Greetings, Emory Scholar Alumni!

We hope you had a peaceful and healthy holiday season. This fall, the Emory Scholars Program rolled out Scholars 2.0—a more specific programmatic emphasis on the five newly articulated “Scholar Qualities:" intellectual curiosity, creative thinking, servant leadership, communication skills, and contribution to community. With the values of “Grounded, Giving, Growing,” the Emory Scholars Program 2.0 is a community of Scholars with outstanding academic success who are:

- **grounded** in the Scholars Qualities
- **growing** those qualities by engaging in programming and opportunities that align with their personal growth goals and career plans, and
- "living the legacy" of Robert W. Woodruff by **giving** of their time, energy, and talents for the benefit of the Emory community and beyond.

We're excited about the program's growth and hope you enjoy reading about the many ways that alumni have been involved so far this academic year as well as what the current Scholars have been doing.

---

**Hult Prize Entrepreneurial Scholars Apology**

Recently a team of Emory Scholars became Regional finalists for the 2016 Hult Prize where they will present their innovative idea for how to double the income of 10 million people living in crowded urban spaces via a sustainable start-up enterprise and hopefully move on to compete for $1 million.

Many of you recently received an email directly from these entrepreneurial Scholars soliciting your financial support for their travel to the competition. The action they took is **not** in alignment with how we engage Scholar alumni in giving and involvement and took place without the Program’s knowledge or permission.

We deeply value your trusting us with your contact information and apologize that your information was mishandled. We’ve made immediate changes in how we safeguard your information, have educated the Scholars involved, and are putting in place a plan to educate all Scholars about appropriate alumni outreach efforts to be sure this doesn't happen again.

We are grateful for the many ways in which Alumni Scholars have supported current Scholars to date and we look forward to continued communications through this newsletter and other formal venues about the many opportunities for involvement yet to come.
**Scholar Alumni Giving Back**

It was a busy fall full of events for Scholars, including opportunities to **grow** through engagement with alumni. Below are a few examples of how our alumni **gave** back to the Scholars program this year by engaging with current Scholars!

**Senior DC Trip**

As was the case last academic year, this past fall, 12 Emory Scholars seniors traveled to Washington, DC to meet with lawmakers and alumni in a variety of fields. Scholars had the opportunity to sit in on a Senate vote, tour the Supreme Court, Capitol, and Holocaust Memorial Museum, meet with legislators and their staff (including Congressman John Lewis and Congresswoman Kathy Castor 88C), and network with Emory and Scholar alumni who live and work in the Washington, DC area during lunch and dinner receptions.

Reflecting on the trip, current senior Abigail Holst 16C said: “Simply learning about the sheer range of possibilities post-graduation from Emory alumni working in the DC area and engaging in candid, fruitful discussion with them was inspiring. I believe the most valuable parts of this trip are yet to come, as I plan to stay in touch with a number of alumni I met, including individuals working in the Peace Corps and public health professionals. Laila Atalla 16C, another Emory Scholar senior, agreed: "This will stand out as one of the most interesting and exciting experiences I had during my time at Emory."

A special thank you to all 40 DC-area alumni who engaged with our current Scholars.

If you currently live in the DC area, please make sure your contact information is up-to-date with Emory so that you receive an invitation for next year’s DC Emory Scholars Alumni Networking events.

**2015 Emory Scholars Retreat**

The 2015 Emory Scholars Retreat was held at Lake Lanier Islands and Resort in Georgia from November 6th – 8th. This event allowed for new Scholars to engage with the larger Emory Scholars community, grow their intellectual curiosity, relax, and have some fun. We would especially like to thank Jim Chen 87C 87G, Louise Freeman 88C, Shatul Parikh 97OX 99C 08MR, Lexi Rothman 97C, and Lora Smothers 09C for presenting workshops during the Scholar Alumni sessions at the retreat; they were all huge successes! Kevin Park 17C, a new Dean’s Achievement Scholar, wrote to program staff after the retreat and said: "I would not have traded that experience for any other! The retreat was amazing and [it was] really encouraging to meet Scholar alumni at the beautiful Lake Lanier. This will definitely be a college memory that I will always hold."
Current Scholars Giving

Service Trips

Emory Scholars are motivated by a drive to serve others, as reflected in two of the five “Scholar Qualities:” Servant Leadership and Contribution to Community. This fall, Scholars participated in a variety of volunteer activities, including a trip to FurKids (Atlanta’s largest no-kill animal shelter) and a building project with Habitat for Humanity.

