How the partnership between Emory and Georgia Tech is moving Atlanta forward.
Gifts at work. 

Over the past year, gifts from Wise Heart Society donors have gone to work immediately at Emory, supporting scholarships, strengthening academics, and helping care for patients. Here are just a few examples.

**THERAPEUTIC MUSIC PROGRAM**
Gifts to the Emory Healthcare Partners in Health Fund support a therapeutic music program that places live musicians performing soothing music in patient care and waiting areas.

**THOMAS J. LAWLEY PROFESSORSHIP**
Physician-scientist Jack Arbiser has been named the first Thomas J. Lawley Professor. A practicing dermatologist, Arbiser has discovered a way to slow the progression of several cancers.

**EMORY ALUMNI BOARD LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**
2013–14 recipient Leia Clement 11C 15L has dedicated time to Student Legal Services and done pro bono work through the Emory Public Interest Committee.

**ROLLINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS**
Unrestricted gifts support graduate students like Peter Lyu 14PH, who is pursuing a career in health care policy research.

**OXFORD COLLEGE LIBRARY AND ACADEMIC COMMONS**
The facility, built in 1970, has been renovated and re-opened in August with a new, 10,000-square-foot addition, wireless technology, and collaborative learning spaces.

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Become a part of the Wise Heart Society by making a leadership-level annual gift of $1,000 or more* to the area at Emory that is most important to you.

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MEET THE PRESIDENTS
Emory and Georgia Tech leaders Jim Wagner and Bud Peterson sat down recently to discuss the partnership they happily “inherited.” See video from the conversation. Story page 38.

BIOETHICS Link to videos about Emory’s Master of Arts in Bioethics Program. Story page 6.

PAUL SIMON (YES, THAT PAUL SIMON) Read more in the Emory News Center about Paul Simon’s visit to Emory as the 2013 Ellmann Lecturer. Story page 22.

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10 Magnificent Rome

Take a virtual tour of ancient Rome during an exhibition now on view at the Michael C. Carlos Museum, also featuring works such as this 1552 engraving of the city.

PIRRO LigORIO, ANTIQUAE URbis ROMAE [PLATE 7], © Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University
In Praise of Partnership

DURING MY DRIVE TO THE OFFICE THIS MORNING, I learned that three American scientists have collectively demystified how it is that cells transport tiny, yet wildly influential, molecules within and among themselves.

The cell, it appears, is akin to “a large and busy port” where it is vitally urgent that certain molecular packages—containing cargo such as hormones or neurotransmitters—are delivered to the correct location at the precise millisecond when they are needed. Imagine FedEx perfected by microscopic robots.

It took three researchers to unpack the different components of this system, which involves an exquisitely calibrated relationship among genes, proteins, and calcium ions. James Rothman, Randy Schekman, and Thomas Südhof have been awarded the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine “for their discoveries of machinery regulating vesicle traffic, a major transport system in our cells,” according to the Karolinska Institute. Because this machinery drives a number of important processes in our bodies, understanding how it works—and what can happen when it doesn’t—has major implications for the treatment of diseases, from neurological disorders to diabetes.

It is not surprising that such an intricate process would require more than one scientist to unravel it. The three Nobel recipients approached the puzzle from different directions, each bringing his own particular piece of expertise. By applying their corresponding strengths, they were able to put the pieces together and unveil a complex system fundamental to cellular organization.

I couldn’t help but note that one of these researchers is from the University of California, Berkeley, and another is from Stanford University—a pair of institutions coincidentally mentioned in this issue of Emory Magazine as an example of successful collaboration between a public and a private research university.

Our cover story on the longstanding partnership between Emory and the Georgia Institute of Technology celebrates exactly the sort of joint research and discovery efforts that were rewarded today by the Nobel Assembly. What makes such scientific collaboration thrive, according to President James Wagner and Georgia Tech President Bud Peterson, is a deliberate and sustained focus on complementary strengths. Promoting multiple, balanced specialties and perspectives creates synergy between individual research faculty, among academic groups and centers, and between the institutions themselves.

For Emory and Georgia Tech, the positive results are too numerous and wide-ranging to name, although we showcase a few in the pages to follow—including shared inventions, discoveries, grants, start-up companies, and a combined economic impact of more than $8 billion for Atlanta and Georgia. Many of those outcomes, Wagner says, would not be possible without partnership.

On a more personal level, it’s interesting to think that most of us probably have relationships with people who are markedly different from us, whether by fate or choice. We turn to friends who help us see our problems in a new way, coworkers who offer ideas we would never have dreamed up, siblings who counterbalance our talents and flaws with theirs. Many of us may have—even unknowingly—gravitated toward a spouse or partner whose personality traits complement, rather than mirror, our own. I can say from experience that the resulting tension is far outweighed by the benefits.

For thirteen years, Associate Editor Mary Loftus and I have enjoyed a rich, lively, and harmonious working relationship at Emory Magazine. From the time we arrived within weeks of one another, we found much in common, spending hours over coffee talking about our kids, books, politics, relationships, our kids again, and always, whatever magazine stories were in the works. We’ve shared some memorable experiences in pursuit of those stories—like driving our teenagers to Memphis to see Graceland, taking a boat to Alcatraz (see photo), openly competing for the attention of Salman Rushdie at a cocktail reception, spending a night in a Boston emergency room, and (a personal favorite) showing up at a Hollywood party carrying shopping bags and wearing clothes we had literally, desperately, just bought at a Banana Republic when we realized that there was no way we would make it back to our hotel in time to change and there was no way we were going to attend.

For all we’ve shared, I think our work together has probably benefited even more from what we don’t share. Mary’s workspace is an explosion of color and clutter; mine is (most of the time) neat and serene. Her interviews with subjects are open-ended conversations; mine are guided by a prepared script of questions. When we co-present at professional conferences, Mary prefers to leave room for spontaneity, while I insist on rehearsing every word. Mary is a naturally curious, meandering, big-picture thinker; I tend to steer us toward concrete implementation and attention to detail. Our styles reflect the different and, yes, complementary qualities we have brought to the magazine.

By the time this issue reaches you, Mary will have packed up her clutter and installed it in another office, just a few yards away in Emory’s Health Sciences Publications. I am delighted that she has taken on a promising new challenge. I’m also glad she’s not going far. Like a lot of lasting, productive partnerships, ours is much too valuable to leave behind.—P.P.
Your article about Cuba was extremely interesting. The concept of a “softer racism” (less institutionalized) in Cuba is true, but its history is of much longer duration and evolution and predates the revolution. As referenced indirectly in the article, Antonio Maceo, el titan de bronce (the bronze titan) and his mother, Mariana Grajales, were of color and are revered by all Cubans regardless of political belief; it is also true that Fulgencio Batista, the despised and murderous dictator overthrown by Fidel and the Revolution, was also of color. To say the Cuba of today is color-blind is false—just look at the people at the highest ranks of the communist party—it is much “lighter” than the population at large. To say Cuba of yesterday was totally color-fated is also false. I agree with the sentiment that it is likely better to be poor in Cuba than in Atlanta, but the tragedy is that there is little chance to be anything else but poor in Cuba. Why else would remittances from relatives in the US be such a major source of income on the sixtieth anniversary of the start of the Cuban Revolution? That is not the “fault” of the Americans and “imperialism.” Sometimes it is necessary to look in the mirror and blame ourselves.

Rene Romero
Emory Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Atlanta

I read your article about the closing of Everybody’s. I was sorry to hear of it. I remember J. R. Crickets (I think I used them so much that they nearly went out of business when I graduated), Jaggers (one of my professors gave us our grades there), and the Kroger. Of course, I remember the Dugout where, among others, the Indigo Girls used to perform. Your article was a great trip down memory lane.

Larry Allen 84OX 86C
Leesburg, Virginia

After reading the article on Cuba, I am very disappointed. The article’s primary focus is on race relations in Cuba. Although the article makes some good points, it completely ignores the fact that in Cuba, there are no rights afforded to its citizens. A one-party system where the government is picked by a handful of officials is no democracy. The group of people that went to Cuba were “escorted” by government officials to have them “see” only what is convenient for the government to show the world, not the everyday struggles to find food to eat that day or enough money to be able to purchase a pair of shoes, if they are to be found anywhere.

Emilio Chaviano 68T
Miami

Thank you for the beautiful article on the Reverend Alice Rogers, new pastor of Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church. What a great thing for the church and for the Emory community. Reverend Rogers is multi-talented and will be perfect in her new role.

Alice Griffin Walker
Covington

Editor’s Note: Thanks to those Emory Magazine readers who responded to our request for memories of Lullwater Preserve. We received a delightful array of stories, anecdotes, photos, and even poetry. Look for more on Lullwater in a future issue of Emory Magazine.

Has something in Emory Magazine raised your consciousness—or your hackles? Write to the editors at Emory Magazine, 1762 Clifton Road, Suite 1000, Atlanta, Georgia, 30322, or via email at paige.parvin@emory.edu. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. The views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or the administrators of Emory University.

Thanks for your effort and portrayal of my native country. Too bad that you wrote the story prior to the pronouncements of President Raul Castro. I find his words enlightening and they help many outside of Cuba understand some of the complexities you touch upon. Those of us who . . . keep in touch with close relatives inside the country understand the Cuban situation as a tragedy. Please make sure that the member of your group who would rather be poor in Cuba than in Atlanta reads the speech made by President Castro. To tourists who travel to Cuba for a few days and return enamored with the romance of revolutionary gains, I say: Return to Cuba and live there as a Cuban for a month with all the opportunities and restrictions Cubans face, then let’s talk. Keep up the good work with Emory Magazine.

Emilio Chaviano 68T
Miami
Degrees of Difference

When Kevin Wack 13G 13MTS applied to law school at Georgia State University to study health law, he had something the other applicants didn’t: a background that blends theology and bioethics.

Wack is the first graduate of Emory’s dual master’s degree programs that pair bioethics studies in the Laney Graduate School and the Center for Ethics with—in his case—theological studies at Candler School of Theology. Other complementary disciplines include law, medicine, nursing, and public health. These relatively new programs represent a broader push to offer academic degrees that cross the boundaries of traditional disciplines, positioning graduates to be thought leaders in richly varied careers.

“The dual degree allows each field to strengthen the other,” says Wack, now in law school. “It helped me gain practical experience in a clinical setting, incorporating both ethics consultations and pastoral counseling.” Wack’s capstone project explored Catholic views on embryo adoption.

The bioethics and theological studies degree, as well as the dual degree with nursing, are among the only such offerings in the country; Emory’s is just the third MA/MSN program with this particular focus. Creating these academic partnerships was an obvious way to blend Emory’s strengths for students’ benefit, according to Toby Schonfeld, director of graduate studies for the MA-Bioethics Program.

“Bioethics itself is quite interdisciplinary, addressing issues that cross the lines between academic fields and affect health care broadly conceived,” she says. “With a master’s in bioethics alone, we are able to give students a look into the windows of other disciplines, but a dual degree allows them to be in the room together.”

Lisa Tedesco, dean of Laney Graduate School, says that Emory has taken a “purposeful stand” by creating dual degree tracks that require students to be fully admitted to two separate programs and to satisfy the requirements for both. Another important distinction, she says, is the academic interconnectedness of the graduate school, which does not have departments but programs that both channel

Oxford Library and Academic Commons opens

The celebratory opening of Oxford College’s new library and academic commons in August showcased an open, modern space, one-third larger than the 1970s building, which will “encourage intellectual exploration, learning, and collaboration for many years to come,” said Rich Mendola, senior vice provost of library services and digital scholarship and enterprise CIO at Emory.

Flagship law and religion journal moves to Emory

The Journal of Law and Religion will move to the Center for the Study of Law and Religion (CSLR) at the School of Law in August 2013. “As our center expands its geographical and topical reach, the time is ripe to welcome the journal and make it the leading international journal in the field,” says John Witte Jr., CSLR director and new coeditor of the journal.
the strengths of long-established departments and blur the lines that divide them.

“We are so strong, and getting stronger, at understanding our connections beyond the department structure for the delivery of contemporary, interdisciplinary graduate education,” Tedesco says.

She points to the graduate program in cancer biology, which just admitted its third cohort, as a successful example. The PhD program “is aimed at getting young scientists to wholly understand the cancer experience and what it means to be in cancer treatment from a 360-degree perspective,” she says. “What we are trying to do is take the strength and focus that has been so present for Emory on the academic health side, and give students understanding from a social sciences and humanities viewpoint as well.”

The graduate school also is launching a new injury and violence prevention certificate program.

A human health major for undergraduates, first offered this fall in Emory College of Arts and Sciences, also will draw on existing academic resources to prepare students for health care and related fields. Nationally, Emory is among a small but growing number of universities to offer a health major in response to industry trends, says Michelle Lampl, director of the Center for the Study of Human Health.

“Health is a top priority in the US and the world today,” says Lampl, also Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Anthropology. “We’re trying to offer a liberal arts education with that in mind, providing an educational perspective that someone who will be a professional in the twenty-first century needs to have in their portfolio—from a research scientist to a policymaker, a music therapist to someone involved in pastoral care.”

The new major also will offer the possibility of pursuing minors in popular existing programs, such as global health and predictive health.

Not all new offerings are focused on health, however. Candler is launching five new degree programs, including doctor of ministry; master of arts in religious leadership; master of arts in religion and public life; and two more dual degrees, master of divinity—master of development practice with Laney Graduate School and master of divinity—master of social work. The graduate school also has a new PhD program in Islamic civilizations studies, structured to offer an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Islam, including and beyond the topic of religion. And sixty-five students are now enrolled in the School of Law’s juris master program, which was launched a year ago; its students include several doctors and HR professionals, as well as a chief technology officer.—P.P.R.

**MORE ONLINE**
Find links to videos about Emory’s master’s in bioethics programs at www.emory.edu/magazine (above, Kevin Wack).

**LEADERSHIP**

**Emory Welcomes New VP for Government Affairs**

Charles “Charlie” Harman, former chief of staff for Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), has assumed the role of Emory’s vice president for government and community affairs, the chief government affairs officer for the university, including Emory Healthcare.

“Charlie Harman is an experienced leader with a deep understanding of government at the state and federal levels as well as extensive knowledge of the health care field. He is just what Emory needs,” says President James Wagner.

Harman, who has served Georgia senators from both political parties, became Chambliss’s chief of staff in 2007. For the past four years he also has served as cochair of the Senate Bi-Partisan Chiefs of Staff group, which aims to foster mutual trust and friendship among the chiefs from both parties.

“Having worked side by side with Charlie for years in the Senate, I am delighted that he is joining the Emory family,” says former Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) 61L 62L 8H. “In the more than thirty years that I have known Charlie, I’ve observed up close his incredible energy, enthusiasm, good judgment, and unquestionable integrity. With Emory’s solid foundation of academic excellence and leadership, as an alumnus I am confident that the Emory-Harman team will be a winning combination.”

“I grew up in Atlanta hearing about this distinguished university, its health services, and what Emory meant to Atlanta and the South,” Harman says. “I am both humbled and honored to now have the opportunity to serve this leading academic institution and prestigious health center for care and research.”

An Atlanta native and graduate of the University of Georgia, Harman first worked in the US Senate as a summer intern in the office of Senator Richard B. Russell. He returned to Washington in the 1980s as a staff member for Nunn, serving as his chief of staff from 1987 to 1992.

From 1992 to 1996, Harman served as president of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, representing the state’s businesses in government affairs and economic development. In 1996, he became vice president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia and led the organization’s public affairs effort for its merger with WellPoint Health Networks in 2001, and its merger in 2004 with Anthem to become WellPoint.

**New risk factor for schizophrenia identified**

Researchers at the Rollins School of Public Health have identified a large duplication on chromosome 7 as a new risk factor for schizophrenia. Three copies of the 7q11.23 region, already a known indicator of autism and intellectual disability, have now been associated with schizophrenia, found lead researcher Jennifer Mulle, assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology.

**University leaders send open letter to President Obama**

President James Wagner, the presidents of the University of Georgia and Georgia Institute of Technology, and 162 other university leaders published an open letter to President Barack Obama and Congress in Politico on July 31, calling attention to the dangers of “the innovation deficit”—the difference between what the nation is, and what it should be, investing in research and higher education.
Loneliness, Transformed

"As a child in Virginia, I thought all food tasted delicious. After growing up, I didn’t think food tasted the same, so it has been my lifelong effort to try and recapture those good flavors of the past."
—Chef Edna Lewis in an interview with the New York Times, 1989

If you grew up in Atlanta, or really anywhere in the South, chances are you knew some version of Bobby Banks.

As a boy, Bobby was that bright-eyed, loquacious kid whose very hunger for life—for schoolwork stars, for Boy Scout badges, for his mother’s love, for his church youth group, for his grandmother’s homemade cakes—made him vulnerable; not to overt meanness or bullying, exactly, but to a childhood pushed a little bit aside from the other kids. Bobby’s character forms the heart of A Place at the Table, a new novel by Susan Rebecca White, lecturer in Emory’s Creative Writing Program.

“I once drank a whole one-liter bottle of Coke by myself and I got so fidgety my hands were vibrating like our seventy-two-year-old neighbor down the street, Mr. McDade, who Mama says has the shakes,” a nine-year-old Bobby, growing up in 1960s Atlanta, happily informs us when we first meet him. “Mama made me run around the house ten times just to get out some of my energy.”

In addition to Coca-Cola, Bobby loves to help his mother and grandmother cook, and he loves being a Royal Ambassador, which is like being a Boy Scout—only better!—because the group’s activities are all conducted “in the name of Christ.” He especially adores Mr. Morgan, the group leader, who has green eyes and wears jeans instead of khakis like the other leaders.

If you haven’t figured out yet that Bobby is gay, he helps establish that early on. “I want a good friend, a best friend,” he says, his raw, innocent longing making sympathetic readers wince. “There are boys in the neighborhood I play with sometimes, but [his brother] Hunter’s always with us and that makes it not as fun. Hunter says I act like a sissy and then he starts pretending to talk with a lisp, and it’s not fair cause that’s not how I talk! It’s just that sometimes when I get really excited the words get jumbled up in my mouth and they don’t come out good.” It’s no wonder the cool kids give Bobby a wide berth.

