

# FORWARD

A PUBLICATION OF EMMANUEL COLLEGE

VOL. 1 ISSUE 2 | DECEMBER 2016



## HARD WORK PAYS OFF

BY ASHLEY WESTBROOK

**A**lex Ward's road to becoming the Medical Critical Care Clinical Pharmacist & PGY2 Critical Care Residency Program Director at UAB Hospital in Birmingham, Ala. ran through Franklin Springs, Ga. where he graduated in 2004 from Emmanuel College with a pre-pharmacy degree. It was at Emmanuel where Ward believes he was prepared extremely well for success.

"My time at Emmanuel College was an excellent experience," Ward said. "I recall some people in healthcare advising me at that time to be careful of doing undergraduate studies at a smaller institution, as they believed that it may not prepare me adequately for the rigors of pharmacy school. I disagree with that completely. My studies at Emmanuel prepared me extremely well and I was able to excel in pharmacy school, graduating the Pharm D. program with honors."

The journey however was not an easy one according to Ward.

"In graduate school we often had 22-25 credit hours (8+ classes) per semester, but I believe the solid scientific foundation provided by Emmanuel College sculpted me into

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### INSIDE: CREATING A CULTURE OF SERVICE





# EMMANUEL COLLEGE'S 97TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING WEEKEND A GREAT SUCCESS

BY ASHLEY WESTBROOK

**E**arlier this month, Emmanuel College alumni from all across the United States made their way to Franklin Springs, Ga. to celebrate the college's 97th Annual Homecoming Weekend.

The festivities began with the 69th Annual Feast of Ingathering, held at the John W. Swails Center. The event featured entertainment by the EC Worship Team and Revive Dance team as well as several student testimonies. At the event, Women's Ministries Leaders of the IPHC presented Emmanuel College with pledges and additional gifts to support IPHC student scholarships. The grand total presented was \$61,100.

Dozens of alumni, current students, and friends of the college showed up early Saturday morning for the 8th Annual Springs Sprint 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run.

Afterwards, the celebration continued at Stephens Athletic Field for the Diversified Agriculture program groundbreaking where Program Chair, Owen Thomason shared the detailed plans for the program including the construction of a Teaching and Learning Center, Greenhouse and many more facilities that will provide students with a hands-on learning experience.



The Alumni & Friends Luncheon and Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday with several alumni and family members in attendance. The 2016 President's Award was given to Bett Smith and Phillip Bowen for their continued support of Emmanuel College both through fundraising and being an ambassador for the College.

This year's Alumnus of the Year was Pastor Rick Haug, who serves as the Pastor of Living Word Church in Maiden, N.C. A graduate of the first School of Christian Ministries class in 1976, Pastor Haug has helped continue the pipeline from Living Word to Emmanuel College, sending seven students from his congregation to EC this year alone.



## For Alumni and Friends of Emmanuel College

### MISSION STATEMENT

Emmanuel College is a Christ-centered, liberal arts institution which strives to prepare students to become Christlike disciples who integrate faith, learning, and living for effective careers, scholarship, and service.

Founded in 1919, Emmanuel is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Emmanuel College.

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**FORWARD** 2016, Vol. 1, Issue 1 (USPS 175-200) is published four times a year by the Emmanuel College Office of Advancement, 181 Spring Street, Franklin Springs, GA 30639. Periodicals postage paid at Franklin Springs, GA 30639. To submit address changes, send an e-mail to alumni@ec.edu or call 800-860-8600, opt. 4.

### POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to Emmanuel College Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 129, Franklin Springs, GA 30639.

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Cover photo by Corey Nolan.

David Roberson, EC's Board of Trustees Chairman was given Emmanuel's highest honor, The Medallion Award, recognizing him for his continued support of Emmanuel College.

Saturday afternoon, the career of Dr. Frank Mann, a retired Department of Natural Sciences professor, was celebrated through the dedication of the new Physical Science Laboratory at Wellons Science Center dedicated in honor of the career and service of Dr. Mann.

Later that afternoon, the first Women's Basketball team at Emmanuel College was recognized as they were inducted into Emmanuel's Athletic Hall of Fame. 12 of the 13 team members from the 1980 Lady Lions were on hand for the ceremony.

The day concluded with a cookout and reception at Shaw Plaza with entertainment by the Worship Team.