Emory Cares Day, a partnership between Volunteer Emory and the Emory Alumni Association, saw our Scholars in action with organizations such as Global Growers, the NAMES Project Foundation, and Send-a-Smile. Scholars who volunteered with Global Growers helped weed, mulch, prune, and harvest the Global Growers Garden, which aims to support sustainable agriculture in Georgia. At the NAMES Project Foundation site, Scholars pulled and packed quilt blocks for upcoming World AIDS Day displays. Scholar volunteers with Send-a-Smile hand-made cards to be delivered to hospitalized children and shelters around the Atlanta metro area.

Scholar Accomplishments

Leah Michalove
Leah Michalove 16C, a Dean’s Achievement Scholar majoring in Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies and with a minor in anthropology, is one of 32 American college students selected as a 2016 Rhodes Scholar. The Rhodes Scholarship provides for two or three years of study at the University of Oxford in England. After completing a master’s degree in social anthropology at Oxford, Leah intends to pursue a doctorate in anthropology, focusing on the Middle East. Congratulations to Leah! Read more here.

The Paris Climate Summit
Two faculty members and nine students represented the university at the UN Climate Conference in Paris, including Emory Scholars Mae Bowen 16C and Caiwei Huang 18C. The conference, held from November 30th – December 11th, resulted in negotiators from 196 countries reaching an agreement that included long-term goals of reducing carbon emissions and holding global temperature rise below 2-degrees Celsius. Mae was one of four Emory students granted access to observe inside the conference site. She writes:
“I was pleasantly surprised by the level of access given to observers, as well as the efforts of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to make sure that the negotiations were both efficient (with multiple small, private meetings between delegates) and transparent (with “update” sessions for delegates and observers throughout). I went into the conference optimistic that a deal would be made, but unsure of how ambitious it would be. While it isn't perfect in many regards, the goals set are more ambitious than I had thought possible, which is pretty exciting.”

“We often say that the best solutions come from the collaboration between government, business, and civil society. The Paris Summit provided a platform for passionate people all around the world to share their ideas and create change. I met indigenous leaders protecting their land, business leaders advocating for sustainable operating models, and youths who want a say in their future,” Caiwei added. Read more about the UN Climate Conference here.

---

**Scholars in the News**

On November 9, 1979, the front page of the New York Times trumpeted news of a $100 million gift to Emory from Robert W. Woodruff. If it seems odd that a philanthropic gesture, however grand, would make the cover of the nation’s newspaper of record, consider it evidence of a growing awareness that Emory was beginning a deliberate transformation, shaped by the pursuit of academic prestige and a rise to national prominence. Part of Woodruff’s record gift targeted students who were Ivy League–bound and whom Emory wanted to recruit in its “fight for greater recognition,” as the Times described it. The Robert W. Woodruff Scholarship, a full ride earmarked for top students who met distinct criteria, was a centerpiece of this endeavor.

Instead of heading to Harvard and other schools in the Northeast, those high achievers came in batches of a dozen or so a year to Emory College. While the WoodPEC and other buildings arose from Woodruff’s generosity, the early classes of Robert W. Woodruff Scholars were not as noticeable. Funded by an Atlanta icon who was seven decades older, they followed his lead of calling little attention to themselves. They didn’t set themselves apart; no acronym after their names, no secret handshake—just a shared dedication to the best an Emory education had to offer.

This fall, as the inaugural class celebrated their thirtieth reunion, the largest recruited class of Robert W. Woodruff Scholars entered Emory College for the first time—thirty-three of them. They chose Emory over other top-tier schools partly because other Robert W. Woodruff Scholars helped persuade them. Read more here.

---

**Stay in Touch**

Thanks for reading! As the spring semester proceeds in earnest, the Emory Scholars Program is preparing to host ~80 high school seniors (Scholars hopefuls) at Scholars Finalists’ Week in late March. We look forward to sharing updates about our newest incoming class of Scholars and other updates from spring semester in our next newsletter, look for it this summer!
We also encourage you to indicate your general involvement interests through our Emory Scholars Alumni Interest Form, so that we can reach out as opportunities that you are most interested in arise.

If you want to share any feedback or suggestions about the new Emory Scholars Alumni newsletter, we can be reached by email at ec.scholars@emory.edu or by phone at: 404-275-7845.

The Emory Scholars Program
http://college.emory.edu/scholars