

I encourage you to reach out to your fellow alumni around the world. Meet and get to know them through social events and virtual networking like @AlwaysEmory on Twitter. This summer, we are excited to launch a new comprehensive online alumni community platform to help you maintain career contacts, stay abreast of activities, and keep in touch with Emory and fellow alumni. Watch for details through our website alumni.emory.edu.

Explore the world of infinite possibility together with your fellow alumni.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

SARAH CRAVEN COOK 95C
SENIOR ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Upcoming Alumni Events

Virtual: Every Wednesday follow @AlwaysEmory on Twitter to shadow alumni on a typical work day.


June 4: Coach Chat Webinar — Pamela Slim, author of Body of Work: Finding the Thread that Ties Your Story Together and Escape from Cubicle Nation: From Corporate Prisoner to Thriving Entrepreneur.

For more, visit alumni.emory.edu/calendar.

Emory Everywhere

EMORY STRONG: Rose Chen 13B, Crystal Wang 11B, Emory Alumni Board President Doug Shipman 95C, Namsoo Im 03C, and Quan Hu 10B pose for a lighthearted photo at the Emory Asian Alumni Leadership Conference in Seoul, South Korea. The inaugural event was designed to strengthen Emory’s initiatives in the region and to build a stronger worldwide alumni network.

ART OF AN ICON: Emory alumni gathered at the Millennium Gate Museum in Atlantic Station in January to view an exhibit of more than thirty of Winston Churchill’s paintings, many of which have never been publicly exhibited. Former Emory Alumni Board member Chet Tisdale 72L emceed the program, which featured a short historical perspective on Churchill’s artistic life by Churchill’s great-grandson Duncan Sandys.

LEADING THE WAY: Marie Han Silloway 00MBA, vice president for marketing and category for Starbucks, discussed the company’s strategies for success in building more than 1,500 stores in China, its largest international market, at a special event in Shanghai for Emory alumni and parents in conjunction with the Emory Asian Alumni Leadership Conference in March. WELL TRAVELED: Orlando-area alumni enjoyed an Emory on the Road program on “Emory in the American Context” with Gary Hauk 91PhD in February. The evening honored longtime volunteer Kenneth Murrah 55C 58L.
How to build your Emory network.

1. CEO Lin hires student John before he graduates from Emory.
2. John shares news of his job with classmates on LinkedIn, Facebook, and through Emory’s class notes.
3. Anne reads John’s class note and connects. The two soon work together.
4. Terrell meets Anne at an alumni chapter event and proposes a new business venture.
5. Anne, John, and Terrell hire student interns via alumni.emory.edu/recruit.
6. Emory hosts an alumni chapter event sponsored by the new alumni business venture.
7. Anne, John, and Terrell spin off from Lin’s company to form their own. Lin becomes a board member who brings in Ron to finance the new company’s operations.
8. Anne, John, Terrell, Lin, and Ron become career contacts for other Emory alumni.
9. Emory student Alyssa calls career contacts in both companies, and the cycle begins again.

Make the connections that will boost your career.

alumni.emory.edu

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“I am grateful for the opportunities I have had at Emory and for the support that has made these experiences possible.”
Claire Bailey 14C
Division of Campus Life

“Support from annual donors allows our researchers to advance scientific discoveries and directly enhances the care we are able to deliver to our patients.”
Keith A. Delman
Surgical oncologist, Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

“The flexibility that my scholarship provides allowed me to take part in a unique internship program with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”
Amanda Feldpaus 13MPH
Rollins School of Public Health

“My experiences at Emory Law have prepared me to make a difference for the people and countries devastated by war.”
Zainab Rakiatu Wurie 13L
Emory School of Law

“The advancement of clinical care, research, and education at Emory School of Medicine would not be possible without the support of annual donors.”
Diamondis “Mundy” Papadopoulos 86MR 89MR
Emory School of Medicine

“Annual gifts to the Laney Graduate School prepare students like me for the future.”
Amanda Wendt 17G
Laney Graduate School

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Car prudentis possidebit scientiam.
Reading the Bones

