For a technology leader, balancing business risks associated with the fast pace of innovation and data privacy concerns requires a higher level of thinking. I can already look back knowing my contracts class helped me save our company more than the cost of the JM.

— Eric Martin
Managing Director for Deutsche Bank

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features

20 Steward of the Vision
Thirteen years ago, President James W. Wagner asked, “How long is Emory going to be poised for greatness?” He answered his own challenge to help the University make the leap.

BY SUSAN CARINI 04G

28 Mrs. President
From hosting Halloween at Lullwater to hoisting boxes on Freshman Move-In Day, Debbie Wagner has made Emory her home and the community part of her family.

BY SUSAN CARINI 04G

30 The Wheel Rolls On
You can take the students out of the Wheel office, but you can’t make them stop drinking coffee. We caught up with a few former student journalists who are still making headlines.

BY KIMBER WILLIAMS

36 New Standard of Care
Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute has become a leading destination for the treatment of multiple myeloma.

BY PAIGE PARVIN 96G

More online at www.emory.edu/magazine

All Things Commencement 2016: Link to complete coverage of Emory’s 171st Commencement celebration, including award winners, honorary degrees, and speaker William H. Foege.

Matching Up: When 126 Emory medical school graduates learn where they will officially begin their careers as doctors, it’s a rite of passage worth capturing on video.

Short but Sweet, and Heartfelt: Twelve Muslim students from Emory created a video with messages of sympathy, support and, most of all, love for victims of recent terrorist attacks and extremism.
Clear Winner
Emory’s WaterHub celebrates its first anniversary with a national award for water management and sustainability.

Bold, Beautiful, Unexpected
Scott Schofield ’02C is the first transgender star in a daytime drama.
Leaving a Legacy

We’ve just concluded Commencement season at Emory, when past achievements and future plans meet up and send graduating students spinning off in all directions. For a brief, bright window, they hover between two worlds—one foot planted in the present, clearly marked by celebration and reflection on their achievements during their years here, and the other on the unfamiliar ground of the future, where their plans will show them the way forward.

No doubt this Commencement cycle was particularly poignant for President Wagner, who presided over his final graduation ceremony on May 9.

“I will ‘graduate’ today with gratitude for my own education in this place,” Wagner said in his address.

The University has benefited greatly from Wagner’s leadership and achievements, many of which are celebrated in our cover story that pays tribute to his transformative 13-year tenure and to the gracious contributions of Debbie Wagner. The president leaves a richly layered legacy that reaches virtually all corners of campus—including a resonant vision statement and strategic plan, new physical resources and stellar faculty hires, increased funding for research, and student recruitment efforts that have brought a higher caliber class to the University every fall. It is a fitting time for him and the Emory community to pause for a moment and enjoy those achievements together with our full attention, even as plans for Emory’s leadership transition and the Wag-ners’ next chapter take shape.

“When you leave here,” Wagner said, “we have no doubt that you also will carry your creativity, excellence, and character into the communities that await you.”

I’m sure most of us hope that our work will leave a meaningful record of some sort. In this issue, we also catch up with a handful for former editors of the Emory Wheel, many of whom have gone on to journalism careers with top news outlets such as the Washington Post, Esquire, the Los Angeles Times, CNN, and Atlanta Magazine. In the day-to-day pressure cooker of the media, I bet it’s easy doing—and the legacy it might leave—until the unwelcome diagnosis of a serious illness threatens to bring it to a screeching halt.

During the past decade, Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute has become a leading center for the treatment of multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood that once had a dismal prognosis. New drugs, treatments, and aggressive approaches pioneered at Winship have doubled patients’ life expectancy.

That means the three patients we meet in this magazine, along with hundreds of others at Winship, and thousands around the country, can have many, many more days to craft the personal legacies they will leave—caring for their children and grandchildren, spending time with their families, and appreciating the small, quiet moments that previously flew by unattended. Enjoying their present as well as their future.

In President Wagner’s words, “The best community is one that insists on room to honor and enjoy the miraculous diversity of humankind.”—Paige Parvin 96G

The best community is one that insists on room to honor and enjoy the miraculous diversity of humankind.”

—President Wagner

MOMENT IN TIME: This spring President Jim Wagner presided over his last Emory Commencement.
DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

I enjoyed reading Dean Schapiro’s article on the legacy of Justice Antonin Scalia (“Scalia More Quotable than Influential,” spring 2016). He notes that the Justice’s “originalism” never found a home at the Court and that the idea of a “living Constitution” was an “anathema” to Scalia. In fact, Justice Scalia’s majority opinion in the Heller case was more reflective of the latter rather than the former. The idea of a private right to own guns first appeared in the Jacksonian era and continued to develop, most recently with help from the NRA and conservative Republicans, into the 21st century. The Supreme Court never accepted this line of interpretation until 2008.

Errol M. Clauss 61G 65PHD
Professor of History Emeritus, Salem College
Winston-Salem, N.C.

SAY WHAT?

I enjoyed Kimber Williams’ article in the spring 2016 issue regarding the Conversation Partner Program (“Can We Talk?”). This program seems to be an effective method to help international students meet domestic students, develop friendships, and share cultural differences. However, when a law student admits he can only understand 70 percent of what is said in the classroom, it is clear that the desire for either cultural diversity or foreign full tuition has overtaken common sense and the primary goal of a university, i.e., education.

Charles M. Ferguson 71OX 76M
Former faculty member, Emory School of Medicine
LaGrange, Georgia

NO ONE IS AN ISLAND

I want to tell you I have had many people write to say how happy they were to see your article on our work on Samothrace, especially alumni from decades ago. I so appreciate all of your interest and want to thank you for a great article and a huge contribution to our cause. It makes all the difference.

Bonna D. Wescoat
Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Art History
Emory College

COVER SHOT

The cover photo (spring 2016) was apparently staged and composed by someone entirely unfamiliar with the process of vaccinating children, and I found the image amusing. Observations: 1. Vaccinations are not given with 1.5-inch needles, nor 18-gauge needles. The harpoon in the image would make any child tremble. 2. Vaccines are standardized to the extent that they are nearly always given in a 0.5 ml dosage regardless of age. The syringe in the photo contains approximately two milliliters of something (obviously not vaccine) and would be terribly painful if given as a single dose to a child that size. 3. The child’s left hand is not restrained at all, so somebody is about to get injured. It is irresponsible and ill advised to attempt to vaccinate an unrestrained child. 4. If you want to ensure noncooperation from a toddler, brandishing a large needle and syringe should do the job. 5. We can probably skip the routine one-year hemoglobin screen. No chance this kid’s anemic. Just look at those lips. Go easy on the Photoshop. I am a big fan of Emory Magazine and think you do a great job. Everybody deserves a bit of ribbing from time to time.

Christopher Healey 88M
Castle Rock, Colorado

PRESIDENT, BUT NOT A RHODES SCHOLAR

FYI, President Barack Obama was not selected as a Rhodes Scholar so is therefore NOT a Rhodes Alumnus (“A Storyteller and Traveler,” spring 2016). Otherwise I enjoyed your article.

Gerard D. Grau 77MR
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

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.
The Big Picture

Opening their Match Day envelopes in unison at noon on Friday, March 18, approximately 126 graduating students of the School of Medicine Class of 2016 erupted in shouts of delight and tears of happiness as they learned where they will begin their careers as doctors. Match Day is the annual pairing of graduating US medical students with postgraduate residency training programs. The Emory students were among more than 18,000 medical students participating nationwide.
SPORTING CHANCE

ATLANTA HAWKS, EMORY PARTNER ON NEW SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER

The Atlanta Hawks Basketball Club and Emory Healthcare have announced plans to partner and build a first-of-its-kind training and sports medicine center on Executive Park Drive in Atlanta’s Brookhaven, which will serve as the team’s official practice site. The privately funded facility will feature advanced technology in sports medicine and athletic care, built within a state-of-the-art training center.

The team expects to break ground this summer on the 90,000-square foot facility, and the Hawks Basketball Operations Department will be housed in the facility upon its completion.

In addition to the naming rights entitlement of the training and sports medicine facility, Emory will become the official sports medicine provider of the team.

“Emory Healthcare has built outstanding orthopedics services over the past decade, and we are excited to continue to grow this area and work closely with the Atlanta Hawks,” says Jonathan Lewin, president, CEO, and chairman of the board of Emory Healthcare. “Delivering on-site care not only will enable us to provide faster care to Hawks players, but also will enhance our ability to conduct sports performance research and translate what we learn to all athletes, both professional and recreational.”

CLEAR WINNER

EMORY’S WATERHUB MAKES A SPLASH WITH A NATIONAL AWARD

A year after it opened for business, Emory’s WaterHub is getting national attention.

In April, the US Water Alliance announced Emory as one of three winners of the prestigious 2016 US Water Prize, which recognizes organizations and companies that execute innovative solutions toward the advancement of “one water” sustainability, meaning strategies integrated across the water cycle and within urban management overall.

The WaterHub project, an onsite water reclamation system, utilizes eco-engineering processes to clean waste water for future nonpotable uses and is capable of displacing up to 146 million gallons of potable water with recycled wastewater annually, nearly 40 percent of total campus water demand. The WaterHub generates an alternative water supply for critical heating and cooling operations while offering numerous economic, environmental, and social benefits to Emory and the broader community.

“Through this project, we’ve shown how universities can play an important role in advancing sustainability nationwide,” says Matthew Early, vice president for campus services. “Not only has the WaterHub had tremendous impact on how we think about water and how it is utilized on campus, it has also become a national model for those seeking innovative technology to address the global need for water conservation and sustainable solutions.”

The WaterHub was completed through a design-build approach between Sustainable Water, project consultant; McKim & Creed, engineer; and Reeves Young, contractor. Sustainable Water and McKim & Creed nominated Emory for the US Water Prize.

The US Water Prize is the latest in a long list of national, regional, and local awards and accolades for the WaterHub.

Magazines such as District Energy, Industrial WaterWorld, CE News, and Sustainable Business Magazine have published articles highlighting the WaterHub for its design as a replicable, sustainable wastewater management solution.

TICKER

Wagner honored in US Congressional Record

Emory President James Wagner was honored in April with a tribute entered into the US Congressional Record recognizing his 13 years of service as president of Emory. Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson read the tribute on the floor of the Senate and presented a copy to Wagner, who was in Washington for the Association of American Universities presidents’ meeting.

Rollins professor honored by Mexican government

Carlos del Río, professor and chair of the Hubert Department of Global Health, received the Ohtli Award, one of the Mexican government’s highest awards recognizing Mexican, Mexican American, or Latino leaders who have contributed to the well-being, prosperity, and empowerment of Mexican communities abroad.
Scholar of religion and economics and accomplished administrator Douglas Hicks has been appointed dean of Oxford College. Hicks will assume his new role on July 15. He comes to Emory from Colgate University, where he is senior adviser for academic initiatives and professor of religion and previously served as provost and dean of the faculty.

“Doug brings a distinguished career of teaching, collaborative leadership, and community building to Oxford College,” says University Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Claire Sterk. “With a passion to shape young people as lifelong learners, he is an ideal person to lead Oxford College in reaching its aspirations to prepare students who see the world through a broad lens.”

Hicks has a PhD and MA in religion from Harvard and an MDiv from Duke. He was an exchange scholar in the Department of Religious Studies at Yale and earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Davidson College. He rose through the faculty ranks at the University of Richmond to serve as professor of leadership studies and religion before joining the Colgate faculty. In addition to teaching, Hicks served as provost and dean of the faculty at Colgate from 2012 to 2015 and was a key architect of the university's strategic plan, which included priorities of internationalization, technological innovation, civic engagement, and pedagogical development.

“I am delighted to be joining the Oxford College community, with its strong sense of place and educational mission. I am drawn to Oxford because it offers a unique and firm foundation in the liberal arts,” Hicks says. “Through an intensive two-year experience, Oxford fosters students’ critical thinking and intellectual curiosity, preparing them to flourish in the rest of their time at Emory and their lives beyond. I look forward to collaborating with everyone in the Oxford community to provide the best education possible for our students.”

A frequent commentator in the media while at Colgate, Hicks's scholarship focuses on leadership, religion in politics and the workplace, and the ethical dimensions of economic issues. He is the author of four books, Religion and the Workplace: Pluralism, Spirituality, Leadership; Inequality and Christian Ethics; Money Enough; and With God on All Sides: Leadership in a Devout and Diverse America. Hicks also is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He is married to Catherine Bagwell, who will join Oxford as a professor of psychology, and they have two children.

**Eagles tennis teams sweep UAA championships**

Emory’s tennis teams swept the University Athletic Association championships in April. The Emory women’s tennis program won its fourth-straight UAA championship and the 27th overall in program history, while the Emory men’s tennis team defended its UAA championship, representing the 25th time that the Emory men had won the league crown.

