

St Andrews To Emory – Updates



Naomi Boon – This semester is going by so quickly, and I'm trying to squeeze as much Atlanta fun and travel into our last few months here as possible! I travelled back to the US in January spending a couple of days in New York before flying back to Atlanta. This semester, I'm taking classes in Women's Studies and Tourism alongside my internship in the development office at The Nature Conservancy, Georgia. This internship combines my love for nature and conservation with my experience in philanthropy and fundraising, and I've been helping with a huge capital fundraising campaign and events such as the annual fundraiser in Piedmont Park which takes place in May.

Aside from work and classes, I'm spending a lot of my time volunteering at events with the Student Alumni Board, such as 100 Senior Honorary, with the Emory Medal dinner and Dinner with 12 Strangers coming up next month. I'm still involved with the rugby club and have been teaching my non-rugby Emory friends my love for the sport by forcing them to watch Ireland play in the Six Nations every weekend!

Naomi Marshall – I cannot believe that I'm already halfway through my MA in Bioethics. My classes have covered everything from wacky debates on freezing humans to very serious discussions in moral philosophy. Last semester, I enjoyed researching the ethics of cosmetic surgery; the intersection of gun control and mental health; and new reproductive technologies. This spring semester, I have the honor of interning for Representative Mary Margaret Oliver as part of my bioethics practicum placement. Although I'm at the State Capitol just one-day-a-week, I've already been introduced to much of the theatrics of local politics and the intricacies of the legislative method. In the coming months, I am looking to start my thesis research. My work will evaluate the new genome editing technology, CRISPR.

Beyond academics, I have thoroughly enjoyed exploring Georgia with my fellow scholars and classmates. Highlights have included hiking up Stone Mountain, and a sunny weekend break to Savannah. I've also discovered a love of BBQ and live country music! I am presently anticipating the start of Spring with a spring in my step: I recently received a fully-funded PhD offer in anthropology. I know none of this would have been possible without the huge generosity of the Robert T Jones Memorial Trust. I cannot thank you enough.

Fiona Pollock – I have thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of my Bobby Jones Scholarship at Emory. I am incredibly grateful for the scholarship's support. I have been fortunate to study Chinese language intensely as my main area of study at Emory. This language tuition has been first-rate and I already feel more confident in Mandarin. Alongside my language studies I have taken politics and history classes and enjoyed golf lessons. As well as studying I worked as a Production Assistant intern on Marvel's Avengers: Infinity War. It has been incredible to play a part in, and witness the making of, a Hollywood blockbuster film. This combination of studying and working has allowed me to fully immerse myself as an Emory student and experience what it is like to work in Atlanta's booming film industry.

I have also greatly appreciated our opportunity to travel while living in the US. My weekend adventures have so far included film festivals in Austin, trips to L.A., and hikes through Blue Ridge. I am excited for future adventures! I would like to thank the Bobby Jones community for supporting our studies and work opportunities and, most importantly, for making us all feel so welcome and loved. Everyone affiliated with this scholarship has opened their arms to us and treated us with nothing but kindness - we feel like we have an 'Emory Mum' with Jane Williams! Thank you so much and I look forward to more Bobby Jones adventures in the coming months and years.

Georgia Spencer-Rowland – This semester continues to be exceptional, with so many new opportunities coming our way! I am now concentrating on my internship with The Carter Center and have had the most phenomenal experiences so far. Meeting President Carter for the Intern Q&A session was definitely a highlight and I was delighted that he was able to answer my question on post-Brexit US-UK relations. I am working within the Conflict Resolution Programme, specifically in the newly formed team providing independent observation of the 2015 Peace Agreement in Mali. This work has been particularly rewarding as I am able to use my French (thank you, St Andrews) and launch myself into the world of work on a topic about which I am genuinely passionate.

As I have unfortunately had to take a few trips back to the UK, my golf attendance hasn't been as regular as I would have liked, but as The Masters creeps ever closer I will be doubling down on every lesson I possibly can! As always, I am so incredibly grateful for the opportunities that this Scholarship is giving me, and I am looking forward to visiting New York, Philadelphia, Arizona, New Orleans and some of the stunning National Parks as the summer approaches!

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Bethany Sikes – This year I have continued my studies in the Masters of Development Practice program, mainly focusing on classes designed to build much-needed technical skills. As such, I have spent a large chunk of the past year at the Woodruff Library computers wrapping my brain around GIS, SPSS and MaxQGA software! My favourite class is one in which a team of us are conducting a full community assessment for a local NGO in Atlanta, Soccer in the Streets. Alongside my studies I have been interning with Habitat for Humanity International's Disaster Risk Reduction and Response team. This has been an incredible professional experience and I am planning to complete my second field practicum with the team this summer. Travel has continued to be a huge part of my Bobby Jones experience and I have ticked 14 states off my Bucket List, with hopefully a few more to come before I graduate! A particular highlight was hosting my family from the UK for an American Christmas at Clairmont Campus and Hogmanay in New York City! I have also made the most of Atlanta's theatre scene and saw a range of shows this past year, from seeing Bobby Jones' very own Garrett Turner in Holler If You Hear Me, to The Lion King and The Color Purple at the Fox Theatre.

Rebecca Spens – Over the Winter break I returned to London and very much enjoyed seeing family and friends again after a long time away. I then returned to the US and spent some time enjoying the sights of New York, and the glacial weather a little less so! The start to the semester has been incredibly busy. I have continued to intern in the Youth Education department of the International Rescue Committee, an organisation which provides refugee resettlement services. I have additionally been taking two fascinating elective courses this semester: one in the Rollins School of Public health, entitled 'Gender and Global Health', and one in the Goizueta Business School called 'Global Macroeconomic Perspectives'. One of the things I appreciate most about my current course of study is the latitude which it gives to take classes in different departments of the university. On a less academic note, there is much exciting travel on the horizon for me, including a trip to Charleston at the end of February, and a possible West Coast trip in March! I have also recently found out that I will be working in Nairobi in the summer, doing a research project with the Research Triangle Institute.



From left to right: Bethany Sikes, Rebecca Spens, Naomi Boon, Naomi Marshall, Georgia Spencer-Rowland and Fiona Pollock