

# Scholar Updates: Emory to St Andrews

## WEI WEI CHEN

This time four years ago, in a contemporary dance class I took my first year at Emory, my classmates and I spent our class periods dancing in public spaces around campus. Given the instruction to each select a location and improvise movement based on it, we danced our way through building lobbies, walkways and stairways, and even the water fountain by the main library. I remember, at the beginning, how chaotic my thoughts were. I was full of self-doubt and nervous energy. Every person who stopped to take a picture of us spiked my anxiety, made my movements stiff and awkward. My professor told us that it would be simple, that all we had to do was to trust our body, but I couldn't imagine what that would be like. Yet, slowly, over the course of the month, I noticed a shift within myself and my peers. With each session, we grew bolder and more in sync with each other. Eventually, I stopped thinking about how I should move and simply allowed myself to be present. It was one of the most peaceful, empowering experiences I ever had.

My Bobby Jones year has been like this. The first semester, I felt uprooted and homesick. It was not the first time I had to settle into a new place, and I knew I had the support of an entire community of Jones alumni; yet, the adjustment period contained extremely difficult and lonely moments all the same. It helped a lot, in the initial months, for me to think back to my dance class and remind myself to trust that my environment would guide me in the right direction. Surely it did. I made a close group of friends whose kindness and vision for impact inspire and motivate me, I travelled and hiked through the UK and Europe in good company, became involved on campus as an Events Assistant for On The Rocks Arts Festival and as the Member for Racial Equality on the Student Representative Council, collaborated with 12 academic departments through my Contemporary Studies programme, trained for a half

marathon for the first time, took up golf lessons, and worked with curators at the British Golf Museum and the Preservation Trust Museum. I am happy and proud to call St. Andrews home now.

The personal growth I experienced this year has been invaluable, and no words can fully express how thankful I am to the Jones community for providing me the time and space to gain more clarity about myself and what matters most to me. I have purposely decided to not plan ahead more than two to three months at a time, so I can't say for certain where I will be next, but I feel content knowing that I will always make arts advocacy part of my life.

## CARLI KOVEL

It is hard to believe how quickly our time in St Andrews has flown by. Second semester has been amazing! I have had the opportunity to continue to explore Scotland through a road trip to Loch Ness and Inverness. I have also traveled to Barcelona and Dublin. I am so grateful that I have had the opportunity to travel throughout this year and I look forward to our summer travels. In the laboratory, I have enjoyed delving into my research project for my Msc in Catalysis. I have gained a significant amount of organic chemistry research experience, expanding my skills as a chemist. I have been enjoying my coursework as well. I am learning how principles of catalysis can be applied to make the world more sustainable. Outside of the classroom, I have continued my involvement with Code First: Girls and have learned Python this semester. Additionally, I am involved with Women in Computer Science and Robogals. Both of these organizations aim to inspire young women to study science and technology. Additionally, this semester I have become a student ambassador, which allows me to give tours to prospective students and share my love of St Andrews with others. I have also continued to take golf lessons and am determined to play the Old Course before my time in St Andrews comes to an end.



L-R: Jason Sell, Leah Neiman, Ben Goldfein, Wei Wei Chen, Carli Kovel



Jimmie James (middle) with Naomi Boon 18BJS and Jason Sell.





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## CARLI KOVEL

I have treasured my time in St Andrews and am so grateful for the amazing people I have met, the unique traditions I have taken part in, and the many opportunities I have had during my time here.

## LEAH NEIMAN

Second semester has been, in a word, a whirlwind. After an action-packed and brief visit to the states over the new year, I returned to St Andrews for what has seemed like one of the fastest semesters of my life. My student-curated exhibition, [Unfolding Fans: The beauty within](#), featuring fans and costume from the Fife Cultural Trust's collections, opened on March 15 after two weeks on installation (see picture to right). The opening was a surreal event, seeing six months of work and planning come to fruition and being shared with the public; and while it was a sigh of relief, the fun really begins now as I am in the midst of running a program of educational events for the exhibition. In between exhibition meetings and assignments for class, I have also continued working on the Through a Glass Darkly research project in the School of Classics and University museum. I am very excited to be running a digital 3-d modeling competition for primary and secondary schools and implementing literacy and drama workshops in schools using the archaeological collection as inspiration. Outside of my course classes, this semester I have swapped Monday evening golf lessons for evening German classes.

