



# THE BOBBY JONES PROGRAM

## FALL 2017



### Catching Up Scholars - St Andrews to Emory

**Naomi Boon** (Marine Biology) – It's hard to believe it's been five weeks since we arrived in sunny ATL! It's hard to encapsulate in one paragraph all of our experiences and adventures so far.

My classes are inspiring, stimulating and thought-provoking. The discussion style classes and continuous assessments are a very different style from St Andrews, but I'm enjoying the challenge. Development Studies and Climate Change and Society are my favourite classes so far, but my Advanced Spanish, Conservation Biology and Advanced Weightlifting classes are also providing variety and enjoyment in my studies.

Outside of the classroom, I've become involved in Women's Rugby and the Student Alumni Board, taking up a position on the Student-to-Alumni experience committee. Our first networking event, Counterparts, gave us the opportunity to meet and connect with members of the Emory Alumni Board, and I look forward to working on other events with this committee, such as Homecoming weekend.

I'm still exploring Atlanta, enjoying the great food, live sporting events and live music - Music Midtown, an Atlanta Falcons game and exploring the restaurants at Ponce City Market have been a few of the highlights so far. Coming up, I have trips to Nashville and Boston, more golf lessons and my first rugby match in the States, so lots to look forward to!

**Naomi Marshall** (Master of Arts in Bioethics) – I have been enjoying the rich resources of the Center for Ethics whilst pursuing my MA in Bioethics. The program director, Professor Gerard Vong, has been most welcoming in ensuring introductions to several members of the faculty, which I have been using to establish my master's thesis committee. I am hoping to use this work to pursue my interest in disability ethics, and to bolster my imminent PhD applications. It has moreover been a joy getting to know my classmates. Many of them have come from distant corners of the US to attend this course at Emory, and they have delighted in introducing me to American culture. Finally, I cannot fail to mention my golfing lesson. It was hugely special to learn golf at the beautiful East Lake Golf Club. I am so grateful for all these incredible opportunities.

**Fiona Pollock** (Film Studies and International Relations) – Our first month in Atlanta has been incredible and we have been so kindly welcomed into a new life here. I take classes in Mandarin to improve my Chinese proficiency. Following on from my undergraduate studies in International Relations and Film Studies, I am studying a Film and Media class which focuses on the Middle East. I decided to take up golf classes too! I am also interning at Marvel Studios as a Production Assistant on Avengers: Infinity War which is a dream position for me as I hope to continue working in the film industry after my year at Emory. I am attending a film festival in Austin this week and am visiting Los Angeles in a fortnight. I feel so grateful for all that the Bobby Jones Scholarship and community has offered us so far and I cannot wait for the future adventures yet to come.

**Georgia Spencer-Rowland** (French and International Relations) – The first four weeks of our time here at Emory have really flown by, and I can't quite believe we are almost into October!

My classes in Russian Language, History and Political Science are all fascinating, with guest speakers such as Rt Hon Sir Simon Burns and Dr Rick Levy lined up to provide our class with lectures in my Media and Politics class. I am particularly enjoying discussing current British political phenomena within the theoretical framework of American Political Science, an approach which is worlds away from European IR thinking! Outside of the classroom I have applied to be involved with the TedX Committee, applied for an internship at the Carter Center, joined Spinning and Yoga classes and taken part in our very first golf lesson at East Lake which hopefully will be the start of a glittering amateur career...

Other adventures include trips to Songfest, Music Midtown, seeing President Carter at the Town Hall event, a visit to the zoo, a Falcon's game, and sharing the apartment with three Floridian evacuees during Hurricane Irma! With trips so far booked to San Francisco, Denver, New York, Boston and tickets booked to see Hillary Clinton on her book tour, the rest of the semester promises to be just as exciting as the first four weeks. I can't wait for the next chapter of our year to begin and I look forward to being able to keep the Bobby Jones community updated!



## Fellows - St Andrews to Emory



**Bethany Sikes** (Master's in Development Practice) – I am starting my second year of the Masters of Development Practice at Emory University. As part of my program, I spent 10 weeks this summer working in Haiti with the J/P Haitian Relief Organisation as a consultant for their Hurricane Matthew emergency response. Despite being a challenging experience I was thrilled to have the opportunity to put into practice lessons from my degree program and gain experience in the field I hope to enter after I graduate. This semester I am building on this experience by interning with Habitat for Humanity International's Global Disaster Response Team, about which I am incredibly excited! Outside of academics, I am continuing to enjoy exploring Atlanta and further afield in the United States, including a "bucket-list" trip to the Universal and Disney theme parks in Orlando!

**Rebecca Spens** (Master's in Development Practice) – I have now been in Atlanta for almost two months and have had a wonderful time settling into the flat with Bethany, exploring the city and starting my Masters program in international development (MDP). I have really enjoyed the multidisciplinary nature of the course, which spans the business, anthropology and public health schools. I have found my elective about the global challenges, past and present, of countering the HIV/AIDS epidemic particularly interesting. After a long struggle with visa paperwork, I am also excited to begin my internship at the International Rescue Committee, a global organisation which resettles refugees and helps them rebuild their lives. I also look forward to getting the chance to travel in the US, starting with a trip to visit friends in New York next month.