As he gets older, Bobby learns to tamp down his natural effusiveness. But he never gets over his love of cooking, which is, in fact, the inspiration for his character. When this book—White’s third, written mostly during a difficult divorce—first began to take shape, all White really knew was that she wanted to write a kind of fictional homage to the famous friendship between Atlanta chef Scott Peacock and the late Edna Lewis, coauthors of The Gift of Southern Cooking, widely considered a modern classic.

White’s mother had sent her the cookbook when she was living in San Francisco ten years ago, and she cooked dozens of its recipes out of sheer homesickness and a nostalgic yearning to taste her Atlanta roots.

Along the way, she became fascinated with Lewis and Peacock. “It was a story that seemed to counter so many stories about a country divided by race,” White says. “I wanted to write about a young gay man who becomes a chef, and his relationship with a black woman who’s fifty years older. Pundits dubbed them ‘the odd couple of Southern cooking,’ and I wanted to explore that idea further.”

Lewis grew up in a farming community of freed slaves in Virginia, where food was integrally connected to the earth’s changing...
Embracing Elderhood

Professor of Religion Emeritus Eugene Bianchi is used to mining his own life for writing themes: from his Italian roots, to decades spent as a Jesuit priest, to a vibrant career as a professor, to his latest incarnation as a “creative aging specialist” and blogger.

In his newest collection, *Ear to the Ground: Poems from the Long View*, Bianchi writes of memories, aging, and spirituality. “Bianchi’s poems come from an extraordinarily rich spiritual and sensual life,” says Professor of English Ron Schuchard. “The meditative mood is balanced and lightened by the wit, humor, and satire. One is struck by the honesty and integrity of these engaging, moving, and unpretentious poems.”

Bianchi, who left the Jesuit order after twenty years to campaign for a married priesthood, was the first director of Emory’s Emeritus College from 2001 to 2008.

His past books include *Passionate Uncertainty: Inside the American Jesuits*; two novels, *The Bishop of San Francisco*; *Ground: Poems from the Long View*, and *Uncertainty: Inside the American Jesuits*. *Embracing Elderhood* is his newest collection.

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**Roma Magnificenza**

Visitors to the Michael C. Carlos Museum can be transported virtually to Rome during an exhibition that runs through mid-November. *Antichità, Teatro* Magnificenza: Renaissance and Baroque Images of Rome is a display of the maps, views, and books of Rome from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries.

The exhibition’s title refers to the themes of each era: “Antichità” is the 1561 reconstruction of the ancient city and features a sixteenth-century map that is part of the Carlos’s collection as well as rare book collections from the Emory Libraries. “Teatro” highlights images from a 1667 map of Rome. And “Magnificenza” takes an archaeological view of the city and its ancient monuments.

Visitors to Rome on the grand tour in the eighteenth century purchased the prints as souvenirs of their journeys.

The exhibition uses gaming technology to allow visitors to experience a seventeenth-century view of “virtual Rome,” based on the bird’s-eye view map of artist Giovanni Battista Falda, published in 1676, which includes the fine detail of more than three hundred etched views of the city by Falda.

Visit carlos.emory.edu to see the full schedule of related educational events.

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**ART & HISTORY**

**Surprise Sleuth**

Incidentally, an Emory curator unravels a mummy mystery

**Peter Lacovara, Senior Curator of ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at Emory’s Carlos Museum, has helped to solve plenty of mysteries. The well-known Egyptology expert is called upon frequently to apply his knowledge to deciphering and interpreting ancient civilizations.

But perhaps the most unusual mystery Lacovara solved is one he wasn’t asked to unravel.

Lacovara was technically off duty when he first visited Albany Institute of History and Art in Albany, New York, some half-dozen years ago. Established in 1791, it is one of the oldest museums in the United States, known primarily for its collections of regional significance, especially Dutch objects from the colonial period and Hudson River School paintings.

An obvious oddity in the otherwise New York–centric museum is a seventy-item collection of Egyptian antiquities, including two mummies acquired in 1909. The institute’s executive director, Tammis K. Groft, explains that the museum’s turn-of-the-century leadership believed any cultural institution expecting to command respect needed to have a mummy in its collection, so it dispatched board member Samuel Brown to Egypt, where he purchased two mummies and two coffin bottoms from the Cairo Museum.

The antiquities have been on continuous exhibit ever since, and they were what attracted Lacovara, who has a home in Albany, to the museum for his initial visit. But he never anticipated that the century-old mummy installation would become a professional preoccupation for the next several years.

“When I first visited,” Lacovara says, “I noticed that the wrong mummy was in one of the coffins. In a twenty-first dynasty coffin was a mummy of the Late Dynastic to early Ptolemaic Period, and beside it was a mummy wrapped in the style of the Third Intermediate Period that was appropriate for the coffin.”

Thousands of museumgoers had seen

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**Of Note**

Emory Board of Trustees names two new members

Elected to six-year terms as Emory alumni trustees are founding partner, co-CEO and co-CIO of Central Park Group in New York Mitchell Tanzman 81C, who has a law degree from the University of Chicago; and business immigration attorney and partner at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen, and Loewy in Atlanta, Deborah Marlowe 80C, who has a law degree from the University of Michigan.

Emory ranks highly for contributing to public good

Ranking among the nation’s top national universities “acting on behalf of the true public interest,” by Washington Monthly in its 2013 College Rankings, Emory was listed No. 26 based on the three criteria of social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and PhDs), and service (encouraging students to give something back).
the mummies and coffins and been none the wiser. Lacovara, however, suspected a still-deeper mystery might exist. After talking with institute staff, Lacovara says, "I learned there had been [a switch] after the mummies had been x-rayed in the 1980s. The mummy that had been in the twenty-first-dynasty coffin of a priest had been pronounced a female, and the partially unwrapped mummy of a man was thought to have been the correct occupant. Errors have been made before in sexing mummies, and there have been tremendous improvements in CT scanning based on the Carlos's work with William Torres of Emory Hospital." Lacovara proposed that the institute reexamine the remains using modern technology.

When the mummies were scanned and x-rayed anew at the Albany Medical Center in 2012, not only did the scientists learn that the mummy thought to be female was actually male, they were able to discern specific physical characteristics that shed light on the mummy's actual identity. "The owner of the coffin was a sculptor as well as a priest, an indicator that this was indeed the individual named on the coffin, Ankhefenmut, and its correct occupant," Lacovara explains.

These discoveries alone would likely have prompted the institute to invite Lacovara to curate The Mystery of the Albany Mummies, an exhibit that opened this fall. But Lacovara had more in store. The coffins in which the mummies rested were incomplete, their companion pieces scattered around the world. Lacovara knew where they were, and better still, he knew the curators of the Vienna and London institutions where they were on display. He was able to get them on loan for the upcoming exhibit.

If this were a mystery novel, that would be a happy ending.—Julie Schwietert Collazo 970x99c

EXHIBIT The Mystery of the Albany Mummies opened in September and will remain on display in Albany until May 2014.

Oxford Sentinels

Bond Fleming, Marshall Elizer, and William Murdy were already legends at Oxford College, and now their names will be associated with Emory’s original campus as long as its residence halls stand. The buildings that make up the East Village residential complex at the intersection of Emory and Hamill Streets have been named Elizer Hall (formerly Alpha Hall) and Murdy Hall (formerly Beta Hall). A third residence hall now under construction will be named Fleming Hall.

Murdy, dean of Oxford from 1987 to 1999 and professor of biology at Emory College for three decades prior, was pleased to hear of the honor, says his wife, Nancy Murdy. The couple still lives near the college, across from the dean’s house. "Oxford means so much to us," she says, "and people from the college are always popping in and out to visit, which brings a smile."

Neal Bond Fleming 33C 36T, who died in 2009 at the age of ninety-nine, was dean of Oxford from 1966 to 1976, as well as a philosopher, Methodist minister, and teacher. He established the Oxford Board of Counselors and was selected as one of Emory’s original 175 history makers.

"I have always been more involved in doing than in publishing," he said in a conference speech in 2000. "I have sought to do my writing in the lives of students."

And Marshall Elizer, who died in 2009 at ninety-eight, worked at Oxford from 1946 to 1978 as a mathematics lecturer, director of student activities, and business manager. He also served as Oxford mayor, chair of the Covington/Newton County Chamber of Commerce, and a founding member of the Oxford Historical Shrine Society. One of his passions was helping to restore local cemeteries, including the Civil War cemetery on campus.

"This is a good, quiet place to come down and hold hands and what not, and I’m sure a lot of romance has taken place here," he said in an Emory Magazine interview.

Murdy, Fleming, and Elizer exemplify the best qualities of those who have shaped Oxford, says Dean Stephen Bowen.—M.J.L.

New glycomics center coming to Emory

A new National Center for Functional Glycomics will be housed at Emory’s School of Medicine, to be directed by Richard Cummings, William Patterson Timmie Professor and chair of the Department of Biochemistry, and supported by a five-year award of more than $5.5 million from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. This complements the Consortium for Functional Glycomics, also led by Cummings.

Candler creates Erskine-Smith-Moseley Endowment

Candler School of Theology has established a scholarship endowment in honor of three of the school’s first African American faculty—Noel Erskine, Luther Smith, and Romney Moseley—to provide students of the school’s Black Church Studies Program with scholarships and stipends to support their theological education. The fund reached the $100,000 mark this summer.
JONATHAN LANGBERG

DAY JOB: Professor of medicine, School of Medicine; director of cardiac electrophysiology for Emory Healthcare

SECRET LIFE: Clock and watchmaker

Jonathan Langberg collects discarded machinery such as old printers, phones, and stereos and repurposes their parts to create what he calls “functional art”—namely clocks and wristwatches that are fashioned from pocket watches. Langberg’s mother was an artist and his father an engineer; he says he has been making things his whole life. He dabbled in sculpture, but was drawn to the functionality of artistic timepieces, like his “eclipse clock” that produces a mechanical mini-eclipse every twenty seconds when the spinning moon passes between the decorative metal sun and a small light bulb. Langberg’s work can be found at a local art gallery near Emory, but he confesses that he and his wife, Jill Prigerson Langberg 79C, keep a number of his timepieces.

HIS WORDS: “I spend an hour or two a night working on these, but I find it very relaxing. It’s like solving a puzzle. That’s the fun part, figuring out how to take what you have, which might look like old junk, and turn it into something interesting and beautiful and useful. I guess it was a natural interest because I listen to heart rhythms all day and work with electricity... rhythm and timing is a big part of my day job.”
Words from the Heart
Honoring the ‘tremendous spirit’ of Seamus Heaney

A silence descended, then Seamus Heaney’s deep Irish accent filled the Glenn Auditorium. “When I am at Emory, I feel like I am in a friend’s house,” the poet said, who gave a reading of selected works at Emory on the evening of March 2. It was to be his last visit.

Heaney, recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Literature, died August 30 at age seventy-four. His connection with the university spanned three decades, beginning in 1981 with his first reading at Emory. He returned in 1988 to be the lecturer for the inaugural Richard Ellmann Lectures in Modern Literature, and in 2003, Emory’s Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL) acquired a significant portion of his papers. Materials include manuscripts, photos, recordings of readings and lectures, and personal and literary correspondence containing exchanges with many other poets whose papers are also housed at MARBL.

“The loss of Seamus Heaney is a loss to an international community of poetry that knows no boundaries,” says MARBL Director Rosemary Magee 82phd. “At Emory, we feel this loss very personally, as he was a member of our community. His visits, his poetry readings, his papers—his very being gave him a presence here that was meaningful and tangible.”

The collection of Heaney’s papers will be the subject of a major exhibition in 2014, “Seamus Heaney: The Music of What Happens” curated by Geraldine Higgins, associate professor of English and director of the Irish Studies Program at Emory. Heaney had agreed to come for the February 2014 opening with his wife, Marie.

Heaney was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1995 “for works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth, which exalt everyday miracles and the living past.”

Poet Kevin Young, Atticus Haygood Professor of English and Creative Writing and curator of literary collections and the Danowski Poetry Library at Emory, was a student of Heaney’s at Harvard. “His was a tremendous spirit that welcomed all into the country of poetry,” Young says, calling his last reading in March at Emory “not only one of the best I have seen him give, but one of the most generous, heartfelt, and downright heroic readings I have ever seen.”

That evening Heaney recounted stories in between reciting his poetry, reading works such as “The Toullund Man,” “Harvest Bow,” and “A Kite for Michael and Christopher.” When he read the latter, he reminisced about flying kites with his children and then writing a poem, which ends: “Before the kite plunges down into the wood/and this line goes useless/take in your two hands, boys, and feel/the strumming, rooted, long-tailed pull of grief./You were born fit for it./Stand in here in front of me/and take the strain.” —Bryan Cronan 14c contributed to this report.

The Grey Album Goes Platinum

The black imagination conducts its escape by way of underground railroads of meaning—a practice we could call the black art of escape. —Kevin Young, The Grey Album

In his 2012 book The Grey Album: On the Blackness of Blackness, Emory’s Kevin Young explores the African American penchant for “storying”—an artful transformation, or wholesale manufacture, of truth that finds expression across cultural forms, particularly music and poetry. Widely noted for its grand scope and deft critical maneuvers among genres and generations, the nonfiction book has won the 2013 PEN Open Book Award, given “for an exceptional book-length work of literature by an author of color published in 2012.”

Judges called The Grey Album, published by Graywolf Press, “an ambitious, exhilarating, impassioned work of black literary and cultural criticism, unlike any other—an inspired, sweeping book that deserves to be savored and celebrated.”

The PEN Literary Awards are among the country’s most prestigious, given for more than fifty years by the PEN American Center, a leading literary and human rights organization.

Earlier this year, The Grey Album was a finalist in the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism and was named a New York Times Notable Book for 2012.

Young, Atticus Haygood Professor of Creative Writing and English and curator of literary collections and the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library at Emory, is the author of seven books of poetry and editor of seven other collections, including Arden: A Chronicle of the Amistad Rebels (2011), winner of an American Book Award.

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Eating Evolution

If one of our paleolithic ancestors wandered into a big-chain grocery store, he would no doubt be astonished by the endless aisles of brightly colored boxes, jars, and packages.

He would, however, instinctively know something that we modern-day humans are just beginning to fully grasp: almost none of those tempting items is actually food.

In a paper published recently in the *Journal of Anthropological Research*, Emory anthropologist George Armelagos, Goodrich C. White Professor of Anthropology, explores some of the ways in which our diet has spun catastrophically off track. For the first 99.75 percent of our three million years on earth, we were hunter-gatherers—a term that has become cliché in diet and nutrition circles, but like most clichés, with a basis in fact. During about the last ten seconds—in evolutionary terms—the dawn of agriculture, the settling of populations, and finally the industrialized food revolution about two hundred years ago have thrown our bodies into mass confusion. Armelagos is among many experts who feel these factors are the culprits behind the obesity epidemic and its attending societal ills.

But we hominids can still channel our inner hunter-gatherers, if we try. Here’s a start.

Six Ways to Eat Like Our Ancestors

1. **If it’s in a box, bag, or plastic wrap, it’s probably not food.** Processed foods are high in calories and contain only a tiny fraction of the nutritional value of “whole” foods, such as fresh vegetables, lean meats, fish and shellfish, nuts, and seeds. As Armelagos points out, “There aren’t any straw-berries in a Strawberry Fruit Gusher.” A one-ounce serving of Gushers has the same number of calories as a ten-ounce portion of strawberries, costs 330 percent more than the real thing, and has none of its nutrients.

2. **Mix it up.** Unfortunately, industrialization has dramatically decreased the variety of foods available to us; in fact, Armelagos says, the United Nations estimates that 75 percent of the genetic diversity of crop plants was lost in the twentieth century. Still, it’s very possible, and good for you, to eat a multiplicity of fresh vegetables, fruits, and lean meats on a daily basis. Skip the cereal and whip up some eggs—with a side of blueberries.

3. **Be calorie conscious.** One of the biggest problems with processed food, says Armelagos, is that it literally goes down too easy. “Industrialization of the food system has made an overwhelming abundance of inexpensive, high-energy-dense foods—sugar and fats—available to populations in some areas of the world,” he writes. “The disjunction between the small amount of physical energy they expend to obtain significant numbers of calories has created the modern obesity epidemic.” Even making a smoothie at home by blending fresh fruits throws off the calories consumed-to-calories burned ratio, because it requires more energy to break down whole fruits.

4. **Make a list, check it twice.** According to Armelagos, at 4:00 p.m. each day, 41 percent of Americans don’t know what’s for dinner—a sure recipe for hurried, unhealthy choices. Plan simple, balanced meals ahead of time, and don’t waver; an estimated 30 to 40 percent of the US food supply is wasted, and all the money it costs along with it. And don’t shop between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.—studies show you’re much more likely to be hungry and buy high-calorie foods near dinnertime.

5. **Don’t be corny.** Corn is so ubiquitous that it’s difficult to avoid. We all know about corn sweeteners in breads and spaghetti sauce, but did you know a typical fast-food cheese-burger is 52 percent corn? Salad dressing, 65 percent? A milkshake, 78 percent? Some 30 percent of our beef supply is fed exclusively on corn, which means the animals’ tissue takes on the same chemical signature—and so does ours when we eat it. But the availability of grass-fed meats is increasing, along with the understanding that that means everyone is eating like they’re supposed to.

6. **Open wide—your wallet, that is.** Armelagos cites several studies that establish a link between socioeconomic status and eating habits, finding that lower-income families are more likely to turn to “high-energy dense foods” because they are inexpensive and convenient. But even for families watching their budget, quality food is a good investment in health. —P.P.P.
Fresh Vision

Emory welcomes the class of 2017

RUTHIE SIDELL ’17C Grew up around the corner from Emory, but as a freshman this fall, she is seeing the university from a whole new perspective.

For Sidell, “seeing” is not to be taken for granted. She was born legally blind due to congenital cataracts in both her eyes and had corrective surgery as an infant. When her family moved to Atlanta so that her father could accept a faculty position at Emory, she was treated at the Emory Eye Center by three different ophthalmologists: Scott Lambert, who implanted intraocular lenses in her eyes when she was fifteen, allowing her to set aside the thick glasses she had worn for years; oculoplastic specialist Ted Wojno, who surgically repaired a droopy eyelid; and glaucoma specialist Allen Beck, who continues to manage her glaucoma today.

“Because of the Eye Center, I have always known what amazing people and programs Emory has,” Sidell says. “I could not pass up the opportunity to come here and experience it.”