For the final Homecoming Weekend event, Franklin Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church hosted a Homecoming service on Sunday morning. Rev. Clyde Doyle, former EC basketball player shared a message.

Thank you to all who joined us in celebrating EC and the work God continues to do on our campus!



being intellectually prepared to move into the higher learning environment of graduate medical training," Ward said. "Moreover, I enjoyed the positivity of being surrounded by Christian peers and instructors. This is something I took for granted, as it was not always the case during my graduate studies to have such comradery."

Ward may not have noticed how unique Emmanuel College was as a student, but now is thankful to be a part of the EC community.

"Emmanuel is a special place to me because each person there is usually called by God to study there," Ward said. "Everyone for the most part has a focus on embracing and enhancing their fellow student colleagues and their spiritual well-being, no matter what field of study they're in. This positive Christian community of students made it a very special and warm place in my career path and I am truly appreciative to have been a student at

EC. There's no way that anyone of any personality type can come to Emmanuel and not make friends."

After completing his degree at Emmanuel, Ward went on to the University of Georgia to complete his Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D.) degree

where he spent his final year in clinical externships in Columbus, Ga. at Columbus Regional Health Care System and in Sitka, Alaska with Indian Health Care Service.

Shortly after returning from Alaska, he graduated with his Pharm D. and moved to Tucson, Arizona to complete a PGY1 pharmacy residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. It was there where he developed an interest in critical care. After completing the residency, he moved to Birmingham, Ala. to complete a PGY2 critical care residency at UAB Hospital.

"This comprehensive, rigorous training program equipped me with the clinical skills and attitudes necessary to

practice and function in the fast-paced, high-impact critical care areas," Ward said. "After completion of this PGY2 residency, I moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico to conduct systems redesign of the medical and surgical critical care units, and also developed an inpatient clinical nutrition support consult service, providing expert prescribing and management of inpatient parenteral nutrition for all patients' house-wide on a consultative basis."

In Ward's current role, he works directly with patients, nurses, physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to develop individualized treatment plans for each ICU patient that are the most effective, evidence-based, and cost effective.

"I participate hands-on in medical emergencies, and also teach and instruct students and residents that are on clinical rotation in the MICU," Ward said. "As director of the PGY2 Critical Care

Residency Program, I manage a specialty residency training program that is accredited by the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) and direct critical care specialty residents through their training year."

Ward is passionate about

improving the survival and overall outcomes for patients with critical care-related diseases. Unlike in many professions, he is fortunate to see the benefits and outcomes of his work each and every day.

"It is my responsibility to be the final safety net that catches any errors or potentially adverse issues with pharmacotherapy before it reaches a patient so staying sharp and working hard are my passions," Ward said. "My parents always taught me the value of hard work and doing nothing less than the absolute best in all that you do. This upbringing has served me well in the magnitude of work and success that I've been able to achieve in my short career

"My parents always taught me the value of hard work and doing nothing less than the absolute best in all that you do."





Photo by Corey Nolan.

thus far. If I didn't leave the hospital each day feeling mentally exhausted, then I wouldn't believe that I had done my job to the best of my ability for that day."

While at Emmanuel, several faculty and staff members impacted Ward's life, but none more than Dr. Frank Mann, Ward's physics I and II instructor.

"I went into his course a little apprehensive, as I'd heard about a student in the past who reportedly had literally passed out in the lobby of Wellons Science Center after completing one of his exams," Ward said. It was a rigorous set of courses, but Dr. Mann always taught things in a way that didn't necessarily make it easier for me to understand, but made it where I could find my own way to the understanding of the complexities of the topic. This was very helpful to me in that I learned ways to navigate my own mind around difficult topics and how I incorporated complex material and made sense of it all. That's what succeeding in pharmacy school

and residency training was all about. I remember saying to myself, "If I can get an A in Dr. Mann's physics class, I can do just about anything." And I did just that. I got my A."

What's his advice for current Emmanuel students and students looking to attend?

"I would advise current or prospective students to utilize your time at Emmanuel and grow spiritually as much as you can, in addition to your career studies," Ward said. "Being in an atmosphere of other believers as your peers and instructors is a phenomenal gift. Also, never believe that Emmanuel's small size limits its potential in preparing you for any career. YOU are responsible for making your experience what you want it to be. In the training for careers like mine, you get out of it what you put into it. So buckle down, put in 1000%, always try your hardest, and expect nothing to be given to you for free. Then, and only then, you will find true success and satisfaction. Hard work pays off."



