New Science Building
Moving from Hypothesis to Reality

Oxford forges ahead with plans for a state-of-the-art teaching facility

While science is often considered an analytical discipline rather than a creative one, the faculty and staff of Oxford’s Natural Science and Mathematics Division have proven that science and creativity can go hand in hand. One only has to look at what they’ve done with their current building. Built in the early 1960s and renovated in the 1980s, the two-story structure features limited classroom and lab space for the growing student population. Yet, the faculty has maximized every inch of available space, doing everything from turning storage closets into modest research facilities to transforming an adjacent greenhouse into a field laboratory.

“I think we’ve been good stewards of the building we have,” asserts Eloise Carter, professor of biology. However, when Daniel Paulien and Associates conducted a space-needs assessment for Oxford’s master-planning project, the firm’s report revealed that it was time for a change. “The results were pretty startling because it showed that we have a 58 percent deficit in the amount of laboratory space we should have at Oxford College,” she says.

“Our science teaching facilities are something of a paradox,” says Dean Stephen Bowen. “The original designs were parsimonious, and by contemporary standards the spaces are cramped and lack basic equipment found in most high school science rooms. Despite these limitations, Oxford’s science students are often at the top of the class when they receive their Emory baccalaureate degrees. Just think what our faculty will be able to accomplish with the new building.”

Fortunately, the new Science Building project is underway, with Carter serving as project shepherd for the initiative and division assistant Joy Budensiek supporting her. The plan for the proposed building was conceptualized when six faculty members and administrators attended a Project Kaleidoscope workshop to learn how to create a functional undergraduate science building based on the specific programs the college offers, including chemistry, biology, physics, astronomy, geology, and mathematics. According to Carter, in addition to larger classrooms and labs with state-of-the-art instrumentation and plenty of ventilation hoods, the building will offer ample meeting space for faculty and students to gather and col-
The Bonner Leaders: Gaining a Sense of Community

Oxford freshman Ajay Balasubramanyan 08OX says his background as a high school student in Houston was a fairly sheltered one of private schools and rigorous academics, so working with young truants in Newton County’s juvenile courts has been a “radically different” experience.

But Balasubramanyan is mindful not to preach, cajole, or scold the absentee students. “I just try to be straight with them. It’s not so difficult. I talk to them very informally and try to see things from their perspective,” he says. “They’re just happy someone is there for them.”

Oxford’s inaugural class of ten Bonner Leaders—a service-based scholarship program already in place at more than fifty colleges around the country—was selected before the students even set foot on campus, but it has shaped and informed their first year of college.

They have become part of a close-knit group that meets once a week to discuss service placements—local agencies and organizations where they work as volunteers. This portion of the program is designed to create committed student leaders who give back to their communities.

Students work eight to ten hours a week, earning up to $2,000 an academic year with the possibility of an additional $3,000 for a “summer of service” between their freshman and sophomore years. Funding is provided by the Pierce Institute for Leadership and Community Engagement, Americorps Educational Awards, and Oxford financial aid, as well as the Bonner Foundation.

On this chilly Valentine’s evening, while other Oxford students prepare for a dance and pizza party in the student center, the Bonner group gathers in a meeting room upstairs to talk about the children they help with their homework at the YMCA, preschoolers they read to in Head Start programs, women they interview at a domestic violence shelter, and chronic teenage truants they mentor who have given up on school.

“Almost all of the kids say they have no need for college. They think you have to be really rich to go,” says Eun Lee 08OX, who works at the Washington Street Community Center in Covington. “But I’ll tell them there are a lot of programs and scholarships to help families afford it, and then some of them will say, ‘Do you really think I could go?’

It’s no wonder students are cynical about their chances of attending college when their families can barely afford proper clothing, says Sara McClintock 08OX, who works at the YMCA. “One little girl, who is completely adorable, she didn’t even own a jacket. She kept pulling on the sleeve of mine, so I just took it off and gave it to her.”

And London Johnson 08OX, who works at Head Start, says that while her mother taught her much of what she knew before she went to school, she sees preschoolers who are clearly not prepared for kindergarten. “The government puts a lot of money into college and high school students, but not much into younger kids,” she says. “That’s where I think funding could make the most difference.”

Other Bonner Leaders work behind the scenes, collaborating on projects. Rebecca Dyke 08OX says the adults with whom she works side by side at the Center for Community Planning and Preservation in Covington treat her as a colleague.

