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# OXFORD *Outlook*

## Oxford Redesigns Teaching

For the past four years, many Oxford College faculty members have been thinking as much about learning as they have about teaching. Professors from departments across the campus have been engaged in projects that focus on learning that involves the heart as well as the head—the education of the whole person.

The culmination of that research is the recent designation of Oxford as a national cluster leader for the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) Campus Program, a Carnegie Foundation initiative designed to improve teaching and learning in higher education.

“It is gratifying to have the faculty’s commitment to teaching and learning both inside and outside the classroom recognized by selection as a Carnegie cluster leader,” said Kent Linville, Oxford dean of academic affairs. “This initiative encourages and facilitates the Oxford faculty to engage collectively in a form of research that complements the college’s teaching-centered focus and, in fact, makes their teaching more intentional.”

Oxford’s specific focus will be the heart-mind connections that make learning deeper and more enduring, officially known as cognitive-affective learning connections. As a cluster leader, the college has a three-year commitment to CASTL that includes establishing a Center for Cognitive-Affective Learning that will conduct research into effective methods, educate staff and faculty through workshops and seminars, offer support for teaching and learning projects,

and build a scholarly community dedicated to cognitive-affective learning.


“This is an outstanding opportunity for the Oxford community that not only will benefit our own students and faculty, but also will enhance the practice and profession of teaching for colleagues at colleges and universities across the nation,” said Patti Owen-Smith, Oxford professor of psychology and women’s studies and codirector of the new center.

Incorporating community-service elements into her psychology classes, Owen-Smith had the core idea of exploring what makes the proverbial

“light bulb” come on for her students. Her codirector, Sharon Lewis, also an Oxford professor of psychology, has led the faculty initiative in the scholarship of teaching and learning these past four years.

Owen-Smith said Oxford will hold a teaching conference in fall 2004 similar to the one it held last fall on “Cross-Disciplinary Inquiries into the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning,” which was designed in cooperation with the Carnegie Foundation, the American Association for Higher Education, and the Pew Charitable Trusts. The conference brought together Oxford staff and faculty and Carnegie fellows from other institutions around the country.

“Our focus on the scholarship of teaching and learning has been, in one sense, the shift from focusing on teaching to focusing on learning,” Linville said. “We are changing the culture of the institution collectively.”

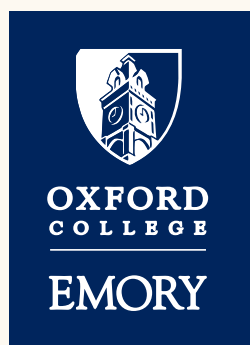
Or, as articulated by veteran biology professor Eloise Carter, “I’m trying to close the gap between what I teach and what students are learning.” 



Sharon Lewis (left) and Patti Owen-Smith are codirectors of Oxford’s new Center for Cognitive-Affective Learning, which will examine effective teaching methods.

With just 600 students, Oxford is by far the smallest institution selected for the next phase of the five-year-old CASTL program. Other cluster leaders include:

**University of Michigan**  
**Indiana University**  
**Georgetown University**  
**Illinois State University**  
**Portland State University**



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# Casting Out on His Own

Anyone familiar with the book or movie *A River Runs Through It* knows that fly fishing can seem for some an almost transcendent experience. Richard Shappell is one such devotee. “There’s something about the serenity and solitude of beautiful rivers as you’re standing in them with the water rushing by,” he says. “You don’t think about anything else—it’s a catharsis that can be repeated time and time again.”

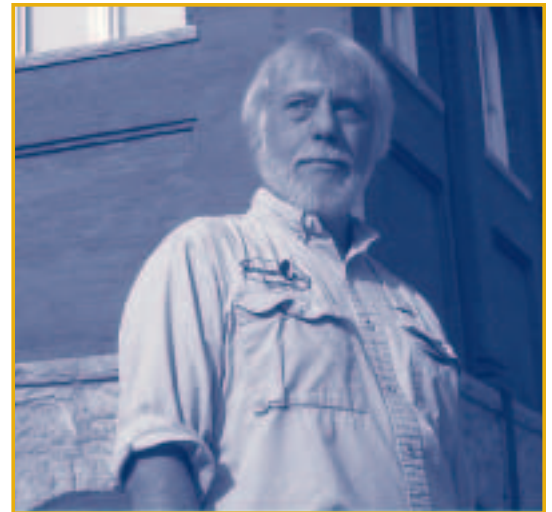
Come December, Shappell will have more time to pursue his passion. The professor of physical education and dance will retire after thirty-two years at Oxford College and move to Colorado, where he has built a retirement home. Shappell fell in love with the West nearly forty years ago after his first trip out there. His avocations seem to fit a Western ethic—he hunts for game and fossils, and hikes. But he also enjoys indoor pursuits such as recreational dance—swing, Western, ballroom—and reading history, mysteries, and poetry. And he collects first editions of books.

