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A Transformative Experience

Oxford College, in line with Winstanley’s bold statement that “action is the life of all,” is dedicated to academic excellence and our students’ success in ways that extend beyond the classroom. Scholarship involves not just a body of knowledge; it involves a way of life in which seekers of knowledge pursue truth wherever it may be found. Oxford College’s classroom experiences thus include exploration and discovery, where students learn and actively practice inquiry, because knowledge is deepened and made effective through practice. That is why intellectual explorations at Oxford College also often include social responsibility and real-world experiences.

The Pierce Institute for Leadership and Community Engagement is at the heart of these transformational efforts with its commitment to ethics, leadership, and community engagement. The Pierce Service Corps and Theory-Practice/Service Learning courses, for example, integrate knowledge with hands-on community experiences. Students also can volunteer for service through the Volunteer Oxford program or Alternative Breaks. Through such activities, Oxford students contributed more than 13,000 hours of service in the community during the 2014–2015 academic year.

Opportunities abound for students to become active and effective leaders, including Pierce Institute–sponsored programs such as Experience in Cultivating Excellence in Leaders, Leadership Oxford, and the Pierce Leadership Certificate Program, all of which incorporate the social change model of leadership. Our programs also cultivate student leadership in academics and research. In the Oxford Research Scholars Program and the Summer Undergraduate Research Program, for example, students conduct one-on-one research with an Oxford professor.

In addition, the Pierce Institute offers global opportunities, such as the Global Connections program, and we help sponsor off-campus courses with our Oxford Scholars Scholarship Program and the Pierce Student Scholarships for Off-Campus Studies. In addition, we bring renowned scholars to campus, whether through the Pierce Lecture Series—including the Leadership Lecture Series, the Chaplain’s Lecture Series, and the Theory-Practice/Service Learning Lecture Series—or the Pierce Visiting Scholar Program, run in partnership with the University of Oxford in England.

The 27 Pierce Institute–affiliated programs that integrate academics, ethics, leadership, and community engagement are situated within four pillars: leadership, community engagement, global engagement, and the Pierce Program in Religion.

David B. Gowler
The Dr. Lovick Pierce and Bishop George F. Pierce Chair of Religion and
Director, Pierce Institute for Leadership and Community Engagement, Oxford College of Emory University
Senior Faculty Fellow, Center for Ethics, Emory University

“For action is the life of all, and if thou dost not act, thou dost nothing.”
—Gerrard Winstanley,
“A Watch-Word to the City of London and the Armie” (1649)
Leadership

Leadership can be defined many ways, but three of Oxford’s innovative leadership programs—Experience in Cultivating Excellence in Leaders, Leadership Oxford, and the Pierce Leadership Certificate—have adapted the leadership model pioneered by Alexander W. Astin and Helen S. Astin, authors of Leadership Reconsidered: Engaging Higher Education in Social Change, as their philosophy of leadership. In this social-change model, as they assert, we view the “leader” basically as a change agent, i.e., “one who fosters change.” Leaders, then, are not necessarily those who merely hold formal “leadership” positions; on the contrary, all people are potential leaders. Furthermore, since the concepts of “leadership” and “leader” imply that there are other people involved, leadership is, by definition, a collective or group process.

Thus Oxford’s definition of leader differs from the common understanding of that term. Within the social-change philosophy of leadership, instead of training people merely to be “in charge,” we promote one or more of the following qualities of leadership:

- Awareness of self and empathy with others—self-reflection that includes an increasing awareness of one’s beliefs, values, and abilities, as well as an increasing ability to understand and appreciate the beliefs, life experiences, and values of others.
- Ethical leadership principles and practices—fundamental principles and practices associated with ethical leadership skills.
- Collaboration and problem solving—the ability to work cooperatively and effectively with others in ways that empower individuals by using gifts and contributions from all participants.
- Commitment and action—the motivation to translate knowledge into action and to become actively involved in individual and collaborative efforts to foster personal and social change.
- Ethical engagement and citizenship—positive civic engagement and social responsibility through an ethic of service and a concern for justice.

