

Final Updates from 2019 - 2020 Emory to St Andrews Scholars

FARAH AL CHAMMAS

As wild as this sounds, I honestly enjoyed St Andrews the most during lockdown. I have the most vivid and heart-warming memories from the many potlucks, laughs and long conversations I shared with my small quarantine team in Deans Court. I'm forever thankful for my shared walks on the beach with Claire, her rhubarb harvests that made it into my favorite new cookie recipe, and the delicious energy balls her and our academic mom sent with me on my flight back. After returning to the U.S., I spent some time in Atlanta, where I caught up with dear Emory folks, after which I spent the rest of the summer writing my dissertation in Boston. While a student of international development, I enjoyed working with my chosen supervisor from the school of management and completed an interdisciplinary dissertation on refugee women entrepreneurship, which included a small business startup guide that I developed with the guidance of my supervisor. The same day I submitted my dissertation, I received the offer for a research strategy internship at an advertising agency based in San Francisco. I have since been working remotely with the agency and currently planning next steps in terms of relocation. I recently found out I was awarded "Most Innovative Masters Research Project" by the Graduate School for Interdisciplinary Studies at St Andrews. St Andrews was and will always be a special place that connects me to life-long friends and lots of reflection and personal growth. I'm currently still in touch with the Refugee Action Society at St Andrews. They hosted a virtual screening (on Oct 31st) of the pilot of [Talk With Your Mouth Full](#): a docuseries that I'm co-producing, hosted by a Syrian Christian vegan (me!) and a Jewish American omnivore (my dear friend), on a mission to unite disparate strangers over meals prepared by immigrant chefs.

CLAIRE BARNES

Even though I knew the pandemic would change the end of the school year and summer travel plans, I decided to stay in Scotland. While in St Andrews, I completed my dissertation on the work of Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida (with a specific focus on how they both discuss food, ethical eating, and animality). I graduated with distinction from the School of International Relations with a degree in International Political Theory. When I wasn't writing my dissertation, I spent time walking on the beach, having dinner with Farah, and looking for apartments with Camila for the next year. When lockdown restrictions eased in the city, we often took day trips to Perth. To fill my free time, I volunteered with The Tree--a student-run food cooperative that delivers sustainable and local produce to St Andrews' residents. I developed a newfound appreciation for the coastal path and the beauty of the town during the lockdown. Now, I am living with Camila in New Haven, where I am pursuing a Master's degree in Religion and Ecology at Yale Divinity. I am also working at the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscripts Library and the Yale Divinity Office of Alumni Relations. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to live and study in St Andrews--I will cherish all the connections and friends I made there!



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CAMILA REED-GUEVARA

While things were definitely different than I thought they would be with COVID-19, I still felt very lucky to be in Scotland over the spring and summer. In February, I was lucky enough to travel to Budapest with John and we had a great time sightseeing, and it's definitely a trip I look back on now after spending so many weeks inside! I really enjoyed my class on Roman history, and threw myself into a research project on ancient legal practices that I hope to work on for publication in law school. I finished up my degree over the summer while staying in St Andrews, and got distinction on my dissertation titled

"The Roman Slave Prison: A Study of the Relevance of *Ergastula* in Ancient Roman Agriculture." While I was not able to safely travel this summer, Claire and I were able to do lots of hikes in the area, and spent time at the beach in Kingsbarns. We also spent time traveling to smaller towns around St Andrews and it felt like I was getting the opportunity to see places around me that I otherwise would not have! Since my program ended, I moved to New Haven where I began Yale Law School. It is definitely a transition, but I look back fondly at my year abroad while I start this new chapter!



JOHN PRIDDY

The beginning of the winter semester was wonderful. I had the opportunity to travel to London again, see more of Scotland, and spend some time in Edinburgh at the amazing Christmas Market. In February, Camila and I visited Budapest, which was probably my favorite trip of the year. We spent a lot of time in the city seeing all the sights, and we loved the experience. Academically, I was enrolled in two research based courses — Legal and Constitutional Research and Comparative Studies in Legal History. In both courses, I focused on American Legal History, researching and writing about the legal development of the death penalty in America and the development of the sixth amendment's right to counsel in *Powell v. Alabama* respectively. I deeply enjoyed both of these classes and was able to strengthen my knowledge of American legal history. My extracurriculars were also formative experiences. I served as the Executive Postgraduate Class Representative for the School of History, where I had several meetings with university leadership on behalf of postgraduate students. I also served as a member of the Rector's Committee, and worked to bring the recently elected Rector, Dr. Leyla Hussein, to campus for an event. Finally, I was involved in the development of the first polling place at the University of St Andrews for the Global Presidential Primary, as a member of Democrats Overseas.