One hobby that stems from his love of trout fishing is tying flies. He creates his own “bugs,” or

fish lures, with materials such as feathers. “I can tie with feathers this long, undulating thing that looks like a minnow,” he says, adding that he likes the art and craft of it all.

Shappell says he’s “probably taught everything we offer in physical education” in his years at Oxford. He most recently ended a term as chair of the department at the end of the 2002–2003 academic year, a job that he’s held, by his estimate, for maybe half of his tenure. “Dick has rendered exceptional service to his division and to the college, and his reputation as a teacher led us to employ him during the past few years as a mentor for our new faculty,” says Kent Linville, dean of academic affairs. “He will be missed.”

Shappell believes the outlook of Oxford students has stayed constant throughout the years. “For the most part they are very interested in the academic side, curious and friendly. That hasn’t changed at all,” he says. What has changed, he laments, is the physical health of current students in comparison to their counterparts of thirty years ago. “We have all seen it in this field. They don’t go out and play. They don’t exercise,” Shappell says. Members of recent classes are more overweight, have lower strength levels, and are showing more signs of heart disease at their tender ages. But



**Richard Shappell, professor of physical education, is heading West to enjoy his retirement.**

thanks to Shappell and Oxford’s requirement for physical education and dance along with traditional academic studies, this generation of Oxford students moves more than it might.

Shappell graduated from Pennsylvania’s West Chester State College in 1964 and earned a master’s degree from Ball State University in 1966. Before coming to Oxford in 1971, he taught two years of elementary school. He liked teaching young children but found he has enjoyed the freedom of college teaching. “There’s an intellectual exercise that can go on here if you want it to,” he notes. “You don’t get Jimmy Carter presenting his views of the world in elementary school.” [ox](#)

Dick Shappell’s former students, soccer team members, and friends are building a student scholarship fund in his honor. If you would like to contribute to this fund honoring Dick Shappell, please make your gift online or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at Oxford College.

## James Wagner Named Emory’s Nineteenth President



James Wagner, provost of Case Western Reserve University, was named Emory’s nineteenth president on July 30. Wagner, whose appointment follows the retirement of President Bill Chace, arrived in time for the beginning of Emory’s fall semester.

Wagner was appointed provost at Case Western Reserve (CWRU)

in 2000, and he served fifteen months as interim president from May 2001 to July 2002. Prior to becoming provost, Wagner spent two years as dean of CWRU’s Case School of Engineering after a thirteen-year career on the engineering faculty of Johns Hopkins University. Wagner has a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Delaware, and a master’s of clinical engineering and PhD in materials science and engineering from Johns Hopkins.

I couldn’t be more thrilled to be at Oxford,” says Judy Shema, Oxford’s new chaplain. “It’s like I’ve found a little piece of heaven.” That’s high praise from someone whose work is spiritual.

Coming from Tulane University in New Orleans, where she worked for seven years as the United Methodist Campus Minister, Shema says it’s a welcome change to be at Oxford. She knows the value of a small community, having lived for eighteen years on a farm in West Texas in a town of two thousand. “Now I have the best of both worlds with Oxford and Covington here, and Atlanta thirty miles away.” And in a way, it’s a homecoming for Shema, as she completed her master of divinity at Candler School of Theology in 1997.

Oxford’s community is one of the most appealing things to Shema about her new position. “Having lived in another small community, one of the intriguing things about Oxford is that there are a lot of retired academics and clergy living in the community. I find the engagement in world, as well as local issues, cultures, and people very refreshing,” she says. “It’s an open mindedness that I appreciate.”

As chaplain, Shema plans to involve Oxford students in social service and mission trips. “It is important to involve students at this age,” she says. “Students experience the joy of teamwork and participation in a cause, and hopefully they



**Judy Shema looks forward to working with Oxford and its community.**

will continue with this work their whole lives. I am raising up leaders for the future.”

Shema also plans to assist students in their faith struggles, what she sees as a common occurrence in college-age students and also a necessary part of faith. “Because of my life experience and struggles with faith, I’m not anxious when people have crises in faith. Saying that you doubt is really what you need to do so you can be strong and own your faith,” she says.

Shema loves working with college students, and it’s no surprise, with years of experience as a university chaplain and as the mother of three college-age daughters (one at Agnes Scott College and two at Texas Tech University).