Experience in Cultivating Excellence in Leaders (ExCEL)

ExCEL is a leadership-training program for Oxford College sophomores who are interested in improving, understanding, or developing their leadership abilities. Approximately 25 students are selected each fall to take part in the program. ExCEL activities—which include some weeknight leadership-development programs and an intensive weekend retreat—consist of lively group-building games and challenging outdoor activities centered on the core principles of ethical leadership, collaborative decision making, and creative problem solving. A follow-up session a few weeks after the retreat allows students and staff to reflect together on the experience. For more information, contact:

Chinyere Nwokah, Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Leadership  
770.784.8456          cnwokah@emory.edu

Leadership Oxford

Leadership Oxford is Oxford’s oldest leadership program. Ten previous Leadership Oxford participants selected as Sophomore Leaders work throughout the year to plan a program introducing first-year students to experiential leadership training. The weeklong program includes an emphasis on strengths-based leadership and practical application of leadership concepts and ethical leadership practices, culminating with a retreat in the North Georgia mountains designed to advance a teamwork approach to campus leadership, develop important relationships, learn about one another, and discover how one is suited to leadership. For more information, contact:

Kasey Harvill, Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Leadership  
770.784.8457          kasey.harvill@emory.edu
Pierce Leadership Certificate Program

The Pierce Leadership Certificate Program prepares students for leadership in the college, community, and world. Students apply for the program during the fall semester of their first year and participate during their following three semesters at Oxford. In each semester, the program focuses on a different component of socially responsible leadership: the individual, the group, and the community. Upon successful completion of all program requirements—including an overnight retreat and monthly meetings, logging 20 hours of community service, and taking academic courses that involve leadership knowledge and skills—participants receive a leadership certificate and medal.

More information about the program and the application form can be found at oxford.emory.edu/leadershipcertificate or by contacting:

Rhiannon Hubert, Director of Student Involvement and Leadership
770.784.8445  rhiannon.hubert@emory.edu
Sharon Lewis, Professor of Psychology
770.784.8374  slewis@emory.edu
Ikeda Evans, Administrative Assistant
770.784.4715  ievans@emory.edu

Oxford Scholars

Each year a number of outstanding incoming first-year students are selected for the Scholars Program. The program is sponsored by the Pierce Institute, but as an academic program, it is overseen by the associate dean for academic affairs and selected faculty members. The Oxford Scholars Program seeks to promote intellectual and leadership capacities, encourage civic engagement and social responsibility, and develop ethical leadership skills and collaborative decision making. The program encourages student scholars to continue their academic and personal development as well as make positive contributions to the Oxford College community. It includes activities such as dinners with faculty; lectures and discussions about significant literary, historical, or artistic topics; and other events of interest. The cultural component of the program exposes scholars to a wide range of events in the local area and in Atlanta, such as plays, concerts, and other activities. For more information, contact:

Catherine Chastain-Elliott, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
770.784.4648  cchastain@emory.edu

Oxford Research Scholars Program

The Oxford Research Scholars Program offers selected students the opportunity to work directly with faculty members on disciplinary research projects or projects related to the scholarship of teaching and learning. Students chosen as Oxford Research Scholars receive a stipend and are given the chance to present their work during the annual Oxford Research Scholars Spring Symposium. As program participants, students learn how research within their disciplines leads to knowledge creation, are introduced to current research in their disciplines, and learn how research is organized and funded. Through knowledge of and direct involvement in research, students obtain a different perspective on learning. Furthermore, students who engage in research during their sophomore year are able to compete successfully with juniors and seniors when applying for summer internships, and they are often chosen to participate in the Emory SIRE program (Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory) after graduating from Oxford. Students who are interested in this program should contact a professor in the field in which they would like to do research. For more information, contact:

Alicia DeNicola, Associate Professor of Anthropology
770.784.4614  alicia.denicola@emory.edu
Summer Undergraduate Research at Emory at Oxford

The SURE-Oxford program is an extension of Emory University’s Summer Undergraduate Research at Emory (SURE) program funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. SURE is managed by the Center for Science Education on the Atlanta campus, and the Pierce Institute provides funding for the SURE-Oxford program. In the SURE-Oxford program, students work with Oxford faculty for 10 weeks in the summer as researchers on projects with biological or biomedical emphases. The SURE-Oxford students participate in the larger SURE program on the main campus in weekly career mentoring and ethics sessions, and they also compete in the final poster competition. Students learn leadership skills by taking ownership of a research project, working independently, and learning to communicate to a larger scientific community. For more information, contact:

Effrosyni Seitaridou, Associate Professor of Physics
770.784.8344 eseitar@emory.edu

Supplemental Instruction

Supplemental Instruction (SI) offers students in historically challenging courses the opportunity to attend weekly review sessions led by students who not only have mastered these difficult courses but who also have demonstrated their ability to lead other students through the course material. Indeed, when faculty choose a student as an SI leader, they are confident that the student will serve as a model of leadership excellence to other students.

