‘The ride is all that counts’:
Oxford alumni are driven to help others, whether at their alma mater, in rural Alabama, or in the Republic of Georgia

Ian Gilbert 88OX 90C

When Ian Gilbert 88OX 90C was growing up on the tropical isle of Barbados, he would often come upon his grandfather sitting in the little library in his home reading a well-thumbed volume of the Encyclopedia Britannica. “He would encourage me to read the encyclopedia too, and I’d find myself discovering how calculators work or something equally fascinating,” says Gilbert, who now runs a number of real estate/redevelopment companies in Canada. “I spent a lot of time reading while I was growing up—we didn’t have television until five or six in the evening. Both of my grandfathers, Jack and Oscar, were always asking me, ‘What are you reading? Anything good? Tell me about it.’ It was very casual—they didn’t push me to read. They just really wanted to know, because they were always reading as well.”

The value of books soon became apparent to Gilbert. They could transport him—a small boy on a pear-shaped island in the West Indies—around the world, through time, across cultures. They could educate, illuminate, inspire. “Books open all doors,” he says simply.

And, when he came to Oxford College in 1986, Gilbert realized that even if he didn’t fully absorb the lecture, or if the subject was a challenge, all he had to do was read the textbook. “If you read the book, actually read the book, there’s a better chance that you will fall in love with the subject,” he says.

So, when Gilbert began looking for a way he could give something back to the college he loves (“It feels like yesterday when I would play Frisbee on the Quad, spend my Saturdays at the shoals,”) his thoughts turned to a familiar topic: How, he wondered, do students who need financial assistance afford all those expensive textbooks?

Gilbert worked with Kevin Smyrl, associate dean for development, to establish a grant that would cover the cost of textbooks for two incoming first-year students annually.

In a letter to the first recipients of the Jack Oscar Gilbert (JOG) Grant, Gilbert wrote, “Books are heavy, but the information carried inside will help you forever. Take it from a forty-year-old who has always made time to read. Take advantage of the time you have to sit back and read about something you enjoy, write about it, talk about it, argue over it . . . Oxford is the type of place where all of life’s fun can start to make sense. It’s all in the books.”

Then he added: “Like my brother always says to me when we surf the first wave of the day, ‘Drop in steep!’ The ride is all that counts.”

H. Kenneth Walker 56OX 58C 63M 70MR

After more than a decade of innovative efforts to improve health care for the residents of Tbilisi, Georgia, H. Kenneth Walker 56OX 58C 63M 70MR, professor of medicine at Emory, has received many public awards and honors. He has been named an honorary citizen of the Republic of Georgia and received an outstanding citizen achievement citation from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
Advocating for student concerns on campus, helping freshmen get settled in their new dorms, and voting on spending at the Alumni Board meeting is all in a day’s work for Vanessa Dooley ’09OX. A sophomore from Conyers, Georgia, Dooley has taken Oxford’s service philosophy to heart, volunteering and helping others both on campus and in the community.

Dooley is involved in a number of organizations and boards on campus, working with freshmen, current students, and even alumni. As a PAL (Peer Assistance Leader), she works during orientation with a group of twelve new freshman students, helping them navigate living away from home, register for classes, and even find new friends. “The PAL is always there to answer questions and calm fears if the students have any,” says Dooley. Following orientation, Dooley and the other PALS each teach a freshman seminar on diversity with a faculty or staff member.

PALS are all volunteers, and Crystal McLaughlin, director of student development, estimates they log 150 service hours each year. “They take their role very seriously but also make it fun,” says McLaughlin of the PALS. “So many students comment on the positive effect a PAL has on them in making them feel comfortable in their first semester at Oxford.”

As a Student Government Association (SGA) senator, Dooley votes on bills, and she serves as chair of the Food Committee. In this role, Dooley helps meet students’ needs in the dining hall, which this year has meant advocating for a pasta bar and reducing the amount of pork served on campus to better match dining choices and avoid waste. “In SGA I am able to listen to student concerns and try to help them resolve the issues that they have,” says Dooley.