“There are some divisive issues, such as the resources that should be available to schools and how many schools are needed for Newton County,” she says. “I used to find it hard to talk on the phone but by calling more and more people, I’ve improved a lot.”

“Our students know so much more about the county than any other students,” says Crystal McLaughlin, director of student development at Oxford, who leads the Bonner program. “By the end of the two years, they will have devoted nine hundred hours to community service.”

The Bonner Leaders sometimes do group events together, such as going to see an IMAX film about Hurricane Katrina at Fernbank Museum of Natural History, in preparation for a service trip to New Orleans.

But being a Bonner Leader also has a more immediate, on-campus benefit. “My favorite part has been the group itself,” says Elyssa Pfeffer 08OX, who works at The Learning Center organizing a literacy program for children up to five years old. “We hang out together, take classes together, and are there for each other.”

Go Oxford Eagles!

Women’s Soccer Goes to Final Four

In November, in a win over Massachusetts’s Holyoke Community College by the score of 2-0, the Oxford women’s soccer program secured its first-ever appearance at a National Championship Final Four as well as its first District Title (Elite 8). Though the team gave its most

Boyce-Smith were selected by a national committee of coaches that ranked them as three of the top twenty-six players in NJCAA Division III Women’s Soccer out of a group of more than one thousand players.
On the Road to an Even Stronger Institution

We are on the way. With the strategic plan and the campus master plan as our roadmaps, Oxford College has begun the journey to an even stronger, more distinctive institution by way of establishing for Oxford a more central role within Emory University, and by restoring, enhancing, and expanding the Oxford campus.

Many have come to appreciate that Oxford College is the most distinctive element of Emory’s undergraduate programs. Unique in form and format, Oxford attracts students who would not otherwise enroll in a major research university and who make distinctive contributions as scholars and leaders on the Atlanta campus. Research supported in part by the Ford Foundation is now underway to document more precisely the contributions of Oxford students and the role of the Oxford College community in making that possible. All of this is deepening the Emory appreciation of and commitment to Oxford.

The University has also made a generous commitment to improving the Oxford campus. University dollars will match dollars raised by Oxford up to half the costs for the LITC (Library and Information Technology Center) and the Science Center. Philanthropic support will be essential for completing these two projects as well as for the Student Center and for scholarships.

The Residential Complex is the last large building project on the horizon. Our plan is to finance this project with debt against housing fees, but philanthropic support will be important in helping us to retire the debt and avoid additional costs.

The Oxford Comprehensive Campaign goal has not yet been announced, but it is going to be significant.

We would be in trouble if we were not for the Board of Counselors. Not only are they personally generous in their financial support, they are champions in promoting Oxford College and seeking support on our behalf from individuals and foundations.

The board has organized itself into five committees: Scholarships (chair Lloyd Whitaker 52OX 54C 61L), LITC (chair Hugh Tarbutton Jr. 840X), Science Center (chairs Eric Pike 88OX 90C and Zoe Hicks 63OX 65C 76L 83L), Residential Complex (Art Vinson 66OX 68C), and Student Center (Haynes Chidsey 88OX 90C).

The contributions of Oxford students and faculty conducting research. Furthermore, the building, designed by Emory architect Todd Dolson, will be LEED-certified and located next to the forest on campus so students can use the outdoor space as part of their learning experience.

“Everything about this building is going to be supportive of Oxford’s teaching mission,” Bowen declares. “In the sciences, we have a real focus on students engaging in the scientific process so that they learn to think like scientists.”

That philosophy is exemplified by all of the work conducted in the Natural Science Building including the most recent research project undertaken by Associate Professor of Chemistry Reza Saadein and Assistant Professor of Chemistry Jack Eichler.

Supported by funding from the family of an Oxford alumnus in memory of her father, the project involves using organic and inorganic chemistry to find ways to enhance chemotherapy agents using gold +3 complexes. Frank Farokhi 07OX is working with Saadein and Eichler, who will include other students in the project over the next several years. The research, which could yield valuable medical advancements, provides participating students with a unique hands-on opportunity while fulfilling Oxford’s central purpose.

“The spirit of Oxford College is teaching. We are in the business of educating students and motivating them to be good researchers,” Saadein explains. “Our main goal is to incite undergraduate students to continue this kind of work in the future.”