The SI leader attends class regularly to help ensure that the material covered in SI sessions is a review of course topics. Additionally, regular communication between the SI leader and the faculty supervisor promotes earlier recognition of problems students may be having with material. These areas then may be addressed in SI sessions, class meetings by the faculty member, or both. Although sessions are voluntary for students, attendance and course grade data show that students who attend SI sessions perform nearly a letter grade higher than those who do not attend sessions. For more information, contact:

Jill Petersen Adams, Assistant Director, Center for Academic Excellence
770.784.4661 jill.adams@emory.edu

The Pierce Fund for Staff Development

Oxford College staff members provide assistance to faculty and service to students and thus are integral to its Oxford education. In recognition of their many contributions, the Pierce Institute’s Fund for Staff Development makes
Margaret Dugan’s service and dedication make her the deserved recipient of the Pierce Award for Staff Leadership.

The Pierce Institute

Margaret’s leadership, service, and deep dedication to Oxford College make her the well-deserved recipient of the 2015 Pierce Award for Staff Leadership.

Previous Pierce Award for Staff Leadership winners include Al Mitchell, lead maintenance mechanic, Physical Plant (2014); Joy Budensiek, academic department administrator for the Division of Natural Science and Mathematics (2013); Jim Brown, director of Academic Computing Technologies (2012); Mickle Browning, senior maintenance mechanic, Physical Plant (2009; 2011, posthumously); Ann Cargile, manager of records and registration (2010); Crystal McLaughlin, director of student development (2008); and Regina Barrett, office manager, Academic Affairs (2007).

For more information or to nominate a staff member for the 2016 award, contact: Allison McKelvey, Administrative Assistant for the Pierce Institute
770.784.8310           amckel2@emory.edu

The Pierce Award for Staff Leadership
The Pierce Award for Staff Leadership is given annually by the Pierce Institute to a staff member who demonstrates admirable leadership, dedication, and service to Oxford College and its students. The award includes public recognition, a plaque, and a significant monetary award.

The recipient of the 2015 Pierce Award for Staff Leadership is Margaret Dugan, manager of auxiliary operations. Margaret arrived at Oxford College in March 2003, when she was hired as an accountant. She was quickly promoted to budget analyst in September 2004 and then to senior budget analyst in September 2005. In December 2010, Margaret was promoted a third time to her current position as manager of auxiliary operations. In that role, Margaret oversees the operational and financial aspects of dining services, housing budgets, and mail services. She also manages the Events and Conferences staff as well as serving as liaison to the university for bookstore operations.

Margaret’s multiple promotions in her twelve years at Oxford are direct evidence of her multiple talents. Margaret is task-oriented, someone who is dedicated to excellence in all her work and attends to tasks with great thought, diligence, and care. But Margaret is also people-oriented—she works in a collaborative fashion, is sensitive to the needs of others, actively seeks their input, and goes the extra mile to help and support faculty, staff, and students.

She has demonstrated her leadership in many ways, whether as chair of the Oxford Staff Organization, the organizer of the “Meatless Monday Program” at Oxford, and as a leader in other sustainability programs, as well as additional efforts that promote Oxford as a better community for living and learning. Margaret also has a heart for service, such as participating in alternative spring breaks and serving as a host family for international students.

financial grants available to staff members who wish to advance their professional or personal growth in ways that promote ethics, community engagement, and leadership. Grants are made through a competitive application process. For more information and to apply for funds, Oxford College staff members should contact:
Kasey Harvill, Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Leadership
770.784.8457           kasey.harvill@emory.edu

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Dean Bowen presents Margaret Dugan with the 2015 Pierce Award for Staff Leadership.
Community Engagement

Alternative Breaks
Many Oxford students and staff members participate in an Alternative Fall or Spring Break trip designed to nurture meaningful student development through service projects that offer community engagement, exposure to social justice issues and cultural events, purposeful reflection, and a unique hands-on education. These trips blend fun, team bonding, and community engagement through pretrip education, service, and reflection. The mission of each trip is to allow students to collaborate with nonprofits and community change agents through service projects and cultural experiences. The travel groups feature between 12 and 30 participants and engage students through personal hands-on experiences that may range from repairing homes or working in homeless shelters to assisting with food and community sustainability projects. Previous trips have included disaster relief following hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Mississippi and New Orleans, building Habitat for Humanity houses in Alabama and Georgia, working with high-need communities and schools in coastal South Carolina and, most recently, Hurricane Sandy disaster relief in New Jersey and a trip to Heifer International Ranch in Arkansas. The goals of these trips are for students to provide service for communities in need, reflect on social problems identified during the service projects, and enjoy activities and sites unique to that location. For more information, contact:
Chinyere Nwokah, Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Leadership
770.784.8456 cnwokah@emory.edu