As a student at Druid Hills High School, Sidell wrote a paper on underage drinking that was a finalist in the Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition. As an intern for an online magazine, she also started a project called the Why Are You Beautiful Project, which caught fire and inspired hundreds of girls to share photos of themselves holding signs about their personal triumphs. And one of Sidell’s own photos, taken of her best friend, was selected for a student exhibit at the High Museum of Art.

Although school has often been difficult for Sidell because of her vision challenges, she is thrilled with her Emory experience so far. “I love it,” she says. “I’m meeting so many new people.” Sidell is interested in studying psychology and child mental health in particular, and also hopes to continue to grow and develop as a writer. She would like to study abroad in Italy or Greece. For now, though, she is happy just to look around and take it all in—new friends, her dorm, her freshman class schedule, and the Emory campus—with near-perfect vision.—PPP

JOHN LATTING, DEAN OF ADMISSION, ON THE CLASS OF 2017: “When I look at this class, I see students that are well prepared to benefit from Emory academically and socially, and who will also engage with their fellow students and faculty to make an impact on our community. . . . I am very excited for the rest of the Emory community to meet them.”

THE CLASS

EMORY COLLEGE

NO OF APPLICATIONS
17,705

NO ENROLLED
1,376

OXFORD COLLEGE

NO OF APPLICATIONS
6,889

NO ENROLLED
505

GEOGRAPHY

SOUTHEAST 30%

MID-ATLANTIC 23%

WEST 11%

NEW ENGLAND 8%

MIDWEST 7%

SOUTHWEST 5%

INTERNATIONAL

55%

45%

57%

55%

43%

45%

ETHNICITY

CAUCASIAN 42%

ASIAN, ASIAN AMERICAN 32%

PACIFIC ISLANDER 11%

BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN 12%

LATINO / HISPANIC 8%

DID NOT IDENTIFY 5%

NATIVE AMERICAN 1%
Emory has been ranked No. 20 among the nation’s top universities in the new 2014 Best Colleges guidebook from US News & World Report.

Emory was listed as No. 19 among national universities offering the “best value” to students based on a combination of academic quality and the average level of need-based financial aid. The university also was cited for its socio-economic diversity.

Goizueta Business School, which is ranked separately from the university’s main undergraduate program based on a peer survey of deans and senior faculty, was No. 13 in the undergraduate business rankings.

Emory has done well in a variety of national surveys that convey aspects of the university’s identity, from the strength of its academic programs to the quality of faculty research to the value of an Emory education and residential experience for students and their families.

The university has been cited in recent months as one of the world’s top research universities (Leiden Ranking), having one of the best college libraries (Princeton Review), being among the greenest campuses (Sierra Club), being a best value among private universities (Kiplinger’s Personal Finance), and as a top university contributing to the public good (Washington Monthly).

“Emory’s eminent faculty, engaged scholars, and diverse and rich academic environment have established Emory as a leading center of discovery, teaching, and learning,” says Claire Sterk, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “External recognition is gratifying, but our focus continues to be on providing the best possible academic experience for our students.”

Game On

**Eagles Are Finding the Balance Between Academics and Athletics**

With soccer, volleyball, and cross-country teams actively competing in their fall seasons, Emory’s scholar athletes are passing, punting, assisting, blocking, and sprinting—as well as studying.

Soccer stars Lauren Gorodetsky ’14C, a psychology major from Palm City, Florida, and Dylan Price ’15C, a business administration and Russian major from Great Falls, Virginia, are typical of the university’s athletes, who fit practices, games, and travel into already tight schedules of classes and other extracurriculars.

Gorodetsky, one of the top soccer players in the nation and the first three-time All-American soccer player in Emory’s history, was named D3Soccer.com’s Defensive Player of the Year and played for both the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and D3Soccer.com All-America First Team. She’s also a member of Emory’s softball team and writes for the Emory Wheel.

Price, a two-time honorable mention All-UAAC selection, was an academic all-district pick last year and maintains a solid GPA.

“Emory is a perfect combination of great academics, competitive athletics, and a friendly community,” he says.

“The athletic accomplishment of our students is noteworthy on its own,” says Director of Athletics and Recreation Tim Downes, “but it’s the academic achievement that sets the Emory Eagles apart and continues to validate why athletics in higher education matter.”

Both soccer teams are ready for a winning year. After advancing to the title game of the 2012 NCAA Division III Championships last year, women’s soccer head coach Sue Patberg has more than twenty returning players. Top scorers include Veronica Romero ’15C, a Spanish and Latin American studies major from Tucker, and Emily Feldman ’15C, an international studies major from Highland Park, Illinois.

“It’s definitely a challenge to figure out a routine with schoolwork combined with practices usually four times a week and two games, leaving us one day off,” Feldman says. “However, finding that balance is possible,
while succeeding at the highest level on the volleyball court,” McDowell says. “The key for our team is that we always put academics first, no matter what the circumstances are. I believe that my job as a coach is to help them grow in every area of their lives, and volleyball is the platform on which I get to do just that.”

The cross-country men’s team hopes to make its mark this year with returning players like Lukas Mees 16c, a psychology major from Marion, Iowa, the program’s Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year who earned an at-large spot to the D-III Championships last season.

“I’ve been excited about this season since I crossed the finish line at nationals last year. We have an incredible incoming class, which is doubling our roster size with some very talented freshmen,” says Mees, who stays busy training, working for Emory Reads, and studying for premed classes.

Head Coach John Curtin also has strong returning runners in Eddie Mulder 14B, a business major from Pompano Beach, Florida, and Hank Ashforth 14c, an nBB major from Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, both of whom captured All-South/Southeast Region honors last year.

The volleyball team last year made its seventeenth consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament and took its third University Athletic Association title. Head Coach Jenny McDowell says her players spend three to four hours a day on athletic-related activities, travel most weekends, play thirty-five matches each fall, and still have a team GPA of 3.49.

“They have an unbelievable ability to prioritize the academic demands of Emory which makes being a student athlete an amazing experience.”

The men’s soccer team hopes to earn another trip to the NCAA Tournament. Head coach Sonny Travis’s returning players include leading scorer Price as well as Noah Rosen 15c, a neuroscience and behavioral biology (nBB) major from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and, Abe Hannigan 16c, of Montrose, New York, who is back as goalkeeper.

The cross-country runner Tamara Surtees (left) starts her senior season; soccer standout Dylan Price (below) says Emory’s program is a winning combination.

A Personal Quest

Good luck and favorable currents buoyed sixty-four-year-old Diana Nyad 71c this time around, as she became the first person confirmed to swim from Cuba to Florida without the protection of a shark cage.

Nyad began her fifth attempt at the 110-mile swim on Labor Day weekend, leaving from Havana the morning of Saturday, August 31, and finishing on Monday afternoon, walking ashore in Key West to cheering crowds and media crews.

A long-distance swimmer, motivational speaker, and author, Nyad was dismissed from Emory as a sophomore after attempting to parachute out of her fourth-floor dorm window. Nyad finished college at Lake Forest, where she graduated in 1973.

As a distance swimmer, she has set numerous records. The latest—a personal quest for more than three decades—required close to fifty-three hours in the ocean on her two-day, two-night swim. Previous attempts had been thwarted by an asthma attack, storms, strong countercurrents, and jellyfish stings. On this swim, Nyad wore a special suit to protect her as well as a gel to create a barrier against the venom.

Because of her time, which was faster than even Nyad expected, there have been questions raised about her grabbing or getting onto a boat, but she and her team insist that the swim was “squeaky clean,” and that strong currents worked in her favor this time. Sharks and jellyfish were largely absent on this attempt as well.

Congratulations poured in to her Twitter feed and Facebook wall, including a tweet from President Obama: “Congratulations to Diana Nyad. Never give up on your dreams.”

For more information about Emory athletics, including game schedules, visit www.emoryathletics.com.
Chinese 201:
Intermediate Chinese

Course Description: An intermediate Chinese language course, Chinese 201 gives students greater fluency in spoken and written Chinese. It demands a constant blend of speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing, with quizzes almost every day.

Faculty CV: Senior lecturer Hong Li received her undergraduate degree in Chinese language and literature at Beijing Teachers College and her master’s and PhD in Chinese linguistics from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. With a particular interest in the relationship between Chinese linguistics and society as well as second-language acquisition, Li joined the Emory faculty in 1996 to establish the university’s Chinese program.

Today’s Lecture: The computer isn’t working, so Li Laoshi (“Teacher Li” in Chinese) tells the students they will have to participate more actively than ever. The new grammar structures introduced during the class are challenging, and students practice them through descriptions of their Labor Day weekend activities.

Quotes to Note: “Did you know, in China, teachers make their students stand and say “Laoshi hao” (“Hi, teacher”) at the beginning of every class? And that they don’t sit down until they are told? Don’t worry, though, I’m not going to make you do all that. Just one resounding greeting will do. Everyone!”

Students Say: “I started learning Chinese last year and felt like I’d only just begun. It is such an interesting and important language, so I thought I would continue on and try to speak more fluently.” —Tay Kim 16C

—Abigail Averill 14C
The Traveling Mr. Woodruff

Each day, hundreds of students, faculty, and visitors to Emory pass within a few feet of Robert W. Woodruff, immortalized by the familiar bronze statue that stands in front of the library also bearing his name. Most take for granted that the likeness of one of the university’s most prominent benefactors would be right at home in such a central spot.

What many probably don’t know is that this is not the Woodruff statue’s original home; in fact, the sculpture is probably one of the only pieces of public art in Atlanta to have been unveiled not once, but twice.

The surprising history of the sculpture was recently brought to the attention of Emory Magazine by Atlanta high school teacher John Stenger, who is writing a book about his late stepfather, Henry Setter.

Setter was an early protege of William Thompson, a professor of sculpture at the University of Georgia from 1964 to 1989. Stenger’s research revealed that Thompson was a highly influential instructor who inspired hundred of students over the years.

A decade after Woodruff’s death, in 1995, the statue was removed to a warehouse to be cleaned and restored. Thompson, who died that same year, never knew that his statue would not return to its original location.

“Thompson’s work had not been entirely popular among some of Woodruff’s siblings,” Stenger writes. “In his sculpture, the corporate chieftain is caught in a contemplative moment. Some felt he looked too pensive.”

The Thompson statue remained in a dark warehouse for several years, until its lonely fate came to the attention of William Fox 79PhD, then senior vice president for institutional advancement. Fox reached out to arts center officials, who quickly agreed to “loan” the sculpture to Emory. “We were thrilled to death to obtain it,” Fox said.

In 2000, a second unveiling ceremony brought the generous Mr. Woodruff into the light once more. Now a fixture at the heart of campus, the statue is well maintained, regularly decorated by students during Emory’s Spirit Week and Homecoming celebrations, and generally surrounded by the footfalls and chatter of a vibrant university community.

A small plaque at the base of the statue pronounces the work “on generous loan from the Woodruff Arts Center.” But one can’t help but wonder if both Woodruff and Thompson would not be pleased to consider the statue rightfully at home. Woodruff may look serious and inscrutable in Thompson’s rendering, but sit for a while before him on a sunny day, and you might just imagine you saw a bronze eye wink.—P.P.P.

Stone Cold Inspiration

They defy students to goof off when they’re supposed to be studying.

Seven Greek statues now preside over the silent study area in the Candler Library building. Among them are a charioteer holding reins, a woman without a head, and two alleged king slayers. Four architectural models of sites in ancient Greece are also installed.

All honor the ten-year anniversary of the renovation of Candler Library. This summer, the Michael C. Carlos Museum pulled the works out of storage to be installed in the foyer and around the Matheson Reading Room for teaching as well as exhibition—and inspiration—purposes.

The statues are copies of works in museums scattered throughout Europe, says Todd Lamkin, director of collection services for the Carlos, cast in an era when travel and time were too dear to go and see the originals. The works are on loan from New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art.
Just Blowing Smoke?

Fears of a ‘crack-baby epidemic’ look to have been exaggerated, but the impact of alcohol abuse on babies is not, says an Emory expert in prenatal drug exposure.

**IN THE 1980s, THE MEDIA BEGAN REPORTING on a new drug that was “taking over” America’s inner cities—crack cocaine. Doctors and other experts weighed in on the devastating effects this form of cocaine had on pregnant women and their newborns, which they said resulted in markedly higher levels of birth defects, mental and emotional disabilities, SIDS, and shaky, irritable, drug-addicted babies.**

Hysteria about the so-called “crack-baby epidemic” spread. These damaged children were expected to overwhelm schools, social services, and societal safety nets with their special needs, ultimately creating a “new underclass.” Drug-addicted pregnant women were prosecuted as drug dealers, child abusers, even murderers.

Three decades later, most of these doomsday predictions have not proven true. Only subtle changes were observed in the brain of cocaine-exposed research subjects, many of whom successfully went on to work or college.

No particular evidence of widespread, severe social and emotional deficits has emerged, says Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Claire Coles, director of Emory’s Maternal Substance Abuse and Child Development Program, who was featured in a recent “Retro Report” New York Times video, “Revisiting the Crack Babies’ Epidemic That Was Not.”

Coles, who has long studied the effects of teratogens on behavior and development from infancy through young adulthood, was an early skeptic of the crack baby phenomenon after her own research didn’t back up the claims that were being made about babies born to cocaine-addicted mothers.

“We’d seen the effects of alcohol and other substances on children, so we were certainly open to the idea that cocaine might be a problem,” she says. “But the effects didn’t seem consistent with the action of the drug itself.”

Cocaine, Coles says, is a stimulant, so cocaine-addicted babies, far from being agitated, would have been drowsy. “What you get when stimulants wear off is the crash, the system is depleted. You’d get sleepy babies,” she says. “What people were observing was the effects of prematurity on babies. Drug addicts do not tend to have good prenatal care; it’s not conducive to a good pregnancy. Preterm babies, in general, are thin and shaking and make quite dramatic television. You could have taken any premature baby and gotten the same image.”

To be substance-specific in addiction research is difficult, she says, since abusers often use multiple drugs “People got very focused that cocaine was the cause, instead of substance abuse, maternal lifestyle, social issues,” Coles says.

The initial research, which involved just a few dozen babies, should “never have been overgeneralized the way it was,” she says. In fact, cocaine exposure in utero appeared to have no effect on the IQ of the babies, but does have some lasting effect on the children’s abilities to self-regulate during periods of stress.

Coles, who works at Emory’s Briarcliff property, sees patients every week in the neurodevelopmental and drug exposure clinic, which keeps a database of thousands and focuses on treatment, prevention, and research.

Georgia provides funding to the clinic to do prevention work all over the state with schools and families, says Coles, who also works with hospitals in the Ukraine on drug and alcohol exposure during pregnancy.

Cocaine abuse peaked in the late 1980s, and now the trending substances are methamphetamine and prescription drugs—largely opiates, she says. While illegal drugs and many prescription drugs can be dangerous in pregnancy, the main substances abused by expectant mothers are cigarettes and alcohol, she says.

Smoking can result in low birth weight, preterm births, and problems with auditory processing.

“Alcohol, however, is more of a problem, and always has been. More alcohol is abused and there are much more severe effects,” says Coles, who began studying babies born at Grady Hospital in the 1970s during graduate school, and was one of the first researchers to identify and record the physiological characteristics of babies with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS)—lower nasal bridge, bow flattened in upper lip, and small, “pinched” eyes. Babies with FAS also are usually impaired cognitively. “Neuroimaging of adults exposed prenatally to regular alcohol consumption shows very clear effects on the brain, distinct from those who were not exposed,” she says.—M.J.L. ■

**RETROSPECTIVE:** This photograph from the book Cocaine True, Cocaine Blue by photographer Eugene Richards shows a pregnant woman smoking crack in Brooklyn in 1988. The “crack baby epidemic” forecast to follow the surge of crack cocaine use in the 1980s never materialized, experts now say.
Bee Keepers

Even flowers need their sweethearts.

Global declines in pollinators such as bees could have a bigger impact on flowering plants and foods than previously realized, found an Emory ecologist.

The interactions between bumblebees and larkspur wildflowers in Colorado’s Rocky Mountains were the focus of the study, published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Most pollinators visit several plant species during their lifetime, but often they will display what is called “floral fidelity” during shorter time periods, says ecologist Berry Brosi, who led the study. They’ll tend to focus on one plant while it’s in bloom, then a few weeks later move on to the next species in bloom. “You might think of them as serial monogamists,” he says.

Reduced competition among pollinators disrupts floral fidelity, or specialization, among the remaining bees in the system, which leads to less successful plant reproduction. “These wildflowers produce one-third fewer seeds in the absence of just one bumblebee species,” Brosi says. “That’s alarming.”

The experiments were conducted at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. Much of the “bee team” was made up of Emory undergraduate students, funded by the college’s Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory grants and NSF support.—Carol Clark

MEDICINE

Pushing the Immune System into Overdrive

CYTOKINES ARE SMALL, CELL-SIGNALING proteins with the ability to regulate the body’s immune response. Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology Jacques Galipeau saw their potential to treat chronic infections, infectious diseases, and cancer through enhanced immune response therapy.

But this immune modulator needed to be able to be harnessed, controlled, and directed. “This is possible due to a remarkable new class of biological agents we invented: the GIFT fusokines,” Galipeau says.

The acronym is derived from GM-CSF Interleukin Fusion Transgene (GIFT), since the technology combines one immune system signaling molecule (GM-CSF, a cytokine) with a second, an interleukin. The number of the interleukin, say, IL-4, gives the fusokine its name: GIFT4.

Galipeau, director of the Emory Personalized Immunotherapy Center, and colleagues have engineered several of these GIFT fusokines, and continue to develop more. “The idea we had was that you could take normal hormones in the immune system, such as cytokines, and use the tools of genetic engineering to find an effective way to use them to augment the immune system,” he says, in this case, by fusing two functionally unrelated cytokines.

The resulting fusokines “dock” into recep-

tors scattered on the outside of immune cells, and, as if flipping a switch, turn them on. “Because now you have these Siamese twins, each recruits its own receptor at the cell surface, physically causing receptor complexes to cluster together,” he says. “Think of them as electrical switches that are usually never together. This leads to a huge zap that occurs in immune cells where they become hyperactive.”

