Letter from the Dean

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am very pleased to send you this inaugural issue of the Laney Graduate School Newsletter! We hope this newsletter will be a useful tool for you to learn more about what we are doing here in the Laney Graduate School (LGS) and really feel connected to graduate education at Emory.

In this issue, and in those to come, you will learn about a Laney graduate who continues to be involved with students and programming at Emory. We also will highlight a project or degree program, so that you get a sense of the variety and breadth of our work. We are truly a graduate school of the university, and nearly every one of our programs extends beyond the confines of a particular field or discipline to incorporate interdisciplinary perspectives. We also are pleased to update you on relevant news and happenings here at LGS and provide you with a bit of data about our recent graduates and the students who are beginning their journeys with us.

Every fall, as we welcome new students, I am reminded of the importance of graduate education not only to scholarship but also to society. We live in challenging times with a myriad of issues that are complex and require rigorous analysis and debate. Some of these issues emerge from the rapid advances in biomedical technology and their applications and treatments. Others ask us to consider how we sustainably support international relief and development efforts even as we face deteriorating economic and health circumstances at home. Still others ask us to consider what we mean by equality and human rights as they relate to hot-button social and political issues, particularly in a US election year.

Graduate education does and must have a place in these national discussions. Scholarly research not only advances our understanding of complex problems and how we might responsibly address them, but often provides a historical context of their evolution. Our students will not be asked to advance these discussions exclusively from the academy, however. The global economy in all its connections, the rapidly changing job sectors, and the expansion of opportunities beyond the professoriate will position our students in places where their backgrounds and skills as graduate students confer an immediate impact on the way that society confronts next-generation challenges today.

In keeping with this theme, I invite you to dive into the first issue of this newsletter. We are pleased to feature our degree program in Bioethics, a rigorous, multidisciplinary program tackling many of these complex issues. I’m also pleased to introduce you to

Dean Lisa A. Tedesco

LETTER FROM THE DEAN (continued on p. 6)
The Master of Arts in Bioethics

THE LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN MEETING THE COMPLEX CHALLENGES FACING SOCIETY AND ADVANCING THE PUBLIC GLOBAL GOOD.

Bioethical challenges present significant opportunities for debate and progress in this era of global connection and collaboration and rapid biomedical discovery: Stem cell basic research and application, artificial reproductive technologies, the ongoing need for human subjects’ protections, the role of corporate sponsorship in research, and the fragmented economic infrastructure of health care delivery are only a few of the more vexing challenges that face us as we move through these first decades of the 21st century. Society will turn to health care professionals, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry leaders, life science researchers, civic leaders, and others to lead the ongoing public deliberation on these important topics. At the LGS, we are preparing our students to become leaders in these debates—to articulate complex problems and offer innovative perspectives and solutions.

Launching in fall 2009, we are proud to offer the Master of Arts in Bioethics. This dynamic program provides rigorous, advanced, interdisciplinary study in bioethics for professionals and students interested in the social and ethical challenges facing medicine and the life sciences. Truly a program of the university, the Bioethics MA draws upon the resources of the Center for Ethics, the LGS, Emory College of Arts and Sciences, and the life sciences. The quality of faculty involved with the program director to Emory: “I was attracted to Emory by its overall reputation for academic excellence but also by the rich and varied resources of the Center for Ethics. The quality of faculty involved with the work of ethics across the university is stellar, and the opportunity to create a graduate program supported by robust interdisciplinary discourse was one that I could not turn down.”

Like its faculty, the Bioethics program also boasts a diverse student body. Physicians, lawyers, allied health professionals, and biotechnology leaders are just some of the professions represented in the program. Students also come directly from baccalaureate programs. Even as some students use the Bioethics MA to transition between an undergraduate degree and professional school, others enhance their existing careers (e.g., health care professionals who serve on hospital ethics committees and desire to formalize their study of bioethics).

It is this deep and thriving academic life of the center that brought the program director to Emory: “I was attracted to Emory by its overall reputation for academic excellence but also by the rich and varied resources of the Center for Ethics. The quality of faculty involved with the work of ethics across the university is stellar, and the opportunity to create a graduate program supported by robust interdisciplinary discourse was one that I could not turn down.”

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According to Schonfeld, “Students are intimately connected with the research and scholarship of faculty members. In addition to participating in courses directly connected with faculty research interests, students often have the opportunity to partner with faculty on individual projects and on the resulting manuscripts. In addition, the Center for Ethics houses the American Journal of Bioethics—Neuroscience, the premier academic journal of Neuroethics in the world. This provides an invaluable opportunity for students to participate in the rich academic life of the center.”

Irrespective of backgrounds and careers, graduates of the Bioethics program will be trained to help advance the national conversation on important issues influencing public policy, scholarship, practice, and education in the field. Notes Schonfeld, “The MA in Bioethics is transformative for students: not only does it provide them with the skills they will need to further the work of ethical inquiry in their chosen fields, but it provides them with a window to the vast array of opportunities at Emory and beyond for having a meaningful impact in the lives of others. Such transformation is evoked through classroom work, through the practicum and other applied aspects of the curriculum, but—most important—through interaction with faculty and other students who have diverse experiences and perspectives that they happily share with others.”