CAE-Pierce Grant for High-Impact Pedagogies of Engagement
This grant program is a partnership of the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) and the Pierce Institute. The mission of the CAE includes faculty development opportunities, teaching and learning scholarship, assessment of courses and programs, and partnerships with faculty and programs in other divisions of Emory and beyond. The mission of the Pierce Institute is to promote ethics, community engagement, and leadership. This grant program operates at the intersection of those two missions:

The CAE / Pierce Grant for High-Impact Pedagogies of Engagement provides financial support for Oxford College faculty members who wish to explore and develop high-impact pedagogies of engagement in ways that promote ethics, community engagement, and/or leadership.

This purpose, however, also includes significant flexibility, and what projects or activities are funded ultimately depends on the creativity of faculty members who submit proposals. Responsibility for recommending which proposals can be funded are the joint responsibility of the director of CAE and the Pierce Chair of Religion, who will—whenever possible—seek the input of the Pierce Chair Advisory Committee. The amount of each grant will normally be in the range of $300-3,000, but exceptions will be considered.

For more information, contact:
Jeff Galle, Director, Center for Academic Excellence
770.784.4571 jgalle@emory.edu
David B. Gowler, Pierce Chair of Religion
770.784.8413 dgowler@emory.edu

The Theory-Practice/Service Learning program is one of the high-impact pedagogies of engagement that are part of the Oxford experience.
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Ethics and Servant Leadership Summer Internship Program
The D. Abbott Turner Ethics and Servant Leadership (EASL) Program is part of Emory University’s Center for Ethics. EASL promotes servant leadership throughout the Emory community, striving to inspire and support all Emory community members as they develop the power to serve and lead for the common good. The Pierce Institute provides financial support for Oxford students who participate in the EASL summer internship program. For more information on EASL, visit ethics.emory.edu/easl or contact:
Edward Queen, Director of Ethics and Servant Leadership
404.727.1240        edward.queen@emory.edu

Pierce Service Corps (formerly operated as Bonner Leaders)
The Pierce Service Corps provides a competitively selected group of approximately 25 students with an intensive community service experience. Students are matched with a local nonprofit or school to serve the needs of the local community. They work eight to 10 hours per week in a variety of settings—as classroom assistants, tutors in afterschool programs, mentors in youth-diversion programs, and as program assistants in domestic violence shelters, senior activity centers, and environmental agencies. Students also have weekly group meetings for reflection and training as well as group-service projects. They are paid an hourly wage for their service and group activities. Students who complete a total of 225 hours of service during the course of the academic year also earn a stipend in recognition of their accomplishment.

For more information about the program, contact:
Chinyere Nwokah, Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Leadership
770.784.8456        cnwokah@emory.edu

Theory-Practice/Service Learning
Theory-Practice/Service Learning (TPSL) courses are designed to integrate the theory of the classroom with experience in the local community. Students in TPSL courses partner with local organizations to serve and learn from the community and relate course content to their experiences. Students serve as tutors, mentors, counselors, and advocates for both children and adults at community agencies, schools, literacy programs, and residential centers. For more information, including a list of courses, visit the TPSL section of the Oxford College website—oxford.emory.edu/life/community_service/tpsl.dot—or contact TPSL coordinators:
Patricia Owen-Smith, Professor of Psychology and Women’s Studies
770.784.8322        psypos@emory.edu
Chinyere Nwokah, Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Leadership
770.784.8456        cnwokah@emory.edu

“TPSL has equipped me with an additional lens. I have awakened to the larger significance of events and now observe more deeply.”