Students at Oxford will no doubt be interested in another of Shema’s passions, motorcycle riding, a skill she picked up out of necessity during an internship in Jamaica, and one she honed with long rides up to the North Georgia mountains while a divinity student at Candler. Though she sold her latest cycle for the move to Oxford, Shema says, “the North Georgia mountains are beckoning,” and she expects to buy another soon. [ox](#)

## Tree of Life Inspires in the Chapel

The new wall hanging in the Chapel, designed by artist Chuck Chewning, features a tree of life (in background of Judy Shema picture, this page). Chewning shares the inspiration behind the design:

“The tree is a symbol of life representing the process of maturing. Each year the tree reflects nature’s seasons just as we follow the seasons of ordinary times. The trunk of the tree is composed of three ‘roots’ that entwine together. They represent

the different walks of life that we come from in the world. Bound together our strength rises upward, branches out, and blooms with new growth. The leaves of a tree show many textures and colors. We spread ourselves outward to create beauty, protect those under us, and support those on us. As there is loss through the seasons it is balanced by new gains. When a tree matures its roots reach deeper into the earth. We grow older and become more grounded. A tree extends from inside the earth to outside the heavens the same as we aspire to in life.”

# Living the Legacy of John Wesley



*Oxford marks the three-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Methodism's founder*

This year marks the three-hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. For Wesley, education was critical. And it was equally so for his followers. In the

United States alone they founded more than one hundred colleges and universities. As Oxford celebrates its original Wesleyan heritage we can appropriately ask: What does it mean to be a Methodist-affiliated college? Is there a living legacy that can be recognized as Methodist?

At Oxford College the legacy begins with its name, which derives from Wesley's university town in England. The legacy expresses itself in history and architecture; the town's historic cemetery, its Old Church, venerable buildings and place names led it to be named a Shrine of the United Methodist Church in 1972. The legacy appears in ministry and curriculum. The college has a Methodist chaplain (see p. 2), and regular Sunday services are held at Allen Memorial Church. There are curricular offerings on the Christian tradition and a lively lecture series brings scholars to campus to discuss religious and ethical topics. And the legacy lives in Oxford College's spirit. Today's stu-

dents represent a wide variety of Christian denominations; 12 percent are self-declared Methodist. But there are also many from non-Christian faith traditions, including about 20 percent who are Muslims or Hindus. This religious diversity would be welcomed by John Wesley who said of his own work, "the whole world is my parish." Religious diversity and a spirit of inclusivity have always been hallmarks of the Wesleyan tradition.

A suspicion of education's potential harm for piety has deep roots in Christianity. It was the early church father Tertullian who asked: "What does Athens have to do with Jerusalem?" Wesley had no such suspicion. He believed in a mind disciplined by knowledge and a heart "warmed" by love and in service to one's community. Wesley wanted to join the education of the mind and the heart, of knowledge with "vital piety" or habits of the heart, the affective life. Central to Wesley's mission was the importance of educating the whole person. Surely Wesley would find that Oxford College fulfills that mission. It does so by challenging students academically while encouraging them to develop "habits of the heart." Indeed, more than 80 percent of students engage in service projects, and a third of them bring intellectual reflection to bear on their community service in Theory Practice Service Learning courses. The college's designation by the

Carnegie Foundation as a site for the study or cognitive and affective learning (see p. 1) only confirms Oxford's longstanding commitment to link mind and heart. That designation uniquely bears witness to the mission of Emory University "to create, preserve, teach, and apply knowledge in the service of humanity." This mission impels us to seek to know and to humbly use that knowledge for the betterment of human kind. And our mission is plainly inspired in part by the admonition of Wesley to "do all the good you can; by all the means you can; in all the ways you can; to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

If John Wesley walked the Oxford campus today he would recognize the many connections between his legacy and the present. It is with pride that Oxford College continues in these subtle yet powerful ways to live into the hopes of its early Methodist founders and to celebrate the tradition from whence it was born. Happy Birthday, John Wesley!

Dana Greene '71G  
greene@emory.edu

## SPORTS

Oxford's intercollegiate athletics program is gradually establishing an identity for itself after ending its formal relationship with the one at the Atlanta campus.

The latest step is the hiring of the first full-time tennis coach since Oxford revived its intercollegiate program in fall 1998.

Brandon Feldman comes aboard as the men's and women's tennis coach. He also will work to establish a community tennis program for the benefit of the general public in Oxford.