**Nation’s largest autism study to be led by Emory**

The Emory Autism Center is one of a select group of 21 national research institutions chosen for SPARK, an initiative designed to become the largest autism study in the US. Sponsored by the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative, SPARK will collect information and DNA for genetic analysis to advance understanding of the causes of autism.
American and Brazilian scientists and public health leaders who gathered at the Emory Conference Center in May agreed that while much work remains to understand and combat Zika virus disease, global collaboration has surpassed that of many other infectious disease outbreaks. The international Zika virus conference was organized by the Global Virus Network and Raymond Schinazi, director of Emory’s Laboratory of Molecular Pharmacology.

Scientists agreed that the three main areas of research and strategy include mosquito control, geographic reach of the disease, and modes of transmission; development of therapeutics and vaccines; and prevention of microcephaly and other birth defects.

The development of antibodies that are active against Zika virus infection could likely be available more quickly than vaccines, and researchers are working to repurpose drugs that have been effective against similar infectious diseases and to develop new drugs to treat Zika virus infection.

Over the next four years, the Emory Healthy Aging Study will enroll people from all over the country with the goal of gathering 100,000 participants for the largest-ever clinical research study in Atlanta. Researchers are seeking to better understand aging and age-related diseases by observing what happens as we age and using that information to lead to more effective treatments and methods to prevent conditions like Alzheimer’s disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer.

“This is an ambitious effort that we hope will allow us to find ways to predict which people are destined to have certain diseases as they get older,” says James Lah, the study’s principal investigator and associate professor and vice chair of the Department of Neurology at Emory School of Medicine. Allan Levey, professor and chair of the Department of Neurology at Emory and Goizueta Foundation Endowed Chair for Alzheimer’s Disease Research, is coprincipal investigator.

Any resident of the US and its territories over the age of 18 is eligible to participate in the online Emory Healthy Aging Study, and can join by signing up online at the study’s website at www.healthyaging.emory.edu. Participants fill out a brief health history questionnaire and will be asked periodically to complete online memory tasks and respond to surveys about their health habits. Based on information provided, a subset of participants will be invited to take part in additional studies that include visits to Emory. Participation in the studies is completely voluntary.

The research effort, supported by the Goizueta Foundation, represents an unprecedented collaboration by a multidisciplinary team from a variety of clinical and research specialties including neurology, cardiology, internal medicine, epidemiology, biochemistry, immunology, statistics, psychiatry, genetics, and radiology.
A team of Emory researchers was awarded a $5.2 million, five-year grant from the National Institute on Aging, part of the National Institutes of Health, to examine the connections between blood pressure regulation and Alzheimer’s disease.

Lead investigators are Ihab Hajjar, associate professor of neurology and medicine at the School of Medicine and the Emory Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, and Arshed Quyyumi, professor of medicine and codirector of the Emory Clinical Cardiovascular Research Institute.

“It has been thought for many years that vascular disease and circulatory function contribute to the development of Alzheimer’s disease, but the way this happens is unknown,” Hajjar says. “This initiative will uncover these mechanisms on a molecular and clinical level, so that new drugs can be designed and targeted to the right groups of patients.”

The study builds on research suggesting that common blood pressure medications may reduce the risk that people with early signs of memory problems will develop Alzheimer’s. Scientists think the molecules that drive Alzheimer’s and vascular disease are intertwined.

The Emory study focuses on the roles of the renin-angiotensin system, the targets of common blood pressure medications; and endothelial cells, which line blood vessels, in the onset and progression of Alzheimer’s.

The Emory team will examine the molecular and vascular traits of 200 participants older than 50, with either normal cognition or mild cognitive impairment and early biological signs of Alzheimer’s. During a two-year period, participants will have evaluations to assess memory and cognition, brain scans, vascular ultrasounds, spinal taps, blood tests, and blood pressure readings.
ALUMNI, FACULTY AMONG TOP ‘40 UNDER 40’
Goizueta Business School alumni Willie Choi ’11PhD and Marcus Kirk ’09PhD and Erika Hall, assistant professor of organization and management, were named to the prestigious Poets and Quants’s “40 under 40” professors for 2016. Hall also was named to the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s “30 under 30.”

CANDLER WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT DEAN
Khalia J. Williams will join Candler School of Theology as assistant dean of worship and music and assistant professor in the practice of worship in summer 2016. Williams earned a master’s degree in theological studies from Columbia Theological Seminary and a PhD in liturgical studies from Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

Biology 190:
DELICIOUS!
HOW THE BRAIN CREATES FLAVOR

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores the biology of deliciousness, focusing on the brain systems that allow us to taste and smell, and how the chemical, physical, and cultural properties of different foods affect our experience of eating.

FACULTY CV: Sam Sober is assistant professor of neurobiology at Emory College. Kathryn MacPherson is a fifth-year PhD student in neuroscience.

TODAY’S CLASS: In the Few Hall Demonstration Kitchen, Sober shows how freezing different foods—including bacon, blue cheese, and prosciutto—with liquid nitrogen, then pulverizing them in a coffee grinder, profoundly influenced students’ perceptions of the food by removing the expected texture. MacPherson mixed agar, a seaweed extract, with liquids—including tomato soup and apple juice—to demonstrate how food textures can be manipulated to change how they are experienced. Sober also discussed the concept of umami—a category of taste in food (besides sweet, sour, salt, and bitter), corresponding to the flavor of glutamic acid, or glutamate, a naturally occurring amino acid that produces flavor in some foods.

STUDENTS SAY: “Ever since I was little I have wanted to become a chef. In middle school I became fascinated by the human brain’s capacity to control everything. This class is a really good way to combine those to learn about food and science.”—Laura Franco, freshman pre-nursing major

“As a science major, I appreciate the science behind how we experience food. And the food is an added bonus. It is interesting to try new things I haven’t been exposed to eating.”—Samuel Zinga, freshman
Punk Rocks

As curator of modern political and historical collections at Emory's Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Randy Gue is always on the lookout for material that helps complete the cultural puzzle that is the American South. Last year, he realized that he held a piece of it himself.

Growing up in Atlanta in the early 1980s, Gue was drawn to the community's burgeoning punk rock scene, which was fed by both local bands and nationally known acts that passed through the city. Although hardcore punk stood in stark contrast to broader Southern culture at the time, Gue and other fans found within it a life-changing wave of creativity and community. In many ways, it became his second family.

For years, Gue collected mementos from that time—concert fliers and fanzines, bumper stickers and posters. Last year, he and his friends Randy DuTeau—former lead vocalist for the eighties Atlanta hardcore band Neon Christ—and Nick Rosendorf donated their punk-rock memorabilia to Emory’s Rose Library, creating the seedbed for a new collection.

Since then, the collection documenting the hardcore punk rock and alternative music scene in Atlanta from 1980 to today has grown, as others have stepped forward with donations. When the collection became the focus of recent online articles produced jointly by the Bitter Southerner and ArtsATL, Gue reports that his phone “exploded” with messages from fans offering their own donations; graduate students doing research on social, cultural, and political aspects of the punk rock movement; and even a researcher from the United Kingdom eager to study it.

“The amazing thing about punk rock and hardcore is that it is still going strong,” Gue says. “It’s changed, of course, but the music and DIY ethos are still relevant—they still mean something to people in the scene today.”
The state-of-the-art Library Service Center (LSC), created by Emory and the Georgia Institute of Technology to house a shared collection amassing millions of books and other materials, officially opened in March. Stretching across 4.6 acres near the back of Emory’s Briarcliff Property, the climate-controlled, 55,000-square-foot facility was developed to create a seamless, unified collection of materials available to faculty, staff, and students at both campuses.

The LSC will house around 95 percent of Georgia Tech’s collections and much of Emory’s collections, with projections of reaching more than two million volumes by this summer. Items will be available for delivery to the main campuses at both universities.

Developed in collaboration between Emory and Georgia Tech, the joint project marks the latest chapter in a longstanding public-private partnership between the Atlanta-based institutions and offers advantages for both universities. Not only will the LSC provide optimal conditions for the secure, long-term preservation and storage of books and related materials—including film and microform collections—it brings key content from two major research university libraries under one roof, expanding access to a broad range of resources and freeing up campus spaces.

Speaking at the joint dedication ceremony, Emory President James Wagner praised the institutional partnership that gave rise to the project, noting that the new facility will benefit both Emory and Georgia Tech “in ways and with economies that neither partner could have achieved alone.” He added that it was on Emory’s Briarcliff Property that the universities joined forces more than 15 years ago to create EmTech, originally a biotechnology business incubation initiative to provide infrastructure for biotech start-ups and now the working name under which the Library Service Center is incorporated.

“Our collaborations are broad, deep, and multiple, growing largely out of the ways in which our institutions complement each other,” Wagner says.

Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson described the new facility as “the next chapter in the evolution of what libraries and information centers will be at each of our institutions, and it will help define the library of the 21st century.”

Expressing appreciation for both the institutional collaboration and a personal friendship with Wagner, who leaves Emory later this year, Peterson notes that “this partnership will miss you, but it will continue. And this facility will help ensure that it continues.”
STUDENT AWARDS

To the faculty, staff, and classmates who know her best, Naomi Maisel 16C is an energetic and driven student who built Campus Kitchens Emory, an organization that saves about 1,000 pounds of potentially wasted food every month, then converts it into thousands of healthy meals for those in need.

But they also noted that Maisel, the recipient of this year’s Lucius Lamar McMullan Award, remained a top student while also finding time to serve as a research assistant on a food insecurity project at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, participate with Volunteer Emory, and help new students as an orientation leader.

The McMullan Award, made possible by a generous gift from Emory alumnus William Matheson 47G, honors not just the anthropology major and San Diego native’s exceptional leadership so far but the great things from her yet to come. The award also comes with $25,000—no strings attached.

Her work on hunger issues has made Maisel more determined to change the system for the better. “If people have this kind of faith in me, I realize I better really do something,” she says. “I am kind of overwhelmed by the opportunity, which is a great place to be.”

“My parents raised me to do good for others,” she says. “And at Emory, you could see the wealth, and I found it juxtaposed with the poverty right down the street.”

Nowmee Syeda Shehab 16C spent just three years at Emory after transferring here from Smith College, yet she managed to program two national conferences; link several groups, both on and off campus; and change a University policy on scholarships for undocumented students.

Of all her work here, Shehab says that she is most proud of adding her voice to connect and advocate with Freedom at Emory. The chapter is an outgrowth of Freedom University, an Atlanta nonprofit that offers tuition-free, college-level courses to undocumented students in Georgia.

As a documented immigrant who moved to the US with her family from Dhaka, Bangladesh, when she was 16, Shehab says, “It’s a moral imperative for me to help. I had already made the broader connections, how we connect gender issues to race issues to all of our issues. It’s to the betterment of our community, at Emory, in Atlanta, in Georgia, to bring all the issues together.”

Shehab is the 2016 recipient of the University’s highest student honor, the Marion Luther Brittain Award, presented each year to the single graduate of any of its nine schools who has demonstrated exemplary service to both the University and the greater community, without expectation of recognition.

At Emory, Shehab majored in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and worked in the Center for Women. With the Office of Health Promotion, she twice organized a team to plan Respect-Con, a national conference on sexual violence prevention. She plans to attend law school, and will spend the next year as a paralegal in a D.C. firm that works on federal issues such as immigration.

Laura Emiko Soltis 12PhD, Freedom University executive director, says, “Nowmee is able to bring people together and deepen connections.”
Frans de Waal takes humankind down a few rungs. In so doing, he reveals an animal world capable of greater cognitive sophistication than we imagine. De Waal—Charles Howard Candler Professor of Psychology and director of the Living Links Center at Yerkes National Primate Research Center—unfurls this challenge to our collective ego in the book *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?* and in “What I Learned from Tickling Apes,” an opinion piece that ran in the *New York Times* on April 8.

The Scala Naturae (“ladder/stairway of nature”) is a concept derived from Plato, Aristotle, and other early philosophers. Humankind found itself solidly and smugly in the fourth position—just down from God, the angels, and demons, but clearly the better of all else in the universe, including animals.

The scientific work of recent decades, though, argues otherwise as formerly sacrosanct notions—that we alone have a sense of self, the ability to design tools, or grasp past and future—have been disproven. If it is true that rats may regret their decisions, crows manufacture tools, and octopuses recognize human faces, then where are we?

“Nothing is off limits anymore, not even the rationality that was once considered humanity’s trademark,” says de Waal.

He describes seeing a chimpanzee named Franje gather straw from her warm inside cage to take outside. To what end, he wondered. She apparently had remembered the shiver-inducing temperatures from the day before. As de Waal writes, “Even if the initial observation is simple (an ape collects a pile of straw), the repercussions can be enormous,” for indeed Franje’s meteorological memory is part of an intense debate currently being waged: Do animals plan for the future?