Volunteer Oxford gives students many opportunities to lend a hand to others and to experience the joy of service.
Volunteer Oxford

Volunteer Oxford provides students with a wide range of service and community engagement opportunities. It is led by the assistant director of student involvement and leadership and three student Volunteer Oxford coordinators who assist their peers and student groups wishing to volunteer in the local community by matching their passions with the needs of local agencies. The goal of Volunteer Oxford is to provide effective community service that is meaningful both for volunteers and the groups they serve. Among the service opportunities volunteers pursue are mentoring youth at local elementary, middle, and high schools; creating awareness about hunger and homelessness issues; developing meaningful relationships with seniors through the “Adopt-a-Grandparent” program; supporting the environment and beautifying the community; as well as addressing and supporting additional community needs that may arise. For more information, contact:

Chinyere Nwokah, Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Leadership
770.784.8456 cnwokah@emory.edu

Global Connections

Global Connections is a travel experience designed to help students create meaning in their lives and connect their religious and spiritual convictions with justice issues, including peace, poverty, human rights, and the environment. Seminar activities and service experiences that offer reflection and meaningful dialogue with others aim also to help participants become agents of change for healthy living both here and abroad. The first Global Connections trip in 2006 was to Montana, where students studied issues of declining rural communities. Subsequent seminars have taken Oxford students, faculty, and staff to Poland, Vietnam, Turkey, New York City, the American South on a civil rights tour, and Costa Rica. The most recent trip—led by Jill Adams from Religion and Molly McGehee from American Studies—explored the theme, “Seeking Peace: Embodying Peace and Justice in Postwar Japan,” which included a twelve-day trip to Japan. For more information, contact:

Lyn Pace, Chaplain of Oxford College
770.784.8392 ppace@emory.edu

Participants in Global Connections at Fushimi Inari Taisha, a Shinto shrine near Kyoto.
Journeys Travel Program
Journeys is a travel program that originated at Oxford College in 1988. Students, faculty, and staff from both the Oxford and Atlanta campuses of Emory travel with and learn from each other—in addition to learning from the people they encounter during their travels. These journeys focus on communities around the world that have a history of conflict, violence, and exploitation. Each trip carries the hope that participants will be transformed into more thoughtful and caring citizens of the world. Past Journeys experiences have included trips to El Salvador, Northern Ireland, South Africa, Costa Rica, India, the Middle East, Canada and—most recently—Cuba.
For more information, contact: 
Lyn Pace, Chaplain of Oxford College 
770.784.8392     ppace@emory.edu

“Every day I had the opportunity to learn, serve, and understand the conditions and culture of those I worked with, all while learning about my own potential.”

Oxford Scholars Travel Scholarships
As the sponsor of the Oxford Scholars Program, the Pierce Institute awards travel scholarships to Oxford Scholars who are selected to serve as assistant leaders for off-campus courses or the Global Connections Program. Information about available Oxford Scholars Travel Scholarships is distributed to Oxford Scholars during the fall semester. For more information, contact: 
Allison McKelvey, Administrative Assistant for the Pierce Institute 
770.784.8310     amckel2@emory.edu

Pierce Student Scholarships for Off-Campus Studies
In addition to direct financial support for off-campus programs such as Global Connections, the Pierce Institute also funds scholarships for qualifying students who participate in Oxford College off-campus courses or programs. These scholarships are primarily directed to students requiring financial assistance to pay the additional costs that these programs often entail. For more information, contact: 
Jennifer Patil, Associate Dean for Financial Aid 
770.784.8328     jennifer.patil@emory.edu

Study opportunities supported by the Pierce Institute have included trips to Ecuador and a civil rights tour of the American South.
Pierce Program in Religion Lecture Series
This series brings to campus a number of distinguished lecturers in religious studies, ethics, and related disciplines. Prominent speakers have included:

- Zainal Abidin Bagir, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia
- Deidre Berger, American Jewish Committee, Berlin
- President Jimmy Carter
- Rosalynn Carter
- Senator Max Cleland
- Arun Gandhi
- Sona Khan, Delhi, India
- Amy-Jill Levine, Vanderbilt University
- Representative John Lewis
- Barry Lynn, Americans United for Separation of Church and State
- Martin Marty, University of Chicago
- Seyyed Hossein Nasr, George Washington University
- Stephen Prothero, Boston University
- Jairam Ramesh, Delhi, India

The Pierce Lecture Series also includes three additional lecture series:

Chaplain’s Lecture Series
The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, under the direction of the college chaplain, coordinates lectures each year that explore issues and themes related to religious and spiritual life, social justice, and ethical responsibility. These lectures bring in authors, artists, and social justice advocates to enable the Oxford College community to wrestle with some of life’s major questions of meaning and purpose. Past speakers have included:

- James Carroll (Boston Globe columnist and author of Jerusalem, Jerusalem)
- Magda Herzberger (Holocaust survivor, author, and poet)
- Jake and Rhonda Jacobsen (faculty members at Messiah College in Pennsylvania and authors of No Longer Invisible: Religion in University Education)
- Myron McGhee (photographer: “The Mind’s Eye”)
Global Engagement