At the end of March, I made the decision to return home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I was saddened that my experience in Scotland ended early but feel very lucky and thankful that I had the experience I did. I finished out the semester at my home in Lone Tree, Colorado. My dissertation focused on the legal development of indigent defense in the United States, exploring the pre and post Gideon cases, and how/why indigent defense is struggling in America today. I finished my dissertation in August and then started at Stanford Law School, where I am currently a 1L. Again, although I had to leave Scotland early, I am so grateful for the cultural and academic experience I had at St Andrews through Bobby Jones. It definitely set me on the right path for law school and the rest of my career!



Fellow Updates



MICHAEL KEEN, Emory to St Andrews

Because of the pandemic, my second semester at St Andrews certainly was not what I expected, but I found it extremely valuable nonetheless. I mentioned in my last update I was excited to compete in my first judo competition with the St Andrews team. At the competition (Scottish Student Sport in Edinburgh), I ended up winning a bronze medal in my weight category, one of 11 medals won by our team in total.

Due to the pandemic, I made the decision to leave Scotland and return to the U.S. in late March, which put a stop to my St Andrews club involvement and plans to travel. Waking up at 4:00 AM to virtually attend one of my modules wasn't nearly as unpleasant as I had feared, and I continued to enjoy my coursework, especially modules on Central Asian states' positions in the global international order and on the ways in which political orders and violence influence each other. I wrote my dissertation on the ways in which authoritarian regimes in the Middle East and Central Asia have responded to domestic political challenges since 1965. I was gratified to graduate with distinction.

While I was finishing up my St Andrews modules, I also finished writing the last few chapters of my upcoming book, *Azawad's Facebook Warriors: The MNLA, Social Media, and the Malian Civil War*. I've now gone through several rounds of edits with my publisher, and I expect it will be on shelves by early 2021! In the meantime, I'm working on coauthoring a short article with Dr. Sam Cherribi of Emory's MESAS Department (he was also kind enough to invite me to speak to two of his undergraduate classes in September), as well as adapting my St Andrews dissertation for submission to a journal. Later in the fall, I plan to teach an essay-writing course for middle and high school students, and serve as an election worker once early voting starts in my state.

I will forever cherish my time in St Andrews, and I am especially grateful to the Jones Program for being so flexible and supportive regarding the extraordinary conditions imposed by the pandemic.



Michael (left) attempting an ura nage throw on an opponent.

FIONA COOPER, St Andrews to Emory

This semester was a strange one as I'm sure it has been for everyone. Luckily, I packed a lot in before things were too disrupted, including a trip to visit some friends in Quebec before I went back to Atlanta - I thought Scotland could be cold but Canada in January is really something to experience. Once back in Atlanta, I got straight into classes including Gender and Islam, Monitoring and Evaluation, Refugee Resettlement and Social Network Analysis. I enjoyed taking quite different classes and my class on Gender and Islam really taught me some new perspectives about the feminist movement within the religion and how perceptions about Islamic feminism are often incorrect. The class on social network analysis was really useful and I used these skills for a project with CARE International to develop a visualisation of all their partners and how they connected to impact outcomes which had never been done before.

During the early part of the semester I was able to travel around the U.S. and tick off some places I still wanted to see. This started with a trip to New Orleans to enjoy some live music, experience the madness of Mardi-Gras and play in a rugby tournament. I took some weekends to explore a bit more of Georgia including blood mountain, a visit to Athens, and a trip to Jekyll island for an incredible sunrise at driftwood beach. For spring break, before COVID madness took over, my friends and I road tripped down through Florida and the everglades to Key West. It was absolutely stunning and just the break we needed from a busy semester.

