

Scholar Updates: Emory to St Andrews

FARAH AL CHAMMAS

St Andrews has exceeded my expectations on many different levels. I've enjoyed the flexibility and freedom of my course and was able to take one entrepreneurship module in the business school last semester and will hopefully get the chance to take another this upcoming one. In the spirit of Bobby Jones, I started taking golf lessons and surprised myself with how much more I've enjoyed it than I thought I would. When I'm not in the post graduate library, I'm usually taking trips around the world through conversations over coffee (in the one and only Northpoint Cafe) with friends from around the world. I've most enjoyed Friday night Ceilidhs, Pilates and Zumba at the Sports Center (almost as good as Emory's classes), and occasional runs on the beach until I injured my knee oops. Over the past semester, I've attended different lectures and chatted with professors regarding *The Passion Project* (a docuseries on immigrant food businesses) which I'm co-creating with my best friend who attends Cambridge. To nobody's surprise, I'm trying to focus my master's thesis on the same topic, just from a different lens.

For winter break, instead of going back to the United States, I had planned a 34 day trip around Europe. Unfortunately (or maybe, fortunately, in retrospect), my visa was rejected. After crying (of shock, mostly) for the first few days, I applied to 72+ waitress jobs in London, hoping to compensate for the non-refundable bookings, but God had a different plan. I spent Christmas with a friend who visited from Texas in London and New Year's Eve with our very own Rebecca Spens and her lovely boyfriend. Shoutout to Rebecca for hosting me for almost a week in London while I was frantically looking for a job. After a few interviews, I quickly realized nobody was going to hire me for only a few weeks. In desperation, I prayed, and hours later, something told me to look up countries I could visit visa free with my UK residence permit. I'm not sure why I didn't do that in the beginning... So, to keep it short, in January I visited Montenegro, which I did not know existed just a few days prior to my trip. I went with a backpack, one change of clothes, my laptop, and lots of underwear. Next stops included Bosnia and Herzegovina, then Serbia.

Conclusion: man plans, God laughs. Being in the Balkans reminds me of being in Syria, which I'm eternally grateful for. God's plans are better, oh, so much better:)

CLAIRE BARNES

My first semester in Scotland has been exciting and contemplative. I have had time to delve into readings for my own pleasure, as well as reflect on my life goals for the future. My course (MLitt in International Political Theory, housed in the School of International Relations) has been helpful in defining the trajectory I would like to take in life. The material that excites me--particularly the work of German philosopher Hannah Arendt and French post-structuralist Jacques Derrida--points me in the direction I would like to go as a budding academic. The people in my course are from all parts of the UK and Europe. We are a small group of 10 that have developed close friendships over the course of the semester. As a group, we traveled to the Cairngorms and Inverness, as well as the surrounding lakes and castles in the Highlands. My travel of course began when I first stepped on Scottish ground, but it has taken me to Amsterdam, Ireland, and many parts of the UK--including Edinburgh (of course!) London, Bath, and Bristol. I hope to visit my course friends in Greece and Germany, as well as explore the western part of Scotland and Wales. In the latter half of winter break, my family visited me in Scotland and we traveled to Italy and Spain.

Last semester has also been defined in part by my activities on campus, my favorite being with the sustainability group called Transitions. As part of my work as (co) Garden Intern, I garden every other week in the Deans Court garden. In conjunction with my position on the Hall Council, a friend and I won 200 pounds for Deans Court for our



Scholar Updates: Emory to St Andrews

CLAIRE BARNES, cont'd.

efforts to promote sustainability and biodiversity. We built boxes for the garden and are working to install a night camera in the courtyard to track our hedgehog friends (who are at risk of extinction in the next decade). [You can read about our efforts here!](#) I am also serving as class representative for my course as well as on the committee for the International Relations ball occurring this semester. I am excited for this semester, to see more of Scotland and to get further involved in life at St Andrews!

CAMILA REED-GUEVARA

I love my course in classics thus far! The classes are great and the seminars are phenomenal. I've had the opportunity to attend dinners with leading classical scholars from around Europe. I've joined both the classics and the archaeological societies which host lectures and various other events. This semester I hope to attend a local dig with the archaeology society! I am also looking into travel grants in order to conduct research in Spain on Roman archaeology which has been mostly unresearched in the discipline. Early in the fall semester I was adopted into an academic family and I participated in Raisin Weekend. I've also been lucky enough to travel to the Cairngorms, Edinburgh, London, and Amsterdam. Next semester I plan to explore more of Scotland and visit other countries in Europe. I am really enjoying my time at St Andrews and cannot wait to see what this semester holds.