The Pierce Institute

Staff Leadership Award

2002

The Pierce Institute to service learning in higher education such as ethics, social justice and social change, critical thinking and analysis, student voice, and authentic relationships among and between students, faculty, and community partners. For more information about this series or to suggest future speakers, contact: Allison McKelvey, Administrative Assistant for the Pierce Institute
770.784.8310 amckel2@emory.edu

Pierce Visiting Scholar Program with the University of Oxford in England

The Pierce Visiting Scholar Program is a faculty exchange between “the two Oxfords,” Oxford College and the University of Oxford in England. Each year the Pierce Institute designates a scholar from the University of Oxford in England as the Pierce Visiting Scholar. The visiting scholar comes to Oxford College for at least one week to give public lectures, teach classes, and meet with various groups. Each visiting scholar is hosted by a faculty member from Oxford College, who in turn travels to the University of Oxford and is hosted by the Pierce Visiting Scholar.

Since the establishment of the program in 2005, visiting scholars have included David Cooper, superintendent minister of Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in Oxford, England; Catherine Oakes, director of studies for the history of art, Kellogg College, Oxford University; Christopher C. Rowland, The Dean Ireland’s Professor for the Exegesis of Holy Scripture, Queen’s College, Oxford University; Julian Savulescu, Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics and director of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford University; Sam Davidson. For more information, visit oxford.emory.edu/ELS.

The Theory-Practice/Service Learning Lecture Series

The Theory-Practice/Service Learning Lecture Series brings to campus each year a national scholar in the field of service learning who provides campuswide lectures and workshops for students, faculty, and community partners. These lectures/workshops focus on critical issues related to service learning in higher education such as ethics, social justice and social change, critical thinking and analysis, student voice, and authentic relationships among and between students, faculty, and community partners. For more information about this series or to suggest future speakers, contact: Allison McKelvey, Administrative Assistant for the Pierce Institute
770.784.8310 amckel2@emory.edu

Leadership Lecture Series

The Leadership Lecture series currently consists of the Emerging Leaders Summit (ELS). This leadership workshop features a keynote speaker, leadership activities, and interactive presentations through several breakout sessions. The program helps to prepare students for their respective leadership roles and empower them to take risks and pursue their dreams. Previous ELS keynote speakers have included nationally known leadership experts such as Jess Ekstrom, Curtis Zimmerman, and Sam Davidson. For more information, visit oxford.emory.edu/ELS.

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Pierce Visiting Scholar Program with the University of Oxford in England

The Pierce Visiting Scholar Program is a faculty exchange between “the two Oxfords,” Oxford College and the University of Oxford in England. Each year the Pierce Institute designates a scholar from the University of Oxford in England as the Pierce Visiting Scholar. The visiting scholar comes to Oxford College for at least one week to give public lectures, teach classes, and meet with various groups. Each visiting scholar is hosted by a faculty member from Oxford College, who in turn travels to the University of Oxford and is hosted by the Pierce Visiting Scholar.

Since the establishment of the program in 2005, visiting scholars have included David Cooper, superintendent minister of Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in Oxford, England; Catherine Oakes, director of studies for the history of art, Kellogg College, Oxford University; Christopher C. Rowland, The Dean Ireland’s Professor for the Exegesis of Holy Scripture, Queen’s College, Oxford University; Julian Savulescu, Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics and director of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford University; Sam Davidson. For more information, visit oxford.emory.edu/ELS.

The Theory-Practice/Service Learning Lecture Series

The Theory-Practice/Service Learning Lecture Series brings to campus each year a national scholar in the field of service learning who provides campuswide lectures and workshops for students, faculty, and community partners. These lectures/workshops focus on critical issues related to service learning in higher education such as ethics, social justice and social change, critical thinking and analysis, student voice, and authentic relationships among and between students, faculty, and community partners. For more information about this series or to suggest future speakers, contact: Allison McKelvey, Administrative Assistant for the Pierce Institute
770.784.8310 amckel2@emory.edu

Pierce Visiting Scholar Program with the University of Oxford in England

The Pierce Visiting Scholar Program is a faculty exchange between “the two Oxfords,” Oxford College and the University of Oxford in England. Each year the Pierce Institute designates a scholar from the University of Oxford in England as the Pierce Visiting Scholar. The visiting scholar comes to Oxford College for at least one week to give public lectures, teach classes, and meet with various groups. Each visiting scholar is hosted by a faculty member from Oxford College, who in turn travels to the University of Oxford and is hosted by the Pierce Visiting Scholar.