De Waal’s book goes at evolutionary cognition in the best way—as story. He tells artful tales of the discoveries, species, and scientists who have created the most buzz in the past 20 years, many of whom—human and animal—he knows firsthand. For instance, says de Waal, “Clark’s nutcrackers (members of the crow family) recall the location of thousands of seeds that they have hidden half a year before, while I can’t even remember where I parked my car a few hours ago.”

The days of animal cognition being considered a soft science are surely numbered. For his own discipline, ethology, de Waal sees a coming shift from reliance on the behavioral to a greater role for neuroscience. Science will need to put its finger on the processes behind higher capacities.

So, where do we land?

“We are facing an enormous plurality of cognitions with many peaks of specialization,” says de Waal.

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**The Lights Won’t Go Out on Me**

Poet Jericho Brown, associate professor of English and creative writing at Emory College, is one of 175 recipients of a 2016 Guggenheim Fellowship, chosen from among nearly 3,000 applicants in the US and Canada.

“It means the world to me that there is some recognition from the outside world, to let Natasha Trethewey and Walter Kalaidjian know they were right to bring me to Emory University,” Brown says of the former US poet laureate, who heads the Creative Writing program, and the chair of the Department of English. “It’s always nice to know when I am writing a poem, the lights won’t go out on me.”

The award will allow Brown to work on a new book, *Character*, a collection of poems that will focus on society’s obsession with celebrity and will be written in the voices of people from literature, the visual arts, and film.

One piece, “Bullet Points,” has been shared widely online after Buzzfeed published the poem Brown wrote in reaction to coverage of high-profile police shootings and police brutality.

Brown previously received fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard and the National Endowment for the Arts, and his first book, *Please*, won the 2009 American Book Award. The Guggenheim, he says, “reminds me that yes, this work matters, and I am what I say I am. I’m a poet, and poetry makes a difference in the world.”
Four Emory faculty members have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS), one of the country’s oldest learned societies and independent policy research centers.

Those elected from Emory this year are Sander L. Gilman, professor of psychiatry; Melvin J. Konner, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Anthropology and Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology; Carol A. Newsom, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament in Candler School of Theology; and Kevin L. Young, Charles Howard Candler Professor of English and Creative Writing.

Gilman is a cultural and literary historian, and the author or editor of more than 90 books. His research interests encompass the history of medicine, history of psychiatry, Jewish cultural studies, visual studies, European comparative literary studies, and cultural history.

Konner holds appointments in Emory’s Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology program and its Tam Institute for Jewish Studies. His pioneering research explores the links between biology and human behavior, medicine and society, and nature and culture. He spent two years among the !Kung San (Bushmen) of the Kalahari, an experience that helped inform the first book about the Paleo diet.

Newsom serves as a senior fellow at Emory’s Center for the Study of Law and Religion. Her research focuses on the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Wisdom tradition, the book of Daniel, apocalyptic literature, and theology and the environment.

Young is author of 11 award-winning books of poetry and prose, including most recently, Blue Laws: Selected & Uncollected Poems, 1995–2015. His other poetry collections include Book of Hours, a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and winner of the Lenore Marshall Prize for Poetry from the Academy of American Poets.

Four Emory faculty members have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS), one of the country’s oldest learned societies and independent policy research centers.

Those elected from Emory this year are Sander L. Gilman, professor of psychiatry; Melvin J. Konner, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Anthropology and Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology; Carol A. Newsom, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament in Candler School of Theology; and Kevin L. Young, Charles Howard Candler Professor of English and Creative Writing.

Gilman is a cultural and literary historian, and the author or editor of more than 90 books. His research interests encompass the history of medicine, history of psychiatry, Jewish cultural studies, visual studies, European comparative literary studies, and cultural history.

Konner holds appointments in Emory’s Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology program and its Tam Institute for Jewish Studies. His pioneering research explores the links between biology and human behavior, medicine and society, and nature and culture. He spent two years among the !Kung San (Bushmen) of the Kalahari, an experience that helped inform the first book about the Paleo diet.
Data, Data Everywhere

In a world that’s increasingly dependent on the constant, fast, secure exchange of digital information, threats to cybersecurity are also on the rise—both in reality and the public consciousness.

Li Xiong, Winship Distinguished Research Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and its Department of Biomedical Informatics, has been working on data privacy and security for more than a decade, inventing new ways of enjoying the advantages of “data everywhere” while still maintaining personal safeguards. Xiong directs Emory College’s Assured Information Management and Sharing research lab, focused on cybersecurity issues.

“The smartphone has introduced an entirely new dimension to the notion of big data,” Xiong says. “Now, vast amounts of data are being generated by your smartphone—and are being collected by various entities. Your location and movement patterns, sentiments that you Tweeted or Instagrammed, and your health data from Fitbits, sleep cycle apps, and calorie counters are gathered on a minute-by-minute basis.”

All this data, Xiong points out, carries the potential for immense societal and personal benefit. For instance, analysis of cellphone call records can anticipate and warn users before they come into contact with a communicable condition, like the flu. More commonly understood is the value of location data; by providing GPS coordinates, you can receive suggestions on driving routes and nearby restaurants, reports on traffic congestion, real-time danger alerts, and more. The downside is the disclosure of your whereabouts, which could compromise personal safety or property.

Xiong and her research team are creating techniques to permit safe, privacy-preserving sharing of personal data for social good—with a focus on the health care domain. Diagnostic and therapeutic advances are often based on patterns in similar individuals, since characteristics like age group, ethnicity, lifestyle, and genomic and environmental factors can determine both propensity to disease and response to medications. This “precision medicine” approach requires analysis of sensitive information from millions of people.

“My research has a strong human element,” Xiong says. “I want to aggregate your data in ways that protect your confidentiality and also benefit you and society as a whole. Basically, I want you to tell me everything about you, without telling me anything about you. It sounds impossible, but like most computer science problems, it’s really a matter of optimization.”

Four Tips for Staying Safe in Cyberspace

**Use Common Sense.** “Cybersecurity is vital to everyone because so much personal data is out there,” Xiong says. “Every single day, for almost everything that you do, data is being collected and stored somewhere digitally.” And the obvious attacks are still the most prevalent. Safeguard social security numbers and other personal data, choose strong and varied passwords, be alert to phishing scams (if it looks like one, it probably is), and limit your social media posts to friends.

**Don’t Give Yourself Away.** Configure your mobile phone to limit access to your location, albums, contacts, and calendar. Enable location services only in those apps that need them, when they need them, and turn off the GPS when it’s not in use. “Your location traces are collected and they can be used to build a profile of you,” Xiong says. “That profile could identify where you live and work, your movement patterns, and even your religious and political views.”

**Keep Health to Yourself.** Even your Fitbit reveals a lot about you. Resist the temptation to publish health data or check medical bills, and periodically review your health portal information for accuracy. “We’re trying to design protocols that combine confidentiality with utility and ease of use,” Xiong says. “We are focused on establishing data registries with formal privacy guarantees that are tailored to be useful while taking into account individual patient privacy preferences and risks.” Xiong’s lab recently received a $1.06 million funding award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

**Mix It Up.** Consider using pseudonyms and obfuscated birthdays and addresses when registering on online sites—and even then, provide as little information as possible. “I’m not very paranoid,” Xiong says, “but I’m probably more cautious than most people.”
It’s hard to imagine now, but back when this photo was taken in the 1960s, Emory’s student post office was a central hub of activity. Before smartphones, laptops, and tablets were must-have accessories, students communicated with their families primarily by using scattered campus pay phones and—that’s right—good old-fashioned “snail mail.” Emory’s mail services center once processed hundreds of envelopes every day, each carrying news from home, love and connection, and in some welcome cases, money.

Today, an Emory student could easily go four years without receiving a hand-written letter from a parent or friend—which would be placed in their “folder” at the campus Mail Services Center, and the student would be notified of the alien arrival by email.

Then again, they can receive a text from Mom anytime, day or night.

P.S. And call home when you can.
Penicillin was hailed as a "miracle drug" when it went into widespread use in the early 1940s, and with good reason. Before then, even simple infections frequently led to more serious illness, even death. But with the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in recent years, medical science could find itself back at square one again—but a group of Emory researchers is determined to prevent that from happening.

According to David Weiss, director of the Emory Antibiotic Resistance Center (ARC), there are patients in hospitals around the world who are grappling with infections that no antibiotic will cure. In the US, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports there are 2 million antibiotic-resistant infections every year resulting in 23,000 deaths.

Weiss and other ARC researchers are investigating ways to alleviate this situation, brought about by the conspicuous overuse of the miracle drug and its progeny, which in turn has led to bacteria developing an immunity to antibiotics.

"For decades, antibiotics have been overprescribed for patients," Weiss explains. "Antibiotics have even been added to some household soaps." A common use of antibiotics is in livestock feed, accounting for the majority of all antibiotics consumed in the US, he says. "Antibiotics aren't used only when the animals are sick, they make the animals gain weight as well."

In addition, according to Weiss, few pharmaceutical companies have shown an interest in researching new antibiotics, which are costly to develop and don't offer a big financial payback compared to so-called "blockbuster" drugs.

The ARC is staffed by a diverse array of experts that includes basic scientists and researchers, clinicians, epidemiologists, clinical microbiologists, and people involved in infection control and antibiotic stewardship at hospitals, says Weiss.

“We follow a multidisciplinary approach because solving the problem will require new methods and new ways of looking at things that cross traditional boundaries,” he notes.

Weiss's lab is one of several at ARC focused on understanding the mechanisms of both antibiotic resistance and virulence. This is important because “if you can inhibit or block the way that bacteria resists antibiotics, they should be sensitive to the antibiotics once again,” he says.

One strategy already in use involves the use of chemical inhibitors. Bacteria secrete a substance called beta-lactamase that enables them to resist penicillin. By administering beta-lactamase inhibitors along with penicillin, resistance is blocked and bacteria are sensitive to penicillin again.

"Theoretically, this approach could be applied to other antibiotics as well," says Weiss.

**LAST LINE OF DEFENSE**

Historically, gonorrhea has developed resistance to every antibiotic used against it, and we are now left with one class of drugs with activity against gonorrhea: the third generation cephalosporins. However, this last line
of defense probably won’t last much longer, according to Carlos del Rio, principal investigator and director of the Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) Regional Laboratory in Atlanta, an ARC partner. Del Rio has been documenting the growing antibiotic resistance of N. gonorrhoeae for nearly 20 years.

Gonorrhea is the most commonly reported sexually transmitted infection and strikes an estimated 700,000 Americans every year and more than 100 million worldwide.

“The dwindling number of drugs that kill the bacteria must be used carefully and thoughtfully,” he says. “Information from GISP is used by CDC in issuing recommendations for treatment. The 2015 version of the CDC STD Treatment Guidelines, chaired by Kimberly Workowski, professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious diseases, now recommends for treatment of gonorrhea that ceftriaxone be administered by injection along with a second type of antibiotic given as pills.”

We desperately need new antibiotics to fight infections, adds del Rio, who supports the idea of government-supported financial incentives for pharmaceutical companies to develop new antibiotics.

**LOOKING TO NATURE**

ARC faculty member Cassandra Quave heads the Quave Research Group.

“Our strength is in the early discovery process,” she says of her research team, which studies medicinal plant extracts and natural products isolated from those extracts to treat multidrug-resistant bacteria.

Plants offer a rich potential resource for medicines, she says. “They deal with bacterial and fungal pathogens on a regular basis in their environments. In response to those threats, plants have developed very complex biosynthetic pathways that create antimicrobial molecules.”

“My lab takes an ethnobotanical approach to drug discovery, meaning that we look to traditions of medical usage of plants for the treatment of infectious disease in different forms of traditional medicine and folk medicine.”

Quave’s lab is also pursuing ways to contain the virulence of infections by disrupting the bacterial communication system, which plays an important role in bacteria’s ability to create toxins. With a staph infection, for example, “it’s not the actual bacteria cells that make you sick or kill you, it’s all the toxins they create and release into your body that break down your tissues and your blood cells and other structures.”

One significant recent discovery by Quave’s research team is an extract derived from the European chestnut that effectively blocks MRSA’s signaling system and disarms the bacteria. Biofilm is under Quave’s microscope, too.

“Antibiotic resistance is a major threat to human health,” Quave adds, “and if left unchecked we’re going to see a complete collapse of the medical system.”

—Cassandra Quave

**BUGS VS. DRUGS:**

The ARC was created to tackle resistant bacteria from all angles.

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"Antibiotic resistance is a major threat to human health, and if left unchecked we’re going to see a complete collapse of the medical system."

—Cassandra Quave

**The Pill for Men?**

Someday, if women toast the discovery of male oral contraceptives, they may want to lift a glass to Emory biology professor Steven L’Hernault and his worms.

L’Hernault, chair of Emory College’s Department of Biology, researched sperm proteins (not male hormones) in nematode worms. He and fellow researchers were able to establish a connection between fertilization in mammals, including humans, and nematodes. It was a highly unexpected outcome, given the two animal groups last shared a common ancestor about a billion years ago.