I was due to work in Sierra Leone with CARE this summer, but sadly international travel was cancelled due to COVID-19. Instead, I continued my internships with CARE International and Atlanta Youth Rugby (AYR) at home in Fife. I worked on some cool projects, running the communications for AYR as we transitioned to more online activities and led two research projects at CARE.



Fellow Updates

FIONA COOPER, cont'd

Although I was quite disappointed to have my summer considerably less adventurous, my cats were absolutely delighted to have me home.

I'm really excited to start my new job as a programme coordinator with an incredible charity, Sported. I'll be based in Scotland and looking forward to staying here for the next year or so to play some serious rugby and spend time with friends and family.

RIKKE NEDERGAARD, St Andrews to Emory

It is safe to say that this year has been a whirlwind, but my experience with this Fellowship has continued to be fantastic. The classes I have at Emory continue to challenge me in all the best ways: In the spring I had my favourite class yet which focused on violence prevention within public health. I also took several quantitative methods classes, which have complimented my qualitative research background well. This semester, I am in seven different courses, so I am keeping busy, but taking any fewer classes would have meant missing out on some fascinating learning opportunities. In one of my classes, I work with a group on designing a social enterprise, and in another I am part of a team conducting a health needs assessment for the non-profit "Victims of Torture". I am also taking a course about preventing mental and behavioural disorders, which aligns closely with what I plan to do upon graduation. The teaching has been online since March, but it turns out that online teaching works really well for me, especially since the Emory faculty and staff have been fantastic in figuring out ways to make this format engaging.

This year, I have taken on a leadership role within an organisation that I volunteer for called the "Emory Pipeline Initiative". This organisation provides an evening extra-curricular learning programme for bright students from disadvantaged high schools in Atlanta. I co-coordinate the mental health and neurology curriculum and lead the graduate mentors who teach this curriculum. I am also a teaching assistant for a class on global mental health and I have continued my research on mental health.

When Emory's campus closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I returned to Scotland for six months where I continued my studies online. I was supposed to have been living in Addis Ababa during the summer for a practicum. The plan was that I would research how Emory University could help build capacity mental health treatment in Ethiopia, but this project has moved online. Fortunately, I got to go on a wonderful trip before COVID-19 hit: For the first time ever, I observed "Spring Break" (which I usually treat as an independent learning week). I went to Puerto Rico with a couple of close friends, where I enjoyed walking around Old San Juan, seeing the historical forts and trying Puerto Rican food. I hope to get to see more of the U.S. before my graduation but will wait to see when it is safe to travel again.



Rikke pointing out Bobby Jones's name in St Andrews.

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FIONA BLACKWOOD

I think it's safe to say the second semester of our Bobby Jones year didn't quite go to plan! Despite it coinciding with the beginning of the pandemic, it was a really wonderful few months. I felt like I knew and loved Atlanta so much more, especially because I was travelling to my internship in Operations at The Carter Center. The internship was a great experience, I learned a lot about what work is required behind the scenes to allow an organisation to achieve its aims, and I met some amazing people. I really loved my classes too – I wanted to make the most of my last semester at a liberal arts college, so I took a class on the Ethics of Human Goodness and carried on with Photography. Both were brilliant and allowed me to read and discuss and think and learn – a good combination for a Jones year.

The four of us scholars had a really lovely weekend in Asheville, NC, featuring one of the best brunches of the year, and a pretty amazing waterfall. I travelled to Cape Cod in March, and loved exploring new parts of Atlanta throughout the semester. In April, I sadly said goodbye to Atlanta and travelled back to Scotland for lockdown, but I can't wait to be back again as soon as we can. In September I moved to London and started work at the Government Legal Department, which I am finding really interesting so far. It would be great to meet any of the Bobby community in London, and I look forward to being part of this remarkable community for many years to come!



LIBBI CARRUTHERS

Well...it wasn't quite the summer we had planned. But it's safe to say, I still loved my final semester in Atlanta! While I'm gutted that we weren't able to travel and meet more of the Bobby family, it did mean that I could throw myself into my job at Ideas United (of David Roemer fame.) I was able to work on some really cool projects, including Emory's commencement celebrations! Being a part of the team that was delivering a memorable graduation for my classmates, was a really special feeling.