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University of Liverpool; Alison Foster, senior curator at the University of Oxford Botanical Garden; Xiaolan Fu, director of the Technology and Management for Development Centre and fellow of Green-Templeton College at Oxford University; and Gail Trimble, university lecturer in classics at the University of Oxford and Brown Fellow and tutor in classics at Trinity College.


In addition to a number of other publications and honors, Pratt has been a Mellon Fellow at the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; a National Endowment for the Humanities (US) Long-Term Fellow, NEMLA Fellow at the American Antiquarian Society; a Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities/Bay State Historical League Scholar in Residence at the Nantucket Atheneum, and a Verney Fellow at the Nantucket Historical Association.

Pratt’s interdisciplinary work integrates literature, history, and culture studies. A significant amount of his research and teaching focuses on racial and gendered constructions within American literature and print culture, including the resistance toward such constructions by various writers and activists.

Pratt’s host for this faculty exchange program is Molly McGehee, associate professor of American studies at Oxford College, who shares many research and teaching interests with Pratt. McGehee will travel to the University of Oxford in the 2016–2017 academic year.

For more information about this series, contact: Allison McKelvey, Administrative Assistant for the Pierce Institute 770.784.8310 amckel2@emory.edu

**Emory Studies in Early Christianity**

Emory Studies in Early Christianity investigates early Christian literature in the context of Mediterranean literature, religion, society, and culture. The authors use interdisciplinary methods informed by social, rhetorical, literary, and anthropological approaches to move beyond the boundaries set by traditional literary-historical investigations. Volumes in the series include:

- Jan Botha, *Subject to Whose Authority? Multiple Readings of Romans 13, 1994.*
Respect for all religious and spiritual traditions is important at Oxford. All are welcome here, whether or not they are part of a religious, spiritual, or faith tradition.

- Alice J. Batten, Friendship and Beneftaction in James, 2010.

For more information, see religion.emory.edu/faculty/robbins/esec/index.cfm or contact:

Vernon K. Robbins, Professor of Religion, Emory College  
404.727.6466 relvkr@emory.edu

David B. Gowler, Professor of Religion; Pierce Chair of Religion, Oxford College  
770.784.8413 dgowler@emory.edu

Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity

The Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity (RRA) series, which includes the Foundation series and the Sociorhetorical Exploration Commentary series, uses insights from sociolinguistics, semiotics, rhetoric, ethnography, literary studies, social sciences, cognitive science, and ideological studies. The series is published by the Society of Biblical Literature Press and joined the Pierce Program in Religion in 2014. Its volumes include:

RRA Foundation Series:

Sociorhetorical Exploration Commentaries:

For more information, contact:

Vernon K. Robbins, Professor of Religion, Emory College  
404.727.6466 relvkr@emory.edu

David B. Gowler, Professor of Religion; Pierce Chair of Religion, Oxford College  
770.784.8413 dgowler@emory.edu

Religious and Spiritual Life at Oxford College

The chaplain is a resource for all members of the college community and an advocate for all religious and spiritual life groups on campus. During the first year of college, some students may have experiences that challenge their faith. Programs and counseling services offered through the chaplain’s office support students during their time at Oxford.

Respect for all religious and spiritual traditions is important at Oxford. All are welcome here, whether or not they are part of a religious, spiritual, or faith tradition. While here, students have the opportunity to participate in service, social, and religious programs sponsored by the chaplain’s office, the Interfaith Council, and the religious and spiritual life groups at the college. Throughout the year, many events celebrate a variety of faith traditions and their holidays. Dialogue and service are the primary means used to help the college community understand the variety of faith traditions on campus.

The resources of the chaplain’s office are available to all members of the college community regardless of race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, gender, or ability. For more information, contact:

Lyn Pace, Chaplain of Oxford College  
770.784.8392 ppace@emory.edu
Samuel W. Mills Peace Lecture Series
The Pierce Institute is the sponsor of the Samuel W. Mills Peace Lecture Series, which was established by John A. Mills III and Elizabeth W. Mills, parents of Sam Mills, an Oxford College alumnus who was killed in a bicycling accident in 1986, his senior year at Emory College. Sam Mills placed great importance on his rural Georgia heritage and ties to family and local folkways, while also working for national and global peace. In honor of Sam Mills, these lectures reflect those interests. Past lecturers in the series have included President Jimmy Carter, Representative John Lewis, Senator Max Cleland, Rosalynn Carter, and Sammy Clark, former chaplain of Oxford College and a friend of Sam Mills. For more information about this series, contact: Allison McKelvey, Administrative Assistant for the Pierce Institute 770.784.8310 amckel2@emory.edu