The conclusion, which some think could eventually lead to the equivalent of “the pill” for men, provides new insights on the basic mechanics of sperm and egg fertilization. It was recently reported in the journal *Current Biology*.

“At the end of the day, fertilization in humans seems to share some fundamental features with fertilization in worms,” L’Hernault says. “Specifically, a similar protein is found on the sperm surface in humans and worms and, if a drug could be discovered that interfered with its function, we might be able to prevent sperm from fertilizing the egg.

“The worm may offer an inexpensive way to find such a drug,” he adds. “Women have borne more than their fair share in that category of contraception, so the idea is to look at what might be possible for men.”

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Ben Johnson fancied himself something of an executive search expert. In leading the committee seeking Emory’s 19th president in 2003, Johnson—then-chair of the Board of Trustees—cautioned members “not to fall in love with any of the candidates.” As James W. Wagner held forth—“crisp and well prepared,” in Johnson’s words—Trustee Chilton Varner passed him a note that read, “Too late.”

One by one others succumbed—Johnson too. Although Wagner had outstanding credentials—having been interim president, provost, and a former dean at Case Western Reserve University—some of his rivals were sitting presidents, older, and, shall we say, more deferential. Wagner challenged the search committee, asking, “How long is Emory going to be poised for greatness?”

The president recalls those early days and how Johnson’s confidence in him became his inspiration. “Ben says, ‘I have never been more sure of anything in my life than the match between Jim Wagner and Emory University.’ The result of hearing that, and believing it sincerely, is an enormous obligation on my part to help Ben be right,” says Wagner.
As the first order of business in his new position, Wagner set out to craft a vision statement that would position Emory for its first-ever strategic plan. He made it an energizing, community-wide exercise that he was squarely—and delightedly—in the thick of. “President Wagner understood from the beginning the importance of inclusiveness in setting strategy,” says Claire Sterk, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “Many people worked on developing the vision statement and strategic plan. It was a community effort to articulate the most important values to Emory.”

He took ribbing for how often he invoked it, but the statement is widely respected for standing the test of time. For Trustee Emerita Laura Hardman 67C, “President Wagner embodies the vision statement. There is perfect alignment among Jim’s personal values, professional values, and the institution’s values.”

The same can be said for Debbie Wagner, whose contributions to Emory cannot be overestimated. At the outset, when curiosity about the first couple was at its highest, they would visit 10 to 12 cities a year on alumni trips. While at home, Mrs. Wagner mixes easily and frequently with community members—being a booster for Emory’s athletics teams, honoring University traditions while creating new ones, firmly establishing what had been a nascent Partners Program for the Board of Trustees, and opening up the presidential home to student groups who follow the trail of cookie crumbs straight to her kitchen.

Mrs. Wagner shares her husband’s magnetism, says Hardman, “but also has been an asset just because of who she is.”

To former board chair Ben Johnson, Mrs. Wagner is “an A++, having facilitated Jim’s success in all the quiet ways he relies upon.”

Board of Trustees Chair John Morgan sees the strategic plan as the president’s central contribution, noting that “it was incredibly ambitious, put us on a higher trajectory than ever, and ensured that Emory never would lack for one again.”

Alongside the strategic plan came an updated campus master plan in 2005, which described the facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the goals of the former. A key feature of the Wagner administration has been the consistent reliance on mission and vision to guide development.

Everywhere he went in the first months, the president repeated the vision statement. They are to be steward of the vision, maintain the leadership team, and work for the success of others. The president has thought about leaving that piece of paper for his successor; its simplicity has belied its importance.

“All of the cabinet members,” says Wagner, “are engaged and leading at the national level. They feel trusted in carrying out their core responsibility and have sincere care for each other’s success.” Best of all, he adds, “They mentor and recruit people of that same quality at the next level down.”

One key cabinet member came on board just two months before the president—then-39-year-old Mike Mandl, executive vice president for development and alumni relations. Mandl joined Emory’s faculty in 1999 and was appointed executive vice president in 2005. He was named senior vice president and provost in 2009 and became a cabinet member the first day of Wagner’s presidency.

When the president came to Emory, the average tenure of an Association of American Universities (AAU) president was five years. As a hedge against burnout, Wagner resolved to build an exceptional leadership team. “I was able to hire and maintain a cabinet smarter than me,” he says. “In each of their areas, they are the president—of campus life, of development, and so forth.” For his part, Wagner charged himself with three duties only, which he keeps in a note by his printer.

Cabinet maker

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president for business and administration. Ben Johnson recalls that their first conversation lasted for hours—an early sign of the synergy to come.

“The president makes all of his decisions based on principle, and he is consistent,” Mandl says. “Neither politics nor strong personalities guide his decisions. Words are insufficient to describe the impact of his leadership values, character, wisdom, and integrity on everything I do. It has enabled me to lead in a way that is consistent with who I am, and that is a gift”—one that Wagner has made to every cabinet member.

national academies. When the president began, that number was 13; it is now 47. In addition, the president’s leadership during the campaign led to the creation of 42 endowments for faculty and chairs and 358 endowments for scholarship, research, academic programs, and faculty.

Another notable advance for Emory has been the growth of its external research funding. In 2003 that figure was $319 million; it is now $572.4 million—a leap made more impressive by the fact that the national research pie is getting smaller in real dollars, yet Emory's share is growing.

The metrics associated with undergraduate recruitment also have been impressive during the president’s tenure, with applications breaking the 20,000 threshold in 2016. The admit rate has steadily fallen—implying greater selectivity—from 42 percent when the president arrived to 24 percent in 2016. According to John Latting, assistant vice provost for undergraduate enrollment and dean of admission, “The lifeblood of the University is bringing in new students, and the president makes it clear: ‘This is important to me.’”

In 2011 Emory celebrated its 175th anniversary in style. Here, the president presides over a torch run from Oxford to Atlanta.

His legacy is visible everywhere. By every index, the University has flourished as never before. —James T. Laney
presidents. “He is more concerned with who we are bringing into the community, and he trusts us to do that.”

Beyond Wagner’s support of recruitment, Sterk points to the campus master plan updates, which have created new collaborative space—brick-and-mortar as well as online—to support an innovative curriculum. Freshman Village, she says, “brings classroom lessons and cocurricular activities to the living-learning community, and this is assuredly part of the president’s legacy.” And his drive to improve is constant. Whenever he hosts student groups at Lullwater, Wagner—or “JWags,” as they have affectionately nicknamed him—asks them, “What thing would you change to make Emory better?” To record the answers, he keeps a notebook in the dining room. Answers have ranged from a new pasta station at the DUC to decidedly more aspirational ideas. One night recently, he asked the question and noted initial hesitation. By now, though, students know that their president has sincere interest in how they view Emory. One student piped up with, “You know, he means this. He has asked this question before and has made the changes.”

**MARSHALING THE RESOURCES**

In addition to initiating the strategic plan, heading a comprehensive campaign was another major deliverable for President Wagner. To widespread dismay of many at Emory, the economic downturn in 2008 coincided with the announcement of the public launch of the campaign. When all was said and done, however, a campaign waged amid adverse circumstances succeeded spectacularly, raising $1.7 billion, well above goal. Susan Cruse, senior vice president for development and alumni relations, says Wagner deserves much of the credit; whether it was flying where needed to meet prospective donors or hosting intimate dinners at Lullwater, the president managed multiple, high-level solicitations. “The president sets the tone for philanthropy all the way down,” Cruse says. She and her staff admire that the president never made any of it about himself, instead shining the light directly on Emory. That makes his departure and the work of the next president easier. In the campaign, Emory made substantial inroads educating its donors about the importance of a culture of philanthropy and emerged with a more robust pipeline in place.

Under Wagner, the physical campus has been transformed, with some 25 major building projects or renovations having been completed. But, Mandl is quick to say, “It is not about the buildings; it is about what goes on in them. All that we do serves program and research expansion.” Early on, Wagner and Mandl felt that the center of campus didn’t radiate the social and intellectual energy it should. The president wanted the freshmen to occupy the heart of campus. Today, in that very spot is Freshman Village and a weekly Farmers Market, all of it rendered more vibrant by Wonderful Wednesday’s return.

**THE WAGNER LEGACY**

Under the president’s watchful eye, Emory health sciences developed research programs that are truly world-class. —Jon Lewin

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The engineering degree came in handy

Although the choice of Wagner, an engineer, caused initial head scratching by a few University observers, his background arguably has been invaluable for the institution that Emory has become. As a scientist, the president has been able to help the broader community grasp that investment in fundamental science—even though it is a long process—leads to opportunities for discovery that ultimately improve the health of individuals.

Partnerships that expand Emory’s reach

Supporting Emory’s longstanding relationship with The Carter Center is a duty for which Wagner has shown particular affinity. In 2005, President Jimmy Carter and Rosa-lynn Carter, accompanied by the Wagners, visited a number of Carter Center programs in sub-Saharan Africa. The main agenda item was how to involve Emory researchers and students in solving problems associated with poverty in low-income countries.

A year later, in 2006, the Institute for Developing Nations (IDN) was formed to promote interdisciplinary scholarship on development. “He didn’t waste a minute,” says Wagner of Carter, “in suggesting that Emory needed to be more focused on disadvantaged people. I give him credit for the notion behind the Global Health Institute, the master’s degree in development practice, and the IDN. We’re making a big difference in the developing world.” His enthusiastic counterpart returns the compliment. “James Wagner has been a leader in applying scholarship to real-world issues,” says Carter. “He recognized that a core goal of higher education must be to prepare students to tackle challenges of poverty, injustice, and inequality, which are the root causes of conflicts worldwide. During his tenure, many international activities were initiated that have advanced Emory as a global leader in higher education.”

The partnership between Emory and the Georgia Institute of Technology, though begun decades ago, nonetheless owes much to Wagner also helped elucidate the important difference between health sciences and health care—underlining that the former is the scientific foundation that translates to our world-class care.

Another part of the role of Emory’s chief executive is understanding what to let go. Spring 2009, for example, brought the lowest point of the recession. “At that time,” says Mandl, “it was conceivable that every worst scenario was going to happen.”

The financial team ran extensive modeling and, knowing that personnel cuts would be necessary, the president insisted on calling in Paul Wolpe, director of the Emory Center for Ethics, to discuss the ethics of layoffs. “Ultimately,” Mandl says, “Jim’s influence was around excellence, making hard decisions, and getting the balance right.”
Engineering with the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Peking University. Then-chair of the Coulter Department, Larry McIntire, says, “The infrastructure will allow our students and faculty to conduct research and business in a global arena and prepare them to become international leaders in the 21st-century biomedical engineering industry and academia.”

Shortly after Jere Morehead assumed the presidency at the University of Georgia, he and Wagner amplified their collaborations, focusing especially on infectious disease. The two institutions currently are working together on grant- and contract-funded projects totaling more than $65 million, including a Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance and a malaria research consortium, both funded by the National Institutes of Health.

The president’s biomedical expertise was key to the Queensland Emory Development Alliance—a 10-year partnership established in 2012 among the University of Queensland, the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, and Emory to collaborate on new drugs and vaccines for treating cancer and infectious diseases. By coming together in this way, the three institutions have leveraged additional industry, government, and philanthropic support.

**Leader on the national stage**

On November 24, 2009, the Office of the White House Press Secretary announced the creation of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues. The chair would be President Amy Gutmann of the University of Pennsylvania, with Wagner serving as vice chair. In the words of President Barack Obama, “As our nation invests in science and innovation and so fearlessly, expertly, and compassionately responded to this crisis,” Gutmann says.

Another major focus for Wagner has been leadership in the AAU. Hunter Rawlings, former AAU president and now interim president of Cornell University, describes Wagner as one of the more active presidents and is grateful for Wagner’s taking on the somewhat ticklish job of chairing the membership committee. Says Rawlings, “That is a fairly burdensome responsibility because the committee makes judgment calls that are sometimes difficult. Jim chaired that committee with great seriousness.”

Leader on the national stage

**Good Company: The two spirits of Emory (clockwise from left):** Wagner with Stuart A. Rose, the namesake of the newly renovated Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library; President Wagner entering a Convocation celebration at Glenn Memorial; commemorating the National Cancer Center designation for Winship Cancer Institute in 2009; bidding welcome to a new class of students and their parents; with Sir Salman Rushdie, who joined Emory in 2006 as Distinguished Writer in Residence; sharing the Commencement stage with Congressman John Lewis.

Among many honors that have come the president’s way are election as a Fellow in the American Academy of Arts & Sciences (2009) and being named a Charter Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (2013). Emory’s engineer-president also received an honorary doctor of engineering degree from the University of Notre Dame in 2012. Says Provost Tom Burish, “Notre Dame often awards an honorary degree to a person deemed to be an extraordinary leader, who has advanced not only his or her own institution but also higher education. We honor people whose decisions reflect a clear moral compass. Jim is clearly such a person.”

pursues advances in biomedical research and health care, it’s imperative that we do so in a responsible manner. I am confident that Amy and Jim will use their decades of experience in both ethics and science to guide the new commission in this work.”