JOHN PRIDY

My experience living and studying in St Andrews has been remarkable, challenging, and invigorating so far. I am so happy to be immersed in a new culture, surrounded by the beauty of St Andrews and the rest of Scotland. I know that my experience in St Andrews will be invaluable in my future endeavors. My program in Legal and Constitutional Studies has already proven useful for my future career in law. I have learned more about the history of the common law and different legal theories such as American Legal Realism and Law and Economics, while being exposed to completely new material such as the writings of Frederic William Maitland on the common law or Boaventura de Sousa Santos's writings on law and society. I also participate in a reading group hosted by the Institute of Legal and Constitutional Research that focuses on the writings of A.V. Dicey and his arguments regarding parliamentary sovereignty. All of the scholarship I have been introduced to has only deepened my interest in the law and serves as an excellent foundation for a J.D. I am excited to further develop my interests in law, crime, and punishment next semester and into my dissertation.

Outside of academics, I have become involved in various activities that have allowed me to meet many new people and have an influence on St Andrews during my time at the University. I was elected as the Postgraduate Class Representative for the School of History, and appointed as the Executive Rep and Social Rep by the School President. Additionally, I serve on the Rector's Committee, as a Tour Guide and Tutor for St Andrews Student Ambassadors, as a Postgraduate/Abroad Representative on Democrats Overseas, and as a member of the St Andrews Afro-Caribbean Society. In these experiences I have had the chance to engage with the St Andrews community, plan different events, and even talk about the Bobby Jones Scholarship with some current St Andrews students. I have also had the chance to travel to several places including Amsterdam, London, Edinburgh, and Pitlochry. I plan on traveling to Spain, Portugal, Italy and all over Scotland in the coming semester and over the summer. Overall, it has been a truly wonderful experience, that has broadened my horizons and granted me countless opportunities. I am beyond thankful and I cannot wait to see what the rest of the year has in store!



Scholar & Fellow Updates: Emory to St Andrews



MICHAEL KEEN

It's hard to believe the first semester is already over! Academically, I have found my program very stimulating, and I've especially relished the chance to study the Caucasus region in depth; I'm currently working with my professor to adapt an essay I wrote last semester into a journal article. Outside the classroom, thanks to the Bird Society, I'm becoming acquainted with the many species of feathered friends around town. I'm also an active member of the karate, mixed martial arts, and judo clubs at St Andrews. In early February, I'm looking forward to my first judo competition alongside my St Andrews teammates. The St Andrews community is wonderful, and one of the highlights of the semester for me was the street ceilidh on St Andrews Day.

Beyond St Andrews, this fall, I took the opportunity afforded by reading week to travel around Scotland a bit. In addition to Edinburgh, I went to Pitlochry, Inverness, and over to the Isle of Skye, which was full of beautiful scenery, mist, and damp sheep. This semester, I'm hoping to travel more widely in the UK and around Europe. I can't wait to see what the New Year brings in St Andrews!



Rebecca Spens, 19 BJJ, and Jason Frerich whom Farah visited in London.



John & Camila with Katie Busch at a Jones on the Road event in London.

Fellow Updates: St Andrews to Emory

FIONA COOPER, St Andrews to Emory

I arrived back from my summer placement in Laos and went straight into my busiest semester thus far at Emory. I decided that this term I should focus in classes on some important practical skills and key knowledge which would be applicable across different international development fields. I took classes in leading and managing organizational change, the impacts and responsibilities of business on society, and even one on climate science and climate change policy. The latter was a significant challenge as I have not been in a science classroom since the age of 16. However, after some deep patience from a few science-minded friends I managed to push through and learnt a great deal. I was also lucky enough to be selected to attend the UN Climate Conference (COP25) in Madrid with members of the class so my final week of the semester was spent listening, engaging, and being frustrated with international climate change policy progress – Oh and I ate some great tapas too!

Outside of class I have continued my work with the knowledge management and learning team at CARE International. Last year, I focused on a report addressing CARE's project failures around the world, which is still ongoing, but this semester I have enjoyed compiling some of CARE's most inspirational stories into a platform more accessible for all. I have also continued working and coaching for Atlanta Youth Rugby and with their first successful grant under our belts I am excited to see what is next for such a fast-growing organisation.