Since there are no reciprocal checkpoints to turn them off, the fusokines create huge gains in function, arising from cellular machinery that didn’t evolve to interact in that way. “The cells overreact and there is really nothing to shut them off,” Galipeau says. “It’s like giving them a five-hour energy drink. They don’t become malignant, but they become hyperactive. There is a profound immune augmentation effect.”

For example, GIFT4, which Galipeau invented with Jiusheng Deng of the School of Medicine, works by turning B cells, which help the body protect against cancers, into “the Hulk.” They can also boost a vaccine’s effectiveness, and may prove helpful for people with cancer or infectious diseases such as HIV or Hepatitis C in clearing the virus.

With GIFT7, invented by Galipeau and Hsiang-Chuan Hsieh 15M, T-cells are “exquisitely responsive,” as is the thymus, an immune gland behind the chest bone. As one gets older, the thymus shrivels up, which makes older people more prone to shingles as well as other infections. But GIFT7 has been shown to restore the thymus of elderly mice, giving them the immune system of youngsters. This helps to fight cancer, and restores T-cell function to fight viruses such as AIDS.

Galipeau’s third GIFT, GIFT9, a fusion of GM-CSF and IL-9, promotes and activates mast cell proliferation, useful to augment the body’s immune response to vaccines.

“The GIFT program is one of the most promising biologics projects we have under way, and one I am happy to be involved with,” says Cliff Michaels, licensing associate at the Office of Technology Transfer. “Dr. Galipeau has a keen eye focused on developing these further and doing the critical work necessary to move them to the clinic.”

“You can’t beat Mother Nature playing the game by her rules,” Galipeau says. “By engineering these fusion cytokines, we’ve thrown the rule book in the trash bin.”—M.J.L.
One of the first things Paul Simon did during his visit to Emory in September was raise doubt about his qualifications to present the 2013 Richard Ellmann Lectures in Modern Literature—and, just as quickly, dispel it.

“I’m not a lecturer, I’m a songwriter,” he told the rapt crowd in Glenn Memorial Auditorium.

But the award-winning American artist who so deftly transforms poetry into lyrics, songs into storytelling, did speak, and sing, and perform elegant, familiar tunes and wrestle with challenging artistic questions, sharing his insights into a career that has spanned fifty years with music that has touched generations.

And so began a three-day celebration, a musical journey exploring the literature of songwriting and the mysteries of creativity as Simon visited Emory for the twelfth series of Ellmann Lectures. Established in 1988, the Ellmann Lecture Series honors the late Richard Ellmann, Emory’s first Robert W. Woodruff Professor and a noted literary critic and biographer.

Simon’s campus appearance included four public events: two lectures—generously layered with musical moments—a conversation with former US Poet Laureate Billy Collins, and a concluding concert at the Schwartz Center for Performing Arts.

Introducing Simon’s first lecture, Ellmann Lectures Director Joseph Skibell, professor of English and creative writing, noted that “from the dawn of civilization, great literature has been sung—the Torah, the Psalms, the Koran, the Homeric epics were all meant to be sung. . . . For nearly fifty years, Paul Simon’s songs have been doing the work of great literature.”

For his first appearance, “Sailing on an Endless Sea: My Life as a Songwriter,” Simon presented a musical memoir, sharing signature “Kodachrome” moments from his own life. On writing “The Sound of Silence,” for instance, Simon offered this insight: “I was still living at home . . . and would sit with my guitar in the tiled bathroom with the lights off and the tap running. ‘Hello, darkness, my old friend’ was not a metaphor . . . I was literally sitting in the dark. Emotionally, the song was influenced by JFK’s assassination. I had no inkling I had written a song that would last fifty years. I was twenty-one years old.”

A story to conjure the next time you hear the unmistakable minor notes that signal the welcoming of darkness—a song that, thanks to Paul Simon, has become our old friend.—Kimber Williams
HIS WORDS: “The purpose of art is the nourishment of the culture.”—Paul Simon

ART AND CRAFT: Former US Poet Laureate Billy Collins (right) to Paul Simon: “Have you ever written poetry without intending to set it to music?” Simon (with a chuckle): “Yeah. But it wasn’t that good.”

TIME TO SHINE: For his final appearance, Simon shared a few of his best-loved classics, with a set list that ranged from “The Sound of Silence” to a surprise cover of George Harrison’s “Here Comes the Sun”—which Simon noted is one of his favorites.
Higher Ed 2.0

Emory finds its voice in the national ‘relevance debate’

story by Susan Carini '04
illustration by Dante Terzigni
but it had the intended effect. On September 9 of last year, a "Newsweek" cover demanded, "Is College a Lousy Investment?"

It is a question that would have been unthinkable in the historic period of growth that higher education experienced in the aftermath of World War II. Then, it was perceived as a public good and not—as some consider it now—a private benefit conferring economic reward.

For close observers of higher education, the negative turn is now decades old, starting after 1970 as critics began voicing concerns over unchecked expansion. In the 1980s and 1990s, the drumbeat continued when the costs of attending college outstripped the economic returns. And certainly since 2008, the pressures on the industry have been accelerated by the economic downturn and shrinking government support for research.

Even before the economy faltered, the US Department of Education issued a 2006 report titled "A Test of Leadership: Charting the Future of US Higher Education." One sentence stands out: "What we have learned . . . makes clear that American higher education has become what, in the business world, would be called a mature enterprise: increasingly risk-averse, at times self-satisfied, and unduly expensive." Issues that higher education sometimes has seemed slow to address include runaway prices, chronic inefficiencies, uneven outcomes, lifetime faculty tenure, arcane research, and scattered authority.

The uncertainty even has breached ivory tower walls. A survey of the American public and of more than a thousand college and university presidents, conducted this past spring by the Pew Research Center in association with the "Chronicle of Higher Education," revealed significant concerns not only about the costs of education but also about its direction and goals.

Harvard colleagues Richard Chait and Clayton M. Christensen famously have taken positions on either side of the relevance debate, as it has come to be known. In the July-August 2011 edition of "Harvard Magazine," Christensen and Michael B. Horn lit the fuse with the article "Colleges in Crisis: Disruptive Change Comes to American Higher Education."

Christensen and Horn point to a failed business model in which—among other things—undergraduate tuition has risen at a 6.3 percent annual rate for nearly the past three decades. That is even faster than the 4.9 percent annual increases in health care costs. For years, philanthropy, earnings off endowment, and federal subsidies made this problem less visible to students and families, but the chickens were coming home to roost, pundits warned.

As traditional universities guarded their eggs, the enrollments of online providers were swelling along with their coffers. Roughly 10 percent of students took at least one online course in 2003, compared with 32 percent today.

That shift, experts say, bears watching. "Typically," write Christensen and Horn, "the existing and established players in a sector do not survive battles of disruptive innovation; upstart companies utilizing the disruption upend them. Rather than recognize these disruptive innovations as exciting new opportunities, the established players characteristically regard them as mere sideshows to their core operations."

The article sparked the rebuttal "Bullish on Private Colleges: On the Enduring Strengths of Institutions of Higher Education," by Chait and Zachary First. In their view, the academy cannot be wholly governed by the strategies and practices of for-profit corporations. "The business mindset conditions outsiders to expect powerful CEOs, comprehensive strategies, precise directives, systematic execution, and rapid response," they write. "Instead, artful leadership on campus unfolds tentatively, ambiguously, gradually, and somewhat obscurely."

To Chait and First, the threat was not coming from for-profit institutions or online providers. Instead, they identified four key risks to traditional universities: expanded authority for two-year colleges to offer four-year degrees; greater resource disparities between four-year colleges and research universities; the possibility that federal and state financial aid will become performance-based—payable upon commencement, not enrollment; and the prospect that the wealthiest colleges and universities virtually will eliminate undergraduate tuition.

But the authors' advice, ultimately, was to accept the current system's oddities and outright contradictions. "Welcome to Wonderland," they said—although not everyone was reassured.

CHANGING the conversation

What factors allow Emory to feel calm amid this storm? President James Wagner believes we are at a moment when universities need to address societal expectations, especially with regard to discouraging some students' and parents' overemphasis on immediate gratification—the shorthand for which is, Can you get me a job immediately after graduation?

Though creating a path for students to be meaningfully employed always will be a key emphasis, an Emory education is more than vocational training, more than private benefit. The president, however, acknowledges that society has come to devalue the role of universities as leaders of thought innovation and creativity.

"We must attend not only to what society wants, but its needs as well," he says. "Our mission is not to preserve the universities. Instead, we have the opportunity to be knowledge engines serving society."
One of Emory’s differentiators is that it strives to be a research university infused with the liberal arts. Even as that remains an unbeatable combination to many potential students, there are those—according to Doug Bowman, professor of marketing at Goizueta Business School—who consider Emory to be in the difficult business of “selling the intangible.” Bowman recommends that schools link the “learning-how-to-learn skills”—Emory’s proud liberal arts base—to tangible outcomes.

The pressures on the university’s research function mirror those on the education side of the house. For instance, any number of people ask, Can Emory’s world-renowned research solve the immediate problems of illness and disease?

“There is less understanding than ever,” says the president, “of the sometimes complex, time-consuming, and nonlinear paths that must be forged to such solutions.”

Despite the market and societal forces at work and attempts by the media to sound warning bells about higher education’s future, Emory is charting a future consistent with the university’s past, and yet alive to opportunity—what Claire Sterk, appointed provost last January, calls “healthy change.”

Leaders share a conviction that Emory can play a role in championing, in the president’s words, nothing less than “a reawakening of the purpose of universities.”

“That,” he says, “is where we can be disruptive. We must create, preserve, teach, and apply knowledge in the service of humanity. That is our only rule. We will bring the best of the past and the opportunities of the future to doing that.”

Wagner points to a number of ways in which Emory already is being disruptive, including a financial support program for middle-class families, the many areas of partnership and collaboration with Georgia Institute of Technology, and a renewed emphasis on and commitment to the humanities across disciplines and programs.

Emory leaders also have continually evaluated the university’s business practices, believing that change in this realm could better support future efforts on the academic and research sides. One quiet force behind Emory’s gradual, deliberate evolution is Mike Mandl, executive vice president of business and administration and the primary architect of the university’s operations process.

Cleaving to Emory’s intended course is a constant theme for Mandl. “There are great opportunities to innovate consistent with our mission,” he says.

One of those innovations involves the exploration of online education and its potential for the future. According to Sterk, Emory has been engaged in online teaching and learning for more than a decade, especially in the schools of business, public health, and theology.

“Sometimes, online education is presented as being in response to having a student generation socialized and raised with technology,” Sterk says. “However, studies on teaching and learning as well as our students’ own voices show that it is part of a portfolio of teaching and learning, as opposed to the solution.”

In September 2012, Emory and sixteen other institutions signed an agreement with the online education provider Coursera. The latter is going gangbusters; a recent blog post ticked off its new additions, which included twenty-nine new schools, ninety-two new courses, and five languages. For a company that made its first course offerings in March 2012, the growth is remarkable. They even coined a term for their students—Courserians.

Emory has begun the process of determining what existing courses may be best suited to online. Lynn Zimmerman, senior vice provost for undergraduate and continuing education, acknowledges that it was a whirlwind relationship at the start with Coursera and that the university had three weeks to define its first three courses—commonly referred to as MOOCs, or massive open online courses—which ended up being on digital sound design, immigration and US citizenship, and AIDS.

For Steve Everett, professor of music and past director of the Center for Faculty Development and Excellence, the experience of teaching the course on digital sound design was like nothing else
in his career. The classroom course always has been small, consisting of roughly fifteen students; online, Everett had forty-two thousand students. Close to two thousand enrollees had sufficient mastery of the material that they could be considered TAs helping Everett teach the course. Moreover, his online students asked him challenging new questions, ones he had not heard in years of teaching.

To Everett, there is an altruistic component to Emory’s online presence and the idea of bringing knowledge to places in the world where it could not go otherwise. He also mentions the favorable ways in which online courses can extend a professor’s research profile, which in turn benefits the home institution.

The litmus test for Everett is whether “online can be as good or better than the classroom experience.” And in that regard, initial signs are good—at least according to anecdotal reports.

Nicole Dzuris 15PH got her introduction to Emory online. Dzuris—now a first-year student in environmental epidemiology at the School of Public Health—took Emory’s AIDS course, offered through Coursera just after she had applied to Emory. She is well schooled in online learning, having taken courses on the food system, vaccines, principles of public health, and sustainability from the University of California, University of Illinois, and Johns Hopkins University. At the time Dzuris took the AIDS course, she lived in Seoul and found it convenient to watch the course on her phone as she took the subway to work.

What are the advantages of online ed? Dzuris talks about the ease of sampling classes to see if the future investment of time is warranted and the ability to replay lectures when needed. In Dzuris’s eyes, the AIDS class was “amazingly effective advertising for Emory.” Dzuris couldn’t come to the open house at the School of Public Health after she was accepted because she was still abroad; no matter. The AIDS course introduced her to faculty members beyond Kimberly Hagan, the instructor of record, and provided “a very warm welcome to Emory.”

Zimmerman reports that the relationship with Coursera has settled into a mature union. Emory’s process of choosing courses has been defined: the Faculty Advisory Committee on Online Education (FACOE), with representation from all the schools, makes recommendations to the provost. When an open call went out to faculty to join the committee, eighty-four people raised their hands, from which fifteen went on to serve along with ex officio members from University Technology Services and Emory’s Center for Interactive Teaching.

And Emory has heeded Bowman’s advice when it comes to identifying online courses. To pass muster with FACOE, each proposal must include a video of the instructor. Content must be presented in fifteen-minute segments, interspersed with quizzes and activities. And Emory’s online faculty are being coached by a Shakespearean actor—Kevin Quarmby, assistant professor of English at Oxford College.

Faculty also have begun to experiment with “flipping the classroom,” or using online delivery for more traditional in-class content, such as lectures, so that class time may be devoted to interactive discussion, problem solving, and group work. The reversal process “naturally builds up the skills that will improve our online offerings,” Bowman says.

For the president, ensuring faculty growth and student success is important, but he also is interested in how online learning will affect Emory’s community. It should never be, in his words, that we “have an internal and external community. Instead, fourteen thousand students will benefit from the input of hundreds of thousands of students if we do this right.”

CREDIT where it’s due

Another Emory partner in the online realm is 2U, or Semester Online. 2U announced for-credit courses in April of this year. Students who enroll in 2U classes pay the same amount as students attending in person, and potentially they could take enough courses to earn a degree this way.

Emory’s fall courses—which are on drugs and behavior, and baseball in American culture. According to Sterk, “The Emory courses focus on topics that show our distinctiveness.” Emory’s Course Atlas lists Semester Online courses available to Emory students at partner institutions, including Boston College, Northwestern, University of North Carolina at...
Chapel Hill, Notre Dame, and Washington University in Saint Louis.

Reliable assessment is critical. Student attrition is as high as 90 percent for some MOOCs, and remains a problem even in smaller courses when compared with classroom learning. David Jordan, Emory's director of the Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness, says that assessment will be required for Coursera courses; however, Emory's priority will be the Semester Online courses because they are offered for credit. Though Jordan can point to credible research about how online education outcomes sometimes outpace traditional classroom learning, he acknowledges that schools involved in Semester Online have a unique opportunity.

“No assessments of online learning yet have been done by a consortium of schools at the quality level of Emory and our Semester Online partners,” he says. Each school will send its own faculty and student surveys at the end of the fall term, including questions from Semester Online about the online platform and its effectiveness. The partner schools then will share data with one another.

Still, online and for-credit is complicated, and becomes especially so when those courses come from an online provider, because that encroaches on traditional territory of universities. It looked for a time as if online providers would successfully push universities to award academic credit to students in MOOCs created by those third-party providers. But a recent headline in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* read, “The MOOC ‘Revolution’ May Not Be as Disruptive as Some Had Imagined.” According to reporter Steve Kolowich, “Political, regulatory, administrative, and faculty barriers to the kind of unfettered online education that MOOC promoters originally envisioned have proved quite high, and it’s starting to look as if what they have to offer to universities may be technology tools and services that are more helpful than revolutionary.”

And that is exactly what has unfolded close to home: Georgia Institute of Technology recently made the front page of the Sunday *New York Times* by offering a master’s degree in computer science through MOOC courses for a fraction of the on-campus cost—$6,600 rather than $45,000. Georgia Tech will provide the content and professors and receive 60 percent of the revenue, while Udacity—its online partner—will provide the computer platform and course assistants and receive 40 percent. The projected budget for the program, which will start in January, is $3.1 million—including $2 million donated by AT&T, which will use the program to train employees and find potential hires.

The *Times* article quotes Terry W. Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council on Education, who notes, “Georgia Tech is exceptionally important because it’s a prestigious institution offering an important degree at very low cost with a direct connection to a Fortune 100 corporation that will use it to fill their pipeline. It addresses a lot of the issues about universities that the public cares about. But how good and how transferable it is remains to be seen.”

Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson recently swapped stories about online education with Wagner during a broader conversation about the partnership between Emory and Tech. They agreed that online education must be handled with care, but the potential advantages are exciting—including the diversity of students it can create, such as working professionals taking the same course with undergraduates.

“It’s an experiment,” Peterson said. “If it works, it will open up the possibility that students can have an international experience anywhere on the planet and not risk falling behind. It opens up the possibility that we could have more students without having to expand facilities.”

When online delivers quality consistent with Emory’s mission, Sterk is a supporter. “It is not Coursera or 2U,” she says. “Rather, it is our mission expressed through these means that gives us a natural advantage.”

For Emory, it appears, progress is not about revolution, but evolution. On the one hand, the university is flipping classrooms and developing Courserians. Yet it remains true to an identity and mission forged during the better part of two centuries.

“We are called upon to safeguard and advance the value of thriving processes of scholarship, discovery, and innovation in all their glorious, complex inefficiency,” says Mandl, “despite tremendous upheaval in economics, technology, and society.”

And whatever Emory’s future might look like, its leaders agree on its heart and soul.

“We will improve and advance,” says Sterk, “through our people. Technology will assist with that, but people will make it happen.”
When Emory and Georgia Tech put their heads together, this happens.

By Mary Loftus
The Georgia Tech/Emory shuttle, bearing a bright Yellow Jacket logo, runs hourly between Emory's Woodruff Circle and the Georgia Institute of Technology's biotech campus. It's a bumpy six-mile ride through tony suburbs and over narrow city streets.