With that began a series of projects that included a report Wagner coauthored with Gutmann in February 2015 titled “Ethics and Ebola: Public Health Planning and Response.”

“Our work on this report highlighted for me two of Jim’s greatest, among many, strengths as a university leader: his deep empathy for humankind and his incredible pride in the people at Emory University, who

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Together on grant- and contract-funded projects totaling more than $65 million, including a Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance and a malaria research consortium, both funded by the National Institutes of Health.

The president’s biomedical expertise was key to the Queensland Emory Development Alliance—a 10-year partnership established in 2012 among the University of Queensland, the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, and Emory to collaborate on new drugs and vaccines for treating cancer and infectious diseases. By coming together in this way, the three institutions have leveraged advances in biomedical research and health care, it’s imperative that we do so in a responsible manner. I am confident that Amy and Jim will use their decades of experience in both ethics and science to guide the new commission in this work.”

With that began a series of projects that included a report Wagner coauthored with Gutmann in February 2015 titled “Ethics and Ebola: Public Health Planning and Response.”

“Our work on this report highlighted for me two of Jim’s greatest, among many, strengths as a university leader: his deep empathy for humankind and his incredible pride in the people at Emory University, who
The ‘redoubtable sailor’

“I have seen him sail,” Jim Laney says of Wagner. “He is a redoubtable sailor. He knows how to weather all conditions. That skill has helped him in leading the University.”

Like all sailors, the president has known rough seas. For instance, John Latting discovered in 2012 that the University had been misreporting admission information. “I was impressed by the way the president handled everything,” Latting says. “It was squarely taken on. It wasn’t, ‘How are we going to talk about this?’” Among other improvements, more stringent reporting practices resulted.

The president is fully at peace with his decision to retire from Emory, if a bit wistful. He recognizes that his contact list will shrink quite a bit once he leaves office. What will he miss? Baccalaureate, for one. He talks about the “highlight every year being the Commencement procession. I am the last one to come in. When I turn the corner to go down that aisle, I stop for a second or two to appreciate the range of emotions: pride, regret, hope. It is deeply meaningful to me.”

A one-word university

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What would he change? He would like to have gotten to know poet Seamus Heaney better. “We would,” he predicts, “have had a ball together.” As it is, he has some pretty powerful friends—His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama being one of them. The spiritual leader has written Wagner a letter commending him on his accomplishments and wishing him well.

Wagner is exceptionally proud that Emory has become a “one-word university.” Previously, he notes, we were a mouthful, “Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia” when mentioned in mainstream press accounts. Now virtually all media organizations refer to the University simply as “Emory.”

The president is conscious that his legacy will be determined by others. He does have one wish, however. “I would like people to say that I did my part to preserve and deepen the ethical imagination and ethical practice here. That would feel great.”

Through the years, one criticism has been that Emory is too good to be great. Wagner disagrees. “Good guys can finish first,” he says. “We don’t have to give up the goodness for the greatness.”

Amy Gutmann and Jim Wagner will use their decades of experience in both ethics and science to guide the new commission. —President Barack Obama
Listening to Debbie Wagner talk about Freshman Move-In Day is a reminder of the best of her spirit—her readiness to assist in big or small ways while conveying, always, an infectious enthusiasm for Emory.

Her now-expansive T-shirt collection constituting a way of keeping time, Mrs. Wagner recalls the couple’s first appearance there—wanting to help a trustee move a child into Alabama Hall. The Wagners pitched in, and boxes belonging to other students found their way into their arms.

The president added a new lick to Move-In Day tradition, just happening to know a great moving crew. “Now, with Jim’s cabinet officers joining us as well, it’s super fun,” Mrs. Wagner says. Although she confesses, “I don’t pick up the heavy stuff,” in her time at Emory she has done her share of heavy lifting.

One thing that’s always been clear is how well the Wagners function in tandem. Though usually quick to deflect credit, Mrs. Wagner is clear about her role vis-à-vis the president. “I can’t imagine doing the job without a spouse or partner,” she says. “It is hard. You need that other person to bounce things off. I try to help him keep perspective.”
To do so herself, she quickly came to terms with that chief rival for her husband’s time and attention—Emory.

“The University becomes part of your family,” she says. “It has to be. When Emory calls during vacation, you have to answer. When Emory calls at midnight, you have to answer.”

**Taming the House**

The Wagners have established new traditions and spruced up older ones. The president would be the first to say that the person who keeps everyone engaged and coming back for more is his wife.

Whenever Emory’s athletics teams win national championships, the Wagners host them for dessert. Year to year, they also entertain Wheel staff and the secret student societies. Yet preparing for those events has been nothing compared to the curious tale of Halloween’s runaway popularity.

In the early going, the Wagners would buy candy for Halloween but end up peering disappointedly through the blinds. That changed in their third year when a student asked if she could trick-or-treat at Lullwater. “If you do,” said the president, “you will be the first.” Soon enough, the numbers were in the 150 range, with guests crowding around the fire, enjoying performances from Emory’s a cappella groups and cookies baked by Mrs. Wagner.

Then, as some of those students became student assistants or resident assistants and spread the word, it went plumb crazy, with entire freshman floors showing up. Four years ago, attendance ballooned to 400-plus.

Chai Tunes member and Emory College student Alex Caldwell performed at the event in 2014. “I thought it was nice that the president of a university would open up his home like that to all of the students for Halloween,” Caldwell says. “Mrs. Wagner was so friendly and talked to a lot of students.”

Trustee emerita Laura Hardman ’67C says of Mrs. Wagner, “She is so grounded in the values that represent the best of Emory. She has been a tremendous asset just because of who she is.”

There must have been moments when Mrs. Wagner felt as if she had been cast in a reality show starring her and Lullwater House. Arguably, no one has a more nuanced understanding of it.

Though dignitaries have been hosted there since 1925, it wasn’t designed well for entertaining. Mrs. Wagner oversaw a kitchen renovation that made donor events easier.

Mrs. Wagner has transformed the house into a place of unsurpassed welcome. “One of the things we are giving to the next family is the house in amazing shape.” She is able to laugh at the bumpy road it took to get there, saying, “We lived through all of it.”

The Wagners endured a new roof and alarm system being hammered and drilled into place. And leaks were known to spring up without warning (three major ones in a six-month period). But it also is a place of sanctuary. With the windows open at night, one can eavesdrop on the barred owls.

First Couple: The Wagners (from top) refusing to let a little rain dampen their spirits; the inauguration ceremony in 2004, with Mrs. Wagner flanked by her daughters, Kimberly and Christine (far right), and Rosalynn Carter; creating a unique memory for a student on Move-In Day.

Mrs. Wagner has played a signal role in it as well. In addition, she served four years as a member of the AAU’s Program Committee and one year as its chair.

One Partners meeting that still has everyone talking was on Emory’s care of its Ebola virus disease patients. She recalls, “From the superlative work of the doctors, to the critical decisions made by the nurses, down to the smallest detail of the patients’ care, Emory became the gold standard in the world.”

The Association of American Universities (AAU) also has a partner program, and Mrs. Wagner has played a signal role in it as well. In addition, she served four years as a member of the AAU’s Program Committee and one year as its chair.

Asked what she will miss most about Emory, her answer comes without hesitation: “The people.” She adds, “It never ceases to amaze me what Emory is capable of. When I name one thing, I immediately can think of 10 more.”

Acknowledging the many notables who have come through Emory in her time here, Mrs. Wagner gravitates toward His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama. She speaks of the honor of visiting him in Dharamsala, hosting him here, and the joy of “holding his hand and sitting next to him.” Smudge the pig—a former pet of their daughter, Kimberly—was living at Lullwater in fall 2013 when the Dalai Lama was here. “That,” she pronounced with a broad smile, “is your little-known fact about life at Lullwater.”

During the years, Mrs. Wagner also has cherished moments with the Carters. The presidents and their wives get together every month for breakfast. She acknowledges a tendency almost to consider the collaboration routine. “When I step back from it, all I can say is wow. It has been so wonderful to get to know them.”

Four years ago, the Wagners bought a house in Hilton Head, South Carolina, that has become, she says, “our place of respite and refuge. Give us a year and let us see what is exciting us.” She wisely notes, “Our lives will need to be about being rather than doing.”

A grateful Emory community recognizes that this will be a major change indeed for Debbie Wagner.
THE WHEEL
KEEPS ON
TURNING

KIDS TODAY: Members of the current Wheel staff on a recent production night. If not for the laptops, any of their alumni predecessors could step right back into the familiar scene, grab a cup of coffee, and start editing.

By Kimber Williams

SUMMER 2016
It all played out amid late, late nights fueled by enormous quantities of coffee and stale doughnuts, choreographed to the hum of electric typewriters and the thudding mixtapes of bands whose names would ebb and flow with the decades.

But over the years, the echoes of impassioned debate and laughter would remain—the human soundtrack of young people learning by doing, in search of a byline and what was often their first real taste of community journalism.

On production nights, the Emory Wheel offices on the fifth floor of the Dobbs University Center are still warmed by the glare of fluorescent lights and computer screens, of too many bodies crammed into one place, and the earnest push toward a shared goal: producing a campus newspaper.

For nearly 100 years, a parade of young people have stepped up to lead Emory’s student newspaper, which to this day remains financially and editorially independent from the University. Founded in 1919, the paper was named after an emery wheel, a tool used for grinding and polishing. And indeed, an inaugural editorial in the paper’s first issue pledges to sharpen the intellect of the University community—or at least to attempt it.

But to the generations of Emory students who would serve as its top editors, the Wheel is both a laboratory to test fledgling skills and a de facto classroom—a proving ground and a place of belonging, where students learned from one another and cut their teeth on civic engagement.

Even as Emory’s formal journalism programs would come and go, the Wheel would endure, powered by youth and curiosity and sheer optimism—a yearning to give back, the desire to make a difference.

In this issue, we caught up with former Wheel editors to reflect upon their experience and see where it led them.
FOR \n\nFORMER \n\nSTUDENT \n\nJOURNALISTS \n\nARE STILL \n\nMAKING \n\nHEADLINES

CHRIS MEGERIAN 08C
Politics and statehouse reporter,
Los Angeles Times

Driving across the flat, snowy plains of Iowa to cover the 2016 presidential race this winter, Chris Megerian had to smile. Not exactly glamorous work. But in such a volatile campaign cycle, the experience has still been a thrill.

“There is nothing better than going places you wouldn’t otherwise get to go and talking to people you otherwise wouldn’t get to talk to,” he says. “It’s a great year, because it’s been so unpredictable, so many assumptions about voters have been proven wrong.”

Megerian came to Emory with an interest in journalism. Writing for the *Wheel* was a natural step. “For me, there was no other organization on campus that allowed a group of people to work toward the same goal so often,” he says. “Twice a week you were in a room with people who were all passionate about the same thing, trying to crank it out.”

“It was like being in a workshop, in the sense that you are constantly coming up with ideas and immediately putting them into action,” he adds. “You quickly understood that you were writing for a community, which ingrains in you a certain sense of responsibility to be fair in what you’re doing.”

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in international studies and journalism, Megerian had several newspaper internships before landing at the *Star-Ledger* in Newark, New Jersey, covering law enforcement, prisons, and politics.

In 2012, Megerian was hired by the *Los Angeles Times* to cover California politics and the state budget crisis. In January, he was tapped to help cover the presidential primary. “It’s been a little like trying to solve a puzzle, and I enjoy that,” he says.

MIKE SAGER 78C
Writer-at-large, Esquire magazine
Editor and publisher, the Sager Group

In pursuit of a story, Mike Sager has lived with a crack gang in Los Angeles, Aryan Nations troopers in Idaho, and heroin addicts on the Lower East Side.

Immersive journalism—some call it literary anthropology—is his stock-in-trade, and Sager has built a reputation for diving deep into his subject matter, wherever the story leads.

As a former *Washington Post* staff writer and *Rolling Stone* contributing editor, Sager has amassed sturdy credentials, with work that has appeared in such magazines as *GQ, Playboy, Men’s Health*, and *InStyle*, to name a few. He’s also authored and edited a dozen books and now runs his own multimedia consortium and publishing enterprise, the Sager Group.

According to Sager, it all began at Emory, where he arrived on campus as a jock and left a journalist. “The *Wheel* gave me my sense of myself,” he explains. “Who I am started there. It set me on a course I’ve followed for the rest of my life.”

On the wall of his study in La Jolla, California, hangs a black-and-white photograph of Sager—then the *Wheel*’s executive editor—sprawled across the lap of Henry Schuster, then editor-in-chief of the *Wheel* and now a producer at CBS’s *60 Minutes*.

It was their final *Wheel* deadline, and they’d just opened a bottle of champagne to celebrate. Both wear goofy grins and the exuberance of youth. It was Schuster, he recalls, who actually gave him his first shot at writing a column.