## Creating a CULTURE OF SERVICE

BY ASHLEY WESTBROOK

As Emmanuel College approaches its 100th Anniversary in 2019, Dr. Ron White, EC President said his hope for Emmanuel College through the next 100 years is to take its place on the world stage as a difference maker. One way he hopes to achieve this is through creating a culture of service at Emmanuel through a program called EC Serve.

“EC Serve is an organization that basically is encouraging our students, our staff, and our faculty to be involved in service projects. My view is that one day we’ll have 90 percent of our students serving each year in some

service activity, whether it’s a local service project, a regional one, something in the United States or even internationally,” Dr. White said. “What we’re trying to do is get our students to see that Christ calls us to be more than just a churchgoer; he calls us to be more than just someone who’s educated; he calls us to actually go out and change the world—make a difference and do what he did.”

Throughout the summer of 2016, teams of EC faculty and staff members along with students served internationally in Nicaragua, Tanzania, Dominican Republic, and Uganda.

During a team’s trip to Corinto, Nicaragua, team leader and EC Cross Country and Track & Field Coach, Ben Hall reflected on how quickly the team came together and on their willingness to serve. The team

spent their time building on an addition to Light and Life Church to be used for better serving the youth and children of Corinto, giving them a space to meet and worship.

“The team has come together and bonded in amazing ways,” Hall said. “I’m so proud of the way we have worked and sweated and encouraged. We have hauled literally tons of rock and concrete, mixed large batches of concrete by hand and hauled it to where we’re laying the foundation for the church additions, and we’ve been able to pray with nurses, hospital patients, police officers, inmates, children, and church members.”



The Tanzania team (led by Alice Black) and the Uganda team (led by Dr. Blake Rackley) spent their time serving at local orphanages, public schools and universities as well as spreading God's word through evangelism, street and sports ministry, where the Dominican Republic team, led by EC alum Adam Beadles, worked in the town of Jarabacoo, updating the town's aquaponics system to and conducting physical therapy for children with disabilities at Palo Blanco School.

"For several years, I have had the opportunity to lead or assist short term mission teams of faculty, staff and students from Emmanuel College," said Mrs. Alice Black, Tanzania Team Leader. "These teams have traveled to many countries and assisted in dental treatment, medical distribution,



evangelism, teaching, food distribution and any work to help local ministries and missionaries. Because of these mission trips, some team members have sensed God's call to mission work. But none of the team members or I have ever returned unchanged and untouched by the opportunity to serve and try our best to demonstrate God's love."

EC Serve also strives to make an impact in the local community by volunteering at the local elementary school and also sending a group of volunteers to NEGA Night to Shine, an unforgettable prom night experience for people with special needs, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation.

Dr. White believes creating this culture of service will attract students to Emmanuel College, where they will not only receive a great education and be prepared for a career, but learn how to serve God's kingdom in various ways for the rest of their lives.

For more information on how you can participate in EC Serve, contact EC Serve Coordinator, Bob McConnell at [bmconnell@ec.edu](mailto:bmconnell@ec.edu).



# Emmanuel College Ranks **Top 10** Christian College/University in South



Earlier this semester, Christian Universities Online published their annual list of Top 25 Best Christian Colleges and Universities in the South, with Emmanuel College coming in at #10.

This list is meant to highlight schools that Christian Universities Online considers the best when it comes to overall quality, affordability and student satisfaction.

Choosing a Christian College or University to attend can be a difficult decision, with many individual factors to consider. By doing this, the site hopes to offer both parents and students a valuable resource which will help them in determining a college to attend that will meet a student's individual needs and goals.

Dr. Ron White, President of Emmanuel College is honored by the recognition.

"We are so pleased to be recognized as an outstanding college by external groups like this," Dr. White said. "It speaks to the quality and achievement of our educational mission."

The methodology behind this ranking began with schools that are members or member eligible of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU). The site then collected publicly available data for these schools in the following categories: 1) Faculty-to-student ratio, 2) Percent of full-time beginning undergraduates receiving grant or scholarship aid, 3) Selectivity, 4) Overall retention rate and 5) Overall graduation rate. Each category received equal weight in calculating the final ranking.



## Emmanuel

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