Atop a scenic bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and downtown Dubuque, Iowa, there once lay a graveyard dating to the 1830s, the earliest days of American settlement in Iowa. Though many local residents knew the property had once been a Catholic burial ground, they believed the graves had been moved to a new cemetery in the late-nineteenth century in response to overcrowding and changing burial customs. But in 2007, when a developer broke ground for a new condominium complex, the heavy machinery unearthed human bones. Over four years the site was excavated, and archaeologist Jennifer E. Mack 96C and skeletal biologist Robin Lillie undertook the enormous task of teasing out life histories from fragile bones, disintegrating artifacts, and the decaying wooden coffins that were unearthed. Poring over scant documents and sifting through old newspapers, they pieced together the story of the cemetery and its residents. In Dubuque’s Forgotten Cemetery: Excavating a Nineteenth-Century Burial Ground in Dubuque Iowa, Mack and Lillie weave together science, history, and local mythology to tell the tale of the Third Street Cemetery and to provide a fascinating glimpse into Dubuque’s early years, the hardships its settlers endured, and the difficulties they did not survive.

Wonder Women: In Womanpower Unlimited and the Black Freedom Struggle in Mississippi, Tiyi M. Morris 94C provides the first comprehensive examination of the Jackson, Mississippi–based women’s organization Womanpower Unlimited. Founded in 1961 by Claire Collins Harvey, the organization was created initially to provide aid to the Freedom Riders who were unjustly arrested then tortured in Mississippi jails. Womanpower Unlimited expanded its activism to include programs such as voter registration drives, youth education, and participation in Women Strike for Peace. Womanpower Unlimited proved not only to be a significant organization with regard to civil rights activism in Mississippi, but also a spearhead movement for revitalizing black women’s social and political activism in the state. In Womanpower Morris elucidates the role that the group played in sustaining the civil rights movement in Mississippi and examines the leadership women provided.

This Little Light of Mine: In Jamaican dance halls, competition for the video camera’s light is stiff, so much so that dancers sometimes bleach their skin to enhance their visibility. In the Bahamas, tuxedoed students roll into prom in tricked-out sedans, staging grand red-carpet entrances designed to ensure they are seen being photographed. Throughout the United States and Jamaica, friends pose in front of hand-painted backgrounds of Tupac, flashy cars, or brand-name products popularized in hip-hop culture in makeshift roadside photography studios. In Shine: The Visual Economy of Light in African Diasporic Aesthetic Practice, Krista Thompson 99G 02PhD examines these and other photographic practices in the Caribbean and United States, showing that, for the members of these communities, seeking out the camera’s light provides a means with which to represent themselves in the public sphere. Thompson is Weinberg College Board of Visitors Professor and associate professor in the Department of Art History at Northwestern University.

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Champion of Libraries and Learning
Kathy Tomajko 79G, 2015 Turman Award winner

In more than thirty-five years with Georgia Institute of Technology’s libraries, Kathy Tomajko 79G has provided professional leadership and committed herself to improving library science, but dedication to community service has been her guiding principle.

“Volunteering and community service has allowed me to choose where and how to make a difference, and it’s rewarding to see the direct impact,” says Tomajko, this year’s J. Pollard Turman Alumni Service Award recipient and associate dean of libraries and aerospace engineering librarian at Georgia Tech. “A strong community can result in better lives for all of us.”

As the twenty-fifth recipient of the Turman Award, Tomajko may designate which Emory academic or nonacademic program, school, or division will receive the Tull Charitable Foundation $25,000 gift that accompanies the award.

The first alumna of Emory’s librarianship program to be honored, Tomajko says library science and student scholarship will take top priority.

“The majority of the generous Tull Charitable Foundation donation will go to Emory Libraries in a variety of areas,” she says. “I’ve had the pleasure of working closely with Emory Libraries as its annual giving fund board representative and Emory Alumni Board (EAB) representative. I am so impressed with the library, and what the library does for the Emory community and the community at large—their collections, their programs, their exhibits, and, of course MARBL, the Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library.”