This particular Wednesday is the first day of fall classes for Emory, and Georgia Tech classes started the week before. The small bus is filled with passengers flipping through academic journals, plugged into smartphones, and watching Atlanta pass by out the window.

Tech students Nathan Neuhart and Jordan Varghese are headed to Emory University Hospital for medical records needed by Professor Cassie Mitchell 09PhD, a biomedical engineer, for her lab's research on Lou Gehrig's disease. Leanna Parchment 15C, a dual math and biomedical engineering major, is traveling between Emory and Tech for classes. On the return trip, Hiba Zafar 16C, an Emory sophomore from Marietta majoring in “either psychology or neurobiology,” is commuting across town to visit her sister, Madiha, a senior biomedical engineering major at Tech. And Wafa Soofi 15PhD, a third-year graduate student in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory, is attending a resume workshop and company recruitment session at Tech. Soofi works in the Astrid Prinz biology lab at Emory researching the neural networks of crustaceans. “One reason we use crabs as our model system is that certain neurons can be unambiguously identified between animals,” she says. “That's really invaluable for experiments.”

Another graduate student in the Georgia Tech-Emory biomedical engineering program, Renee Cottle 14PhD, is traveling from Professor Gang Bao's lab at Tech to Associate Professor David Archer's lab at the Emory-Children's Center. “I am developing a method using micro-sized needles for directly loading stem cells with nucleases, with the goal of changing the gene mutation that causes sickle cell disease,” she says. “Corrected stem cells can potentially replace diseased cells with healthy red blood cells in a patient as a long-term therapy.”

Passengers going back to Tech disembark onto Ferst Street, spinning off into the Whita-ker Building, home of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, or the Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience building, or the Quad Café, also known as “the lab,” which does a brisk business in green juice, smoothies, and coffee refills and decorates its tables with oversized beakers.

The shuttle runs that connect Emory’s vast medical and life sciences research complex with Tech’s engineering and biotech centers seem less like commuter routes than busy neural pathways, transmitting vital information to and from these central academic hubs. So many research partnerships now exist between Emory and Tech that if gold-coated nanofiber bundles ran between each of them, a glowing web of interconnection would emerge.

Georgia Tech’s executive vice president for research, Stephen Cross, has a background in computer and electrical engineering and artificial intelligence. He says innovation is born not only from invention and insight but also from a willingness to seek real-world solutions.

“Within a culture of mutual respect, engineers and physicians look at problems from different perspectives to mutually discover game-changing approaches to improve the human condition,” he says. “Innovation is sparked from such interdisciplinary interactions. One example, which was developed with support from the Coulter Foundation, is a minimally invasive procedure for delivering therapeutic devices to a beating heart, making this routine for all surgeons.”

Emory’s vice president for research in the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, David Stephens, is a scientist whose background is in infectious diseases.

“The partnership with Georgia Tech and Emory in clinical and translational research, information technology, and other areas is unlocking new treasures of innovation,” he says. “The Remotoscope for assessment of middle ear infections through an iPhone is a great example of successfully applying engineering and technology principles to address medical problems, potentially saving time and reducing expense.”

The Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, one of the few such joint departments in the country, is ranked second among biomedical engineering graduate programs by US News & World Report, with about 150 graduate students and 1,387 undergraduates enrolled.

“We’re an audacious and improbable success story—a visionary partnership between a leading public engineering school and a highly respected private medical school,” says Coulter Chair Ravi Bellamkonda, a biomedical engineer who specializes in regenerative medicine and the nervous system. “Thanks to these origins, at fifteen years young, innovation and risk-taking are embedded in our DNA.”

Bellamkonda divides his workweek between Emory and Georgia Tech. With the opening of Emory’s new Health Sciences Research Building on Haygood, adjoining Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, he says the Coulter department’s physical presence at Emory will continue to grow. “This is the first time we’ve been in one coherent space,” he says, “which will lead to even more collaboration.”

What’s a six-mile shuttle ride, after all, if it can help cure a brain tumor, fix a child’s damaged heart, prevent blindness, reduce seizures, or stop the spread of a potential flu pandemic?
When groups of nerve cells in the brain fire too often and at random—what people with epilepsy sometimes call “brain lightning” or “an electrical storm in my brain”—seizures can be the result. From using electrodes to excite neurons in an epileptic rat model to stimulating the optic nerve with light, neuroengineer Steve Potter of the Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory, and Bob Gross of Emory School of Medicine’s Department of Neurosurgery are developing brain stimulation therapies that could help people with epilepsy who don’t respond to drugs. “We want to better understand what causes epileptic seizures and try to find a way to respond to those bursts in activity with stimulation and reduce the number of seizures an individual experiences,” Potter says.

Over a lifetime, you are exposed to hundreds of environmental pollutants, chemicals, and toxins—from household cleaners to medications to food. Their collective impact results in your exposome—the environmental equivalent of the individual human genome. How these exposures interact with your individual genetics, physiology, and other stressors is the focus of HERCULES (Health and Exposome Research Center: Understanding Lifetime Exposures) at Rollins School of Public Health, which includes nearly forty investigators from Emory and Georgia Tech. “The exposome represents all of the external forces that act upon us,” says Gary Miller, professor and associate dean for research at Rollins and director of HERCULES.
For diseases such as macular degeneration or uveitis, medication must be delivered to the back of the eye with a needle. Henry Edelhauser, professor of ophthalmology at Emory’s School of Medicine, and Mark Prausnitz, professor of chemical and biomedical engineering at Georgia Tech, have invented a hollow-tubed microneedle that allows for more precision. “The microneedle is about as long as a regular hypodermic needle is wide,” says Prausnitz. “It enables us to reach specific places in the eye—exactly where the medication needs to be.” Edelhauser and Prausnitz are scientific founders of Clearside Biomedical, a start-up ophthalmology pharmaceutical that is developing ocular microinjection technology.
Using inexpensive gyroscopes embedded in a visor, Pamela Bhatti, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at Georgia Tech and a KL2 scholar with the Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute led by Emory, is working on a system to monitor patients automatically during in-home rehabilitation. Vestibular exercises can improve balance; reduce dizziness, disorientation, and blurred vision during head movements; and prevent falls. Bhatti’s head angular motion-monitoring system (HAMMS) uses microelectronics and motion sensors to capture head rotations during exercises. HAMMS also will serve as a data-logging tool to study the execution of in-home exercises by patients in the Emory Dizziness and Balance Center.
**HIGH ALERT**

Smallpox. Sarin gas. Explosive residue. The ability to detect pathogens, biological agents, and dangerous chemicals at minute levels might make the difference between life and death for thousands in the event of a terrorist attack. A new class of sensors able to pick up on multiple biological and chemical threats simultaneously with unprecedented accuracy has been invented by Georgia Tech and Emory researchers through a Department of Defense Center in Integrated Photonics Engineering Research (CIPhER). “The proposed sensors are faster, less expensive, and more sensitive,” says Georgia Tech Pettit Professor of Electronics Ali Adibi, who partnered with Emory’s Timmie Professor of Biochemistry Richard Cummings.

**TUMOR TARGET**

Tumors that burrow deep into healthy brain tissue are hard to treat, whether with surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation. Emory dermatologist Jack Arbiser and Coulter’s Ravi Bellamkonda have designed a new treatment that appears to halt the spread of cancer cells into normal brain tissue in animal models. The researchers treated rats with an invasive tumor with a compound called imipramine blue, followed by conventional chemotherapy. The tumors stopped their invasion of healthy tissue, and the animals survived longer than animals treated with chemotherapy alone.

**PERSONALIZED BIOMARKERS**

In this dawning era of molecular medicine, cancer detection and treatment will increasingly be tailored to each individual’s molecular profile. This personalized approach is enabled by research that discovers and links biomarkers—such as genes or proteins—to specific disease behaviors.

—May Dongmei Wang and her team in the Coulter Department are working with physicians at Emory and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta to develop informatics systems for personalized health, including caCORRECT and omniBiomarker, which remove noise and artifacts, and identify and validate biomarkers.

**That Hits the Spot**

In radiation therapy, precision is the name of the game. Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) uses computer-controlled linear accelerators to deliver therapeutic doses to tumors while avoiding critical organs, says Professor Shabbir Ahmed, of the Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Tech. Ahmed worked with Georgia Tech Industrial and Systems Engineering Professor Martin Savelsbergh, and Ian Crocker, Timothy Fox, and Eduard Schreibmann from Emory’s Department of Radiation Oncology.

**Genetic Do-Over**

Sickle cell disease involves a single altered gene that produces abnormal hemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen in the blood. Red blood cells become hard, sticky, “C”-shaped sickle cells, which die early, causing a constant shortage of red blood cells. The abnormal cells also clog the flow in small blood vessels, causing chronic pain and other serious problems. With colleagues at the Nanomedicine Center for Nucleoprotein Machines, center director Gang Bao is working on a gene correction technology. “Even though researchers know sickle cell disease is caused by a single A to T mutation in the beta-globin gene, there is no widely available cure,” says Bao, the Robert A. Milton Chair in the Coulter Department at Georgia Tech and Emory. “By directly and precisely fixing the single mutation, we hope to reduce or eliminate the sickle cell population in an individual’s bloodstream and replace the sickle cells with healthy red blood cells.” Bao also directs the Georgia Tech/Emory Program of Excellence in Nanotechnology, which develops nanotechnology for cardiovascular disease, and the Emory and Children’s Center for Pediatric Nanomedicine, the first in the nation.
Could robots be used to hand someone in a wheelchair their medication? Distinguish between household objects? Scratch an itch? Coulter Associate Professor Charlie Kemp and colleagues are designing “helper robots” to assist people with limited mobility. A robot named EL-E can find and deliver objects that are indicated with a laser pointer, including towels, pill bottles, and cell phones. “Retrieving generic, everyday objects has been a challenge,” says Kemp. With the Emory ALS Center, his lab conducted a trial of a retrieving robot named Dusty that patients found easy to use. Henry Evans, a quadriplegic, has been helping Kemp’s team with a project called Robots for Humanity. “I was lying in bed, watching TV as usual, when I saw a technology special on a mobile robot. I immediately imagined controlling it as a surrogate for my own body,” Evans says. Also working on therapeutic robots are Emory Associate Professor Lena Ting, Georgia Tech Assistant Professor Karen Liu, and Emory Assistant Professor of Geriatric Medicine Madeleine Hackney, who envisions robots as dance partners.
Electric Slide

Imagine wearing a T-shirt that could power your cell phone. Textile fibers covered with zinc oxide nanowires can generate electrical current, and combining current flow from many fiber pairs woven into a shirt or jacket could allow the wearer’s movement to power small electronic devices. “The fiber-based nanogenerator would be a simple and economical way to harvest energy from physical movement,” says Zhong Lin Wang of the School of Materials Science and Engineering at Georgia Tech. “If we can combine many of these fibers in double or triple layers in clothing, we could provide a flexible, foldable, and wearable power source that, for example, would allow people to generate their own electrical current while walking.” The research was sponsored in part by the Joint Nanotechnology Center for Personalized and Predictive Oncology.

CHILD-SIZED DIALYSIS

When critically ill children need kidney dialysis, doctors have to adapt adult-size equipment, because there is no FDA-approved continuous bedside dialysis device for children. But these devices can withdraw too much fluid, leading to dehydration, shock, and loss of blood pressure. Researchers from Emory and Georgia Tech have developed smaller equipment especially for pediatric patients. “We have built a robust device that achieves automated and accurate fluid management,” says Ajit Yoganathan, Coulter Distinguished Faculty Chair in Biomedical Engineering, who worked with Matthew Paden, Emory assistant professor of pediatric critical care.

WIRELESS RODENTS

The best research often relies on observing animals in the least artificial environment possible. Maysam Ghovanloo, an associate professor in Georgia Tech’s School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has developed a wireless system that collects neural signals from alert, freely moving rats during experiments. “This removes the need to tether a small animal via cable to a neural recording device . . . and relieves the animal from carrying bulky batteries, thus eliminating two major sources of motion artifacts and bias,” says Ghovanloo. The mobile unit also contains a small magnet that allows the animal’s location to be tracked in real time. Ghovanloo is collaborating with Joseph Manns, an assistant professor in Emory’s Department of Psychology, to test the system.

BIG DATA AND BRAVE HEARTS

Heart attacks are rare among children, but not unheard of. So how do you tell which child complaining of chest pain is actually in crisis? Professor of Interactive Computing Mark Braunstein, associate director of the Health Systems Institute, an interdisciplinary initiative based at Georgia Tech and Emory, asked Georgia Tech Professor of Computational Science and Engineering Hongyuan Zha for help in determining which young patients need further medical tests, such as echocardiograms and stress tests. With pediatric cardiologist Patrick Frias, chief of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta’s Physician Group, Zha is analyzing a year of records from Children’s Sibley Heart Center, looking at patient and family history questionnaires, diagnostic tests, and final diagnoses of young patients at Sibley who complained of chest pains. “One year of these records contains close to twenty thousand cases, which is a very extensive data set,” Zha said. “By going through the historical data, we hope to come up with some rules or best practices that are more efficient than the existing ones.”

Immediate Gratification

After observing a fellow passenger on a flight wearing noise-canceling headphones, Emory Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and director of Emergency Neurosciences David Wright imagined a better way to test for concussions. “The problem with concussions and sports is there’s really no good way to evaluate someone on the sidelines,” says Wright, a specialist in traumatic brain injury. “It requires hours in a quiet room with a trained examiner.” Likewise, tests to detect mild cognitive impairment (early dementia) in aging patients are usually conducted with pen and paper, last more than an hour, and require a quiet place to concentrate. But Coulter Associate Professor Michelle LaPlaca and Wright developed a portable, head-mounted screening device called DETECT that can identify concussions or impairment with a ten-minute battery of visual stimuli and can be given anywhere. A clinical study at Emory’s Wesley Woods Center showed that DETECT had similar accuracy to that of a written test. The technology is currently being used by four football teams and development for military application is underway.
You could say that Emory and Georgia Tech go way back. The first president of the Georgia Institute of Technology was Isaac Stiles Hopkins, an Emory graduate who taught and also served as Emory president from 1884 to 1888. Hopkins was the ideal forefather of an institutional relationship that lends tangible meaning to the ubiquitous term interdisciplinary. He earned a medical degree, was a minister for eight years, then taught Latin, English literature, and various science courses at Emory; he also launched the first technology department in the state from his home, where students brought their own tools to experiment and learn. Emory’s technological program never really found its footing (or funding), but Hopkins’s initiative led to his recruitment as the newly established Georgia Tech’s president in 1889.

Current Emory President James Wagner and Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson chuckled over this shared chapter of history during a recent conversation in Wagner’s office. “When people ask, you know, you’re an engineer. When’s Emory going to start an engineering school?, I say, well, back in the 1880s, we did,” Wagner said. “And we’re very proud of it, and we’re not going to start another one.”

Nearly a century would pass, though, before the Emory-Georgia Tech partnership began to take concrete shape as a national blueprint for collaboration between a private and a public research university. The foundation of the partnership is in the area of biomedical engineering, where research interests are arguably most complementary. The Emory-Georgia Tech Biomedical Technology Research Center’s seed grant program began cultivating crosstown biomedical partnerships in 1987. Ten years later, the Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME) at Georgia Tech and Emory was created—the first and still one of the few jointly run departments between a private and a public university.

“I think you and I were particularly lucky to inherit something that I believe is fairly unique,” Wagner told Peterson, who came to Georgia Tech in 2009. “The key may be the fact that it is complementary. Emory historically has not had strength in the engineering sciences, and we bring medicine and health sciences in a way that Georgia Tech hasn’t historically been engaged.”

“When people ask me what makes this partnership successful, the response I typically give is that we compete in almost nothing,” Peterson agreed. “You’re private, we’re public; when I ask our freshmen, how many of you applied to Emory?, a very small number raise their hands. We have different pedagogical interests, different types of institutions, and that, I think, is a real strength.”

Since the establishment of the Coulter Department in 1997—now ranked No. 2 in the country—the partnership has expanded in a number of directions that cross traditional academic boundaries, with joint research projects in areas including predictive health, regenerative engineering and medicine, nursing, ophthalmology, gerontology, public health, information technology, law, chemistry, and psychology.

As the research network grows stronger, so does both institutions’ ability to attract top-notch faculty and scientists, the presidents agree. “When we recruit these top researchers, they are typically looking for opportunities to collaborate, and many of them find those opportunities through the clinical expertise in the medical school at Emory combined with the engineering strengths of Georgia Tech,” Peterson says. “The interdisciplinary nature of this joint program has allowed us to attract some really great people.”

The partnership attracts more than brainpower; it draws dollars, too. Last year, Emory and Georgia Tech each received more than $500 million in research funding and together spent nearly $1.25 billion on scientific research. That work, in turn, helps power the institutional engines that generate billions in economic output for Atlanta, Georgia, and the region. Emory’s last study put its direct and indirect economic impact at $5.1 billion; Tech’s, some $3 billion. In addition to that combined $8 billion financial boost, the two institutions support about fifty thousand jobs and have launched around a hundred thousand alumni now living and working in Georgia.

“That total eight-billion-dollar impact is owing in significant measure to the partnerships we have,” Wagner says. “If Emory were isolated and not partnering, there is a significant portion of our research portfolio—and all the people that supports, and all the expenses that are associated with that, and all the money that would come into the state—that we would not be eligible for without the partnership.”

Both presidents give credit to the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA), a nonprofit organization that helps funnel public funds to its six partner universities in Georgia with the aim of supporting and expanding research efforts, recruiting top scientists, taking discoveries to market...
“When people ask . . . when’s Emory going to start an engineering school? I say, well, back in the 1880s, we did,” Wagner said. “And we’re very proud of it.”

through start-up companies, and building connections among the institutions. The GRA was a key player in the creation of EmTech Bio, a joint biotechnology incubator, in 2000.

“The partnership between Emory and Georgia Tech has been greatly facilitated by the GRA, because it provides a common pool of resources on which we can draw to help build the partnership,” Peterson says.

Nationally, public-private partnerships such as the one that has bloomed between Emory and Tech are relatively rare, says Barry Toiv, vice president for public affairs at the Association of American Universities (AAU), a Washington-based nonprofit dedicated to advancing the mission of research universities around the country. Emory and Georgia Tech are the only two Georgia institutions to have joined the prestigious ranks of the AAU’s sixty-two members—Emory in 1995 and Tech in 2010.