With limited resources, such as the ones the current building offers, it can be a challenge. But the new Science Building will give faculty and students everything they need for all of their projects, from Saadein and Eichler’s cancer research to the division’s Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE). “We’ll have more space,” Eichler affirms. “We have this idea of ‘science for all,’ and this will allow more students to participate. It’s very exciting, and it gives you the motivation to keep going.”

Right now, Carter and the Science Building Committee of the Board of Counselors are certainly motivated. Emory has earmarked up to 30 percent in matching funds from the sale of its AIDS drug, emtricitabine, for the new Science Building project, giving the team a solid foundation on which to build. “It takes away what is one of the first barriers,” Carter observes. “It really made us look up and say, ‘It’s possible.’”

Of course, because more money is needed to bring the building to fruition, additional fund-raising efforts are being implemented for the project, which was approved for a feasibility study in January. If all goes well, Campus Services anticipates the project to be completed by fall 2009.

For everyone involved, it won’t be a minute too soon. “We have a fabulous program, and we’re offering it within the constraints of this building,” Carter comments. “We’re so excited about the opportunity to free ourselves of those constraints and to see what our students and faculty can do with the new facilities.”

Stephen H. Bowen
stephen.bowen@emory.edu

Norton Receives Turman Award

Judge William L. Norton Jr. 42OX 48C 50L received the 2007 J. Pollard Turman Alumni Service Award on March 2, 2007. Recipients of the Turman Award are selected for extraordinary service to Emory through alumni organizations, regional clubs, class programs, and other related groups. As described by his nominator, “Judge Norton has loved this institution, dedicated himself to its mission, and supported its programs and objectives for over thirty-five years. He has not only enhanced Oxford College’s alumni-related activities, he actually created many of them and continues to be actively involved in leadership and supportive roles today.”

In October 2006 Norton also received the Oxford College R. Carl Chandler Award for a lifetime of outstanding leadership through service to Oxford College.
Hog Heaven

The philosophy of pig farming

When Emile DeFelice 87OX 90C was a student at Emory, majoring in French and philosophy and working at The Carter Center, he envisioned a future as a diplomat working in global politics. He did not picture himself as a pig farmer in South Carolina.

Yet, nearly twenty years later, that’s just what he is. And he gives President Jimmy Carter, a former peanut farmer, a little credit for that, too.

As a Carter Center intern in 1990, DeFelice studied politics and agriculture in Haiti, where the two are bound together in a climate of violence and unrest. And at the University of South Carolina, where he earned a master’s degree in international relations, he continued to study agriculture, this time closer to home. Somehow, his goals began to shift from global politics to South Carolina soil and seed.

“I started with nothing, two acres and a hammer,” says DeFelice. “I remember my first day on my own farm.” From the beginning, DeFelice was determined to farm with an overarching philosophy of sustainability. On his small farm in Lexington, South Carolina, he started by growing flowers and organic herbs. Instead of fertilizer, he bought chickens, guinea fowl, ducks, and lambs and designed a system in which gardens were fertilized and tilled by moveable pens of small animals.

But producing some 150 products quickly lost its charm. DeFelice began to develop a new business plan based on two basic concepts: have a simple focus, and run a lean operation. He decided to specialize in livestock, and pigs rapidly became the front-runner. “Every time I grew a pig, it grew so fast I never even noticed,” he says. His parents owned two hundred acres near Columbia; half of it unfarmed pasture and woods. “Driving down the road one day, I thought, holy Christmas, that’s a pig farm,” he says.

DeFelice now uses about sixty acres for his heirloom-bred hogs, producing about 350 a year. The pigs roam freely through field and forest, foraging for acorns, worms, and whatever natural food they might find. But DeFelice also feeds them organic tofu, milk, and nuts leftover from the local Earth Fare grocery chain; spent barley from the local brewpub, the Hunter Gatherer, which in turn serves DeFelice’s pork; and grains from the nearby mills. The pigs live in a natural, stress-free environment, with no medication or unnecessary confinement. According to DeFelice, this makes for happier, healthier, and better-tasting pigs.

“A sustainable system is three-legged: economic, social, and environmental,” he says. “It’s good for the farmer, the consumer, and the environment.”

Using a nearby meat-processing facility that he helped equip with an imported humane kill system, DeFelice supplies fresh pork to several fine restaurants, including some as far away as New York and California. But his ideal customer is the average family consumer, which makes up some 80 percent of his customer base of about a thousand.

“The pork flies out the window,” DeFelice says. “There is this whole food and farm and health craze sweeping America, which is just a super-positive social event. It’s bringing people back into the home and the kitchen to prepare food together and inspiring a desire to know where food comes from and what that means.”