This year Dooley was one of two students appointed to the Oxford College Alumni Board (OCAB) by the Executive Alumni Board Committee, a chance to serve that gives her a different perspective on Oxford. “In the OCAB I am able to meet people who used to go to Oxford,” she says. “It is really rewarding to hear their stories and know that Oxford is still the same place and has the same meaning.” As a board member, Dooley votes on current issues, such as how the OCAB money should be spent on campus. She also serves on the Sophomore Class Gift Committee for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Dooley is involved in one other organization on campus, and it’s not just because it shares her name. As a member of the Oxford social club Dooley’s Dolls, she enjoys the history of the organization, the social events it plans on campus, and also its community service commitment. Through Dooley’s Dolls, she volunteers with the Shearith Israel Women’s Shelter in Atlanta, the Atlanta Food Bank, and the Breast Cancer 3-Day, among many others.

McLaughlin sees the big impact Dooley has on the Oxford campus. “Vanessa always has a smile, a warm hug, and radiates joy. We all know first impressions are so important, and the first impression a new student has is that Vanessa is excited to have them here at Oxford and she is their friend,” says McLaughlin. “This means so much to all of us, but especially if you are new and trying to make the adjustment to a new school and college life in general.”

“I always like to think that when I help others it will impact them to do great things, even if I am not helping them directly.” —Vanessa Dooley ’09OX

Can you imagine leading a teaching revolution?

When Patricia Owen-Smith began teaching more than 20 years ago, her creative approach was considered unorthodox. She favored group discussions to lectures, sent students out to learn by experience, and traded exams for writing projects.

Teachers nationwide followed suit. Owen-Smith, Oxford professor of psychology and women’s studies, continues to explore new methods as director of Oxford’s Institutional Leadership Program. Funded by the Carnegie Foundation, the program is one of only 12 in the nation.

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I always like to think that when I help others it will impact them to do great things, even if I am not helping them directly.

—Vanessa Dooley ’09OX
As we watch the global economic crisis unfold and ponder the future, many of us find ourselves asking what values we can reassert as a foundation for rebuilding an economic system we can be proud of. There are plenty of examples of practices we want to prohibit, but what basic principles can serve as foundations for our shared work? One way to seek the answer is to retrace our steps to a time when society’s values felt more consistent with our own individual experiences, and we had a much stronger sense that we all shared a future.

For many alumni, the breadcrumbs will lead back to Oxford.

Alumni love to talk about their experiences as students at Oxford College and what the faculty demanded of them. A common denominator of these stories expressed in terms relevant to the economic crisis is “Wealth is created by work, and through your work you are expected to be a contributor.” Students were and are recognized for the work they did and the learning they achieved. Whether you had Mr. Elizer for trigonometry in 1965 or Dr. Bailey for statistics in 2005, you were expected to be present, prepared, and accountable. A good grade is wealth to a student, and there is one way to get it.

A second common denominator to the moral values that are the foundation of the Oxford experience is that wealth is complex concept. Small wealth or great wealth has meaning when it can be used to do something useful. It is not just investments in the bank or the 401(k), but also investments of time and concern. These values are enacted day by day in small ways as students support each other in classes and look after one another in social activities and the residence halls. Campuswide, the members of the Oxford community invest their time, energy, and concern in Oxford's extensive community engagement and service programs. Service projects that are part of classes, Volunteer Oxford, spring break projects rebuilding hurricane-damaged housing, and the Bonner Leaders program all represent Oxford's investment in building community. There can be no doubt that the Oxford community and the wider community outside the college are richer as a result.

Although community service is part of what happens in most colleges, I believe that it is more extensive and more genuine at Oxford. Our students provide about 10,000 hours of service each year—an average of fifteen hours per student. While some students may get involved because it looks good on their resume, Oxford students have the sense both that volunteer work has taught them much about the lives of others and that through service they have made useful contribution. This issue of the Outlook tells a few of the most recent stories in which Oxford students, staff, and faculty are producing wealth that you can be proud of.

Stephen H. Bowen
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**Go Oxford Eagles!**

**Oxford Basketball Players Ranked Nationally in Basketball Statistics**

The Oxford College men’s basketball program is proud to announce that it has three players ranked in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III Statistics as of March 2, 2009. Peter Ricks 10OX had a stellar season and is ranked No. 8 in the nation in individual scoring at 23.1 a game, which should give him consideration for NJCAA Division III All-American status.