I also seemingly had a personality transplant, and became the sort of person who dragged the lains out of bed to go on sunrise hikes in the mountains. (Don't panic, since returning to the UK, this is not a trait that has stuck) While coffee intake certainly increased exponentially, it was absolutely worth it. We explored Georgia from top to bottom, with Amicalola falls, Brasstown Bald and our weekend in at Lake Hartwell being particular highlights - although whoever said the hike to the top of Brasstown Bald is "family friendly" needs a reality check.

Since returning to the UK at the beginning of July, I've been enjoying catching up with friends, beating my Dad at golf, and feeling smug about already having had COVID-19. I recently signed a contract to start working at an agency in London as an Account Executive, marketing and creating events for a formula 1 sponsor! An opportunity that wouldn't have been open to me had I not been able to work with David, Robin Harpak, and their team during my Bobby year. I'm so excited to return to Atlanta soon, (fingers crossed Masters 2021!) and meet more people, see more of America, and play a round somewhere a little less soggy than England. Sending love to all of the Bobbies in what is a very strange time!



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IAIN MILLAR

As I sit down to write this update I'm struck by how dramatically the world has changed in the last six months. Where to start? Reading back through my winter update to see where we left off it's easy to reflect on all the things which weren't possible, yet the reality of living through a global pandemic helps to quickly put things in perspective. I'm grateful for the classes I was able to continue. In particular, my class on contemporary female playwrights was a joy as we read two plays a week by well-known and up-and-coming female writers. While the pandemic meant that our classes moved online, this also afforded us new possibilities such as participating in a masterclass with Pulitzer prize finalist Clare Barron.

Alongside my classes, I interned with the China Programme at the Carter Center. While initially working on my writing for their website, my work pivoted as the impact of the pandemic plunged US-China relations to a new low. This meant I was increasingly able to see the impact of the center's diplomacy efforts, as my team quickly organized a conference bringing together U.S., Chinese and African partners to discuss collaboration on COVID-19. I'm equally grateful for the travel I was able to do, particularly within Georgia. Right before the pandemic moved classes online, I was able to travel to Cocoa Beach, FL with the crew team and the other Bobbies and I also managed to explore the beauty of Georgia's state parks such as Amicalola Falls, went gold panning in Dahlonega, and took in the view from Georgia's highest point at Brasstown Bald.

Since returning from Atlanta, I started work on a graduate programme with the Wellcome Trust. I'm currently working with the media team on our COVID-19 campaign to make the case for greater global investments in vaccines and treatments research. Thank you to everyone who has made this year so special – I'll never forget Atlanta and the Bobby Jones family and I can't wait to come back and visit soon.



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St Andrews to Emory Scholars



IAIN SMITH

The spring semester was a bit of a mixed bag! I travelled with some of the guys from Kappa Sigma to Gatlinburg for Spring Break which was fantastic. We did a lot of hiking and skiing so that was a lot of fun. It was there that we first heard about COVID-19 hitting the states which of course had a big impact on the second part of our year. However, although it wasn't ideal, it didn't ruin our time by any means. I still had a good few weeks of terrific classes including part of a scuba diving course which was a really cool experience.



Following our second semester, I was also thrilled to hear that my internship with CNN had not been cancelled and I was still able to do that, even if it did have to become a remote internship. I was their first intern to work remotely and although it extended my learning curve a bit I was still able to perform well and met a lot of great people including a former Bobby Jones Scholar, Caroline Paterson, who was incredibly supportive throughout my time at CNN. Following that I decided to stay in the states for a while longer, staying with a friend at their house in Midtown. Although Covid restrictions were in place I was still able to explore the city a bit more and even travelled with them to Kentucky where we explored the Bourbon trail for a few days.



After that I worked remotely from the states for a couple Scottish companies such as Docs 24 and the Scottish Business Network but it wasn't long before I was missing Scotland and my family and headed home for the start of September.

Since I have been back I have continued working with Docs 24 as well as a few other companies on a more freelance basis and have recently registered as a sole trader to start my own business! It is very much still in the planning stages but should launch in August 2021.

I again cannot thank the Scholarship enough for a great experience and I look forward to returning in April for the Masters Tournament.



In February, the Scholars visited Jones's gravesite with Richard Harker 10BJS and JAC Member Gene McClure.