DeFelice’s philosophy infuses more than his farming methods. He is a staunch supporter of local farmers and says he prioritizes local above organic foods, which he believes is better for the local economy and the environment. Two years ago, he ran for Commissioner of Agriculture on the campaign slogan “Put Your State on Your Plate.” That July 4, he, his wife, psychologist Allison DeFelice 89C, and their two children, Louis, ten, and Lydia, seven, declared “food independence” and made a commitment that everything they ate between then and the November election would be from South Carolina.

“There was nothing we got tired of because there was always such a plethora of things available,” he says. “It takes more time, but it’s family and educational time so we thought it was well-spent. It’s all about local for me. I want my customers close and my money to be spent nearby.”

DeFelice may have lost his political bid, but he’s not short on things to do. He plans to quadruple his farm business during the next two years.

“This is a life mission for me,” he says. “Probably more than anything else, food impacts our quality and length of life. The tools of revolution are a knife and fork. We can eat our way to a better world.”

—Emile DeFelice
I think we all have to work to ensure that we have top-notch scientists in this country. The scientists of the future start out as freshmen and sophomores. They enter biology and chemistry classes like those taught at Emory at Oxford.

—Zoe Hicks

Oxford College holds a special place in the heart of Zoe M. Hicks 63OX 65C 76L 83L. In the early 1960s, it became her educational haven when schools in the South threatened to close in the face of integration during her junior year of high school. To safeguard their daughter’s education, Hicks’ parents enrolled her in Oxford’s four-year program, which not only allowed her to earn her diploma, but also complete her first two years of college.

“Oxford was there for me. That was the beginning of my experience,” notes Hicks, who went on to earn a BA in history, as well as a JD and an LLM in taxation. “We all succeed because of the people who have come before us. It took many people that I never met to donate money; give resources; and provide the guidance, leadership, and vision that created the institutions that educated me, blessed me, and enabled me to have a career in law and to do the things I’ve done. Now it’s my turn. I have to put as much as I can back in to benefit the people who will come after me.”

In addition to contributing to Oxford monetarily, Hicks, who is a partner with her husband Charles at Hicks & Hicks, P.C., also serves as cochair of the Science Building Committee of the Board of Counselors, the group spearheading the fund-raising efforts for the new facility. Her desire to offer her time, coupled with her interest in science, made the project a perfect fit. “It intrigued me,” she says. “I think we all have to work to ensure that we have top-notch scientists in this country. The scientists of the future start out as freshmen and sophomores. They enter biology and chemistry classes like those taught at Emory at Oxford. This is where many of our scientists will begin their training.”

And because those scientists and doctors are the ones who strive to find cures for diseases and improve everyone’s quality of life, Hicks concludes, “We need to see the new Science Building not just as a building, but as a step in the process of these scientists’ education. They will make a huge difference in our lives and in the lives of our children and grandchildren.”

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—Zoe Hicks

Oxford Weekend 2007

Reunions for 2 and 7 Classes


Oxford classes ending in 2 and 7 will celebrate reunions during Oxford Weekend, and reunions will be held May 12 from 4:00-10:00 p.m. on the Quad. For more information about Oxford Weekend, contact Tammy Camfield 89OX 91C, assistant director of development, at tcamfield@emory.edu or 770.784.8414 or visit www.emory/OXFORD.edu.

Purcell Named Commencement Speaker

J. Neal Purcell 61OX 63B will deliver the Oxford College commencement address on May 12, 2007. Purcell is a member of the Emory Board of Trustees, serving as an alumni trustee since 1997. He retired in 2002 from KPMG, where he was a member of the firm’s board of directors and vice chair in charge of national audit practice.

Purcell is a charter member of the Goizueta Business School Advisory Board, and he also chaired the Emory Alumni Campaign and was a member of the Board of Visitors. As a member of the Emory Board of Trustees, Purcell serves on the Finance and Investment committee, and chairs the Committee on Executive Compensation and Trustees, Conflict of Interest.


Class of 1957 to Process

The class of 1957 is invited to participate in the Oxford College commencement on Saturday, May 12, at 10:00 a.m. on the Quad. As graduates of the Class of 1957, 2007 is the fiftieth anniversary year of their graduation from Oxford. The Class of 1957 will celebrate this milestone with the college by processing with Oxford’s 2007 graduates, each member in a gold robe and Corpus Cordis Aureum medallion. The Class of 1957 will be the fourth class to participate in this new Emory tradition. Above, the Class of 1956 poses before the 2006 Oxford commencement ceremony.

