If you find something that you love and are passionate about, you may be able to find a way to make money doing it.

This was the case for EC graduate, Kelly Sheppard-Shatat ('92), designer and founder of Moon & Lola, a multimillion dollar jewelry, accessories, and lifestyle brand that began as a hobby.

Today, Moon & Lola can be found in over 1,000 storefronts nation-wide, including Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom, and worn by celebrities such as Paula Dean, the members of the pop girl band, Fifth Harmony, and country music sensation, Trisha Yearwood.

Kelly, who attended Emmanuel College for pre-pharmacy, worked as a pharmacist after college but would spend evenings making jewelry, sometimes not stopping until the sun rose.

It was her good friend Avis Hemby-Wicher that encouraged Kelly to pursue her dream, even giving her an outlet, asking her to have a booth at her Junior League festival.

"I was trying to live two lives in one body, “Kelly said. “It came to a point where I needed to know that it could be all that I thought it could be. I knew the only way I could do that was to step out in faith. It was very organic and slow, but everything changed when I stepped out in faith.”

Kelly now looks back on her time at Emmanuel College, realizing it was there that she was prepared for success.

Growing up in Raleigh, Kelly attended Capital Church as a teenager where many of the churchgoers had attended Emmanuel College and spoke highly...
The Emmanuel College community extends our deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Culbreth Melton, who passed away on December 28th, 2016. Dr. Melton served as the sixth president of Emmanuel College from 1970-1983 and continued to teach at Emmanuel until 2000.

Born in Danville, Virginia to Bishop Thomas A. Melton and his wife Emma Elizabeth Melton, Dr. Melton was connected with the Pentecostal Holiness Church from an early age. He graduated from Emmanuel College in 1947 where he met his wife, Lorraine Wells. He earned a Bachelor’s of Arts and a Masters of Arts from the University of North Carolina, and a Doctorate of Education from the University of Georgia.

“When I think of people who are the epitome of integrity, Dr. C.Y. Melton comes to mind,” Dr. Ron White, President of Emmanuel College said. “He is a shining example of scholarly intellect and lifelong learning. Dr. Melton was instrumental in improving the academic quality of Emmanuel College during his tenure as president and will always be honored and respected as a leader who was a faithful servant in every position he ever held. The Emmanuel family has suffered a great loss in Dr. Melton’s passing, but we are delighted that he chose to give so much of his life in service to the College, and we rejoice because we are better for having known him.”

Under Dr. Melton’s administration, a four-year School of Christian Ministries was established and accredited, a Learning Resources Center was constructed, and the overall quality of the institution was improved.

Dr. Melton is predeceased by his parents, his wife, Lorraine and his brother, Thomas Melton, Jr. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and a brother, Nichols Melton.

EMMANUEL NAMED ONE OF THE SAFEST COLLEGES IN GEORGIA FOR 2016

Earlier this week, Backgroundcheck.org released their annual ranking of the Safest Colleges in Georgia for 2016, with Emmanuel College coming in at #2.

For this list, a “college” is considered an accredited public or private not-for-profit institution, offering four-year degree programs.

Campus crime rates, graduation rates, and student retention rates from the U.S. Department of Education annual reports were used in creating this list.

To view the full list visit, http://backgroundchecks.org/36-safest-colleges-in-georgia-for-2016.html
Emmanuel College remembers Arylis & Mary Frances Parramore of Quincey, Florida. During his lifetime, Arylis was an ardent supporter of Emmanuel College, his alma mater.

After her passing on February 4th, 2015 Mary Frances left a sizable amount of the Parramore estate to Emmanuel College, the gift totaling more than $519,000.

Mary Frances and Arlyis were married later in life and although the two did not have any children of their own, they believed in higher education and offered monetary support to students in their community looking to further their education.

“She was not showy in her generosity by any means,” Annette Eakstadt, a niece of Mary Frances’ said. “As she saw it, her duty was to not bring attention to herself but to share what she had with others. If you looked up the word steward in the dictionary, Aunt Frances would be brought to mind.”