Gabriel Martin 10OX, a 6-8, from Asheville, North Carolina, is ranked in three categories. He is ranked No. 43 nationally in rebounding at 8.87 a game, No. 21 in individual block shots at 2.04 a game, and No. 45 in free-throw shooting converting 75.24 percent of his free throws.

Travis Kitchen 10OX, a 6-7, from Brunswick, Georgia, is ranked in two categories. He is ranked No. 13 nationally in rebounds at 10.8 a game and No. 19 in individual block shots.

We would like to congratulate these young men for their dedication and hard work this season.

For more information about the NJCAA, visit http://www.njcaa.org/sports_stats.cfm?category=Stats&sid=5&divid=2&slid=2.

Basketball photos courtesy of Brandon Feldman.
Teaching Service through Sociology

You might call it stealth volunteerism. For Mike McQuaide, service to others allows teachable moments inside and outside the classroom. Whether leading students through the Vietnamese countryside or accompanying them on visits to nursing homes and senior centers, McQuaide, professor of sociology, shows his students how, in the simple act of volunteering, they can learn much about other people and groups.

He teaches a theory/practice/learning course on the sociology of aging that includes a volunteer component. He takes his Social Problems class, a “regular” sociology course, to a sustainable farm that does business with Oxford for a “primer” on sustainable agriculture as well as to a local food bank. At the food bank the students sort food, unpack trucks, and do the labor of preparing food shipments for people who need them. “Here in Georgia there’s real want,” McQuaide says. “The notion of poverty or hunger is not an abstract concept in a textbook. It’s real.”

At Whippoorwill Hollow Farm students learn how labor-intensive farming can be, especially without heavy equipment. Several times a semester, McQuaide will spend several hours of his own time volunteering there. “I usually just have to announce [in class] that I’m leaving my house at 10:00 and working until 2:00, and a couple of students will join me,” he says.

McQuaide adjusts the syllabus of the Social Problems to reflect current trends in greater society. Currently it’s sustainability, a prominent theme at Oxford and Emory for the past couple of years. He has taken the class into Atlanta for a series of field trips to prisons, a nursing home, a funeral home, a Greater Sense of Being

Cargile Aims to Promote a Greater Sense of Being

In this busy world, where people can work and live in their community and not take the time to be involved with the people around them, Ann Cargile, manager in the Office of Records and Registration at Oxford, sees things differently. She gives back to Oxford and the Newton County community, embracing Oxford’s philosophy of service and responsible citizenship.

“Any little thing that can be done to help or get involved with the folks around you and your community brings together a common means for a greater sense of being all,” she says.

Cargile, who has worked at Oxford for twenty-seven years, works with organizations both on campus and off with an eye toward changing lives for the better.

On campus Cargile has volunteered with the Oxford Social Welcoming Committee, which has responsibilities with faculty and staff, and she has raised money for the Chaplaincy Emergency Fund, which provides a discretionary fund for the chaplain to help faculty, students, and staff in case of need. “Another of my favorites is registering the folks that return to Oxford during the Oxford Homecoming and catching up with them and their lives since Oxford,” she says.

Giving back to Oxford is important to her because, as she says, “Oxford has been such a blessing for me all these years. I have learned to grow here and become a better person myself with the help of such loving, caring, and giving people.”

Cargile also gives back to her community off campus. She participates in Emory Cares, the University’s annual service day, as a way to benefit her native Newton County. “Emory Cares is an important day for me each year to help in some small way to encourage and benefit the foster children of Newton County,” she says. “This past year several Oxford folks participated in an event at the Rainbow House in Jonesboro, which serves our county and children of several different ages, which meant something very special to me and to the children.”

Also in Newton County, Cargile is a mentor for a student in Cousins Middle School through the Newton County Mentoring Program. Being a mentor has been rewarding to her “in knowing that one can make a difference in a young person’s life,” she says.