For public-private partnerships to thrive, Toiv says, it helps for the universities to be close to each other geographically and to have established, ambitious research programs that complement one another rather than directly competing. “Privates have the freedom of being private, and also frequently have greater resources,” Toiv says. “Publics bring the extraordinary relationships they have with government at all levels, as well as public resources, not just financial but other resources also. Those relationships can be very productive.”

He points to the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University—both members since the AAU was founded in 1900—as one example, as well as the research triangle made up of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and North Carolina State (which is not an AAU member).

“More than ever, North Carolina needs its top research universities to drive economic development. And to leverage their impact, those universities must join forces in unprecedented ways,” began an article in Carolina’s University Gazette in August of this year. “That was the message Joe DeSimone delivered to the University’s Board of Trustees last month.” The article went on to describe how DeSimone, the Carolina Chancellor’s Emeritus Professor of Chemistry and a successful researcher and entrepreneur, made an impassioned case for partnerships that will attract research dollars and ultimately drive the recovery of the state’s flagging economy.

Many agree that’s exactly what happened in Pennsylvania, where the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University—two of the state’s four AAU member institutions—are literally across the street from one another. Their research collaboration played a major role in the revitalization of Pittsburgh after the region’s economy, long propped up by the steel industry, toppled in the early 1980s.

“In Pittsburgh, the strengths of Pitt and CMU have made this region an internationally respected center of cutting-edge academic work,” wrote Pitt Chancellor Mark Nordenberg in an op-ed for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in January 2013. That partnership “has helped propel virtually all of the technology-based regional economic development initiatives launched in the past three decades.”

The synergy between Emory and Tech is creating similar momentum in Georgia. In just two decades, research collaborations have yielded more than seventy start-up companies and some sixty products in the development pipeline. The two schools have recruited more than thirty-five GRA Eminent Scholars and share upward of a dozen joint centers and initiatives. They also offer a PhD in biomedical engineering in partnership with Peking University in China. And plans are under way for shared library space at Emory’s Briarcliff location.

The two university presidents meet regularly and have an easy rapport, riffing good-naturedly on their respective football records (Emory remains undefeated, while Tech was 3-2 at press time). But while they are key facilitators of their universities’ relationship, they agree that its momentum now is unstoppable and its future a given.

“One of the delightful things that’s happened over the years is a sense of trust and possibility,” Wagner says. “By that I mean, rather than holding one’s cards really close . . . the history of the Georgia Tech–Emory partnership is such that I hope and I believe that it has opened up this sense of possibility for both of our faculties. I look forward to and imagine a number of new kinds of engagements through all of our schools.”

More online
Find a video of the presidents’ conversation at www.emory.edu/magazine.
PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST

by Julie Schwietert Collazo 970x 99c

When Brendan O’Connell graduated from Emory with a degree in philosophy and Spanish literature, he thought he’d go on to become a writer. He didn’t anticipate becoming a visual artist instead—certainly not one who would become known for his paintings of Walmart. He didn’t plan to learn how to draw while living in Paris, making a modest living doing “pay what you wish” caricatures for tourists. Nor did O’Connell expect he would happen to meet actor Alec Baldwin during his six-year stint living abroad in Europe’s cities. He didn’t foresee that Baldwin would become an important collector and champion of his work, and he probably didn’t expect that the two men—who bear an uncanny, brotherly resemblance to one another—would forge a friendship that endures to this day.

But such is the life of the artist: so much depends upon the convergence of being in the right place, at the right time, with the right people. O’Connell has learned a lot about that this year.
There are other things O’Connell didn’t expect, like the consequences of being the subject of a five-page profile in the New Yorker this past February. “I knew [the article] would be a calling card, but I had no idea it would be quite this big,” he says. O’Connell had received press before, including a write-up in Art in America, but nothing of the scale or scope of the New Yorker profile, which introduced the artist and his Walmart paintings to a new audience.

The well-known author of the profile, Susan Orlean, says she knew O’Connell before she wrote the article for the New Yorker; their children went to school together and she considered O’Connell “a good friend.” While Orlean normally doesn’t write about people she knows, she made an exception for O’Connell because she considered his work particularly compelling. She believed that what she describes as her interest in dignifying ordinary experience and being artful in interpreting an environment we never think of in those terms” would be as fascinating to the magazine’s readers as it was to her.

O’Connell hadn’t even had a chance to read Orlean’s article (“I don’t have a subscription,” he confesses) before he received a call from The Colbert Report, whose producers booked him for a five-minute, forty-four-second segment that aired in March. “Do you know that only two other artists have been on Colbert?” he asks. “Jeff Koons, who’s like the richest living artist, and Shepard Fairey, who has something like one hundred thousand followers on Twitter.” (Actually, Koons occupies the second richest artist spot, behind Damien Hirst, and Fairey has 133,024 followers, but who’s counting?) He pauses, as if taking it all in: Koons and Fairey are major leaguers. To be in their company, if only by Colbert’s association, O’Connell must be, too.

In the segment, host Stephen Colbert compares O’Connell’s painting of Jif peanut butter jars lined up on a Walmart shelf to Andy Warhol’s soup cans (a comparison O’Connell has now heard dozens of times). He says he’ll start shopping at Walmart more often if the store’s shoppers are as attractive as the model who appears in one of O’Connell’s paintings (“‘That’s my wife,’ O’Connell says, eliciting guffaws from the audience). Colbert attempts to explicate O’Connell’s pedestrian paintings of America’s most loved and most hated retailer, asking O’Connell afterward, “Does what I just said mean anything?” (More laughter.) And though he pokes fun at O’Connell for selling his most expensive work at a price point the average Walmart shopper can’t possibly afford, Colbert ends the segment by suggesting that O’Connell should look forward to selling many more paintings, thanks to the “Colbert bump,” a neologism Colbert coined to refer to the sudden increase in popularity of someone who has appeared on his show. His tone changes from comic sarcasm to genuine admiration. “I love these,” Colbert concludes about O’Connell’s paintings, as the studio audience claps and hoots enthusiastically.

A month later, O’Connell was featured on NPR’s popular food blog, The Salt, and in July, he hit the front page of the Boston Globe, noting, with some glee, that the story about him was considerably larger than the announcement of the royal baby’s birth. “Front page,” he says again, as if he’s tickled and still can’t quite believe it. “It must have been a slow news day.”

So far, 2013 has been a record year for O’Connell, who lives in rural Connecticut with his wife, Emily Buchanan—also an accomplished painter—and their two children. The couple makes a conscious effort to live simply and nurture their creativity as well as their young family.

Having worked in the relative obscurity that characterizes most artists’ careers since returning to the United States from Europe in 1997, O’Connell finds the sudden interest in his art highly gratifying and perhaps a bit overwhelming, too. The media attention has resulted in a bump in sales of his work, as Colbert predicted. “That’s nice,” O’Connell concedes; “I like not stressing over a phone bill.” And he’s grateful to Susan Orlean, the New Yorker writer whose profile of him precipitated the mass interest in his work.

But the attention has complicated things, too. “I kind of thought all this would happen twenty years ago,” he says. “You know, you have these delusions of grandeur when you’re young and setting out. By the time [success] actually happens, your life is already set in its own patterns.”

O’Connell doesn’t reference Warhol’s quote about fifteen minutes of fame directly, but he knows that most of the people who are interested in him right now will move on to the next big thing soon enough. He marvels that the story of his Walmart paintings has been able to hold the public’s interest this long.

Why have people from so many different media outlets and such divergent experiences with art been so interested in O’Connell’s Walmart paintings? Neither contemptuous nor celebratory of Sam Walton’s empire or the people who patronize it, the paintings are, rather, snapshots of ordinary scenes O’Connell has witnessed as he paints inside Walmarts around the country; bags of Wonder Bread stacked neatly on metal shelves. Busy checkout lines with glowing lights. A blonde woman in a candy aisle, her back to the viewer as she contemplates her purchase.

O’Connell suspects that the reason for the interest in his Walmart paintings is the same.
reason why he himself has been so fascinated with the mega-chain for the past eight years. Walmart is such a ubiquitous presence in American culture that it can serve as the medium through which we experience various states of feeling; it can also be the screen upon which we project certain emotions and have them reflected back to us. The availability and presentation of so many brands and items on Walmart’s shelves, says O’Connell, provoke a sense of attachment and nostalgia among the people who shop there. Whether they’re conscious that they are doing something more profound than picking up Jif peanut butter and Tide laundry detergent is irrelevant; the items shoppers are buying at Walmart may be utterly mundane, but they are attached to core life experiences.

“I feel like I’m painting cold things in a warm way,” O’Connell explains. “Nostalgia makes memories warmer.”

The themes O’Connell is exploring in his Walmart paintings have been on his mind for a long time, according to professors who knew him well when he was a student at Emory. Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Philosophy Thomas Flynn, who considers O’Connell “a close personal friend,” recalls that as a student, O’Connell was remarkably authentic, “genuinely creative,” and morally and aesthetically sensitive, preoccupied with ethical questions in a way that set him apart from his peers. Patricia Penn Hilden, who also O’Connell’s professor in the Department of Philosophy (and who has since moved from Emory to the University of California, Berkeley), shares similar recollections.

“He was a wonderful student, intellectually curious, socially conscious, and very smart,” says Penn Hilden, who, like Flynn, considers O’Connell a friend and has maintained close contact with him over the years. Both Flynn and Penn Hilden say they are not surprised to see him exploring existential themes in his artwork, and they are pleased to see O’Connell’s talent receiving the kind of recognition it deserves.

There’s another reason why O’Connell’s Walmart paintings may have such broad appeal: the products visible in his work are immediately recognizable. This is not the case with the subjects of his abstract paintings and portraits, which comprise about 50 percent of his work. These haven’t been mentioned in any of the profiles done about O’Connell to date, although that doesn’t particularly bother him. The familiarity of the subject of the Walmart paintings makes that work more accessible to a wider, more diverse audience than is often the case for other forms of contemporary art.

“Art has become too rarefied, and most artists can’t connect with more than a handful of people,” O’Connell says. “Ultimately that’s what interests me: connecting not with ten people, but with millions of people.”

O’Connell, who is not represented by a dealer or a gallery, feels the art world has become largely inaccessible to people who lack disposable income and based on a transactional system that generally fails to benefit artists. His work has been shown in galleries, but with the Walmart series, he senses the potential of reaching a whole new audience—not to sell work, necessarily, but to inspire.

Though he has been painting in and about Walmart for almost a decade, O’Connell doesn’t feel that the subject has become tired for him, and he doesn’t plan to abandon the big box’s aisles anytime soon. In fact, he wants to take his Walmart work to another level, one where he can “have real interactions with everyday people.” That may well be possible, given that his own relationship with Walmart’s management has improved since he first started photographing the stores surreptitiously in 2003. Back then, he says, he was regularly asked to leave, as he was violating the company’s policy prohibiting in-store photography. Now, Walmart is O’Connell’s willing collaborator on several projects, including his plan to take art to Walmart shoppers who may not have much access to it.

The idea, he says, “is to go to a place where there’s not a museum within a hundred miles, set up a canvas the size of a window, and paint for three days in the [Walmart] store for people who have never been to a museum or a gallery.”

Another of O’Connell’s personal ambitions these days is to help people tap into their own creativity, which he views as a life skill. That’s the motivation behind two other big projects on O’Connell’s horizon: everyartist.me, a program targeted to kids, and Creativity Conversations, a short-term residency he has accepted at Emory that is scheduled to take place in early 2014.

Driven by what he feels is a “creativ-
ity crisis in our culture” and the experience, with Buchanan, of trying to foster creativity in their own kids, O'Connell spearheaded everyartist.me, which he describes as “the largest national art experience ever.” The initiative, which will have its first iteration this fall, was tested last year in Arkansas with the financial support of the Rubin Foundation and Walmart Visitor Center, and was presented by O'Connell at TEDxAtlanta in September 2012. The aim is to have one million children across America form part of a social network in which they start “flexing their creative muscles.” Kids can upload photos of their artwork via the everyartist.me app, which runs on any smartphone; submissions will be collected and pieced together before being projected digitally on a national icon, say, the Washington Monument or the National Gallery.

O'Connell plans to bring a similar message to Emory when he arrives on campus in February for Creativity Conversations, a program organized by the College’s Center for Creativity & Arts. The center’s series has included a who’s who of literary artists, including writers Natasha Trethewey, Salman Rushdie, Billy Collins, Alice Walker, and Rita Dove, and musicians, including the renowned composer Phillip Glass and Atlanta favorite Emily Saliers ’85c of the Indigo Girls. O’Connell will be one of the few visual artists to participate in the series to date. Although the details of his weeklong residency haven’t been finalized just yet, the artist and alumnus is hoping to help students who aren’t typically encouraged to express themselves creatively learn how to do so.

“I didn’t even start drawing until after I graduated from Emory,” O’Connell says, noting that the arts did not have a particularly strong presence at Emory when he was a student.

Leslie Taylor, professor of theater studies and the director of the Center for Creativity & Arts, says that while Emory’s arts departments have been established for years, the university’s artistic identity and culture really began to coalesce about a decade ago. “I think the construction of the Schwartz Center for Performing Arts in 2003 was an important catalyst,” Taylor says. “The visible structure that said ‘ARTS’ on it helped change perceptions among people on campus and in the community, and that created a feedback loop. When people from the community began attending arts events, we were able to hold more events.”

The fact that O’Connell didn’t study visual arts at Emory is one of the reasons Taylor wanted to invite him back for Creativity Conversations. “He’s a very interesting artist, so there are many reasons why we want to have him here,” she says, “but the main one is that it’s really important for students to see how their education at Emory prepares them for where life can take them, even when the subjects they studied aren’t the professional paths they choose.”

Beyond the conversation itself, which will likely be held with chemistry professor and department chair David Lynn, O’Connell is particularly interested in interacting with premed students, and envisions facilitating sessions where he will teach them how to draw. Learning such a skill isn’t about becoming an artist, he says, but about developing flexibility, creativity, and the desire to connect with others—skills he considers critical for any career.

But he’s not waiting passively for anyone else to come knocking. O’Connell clearly feels energized by the attention that’s been directed at him since the New Yorker profile was published, and he’s leveraging that attention to gain exposure and support for everyartist.me and the Creativity Conversations residency. He views the projects as initial steps in his mission to stimulate our collective creativity as a society. If he can start by helping students at his alma mater develop an interest in honing their visual literacy, he says, then he will feel satisfied. And if he’s successful, the next person to come knocking at O’Connell’s door for fifteen more minutes of fame is anyone’s guess.

Julie Schwietert Collazo ’97OX ’99C is a freelance writer living in New York City.

“I FEEL LIKE I’M PAINTING COLD THINGS IN A WARM WAY.”

—BRENDAN O’CONNELL
Richard McRae has always been a risk taker.

The retired Jackson, Mississippi, businessman built the McRae’s dry goods store his father opened on Capitol Street in 1902 into a twenty-eight-store chain that anchored malls across the Southeast. He seized opportunities when he saw them, embracing new technology and ideas including adopting the early use of computerized cash registers and issuing gold cards to his best credit customers long before it became common practice with national credit companies.

In May 2011, at age ninety, McRae took part in a national clinical trial at Emory’s Structural Heart and Valve Center for a revolutionary procedure called transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR). McRae suffered from aortic stenosis—a narrowing of the aortic valve that results in restricted blood flow and debilitating strain on the heart—but was deemed too high risk for open-heart surgery because of his age.

At Emory, cardiac surgeon Vinod Thourani and interventional cardiologist Vasilis Babaliaros, codirectors of the Structural Heart and Valve Center, replaced his diseased valve with a new tissue valve using a catheter that delivered the device through his femoral artery to his heart. Once in place, the new valve moved the old diseased condition.

The leaflets of a healthy aortic heart valve open wide to allow oxygen-rich blood to flow unobstructed in one direction. The blood flows through the valve into the aorta, where it then flows out to the rest of the body.

The leaflets of a stenotic or calcified aortic valve are unable to open wide, obstructing blood flow from the left ventricle into the aorta. As a result, less oxygen-rich blood is pumped out to the body, which may cause symptoms like severe shortness of breath.
one aside against the aortic wall, allowing the blood to flow normally again.

Just six months after the procedure, McRae was aboard a fourteen-day cruise through the Panama Canal, a trip he’d dreamed of taking all his life.

“The procedure has given him years he would not have had otherwise; good, productive years,” says Susan Shanor 89L, McRae’s daughter. “It has allowed him to continue to live independently and enjoy social activities.” McRae turned ninety-two in February.

Aortic stenosis is the most prevalent valve disease in the United States, specifically in elderly populations, with approximately three hundred thousand cases. Like McRae, up to 30 percent of patients do not qualify for traditional valve replacement surgery due to age or other health conditions.

The first TAVR was performed at Emory in September 2007 by Babaliaros, Thourani, cardiothoracic surgeon Robert Guyton, and cardiologist Peter Block. Since then the Emory Valve Team has performed nearly six hundred procedures. Babaliaros, who spent several years abroad with the French cardiologist who successfully implanted the first catheter-delivered valve in 2002, learned the new approach and brought it to the United States and to Emory.

In addition to serving as national primary investigator for clinical trials for the third-generation SAPIEN 3 device currently being used for TAVR, Emory is “on the cutting edge for every new technology on the horizon” for the procedure, Thourani says. Emory will participate in clinical trials for three new aortic valve replacement devices in the coming months.

Emory’s TAVR program is the third-largest in the United States, and the team has developed new solutions for the treatment of patients, including performing the country’s first transaortic and transcatheter TAVR procedures using the SAPIEN valve. Moreover, they have the largest program in the country performing these procedures in the cardiac catheterization laboratory without general anesthesia.

“When patients come to Emory, they are not pigeonholed into one treatment for aortic stenosis. What TAVR has provided is another option for patients, which maximizes their chances for success. We have a range of patient-centered valve therapies, which minimizes risk of complications for each individual while optimizing outcomes,” Thourani says.

Standard aortic valve replacement, with or without minimally invasive technology, is still performed when the patient’s health allows and is the standard of treatment for patients considered low risk. For patients who are medium risk, Emory is the only center in Georgia and the third-largest in the country offering the second-generation SAPIEN XT valve.