Arlyis graduated from Emmanuel College in 1950, rooming with Dr. Kirk Hartsfield, someone many alums remember for his commitment to the College. Arlyis’ passion for Emmanuel College and the IPHC Church continued upon graduation.

Both Arlyis and Mary Frances were educators, with Arlyis spending much of his time as the Principal at Chattahoochee (FL) High School, with Mary Frances serving as a Supervisor over Gadsden County School District. Arlyis received his educational start at Emmanuel College, and his love for EC led him to name the College as a contingent beneficiary of his estate. Arylis passed away on August 30th, 2000.

Emmanuel College President Ron White said he is thankful for people like the Parramores who understand the importance of supporting Emmanuel College to help college students earn a quality education in a Christ-centered environment.

“The Parramores have blessed Emmanuel by advancing our mission through their estate gift,” Dr. White said. “Their faithfulness and love for the College is demonstrated by their generosity and deeply appreciated by students, staff and faculty. We pray that more alumni and friends will follow the lead of the Parramores by remembering the College in their estate planning.”

For more information about Emmanuel College or to partner with us, please visit www.ec.edu/give or call 800-860-8800.
of their time in Franklin Springs. At an impressionable age, Kelly decided to attend Emmanuel’s Preview Weekend and quickly fell in love.

“I think I was just enamored by the magic that people spoke of Emmanuel when I heard stories from former students,” Kelly said. “I quickly felt like I wanted a piece of that and wondered how I could get there.”

When she arrived on campus in 1989, Kelly found the magic in Emmanuel College that others spoke of...through meeting the people.

“I think what truly makes Emmanuel unique is the people,” Kelly said. “The location being very rural actually was one of the special things about it. Being a part of a Godly foundation is a big part of it, but the people are what has made Emmanuel so special to me. The fact that it was kind of all by itself helped the community bond even more than normal because we didn’t have the distractions around us.”

When she thinks of her favorite memories at Emmanuel College, Kelly looks back on the simplest moments, when she and her friends would bond over something unexpected. To entertain themselves, they would roll down grassy hills or play practical jokes on each other.

“Truly the time you spend sitting around and bonding with classmates was my favorite memory of Emmanuel,” Kelly said. “The friends I made there are still my best friends in the world and I think it’s because we have that very strong foundation.”

It’s that foundation that Kelly believes has helped prepare her for the success Moon & Lola continues to have.

“I think the older you get the more you realize the importance of your foundation,” she said. “I believe a lot of what I was taught at Emmanuel was education, but I was also taught character. Emmanuel does a good job of teaching you right from wrong, how to be good to others, set a good example, and what you need in life to be the best person you can be and feed your soul while doing it.”

Kelly began Moon & Lola full-time in 2010 and now the brand is sold internationally.

What Kelly enjoys the most about owning a business like Moon & Lola is that there is always something to achieve and strive for.

“There’s always a state you haven’t sold in, a boutique you haven’t sold in, or a magazine you haven’t been featured in,” Kelly said. “I give our publicist, Pitch Press, credit for helping us get in magazines and become known throughout the world.”

That’s how Neiman Marcus discovered Moon & Lola by noticing the brand in a magazine. Representatives from the national retailer flew out to Moon & Lola’s headquarters to meet Kelly and bring the brand into their world. Other national brands like Nordstrom, quickly followed suit.

Kelly views Moon & Lola like a child. She created it but it has its own heartbeat, arms, and legs. Sometimes she’ll have to push the business along, when other times she’s asking it to slow down, which leaves her feeling extremely blessed.

“God has brought opportunity upon opportunity to Moon & Lola and I just try to make the best decisions that I can in each moment based on what is right for us and what isn’t,” Kelly said.

Kelly continues to do most of the design work herself, but has several talented designers on staff that have helped her in keeping the brand consistent.

“Every piece of Moon & Lola has my stamp of approval on it,” Kelly said. “I’m constantly making sure that everything is on brand and I’m very particular about things that speak to the brand and make

Continued from cover

Kelly says,

“Say yes to the opportunities in front of you, even if it comes in the form of an unpaid internship.”
sure things are run by my desk before being publicized.”

Several celebrities have been seen wearing the Moon & Lola brand, something Kelly believes the company should publicize more.

“Fifth Harmony wore our jewelry,” she said. “Trisha Yearwood has as well, along with Tori Kelly and several others.”

Since its founding, the company has achieved many distinctions, but to Kelly the internal work the company has done as they constantly try to grow, and better themselves has been the most important.

In 2015 the company was recognized for the second consecutive year as one of “Oprah’s Favorite Things,” which Kelly believes is hard to beat. In 2016, Moon & Lola was featured again in O Magazine on Adams Gift Guide.

2017 brings new opportunities for Moon & Lola including great new products set for release and a Pop-Up Shop in New York City.

What advice does Kelly have for students looking to one day own their own business?

“I think that I always would advise to take an internship,” Kelly said. “Do internships in the areas you have interest in. I’m a firm believer in unpaid internships, too. I’ve done lots of them and we provide them at Moon & Lola. If you keep your ears and eyes open, you will learn so much.”

A popular saying, “If you shoot for the Moon, you’ll land among the stars,” holds true in the story of Moon & Lola and Kelly Sheppard-Shatat. Kelly believed in herself that she could become successful in starting her own business, and through this, Moon & Lola has become bigger than she could have ever imagined.
Clarke Sowell grew up in a Christian household, his family believed in God but there was no real commitment to Christ. So at 12 years old, when Clarke made the decision to follow Christ, at the time he didn’t know what that commitment meant.

“It may have been genuine in my heart then but I didn’t have a home church,” Clarke said. “There was no real way to carry out the process.”

For the next six years, Clarke lived his life however he wanted, with very few parameters.

“I had some sense of what God intended,” Clarke said. “But I was a typical jock. I didn’t care much for school; I really didn’t care much about anything except what benefitted me. I was in the world.”

Toward the end of his junior year of high school, Clarke’s world changed.

“Within about a year and a half, I had a neck injury that finished my football career, which I was starting to get a few letters from colleges recruiting me, so that could have been something,” Clarke said. “I had a double hernia surgery, which ended my weight lifting aspirations, as much as I looked at that as my outlet, that was dashed as well.”

Worst of all, Clarke’s father passed away suddenly of a heart attack in February of his senior year.

“That’s what shaped me the most,” Clarke said. “In the midst of all that, having to reassess life as a whole, as a high school senior without a father figure, going through the transition from high school to college and everything else, I took it upon myself to be the “Man of the House.”

In September of 2012, Clarke began dealing with anxiety issues. A typically calm, reserved person, the feelings of anxiety were foreign to him and he didn’t know how to handle it. This is what ultimately broke Clarke, leading him back to the God he surrendered to at age 12.

After a six-month break from school, Clarke felt led to attend Emmanuel College in May of 2013, and began as a non-traditional student taking Maymester classes.

Now a senior, Clarke believes his time at Emmanuel helped steer him in the right direction and changed his perspective on life.

“Coming to Emmanuel gave me a new sense of purpose, a sense of direction,” Clarke said. “I didn’t necessarily know what I wanted to do, but I knew I was called into ministry. It’s been crazy to see how much God has changed me. I’m still a long way from where he wants me to be, but I’m also a long way from where I was.”

The professors and community of students Clarke found at Emmanuel College are what he believes has helped him on his path toward knowing God.

“The professors, they’re so committed to what they do,” Clarke said. “Committed to giving us truth from scripture and helping us in this process. They’re not just giving us information and expecting us to study it so we can take a test. They’re concerned with how we are formed, how we are brought into the image of Christ.”

To Clarke, Emmanuel College is a safe haven because of the people that make up the EC community.

“My community life now compared to my community life in high school is drastically different,” Clarke said. “This is a safe place, a safe haven. To me Emmanuel is a place where I can find myself in God, see the good things he’s put in me, allow him to speak to me about some of the memories from my past and give me a framework. To me, it’s been a safe place to discover myself, but also discover who God wants me to be and having the community and the professors backing me has helped me grow as a person more than I ever can imagine outside of Emmanuel.”

Clarke looks to Campus Pastor Chris Maxwell as someone that has made a huge impact on his life and his walk with God.

“Pastor Chris has been incredibly dedicated to me as a person,” Clarke said. “At first, I didn’t know how to take him. I wasn’t really sure about this guy running around telling these “Dad jokes” all the time. But he was honestly committed to me and seeing that I became confident as a person. He helped me through some of the insecurities and faults that I’ve had, and he’s still doing that.”
What impressed Clarke the most about Pastor Chris was the fact that he didn’t walk away after helping him through his insecurities.

“He’s officiating my wedding,” Clarke said. “That just says a lot about the connection that’s been made between us and how he’s become a real father figure for me. It’s such a blessing and is one of those things that is so good and so rich, I won’t even feel the full ramifications of it until later in life. I’ll look back on my time at Emmanuel and say, “Wow, Pastor Chris was really there for me.””

With plans of going into ministry after graduation, Clarke knows the loss of his father at a young age has prepared him to work with and relate to youth that might be struggling through a similar situation.

“I think the loss of my father shaped me as a person. What it did the most was form a father’s heart inside of me,” Clarke said. “I can relate to those that don’t have that in their life. To what capacity I’m not sure, but working with youth, whether that be kids, middle school, or high school. I just know I want to be that older brother or father figure to them because I know the pain of not having that and I know the cost of not having that and what damage it can do to a life.”

Clarke discovered his passion for working with youth during a EC Serve Mission trip to Nicaragua during his freshman year at Emmanuel.

“While I was there, I was really touched by being with the kids,” Clarke said. “I guess that was where God really solidified that fatherly calling in me. It wasn’t what I expected when I got there but I was so glad I discovered that passion in me while I was there.”

According to Clarke, the Christian Ministries program is challenging, but worth it.

“It’s going to make you question what you believe. You must really search yourself to see if you’re really called to be in ministry,” Clarke said. “You’re at Emmanuel to discover yourself and find God and who he says you are, but to encourage you I would say, there’s nothing like it. There’s nothing like being at Emmanuel. I can’t fathom the full impact that it’s had on my life as a person. The amount of information, knowledge, love, care, and discipline, that has been given by those who are committed to the students here, it’s incredible.”

To Clarke, Emmanuel is a safe place, a tough place, but a place he will always think of as his safe haven.

**SEASONAL HIGH TUNNEL DONATED TO EC DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE PROGRAM**

The Diversified Agriculture Program at Emmanuel College continues to grow as a Seasonal High Tunnel was recently donated to the program.

The seasonal high tunnel was donated as a joint effort by the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Concil, Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.

Frank Riley, Executive Director of the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council knows that the Diversified Agriculture program at EC will benefit from the donation and that the Seasonal High Tunnel will be put to good use.

“The purpose of our Council is to encourage students and local citizens to learn how to grow more of their own food which can be safer and healthier than commercially grown products.” Riley said. “This structure will allow growers to plant a month earlier in the Spring and harvest a month later in the Fall thus extending the growing season by up to 2 months and potentially producing more food.”

EC’s Diversified Agriculture students will be using the house to grow raised bed vegetables and fruits as part of the program. Students will gain hands on experiences in the agricultural industry by planting, maintaining and harvesting products from the structure. Vegetables and fruits will be shared with the Emmanuel College Dining Hall to raise awareness of the locally grown crops and farming systems.

“It is an exciting time at Emmanuel College to see the outpouring of support for the Agriculture program,” Thomason said. “We certainly welcome any physical, financial or equipment donations to the program as the Diversified Agriculture degree is about growing agricultural leaders for the future. This seasonal high tunnel will complement our recent construction of a greenhouse on campus and allow us to continue to provide valuable work experiences for our college graduates.”

For more information on EC’s Diversified Agriculture program, visit www.ec.edu/ag or email Owen Thomason, Program Chair at othomason@ec.edu today!
Mark your calendar and make plans to join the Emmanuel College family for Homecoming 2017. More details to follow...