Carpenter Wins Lamar York Prize

Lucas Carpenter, Charles Howard Candler Professor of English, won the ninth-annual Lamar York Prize for Nonfiction for “My Mother in History.” He received $1,000, and his essay was published in the fall 2006 issue of The Chattahoochee Review. The award is given for an original essay.
P R I O R T O 1 9 7 0

Walter Brandon Jr. 1908X 52C 53G is retired from NASA and has been listed in this year's Who's Who: publications: America: 2003; World, 2004; and Science and technology references, 2000-2005. His wife Patricia lives in Huntsville, Alabama. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

Mary Huguley Calhoun 63OX 65C was named to Who's Who Among the Nation's Teachers for 2006.

Gregory Presmanes 68OX 70C is a professor of the Georgia Center for Environment and Technology.

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Becky Batsen Carly 70OX 76D has been appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to serve on the Georgia Board of Dentistry. Her degrees are 09C, is a sophomore at Emory College.

Lt. Col. William Luce 75OX is serving in a position with the Alaska Army National Guard, working with the 10th Mountain Division as a liaison officer.

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Jodie Land-Charlop 82OX 85C and her husband, Jack, announce the adoption of their son, David 09C, on August 27, 2006. The family lives in Atlanta.

Robert Collins 84OX 86C is pursuing a PhD in history at Auburn University and is involved in documenting the history of Brevort, Alabama.

Born to: Weena Collante Nonog 85OX and her husband, a daughter, Karlyne, on August 14, 2006. The family lives in Gainesville, Florida.

Born to: Marc Haddle Sitt 86OX and his wife, Kelly, a son, William Zachary, on April 4, 2006. The family lives in Atlanta.

George Cleveland Shrag 87OX 9B earned an MBA from Mercer University in December 2003. He is the secretary of the Steering Committee for Emory GALA alumni group.

Born to: Ellen Schmitt Elvin 88OX 90C and her husband, a daughter, Kelsey, on November 13, 2006. The family lives in Gainesville, Florida.

Married: Nancy Phillips 89OX 91C and her husband, John, a son, Matthew, on September 21, 2006. The family lives in Atlanta.

Michael Kitchens 89OX see 99OX.

Married: Phillips Nancy 90OX 92C and her husband, John, on August 24, 2006. The family lives in Atlanta.

Thomas Hoff Prol 89OX 91C 9799 has been named to the New Jersey Law Journal's “40 Under 40” list. Prol works for the Lyndhurst, New Jersey, office of the law firm Scirrotto and Sheets, practicing in the firm's Environmental and Land Use Law Group.

Married: Perry Eva Zwick 90OX 91C and her husband, John, on September 27, 2006. The family lives in Atlanta.

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Born to: Sherry Wynn Kitchens 90OX 92C and her husband, Michael 94OX, a daughter, Victoria, on January 26, 2003. The family lives in Gainesville, Florida, where Michael is executive vice president and broker at Bosshardt Realty.

Christie Walters 92OX 94C has been named a commissioned officer in the Marine Reserves. She has been deployed to Iraq.

Born to: Charlie Edward Closson 91OX 93C and his wife, Debbie, a daughter, Sarah, on April 6, 2006. The family lives in Atlanta.

Born to: Beth Young Hew 91OX 93R and her husband, a daughter, Sara, on April 23, 2006. Sarah joins big brother Joshua.

Born to: Karyn Veccho Irwin 91OX 93C and her husband, Christopher, a son, on February 1, 2006. He joins big brother Gavin.

Jason Graham 92OX 94C formed the law firm Cawico and Graham, which focuses on commercial real estate, civil litigation, and business law. He was named a 2006 Georgia Super Lawyer Rising Star by Law and Politics and the publishers of Atlanta magazine.

Born to: Julie Mills Wood 92OX 94C and her husband, James, a son, James Carison, on April 28, 2006. The family lives in Atlanta.

Born to: David Caddub 94OX 96B and his wife, Vanessa, a daughter, Ava, on August 25, 2005. The family resides in Miami, where David is a manager with Carnival Corporation.

Amy Cohen McCracken 94OX 96C is a merchandise manager at Edwin Watts Golf in Atlanta. She is in charge of chalking and buying apparel for all five metro-Atlanta locations.