This master’s degree can complement any advanced degree in the life sciences and medical fields, as well as degrees in nursing, public health, law, theology, and business by enhancing graduates’ skills in identifying, assessing, and addressing the values and ethical challenges that face them in their fields of expertise. Many students have found that the Bioethics MA broadens their expertise and helps create unique opportunities in their profession, whether in clinical care or research, law or business, NGOs or the academy.

Sarah Putney, director of Emory’s Institutional Review Board and Bioethics MA student, says, “The program has given me the language and skill set with which to experience and contribute to the resolution of dilemmas in the real world and through the bioethics literature.” Additionally, Charlie Craig—Bioethics MA student and president of Georgia Bio—says, “In discussing these complicated issues, it forces you to think through ideas in a way that you might not have time to do in the business world. So you actually look at all the different elements of an issue.”

Learn more about the Master of Arts in Bioethics and Emory’s Center for Ethics by visiting http://ethics.emory.edu/.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR ETHICS
The Emory Center for Ethics is dedicated to exploring how ethical issues underlie the decisions that shape our minds, lives, and society. To do so, scholars from across the university gather at the center to collaborate and study. The center also hosts public programs, partners and consults with private and public community organizations, and teaches students at every level of university life. The center is committed to asking tough questions and developing strategies to help enable people and organizations put ethics into practice.

PROVIDING PROGRAM SUPPORT
If you want to support programs like the MA in Bioethics, consider becoming a member of the Wise Heart Society. Click here to learn more.
Where Are They Now?

Laney Graduate School (LGS) graduates often go on to become leading researchers and scholars in their fields. But that’s not the only path our students take. In this inaugural “Where Are They Now?”, we catch up with LGS alumna Paula Greenfield Washington 95G, one of the first two recipients of a PhD in Women’s Studies at Emory.

Washington applied to attend Emory in 1991 after more than 15 years in the private and public sectors. She worked as special assistant in the Carter administration to former Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman and, later, at a labor relations consulting firm where she was a leading negotiator in the landmark Operation PUSH/Coca-Cola Reciprocity Agreement that provided jobs and contracts to minority- and women-owned businesses.

Washington entered Emory as one of the first two students in the Department of Women’s Studies. Emory was the first university to offer the PhD in Women’s Studies, establishing its program in 1990. It remains the only Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies PhD program supported at a private research university.

As a student, Washington helped to found the Center for Women at Emory in 1992, and she remains a committed supporter of the center to this day. Working with faculty from Goizueta Business School (GBS) to pursue her dissertation, she designed a survey using a database of CEOs from Fortune 500 companies, heads of major nonprofits, presidents of universities, and other business databases to determine if leadership qualities truly differed by gender, as was the accepted school of thought. The survey also examined the organizational culture of each entity involved. Washington found “that gender did not matter in terms of men or women being seen as great leaders.”

Based on her work in the LGS, Washington successfully transformed her dissertation into a book, The Womentor Guide: Leadership for the New Millennium, and since leaving Emory, she has become a pioneering small business owner. Washington is the co-owner, president, and managing partner of The Womentor Group. A woman-owned small business, The Womentor Group specializes in educational consulting and training. "The overall goal of the business is to develop in women the skills needed to mentor others using a step-by-step guide that unites leadership studies from Harvard and GBS. The Womentor Group has made presentations and created customized training tools for clients such as the IBM South African Women’s Leadership Council, Coca-Cola, Shell International, Xerox Corporation, the US Social Security Administration, Deloitte & Touche, and many more.”

In addition to The Womentor Group, Washington heads several companies founded with her late husband Edward Washington. Under the umbrella of Edward Washington & Associates, their companies sell apparel, specially designed promotional items and concession products. The company also provides marketing and sales-consulting services. EWA Beverage Group—a subsidiary of Edward Washington & Associates—committed to providing organic fair trade, sustainable products to numerous customers throughout the US—contracts with Emory Healthcare to provide private-label bottled water to all of Emory’s hospitals and clinics.

Washington appreciates Emory’s growing commitment to keeping alumni aware of business opportunities that allow them to stay connected to Emory in a mutually beneficial way. Of this commitment, she says, “It’s another way that we can truly engage alumni back with the Emory Alumni Board. She was also selected as one of Emory University’s 175 Makers of History. This honor was part of Emory’s 175th anniversary celebration. Emory’s Makers of History were recognized for their “ethical engagement and adherence to a moral path; courageous leadership on behalf of the greater community or environment; a legacy of imparting knowledge to others or of seeking new wisdom that has had a broader positive impact; and significant contributions to the life of Emory through continued involvement with Emory or by making Emory better known nationally or abroad.” Of Emory, both through her experience as a student and now as a deeply engaged alumna, Washington says, “It gives me such pride that Emory is this kind of institution—a ‘living’ institution with ‘living’ programs.”

