

The Emory Wheel

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Four seniors picked for study abroad in Scotland for Bobby Jones Scholarships

By Amit Nanavati
Staff Writer

The University announced the four College seniors who were the latest winners of Emory's Robert T. Jones scholarship Wednesday.

Seniors J.C. Aevaliotis, Heather McCaffrey, Travis Sentell and Elizabeth Smith were chosen as winners of one of the University's most coveted scholarships, selected from a pool of 43 applicants and 14 finalists.

The Bobby Jones scholarship, established in 1976, provides for one year of study at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Additionally, students are given a stipend for travel in Europe. In return, St. Andrews will send four students to study for a year at Emory, where they will similarly be given stipends for travel throughout the United States.

According to Senior Vice President for Institutional Advancement Bill Fox, the chair of the Jones scholarship selection committee, the 14 finalists for this award were all outstanding students, making choosing the winners a difficult proposition.

"We had to take numerous votes to determine finally those who were chosen," Fox said. "We would have been happy to send any of the 14 finalists but ultimately had to choose four winners. To interview these outstanding students made us all very proud to be associated with Emory."

Assistant Dean of Emory College Joanne Brzinski said that the selection process consists of two stages. In the first stage, seniors submitted an application, a personal statement and three letters of recommendation.

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Stanton M. Paddock/Photography Editor

On the campaign trail

College sophomore and Wheel columnist Chris Richardson, a candidate for College Council president, shares his campaign message with College freshman Jonna Seppa in Dobbs Hall Wednesday night. Elections will be held Feb. 20.

Students can create hall with new blocking plan

By Rachel Loftspring
Staff Writer

The Office of Residence Life hopes to provide students with yet another incentive to live on campus next year, with the introduction of block housing.

According to Assistant Director of Residence Life Joni Tyson, the new housing scheme allows students to select both their roommate and next-door neighbors.

Students opting for block housing must determine an even numbered group between four and eight students to apply. While groups can be co-ed, individual rooms are still limited to same-sex occupants.

"Block housing will be where there are chunks of rooms available," Tyson said. "What you may consider the worst of housing might be good if you are with your friends."

Tyson said the idea of block housing stems from a student room selection committee that reviewed the housing process and made suggestions for this year. In addition to block housing, the committee also advocated decreasing the amount of time allowed for student room cancellation, as well as recommending that the housing process not be referred to as a "lottery."

"The term 'lottery' has gone away, because it implies a lot of things," Tyson said. "It is now just room selection."

The process of room selection will begin March 20, immediately following Spring Break. Resident Advisors and the Office of Residence Life will have materials about the selection process available next week.

According to Tyson, the residence halls available for the selection process will depend on what remains after priority housing. Emory Scholars have first priority in the housing selection. Following their

selections, students living on an upperclass hall will have the option of remaining there next year. Similarly, students who choose to change rooms within the same hall have priority over those not already living in that hall.

Students without a preference who opt to live in a different hall will receive a preference number generated randomly, Tyson said.

Theme halls are also available for students next year and utilize their own selection processes. Woodruff Residential Center will house the new Diversity Hall, and the Tree House will remain in Trimble Hall. Other theme halls include the Servant Leadership Floor in Clifton Towers, the French Floor in Trimble and the Intersorority Council Hall in McTyeire Hall.

According to Intersorority Council Vice President Melissa Legum, a number of women have expressed interest in the ISC Hall for next year.

"I have a list of over 150 girls," Legum said. "But a lot of girls are not 100 percent sure about what they're doing."

Like in previous years, incoming freshmen are guaranteed on-campus housing in freshman residence halls. Tyson added that all halls designated for freshmen this year will remain so for next year.

"Everything that is currently freshman will remain freshman, including Turman North and East," Tyson said.

Although the new University Apartments expansion will not open until Fall 2002, Tyson said upperclassmen are guaranteed housing. Addressing last year's housing situation, where a number of students were unable to obtain housing after spaces were quickly filled in the general lottery, Tyson said she hopes that students who moved off-campus will consider returning next year.

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Professor and former activist reflects on Emory's past

By Melissa Schenkman
Staff Writer

Forty-two years ago, racial segregation barred Delores Aldridge from applying to Emory. Today, Aldridge is in her 30th year of teaching sociology at the University.

In 1971, Aldridge, a civil rights protestor who marched with Martin Luther King Jr., became the first black professor hired by Emory, nine years after the University first began to admit black students. According to Aldridge, it was far from easy to take a job at a historically white institution in the heart of the South.

"Being the first African American in the College was a very real challenge that no other African American, and few women, have had to go through," she said.

Yet students had already demonstrated desire to introduce black pro-

fessors and studies to the University, with both white and black students blockading Cox Hall and demanding more black students, black professors and black studies at Emory in the years prior to her hiring.

According to professors present when Aldridge was hired, the University embraced her with a positive atmosphere.