In an unexpected twist of fate, my travels have taken me to Spain not once, but twice this semester. Having never been before, I must admit I have become quite enamored with country. A weekend in Barcelona in February, and a week in the Canary Islands and Madrid over spring break brought welcome warmth and (lots of) delicious food. While in the canaries I had the opportunity to hike Mt. Teide, a dormant volcano and the highest peak in Spain. The views were breathtaking, and made the grueling 10km hike up well worth it, but I think I will still happily take

the cable car next time. I have my sights set on the peak of Ben Nevis this summer, the highest "mountain" in Scotland. Scotland continues to awe me with its natural beauty and I am very excited to explore further into the highlands and isles come summer.

With the end of classes only a month away, I cannot believe how quickly this year has flown by – and how much more there still is to do! My summer schedule is quickly filling up with exciting adventures, including visit from my family and a two-week summer study at the Ecole du Louvre. I am even looking forward to cracking on with my dissertation, a consideration of how feminist theory can be applied to museums' interpretations of women's lives in the ancient world.

## JASON SELL

My time in Scotland has continued to prove incredible! Looking back on all the pictures I've taken and the places I've been is quite surreal. Since my last update, I have spent the winter holiday in the U.K., and had a wonderful Christmas in London. I've since fulfilled my wishes of sightseeing throughout Scotland - including trips to Loch Ness, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, and the Cairngorms (the Bobby's have many more road trips planned this summer!). Academically speaking, classes end at the end of April, and I will be spending the summer in St Andrews working on my dissertation. No class, beautiful weather, and plenty of golf... it doesn't get much better than that. Once I submit my dissertation in August, I hope to return to Atlanta, and pick up right where I left off. Atlanta truly became my home while at Emory, and my time in Scotland has shown me how much I miss it. All in all, it's been a wonderful year, and I know that when the time comes, I'll be deeply saddened to leave. Until then, I'll continue to soak in every moment!



Current Emory to St Andrews Scholars and Fellow with newly selected St Andrews Scholar and Fellow.





# Scholar Updates: St Andrews to Emory



L-R: Rachel Dinsdale, Erin Phillips, Caitlin Macdonald



The Jones Notes: Spring 2019

## RACHEL DINSDALE

This semester, I've continued to study Arabic and Photography, as well as taking an American Studies class, and a couple of PE classes to counter my appreciation of Southern food! As I start to reflect on my time in the U.S., one thing that strikes me is how much I've learned. The opportunity to embrace the liberal arts system of education has been such a pleasure, and I will take so much knowledge and understanding with me when I head back to Scotland in June.

Beyond classes, a definite highlight of this term was our week at The Masters. I still can't believe we were there to see Tiger Woods' historic win, and it will be an experience I will never forget! I also enjoyed travelling to San Francisco during Spring Break, where I reconnected with childhood friends, and to New York in March to attend a Bobby Jones reunion. I can't wait to explore further places this summer; I'm heading to Florida for a conference in May, before hopefully ticking a few more states off my list!

I've carried on volunteering with Pajama Program this semester, an organisation that gives vulnerable children in the Atlanta area access to books and the pleasure of reading. Every day I spend there is such a joy, and I'm looking forward to being there more frequently once classes are over. I'm also looking forward to spending more time at East Lake, and making the most of the Atlanta sunshine!

I feel incredibly grateful for this year, and all of the opportunities it has offered. It has been an absolute privilege being a Bobby Jones scholar, and I have made some lifelong friends through this exceptional program. Sincere gratitude to all those whose hard work, dedication, and generosity have made this year possible.

## CAITLIN MACDONALD

This semester has gone by in a blur! I've loved my classes, ranging from one on the Dalai Lama to an Ethics of Human Goodness seminar. I have also been interning at The Carter Center with their Human Rights Programme, specifically focusing on issues at the intersection of women's and girls' rights, violence and religion. This has been incredible and I was lucky enough to travel to Nigeria and Ghana with them last month. I've been continuing to take golf lessons and am looking forward to a time when my abilities might match my enthusiasm! I had the most magical time at the Masters, made all the more special by my Dad and Uncle being there too.