Emory also is one of the first ten hospitals in the nation to offer the PERCEVAL sutureless valve replacement in an FDA-feasibility trial. This valve is designed to reduce the amount of time a patient undergoing traditional valve replacement surgery must be on a heart-lung bypass
THE PROCEDURE

1. For transfemoral procedures, the patient is placed under general anesthesia and an incision is made in the leg (or slightly higher up). Doctors place a sheath (a short hollow tube) that is slightly larger than the width of a pencil.

2. Doctors take a balloon and put it through the sheath into the patient’s blood vessel to reach the aortic valve. The balloon will be inflated with fluid to break open the narrowed valve, deflated, and then removed.

3. The Edwards SAPIEN transcatheter heart valve is placed on the delivery system (a long tube with a balloon on the end) and compressed on the balloon (using a crimper, below) to make it small enough to fit through the sheath, about the width of a pencil. The delivery system carrying the valve is placed through the sheath and pushed up to the patient’s aortic valve, guided by a type of x-ray.

4. The balloon of the delivery system carrying the valve is inflated with fluid, expanding the new valve and pushing the leaflets of the diseased valve aside. Next, the balloon is deflated. Doctors confirm that the new valve is working properly, remove the delivery system and close the incision.

Machine during open heart surgery, hopefully reducing the need for blood transfusion, length of hospital stay, and recovery time.

“We expect these patients to get back to an appropriate quality of life much more quickly with minimal complications,” Thourani says.

Before his condition was diagnosed, McRae was socially active, enjoying movies and arts performances in Jackson, attending church regularly, and traveling around the country. It was on the eve of his ninetieth birthday, as he prepared for a celebratory cruise with his three children and their spouses, that his condition became acute.

“We all had traveled to Los Angeles, and we were leaving the next morning for the cruise,” Shanor recalls. “That evening we were preparing to go to dinner, and Daddy collapsed in the hotel hallway.”

An ambulance rushed McRae to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, where cardiologists identified his condition. By chance, the hospital was one of the national sites for the TAVR clinical trial, and one of the cardiologists discussed the option with the family.

Shanor, an Atlanta resident, asked if there were any sites performing the procedure closer to her father’s Mississippi home. The doctor referred them to Emory.

Shanor, whose husband, Charlie Shanor, is a professor at Emory’s School of Law, contacted family friend John Puskas, an Emory cardiothoracic surgeon. He directed them to the Structural Heart and Valve Center.

“There was minimal recovery, and Daddy was back to doing things he loved so quickly,” Shanor says.

Among those have been trips to New York City and Colorado, attending his youngest granddaughter’s high school graduation in Atlanta, and enjoying his three great-grandchildren, including namesake Richard McRae IV. A lifelong equestrian, McRae also resumed his beloved hobby driving carriage horses.

Through the Selby and Richard McRae Foundation, which he established with his late wife in 1965, McRae committed $500,000 to support Emory’s Structural Heart and Valve Center and the Emory Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinical Research Unit at Emory in honor of Babaliaros, Thourani, and Puskas.

“Because of the outstanding work and research of the team of cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons at Emory University School of Medicine, I am alive today,” McRae says. “It is because of their countless hours of research and training that I was able to receive a heart valve transplant without having to undergo open heart surgery. I will always be grateful to the doctors for their outstanding care while I was at Emory.”

Both Thourani and Babaliaros note that private philanthropic support allows Emory to continue to innovate in an era of cost containment and limited resources.

“Philanthropic support also allows us to train future physicians in this technically challenging procedure, furthering a growing field of expertise,” Thourani says. “Emory is one of two sites in the country that now offers two fellowships per year in TAVR for physicians seeking specialty training in the growing field.”

ADVANTAGES OF TRANSCATHETER AORTIC VALVE REPLACEMENT (TAVR)

- 20 percent lower mortality rates
- 90-minute procedure versus four to six hours
- Can eliminate need for open heart surgery and bypass machinery
- Shorter recovery time
- Lower infection rates
If you’ve been touched by the stories in this issue of Emory Magazine, these windows can open up ways for you to turn your inspiration into action. Here you’ll see how you can invest in the people, places, and programs found in these pages and beyond. Gifts to Emory produce powerful, lasting returns; they help create knowledge, advance research, strengthen communities, improve health, and much more.

**WHAT MAKES THEM TICK**

When Jonathan Langberg isn’t making watches, he’s treating patients with arrhythmia, the most common abnormal heart rhythm. Emory’s arrhythmia treatment program is one of the most comprehensive and innovative in the country. Our electrophysiologists rank among the world’s leaders in cardiac resynchronization therapy and have performed more cardiac ablation procedures than anyone in the Southeast.

To learn more about supporting this program, contact Paige Martin at 404.727.9346 or paige.martin@emory.edu.

**HONORING OXFORD’S SENTINELS**

Having mentored countless students and invested the best of themselves in Oxford College, Bill Murdy, Marshall Elizer, and Neal Bond Fleming are among Oxford’s most beloved figures. Alumni and friends can honor them by supporting the student scholarships that bear their names. To learn more about the Dean N. Bond Fleming Scholarship, Bill and Nancy Murdy Scholarship, or Marshall R. Elizer Scholarship, contact Adam Meyer at 770.784.4637 or adam.meyer@emory.edu.

**DRINKING AND PREGNANCY DON’T MIX**

The Maternal Substance Abuse and Child Development (MSCAD) project in Emory’s Department of Psychiatry is the most comprehensive program of its kind in the nation. Since 1982, the program’s researchers have made life-changing discoveries. One MSCAD study, for example, was the first to demonstrate that women who stop drinking by the second trimester of pregnancy deliver babies with normal birth weight and better cognitive outcomes.

To learn how you can invest in making children healthier, contact Phyllis Rosen at 404.727.8254 or prosen@emory.edu.

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Emory cares for ten thousand patients with Parkinson’s disease each year, and teams of Emory researchers are working daily to understand the disease better, develop new treatments, and advance a cure. In the Rollins School of Public Health, Associate Dean for Research Gary Miller is a nationally recognized expert on the connection between toxins and Parkinson’s. He has created a unique mouse model of the disease to develop biomarkers of exposure, risk, and early onset and to determine whether a novel therapeutic agent can restore function to damaged systems.

To learn how you can invest in Miller’s work or other Parkinson’s research at Rollins, contact Kathryn Graves at 404.727.3352 or kgraves@emory.edu.

Since 1988 the Ellmann lectures have been bringing rock stars—including the kind without guitars—to Emory. They include Margaret Atwood, Seamus Heaney, and Salman Rushdie. The lectures celebrate the legacy of Emory’s first Woodruff Professor, Richard Ellmann, one of the twentieth century’s greatest critics of modern literature. You can help preserve the series by supporting a few events or by contributing to an overall endowment for the series by making a patron-level gift.

To learn how you can invest in Miller’s work or other Parkinson’s research at Rollins, contact Kathryn Graves at 404.727.3352 or kgraves@emory.edu.

The work coming from Emory’s partnership with Georgia Tech is so advanced it sounds more like science fiction than science. Combining knowledge in medicine, engineering, mathematics, robotics, biomechanics, and business, teams of experts from both universities are finding ways to enable the body to heal itself, developing unique medical devices for newborns and children, creating robots that can perform the same tasks as service dogs, and more. Many of these projects offer opportunities for charitable investment. To learn more, contact Margaret Lesesne at margaret.lesesne@emory.edu.
A syndicated columnist recently tried to defend the residential college experience in the context of the rise of MOOCs by noting the value of personal networks built through a campus experience. His point was that whom students get to know in college, through face-to-face interaction and friend making, is as important as what they get to know, and that the residential campus fosters this interaction superbly.

I would not disagree with this view, but I would add an important codicil. Although what you know will always be important, and whom you know can certainly help you along, the most critical what and who of learning are inherent in the students themselves. “Who am I, and what am I going to do with my life?”

The passage of three or four years among a community of scholars and fellow questers has proven, for a millennium, to be an especially powerful means for helping young people answer these questions. The power of the residential liberal arts education lies in its capacity for developing authenticity, encouraging an entrepreneurial spirit, instilling insight, valuing openness to others, and awakening in students a call to be useful.

Let me share some examples. Last year a young woman named Stephanie graduated from Emory College with honors in sociology and history, then moved to the nation’s capital to work as a paid staff member with AmeriCorps while working on a master's degree. So far her story is fairly typical. Unusual, though, was her path. As a freshman she had done some tutoring and community service through Volunteer Emory. With her interest piqued, she expanded her commitment by applying for a Community Building and Social Change Fellowship in our Center for Community Partnerships. The fellowship gave her a year of experience blending academic study with community work in some of Atlanta’s needier schools. In turn, this experience shaped her application for a Truman Scholarship, which provided a graduate scholarship and the first step on a career of service through teaching.

Stephanie’s story is one of progressively deepening engagement with both a subject and its real-world implications. She found an outlet for passionate curiosity and engagement with both a subject and its real-world implications. She experienced what I think of as “accelerating authenticity”—a quickening of the pace toward finding her passion, vocation, and path. Perhaps she could have done this online. But I doubt it.

At the June trustees’ meeting three other students told their stories as a way of underscoring the value of the residential liberal arts education. One of them, Stephen, recalled that he had taken a risk in his freshman year by pitching a proposal to the dean of campus life—and he suddenly found himself in a job as director of the dean’s new program of communications through social media. Stephen found Emory enabling his entrepreneurial aspirations, which he will continue to pursue through majors in music and business.

Another student, Bukie, had just graduated from Goizueta Business School and landed a job with a national consulting firm. Because Emory requires BBA students to complete two years of Emory College before enrolling in business, Bukie went into job interviews with certain advantages. In fact, the interviewer who offered her the job told her that certain skills set her apart. “Having the right answer,” Bukie said, “is not enough if you can’t communicate it. Reaching the right conclusion is not enough, if you can’t show how you arrived at it.” Her liberal arts background had provided those skills. And her life on campus as a resident adviser and student-programming leader had prepared her to think on her feet and deal with people effectively. For Bukie, Emory had instilled insight.

Laura, a native of Colombia who moved to the United States as a teenager, told the trustees that she had come to Emory expecting to major in Arabic and spent a term studying in Morocco. Returning to Emory, she began to study Spanish as a way of understanding her homeland better, and she quickly found connections between the Moroccan influence on Spain and some Moorish roots in her own Latin American culture. Her openness to otherness was facilitated by her residential education.

Apart from the first five years of life, the ages of eighteen to twenty-four constitute the greatest period of growth and development of personhood in the modern human lifespan—psychologically, intellectually, and socially. Not every young person negotiates this passage as brilliantly as Stephanie, Bukie, Stephen, and Laura. But the experience of the residential liberal arts research university raises the odds of successful transformation. That is the value of this kind of educational institution for individuals and society. It underpins the usefulness of individuals. For what could be more useful to society than such young people, with such virtues?
Eye on the Ball

Students and alumni enjoyed a lighter version of the old Pushball tradition during the Emory Homecoming parade September 28. Photo by Kay Hinton.
Emory Everywhere

Emory Muslim Alumni, Muslim Student Association, and the Office of Religious Life partnered to produce an iftar dinner on July 31 to celebrate the breaking of the fast during Ramadan (above). This event included a record number of alumni in attendance, including a few who traveled from out of town to attend.

Walter T. W. Lawrence 74MBA and his wife, Fran (left), enjoyed greeting readers at this year’s Emory-sponsored Decatur Book Festival during Labor Day weekend. Lawrence, author of Dusty and the Cowboy, was one of thirteen alumni authors to participate in the main Emory tent at the festival. Photo by Carolyn Bregman 82L.

Alexandra Kirby (left), a UNC-Chapel Hill student and granddaughter of Robert Thoburn 56OX, and his wife, Carolyn, enjoy a treat while participating with her extended family in an Emory Travel program to China. “This trip was an outstanding broadening experience for all of us, and it was a real pleasure to see China through the grandchildren’s eyes,” Thoburn says. “I am an Emory alumnus, Alexandra and Austin’s mother and Matthew’s mother and father are Emory alumni. There are several more Emory alumni in the families as well.”

GREETINGS, FRIENDS.

Fall is such a special time at Emory. The students and staff are energized and inspired to begin again with a new term. The curriculum gets more exciting by the year and offers new opportunities to learn and grow. And, best of all, together we celebrate the marvelous tradition of alumni coming home to their university to reunite and reconnect.

Fall is also the season during which we mark our university’s long tradition of service and social justice. As we approach the holidays, our thoughts turn to gratitude for our many blessings and, in turn, to compassion for those who are less fortunate. And each November, Emory gives back through community projects around the world.

The powerful reward that comes from being kind starts with a single yes. On November 9, Emory Cares International Service Day will mark its eleventh year of alumni sharing their expertise, hard work, and compassion with those in need. In partnership with Volunteer Emory, I am proud to say that more than nine thousand alumni have marked time to serve 118 organizations in thirty-five cities around the world. And that, my friends, is a truly heartwarming endeavor.

Please join us this Emory Cares International Service Day and register to participate in a service project today.

ALLISON DYKES
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS

Upcoming Alumni Events

Everywhere, November 9: Emory Cares International Service Day.

Online, November 15: Coach Chat Webinar: The Hidden Powers of LinkedIn.

Atlanta, November 21: Emory Alumni at the Atlanta Falcons Game.

For more, visit www.alumni.emory.edu/calendar.
EMORY CARES. 11 years. 118 organizations served.
9000 members of the Emory community showed kindness and provided support to thousands of people.

Please register for Emory Cares by signing up to join one of our Emory Cares projects in more than 35 cities around the world or participate in Emory Cares Everywhere.

For more information on an upcoming project near you, please visit www.alumni.emory.edu/emorycares.
Boosting Businesses in Rwanda

ONE DAY LAST APRIL, BEN HARRIS 03C found himself stepping off a plane and out of his comfort zone. Harris had journeyed from his hometown of Atlanta to serve as a mentor for young Rwandan entrepreneurs, working with a new organization called the African Entrepreneur Collective (AEC).

During his six-and-a-half-week stay, Harris helped with a range of internal projects for AEC, but focused most on his work at Alliance High School, where he served as a mentor helping to rehabilitate the computer lab and business curriculum. Although he was nervous initially, Harris, the founder of HobNob, says he was gratified that his efforts seemed to have a positive effect, particularly because the Rwandans he worked with “held any opportunity to learn in such high value.”

It’s that drive to succeed that AEC hopes to harness as it expands through Rwanda and other African countries in the coming years.

Founded in summer 2012, AEC works with Rwandan youth entrepreneurs to help build their businesses and, in the process, create jobs for others. The program’s goal is five hundred new jobs in the next three years. Since the 1994 genocide in which an estimated five hundred thousand people were killed, the Rwandan economy has struggled to recover and 45 percent of the population still lives below the poverty line. With more than 60 percent under twenty-five years old, the young demographic targeted by AEC is perhaps most in need.

Harris became involved with AEC through friendships and connections formed at Emory. Tanya Das 02B attended graduate school with AEC’s founder, Julienne Oyler, and shared her excitement about the project with both Harris and Genevieve Ward 02C 15MBA. Soon all three were on the ground in Rwanda.

Rwandans are “not only an incredibly welcoming community, but they’re incredibly curious,” Das says. “To me, what was very striking was seeing how far they’ve come from the insane history they just experienced.”

Ward, who was in Rwanda for three months, was partnered with a shoe manufacturer, helping the small business owner create a larger scale brand and get some “buzz” going.

“It was nice that we weren’t just going over and creating infrastructure or putting a Band-Aid on the situation, but were actually empowering individuals,” she says. Whether the harrowing, helmetless ride to work every day on the back of a motorcycle, or the scale of existing development in the country, surprises greeted them daily. “The sense of excitement and vibrancy is something I’ve never really experienced anywhere else.”—Abi Averill 14C

PASS IT ON Atlanta business founder Ben Harris works with young Rwandans.

MAKE SAVING A PRIORITY

There’ll always be demands on your financial resources: whether it’s new tires on the car, a leaky roof needing repair, or a week-end getaway with friends. Saving anything – even the smallest amount – is worth it.

Mike Butts
Program Manager
404.486.4324

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Emory alumni travel the world. Immerse yourself in exotic locales and engage in cultural experiences you’ll never forget.

From Peruvian archaeological explorations to Costa Rican jungle walks to moments of Antarctic serenity, Emory Travel Program trips offer a world of discovery.

Join us this year to visit your dream destination with Emory friends and family.

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The information and dates above are based on information provided by our travel vendors as of September 2013 and are subject to change. Individual trip brochures will be available to be mailed out approximately 9–12 months prior to the trip’s departure. All Emory Travel Program tours require that participants be in good physical condition. Each traveler must be capable, without assistance, of walking a minimum of one mile over uneven terrain and of climbing stairs that may not have handrails. Participants should have sufficient stamina to keep pace with an active group of travelers on long days of touring. If you have any questions about your ability to participate in a tour, please call the Emory Travel Program at 404.727.7150.
See a Niche? Start a Tech Company

Tech start-ups often emerge from a recognized need. Before his company’s launch in July 2013, finance professional Mark Feinberg ’96B 02MBa took a hard look at how nonprofits raise money.

“I realized there was a growing need for a reliable crowdfunding engine dedicated to the specific needs of nonprofits,” he says.

Feinberg sought to democratize the funding process and allow donors to fully understand how donated resources are applied. “A crucial element to success is follow-through,” he says.

“We built a robust application called our ‘transparency workroom’ that provides insight into post-funding budget and project status.”

Now housed in the Atlanta Tech Village, Feinberg’s company, Uruut, has accelerated the concept of collective giving.

“A revolution within the fund-raising space is just beginning to take hold,” says Doug Shipman ’95C, CEO of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Shipman also serves on the board of advisers for Uruut.

“I’ve long been a fan and user of various crowdfunding platforms including Kiva.org, Kickstarter, and Indiegogo. The idea of bringing together the support of many small funders makes so much sense for both giver and recipient,” he says. “I was excited by Mark’s vision of bringing the power of crowdfunding to the arena of nonprofit, especially very localized projects. My background in nonprofits helped me share with him the needs of those who are fund-raising as well as how public-private partnerships work and how Uruut might help.”

For accountability, organizations requesting Uruut support—for a park, an Eagle Scout project, a scholarship—are vetted and must be registered nonprofits. Once a project is greenlighted, Uruut supports an all-or-nothing funding philosophy.