“He remains one of my closest friends,” says Sager. To this day, Sager still keeps a scrapbook with his *Wheel* clippings along with an abiding respect for where it all began.

“When I go back to Emory, I have a feeling that the ghosts of everything that happened are still animating that spot,” he says. “I feel that strongly when I visit the *Wheel* offices.”

HENRY SCHUSTER 78C
Producer, 60 Minutes

On a cold, sunny January in 1977, Henry Schuster found himself standing amid throngs of people in Washington, D.C., watching as Jimmy Carter was sworn in as the 39th president of the United States.

Later that night, he would attend the presidential inaugural ball, mingling among the nation’s political elite—all told, a heady experience for a college junior.

Only a few months earlier, Schuster had stood in Atlanta’s World Congress Center to cover Carter’s election night amid a crowd that included *Saturday Night Live* alumni John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd. The victory announcement didn’t come until around 4:00 a.m., but Schuster was used to it—he often worked that late putting the *Wheel* to
bed, then driving to Decatur to deliver the pages to the printer.

His point of entry to both events? His Emory Wheel press credentials, which he still has. “Both opportunities were amazing and fun and made me realize how journalism gives you a front row seat to history,” Schuster says.

Schuster had always been interested in journalism. After spending his first year at Emory participating in debate, he was ready for something different. “One day, I stopped by the Wheel offices, and they assigned me a story,” he recalls. By his senior year, Schuster was editor-in-chief.

After graduating from Emory with bachelor’s degrees in economics and history, Schuster spent two years at the University of Cambridge earning a master’s degree in modern history. Soon afterward, he took a job at CNN, a new cable news network that was gathering steam.

For 25 years, the Georgia native worked at CNN, both as an executive and senior producer, directing an investigative unit that came to specialize in coverage of terrorism, including high-profile stories ranging from the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing to al Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden. In 2007, Schuster joined CBS as a producer for 60 Minutes.

“There was an advertising group, a business office, and we had to figure how to manage a budget,” he recalls. “It also taught you how to deal with a diverse group of people—we all had the newspaper in common, but it was a great way to learn how to work collaboratively with an interesting cross-section of people.”

The experience also found him working with campus leadership—relationships that would eventually ripen into friendships.

“That connectivity was part of how I ended up staying involved with Emory,” says Tanzman, who chaired the New York–area Annual Fund in 1997–1998 and served on the Emory Alumni Board before being elected to the Emory Board of Trustees in 2013, where he now chairs the Investment Committee.

After graduating from Emory with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and political science, Tanzman earned a juris doctor degree from the University of Chicago School of Law, taking a job with a law firm in Manhattan that worked closely with mutual funds and asset management, which would become his area of expertise.

Nearly 10 years ago, Tanzman cofounded Central Park Group, which serves the growing demand for alternative investments.

MITCHELL TANZMAN 81C

Founding partner, co-chief executive officer and co-chief investment officer, Central Park Group; Emory trustee, Investment Committee chair

Mitchell Tanzman wasn’t interested in journalism when he arrived at Emory. He’d already written for his high school newspaper back on Long Island.

But when a fraternity brother asked him to tag along to the Wheel offices one day, he soon found himself brainstorming headlines. The brother was Mike Sager, the executive editor. And it happened to be a production night.

What started with a few headlines and some copyediting turned into an all-nighter. Within weeks, Tanzman was in the thick of it, first as a copy editor, then managing editor, and eventually editor-in-chief. “As I sorted out my student involvement, all of a sudden the Wheel became the thing—my primary student activity,” he says. “On a week-to-week basis, it wasn’t like we were changing the world, but occasionally you felt you were doing something impactful, really enhancing the campus conversation.”

Looking back, Tanzman credits the Wheel for teaching him how to run a small business.
As a political reporter covering the 2016 presidential campaign for the Wall Street Journal, Reid Epstein finds himself in the field constantly facing snap decisions.

With a race that’s proven to be both bizarre and fascinating, much of his work is dominated by logistical problem solving. “There are days you will wake up in the morning and not know what city you’ll go to bed in,” Epstein explains.

Working on the Wheel laid a foundation for the kinds of daily problem solving he now faces, providing “templates for issues you’ll have to deal with, coming up with the answers in real time,” he says. “It was a crash course in management and leadership. I don’t think you realize in the moment that you are making a difference. But you are just trying to put the newspaper out—not all that different than what I do now.”

Epstein grew up around newspapers. His father, Shelley Epstein, was deputy editorial page editor for the Peoria Journal Star, which Reid grew up delivering. Yet, he didn’t arrive at Emory intent on pursuing journalism. Somehow, it just happened.

“I went to an organizational meeting, and the sports editor asked me if I wanted to write a column about baseball for the Wheel,” he recalls. His sports column would evolve into a news column; by his senior year, he was editor-in-chief. “I still think it was the most fun of anything that I’ve done,” he says. “I’ve never had quite so much responsibility and probably never will again.”

After graduating from Emory with a bachelor’s degree in sociology, Epstein earned a master’s degree in journalism at Columbia University, followed by jobs at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and Newsday, before becoming a White House reporter for Politico, where he covered the 2012 presidential campaign.

As a history major at Emory and Wheel editor-in-chief, Ackerman could never have predicted that he would wind up immersed in the world of financial regulatory policy. Following graduation, he headed to Washington, D.C., for an internship at the Nation magazine. After stints with a trade journal called the Bond Buyer and as an SEC reporter with the Dow Jones Newswire, he made the leap to the Wall Street Journal in 2013 and never looked back.

“It’s been a great platform,” he says. “My mother kept urging me to go to law school until she saw my byline in the Journal and decided maybe there is something to this journalism thing.”

ROBBIE BROWN 07C
Consultant, the Boston Consulting Group

Before Robbie Brown arrived at Emory, he was already writing letters in hopes of joining the Wheel.

“Yes, I was that super-nerdy go-getter,” says Brown. “I started as soon as I got there—it totally consumed my Emory experience. The Wheel was synonymous with college for me. They were one and the same.” Highlights include covering a visit by His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama and an interview with former President Jimmy Carter.

The Wheel was a safe place to practice journalism “with training wheels,” Brown says. “It was a living laboratory, and I don’t think there is any substitute for it. All of a sudden, the stakes are immediate.”

Before graduating with a bachelor’s degree in history and journalism, Brown was named a Bobby Jones Scholar, earning a fully funded year of study at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, where he indulged in some freelance travel writing.

Returning home, he spent five years as a junior reporter for the New York Times, a time of rapid change for the newspaper industry.

“What that experience ended up teaching me was that I cared tremendously about the business realities and economic pressures that determine what news organizations survive and which ones don’t,” he says. “It also made me realize that I was more interested in what business opportunities existed amid all of the turmoil. I wanted to get in a position where I could think creatively about the business-side challenges of journalism.”

Switching gears, Brown went to Columbia Business School, earning a master’s of business administration in the school’s media program. Now he’s a “journalist turned management consultant.”
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But there were also moments that under-scored the important role that newspapers can play in driving public dialogue. Following the Tuesday election of Barack Obama in 2008, the following Friday edition of the Wheel offered a news analysis of what it meant for him to become president.

“Some students felt that we had glossed over a historical moment,” she recalls. “We had public meetings to explain how the news cycle worked, held First-Amendment forums and invited in speakers to talk about news coverage and judgment. It really made me feel passion-ately about being an editor and wanting to help open campus communication. I was able to have discussions with campus leaders and have student voices heard—a very formative experience for me.”

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in international studies and English, Lee pursued a series of newspaper internships before being selected for a Pulliam Journalism Fellow-ship at the Arizona Republic, where she became a government accountability and politics reporter.

“It helped me see the importance of accountability reporting, of holding the powerful accountable, really digging in and finding the truth,” she says. “When I got the job writing for the Fact Checker, I was so excited to have a chance to continue digging deeper—and what better time to do it than a presidential election?”

As a contributing reporter for the Washington Post’s popular Fact Checker blog, Michelle Ye He Lee digs for the truth beyond political rhetoric—and the 2016 presidential campaign is keeping her busy. But Lee is used to dealing with conflicting opinions and making tough calls.

Working at the Wheel as a reporter, news editor, and editor-in-chief during the economic recession of 2007–2010, Lee witnessed the financial pressures that would strike most American newspapers. At the same time, she was struggling to give the campus paper a social media presence.

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many times they don’t get a lot of recognition for what they do. In some cases a good article can change their business and their lives.”

Mah came to Emory to major in journalism and sociology. But he had already dabbled in journalism; while still a junior in high school, he launched a food blog, the Patagonian Tooth-fish, with a focus on reviewing restaurants around Atlanta and Memphis, Tennessee, his hometown.

At the first Wheel planning meeting of the year, he approached the editor to talk about the possibility of restaurant reviews. During his freshman year, Mah visited 40 restaurants without a car, dragging his friends to high-end tables like Bacchanalia and Rathbun Steak.

“I was very dedicated to learning about the city and eating as much as I could.”

As a senior, he took the reins as the Wheel’s editor-in-chief. It was a tumultuous time for campus news. After every production night, Mah would return home and just lie on the floor. “On top of schoolwork, I was putting in at least 40 hours a week,” he says. “But we didn’t do it because we got paid a ton of money. We did it because we loved it—your school, the work, the truth.”

After graduation, Mah joined the staff of

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Food editor and restaurant critic,

Evan Mah considers himself Chinese by heritage but Southern at heart. He grew up working in the restaurants his parents ran in Olive Branch and Horn Lake, Mississippi, immersed in a world of down-home Southern cooking.

He was scrubbing pots as soon as he was old enough to stand on an upside-down egg crate. “I wouldn’t trade that experience for anything,” he says. “I learned a lot about restaurants and a lot about hard work. Now when I write about restaurants, it’s something I keep in mind—these people are working incredibly hard and

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But there were also moments that under-scored the important role that newspapers can play in driving public dialogue. Following the Tuesday election of Barack Obama in 2008, the following Friday edition of the Wheel offered a news analysis of what it meant for him to become president.

“Some students felt that we had glossed over a historical moment,” she recalls. “We had public meetings to explain how the news cycle worked, held First-Amendment forums and invited in speakers to talk about news coverage and judgment. It really made me feel passion-ately about being an editor and wanting to help open campus communication. I was able to have discussions with campus leaders and have student voices heard—a very formative experience for me.”

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in international studies and English, Lee pursued a series of newspaper internships before being selected for a Pulliam Journalism Fellow-ship at the Arizona Republic, where she became a government accountability and politics reporter.

“It helped me see the importance of accountability reporting, of holding the powerful accountable, really digging in and finding the truth,” she says. “When I got the job writing for the Fact Checker, I was so excited to have a chance to continue digging deeper—and what better time to do it than a presidential election?”
I’m still Tamara. I’m still a sister, a mom, a wife, a daughter. I’m still all those things. But every week, for a few hours, I go to Emory and take care of this myeloma. I can only do the right thing, and the right thing for me is to be positive.
Seven years ago, Tamara Mobley was so busy, active, and energetic that if she were a cartoon, she’d be a blur. The dedicated mother of two young boys, a loving wife, and a full-time employee in a good job, she didn’t get much downtime. As she looks back in a 2014 video interview for Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute, her positive energy fairly radiates.

“I think I was just busy, like any other typical mom,” Mobley says. “You know, just doing things to take care of the house, my family, and doing my best to be a valued employee. That was my life before, just ripping and running.”

Then Mobley, who was 33, got tired. Not just garden-variety, too-little-sleep, I’ve-been-doing-too-much sort of tired, but bone tired, from the moment she woke up each morning. Then there was the severe back pain. And then, the passing out. Against all odds, she was getting sick, and it was happening fast. For a young, vibrant, working wife and mother, that was terrifying.

A trip to the emergency room led to a rapid diagnosis of multiple myeloma—a cancer of the blood—and an equally rapid recommendation from her doctor that she seek treatment at Emory and Winship. Mobley was so ill that she was brought to Emory University Hospital in an ambulance. And that’s when all the ripping and running slowed way, way down—at least for a while.
As cancer goes, multiple myeloma is a bit of a misfit. For one thing, it’s rare. The American Cancer Society estimates that about 30,000 new cases of myeloma will be diagnosed this year, trailing far behind the most common cancers—breast and lung—each of which will derail more than 220,000 lives. That’s stiff competition for research funding and awareness. For another, it’s mysterious. Multiple myeloma begins in the bone marrow with plasma cells going haywire, but experts aren’t entirely sure how that process starts or what the key risk factors are. They do know that the disease is most common in people over 65, that men are slightly more vulnerable, and that African Americans are more than twice as likely as white Americans to get it, but they don’t know why.