Feldman was assistant men's and women's tennis coach at Washington College (Md.) last spring. He received a master's degree from the University of Miami (Fla.) and a bachelor's degree from Skidmore College (N.Y.), where he played collegiate tennis.

Feldman inherits a solid men's tennis program, one that finished fifth out of thirteen teams at the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) Division III national tournament last spring.

In addition to hiring a full-time tennis coach, another major step forward for the athletics program is the establishment of an endowment fund for the benefit of athletics. The fund honors William Troy Bivings 1896C, an Emory College alumnus and athlete.

Through the fund, the college will install lights and bleachers on its recreational field. The move, according to Athletics Director Edgar Flores, will benefit the school's intramural and intercollegiate programs.

"We anticipate a dramatic increase in intramural

participation because we can schedule activities for the evening to avoid interfering with classes," Flores says. "For the intercollegiate teams (soccer, tennis), they'll be able to practice at more convenient times. Students can take afternoon lab classes and not miss practice. We can also hold a few night games, which will make it easier for parents and fans to attend. We are very thankful to the Bivings family for their generous gift to make this possible."

Among the first to enjoy the new lights are the women's soccer team, which is coming off a 10-6-2 season. Under Flores, the team welcomed back cocaptains Heather Voelkel '04Ox and Clelia Pezzi '04Ox, who both were named to the all-region first team last season.

"We are excited about the incoming freshman class," says Flores, starting his third year as head coach. "On paper this is the most complete team we've had, so we hope to continue or improve upon our success."

## HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

### FACULTY

- **Lucas Carpenter**, Charles Howard Candler Professor of English, received the University Scholar/Teacher Award at Commencement 2003.
- **Eloise Carter**, professor of biology, received the Emory Williams Award for Distinguished Teaching at Commencement 2003.
- **Evelyn Bailey**, associate professor of mathematics, received the Fleming Award for Teaching and Service to Oxford College at Convocation 2002.
- **Maria Archetto**, associate professor of music, and **Fang Chen**, assistant professor of mathematics, were selected as participants in the Governor's Teaching Fellows Program.
- **Heather Patrick**, assistant professor of chemistry, was selected for the Emory University Community Partnership Faculty Fellows Program.
- **Susan Ashmore**, assistant professor of history, received the Mizell Award for superior teaching at Convocation 2003.

### STUDENTS

The **men's tennis team** finished fifth at the 2003 NJCAA Division III National Finals.



## Let There be Light

Thanks to Helen Bivings Crawford, now Oxford athletes can play under the lights. In December 2002 Crawford and her daughters, Betsy and Helen Loyless, gave more than \$246,000 to add lights and other enhancements to Oxford's athletics field. The gift is in memory of Crawford's father, W. Troy Bivings, who graduated from Emory College at Oxford in 1896.

In addition to providing the field with lights for night play, the gift also provided bleachers and other field improvements, as well as an endowment fund to support the athletic and recreation program at Oxford. Now called Bivings Field, this field has been in use for athletics and military formation marching and training for many years. Today the field is used for Oxford intramural sports and recreation.

The gift is a fitting tribute to Bivings, who was an outstanding athlete at Emory. Bivings served as captain of the football team, was a member of the track team, and for three years, his class baseball team. So great was his involvement in athletics at Emory that he was inducted into the Emory Sports Hall of Fame in 2002.



Tennis Coach Brandon Feldman and members of the men's and women's tennis teams take a break from their training.



### Looking for Class Notes?

In order to post all alumni submissions in a timely manner, class notes are now featured on the web. For up-to-date coverage of alumni news, visit [www.emory.edu/OXFORD/Alumni/Classnotes](http://www.emory.edu/OXFORD/Alumni/Classnotes).

### Oxford Weekend Awards

At Oxford Weekend 2003, several individuals were recognized for their dedication to Oxford.

For his untiring work and devotion to Oxford College, Bill Norton '42Ox-'44C-'50L received the Alumni Association Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Neil Penn, retired professor of history, received the 2003 Outstanding Teaching Award. Penn taught at Oxford for thirty-three years, retiring in 1998.

John Temple received the Honorary Alumnus Award for his years of assistance in helping Oxford complete many essential renovation and building projects, from the Eady Admission Center to Williams Hall.



### Three Generations of Daniels at Commencement

Three generations of Daniels and Emory alumni were with Elizabeth Ann Daniel '03Ox when she graduated in May 2003.

Elizabeth, her mother Linda Vaden Daniel '75C, and her father, William T. Daniel Jr. '73Ox-'75C of Savannah, were joined at the ceremony by Elizabeth's uncle Mark L. Daniel '79Ox-'81C and her grandmother, Nonagene Farrill Daniel '43N-'48C. Elizabeth's late grandfather, William Thomas Daniel '54L, was also an Emory graduate.