“This has a number of advantages,” Feinberg says. “It’s less risk for everyone. You can’t build half a park. If you need $5,000, you need $5,000. Bottom line. It motivates. If people want to see a project come to life, they’re going to spread the word. Projects either make their goal or find little support, there’s rarely any in-between.”

Project owners set their own funding goal and deadline, craft a story, and upload a few pictures, Feinberg says.

“Individuals can pledge money to make the project a reality,” he says. “Businesses can sponsor that same project, and foundations can contribute to it or match the contributions of others.”

Uruut was just named one of “Ten Start-ups from Atlanta That You Need to Know About” by tech news source The Next Web.

“Charitable giving is undergoing a major shift in how people give,” Feinberg says.

“Growth in giving is basically flat, but online fund-raising is growing nearly 15 percent a year and is expected to continue. Crowdfunding is expected to grow by triple digits. Put these facts together, and you are ripe for a sea change in how fund-raising will forever be approached.”

Feinberg is excited to see what comes next.

“I want to walk down the virtual hallway that is the Uruut marketplace and say, we helped groups do a lot of awesome stuff.”

“When it comes to Emory alumni who have founded tech start-ups, Feinberg is in good company. Check these out:

**BetterCloud** This start-up is taking its future on the increasingly popular Google Apps platform. While many users are still relying on Microsoft Exchange and Office, Gail Axelrod ’11B says Google Apps is going to win because of its cost-effectiveness and simplicity. Axelrod is the corporate communications manager at BetterCloud, founded in 2011 by David Politis ’04C, which focuses on administrative management and security for companies using Google Apps. BetterCloud’s product, FlashPanel, is already serving more than twenty thousand organizations and thirteen million end users.

**ShopVisible** An “ecommerce solution provider,” ShopVisible was founded by Brian Kujawski ’94C 97MBa. First developed in 2001, ShopVisible aids in website design and provides strategies to attract new customers to websites and to convert previous visitors to paying customers.

**Woblet** Garret Seiger ’11B and Daniel Waltzer ’11B created Woblet in 2011, hoping to use buyers’ love of a good discount to encourage local businesses. Popular among bargain-hunting students, Woblet provides discounts of 5 and 15 percent at Atlanta eateries like Alon’s Bakery. Using either the smartphone app or a card, users “spin” for discounts at checkout, and, after they’ve paid, accrue points toward freebies like gelato from Whole Foods.

**Cloud Sherpas** Founded in 2008 by Eran Gil ’05B and Michael Cohn ’05B, Cloud Sherpas helps companies implement cloud computing, as well as keep pace with changes in the technology. By using the cloud, which is essentially a storage system on the Internet rather than a hard drive, companies and individuals can access data from anywhere in the world. Cloud Sherpas has grown from an Atlanta company to an international one, with locations as far away as the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates.

**Sawhorse Media** When Greg Galant ’05C started the Shorty Awards in 2008 to celebrate superior work in social media, he realized just how many journalists were using it in their work. This led him to found Muck Rack Daily, a website that analyzes, compiles, and shares what journalists on social media outlets are saying. The site is “a social network similar to LinkedIn, or even Twitter or Facebook, for this one industry of journalists, as well as people who want to connect with them,” he says.—Michelle Valigursky and Abi Averill ’14C

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**ON THE RUN** Peter Pelberg ’11B created the app Yog to motivate users to get outside and go for a run. A runner himself, Pelberg says Yog’s inspiration came from a lack of running buddies when he moved to New York City after college. The app, which gets its name from the movie *Anchorman*, connects runners all over the world, allowing them to effectively run together through audio and visual pacing cues. While the app’s pacing could be helpful in competitive running, Pelberg says, it can just as easily be used for fun. “I wanted to make different types of runs for different types of people,” he says.

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Matthew Biggerstaff 01OX
03C 06PH, an epidemiologist with the influenza division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), serves as the Rollins School of Public Health’s representative to the Emory Alumni Board. Biggerstaff works on the surveillance and epidemiology of influenza in the US, assists in the investigation of seasonal and novel outbreaks, and conducts mathematical modeling that advances the understanding of the virus’s impact and methods to control. He calls Oxford “the most important two years of my life, teaching me to be a scientist and a better person.”

Randy Evans 08N received the Outstanding Patient Advocate Award from the Emory Clinic during National Nurses Week. Evans works in the cardiology clinic at Emory University Hospital Midtown—the very hospital where he underwent quadruple bypass surgery. His experience as a patient inspired him to become a cardiac nurse at age fifty-eight. “He uses his own history of triumph over adversity to form therapeutic and symbiotic relationships with his patients,” said Evans’s manager, Diane Harmon. “These relationships enable Randy to have an intuitive knowledge of what his patients need.”

Recently appointed executive vice president of regulatory operations for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), Susan Feinberg Axelrod 86C stands on the front line of defense for American investors. Axelrod began her career in 1989 at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) as a staff attorney in the division of enforcement, eventually becoming chief of staff to the CEO of NYSE Regulation before joining FINRA in 2007. “Susan has dedicated her entire career to making sure investors are treated fairly,” says FINRA chair and CEO Richard Ketchum. She has a BS in economics from Emory and a JD from Hofstra.

Jed Selkowitz 02MBA is vice president of Connections at Clear Channel Media and Entertainment, creating cross-platform solutions for large advertisers by leveraging Clear Channel’s assets, including Premiere Radio Networks, iHeartRadio, Total Traffic Network, original content development, custom programming, and live events. He began his career in marketing and branding, working for large corporations including The Coca-Cola Company and XIX Entertainment. “Goizueta really prepares you to walk out with an international perspective,” Selkowitz says.

Jonathan Zung 91PhD is vice president and head of Global Development Operations at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Princeton, New Jersey. Global Development Operations integrates all key functions involved in managing the conduct of clinical trials, site monitoring, data management, and review across all therapeutic areas from phase II through registration. The organization consists of more than 1,300 staff and operates in more than 45 countries. Zung joined Bristol-Myers Squibb in 2001. Previously, he was with Pfizer Global Research and Development. Zung received his doctorate in analytical chemistry from Emory.

Greg Slamowitz 90L, founder of Ambrose Employer Group, believes that business parallels sailing in that micromanagement is counterproductive, and each individual has to support each other’s role. Slamowitz’s blog became the basis of his book, Flip the Pyramid: How Any Organization Can Create a Workforce that is Engaged, Aligned, Empowered and on Fire. He is now building another business, Wellness Rebates, to help companies create wellness programs for employees. Slamowitz’s ties to Emory Law remain strong—he serves on the Emory Law Advisory Board and is married to fellow alum Kirsten Hilleman 91L.

As director of the Center for Infectious Diseases at the University of Texas at Houston and chief of internal medicine at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital, Herbert DuPont 65A has spent the past forty years studying the epidemiology, immunology, genetic resistance, and clinical features of travelers’ diarrhea. His research has shown that the semisynthetic antibiotic rifaximin effectively treats travelers’ diarrhea without creating drug resistance. He also was principal investigator in a landmark study of a new vaccine for travelers’ diarrhea published in 2008. DuPont helped found the International Society of Travel Medicine.

Kirsten Hilleman 91L

Sunlin dedicates time and resources near and far, including helping neighbors near and far, including sending food through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to North Korea. Some debated the wisdom of distributing aid to a country that spends so much on its military and question whether it would reach the people in need. But Kwon says Sunlin is determined to help regardless of the borders that divide them.

Jonathan Mermin 98MPH leads the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Previously, Mermin directed the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, which launched High Impact Prevention, a new approach for reducing disease incidence and improving health equity. Prior to that he served as director of CDC-Kenya, the US Department of Health and Human Services public health attaché for the US Embassy in Nairobi, and as director of CDC-Uganda, where he oversaw HIV prevention and care programs.

The Reverend Guhyun Kwon 06T serves Sunlin Korean Methodist Church in Incheon, South Korea. Sunlin means “good neighbor” and Kwon and his congregation seek to live out their name. Sunlin dedicates time and resources to helping neighbors near and far, including sending food through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to North Korea. Some debated the wisdom of distributing aid to a country that spends so much on its military and question whether it would reach the people in need. But Kwon says Sunlin is determined to help regardless of the borders that divide them.

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The Champions Club is a philanthropic recognition component of the Department of Athletics and Recreation. It is our way to recognize those annual donors who support our students as they strive for excellence in the classroom, in competition, and beyond. Success of the Champions Club provides opportunities for students, strengthens the university, and reflects positively on our community and will directly enhance the student experience here at Emory University.
Finance Whiz Kid

Darrah Brustein 06C embraced financial responsibility from an early age, when she earned an allowance for doing her chores. Not long after graduating from Emory, she was able to buy a car and a home, thanks to her hard work as a fashion sales rep and her determination to save, budget, and invest wisely. Now Brustein is filling what she views as a major educational gap and helping young children establish a foundation of financial understanding with her new book *Money-Making Sunny*, in which Sunny Squirrel and Daisy Deer learn how to use their allowances for long-term success. The book is the first of a six-part series, “Finance Whiz Kids.” “Putting children in control of what they earn empowers them to budget both their time and money,” Brustein says. She was one of seven young Americans invited to participate in the 2013 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, along with fellow Emory graduate, founder and CEO of iStrategyLabs Peter Corbett 03B. She also is president of the Emory Young Alumni Association.

We Love Them—Yeah, Yeah Just when you thought there was nothing else to say about the Beatles, Andre Millard 83PhD offers a new take: *Beatlemania: Technology, Business, and Teen Culture in Cold War America*. According to Millard, the legendary success of the Beatles is owed in large part to a convergence of unprecedented developments in the music industry, including new technologies that made high-quality sound more accessible and an uptick in transatlantic cultural exchange. The book will no doubt provide valuable context as fans mark the fiftieth anniversary of the band’s first US tour next year.

GOT LEMONS? READ LEMONADE In his new book, *Lemonade: Inspired by Actual Events*, Bernard L. Dillard 96G, assistant professor of mathematics at the Fashion Institute of Technology and an actor who has appeared on the award-winning HBO series *The Wire*, draws on his own past experiences to explore tough topics such as absentee fathers, drug addiction, and sexual abuse. Although the book chronicles the difficulties Dillard has faced, hope shines through in the kindness of some of his adult role models and in the internal fortitude that resulted from his odyssey. “Despite obstacles you’ve encountered on the road to your selfhood,” Dillard says, “you deserve the right to celebrate for making it to where you are today.” *Lemonade* recently won the 2013 Global eBook Award in the Autobiography/Memoir category.

A LOVING GOD During his twenty-five years as a minister and pastoral counselor, Edwin Chase 65C found that many people seem to believe in a harsh and difficult-to-please God. In his book *God’s Relentless Love*, he seeks to portray a God that inspires love rather than fear. In 2012 Chase’s book won second prize in the “inspirational” category of the forty-eighth annual Georgia Author of the Year Awards.

BEYOND MOLLY BROWN The mystery and tragedy of the *Titanic*’s sinking are retold through a new lens—the eyes of two young children, Willa and Sam. In *Ahoy Titanic! A Child’s Tour of the Great Ship*, written by Cheryl Muré 78C and Cassie Jones, the fictional brother and sister explore real places on the famous ship, meeting real passengers and crew members along the way. The book’s story is complemented by historical context, including a diagram of the ship and mini-biographies.—Abi Averill 14C
Georgia residents, there’s a new Emory license plate available! No need to wait for your birthday, when your tag renewal is due… you can order one anytime from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

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Emory Magazine reply form

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Please note that all class notes may appear online as well as in the printed Emory Magazine. Notes may not appear for up to six months following submission. Emory Magazine does not publish engagement announcements; submit wedding announcements after the ceremony has taken place. Birth announcements should include the names of both parents. Please provide a daytime telephone number in email submissions. Thanks for sharing your news.
Caring for Community

Books, toiletries, lip balm, sunscreen, activity books, and stuffed animals were just of the few essential items collected for needy children during last year’s Oxford College Emory Cares International Service Day project. Led by Chris Arrendale 99OX 01C and Amanda Arrendale, the project has engaged hundreds of volunteers.

“Giving back to the community is important, and the event is so much fun,” Arrendale says.

Each year, gathering rows of shoe boxes, the volunteers select donated items to fill the decorated shoe boxes for Newton County foster children and teenagers. In 2012, “we put together 135 shoe boxes full of items for the Newton County Division of Family and Children Services Center (DFACS),” Arrendale said, which were then given to children at the Newton County DFACS holiday party. The Arrendales say that Emory Cares makes them “happy to bring holiday joy to these kids.”

Anyone can sign up to take part in an Emory Cares International Service Day project. “The process is simple. Visit www.alumni.emory.edu/emorycares and register to participate in a project that inspires you,” says Venus Miller, program coordinator for Emory Cares. “Every year, Emory Cares and Emory Cares Everywhere projects continue to grow.”

Now in its eleventh year, Emory Cares is “the best kind of tradition to celebrate—one that’s fun, fulfilling, and ultimately, good for our communities,” says Miller. On Saturday, November 9, projects will take place worldwide. “From home repair for indigent families to meal preparation for shut-ins, the service projects our alumni volunteers initiate touch thousands of lives.”

Since its inception, Emory Cares has worked in collaboration with Volunteer Emory to serve 118 organizations in thirty-five cities and five countries around the world.

With more than nine thousand volunteers already lending their hearts and time to worthy projects, Miller says, “Emory Cares International Service Day will continue to shine as an exemplary model for Emory spirit.”—Michelle Valigursky

SORTING IT OUT: School of Nursing alumni, students, faculty, staff, and families help MedShare in Decatur sort and package surplus medical supplies.
The Last Letter

In Memoriam: Max Aue (1942–2012)

BY LAURA BARLAAMENT 01PHD

“FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS I’VE BEEN carrying your letter and the fall 2009 Wagner alumni magazine around with me in my briefcase,” Max Aue began, in his bold, old-fashioned Austrian cursive. “Each time I bump into them, I am touched and delighted again.”

His letter was dated April 10, 2010. It sat on my desk for three years; his letter didn’t necessarily call for a response, but I always meant to keep the correspondence going. But then, on March 17, in a conversation with another Emory professor, I learned that Max had died last August, in a traffic accident.

Max Aue was a teacher with a very special gift. I thought about him and his way of teaching when I was reading and writing about a book called Learning as a Way of Leading: Lessons from the Struggle for Social Justice, by Stephen Preskill and Stephen D. Brookfield. Preskill is on the faculty of Wagner College, and I was reviewing the book for the alumni magazine.

My article, “What Does It Take to Be a Leader?” (published in the fall 2009 issue of Wagner Magazine), began this way:

One of my favorite professors in graduate school was Maximilian Aue… His literature seminars always produced gem after gem of insights that made me look forward to every class meeting.

How did he do this? He simply sat with his students around a table and focused on our questions. He began every class by asking, “Where were you confused?” Starting there, he insisted, would always lead us to the heart of the matter, and he was right. When you begin a class by admitting to something you did not understand, it gives the conversation a remarkable openness. Each class felt like a voyage of discovery.

My point was that, in his teaching, Max Aue exemplified leadership qualities that Brookfield and Preskill saw in leaders of social justice movements: Leadership that is self-effacing, focused on others, collective. It’s the kind of moral leadership that, Preskill told me, “is found in more democratic-type classrooms, where we’re inviting a lot of student participation, where the learning is not so much centered in the teacher but in everyone’s conversation together.”

I took several seminars in German literature from Max, and he was on my dissertation committee as well. He always dressed informally, in khakis and polo shirts that were a bit faded and tattered with age. He biked to work, his right pant leg in a metal clip so it wouldn’t get caught in the chain. I picture him in those small seminar rooms in Trimble Hall, with a handful of students around the table, discussing Storm, Keller, Musil, Rilke, Fontane, Mann—all the masters of the great, late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. I picture his craggy, lean face, his brow furrowed with concentration, his hands clutching one of those tiny yellow Reclam paperbacks (if you’ve ever taken a German lit class, you know what I’m talking about). I hear his Austrian-inflected German, as he patiently asked us question after probing question. As he guided the conversation, he took nothing about these texts for granted; he made it feel as if he were discovering the text for the first time, just as I was. And somehow, without telling us anything, he led us to insights that always amazed me and made me fall in love with those texts.

Back to his letter: “Each time I bump into them I am touched and delighted again—delighted that you still remember those courses and touched that you took the time and the trouble to let me know that they meant something to you.”

Yes, they meant a lot to me, and Max’s way of respectful yet challenging student-centered teaching, of leading us on those voyages of literary discovery, is no doubt what made them so meaningful and memorable. I’m so glad I did let him know, even though I never thought it would be my last contact with him; he was only sixty-nine when he died.

“In my experience, university teachers just don’t get this kind of response very frequently,” he continued. “I feel very fortunate and energized by your kind words.”

Ever the dedicated adviser, he went on for a couple more long paragraphs encouraging me in my work at Wagner College (which includes Fulbright advising) and life here in New York (especially my efforts to keep up my German). And, since I had dared to write my letter to him in German, it was a thrill that he praised my use of German in his own elegant style.

Max Aue was a great man who exercised a rare form of moral leadership that is seldom recognized: One that puts self aside in favor of uplifting others. For that, he earned my highest respect and love.

Laura Barlament 01PhD is associate director of communications and marketing at Wagner College in Staten Island, New York.
Through his own education, residency, and more than 30 years as a faculty member in the Emory School of Medicine radiology department, Dick Colvin 55C 58M 65MR developed a clear idea of what it takes to be a great radiologist. In 13 years as director, he helped build Emory’s Radiology Residency Program into one of the nation’s most sought after. “It was my goal to train competent radiologists who were also patient-oriented physicians,” he says. Now retired, Colvin has made an IRA rollover gift to endow the Richard Colvin Radiology Residency Education Fund. “It is a joy to be able to give money to support bright young physicians and to know it will be well spent and well cared for,” he says.

To learn how your IRA gift can support the School of Medicine call 404.727.8875 or email giftplanning@emory.edu before December 31, 2013.
HE’S GOT SPIRIT: The Emory Eagles mascot, Swoop, gives two talons up in the Homecoming 2013 parade. Photo by Kay Hinton.

Recycle Me! Finished with this issue of Emory Magazine? Pass along to a friend or colleague!