But probably the most notable difference between multiple myeloma and pretty much all other types of cancer is that the life expectancy for myeloma patients has doubled in the past decade, largely thanks to treatments developed and tested at Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute. Last November, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the fourth new myeloma drug to be green-lighted within one year—three of those within one month—and all four were tested in clinical trials at Winship.

“That marriage of research and patient care is very powerful,” Lonial says. “Our scientists see cancer patients every day.”

One of those is Mobley, who has been in treatment at Winship since that devastating ambulance ride in 2009. Once her condition was stabilized, she began the standard protocol, which consists of a three-pronged attack: Chemotherapy to blast away the cancerous cells, stem cell harvesting and transplantation to regenerate healthy bone marrow cells, and a regimen of multiple medications calibrated to keep the cancer at bay and ideally send it into remission for a very, very long time.

It’s that last phase that has put Winship’s approach ahead of other myeloma treatment centers. Instead of a one-by-one, trial-and-error approach to drug therapy, Lonial has advocated a full court press, hitting the residual cancer with a simultaneous three-drug combination. Mobley was put on an aggressive course of therapy made up of lenolidamide (Revlimid), an immune modulator; bortezomib (Velcade), a proteasome inhibitor; and dexamethasone, a corticosteroid.

“That concept of combination therapy is one that our center is really focused on and one that really benefited her early on,” Lonial says.

According to myeloma researcher Lawrence Boise, Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar and coleader of the Cancer Cell Biology Program at Winship, scientists are finding that there are a number of reasons for this—but the most compelling is that it works. “Dr.
Lonial doesn’t leave any bullets in the chamber,” Boise says. “In all the trials, all the data, all the comparisons show that three drugs are better than two.”

When Lonial joined Emory’s hematology and oncology department nearly two decades ago, other researchers might have seen a department struggling with turnover and inadequate resources. With the encouragement of a mentor—Kenneth Anderson, probably the best-known myeloma specialist in the world—Lonial saw an opportunity to build a program, literally, from the ground up. The bottom floor of Winship houses the Clinical Trials Unit, the key to the multiple myeloma program’s growth and success. Within a few years, Lonial had recruited top scientists and clinicians, including Boise, and was testing new classes of drugs in Phase I clinical trials. They proved to be game changers.

Multiple myeloma is a cancer of the blood that develops when normal, antibody-producing plasma cells become malignant and their growth spirals out of control, building up in the bone marrow until they crowd out healthy blood cells. They can form lesions and tumors in multiple bones, hence the condition’s name. But the cancerous cells also secrete protein and, like normal cells, they’re engineered to do this in a particular way—the protein assembled and folded just so. When that assembly goes awry, as it does in myeloma cells, the malformed proteins are broken down by proteasomes—protein complexes whose job it is to get rid of problem proteins by degrading them—and that opens up the pipeline for more myeloma cell production.

About ten years ago, scientists discovered that if you interfere with the proteasome’s work—allowing the abnormal proteins to accumulate—the cancerous cells, which in a sense are trying to function normally, will self-destruct. Rapidly.

“Proteasome is part of quality control, so if you inhibit that, and all these mid-folded proteins build up, that causes stress, and the cell kills itself,” Boise explains. Winship conducted trials of a promising proteasome inhibitor, bortezomib (Velcade), in 2002. One of the first patients to receive it went into remission very quickly. “If there was a moment when the light went on, it was then. I remember running upstairs to the director’s office with the graph of this patient’s counts,” Lonial says. “That treatment is now the standard of care.”

Cathy Mooney didn’t need a wake-up call.

In 2002, at 48 years old, “I felt like I was at the top of my game,” she says. “I was exercising regularly, walking four miles five days a week. I was following a great diet. I had really never been in better health.”

But a routine physical exam turned up some troubling results, and a long series of visits to specialists and tests followed. After a frustrating three months, Mooney heard two words she never knew before: multiple myeloma.

“I was told the survival rate was three to five years,” she says. “We were devastated. I felt wonderful; I did not feel sick.”

Mooney was advised to travel from her home in Thomasville, Georgia, to Little Rock, Arkansas, where there was a center specializing in myeloma. She received treatment there—including chemotherapy, autologous stem cell transplantation, and maintenance medications—for several years. But although her cancer could be coaxed into remission, it kept coming back.

In 2008, Mooney and her husband flew north to visit myeloma specialists at Sloan Kettering and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The

“This June will be 14 years since my diagnosis, which is a lot more than I hoped for. I’m feeling great.

Myeloma patient Cathy Mooney travels to Winship once a month for routine check-ups, treatment as needed, and visits with her grandchildren.
latter was Ken Anderson, who had been following Lonial's progress at Winship. Both told Mooney that she could get the best, most current treatment in her home state of Georgia.

“When we went to Emory and met with Dr. Lonial and his team, we found him to be a truly compassionate person who really cared and was passionate about finding a cure for multiple myeloma,” Mooney says. “He’s such a highly respected doctor in this field, one of the top in leading research and a rising star.”

Since Mooney’s diagnosis, her twin daughter and son have married and had children of their own. Her five grandchildren are a constant delight.

“This June will be 14 years since my diagnosis, which is a lot more than I hoped for,” she says. “I’m feeling great. The cancer has given me an opportunity to reassess my life and set new priorities. And Winship gives me hope for a bright future.”

**FAST TRACK TO NEW TREATMENTS**

When Cathy Mooney was first diagnosed, the myeloma program at Winship was just beginning to take off. Now the center sees 400 to 500 new patients a year, with about 1,600 multiple myeloma patients overall. More than 200 Winship patients participate in the Phase I Clinical Trials Unit directed by Donald Harvey.

“That’s a huge group that we are able to see in one city,” says Ajay Nooka, assistant professor of hematology and medical oncology and part of the hematology care team at Winship. In addition to caring for patients, Nooka, who specializes in cancer epidemiology, structures and oversees many of Winship’s clinical trials and assesses their outcomes. The large patient population and high rate of clinical trial enrollment is a gold mine of data for researchers.

“The ultimate goal is to see where we stand in terms of treatment progress and what changes we can make to further improvements in patient outcomes,” Nooka says.

Another advantage for Winship’s multiple myeloma team is Atlanta’s large population of African Americans, who are twice as likely as whites to be diagnosed with the disease.

“The difference between us and other centers is that a lot of our patients are our neighbors,” Lonial says. “A lot of the game in clinical trials is not just, are you able to do them, but do you have the patients? The growth for us has really stemmed from access to new drugs and access to patients. That’s a big reason why we had four drugs approved last year.”

In November, the FDA approved elotuzumab as part of an innovative immune-based therapy treatment for patients with relapsed multiple myeloma. That was the third myeloma drug approved by the FDA within the previous month and the fourth approved within the last year.

“[The doctor] said, you have multiple myeloma. I said, okay. What do we do next?” Washington remembers. “She looked at my wife and said, is he in shock? And my wife said no, that’s pretty much his personality. I don’t really do the whole gloom-and-doom perspective.”

Washington happened to have a friend who specializes in oncology at Winship, and that’s how he discovered that he could get the most leading-edge care within miles of his home in Lithonia. He began treatment immediately, including enrollment in a clinical trial.

Now in long-term remission, Washington says, “My plan is to be cured. At some point, my numbers will be zero. When it comes to age, I’m a triple-digit kind of guy.”
Plot Twist
Scott Schofield ’02C (left) is making television history as the first transgender actor to appear in a daytime drama, The Bold and the Beautiful. Story on page 45.
Like many classmates, former Emory cheer-leaders Emily Li 11C and Sarah Rattan 12C have kept in touch through social media since graduating, and a connection through Facebook led to a high-profile collaboration for the pair.

Rattan was a contestant—and ultimately a top-19 semifinalist—in the Miss New York USA 2016 pageant, and she took the stage in a dazzling evening dress designed by Li, an associate designer for JS Collections, a fashion company specializing in evening wear and special occasion dresses.

“This experience was incredibly exciting for me as a designer because I was able to design and create a dress with a purpose and story,” Li says. “Unfortunately fast fashion is what dominates the market nowadays. But once upon a time, clothes were made with a certain craftsmanship—making each garment unique and thus important to the person wearing it. To me, the finished gown is more than just a dress; not only does it tell a very unique narrative but it also made Sarah very happy—which is very rewarding as a designer.”

Although she did not win, Rattan says the pageant experience gave her the confidence to pursue her role as manager of employee giving and volunteerism for the Macy’s Foundation.

“The pageant is what actually gave me that final push to move outside of fashion merchandising and into a role more philanthropic in nature that better fit my long-term interests,” she says.


The 12-song compilation came about when Burke and producer Bobby King recorded Too Soon to Tell, a song by Grammy award–winning singer-songwriter Mike Reid. King shared Burke’s rendition with Reid, and a collaboration was forged that led to the creation of “a smooth and soulful album filled with songs that have been recorded by Bonnie Raitt, Wynonna, Ronnie Milsap, Leroy Parnell, and many others. Mike gave us some tracks from his personal stash as well. Such a fun project,” Burke says.

Burke’s other albums include *Chris Burke, Everything*, and *Soul Music*, which included the hit single *Roller Coaster Ride*, featured in the festival-favorite movie *Birthday Cake*.

“It was magical. I felt different. These songs changed me as an artist,” Burke says of the new album. In the ultimate compliment, Reid shared that Burke’s rendition of Too Soon to Tell was his favorite version of the song.

“I never dreamed I’d get the chance to work with such a music legend,” he says. “But hot damn, we tore it down.”

As a student at Emory, Burke sang with a cappella group No Strings Attached, with the Concert Choir in the Czech Republic and Poland, and with the University chorus. In 2005, Burke packed his bags and moved to Music City to develop his career.

What’s an opinion worth? For the Emory Alumni Association, your voice is invaluable. By sharing your perspective with us, you help us keep you connected to the University and to each other in the ways that mean the most to you. Keep sharing with us and we’ll keep coming up with new ways to meet your changing needs.

Sarah Craven Cook 95C
Senior associate vice president for alumni affairs on the Emory Alumni Association’s call for alumni to take part in a multiyear alumni attitude survey.

“The middle of a career transition isn’t the best time to start building a professional network. Keeping those connections active ensures that you’re always aware of opportunities, and staying involved in your alumni community makes the network stronger for you and all your fellow alumni.”

Sarah Hay
Director, Alumni Career Programs
Recipe Hunters

They’ve traveled to the island of Håøya Naturverksted in Norway to make artisanal goat cheese, made tabbouleh with Syrian refugees in Lebanon, and cooked a forgotten cuttlefish recipe in Croatia. They’ve baked bread for a village in Cyprus, harvested olives to make oil in Southern Italy, and cultivated cabbage for kimchi with grandmothers in Korea. Leila Elamine 09C and Anthony Morano 09C are the Recipe Hunters. The duo travels the world in search of traditional recipes and the stories behind the people who maintain their culinary heritage. They then share those stories through photojournalism and film on their website, therecipehunters.com. They also volunteer on homesteads and small-scale, organic farms to learn about local culture, food, and farming.

“Each and every volunteer experience is an opportunity to give back to the community we are living in and to partake in the day-to-day lifestyle of that given culture,” Elamine says. “Using food as a medium, we overcome barriers of religion, race, creed, and ethnicity to provide our growing community with a unique perspective.”

Once you graduate, you become one of 137,000 Emory alumni living and working all over the world. You may not stay at Emory, but we’re here to make sure you have opportunities to stay involved—on campus, in your region, or virtually. Our goal will always be to keep you connected to Emory for life.
At Atlanta law firm Arnall Golden Gregory, managing partner Jonathan Eady 84OX 86C focuses on counseling business and real estate clients with financing, investment, acquisition, and development transactions. He has extensive experience with mixed-use, urban redevelopment projects. Eady also assists developers, owners, and investors with structuring and negotiating complex joint-venture agreements. He regularly represents clients in several industries, including multifamily and seniors housing, long-term care facilities, and logistics and transportation. In addition to his busy law practice, he serves Oxford College as a member of the Board of Counselors and the City of Oxford as chair of its Planning Commission.

**WORKING IT: LAW**

Donna Yip 04L serves as vice president and associate general counsel and compliance officer for Oak Hill Advisors, a privately owned investment advisory firm in New York with a specialty in high-yield credit, leveraged loans, high-yield bonds, structured products, distressed investment, and private lending markets. Yip, who joined the firm in 2011, negotiates refinancings, restructurings, and trading accounts and provides counsel on industry initiatives regarding legal, regulatory, compliance, and market practice, among other duties. Prior to joining Oak Hill Advisors, she held positions at Proskauer Rose and Paul Hastings. In addition to her Emory law degree, Yip holds a bachelor’s degree in leadership studies, business administration, and political science from the University of Richmond.

**WORKING IT: THEOLOGY**

The Rev. Keith Lawder 05T will become the President/CEO of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation on July 1. Of this new role, Lawder reflected, “Our challenge is to build awareness of the many ways we can help ministries and individuals sow seeds of faith for future generations.” The more we help churches and individuals invest in their future, the more we can help to provide scholarships for tomorrow’s leaders.” Before receiving God’s call to ministry, he served as senior vice president and group executive of Wachovia Bank and Trust.

