Living the Legacy

The Robert W. Woodruff Legacy

Robert W. Woodruff, the former president of The Coca-Cola Company, believed in helping people and organizations reach their full potential. In 1979, Mr. Woodruff planted the seed for what would become the Emory Scholars Program through his generous gift of $105 million to Emory University. One outcome of that gift was the creation of the Robert W. Woodruff Scholars within Emory College of Arts and Sciences.

The goal was to attract true scholars and community-builders to Emory, students committed to high academic achievement and also humble, inspirational engagement with their peers on campus and in the greater community.

In the fall of 1981, twelve students enrolled in Emory College as Robert W. Woodruff Scholars. From Woodruff’s legacy, the Emory Scholars Program emerged and has grown to include a community of about 200 Scholars. In addition to Woodruff Scholars, the program includes other named Scholars such as the George W. Jenkins Scholars, honoring the businessman who founded Publix Super Markets and the Ely R. Callaway, Jr. Scholars, honoring the Emory alumnus and successful textiles, wine, and golf businessman.

During his lifetime, Mr. Woodruff was known to spend significant time reflecting on how he could do the most good in his community. Mr. Woodruff often gave financial gifts quietly and anonymously, not seeking any recognition. He gave because he believed in making the world a better place for all of us, and this is the legacy that the Emory Scholars Program seeks to continue.

“There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn’t mind who gets the credit.”
Grounded in the Scholar Qualities

About the Emory Scholars Program
The Emory Scholars Program focuses on finding individuals with outstanding academic success who are grounded in the Scholar qualities of intellectual curiosity, creative thinking, servant leadership, communication skills, and contribution to community.

Every spring the Scholars community hosts the Emory Scholar Finalists’ Week, which allows selected Scholar Finalists (high school seniors) to experience Emory’s campus and visit with current Scholars, Emory faculty, and staff. Finalists are brought to Emory (all expenses paid) to participate in activities that help them become better acquainted with programs and opportunities at Emory and participate in interviews that help the selection committee decide whom to invite for membership in the Emory Scholars Program.

The Scholar Qualities
The Emory Scholar qualities are grounded in the legacy of Robert W. Woodruff. Emory Scholars who live his legacy epitomize:

Intellectual Curiosity
A desire to continuously re-evaluate what is believed to be the "right answer" to a problem. Seeking innovation, investigation, and intellectual growth of self and others.

Creative Thinking
An ability to think outside the box, make unique connections, and solve unconventional problems.

Servant Leadership
A demonstrated track record of humble and reflective service. Actively making a positive difference in the lives of others and the community.

Communication Skills
An ability to communicate effectively through strong verbal and written skills. Aspiring to make meaningful connections through relationships with others.

Contribution to Community
A deep commitment to leave things better than they’ve been found. Making meaningful contributions and inspiring others to do the same.

Katya Bobrek
Woodruff Scholar | Junior—Emory College of Arts and Sciences | Computer Science; Anthropology and Human Biology | Knoxville, TN

“I have not only learned factual and conceptual information from my peers in the Scholars Program, but I have also learned how to treat others, hold engaging conversations, and be the most welcoming person that I can be. The Scholar community inspires me to be a kinder, more welcoming person, and I have learned to enter every conversation with the mindset that this individual has just as much to teach me, if not more, as I have to teach them.”
Growing in a Community of Scholars

A Personalized Approach
The Emory Scholars Program is unique in allowing its Scholars many choices in both programming and opportunities, so that Scholars can engage in what most aligns with their personal growth goals and career plans. Scholars also benefit tremendously from the many chances for meaningful engagement with Scholar peers and alumni, faculty, and community members.

Programming
Program-Led Events
These events are attended by all Scholars and include:

- Fall Welcome Dinner: Scholars gather as a community to reconnect after the summer and welcome the newest Scholars.
- Academic Year Community Dinners: On personal, professional, and intellectual development topics. Past topics have included: summer experience planning, preparing and applying for prestigious scholarship and fellowship opportunities, resume writing, and the purpose of college.
- Scholars Retreat: An off-campus, multi-day event focused on community building, personal growth, service, and reflection.

Scholar-Led Events
These events are initiated by Scholars, faculty, or alumni, and are typically attended by 5 to 10 Scholars. Some examples include:

- Coffee/Lunch/Dinner Discussions: Community building is a focus, and there is often a selected topic of interest.
- Cultural Excursions: Attend a special event or nearby attraction, such as the Atlanta BeltLine Lantern Parade, the High Museum of Art, an Atlanta Symphony Orchestra musical performance, or a Glassblowing workshop with fellow Scholars.
- Scholars Teaching Scholars Workshops: Scholars, alumni, or faculty share a passion and/or academic area of expertise.
- Scholar-Initiated Programming: Scholars are encouraged to initiate programming that aligns with the Scholar qualities and community interests.