Another portion of the gift will support the EAB scholarship, which was created during Tomajko’s tenure on the board from 2003 to 2007.

“Scholarships are important to me. I was generously helped as an Emory graduate student via a graduate assistantship and tuition reduction, and I want to continue to make it easier for students to attend college,” she says.

Tomajko served on the EAB’s Annual Giving Committee from 2007 to 2009 and as an officer on the EAB Executive Committee. She was chair of the Office of Annual Giving Board from 2005 to 2007 and has been active in the Emory Alumni Board Presidents’ Club since 2007. She served as the alumni representative to the Emory University Senate from 2011 to 2013 and as an appointee to the University Board of Visitors.

In the community, Tomajko has served in many volunteer capacities including roles with the Junior League of DeKalb County, the Mary Gay House Endowment Fund Board, DeKalb Rape Crisis Center, Grady Hospital Board of Visitors, International Women’s House, Leadership DeKalb, Atlanta Organizing Committee for the Centennial Olympic Games, and the Library Foundation of the DeKalb County Public Libraries.

“There are so many needs in the community that I wanted to do my part to meet some of those needs,” she says.

Tomajko has earned numerous awards for her service, including the Louise Martin Klaucke Award of the Junior League of DeKalb County recognizing civic, professional, and volunteer service, and the Frances Kaiser Award from Georgia Tech for significant professional achievement in library and information science.

Later this year, Tomajko plans to retire from Georgia Tech, and she and her husband, Ron, look forward to spending more time on community service, educational opportunities, travel, and enjoying family and friends. Meanwhile, Tomajko is eager to share the lessons she has learned through her professional and community service.

“My advice to students and others is that there is a world of possibilities out there. Do something that’s important to you,” she says. “I recommend reaching out to the community. So much of our time is spent on the job. Community service provides opportunities to do something you’re passionate about.”

Established in 1998, the J. Pollard Turman Alumni Service Award is one of the highest honors of the Emory Alumni Association.

J. Pollard Turman 34C 36L was an influential humanitarian whose support of higher education and cultural organizations benefited institutions throughout Georgia. In 1996, through the generosity of the Tull Charitable Foundation (an organization Turman helped form), Emory established a financial award to accompany the Turman Award to pay tribute to Turman’s lifelong contributions to the university.

In 2005 the Tull Charitable Foundation significantly elevated its level of financial support to Emory through a generous pledge of $25,000 annually in honor of the Turman Award recipient. —Michelle Valigursky
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Preserving a Sense of Place
National Trust attorney spends his days helping to save historic spaces

When he was a student at Oxford and Emory, Ross M. Bradford 98OX 00C, now senior associate general counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, often would get in his car and drive into the countryside of the deep South.

There, he says, “I’d stumble across different little towns and historic places, like Social Circle and the Monastery of the Holy Spirit.” The places spoke to him of the past, of stories that might disappear if they weren’t preserved. Though he didn’t know it at the time, Bradford would end up playing an important role in saving such places.

After graduating from law school at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill in 2003, Bradford moved to Washington, D.C., where he did two legal internships. The first was a brief stint in the general counsel’s office at Whitman Walker, the renowned health and legal services clinic; the second was at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He stayed on with the Trust after they extended an offer in 2004 and now serves as senior associate general counsel.

“I’ve been here ever since,” says Bradford, adding that the Trust’s work is important “because we work to save places that matter in our nation’s conscience.”

Among the places Bradford lists that the National Trust is involved with are the Pullman Historic District in Chicago, the nation’s first model industrial town and also the location of one of the most divisive labor strikes in American history; Shockoe Bottom in Richmond, a site of conscience that was the center of the slave trade industry, second only to New Orleans during the early to mid-1800s; and Great Bend of the Gila in Arizona, a Native American sacred site with archaeological remains, summit trails, geoglyphs, and rock panel art dating the presence of humans back to 3000 B.C.

Bradford is one of the Trust’s twelve attorneys, whose work, he says, is split into two camps: “advocacy work, or saving places, and corporate legal services—real estate transactions, tax issues, and lobbying compliance.”