Fellow Updates: St Andrews to Emory

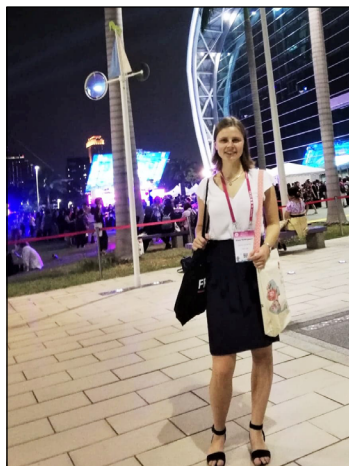
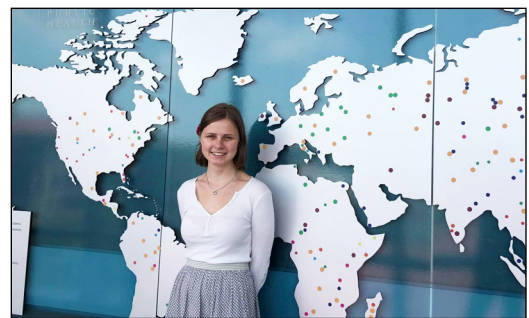
FIONA COOPER, cont'd.

I've also been captain of the newly promoted Atlanta Harlequins Aces side which has had ups and downs, as anyone passionate about sport will understand. Amazingly we had a game in Philadelphia, so I had a quick run up the Rocky steps and ate an incredible Philly cheese steak sandwich (the best post-rugby game food you could wish for). My friend also invited me to spend Thanksgiving with her in Wisconsin this year, where I stuffed myself with turkey and even persuaded her family to play football in the yard to complete my American Thanksgiving dream. I also had a great mini trip to Chicago while I was there, and I think it might be my favourite city I've visited so far, not including Atlanta of course! After Madrid, I spent time relaxing at home in Scotland and I'm looking forward to the semester ahead. I want to maximise my time in Atlanta as much as possible and spend time enjoying classes, furthering my work experience, and most importantly cementing the great friendships I've made along the way. It's my final term at Emory and I am already getting sad to leave but I also know it's time to move onto the next chapter.

RIKKE NEDERGAARD, St Andrews to Emory

Since arriving at Emory in August I have enjoyed my studies at the Rollins School of Public Health where I'm specialising in mental health. The opportunities at my new school have been amazing thus far! My classes are fascinating and I have gotten the chance to take on a research assistantship about mental health and gun violence. I will also be teaching a team of high school students about mental health in the coming year. Aside from that, the people around me here are so sweet and incredibly diverse: During the international student orientation at the School of Public Health, we were all asked to stand up when our continent was mentioned. When I stood for Europe and looked around, I saw I was the only one standing. Strange as it was to be the only European amongst 140 international students, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know people from all over the world. My new friends here are from all corners of the United States, but also India, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Thailand, South Sudan, the Maldives, Yemen and many other places. They each have their own experiences and most have worked in health professions in the past. As a student of Global Health, that is an invaluable opportunity to learn from and grow with health professionals from across the globe.

On the topic of international experiences, I got the chance to go the 4th World Conference for Women's Shelters in Taiwan in November. This was a unique chance to learn from a wide range of professionals and scholars worldwide who work to end violence against women. I will definitely take what I learned there with me forward. As for traveling, I hope to see more of the US in the coming year. I have previously been to the North East, so this time around I'm hoping to see the West Coast!



Scholar Updates: St Andrews to Emory



L-R: Fiona Blackwood, Libbi Carruthers & Iain Millar while visiting Boston.

FIONA BLACKWOOD

My classes last semester were really interesting, and I enjoyed getting chance to study new subjects and experience the US system. I particularly enjoyed Photography, spending more time in a darkroom than I ever thought I would. I'm excited to carry it on next semester alongside an internship at the Carter Center! I've also really enjoyed my involvement with Emory Arts Club, helping to run weekly workshops and an end of semester winter crafts extravaganza, as well as volunteering with SHINE, an organisation working with refugee, immigrant and new American communities in metro Atlanta.