"She was a path-breaker not only in the development of the study of African-American life and culture at Emory, but also in bringing an African American presence and perspective to the faculty," said Senior Associate Dean of the College Peter Dowell.

Professor of English John Bugge agreed.

"She was very much a role model and source of strength for African-American students," Bugge said.

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Stanton M. Paddock/Photography Editor

Professor of Sociology Delores Aldridge, hired in 1971, was the first black professor to work at Emory. Aldridge said one of her most vivid memories was meeting Martin Luther King Jr.

Housing questions remain despite new block system

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"If you participate in the room selection process, you are guaranteed housing," Tyson said.

According to Tyson, this year's housing selection process should go more smoothly than in last year's.

"We don't anticipate a problem with housing for next year," Tyson said. "We got everyone housed last year. It was just a matter of time."

Some students said the introduc-

tion of block housing does not assuage their fears of not obtaining on-campus housing.

College freshman Eduardo Razetto said he is unwilling to take his chances in the upcoming housing selection process.

"I'm worried about not getting a good place here," Razetto said. "I got Turman this year which sucked, and I don't want to get the worst next year too."

Aldridge calls for 'greater interfacing' to improve University race relations

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"There was generally a sense of relief around the University that we hired an African-American professor, and everyone I knew was happy to be making strides in that direction."

Aldridge's first task at Emory was to construct the black studies program, the precursor to today's African American studies program. Complicating the project, Aldridge said, was the fact that it was to be the first program of its kind in the South.

"I had many offers upon receiving my doctorate including one from Emory, an institution at which I would have had difficulty attending as an undergraduate, for it was segregated when I entered college," Aldridge said.

"Now I had the opportunity to come here and hopefully make a difference."

What gave Aldridge the strength to establish the black studies program, she said, were her experiences living under the shadow of segregation and the rise of the Civil Rights Movement.

Growing up in Tampa, Fla., Aldridge was forced to take a bus to a far-away predominantly black high school instead of the white-high school near her home. School, she said, gave her insight into the segregated nature of her world.

"When I graduated high school and gave my valedictorian address, I

noticed clear seating differences for whites and blacks," Aldridge said. "The few whites occupied the front seats of the auditorium even though the graduating class was all black, as were the teachers and principal."

When she entered Clark University in 1959, Aldridge said she made the decision to join the Civil Rights Movement, a choice she said changed her life.

"I could not allow this moment in time to go by," Aldridge said. "I could never stand to profit from social change if I was not involved in it."

Firing up her involvement in the movement, Aldridge said, was meeting Martin Luther King Jr. at a student protest rally. King's presence, she said, carried her through a jail sentence for trespassing on then-Georgia Gov. Lester Maddox's restaurant. According to Aldridge, she and other protestors were charged with violating an interstate trespassing law after the sit-in protest of the restaurant's segregated facilities.

During her two-week stay in Fulton County Jail, Aldridge said King paid her a visit, which boosted her spirits.

"He was an inspiration during those times," she said.

Aldridge added that the jailing of protestors wrought problems for the movement. She said many of her peers never graduated from college because they could not complete their assignments while in prison.

However, Aldridge said she was fortunate to have professors who sympathized with the Civil Rights Movement and brought her assignments in jail, allowing her to graduate.

Today, she said, she considers the movement as a defining experience.

"The movement gave me an even greater sense of social equality and injustices," Aldridge said. "I see myself as a scholar activist."

Establishing the African American studies program, she said, provided a path for other cultural programs to follow at Emory, including the Institute for Women's Studies, the Asian studies program and the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services.

"I think just as the Civil Rights Movement set the stage for eradicating discrimination and social inequities, its intellectual arm, the African American studies movement, paved the way for diversity and inclusiveness in the academy," Aldridge said.

After teaching at Emory for three decades, Aldridge said she has seen tremendous and positive changes at Emory.

"I have seen Emory grow from a small, good school to being on the fast track to becoming a world-class institution," she said.

More specifically, she pointed to increases in the number of minority students and diversity-based programs over the years, with the University's Year of Reconciliation Symposium as a prime example.

"Emory embarks on many challenging ventures, and this is one which can be a valuable opportunity, if properly nurtured, that can lead to change," she said.

Still, she said Emory still is in need of improvement.

"I think there is still a real challenge for positive interaction between student constituents," Aldridge said. "I would like to see greater interfacing, which I would hope would lead to a greater respect for their differences and similarities."


It is that drive to push Emory toward diversity and tolerance that Bugge said makes Aldridge a role model for black students.

"I think her impact was not only in her field, but as a colleague and as a crusader for the rights of African-American students," Bugge said. "It wasn't easy for her, but she's always carried herself with aplomb."

To this day, Aldridge said, she still keeps in touch with students of all ethnic groups from her classes over the years.


"I have continued to be in contact with dozens of students over the years," she said. "We communicate with letters and cards on special occasions; telephone and e-mail each other; and visit at conferences, meetings and our respective homes."

► Asst. News Editor Michael de la Merced contributed to this story.



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