

Jones Advisory Committee

An Interview with Chair, Dr. Catherine Lewis



One might say that Dr. Catherine Lewis' knowledge of Bobby Jones is unmatched. The Emory College alumna and historian has curated dozens of exhibitions on his life and legacy, written five books on golf history, and given dozens of lectures, and knows endless stories about Jones, but the story of how she became introduced to the Jones community is just as interesting. In 1997, the summer before Lewis would begin teaching at Brenau University, she contacted the Atlanta History Center about a summer job. When the AHC said they did not have one available, Lewis spent that summer as an intern, producing video, writing content and completing administrative tasks.

It was one distinct question that changed the course of Lewis' career, "Who plays golf?" As the only person to raise their hand, Lewis was assigned the Bobby Jones exhibit, entitled "Down the Fairway with Bobby Jones," in 1997. In 2017, she opened "Fair Play: The Bobby Jones Story" at AHC. Lewis has traveled across the nation and world educating others about the life of Bobby Jones. Lewis remarks, "**Bobby Jones was an athlete that embodies the characteristics you want for yourself and your children.**" She has served as the Bobby Jones curator for more than 20 years, and has helped the Atlanta Athletic Club, Oakland Cemetery, Alston & Bird, LLP, East Lake Golf Course, and numerous organizations preserve his legacy.

In 2007, Lewis was invited to become a member of the Jones Advisory Committee. She considers the events at Augusta National Golf Club and East Lake Golf Club to be two significant aspects of the Scholars involvement. The fall being characterized with nervousness and excitement to be on the same ground upon which Bobby Jones learned to play. The annual Masters Tournament representing the start of the golf seasons and remembrance of Jones' impact on the sport.

Lewis lists serving on the Selection Committee as one of the highlights of her involvement. Each year boasts a different set of candidates; however, Lewis' faith in the future is continually restored after every Selection Weekend. Describing the students as dynamic and powerful, Lewis believes that if Bobby Jones were alive he would be proud of the Committee's selections and embrace how diverse the world has become.

She was named Chair of the Advisory Committee this fall and is eager to bring fresh perspective to the Committee's projects and to work with staff and community members to spread the legacy of Bobby Jones. Lewis states, "**I serve on the JAC to pass the importance of the scholarship on to the next generation and to remind the community why Bobby Jones matters.**"

A lifelong scholar and educator, Lewis is the Assistant Vice President of Museums, Archives & Rare Books; Director of the Museum of History and Holocaust Education; and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University. She received her B.A. with honors in English and History from Emory University and M.A. and Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Iowa. Lewis currently resides in Atlanta, barely a mile from her alma mater in Virginia-Highland, with her husband, John and daughter, Emma.

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