## Scholars & Fellow - Emory to St Andrews

**Jason Ehrenzeller** (Culture Identity Studies) - After just a few weeks in St Andrews, I have felt a sense of timelessness pervade me. It feels as if I've been here for months. The city, its students, and residents have made me feel beyond welcome. My fellow residents in Deans Court already feel like longtime friends. My Literature and Language Professors have treated me as if I've studied under them for multiple semesters. Even the recent habit of taking post-dinnertime walks along the East Sands at sunset feels analogous to some ancient tradition.

Yet, at the same time, I am aware of the way in which a year can move so quickly and am making my best effort to seize every moment and meet more people. So far, I've become involved with the Golf and Swimming Club Teams, applied to host a radio show, attended Hispanic Society Spanish conversation hours and may even join the global investment society to experience something completely new. I just acquired my links ticket and played my first round of golf today on the Jubilee course and was overwrought with the beautiful blends of fescue, fairway and ancient skyline (and learned that I am going to need to lower my ball flight substantially!). I've nearly completed my mental map of this beautiful coastal city and cannot wait to explore more of this beautiful nation.

Everything has exceeded already high expectations. My master's program's modules are extremely thought provoking through discussions on identity and culture. As the only student doing the MLitt in Cultural Identity Studies in the University I have the fortunate opportunity to get to know and work close with Professor San Román whose work on Latin American Modernismo thought and literature originally sparked my interest in the University and this specific program. My exploration of different cultures continues far beyond the classroom as walks through town or on the golf course with friends from around the world allow me to continue asking the questions that keep me moving. I am beyond thankful for everyone that brought me here and cannot wait to see what the future weeks bring.

**Jhénéle Elder** (Global Health Implementation) - My program had me hit the ground running with an introductory class being held the day after I arrived. After attending that class, I confirmed two things; first, that I was going to have a very busy year, and second that this course of study was the perfect fit for me with my current career goals and interests. The first few days of classes have gone quite well, with my two hour lectures seeming to fly by since I've gotten so engrossed in the material and the topics being discussed. As for adventures in the beautiful and quaint little town of St Andrews, they have included attending a bonfire at East Sands, exploring the town and its many great restaurants, and watching picturesque sunsets from West Sands. Needless to say, my first week here has certainly left me excited about my year to come.

## Scholars & Fellow - Emory to St Andrews

**Julianna Joss** (Sustainable Development) - Since arriving in the quaint town of St Andrews, I have been impressed by the depth of tradition within the university, the historic landscape surrounding me, and the engaged, cosmopolitan nature of my peers. Highlights from my first week include taking walks on the gorgeous East and West Sands beaches with new friends from all over the world and discovering hidden gems in the town, such as the St Andrews Botanical Garden (free for students anytime!). I am actively making an effort to challenge myself personally and intellectually; undertaking new endeavors and taking the road less traveled. Sport rifle shooting, attending rugby games, and Scottish Cèilidh dancing are just a few of my new experiences thus far. In terms of academics, I am pushing myself to further develop more quantitative, hard skills to supplement my previous heavily qualitative education by taking courses in Environmental Economics and Geographic Information Systems. Even in the first several days, my time here has proved to be rich and meaningful. I look forward to the experiences, relationships, and coursework deepening over the coming months. I cannot thank the committee enough for endowing me with the opportunity to study, grow, and explore in this awe-inspiring place.



**Ekaterina (Kate) Koposova** (Art History) – It has now been nearly two weeks since our arrival at St Andrews, but I am sure all of us feel as though much more time has passed. One of the first things to note, when reflecting on the naturally chaotic week and a half of settling in, is that the town of St Andrews is a charming little place, which is as advantageously situated on the coast of the North Sea as I have been led to believe. The beach walks are already on the top of my list for things to do in free time. We have been, moreover, very fortunate with the weather and had the chance of seeing Scotland bask in the sun. Next, of course, I must mention that Dean's Court is a great place to live: its central location and the feeling of living in an old house with all the advantages of modernity is a terrific experience. Personally, I have been extremely lucky to get a room with a view of the St Andrews Cathedral, and I have been practicing a Monet-inspired style of photography in recording these picturesque ruins every day. The Art History program at St Andrews is very promising, as it offers courses that are highly useful to someone who, like myself, wishes to make art history their career. The focus on a culturally diverse approach that is combined with rigorous training in methods and theories is formidably important and highly interesting. Although we have only had one week of classes, I am confident that my courses will help me grow professionally and intellectually. At Dean's Court and in the department, I have already met a plurality of fascinating people, whose diverse backgrounds and interests assure me that I will gain both new friends and new ideas. I am also excited to explore the diverse extracurricular activities here, among which the debate team, the Opera Society, and the Fine Food & Dining Society stand out particularly. Next on the Bobbies' agenda is a trip to Edinburgh – and we simply cannot wait!

**Lamija Grbic** (Political and Legal Philosophy) - Since arriving at St Andrews about a week ago, I've been delighted by its beauty and the generosity of the people here. I'm getting acquainted with wonderful people at Deans Court, exploring the beaches and town, and settling in to my new class schedule. My first week of philosophy classes has assured me that the MLitt program in Moral, Political and Legal Philosophy will be both challenging and enriching. I'm very excited for the months ahead and hope to become involved with different aspects of the St Andrews community, such as Refugee Action St Andrews and the Dance Society.