Elizabeth Barchas
Prelogar 02C*
Attorney with the Robert Mueller Investigative Team | Washington, D.C.
“From day one, it was clear that the Scholars Program was a community of like-minded people excited about education. I know of no other merit scholarship that is so comprehensive in its financial scope and everything it gives students—connecting with one another and offering true, moving experiences. This prepares Scholars for greatness at Emory and beyond.”

Notable Achievements:
Fulbright Scholar, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard Law; clerked for two Supreme Court justices

*Emory University uses these abbreviations to designate graduation year. For example, Elizabeth graduated from Emory College (C) in 2002.
Growing through Opportunities

**Funded Summer Opportunities**
- International Study Abroad and Global Internships
- Undergraduate research at Emory or elsewhere
- Scholarship and Service (SAS) Summer (Service Learning) Program
- Internships

**Support, Networking, and Personal Growth**
- First-year Scholars are matched with a Pre-Major Faculty Advisor who offers an enriched advising experience
- Regular pro-active advising with Emory Scholars Program staff
- Regular planning and reflection activities to aid personal growth and decision making
- Ongoing opportunities for networking and community building through interactions with faculty, alumni, and current Scholars

**Additional Program Benefits**
- Priority class registration for all four years
- Priority housing selection for sophomore year and beyond
- Scholars Lounge: a private living room environment on campus to facilitate engagement between Emory Scholars
- Conference Travel Grant: Scholars presenting at an academic or professional conference can apply for up to $500 (domestic conferences) or $750 (international conferences) in funding to offset costs associated with travel and attendance.

*Top:* Emory Scholars talking at the Fall Community Dinner Program-Led Event.
*Middle:* Ian George 19C conducting tropical medicine research at the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit in Bangkok, Thailand, where, as a rising junior, he completed a summer research internship.
*Bottom:* Nivedita Potapragada 19C visiting Platform Nine and Three-Quarters at King’s Cross Station in London, where, as a rising sophomore, she participated in an Emory Summer Study Abroad Program at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).
Giving to Change a Community

Maximize Your Impact

"Living the Legacy" of Robert W. Woodruff through giving is an integral part of the Emory Scholars Program. Scholars engage in the campus community and beyond, giving their time, energy, and talents to better the lives of others.

The Emory Scholars Program encourages Scholars to give in personally meaningful ways. Scholars are asked to reflect on the impact of giving to others and contemplate how those experiences impact their own personal growth, laying the foundation for life-long and sustainable giving.

Community Engagement

- Scholars Service Trips
- Campus-wide service days in Atlanta
- Founding, leading and/or participating in campus clubs, organizations, and initiatives
- Serving as an Emory Scholars Program ambassador as needed

Ameya Gangal
Woodruff Scholar | Junior—Emory College of Arts and Sciences | Neuroscience and Behavior Biology | Plano, TX

“I was elected treasurer for the Haiti Neurosurgery Initiative (HNI), which supports neurosurgical intervention missions in Haiti, particularly at l’Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais (HUM), the country’s first rural teaching hospital. As treasurer, I handled budget requests and coordinated fundraising events. This experience was not only humbling, but it also gave me insight into the organization and diligence needed to raise money, which we successfully did for an upcoming mission.”

Claire Barnes 19C and Fredrick Thompson 20C painting for The Children’s Corporate Heart Project during a service opportunity at the Emory Scholars Program Annual Retreat.
Scholarship Opportunities

A Community of Scholars
All Emory Scholars benefit from the programming, opportunities, community support, and engagement that help all Scholars grow and give as well as receiving one of the associated merit scholarships listed below.

First-Year Scholarships
Incoming first-year students can apply for the Emory University Scholars Program through their application for admission.

Robert W. Woodruff Scholars
Full tuition, fees, room and board. Includes regular Woodruff Scholars, Woodruff Debate, and Woodruff Music Scholars.

Ely R. Callaway Scholars
Full tuition, fees, room and board; awarded to Georgia residents.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholars
Full tuition, fees, room and board; awarded to students from the Atlanta Public School district.

George W. Jenkins Scholars
Full tuition, fees, room and board, $4,600 stipend, laptop, health insurance (optional), and one all-expenses paid service learning trip (optional); awarded to students who have overcome adversity, have strong community involvement, have demonstrated financial need, and reside in a state where Publix Supermarkets are present.

Continuing Emory Student Scholarships
Current Emory students who have at least a 3.6 cumulative GPA and who are grounded in the Scholar qualities can apply to be a Dean's Achievement Scholar (DAS) after their freshman or sophomore year (2018 cycle).

Robert W. Woodruff Dean’s Achievement Scholars
Full tuition, fees, room and board for remaining 2 or 3 undergraduate years at Emory (2018 cycle).

Oxford Scholars
Oxford Scholars attending Oxford College automatically become members of the Emory Scholars Program when they move to the Atlanta campus as juniors. Their associated merit scholarship award continues for their two remaining undergraduate years.

Class of 2021 Robert W. Woodruff Emory Scholars.