I've also squeezed in some travelling, visiting Asheville with Erin in search of Scottish-like scenery and beer, and driving to Charleston and Savannah with my Mum and Aunt a few weeks ago. I'm so sad that my time at Emory is coming to an end, but am excited for the adventures that the summer has to offer! We'll be driving around and hope to meet lots of new and old friends along the way!





# Scholar Updates: St Andrews to Emory



## ERIN PHILLIPS

Once again I have had a semester full of fascinating and exciting classes! I've been exploring Tropical Ecology (a first for this Scot), learning some new coding languages in Data Science, dipping my toes in linguistics for the first time in Languages of the World and doing some serious thinking in Environmental Philosophy. I couldn't have imagined how much I would learn this year, or have known how much pushing myself out of my comfort zone would make me a better and more confident biologist! My studies this year have given me focus for the future and I look forward to continuing to pursue a career in conservation.

I've been delighted to be able to travel a considerable amount in the last few months. I spent a very special Christmas and New Year in Ontario reconnecting with Canadian family I had not seen since I was very young, and in January, travelled to New York and Washington D.C., where I met some past Scholars! In February, I had a very quick, very fun weekend in Scotland for my cousin's wedding, and have also squeezed in trips to Arizona, South Carolina and Alabama along the way. I also spent an unforgettable Spring Break on a field course in the Amazon Rainforest in Peru making friends with snakes, sloths, manatees and monkeys, and haven't stopped smiling since! In April, we had a magical week in Augusta at the Masters and can't wait to go back and try to play the course ourselves in May ('try' being the key word – I think Tiger Woods' job is safe for now). Looking forward, I am excited to see even more of the States with Caitlin on our summer road trip, and hope to see many of you along the way! It's been a whirlwind year full of adventures that I am endlessly thankful for, and I'll be savouring every last moment until it's over!



[CLICK HERE](#) to listen to Rebecca, Rachel, Caitlin and Erin report on their Jones Year from the Masters Tournament.



# Fellow Updates

## **BEN GOLDFEIN, Emory to St Andrews**

My time in St Andrews has been incredible (and it has gone by way too quickly — I can't believe it's already nearing the end of the second semester!). Academically, I have had the opportunity to dive into philosophy from a new perspective. Namely, I have been able to take the work I did in Emory's philosophy and ethics departments and apply it to my work in the St Andrews seminars. My passion converges on the intersection of ethics, artificial intelligence (AI), and the law, and the breadth and depth of courses as St Andrews has helped me focus my work on this evolving new topic. Additionally, the diversity in the classroom has been particularly helpful to my research; gaining a deeper understanding of how ethical systems vary from culture to culture has helped me refine my viewpoints on such an interesting and important topic. Now I am researching how recent explosive technological advancements will impact our conception of human rights, and I am excited to continue this work next year as a 1L at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law.



On top of my academic experience, being at St Andrews has been crucial to my personal development. Namely, I have learned more about myself and what I value. I have also made friends from all around the world who have taught me and showed me new ways of thinking about the world around us. I remember sitting at the dinner table one night with five of my friends and coming to the realization that everyone at my table was from a different continent— that's something that only happens in St Andrews. I also have had the opportunity to explore the eastern coast of Scotland, and I am so excited to take my adventures to the northern and western coasts in the coming months. Finally, I have picked up golf, which has been a wonderful experience. At a dinner the other Bobbies and I went to a few months ago with Jimmie James, husband of Emory Dean Erika James and the first person to play Golf Digest's "100 Greatest Golf Courses" in a year, we reflected on the fact that there are a few moments in life that we can all remember as a moment when our life was forever changed. One of those moments was finding out I received the Fellowship. I credit the Bobby Jones Program and my year at St Andrews for helping shape me into the person I am today. For that and more, I am truly grateful.

## **REBECCA SPENS, St Andrews to Emory**

I am shocked to find myself almost at the end of my Master's! I am sad to be leaving Emory, but so thankful for my time here and very much looking forward to celebrating these past two years at graduation in May! My dad will be visiting for the occasion and I can't wait to show him around Atlanta and introduce him to many of the fantastic people I have met here. This semester has been packed full of new academic, professional, and personal experiences. I have been taking classes in social entrepreneurship, gender and development, and gender-based violence, to name but a few. I also continue to be busy with professional commitments of various kinds: I lead a French conversation club, intern with Save the Children, and have a couple of pro bono projects on the side. One of the most interesting of the latter projects has been an evaluation which I have been conducting alongside fellow graduate students for City Government in Atlanta on the important subject of equitable access to government services for those with LEP.