Emory University’s Center for Ethics
An international leader in the exploration of ethics, the Emory Center for Ethics is dedicated to exploring how ethical issues underlie the decisions that shape our minds, lives, and society. To do so, scholars from across the university gather at the center to collaborate and study. The center is also strongly committed to servant leadership and community outreach and, as such, hosts public programs, partners with community arts and service organizations, and consults with private industry, with the goal of elevating moral discourse and promoting ethical engagement.

The center has pioneered innovative ethics curricula and educational experiences and touches the lives of undergraduates, graduate students, and professional students in every school in the university. At Oxford College, the center is a partner with the Pierce Institute in such programs as the EASL Summer Internship Program (see page 12). In addition, David B. Gowler, Oxford’s Pierce Chair of Religion, holds a joint appointment as a senior faculty fellow in the Center for Ethics.

The Dr. Lovick Pierce and Bishop George F. Pierce Chair of Religion
David B. Gowler
David B. Gowler is the director of the Pierce Institute for Leadership and Community Engagement; the Dr. Lovick Pierce and Bishop George F. Pierce Chair of Religion; and senior faculty fellow, the Center for Ethics, Emory University. Gowler came to Oxford College in fall 2000 as the Pierce Chair of Religion—one of the distinguished chairs of Emory University—because he was attracted to Oxford College’s liberal arts–intensive environment. He previously taught at Berry College and was assistant dean for academic affairs and professor of religion at Chowan University. Since arriving at Oxford, Gowler has received numerous teaching awards, including the Phi Theta Kappa Teacher of the Year, the Mizell Award for Superior Performance in Furthering the Education of Students, the Emory Williams Teaching Award, and a national award, the Jerry G. Gaff Award for Faculty Excellence from the Association of General and Liberal Studies. Gowler also has received numerous grants for teaching, Pierce Institute initiatives, and his academic research, including a stint as a visiting theologian on the Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford, England.

As the founding director of the Pierce Institute for Leadership and Community Engagement, he created and manages the Pierce Institute, which now houses 27 affiliated programs that focus on ethics, leadership, and community engagement. Gowler also joined the faculty of Emory University’s Center for Ethics in August 2009.

Gowler is the author of Host, Guest, Enemy, and Friend: Portraits of the Pharisees in Luke and Acts; What Are They Saying about the Parables?; What Are They Saying about the Historical Jesus?; and James through the Centuries. His books have been translated into French, Korean, and Japanese. He also has published dozens of articles, book chapters, and book reviews, is the editor or coeditor of 19 books, including a volume with Oxford University Press, Radical Christian Voices and Practice, and has served as coeditor of Emory Studies in Early Christianity since 1991.

Gowler’s current writing project is a book on the reception history of the parables that will be published by Baker Academic Press. His blog, A Chorus of Voices, chronicles the writing of that book as well as focusing on the reception history of the parables: parablesreception.blogspot.com.
About the Pierce Institute

The Pierce Institute for Leadership and Community Engagement was established in 2006, but its initial seeds were sown in 1976 with a generous gift from the D. Abbott Turner family. William Turner and the other members of the Turner family endowed the Pierce Chair in Religion in honor of two of their ancestors: Dr. Lovick Pierce and Bishop George Foster Pierce. Bishop Pierce, William Turner’s great-great-grandfather, was president of Emory College from 1848 to 1854. In the years since the original gift, the endowment supported the activities of the Pierce Chair of Religion and the Pierce Program in Religion before its expansion into the Pierce Institute for Leadership and Community Engagement in 2006. The Pierce Institute seeks to promote ethics, leadership, and community engagement.

All the Pierce Institute programs must operate within one or more of the following rubrics:

- Connect students’ intellectual, spiritual, and leadership capacities for positive civic engagement
- Promote the intellectual rigor and moral virtues that engender an ethic of concern for justice and desire for reconciliation
- Encourage civic engagement and social responsibility through service learning and community service
- Promote fundamental principles and practices associated with ethical leadership skills and collaborative decision making
- Support courses and programs that emphasize practical ethics, diverse leadership dynamics, and service learning

Stay in touch with the Pierce Institute’s activities by liking us on Facebook [search for “Pierce Institute”] or following us on Twitter [@PierceInst].