Elizabeth's grandmother was among the first Emory nursing students admitted to Emory College for courses in 1943. After she graduated, she served on the nursing school faculty from 1948 to 1952.

Elizabeth's mother, Linda, was a psychology major and her father and her uncle were both recipients of Oxford College's Dean Virgil Y. C. Eady Service Award. Bill and Mark are the only siblings to receive this award.



### ORDER AN UNCOMMON PLACE

Claim your piece of Oxford history. *An Uncommon Place: Oxford College of Emory University*, written by Joe Moon, associate dean of campus life, is available for \$29.99 plus shipping. To order, contact the Oxford College bookstore at 770.784.8365 or [oxford@bkstr.com](mailto:oxford@bkstr.com), or the Emory University bookstore at 404.727.6222.

# Mellie Davis Retires

Mellie Davis '58Ox, assistant director of alumni and parent relations, retired in August this year.


Davis says she began working at Oxford because she had "always sort of been around," and so one day in 1987 she decided to make it official. Davis worked first as a secretary in the physical education department in the mornings, and as a secretary in the Office of Development in the afternoons. She liked the development office so much she took a full-time secretary position there. In 1996 Davis was promoted to assistant director of alumni and parent relations.

In this role, Davis was invaluable organizing alumni events and coordinating parent relations. "I have enjoyed my work with the alumni board, and I really got to know the alumni," she says. "It's been my favorite part of the job."

Not surprisingly, Davis's desk was a hub of alumni and parent connections, her phone ringing and her email box full with greetings and news. The daily contact with alumni and parents was a welcome part of her day. "The older ones called to say hi, and we would chat a while," she says. "The younger ones emailed to find a friend to invite to a wedding and that kind of thing."

With all of the people and history she knows, you would think Davis would be worried that she leaves with vital links to Oxford alumni and parent relations filed in her head, but she has faith in technology. "It's all on the system," she laughs. "I'm not worried about that one bit."

In particular Davis will miss her daily contact with the staff of fourth-floor Seney Hall. "We all love and respect each other and work well together."

Davis will be missed. As Dean Dana Greene says, "Miss Mellie, as we know her here, is elegant and gracious and so much fun. I can't imagine Oxford without her. She epitomizes all the very best of Oxford's caring spirit." 



Mellie Davis will miss working with Oxford's many enthusiastic alumni and friends, including Screech.

### OXFORD IN THE NEWS

• **Susan Pace Hamill '80Ox-'82C** appeared in the February 12, 2003, *Wall Street Journal* for a revolutionary paper she wrote to encourage reform of the Alabama tax code.

• **Wendy Kenny '81Ox** appeared in the June 1, 2003, edition of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* for her participation in a ground-breaking operation for her diabetes. Kenny received Georgia's first islet-cell transplant for diabetes at Emory University Hospital last spring.

• Nashville, Georgia, Mayor **Connie Perry '63Ox-'65C** appeared in the *Berrien Press*. Perry was commended for outstanding ethics in government by Governor Sonny Perdue.

• **Oxford College** was featured in the September 2003 issue of *Georgia Trend* as part of a larger story on Newton County, the seventh fastest growing county in the United States.

### Rosalynn Carter to Speak at Oxford

Rosalynn Carter, former first lady and vice chair of The Carter Center, will deliver the Samuel W. Mills Peace Lecture at Allen Memorial on February 18.

### Return, Renew, Rediscover Emory in the Spring.

The Association of Emory Alumni and Oxford College are proud to announce

## EMORY WEEKEND

A University-wide celebration of old friends, professors, new graduates, and all things Emory.

Beginning in May 2004, Alumni Weekend will become Emory Weekend, a prelude to Emory's liveliest time of year: commencement. Alumni of all ages are invited to come home for Emory Weekend.

To learn more, visit [www.emory.edu/ALUMNI/EMORYWEEKEND2004/](http://www.emory.edu/ALUMNI/EMORYWEEKEND2004/) or call 404.727.6400 or (toll free) 866.727.6485.

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### Wilfong to Lead Development



Tom Wilfong has been named director of Development at Oxford College. He began his official duties on November 3.

A native Georgian, Wilfong comes to Oxford from the University of Georgia, where he was

director of development at the University Museum of Art since 1997. Prior to that appointment, Wilfong served a year as a senior editor in University Publications at Emory. He has been a private business owner and has worked at Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley. Wilfong received a BA from Duke University and an MA and PhD from Indiana University.