Myself, Libbi and Iain M had an amazing time in New England in October, and it was great to see some of the Bobby community in Boston. In November, as well as a lovely Thanksgiving, I visited New Orleans, taking the train back which was a great way to see a bit more of the landscape of the South. Before heading back to the UK for the holidays, I was lucky enough to travel to Phoenix for Alice Cooper's Christmas Pudding, and meet more Bobby friends. I then had a quick visit to New York to soak up the festivities, bringing my state total up to ten - if you count the ones through the window on Amtrak!



LIBBI CARRUTHERS

Well it's safe to say that Bobby Jones continues to amaze me! I have had a great semester and really enjoyed my classes. My marketing class has been especially interesting, and the first time I've ever studied in a business school. I've even had the chance to use the things I've been learning in class in the real world, through my internship at the Woodruff Arts Center. Working there has been a wonderful opportunity and I've loved it. I'm trying out something different this semester, working with Ideas United!

A real highlight last semester was visiting Boston and New England during fall break. Despite accidentally hiring a massive pick-up truck (see photo) and attempting to take it through the city center, it was the most amazing trip, and was especially lovely to connect with some Bobbies while we were there! (And what could be more American than a road trip in a pick-up?) I also visited Washington D.C, Nashville and Phoenix this fall, all of which have been really special experiences. I've met lots of Bobbies so far, and can't wait to keep meeting more!



Scholars dressed in costume for Halloween.

IAIN MILLAR

It's been a busy first semester at Emory! I've particularly enjoyed my French class on Caribbean literature and the environment, and my class on French philosopher Michel Foucault. I've been surprised by how much I've enjoyed learning about French philosophy and this semester I'm looking forward to continuing in this area by diving into the world of Derrida and Montaigne to name a few. My theatre class last semester was a breath of fresh air and I had the chance to perform scenes from *Angels in America* and *Theresa Rebeck's Downstairs*. This semester, I'm continuing with theatre off-stage, taking a class on female playwrights and gender in contemporary western theatre.



Fiona & Iain M. with Robin Harpak in Phoenix, AZ for Alice Cooper's Christmas Pudding.



2019-2020 Scholar Updates: St Andrews to Emory



IAIN MILLAR, cont'd.

Alongside my classes, I will be working as an intern with the Carter Center's China Programme. I studied Chinese and Asian Foreign Policy as part of my degree at St Andrews, so I can't wait to put my academic experience to practice in a working international environment. Another surprise turn this semester has been my tentative first steps into the sporting world. I've joined the Emory rowing team as a coxswain, and I got the opportunity to compete in two regattas in Chattanooga and Augusta! I've learned how rewarding it is to be part of a team, and also some valuable lessons in self-discipline to survive the early morning trips out to Stone Mountain. I've also started golf lessons with the other scholars at East Lake: progress is slow but rewarding!

I've had a great festive break staying with family in Los Angeles where I got the opportunity to tour NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and view the Mars 2020 Rover before it travels to Florida for launch in the summer. I've also been hiking in the Santa Monica Mountains and took a trip up the pacific coast highway to spend NY in Palo Alto. This semester, I'm hoping to visit New York City and Washington DC, and hopefully will have the chance to see some of the political institutions based there. Overall there's so much to do, to see and to learn and I'm so grateful for all the opportunities and doors which have been opened to me so far during the first semester: thank you!



Iain S. & Iain M. enjoying golf lessons at East Lake Golf Club.

IAIN SMITH

This fall, I enjoyed most of my classes! My OAM class was especially good and I enjoyed Political Science as well. This semester, I am going to be interning at the Carter Center on their mental health program and this summer I will be interning at CNN. I am doing the final stage of the TEDx talk application around January 20th, so hopefully I will be giving a talk in February! I am also hoping to give some sort of talk at the British Consulate around mental health too.

I have gotten involved with Kappa Sigma Fraternity a lot and made a lot of great friends there. I visited Arizona in November for Jeff's birthday in October and that was really cool! Thanksgiving was a really cool experience and I have definitely gotten to know the American Healthcare system well. I am really keen to go to New Orleans in February for Mardi Gras so I will hopefully do that with friends. I am hoping to get an internship in New York after summer but that is very much still in the planning stages.



L-R: Rikke Nedergaard, Fiona Cooper, Mimi & Bob Jones, Iain Smith, Libbi Carruthers and Fiona Blackwood at the Atlanta Athletic Club.



Iain M. visiting Savannah, GA.



Iain S. at the Rockin' Golf Classic in Arizona.