As in-house counsel, Bradford spends less time in court than one might imagine. Instead, many of his days are spent using the persuasive skills he has honed as an attorney to convince varied stakeholders that saving a place is not just in the national interest, but in their own local and individual interests, too.

“Places I spend a lot of my time on are Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright’s Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria, Virginia, which is threatened by federal road projects and sprawl,” he says. Bradford relies on federal laws to keep federal agencies in check and ensure that they avoid harm to historic sites.

“Everyone has a place that matters to them,” Bradford says. “It might be as simple as a local restaurant you ate at as a kid, a park you spent time studying in during college, or a church where your parents were married. Not every place is necessarily a masterpiece of architecture, and in some instances important places are already gone, and we are simply trying to preserve the memory of a place.” —Julie Schwietert Collazo 97OX 99C

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carlos.emory.edu 404.727.0516
Fearless Civil Rights Chronicler

CLAUDE SITTON

PULITZER PRIZE–WINNING JOURNALIST
Claude Sitton 47OX 49C, an Emory graduate who earned national acclaim for his ground-breaking coverage of the some of the most turbulent years of the American civil rights movement, died Tuesday, March 10. He was eighty-nine.

Sitton was born at Emory University Hospital and raised in Rockdale County by a family deeply rooted in the American South. After attending Oxford College, he graduated from Emory in 1949 with a bachelor’s degree in journalism. He went on to work for the International News Service and United Press in Atlanta. He was later hired by the New York Times, where he served as a copy editor. After less than a year, Sitton was sent back to Atlanta as the newspaper’s chief Southern correspondent, with a beat that would stretch across the Southeast.

It was in that role that Sitton began to report on the civil rights movement. From May 1958 through October 1964, his stories documented such landmark events as the desegregation of public schools and universities, the sit-in movement, voter registration drives, beatings and bombings, the assassination of civil rights leader Medgar Evers, and the tumult of the Freedom Summer of 1964, as college students from across the nation flooded Mississippi to help register black voters.

WITNESS TO HISTORY
Trusted by sources—civil rights leaders were known to carry his phone number—and known for his direct, unflinching news writing, Sitton’s dogged coverage often made him a witness to history, even as it was unfolding before him.

During the height of the civil rights struggle, Sitton’s coverage would take him from one political hotspot to the next, often requiring weeks on the road.

Over six and a half years, Sitton would file nearly nine hundred stories from across the region, according to the New York Times.

INSPIRING FUTURE JOURNALISTS
Sitton’s papers, including correspondence, articles, speeches, and more dating from 1958 to 2004, are archived in Emory’s Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library. Emory also holds portions of his personal library, with many volumes annotated by Sitton.

Emory alumni—who count themselves lucky to have taken his classes—recall a tough journalistic standard-bearer with a deep empathetic core. Even today, they remember the classroom experience with a measure of awe.

Morieka Johnson Upton 94C was among a group of about a dozen students who took Sitton’s class, Press Coverage of the Civil Rights Movement, in the early 1990s.

“He would talk, and we would listen,” she says. “I remember the gravity of his articles, which felt like a different time and place. Learning about the impact that a news article could have helped me grasp the fact that I wanted to be a journalist.”

LEGACY OF SERVICE
Following his work covering the civil rights movement, Sitton served as the New York Times national news director from 1964 to 1968. He went on to become editor of the News and Observer Publishing Company until his retirement in 1990.

Sitton was one of five Emory alumni to be awarded a Pulitzer Prize, and the only one to win for achievements in journalism, says Gary Hauk 91PhD, Emory vice president and editorial director of the News and Observer Publishing Company until 2004.

“Like Woodward, Claude was a Southerner who knew to carry his phone number—and known to have a different take on race and on the South’s political hotspot to the next, often requiring weeks on the road.

“One of those other Emory Pulitzer winners was the great C. Vann Woodward,” Hauk recalls. “Like Woodward, Claude was a Southerner who had a different take on race and on the South’s narrative about itself.”

“Claude’s courage in telling that other side of the story earned him the respect of a generation of reporters and the lasting esteem and gratitude of his alma mater. He was a fearless teller of truth and afflicter of the comfortable.”

