

## Bobby Jones 40 Year Reunion

Envisioned by the late William H. Fox, Sr., Emory University Vice President for Institutional Advancement, the Bobby Jones Reunion tradition began in the summer of 2002 and marked the milestone of the Bobby Jones Programs' 25 Year Anniversary. The enriching experience in St Andrews led to a reunion celebration of the Program's 30 Year Anniversary at Emory, and thus a return to St Andrews this past summer to celebrate 40 Years of transatlantic scholarship and friendship.

Members of the Jones "family" gathered from around the globe to honor the legacy of Bobby Jones, relive memories, rekindle old, and form new, friendships and share stories of how the Program has impacted the diverse communities we are a part of throughout the world.

The 40 Year Reunion brought over 200 alumni and friends together with representation from all four decades of the program. Beginning with a Welcome Reception hosted by University of St Andrews Principal, Professor Sally Mapstone in Lower College Hall overlooking St Salvator's Quad, the program offered alumni, staff and friends the opportunity to reacquaint with scholars and fellows from across the years. While this event had a formal end time, it certainly continued late into the night in various establishments throughout St Andrews.

Friday brought a series of panel discussions involving alumni and friends, the opportunity to hear updates from each University and the chance to give back to the local St Andrews community through service opportunities. It was also the day with the most popular event of the weekend—the celebration dinner, ceilidh and disco (The Bop!) in the newly renovated Student Union.

The final day of the reunion included a golf tournament (won by David Wilkinson), a pier walk and a final farewell reception in the Royal and Ancient Club House.

In planning the Reunion our goals were simple—to effectively communicate and celebrate the legacy of the man, Robert T. Jones, Jr. and the long-arc of success the scholarship has enjoyed as both Emory University and the University of St Andrews seek to continue that story into its fifth decade. We could not be more thrilled with the weekend and the opportunities it afforded us all to connect with fellow scholars and friends. On the closing night, Dean Joanne Brzinski announced that the 50 Year Reunion will take place at Emory University in 2027. With this past reunion so fresh in our memories, we, along with everyone else, will likely be asking—is it 2027 yet?

Giving back at the St Andrews Botanic Garden



## Thoughts from the Bobby Jones 40 Year Reunion

### Chris Schoettle, Emory to St Andrews 1985-86

I had an epiphany during my senior year studying math and computer science at Emory, that I had miscalculated and was rushing towards the future too quickly and for what purpose? With a Bobby Jones scholarship, I had the opportunity to postpone my entry to the workforce, and devote energy to diving into art history and anthropology, traveling through Europe and gaining a more expansive and global perspective. I learned that just having time for constructive thinking and dialogue was of value in itself. That was 30 years ago, so it was quite something to return to St Andrews for the 40 Year Reunion of all Jones scholars, and I looked forward to hearing about their learnings and experiences. The conversations at the reunion, across decades of scholars to Emory and St Andrews, reinforced so many shared attributes which bring empathy, generosity and humble discourse (as well as a bit of fun) to the global conversation. My favorite experience at St Andrews, then and now, is when walking the West Sands or playing golf on St Andrews Links then making the turn to go back and having the magnificent vista over the town for the whole journey back, which seems to encourage reflection on the past and thoughts for the future. The year at St Andrews introduced me to my future wife Sarah, and years later our son Cameron is now a student at the University of St Andrews. The 40 Year Reunion held at St Andrews bringing together so many accumulated experiences of Jones scholars, adds even greater appreciation to the Bobby Jones saying “I could take out of my life everything except my experiences at St Andrews and I would still have a rich, full life.”



### Claire Dougherty, St Andrews to Emory 2014-15

The events at the reunion were perfectly organised and gave a great insight into what's been happening at Emory and St Andrews as well as the future plans for both. For me, though, the highlight of the weekend was seeing old faces and being introduced to new ones. I was barely off the train and in the door of New Hall when I bumped into Michael, one of my fellow Bobbies, and the catch ups started there and then. It was a sign for what the weekend was to bring – everywhere I turned around St Andrews I saw people I recognised from the programme, and there sadly wasn't enough time to catch up with everyone.

What would a Bobby Jones reunion be without some good old hospitality? Most hospitable of them all was Harriet who, instead of looking bemused as a gaggle of us turned up on her doorstep in the early hours of Saturday thanks to a post-ceilidh mix up, welcomed us in, offering drinks and buttered toast to everyone. Harriet, you gem. I laughed till I cried the following night as some of us shared stories from our Bobby years into the wee hours, and I learned what jobs and other adventures friends are getting up to as we partook in the age old tradition of the pier walk.

Perhaps what I enjoyed most was being able to welcome my partner, Chris, into the Bobby Jones community. The year is such a significant one for so many of us, so to get the chance to show an insight into the community, kind spirit, and welcoming nature of everyone that comes with it was an absolute delight.

I look back on the reunion with fond memories, and look forward to seeing you all in Atlanta in 2027!