Through all her work on campus and off, Cargile has made a difference in many people’s lives, and she looks forward to doing more. “It is great to meet people in a community to see the unity that evolves from doing, greeting, meeting, helping, and working together for a cause that promotes better living for one another,”

Cargile says “the Oxford community is truly a treasure that is not found in too many places,” but two decades, thinks differently. “I do see an uptick in the current cohort of young adults who think they can make a difference and lend themselves to a cause that transcends their immediate self interest,” he says. “They are perhaps burning more brightly with the idea of leaving things better than they found them.”

He finds that Oxford students are sought after for programs that place students in the community such as the Community-Building Fellows Program in Emory College.

Besides, McQuaide says, volunteerism is completely consistent with Oxford’s mission and purpose. “We take seriously our responsibility to help students develop the qualities needed to make them good citizens and to be actively engaged in their communities.”

McQuaide Named DAR Star

Mike McQuaide, professor of sociology, was presented the first DAR Star award at the February 17 faculty meeting. The award, given by Development and Alumni Relations (DAR) at Oxford, recognized McQuaide for his continued support of the work in development.

Kevin Smyrl, assistant dean of development at Oxford, presented the award in the presence of McQuaide’s colleagues, praising his “positive contribution in the work of Development and Alumni Relations at Oxford College through his outstanding service in bridging relationships among faculty, staff, students and alumni, and in supporting the events and programs of (DAR) through his positive influence, his financial contributions, his leadership, and volunteer spirit.”

McQuaide was presented a crystal star etched with the name of the award, his name, and the date of presentation.

Mike McQuaide

When his students visit facilities for older adults, the residents tend to reminiscence with them, an act that is beneficial for both. The students get a personal perspective on aging, particularly how it’s done in the United States. For the older adults, the act of relating personal stories to their student visitors is something they really value, McQuaide says. “We sometimes talk as if remembering isn’t a good thing, but it is highly correlated with good morale and with helping people make sense out of earlier parts of their lives,” he notes.

While many see today’s youth as serial volunteers who do the work only to pad their resumes, McQuaide, who’s been teaching for more than
Oxford alumni continued from page 1

But ceremonies and certificates mean less to him than a quiet thank you from a patient he has helped halfway around the world.

When the Soviet Union broke apart, and Georgia’s independence was restored in 1991, Tbilisi, its capital city, suffered from ongoing civil war, a lack of self-generated income, deteriorating infrastructure, and outdated and insufficient health services.

Since 1992, Walker has made numerous trips to Atlanta’s sister city as codirector of the Atlanta-Tbilisi Healthcare Partnership with many of his colleagues. The original collaboration included the schools of medicine at Emory and Morehouse as well as Grady Memorial Hospital. Now called the Emory-Tbilisi collaboration, the partnership consists of Emory and Georgia State University.

Over the years, the group established health clinics and modern emergency rooms (including the first pediatric emergency room in a post-Soviet country), donated and installed fetal monitoring equipment, provided prosthetic devices for amputees, and conducted a $150 million renovation and eventual replacement of the country’s oldest medical center, the Republican Central Hospital.

More recently, Walker and Associate Professor Scott Sasser have been working to establish the specialty of emergency medicine in Georgia with a $900,000 grant from USAID. In February, he traveled to Tbilisi to help establish a Learning Center for Health Care in a building donated by the government. And this summer, Walker will help to set up a three-year program that will train a thousand practicing nurses a year in the region.

“Georgia is a seminal country for Western culture: it has core Western values, but due to its geographical position—on the periphery of the West—it has faced for centuries ongoing daily interactions with groups and individuals from other religions, multiple ethnicities, and cultures, such as Islam, totalitarian Socialism, and separatism,” Walker says of the challenges cultures, such as Islam, totalitarian Socialism, and separatism, Walker says of the challenges Georgia faces, which included the recent violent conflict with Russia over the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

“No on personal level,” he adds, “the people of Georgia are wonderful and inimitable friends.”

Angela Martin 77OX 79C 84M

This past summer, Kristen Peterson 08OX was nominated by the Oxford science faculty to spend a month with Walker’s group as an intern, working at a hospital in Tbilisi. “Dr. Walker’s work in Georgia has had tremendous and lasting effects, and the Georgians are very grateful,” she says. “Also, the people in Georgia are the most welcoming, kind, and giving people that I have ever met. I feel like I have another family there now, too. It is my hope that I can continue to keep my connections with Georgia throughout my life.”