**WORKING IT: COLLEGE**

Jeffrey Evans 90C is a lauded entrepreneur with successes in technology, music, finance, and human capital industries. In 2012 he founded Buskin Records, an independent record label whose roster includes two-time Grammy-nominated artist Andra Day, Transviolet, Wild Wild Horses, and Annathasia. He also serves as vice president and general manager of On Assignment; and founder and president of OnStaff. Evans lives in Calabasas, California, with his wife, Launie, and children, Sarah, Brian, and Eric.

**WORKING IT: GRADUATE**

Ellen G. Rafshoon 01PhD is assistant dean in the School of Liberal Arts at Georgia Gwinnett College, as well as a professor of history, specializing in 20th-century United States history. Courses that she teaches include America Since 1945, Sixties America, and American Immigrant Experience. Rafshoon earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Dartmouth College, a master’s degree in journalism from the Medill School of Northwestern University, and a PhD in history at Emory. She continues to be involved in graduate education at Emory, participating in panel discussions on the academic job market.

**WORKING IT: PUBLIC HEALTH**

Ramadan Assi 07MPH is on the front lines of the Syrian refugee crisis. As the country director in Turkey for International Medical Corps (IMC), he oversees IMC’s efforts to meet the health, social, psychological, educational, and other humanitarian needs of the 2.5 million Syrians who have sought refuge in Turkey. Currently, IMC is the only service provider in Turkey offering comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support care, including psychiatric services and support for gender-based violence survivors. The nongovernmental organization also works toward restoring self-reliance for refugee through language classes and skills training. “These refugees are just normal families,” says Assi. “They are not an invading army. They are people who want the best for the families, for their children. They are just like you and me.”

**WORKING IT: BUSINESS**

Rachel Hoover 13WEMBA is the new director of global services for Johns Hopkins Medicine International, the global arm of the medical institution. In this role, Hoover will take Johns Hopkins’ clinical and research methodologies and apply them to health systems around the world. Her work will include managing global teams and working for extended periods of time in Saudi Arabia and remote regions. Hoover is a trained physician assistant, and prior to Hopkins, she worked as a clinical operations director for global cancer vaccine trials at the biotech start-up Vaccinogen. She managed budgets, contracts and staff, and international relationships, ensuring all studies met federal and international research guidelines.

**Your Key to Class Notes**

AH: Allied Health  
B: Goizueta Business School (undergraduate)  
C: Emory College of Arts and Sciences  
D: School of Dentistry  
G: James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies  
H: Honorary degree  
L: School of Law  
M: School of Medicine  
MBA: Goizueta Business School (graduate)  
MN: School of Nursing (graduate)  
MR: Medical resident  
N: Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing  
OX: Oxford College  
PH: Rollins School of Public Health  
PhD: All doctor of philosophy degrees  
T: Candler School of Theology
Television fans are known for their fierce loyalty to their favorite shows, and there is arguably no more dedicated audience than those who follow daytime drama.

"Soap opera fans are the best, most engaged fans," says actor Scott Turner Schofield ’02C. "These are people who watch stories play out, 28 minutes at a time, five days a week, about love and loss and daily drama. They love their stories and characters."

That's one reason why Schofield was thrilled to be cast in a recurring guest role on The Bold and the Beautiful early last year. But for Schofield, the part is more than an acting job; it's also a continuation of the social justice and diversity education work he's been doing since he was an Emory student. On the popular, long-running soap, Schofield is Nick—a transgender man who mentors one of the main characters, Maya, as she reveals her own male-to-female transgender identity to family and friends. Schofield is the first openly transgender actor to play a major role on daytime TV.

"It's really remarkable that The Bold and the Beautiful has made a lead character transgender," Schofield says. "Maya is a consistent role, she has a family on the show who supports her. It's amazing."

Schofield's own story could be a soap opera plot. When he got engaged to his fiancée in early 2015, he moved to Los Angeles to be with her and joined an acting studio—a sort of farm team for would-be actors. About two weeks later, a contact from the studio tipped him off that a casting director for The Bold and the Beautiful was looking for a trans actor. With no agent, Schofield managed to get the audition and then the part—a month after moving to L.A. He's now done 15 episodes and expects that the recurring role could continue for years as Maya's character evolves.

Although this is his first professional TV role, Schofield is a seasoned actor, performer, and speaker. He has toured internationally with his original solo performances Underground Transit, Debutante Balls, and Becoming a Man in 127 Easy Steps, which was commissioned by the National Performance Network. His fresh, edgy, and warmly funny voice has garnered much acclaim, including a "Fruity" audience choice award for Best Off-Broadway Performance, and a Princess Grace Foundation Acting Fellowship. He also has published a memoir, Two Truths and a Lie.

Née Katie Kilborn, Schofield came to Emory as an out lesbian, and found opportunities as a student to explore questions of gender and sexual identity. "I needed to educate myself and find context," he says. "Emory gave me the space and support to deeply investigate, personally and academically. Emory recognizes nontraditional identities and supports all cultural backgrounds. I appreciate that it is very welcoming and progressive." Schofield earned a degree in interdisciplinary studies in society and culture, a self-directed major that encompassed history, gender studies, cultural studies, creative writing, and theater studies. He also performed with Theater Emory.

In addition to The Bold and the Beautiful, Schofield has several other projects in the works, including a children's book and a movie deal for Becoming a Man. He recognizes that he's building a career around being a trans actor, and he's okay with that. He has heard from many B and B fans whose lives have been changed by his role—such as a trans man who works in a nursing home and was afraid to reveal his gender identity, until he overheard a group of elderly residents and fans talk about how they love the Nick and Maya storyline. That gave him the courage.

"I might not have the privilege of being able to work just as an actor, but it will be worth it," Schofield says. "In 20 years, there will be trans actors, and people won't even know they are trans. For now, I am grateful that my diversity is being seen as an asset. That's new, and it represents something. I feel like I'm here at a good time."—P.P.P.
**Power of Two**

**TURMAN AWARD WINNERS HAVE AN ‘ALLIANCE BASED ON LOVE AND SERVICE’**

As the joint recipients of the Emory Alumni Association’s 2016 J. Pollard Turman Alumni Service Award, Susan Atkinson Gregory 77OX 79C and Luke Gregory 76OX 78C are an alliance based on love and service.

“We’re really a partnership, so when one of us volunteers for something, you get two for one,” Luke Gregory says.

The Turman Award, which was established in honor of influential humanitarian J. Pollard Turman 34C 36L, is one of the highest alumni awards given by the Emory Alumni Association (EAA). The Gregorys, active members of the Nashville chapter of the EAA, have chaired and participated in major Emory alumni events in their hometown, volunteered for the Emory Admission Network, and mentored current and potential Emory and Oxford students. The couple also supports student scholarship at Oxford and led efforts to endow the Michael S. Overstreet Scholarship Fund to honor the memory of Michael Overstreet 76OX 78B and provide the Oxford experience to new generations of students.

Luke Gregory’s parents, John and Sara Gregory, both taught at Oxford and Susan Gregory recalls her in-laws’ dedication to help students afford college.

“One summer I watched them writing letter after letter trying to raise the money for a scholarship for a student. I worked at Oxford at the time, I was maybe 21 or 22, and I remember thinking that I would love to ... create scholarships so people could get an education where they wanted. I really saw how Oxford, then Emory, changed people’s lives,” she says.

The couple’s parents benefitted from scholarships when they went to college during the Great Depression, and Luke Gregory says they understand their own success was rooted in the willingness of others to help.

“It is part of what we consider the best philanthropy that can occur, to reach out and help lift that next student. That student who benefits understands that and can then return to the community another gift.”

The Turman Award comes with a $25,000 gift that the Gregorys have designated to the Gregory-Rackley Faculty Career Development Award, established by alumnus Gene Rackley 55OX 58B in honor of John Gregory to help faculty members who will shape the lives of countless students.

“Susan and I had many teachers who opened up a world to us and who encouraged us to challenge things and that has become part of our interest and service,” Gregory says.

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DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS:  
David Todd 91L and Jonathan Ogren hope their atlas, The Texas Landscape Project: Nature and People, will give readers a new window into understanding Texas’s natural and built world, and will encourage the public to protect the state’s land, water, wildlife, air quality, and energy resources. Todd wrote the text, collected the data, drew the sketches, and prepared draft maps for the book and for the companion website at www.texaslandscape.org.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE:  
From the bathtub in her childhood apartment in Moscow to the entrance hall of the comfortable home in suburban America where she lives as a grandmother, Forty Rooms tells the life story of Mrs. Caldwell in forty episodes, each set in a room where a defining moment of her life occurred. Through this literary device, Olga Grushin 93C explores timeless issues of the road not taken and the compromises that people—particularly women—must make in life.

AFTER THE STORM:  
Most of the narratives packaged for New Orleans’s many tourists cultivate a desire for black culture—jazz, cuisine, dance—while simultaneously targeting black people and their communities as sources and sites of political, social, and natural disaster. In Desire & Disaster in New Orleans: Tourism, Race, and Historical Memory, New Orleans native Lynnell L. Thomas 01G 05PhD delves into the relationship between tourism, cultural production, and racial politics.

TURNING POINTS:  
Career changes, the loss of a loved one, graduation, illness, divorce, the birth of a child, entering middle or later years—life is filled with turning points at which we feel compelled to tell our story in a new and different way. In Gospel Memories: The Future Can Rewrite Our Past, Jake Owensby 78OX 80C 83G 85PhD focuses on gospel passages that led him to personal reflections on significant points in his life and that uncovered deeper meaning in the biblical text.

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Imagine going through your day without ready access to clean water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing. Around the world, 663 million people face that challenge every day. They get their water from sources that are considered unsafe because they are vulnerable to contamination, such as rivers, streams, ponds, and unprotected wells. And the task of providing water for households falls disproportionately to women and girls.

Water, a human right, is critical for human survival and development. I have carried out research in India, Bolivia, and Kenya on the water and sanitation challenges that women and girls confront and how these experiences influence their lives.

An insufficient supply of safe, accessible water poses extra risks and challenges for women and girls. Without recognizing the uneven burden of water work that women bear, well-intentioned programs to bring water to places in need will continue to fail to meet their goals.

Collecting water takes time. Millions of women and girls spend hours every day traveling to water sources, waiting in line, and carrying heavy loads—often several times a day. In a study of 25 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, UNICEF estimated that women there spent 16 million hours collecting water each day. When children or other family members get sick from consuming poor-quality water, which can happen even if the water is initially clean when collected, women spend their time providing care. These responsibilities represent lost opportunities for women's employment, education, leisure, or sleep.

Water is heavy. The United Nations (UN) recommends 20 to 50 liters of water per person each day for drinking, cooking, and washing. That amounts to hauling between 44 and 110 pounds of water daily for use by each household member. In Asia and Africa, women walk an average of 3.7 miles per day collecting water. Carrying such loads over long distances can result in strained backs, shoulders, and necks, and other injuries if women have to walk over uneven terrain or on busy roads. The burden is even heavier for women who are pregnant or are also carrying small children. Fetching water also can be very dangerous for women and girls who can face conflict at water points and the risk of assault.

Now imagine that you have managed to get water, but only a limited supply. How will you allocate it? Women need water for hydration, regular handwashing, washing their bodies, and cleaning clothes and materials when they are menstruating in order to prevent infection. But in areas where water is scarce, women and girls may sacrifice so that other family members can use water. In a study that assessed how water insecurity affected rural women in Ethiopia, 27.8 percent of women surveyed reduced the amount of water they used for bathing, 12.7 percent went to bed thirsty, and 3.7 percent went an entire day without drinking water.

When conditions such as drought make water scarce, women have to travel farther to collect it and more frequently, expending more time and energy. Global demand for water is increasing, and the UN forecasts that if current water use patterns do not change, world demand will exceed supply by 40 percent by 2030.

When communities initiate programs to improve access to water, it is critical to ask women about their needs and experiences. Although women and girls play key roles in obtaining and managing water globally, they are rarely offered roles in water improvement programs or on local water committees. They need to be included as a right and as a practical matter. Numerous water projects have failed because they did not include women. And the inclusion of women should not be ornamental. A study in northern Kenya found that although women served on local water management committees, conflict with men at water points persisted because the women often were not invited to meetings or were not allowed to speak.

We also need broader strategies to reduce gender disparities in water access. First we need to collect more data on women's water burden and how it affects their health, well-being, and personal development. Second, women must be involved in creating and managing targeted programs to mitigate these risks. Third, these programs should be evaluated to determine whether they are truly improving women's lives. And finally, social messaging affirming the idea that water work belongs only to women must be abandoned.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called empowerment of the world's women a “global imperative.” To attain that goal, we must reduce the weight of water on women's shoulders.

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