In the middle of a manic semester, I spent a very relaxing Spring Break on the Gulf Coast in Florida with my boyfriend and his grandparents. This was a much-needed restorative rest. I also had a fantastic time at the Master's in April. It was particularly exciting seeing Tiger Woods in action up close! I enjoyed sharing stories from these past two years at the Bobby Jones reception with the wonderful people who have made this all possible! Before graduation, I have a final trip with friends planned to Gatlinburg, Tennessee which will involve hiking and hanging out in a cabin in the mountains! Most excitingly in terms of upcoming trips, I will be working in Côte d'Ivoire this summer with Save the Children undertaking research on a program which aims to keep girls safe in schools. This internship is the final component of my Master's degree. I look forward to what promises to be an interesting summer and a chance to explore another part of the world!





# Fellow Updates

## FIONA COOPER, St Andrews to Emory

I am wrapping up my second semester at Emory and have enjoyed my time thus far and look forward to next year. In January, I decided it would be a lot of fun to host a Fellows/Scholars Burns Supper for some of our American friends we have met during our time here. This was quite an effort as around 30 people came along, so ordering haggis in the South proved slightly challenging. However, with the help from some locals I managed to order enough regular and vegetarian Haggis for the occasion. Neeps were also tricky, but luckily Dekalb Farmers Market was stocked full of all the different turnip varieties you could need. The night was a great success and Erin led with an incredible Address to a Haggis. Then Rebecca's boyfriend, Jason, followed with a hilarious address to the lassies. It was of course matched with Rebecca's wonderful wit and somewhat scathing remarks about me asking her to do this, considering she was the only English Fellow/Scholar at Emory. Caitlin sang some beautiful songs throughout the evening and the rest of the group attempted to sing the classics with significant difficulty. The night was finished with a ceilidh, of course, and some delicious shortbread from Rachel.

Academically speaking, I have enjoyed being part of a project through one of my classes with the Somali American Community Centre in Clarkston (SACC). My group has been in the process of developing a curriculum and a positive discipline system for SACC's after school program. We have also connected the organisation to the Emory community engagement office, and there are now volunteers there 2 days a week with Project SHINE. Overall it's really exciting to see the SACC grow and we can't wait to see how else we can help. I have also really enjoyed my class in the Public Health school this semester. It discusses the different impacts and layers of Gender Based Violence. It was interesting to learn about it from a health based perspectives and learn a little more about statistics. I've also fully started my internship with Atlanta Youth Rugby and I am gaining wonderful experience with them. My internship with CARE International has also been really fascinating. I have been working on a failures project which assesses failures across CARE's International programs. This has resulted in some fascinating learning processes and I am working with another intern to write some reports on the results. This summer, I will completing my field practicum working for Women Win and the Lao Rugby Federation on their Pass it Back Program. I will be there for 10 weeks and I'm really looking forward to it.

I have also enjoyed traveling around the U.S. This spring, I went to visit some cousins and friends in the West. My friend is staying in San Francisco so I was able to explore the city with her and also train with her rugby team for one session. Then I went north to my cousins' home in Healdsburg. We went on a trip to Bodega Bay which was windy and very wet. In fact, it reminded me of home so it was incredible. Then we drove south to the Pinnacles national park and did some hiking in incredible scenery with Californian condors flying overhead. They are the largest North American Land bird and are extremely endangered so it was a wonderful experience to see so many so close. We also spent a day kayaking at Monterey bay with sea otters. This was my favourite and the otters were so cute! I then headed to Las Vegas to visit some more cousins and a complete change of scene. Unfortunately I did not make my millions and lost the whole \$5 I spent on the slot machines. Really I was there to visit my family and see my great Aunt Patty again. She is incredible and an amazingly active woman for 83! I hope I can see them all again before I leave Atlanta.



Scholars and Fellows at Burns Supper.