Born to: David Tanner 94OX 96C and his wife, Andrea Carson Tanner 95C, two sons, Colin Hathaway and Alexander Valenti, on August 19, 2006, in Philadelphia.

Born to: Jeffrey Frederick 95OX 97C and his wife, Amy, a daughter, Grace Amara, on September 29, 2006. The family lives in Woodbridge, Virginia. Jeffrey was recently promoted to his third term in the Virginia General Assembly and was selected to give the keynote address at the governor's State of the Commonwealth Address on January 10, 2007.

Born to: Mickey Bateman Holm 96OX 98C 01B and her husband, Klay, a daughter, Natalie Eeva, on December 16, 2006.

Born to: Angela Miles 96OX 98C 99C and her husband, Paul Threatt, a son, Maddox Threatt III, on February 14, 2006. The family lives in Atlanta.

Simia Rama 96OX 99C 02PH and her business partners plans to open a boutique in Atlanta that carries couture clothing and precious stone jewelry influenced by Asia.

Born to: Bran 97OX 99C and Stephen Reintjes 99OX on October 21, 2006, in San Antonio, Texas. The family resides in Decatur, Georgia.

Born to: Ariana Jimenex-Cantrell 98OX on October 11, 2006, in Atlanta. The family resides in Atlanta.

Born to: Marcus 98OX 00C and his wife, Thanksgiving, a son, Tyler Andrew, on July 21, 2006. The family resides in Atlanta.

Born to: Jamie Hensen Mullen 98OX 00C and her husband, a daughter, Fletcher, on May 25, 2006. The family resides in Atlanta.

Born to: Gregor Hyland 00OX 02C and his wife, a son, Marc Haddle 02OX, on December 17, 2006. The family resides in Ohio.

Stephen Reintjes 02OX 04C is the director of Emergency Medicine at the Medical Center-Columbia.

Born to: Breta Renee Amick 03OX and her husband, a son, Zachary Louis, on December 16, 2006. The family resides in Atlanta.

Born to: Jonathan Beam 06OX 08C and his wife, Emily, a son, Jackson, on June 24, 2006. The family resides in Atlanta.


In the late 1960s Brittain went to work for the United States Office of Education, and later founded the New York City-based Education For All Program. Brittain was also a leading voice in the Anti-War movement.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Awbrey, a native of Dalton, Georgia. The couple wed in 1968, after an eight-month battle with leukemia.


Born in 1940 and raised in Roanoke, Virginia, Brittain earned a BA in English literature at the University of the South and an MA at Northwestern University. While teaching at Oxford, Brittain met his future wife, Nancy Awbrey, a native of Dalton, Georgia. The couple wed in 1968, settled in Atlanta, and raised two children, Ellie and Michael.

In the late 1960s Brittain went to work for the United States Office of Equal Opportunity on civil rights and economic empowerment issues. After this role he took a position in the U.S. Regional Director's Office of Health, Education, and Welfare, working with governors' offices and human resources agencies in eight southern states. His last job before retiring was in communications with the 3rd Army at Ft. McPherson.

After retiring, Brittain's love of poetry brought him back to Emory as a teacher in the Center for Lifelong Learning.

Continuee Elected SGA President

For the second time in Emory history, an Oxford junior continuee has been elected to serve as the president of the Emory Student Government Association (SGA). Emily Allen 06OX 08C, SGA president-elect, will be joined on the new SGA by rising junior Melody Rhine 07OX (elected SGA rep-at-large) and junior Jonathan Beam 06OX 08C (appointed chief of staff). Allen, Rhine, and Beam were formerly all leaders in student government at Oxford.

Alumni Leads Covington to National Honor

Covington Mayor Sam Ramsey 59OX 61B is at the helm of one of the few U.S. cities in the country in which police, fire, 911, and public works are all fully accredited. The peer cities are Plaza, Texas, and Bellevue, Washington. “I couldn’t be prouder of all our departments,” says Ramsey.

In Passing

Joseph Alexander Brittain

Joseph Brittain, former professor of English literature at Oxford, died July 21, 2006, after an eight-month battle with leukemia. Born in 1940 and raised in Roanoke, Virginia, Brittain earned a BA in English literature at the University of the South and an MA at Northwestern University. While teaching at Oxford, Brittain met his future wife, Nancy Awbrey, a native of Dalton, Georgia. The couple wed in 1968, settled in Atlanta, and raised two children, Ellie and Michael.

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