Angela Martin 77OX 79C 84M

How pediatrician Angela Martin 77OX 79C 84M ended up practicing medicine as the only African American/Native American pediatrician in Anniston, Alabama, is a roundabout tale. “My family is a very multicultural family—my father’s side was Native American and came in under the Creek treaty,” says Martin, who grew up in Dublin, Georgia. “We celebrated all cultures, which is also my outlook on practicing medicine.”

Martin, who went through medical school on a National Health Service Corps scholarship, first worked several years in Etowah County, Alabama, then with a thriving private practice in Birmingham, Alabama, and finally at Fort McClellan in Anniston, Alabama, helping to train Green Beret soldiers until the base was slated to be closed in the 1990s.

“At looking at all the scenarios, I decided to stay in Anniston,” she says. “I proved a fateful yet rewarding decision. Anniston’s population suffers from extreme poverty and widespread illness. Many, including Martin, link the high level of disease in the town to its long history with the now-banned industrial coolants polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that were produced in Anniston and dumped into the black community’s Snow Creek from 1929 until the Monsanto agricultural company stopped producing them in 1971.

PCBs are thought to cause birth defects, cancer, developmental delays in children, and other diseases. Studies show that adults in Anniston have four times the amount of PCBs in their body as the typical U.S. resident.

In 2002, the town was profiled on CBS’s 60 Minutes in a story called “Toxic Secret.” West Anniston, said the report, remains “so contaminated that residents have been told not to grow vegetables in the soil, kick up dirt, eat food, chew gum, or smoke cigarettes while working in their yards.” In 2003, Monsanto and its corporate spinoff, Solvita, agreed to pay $700 million in damages and cleanup costs to the community.

Part of the settlement was used to build a new children’s clinic, the Pediatric Care Center of Northeast Alabama, which Martin directs. “It’s one of the most tangible pieces of reparation for this community,” she says. The clinic features state-of-the art technology, such as electronic medical records and asthma testing with spirometry.

A study by the Centers for Disease Control/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry recently found that Anniston leads America in heart disease as well as Type II diabetes. “We even have children with blood pressures in the stroke range,” she says.

Martin, who valued her time at Oxford for the “closeness and smallness” of its campus and the devotion of its professors, feels the same sense of community here in Anniston. “I have a sense of obligation here, I pay tithes, I pay taxes, I want to see these kids live to be twenty-one years of age before I let them loose,” she says. “I want to leave a legacy of having helped these kids—all races, all income groups. This will take a few generations to heal.”

Chaplain Shema to Leave Oxford

Reverend Judy Shema, Oxford’s chaplain, will be leaving the college June 1. Shema will relocate to Texas to serve a Methodist congregation, a move that will allow her to be near to and care for her aging parents. “Reverend Shema has made deep and lasting contributions to the life of Oxford College, and we will miss her,” says Oxford Dean Stephen Bowen.

Dean Bond Fleming Recognized

Dean Bond Fleming was honored last fall by the Newton County Historical Society for his work as its president in the 1970s. Virgil Casteley 79GC 65C presented Fleming with the award at the Old Timer’s Lunch during Oxford Weekend. Fleming, who served as dean of Oxford College from 1966 to 1976 is known for his support of Newton County and his tireless work in the community during his retirement.

Biology Students, Jacob in Science Journal

Urania Dagelakis 09OX and Helen Hill 09OX are pictured doing field work for Biology 142 on the cover of The CUR Quarterly. The Council of Undergraduate Research journal’s fall 2008 issue examined undergraduate research in the first two years and included the article “Initiating Partnerships in Scientific Discovery at a Two Year College via the Introductory Curriculum” by Associate Professor of Biology Nitya Jacob. Jacob submitted the photo of the students when her article was selected for the issue.
James Laney to Speak at Oxford Commencement

James T. Laney, Emory’s seventeenth president and former U.S. ambassador to South Korea, will speak at Oxford’s 164th commencement ceremony May 9. Laney served as Emory’s president from 1997 to 1993. A core element of his philosophy as president was the moral development of students, a process that includes a commitment to competence and freedom of thought, participation in an inclusive community of lifelong learning, and a focus on moral character. Laney was chosen in 1993 by President Bill Clinton to serve as ambassador to South Korea, the country where he began his teaching career and served in the U.S. Army. He served as ambassador until 1997, when he became a special presidential envoy in East Asia.