Among his many professional accolades, Sitton was inducted into the Atlanta Press Club Hall of Fame this past November. He also received the George Polk Career Award for journalism in 1991 and the John Chancellor Career Award for excellence in journalism in 2000.—Kimber Williams
I don't remember the first time I saw my brother, Jason. What I said, however, is now a family punch line: “Nice baby, Mom.”

Jason was born with cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and hydrocephalus. My mother, Gail, is now disabled through degenerative disc disease, TMJ, chronic migraines, fibromyalgia, and, more recently, CRPS (Complex Regional Pain Syndrome). As a disability sibling and son, I have long witnessed the stigmas and oppressions of disability. When someone uses the R word or takes a “handicapped” parking spot because their errand will just “take a second,” I cannot help but wince. Yet my interest as an ally is not in policing language usage or placing passive-aggressive notes on offending cars (though I admit it provides some catharsis).

Instead, I focus my academic life on the questions such experiences raise. What do our views about disability say about us? Are they, in fact, true to the experiences they purport to be about? How do our assumptions and prejudices about some bodies and minds lead to oppression? And how can we change? How can we make the world a more inclusive place for people of all sorts?

My brother spent his days in a bed or wheelchair. He required twenty-four-hour care, and my mother was the primary person who carried out that dependency work over his twenty-three years on earth. Jason was visibly disabled, and Gail is invisibly so. For each, “being disabled” could hardly be more different. My mother faces a host of distinct stigmas due to being a woman, due to the invisibility of her disability, and due to its concomitant pain. Doctors, both male and female, often discount what she says or simply refuse to take her as a patient. Her doctors don’t see her on the days she cannot get out of bed, because on those days she must cancel. When she can finally make the appointment, she walks in, and much is assumed. To get the type of care she needs, my mother often finds herself in the opposite situation of my brother: she has to emphasize her “disabilities” to get care, whereas with Jason we often had to deemphasize his “disabilities” so people would see his life as one worth living and thus one worth care.

In disability activism and disability studies, a distinction is often made between disability and impairment. Impairment names a person’s embodied condition, whereas disability names the social problems and stigmas that result from a given impairment.

Disability is the largest minority identity in the US. Given the broadening of the ADA in 2009, the legal category of disability covers everything from ADHD, a newer diagnostic category, to paraplegia, one of the older. Even on conservative estimates, one in every five people is disabled. If “disability” is understood simply as a way of being in the world that does not fit with one’s own ability expectations or that of one’s society, disability is everywhere once you know how to look for it. This is not to say that we are all disabled. As the distinction between disability and impairment already suggests, we experience stigmas very differently based upon our particular minds and bodies.

My dissertation examines how concepts of ability and disability affect ethical theorizing. Not to give away the punchline, but the history of ethics fails miserably when it comes to the experience of disability. My hope is that we might fashion better ethical theories, theories that take the remarkable range of bodily variabilities into account and afford value to each. When people meet me, they often ask why or how I began studying philosophy of disability and disability studies. They ask that far less often when it comes to my interest in ethics, phenomenology, or the history of philosophy. However well intentioned, such questioning often betrays that people are curious to know why I study this when I appear nondisabled and disability appears to be a “special” topic.

This points to a disturbing social tendency: people see disability as a problem, and see the study of it as relevant only to those living with disabilities. As a disability sibling and son, and as a philosopher, I would simply note: every single one of our lives is made livable through an astounding number of supports. The oxygen we breathe, the roads by which we travel, the education we receive, and the spaces we build or destroy—all these things form the very fabric of what we unthinkingly consider our “individual abilities.”

The truth is, we cannot do things without others. And not just “other humans,” but others of all sorts. Innumerable supports afford us life and the values prized in it. When the world is set up in such a way that some can do less than others just because they use a wheelchair to get around or learn or speak in a non-“normal” way or whatever the case may be, one should not pity or look down or even find encouragement by reducing them to an inspirational example. One should seek to change the world, from its concrete reality to shared ideals, such that we all support each other better.

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