Grounded.
Growing.
Giving.
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.

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 the Emory College of Arts and Sciences as Woodruff Scholars. From Mr. Woodruff’s legacy, the Emory Scholars Program emerged and has grown to include a community of about 180 Scholars. In addition to Woodruff Scholars, the program now also includes other named Scholars that honor the founder of Publix Supermarkets businessman George W. Jenkins, Jr.; civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.; and golf club manufacturing entrepreneur Ely R. Callaway, Jr.

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 Scholars 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 select for membership in the Emory Scholars Program.

The Scholars 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.

Safiyah Bharwani
Sophomore | Economics and Political Science/Math | Richmond, TX

“To be a Woodruff Scholar is to understand the world in a unique way, see what changes are required in society, and work to bring them about as a servant leader.”
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.
Support, Networking, and Personal Growth

- First-year Scholars are matched with a Scholars Faculty Advisor who offers an enriched advising experience
- 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
- Exclusive Scholars Lounge—a private living room environment on campus to facilitate intellectual engagement within the Emory Scholars community
- Conference Travel Grant—Scholars presenting at an academic or professional conference can apply for up to $500 in funding to offset costs associated with travel and attendance

Top Left: Senior Manasa Bhatta visiting the salt flats (Salar de Uyuni) in Bolivia where she interned with a local nonprofit and created a sustainable program that provides free HIV/AIDS screening and counseling.

Top Right: Junior Lexi Dantzler visiting Thailand where she was participating in an Obstetrics and Gynecology Internship and Research Practicum over the summer.

Middle: Scholars meeting with civil rights hero and U.S. Representative (Georgia) John Lewis during a Scholars trip to Washington, DC.

Bottom: Scholars Faculty Committee member Dr. Hong Li consulting with students on a film project at the Annual Scholars Retreat held at Lake Lanier Legacy Resort.
Senior Leah Michalove and Alumnus Ernest Brown 13C work together to help clean up Oakland Historic Cemetery as part of Emory’s Martin Luther King, Jr. “Day On” Day of Service.

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 twice per year
- Founding, leading and/or participating in campus clubs, organizations, and initiatives
- Serving as an Emory Scholars Program ambassador as needed

Kevin Williams
Senior | Neuroscience & Behavioral Biology and Music Performance | Wasilla, AK

“Science and music are my main things, and at Emory you can do both and thrive. The Woodruff Scholarship means that I don’t have to worry about the practical issues of paying for college. I can funnel all my energy into academics and activities and giving back as much as I can, wherever I can. Giving back is a conscious part of my thinking that is more salient with this scholarship.”

Scholarship and Service Summer Program: Interned at Hospice Atlanta to better understand hospice care and the ethical complexities involved.

Senior Leah Michalove and Alumnus Ernest Brown 13C work together to help clean up Oakland Historic Cemetery as part of Emory’s Martin Luther King, Jr. “Day On” Day of Service.
Scholarship Opportunities

A Community of Scholars
While the amount of merit scholarship provided through the Emory Scholars Program varies by Scholar, all Emory Scholars benefit from the programming, opportunities, community support, and engagement that help all Scholars grow and give.

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

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

Ely R. Callaway Scholars
1 student per year
Full tuition, fees, room and board; awarded to a Georgia resident.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholars
1–3 students per year
Full tuition, fees, room and board; awarded to a student from the Atlanta Public School district.

Benjamin E. Mays Scholars
0–1 student per year
Two-thirds of tuition; awarded to a student from the Atlanta Public School district.

George W. Jenkins Scholars
2 students per year
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.

J. Pollard Turman Leadership Scholar
0–1 student per year
Full tuition and fees.

Tibetan Scholar
1 student every 4 years
Full tuition and fees.

Sophomore and Junior Dean’s Achievement Scholarships
Current Emory students who have at least a 3.6 cumulative GPA can apply to be a Dean’s Achievement Scholar (DAS) in the spring of their freshman or sophomore year.

Robert W. Woodruff Scholars
2–3 students per year
Full tuition, fees, room and board.

Ammerman Family, Henry L. Bowden, Madeleine Brown, Jeanne Gold, Emily Graham, Norman C. and Henry J. Miller, Pat H. Odom, Stahl Family, Chris A. Yannopoulos and Goodrich C. White Scholars
18–20 students per year
$10,000 per year awarded for two or three remaining years at Emory.

Oxford Scholars
Oxford Scholars attending Oxford College automatically join the Emory Scholars Program when they move to the Atlanta campus as juniors. Financial awards continue for their remaining undergraduate studies.