Laney received a BA in economics from Yale University, a BD from Yale Divinity School, a PhD in moral philosophy and Christian ethics from Yale, and a DD from Florida Southern College.

Oxford Alumni Weekend

Join your Oxford friends and classmates from far and near for Oxford Alumni Weekend, September 25 to 27. Reunions will be held for classes ending in 4s and 9s including the Classes of 1999, 1989, 1984, 1979, 1969, and 1964. Classes prior to 1980 are invited to join the Old Timers for a lunch on Saturday, September 26. Online registration for homecoming activities begins this summer at www.emory.edu/homecoming, but you may also register by phone by calling the Oxford College Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 770.784.8314. Hope to see you for Oxford Alumni Weekend in fall 2009.

In Passing

Emily Campbell Brown 39OX

Emily Campbell Brown 39OX of Manchester, England, passed away February 2. She was eighty-three.

Brown was among the first women students admitted to the Benton Feminist College in 1939. Upon returning to the United States, she studied at the University of South Carolina from 1940-1942. Thereafter, she attended Emory College, where she received a B.A. in history in 1944.


Born to: Kristen DeVetter Lynch 99OX 01B and her husband, Jason Paul Lynch, a son, Aiden Jon, on May 27, 2008.

Born to: Seth Iby 00OX 02C and his wife, Laura, a daughter, Vivian Ruth, on October 21, 2008.

Elizabeth Genevieve Moyn 00OX 02C is a nuclear security analyst at SPA. She received a master’s degree in foreign service from Georgetown University in May 2008.

Marketed: Kristin Clark 02OX 04C and Andrew Stearns on August 2, 2008.

Lisa Michele Giannoni 02OX 04C joined the Atlanta office of Jones Day.


Harvey C. Holland (USAF Ret.) 44OX 46C of Port Saint Lucie, Florida, on December 1, 2008.


Emory Fowler Thompson 43OX 48C of Valdosta, Georgia, on March 6, 2009.

Thomas Watson (Watt) McDonald 48OX of Port Saint Lucie, Florida, on December 1, 2008.

Dr. Michael Andrew Whitley 51OX 03C of Port Saint Lucie, Florida, on December 1, 2008.

Harvey C. Holland (USAF Ret.) 44OX 46C of Port Saint Lucie, Florida, on December 1, 2008.


Emory Fowler Thompson 43OX 48C of Valdosta, Georgia, on March 6, 2009.

Thomas Watson (Watt) McDonald 48OX of Monroe, Georgia, on October 14, 2008.

William Travis Aiken (Watt) McDonald 48OX of Monroe, Georgia, on October 14, 2008.

Thomas Watson (Watt) McDonald 48OX of Monroe, Georgia, on October 14, 2008.

Paul M. Hawkins 54OX 56C 59L of Atlanta on September 27, 2008.

William R. Childers 62OX 64C 65C of Monroe, Georgia, on October 30, 2008.

Bill Nelson 62OX 64C 65C of Monroe, Georgia, on October 30, 2008.

John K. Davidson 62OX 64C 65C 69MR of Atlanta on December 17, 2008.

John W. Hardwick 62OX 64C 65C of Atlanta on December 17, 2008.

Vicente Fox will deliver the keynote address at Emory’s 164th commencement ceremony May 9. He will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Three other individuals also will be recognized during the Emory commencement ceremony with honorary degrees: Nancy Cantor, chancellor and president of Syracuse University, who will receive a doctor of laws; former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, currently director of the Morehouse School of Medicine’s Center of Excellence on Health Disparities, who will receive a doctor of science; and Robert Spaso, Grammy Award-winning conductor and music director for the Atlanta Symphony, who will receive a doctor of music.

In Passing

Emily Campbell Brown 39OX

Emily Campbell Brown 39OX of Manchester, England, passed away February 2. She was eighty-three.

Brown was among the first women students admitted to the junior college at Oxford and who completed studies there. Her son is Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio.