Earlier this summer, distinguished Emmanuel College Alumnus C. Phillip Bowen (’98), delivered the Commencement speech to the EC Class of 2016, telling the graduates to always keep God as their top priority and by doing this the Lord will make sure they always have everything they need.

This lesson is one Mr. Bowen learned during his time at Emmanuel College and continues to expand upon in his career as the Chief Executive Officer of In Touch Ministries, the non-profit global outreach organization of Dr. Charles Stanley. In Touch broadcasts in more than 50 languages, reaches more than 115 million homes domestically, and is on more than 2,800 television and radio stations worldwide. Mr. Bowen oversee a staff of more than 300 employees between In Touch’s U.S. headquarters and its international offices located in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Israel, and Great Britain.

The fact that he has the chance to touch people around the world through everything In Touch Ministries does is what makes Mr. Bowen passionate about his work.

“I love the fact that In Touch Ministries communicates the gospel in non-traditional ways,” Mr. Bowen said. “I’m working with a ministry that takes a message that was preached within the “four walls” of a church and distributes it around the world in different forms. The ability to find creative ways to spread the gospel is exciting.”

“I am also passionate about inspiring and challenging our incredible staff. Everything we work on touches people around the world. At any moment someone is watching the television broadcast, listening to the radio program, reading the In Touch magazine, or engaging with us online at intouch.org. When someone needs a word of encouragement, there is an In Touch

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Emmanuel College to Offer a Diversified Agriculture Degree

BY ASHLEY WESTBROOK

FRANKLIN SPRINGS, Ga. – Dr. Ron White, President of the Emmanuel College along with the Board of Trustees and Senior Administrative Staff is proud to announce the approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to begin a Diversified Agriculture Bachelor’s Degree program effective Fall 2016.

The degree is a natural fit for Northeast Georgia with six of the top ten agriculture counties located within 50 miles of the college. More than 60,000 graduates are needed every year to fill skilled jobs within the Agriculture workforce, yet our nation’s colleges are only producing 35,000.

The four-year bachelor’s degree will allow students to select one of three concentrations: agriculture business, agriculture science or agriculture missions.

“In my 24 years at Emmanuel College I cannot remember a time when there was more excitement regarding a new major,” said Dr. Ron White, President of Emmanuel College. “Whether Ag Business, Ag Science, or Ag Missions, students will be able to focus on the educational experience that suits their interests.” Students will have the opportunity to experience learning in and out of the classroom with the addition of a 45 acre Diversified Agriculture Teaching and Learning Center located on campus. The Center will have greenhouses, animal science teaching facilities, land laboratories and an integrated research center. The 124-hour degree program will have a general education core curriculum that will be enhanced with 32 hours of agricultural classes and 48 hours of concentration-specific areas. This hands-on experience degree will include internships, research opportunities, and study abroad activities.

Owen Thomason, Diversified Agriculture Program Chair, believes it will jumpstart a student’s career in agriculture through the hands-on experience they’ll gain while at Emmanuel.

“This is an exciting time for Emmanuel College and the Northeast Georgia community,” Mr. Thomason said. “The Diversified Agriculture Degree will offer students the opportunity to explore, gain hands-on experience and develop into agriculture leaders and contributors to the number one industry in the Georgia-Agriculture. With over 60,000 jobs available to college graduates each year in the Agriculture industry, this is a great time to begin a new degree program.”

Thomason continued, “Emmanuel College is an excellent place for students to develop into outstanding workforce and community members. The Agriculture program will provide an option for students from all over the world to experience an exceptional educational experience while attending one of the best small colleges in the United States. The Northeast Georgia region is very fortunate to have this institution available for lifelong learners.”

Emmanuel will provide students the specialized education and training essential for filling jobs across the state and nation. Graduates of this program could easily fill jobs in Agricultural Business, Agricultural Science, or Agricultural Missions related fields.

The degree program was approved by SACSCOC on June 27th, 2016. Students majoring in agriculture and looking for something close to home should consider this program. Emmanuel College has the small campus feel with the advantages of a major university. For more questions or information about the program, contact Owen Thomason, Program Chair at othomason@ec.edu.
“Through my time at Emmanuel, I learned the invaluable lesson that if I make God my primary focus and follow the path He has for me, then I will always be at the right place, at the right time.”

resource right there to touch his or her life. So I’m passionate about leading the staff to use their God-given gifts and talents with excellence, knowing that they are making an eternal difference in people’s lives,” he added.

After graduating in 1998 from Emmanuel with a B.A. in Communication Studies, Mr. Bowen served at a local and state Chamber of Commerce, a local church and even as the Vice President of Development at Emmanuel College.

“It wasn’t as a result of anything I did—I didn’t seek out those positions or promotions,” Mr. Bowen said. “In fact, God opened doors that I didn’t think were even possible to knock on. But every step along the way was ordained by God and prepared me for the next job. Likewise, the wisdom and guidance I received from mentors helped me to stay on the path God had for me.”

It was his time at Emmanuel College that helped him learn that the path he took would be determined by the priorities he made and that those priorities would in turn define his personal and professional life.

“Through my time at Emmanuel, I learned the invaluable lesson that if I make God my primary focus and follow the path He has for me, then I will always be at the right place, at the right time,” Mr. Bowen said.

To Mr. Bowen, it was the people who provided instruction and support at Emmanuel College that made the College special.

“They were my family away from home. A small group of faculty and staff provided unprecedented guidance,” Mr. Bowen said. “They helped shape my worldview. Also, the friendships I formed at Emmanuel College have been the most meaningful and long lasting of my life. Those relationships still hold strong today.”

He went on to list several staff and faculty members who had a positive impact on his life, including Dr. and Mrs. Hopkins, Paula Dixon, Mr. Henzel, Mr. Oxley, and Dean Beatty.

As for advice for prospective and current Emmanuel Students?

“I would say that the degree you will hold one day will define a brief moment in time. But the priorities you set will define the rest of your life,” Mr. Bowen.

“Being kind doesn’t cost anything,” he continued. “I have learned that it is only when I honor those who are in authority over me and when I respect those who serve beside me that I will be qualified to lead those who are under me.”

“Likewise, the people you know are not just there to help you in your life, they are your life,” he added. “How you treat the people God gives you will determine whether or not you have lived successfully. He will take you to the right place when you treat people the right way.”

Mr. Bowen is thankful for the current leadership at Emmanuel College and the great strides they are making in advancing the spiritual and educational goals of the college through training students to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ with greater efficiency and excellence.

“Emmanuel College captured my heart and I am so grateful for my time there,” Mr. Bowen said. “As alumni, we should always be Emmanuel’s fiercest critics, as well as its staunchest supporters. But when I consider the incredible work that is being done there and the urgent need to send out faithful workers into the harvest fields, I can only encourage Alumni to support Emmanuel College now more than ever before. Certainly there is no better investment in the kingdom of God than equipping the next generation to serve Him faithfully.”

A Night with DR. CHARLES STANLEY

On Thursday, May 12th a large group of Emmanuel College faculty members and friends of the college traveled to Atlanta, Ga. for an evening at the In Touch Ministries headquarters with Dr. Charles Stanley. One of Dr. Stanley’s most enjoyable hobbies is professional photography. Over the years he has captured a wide variety of stunning images from all over the world, and at the event Dr. Stanley shared his favorite photos and memories from his adventures.

In Touch Ministries began in 1972, with a half-hour program called “The Chapel Hour,” on Atlanta-area television stations. Today, “In Touch with Dr. Charles Stanley” is seen and heard around the world on more than 2,600 radio and television outlets in more than 50 languages. The award-winning In Touch magazine is distributed to more than 1.5 million households every month.

The staff at In Touch Ministries is made up of several Emmanuel College alumni including Chief Executive Officer, Phillip Bowen and Director of Public Relations, Seth Grey, among many others. Emmanuel College would like to thank Dr. Stanley for extending this special invitation and for his assistance in establishing the Charles F. Stanley scholarship.

LEAVING A LEGACY
JOHN THORTON BOYCE

One of the largest unrestricted gifts received in the history of Emmanuel College comes from the estate of Mr. JOHN THORTON BOYCE (Class of 1938). The check for $400,000 was presented to Emmanuel College President Dr. Ron White on August 12, 2015, by Mr. Boyce’s brother Ray.

Boyce’s Pastor of 35 years and close friend, Reverend Ernest Trueblood remembers Boyce for not only his giving nature, but his personal relationship with his Lord and Savior.

“John’s hallmark was his personal relationship with Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, his commitment to his family, to God, and to his local church,” Reverend Trueblood said. “In addition to his faithful stewardship to the church, he was dedicated to World Missions of the IPHC and Emmanuel College, never forgetting his Emmanuel roots.”

“Would you like to leave a legacy for others? Become an Emmanuel Legacy Member. Call today to see how this program can benefit you and others. Please call Brian James, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations at 706-498-0210 or email bjames@ec.edu.”
RODNEY ESTRADA
EC Archery Coach

Getting to know
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BY ASHLEY WESTBROOK

Throughout his five years at Emmanuel College as the Head Archery Coach, Rodney Estrada has quickly become one of the nation’s elite coaches. He has led a young Emmanuel team to two top ten season finishes and has had success on the world’s stage both as a Coach and Judge.

Estrada has been involved in the sport for 10 years, starting out as a Level 2 Coach and as a local/regional judge. Currently, Estrada holds a Level 4 Certification, of which there are only 57 active coaches in the world holding this qualification, and has moved up to being a National judge.

Estrada also works closely with the ITS Staff (International Team Staffing), so has coached Team USA in various forms around the world and is in the pool for coaching the Paralympic team for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro this summer.

“When I received Regional Coach of the Year, it was a validation that I’ve picked a ministry with which I can reach people in my sport and be a positive light,” Estrada said. “The second year, it was further validation. Of course last year I was National Coach of the Year and received a bunch of nominations for International and other things, but the ones that I’ve won have been validations that I’ve picked the right path.”

As for his favorite moment of his career? Coach Estrada has several, including one from this summer when he traveled with Team USA to Mongolia for the World University Games.

“Eight years ago I guess was my first favorite moment when my third child Allison, who has epilepsy, had a seizure on the Archery field,” Coach Estrada said. “I took her out for a medical, and we had fifteen minutes to get back to the tournament or she was disqualified, and she got through her seizure, insisted on getting up and shooting again. She did so and got up and won the Gold Medal.”

“In Mongolia with Team USA Archery, the kids that I worked with when we won Bronzes at the World Level the flagpoles go up and of course the Gold and Silver flags go up and then the Bronze flag goes up and it’s the United States,” Estrada continued. “That was amazing to represent the United States, and see our flag go up and know that I was a part of helping those kids earn Bronze Medals for our country, that was incredible. That was one of the most spectacular moments that I’ve had but they’re all my favorite for different reasons.”

Next, Estrada hopes to earn his Level 5 Certification, which is called Elite Coach Staffing. He also hopes to bring more students into the program who have not known Christ who will benefit from both being a part of the team and hearing the word.

Emmanuel Men’s Swimming freshman Alex Sobers out of Bridgetown, Barbados represented his home country in the 2016 Rio Olympics. The incoming freshman competed in the men’s 400m freestyle on Saturday August 6th, finishing 44th overall in a time of 3:59.97.

“It was so great to watch Alex (by TV), compete in Rio and cheer him on, we are so proud of him!” said Emmanuel Head Swimming Coach Allen Gilchrest. “We know he will enjoy the rest of his time at the Olympics and closing ceremonies, but we can’t wait for him to come to EC and be a part of the swim team. I spoke with Alex via email and he told me - The Olympic games in Rio have been amazing, I am really enjoying being here!”

Swimming at the Olympics continues through Saturday, Aug. 13 with preliminary events beginning at 12 p.m. ET and the finals running at 9 p.m. ET. Additionally, each event can be seen on the NBCOlympics.com live stream.
Northwood Temple in Fayetteville, NC has been hosting an annual Dinner Theatre for over 20 years which runs for nine weeks beginning on August 13 and running through October 15, 2016.

Emmanuel College alumnus, Buck Hodge ('68) is the minister of music at Northwood Temple and serves as the creator of each Dinner Theatre. This year’s production is entitled “Deer in The Headlights.”

Tickets are $23 per person which will include a buffet meal. One night of this year’s production will be deemed “Emmanuel College Night” and all of the proceeds will be donated to Emmanuel. So please join Emmanuel College President Dr. Ron White for a night of laughter and fun on Saturday, October 15 at 6:45p.m.

Please call the church office at 910-488-7474 for more information and to make reservations.