Washington holds an MBA in Marketing and Business Law, as well as a BA in Political Science from the University of Texas—Austin.

ABOUT THE WOMEN’S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY DOCTORAL PROGRAM

The program emphasizes a wide interdisciplinary range of comparative feminist theories and empirical perspectives as well as grounding in traditional disciplines. The program supports several distinctive interdisciplinary areas of study, including feminist and queer theory; race, difference, and justice; health, science, and embodiment theory; and transnational, postcolonial, and political economies.

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The Program for Scholarly Integrity Welcomes Students This Fall

The Program for Scholarly Integrity (PSI) is a comprehensive program to educate doctoral students in all disciplines in the ethical pursuit of scholarly research. Training will take place both within interdisciplinary forums and also within the student’s graduate program. PSI will provide students with a foundational, cross-disciplinary introduction to the question of ethics for their research, training, and careers.

An integral part of the graduate curriculum, PSI will be required for doctoral students in the biological/biomedical and natural sciences entering the Laney Graduate School in fall 2012 and for doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences who enter in fall 2012 and for doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences who enter in fall 2012.

Upon completing the program, students will be able to:

- Establish proactive and well-reasoned processes for resolving ethical issues both at the individual and institutional levels.
- Develop a broad array of long-term resources for ensuring ethical standards along with mechanisms for addressing issues as they emerge in different contexts.
- Continue and expand the conversation about ethics into different facets of life at Emory and beyond.

PSI is directed by Wylie Nichols (Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences; Emory School of Medicine) and Toby Schonfeld (Bioethics; Emory Center for Ethics).

Background

In 2008 the Council of Graduate Schools called for proposals that sought to “develop educational models for promoting responsible conduct of research and integrity in professional scholarship, education, and research.” The LCS project was one of five selected nationally for funding and was guided by three principles:

- to integrate education in research ethics and integrity into the graduate curriculum;
- to develop students’ critical reflection about problems of scholarly integrity;
- to increase knowledge of standards, regulations, and best practices with respect to ethics and scholarly integrity.

Learn More

Find and like the Program for Scholarly Integrity at Emory University on Facebook. Visit the Council of Graduate School’s Project for Scholarly Integrity.

LETTER FROM THE DEAN (cont. from p. 1)

Dr. Paula Greenfield Washington, an Emory alumna and successful business owner who is an integral part of several of our professionalization programs that connect graduate students to alumni mentors. And, finally, we bring you updates on new programming, including the Program for Scholarly Integrity, which trains our students in the responsible conduct of research and research ethics.

As you will see, we are proud of the work we are doing here at the LCS and, likewise, incredibly proud and grateful for your support. Please visit our website to learn more about our work and ways that you can stay connected and get involved.

Lisa A. Tedesco, PhD
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs—Graduate Studies
Dean, James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies
Professor, Rollins School of Public Health

WELCOMING THE FALL 2012 CLASS

In 2011–2012, the Laney Graduate School awarded 275 degrees: 175 PhDs and 100 master’s degrees. This year’s new students represent a diversity of experiences from all over the globe. Here is some data about our student body as well as some information about this year’s applicants.

Fall 2012 Student Body

- Total number of students—1,936
- First-time students—383
- Continuing students—1,553
- Proportion of female students—56.66%
- Proportion pursuing a PhD—92.30%

Fall 2012 Admission Statistics

- Total applications—4,752
- Total admitted—746
- Percent admitted—15.7%

GET INVOLVED! VOLUNTEER FOR THIS YEAR’S ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAM

The Alumni Mentor Program is entering its third year. As students develop their career interests, finalize their dissertations, and begin navigating the job market, alumni can provide important guidance on activities such as preparing CVs, managing work/life balance, negotiating salaries, and much more.

In its first two years, the program successfully matched more than 130 mentors and proteges. This program operates entirely on a volunteer basis and is a rewarding, mutually beneficial opportunity for both alumni and students. Registration for 2012–2013 is now open. Visit our website to learn more.

FALL 2012 LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL EVENTS

Here are just a few of the many events on the calendar for this fall.

October 26—Registration deadline for participation in the Alumni Mentor Program (see “Get Involved!” at left)

October 29—Laney Graduate School Competitive Fellowship reception

November 13—Networking event connecting students with successful alumni

November 15—Reception to memorialize Dr. Ivan Karp at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting (San Francisco)

November 17—American Academy of Religion conference in Chicago

Visit the Laney Graduate School website for information about upcoming events and opportunities. Also visit the Emory Alumni Association’s Calendar of Events to stay informed about events and ways that you can stay involved.

Support Laney!

In spring 2012, the Laney Graduate School exceeded its $10 million campaign goal to support graduate education, ahead of Campaign Emory’s December 31, 2012, deadline. We are grateful for the commitment and support of our alumni and friends. Thank you for helping us get this far! As we embark upon a new academic year, we are ready to face new challenges, discover the unexpected, and create new knowledge. A gift in support of the Laney Graduate School is truly an investment in the future. To make a gift today, please visit here http://campaign.emory.edu/ways-to-give/index.php.