Dear Emory Families,

Our university community has engaged in extensive dialogue about the state of a liberal arts education. Led by the work of the Commission on the Liberal Arts (CoLA), our community conversation on envisioning the future and importance of a broad education has inspired many of us to find ways to describe our unapologetic passion for this educational approach. President James Wagner often calls the outcome of Emory’s residential liberal arts education at a research institution as, “Not only job ready but also life ready.”

Because we recognize that job ready remains a major focus for families, students, and the university, this newsletter highlights Emory’s Career Center as a critical resource. We will also host a Family Chat on career development with Dr. Paul Fowler in early March to provide more details on this signature campus resource. Our career development philosophy involves one-on-one advising and strong connections with academic departments, alumni, and families to pair passions with strengths in order to map successful career paths.

In almost 20 years working with college students and their families, I have come to believe that career readiness is a subset of life readiness. Skills and knowledge about a particular vocation are dampened significantly when students are not ready for life after college. Our academic and residency programs, extensive leadership opportunities, and student-to-alumni experience provide the foundational resources to develop life skills.

One key set of skills is living with and/or around others. In the next few weeks, students will secure their housing for the next academic
year. I encourage you to have conversations with your students because the experience of choosing roommates and securing new accommodations can be anxiety producing. As you may recall, Emory requires second-year students to live on campus because we deeply value the learning that occurs from this experience. Resources for information on housing selection include http://www.emory.edu/housing/selection and housing@emory.edu.

As you support your child in growing and developing into an adult who is life ready and job ready, I hope you will utilize the full complement of resources available at Emory. If you want help accessing those resources, please email family@emory.edu.

Best,

Andy Wilson
Senior Associate Dean for External Relations
Division of Campus Life
Student Spotlight: Dana Sokolowski 15C

Chicago, Illinois
Creative Writing/English with a minor in Film Studies

Creativity lies at the center of this College junior’s skill set. From writing to dance and design, Dana Sokolowski has demonstrated a drive and enthusiasm that continues to gain her recognition on campus and in the greater arts community. Her poem “The Statues” was awarded the 2013 Artistine Mann Award for Poetry, and she was nominated for Sir Salman Rushdie’s Master Class in Fiction in Spring 2013. She has also been invited to participate in readings of her work at events in the greater Atlanta literary community, including at the Decatur Book Festival and in the Vida Voce series at Mint Gallery.

Her strong writing skills have also led her to become a tutor at the Emory Writing Center, a student assistant in the Bookstore Liaison’s Office, and the editor-in-chief of The pulse: anthology of the arts. With fellow creative writing major Emily Gutierrez, Dana co-founded BLACK DOG, Emory’s first undergraduate student reading series, which is in the process of becoming The pulse’s sister organization, so the students who have their work published in the anthology will also be able to share their work in front of an audience.

Dana also co-founded and directed The SuperWriters’ Club, a five-weekend writing program at Anderson Livsey Elementary School. The program was designed to encourage a passion for reading and writing beyond the classroom setting for over 200 below state test level elementary students. After successfully devising and teaching the curriculum with four other students in summer 2013, Dana hopes to continue the program next summer.

Dana is also involved in Emory’s dance community. She is co-captain of Persuasion, an all-female hip-hop dance crew, and she has choreographed pieces for AHANA Dance, a student-run dance organization. She also serves as the publicity chair for AHANA, where she designs flyers, posters, program brochures, and t-shirts for the bi-annual dance showcase. Further, her flyer designs for the What’s New in Poetry reading series at the Emory Bookstore can be regularly spotted across campus, and her bus posters for the “Poetry On the Move” project—a project that brings poetry to unexpected place—can be found in Emory shuttles.

Dana credits Emory with where she is today: “I have found such a beautiful amalgamation of diverse talent and passion in Emory’s student body. It truly inspires me to create opportunities to bring that talent together to create something meaningful and lasting, whether it’s a dance piece or a literary anthology. I have also been blessed to form close relationships with members of Emory’s faculty. Their devotion to undergraduate education, in and out of the classroom, humbles me and I owe my growth and successes to their mentorship. My creative writing and film courses at Emory have deeply informed the way I approach my extracurricular, social, and career pursuits. They have taught me that seeking a greater understanding of human empathy and history is the key to a more thoughtful and informed society, in which success should be measured by the ability to realize honesty and authenticity in everything that you do.”
The Emory University Career Center advises and assists undergraduate students regarding career decision-making, employment opportunities, and academic programs and internships that will enhance the students’ skill sets. The Career Center also assists and develops relationships with employers and graduate schools wishing to recruit Emory students and alumni.

The office provides the tools necessary for your student to succeed through counseling, workshops, mock interviews, panels, employer recruiting and development, pre-professional advising, alumni relations, internships, self-assessment, and career research. In addition to holding counseling office hours, the staff at the Career Center offer document critique services and over 70 workshops, and they organize over 70 information sessions, 3 career fairs, 1 graduate school fair, and over 30 special events on campus each academic year. The Career Center is also home to a resource library that holds more than 1,000 career-relates titles, magazines, and directories. There students can research job and internship opportunities by major, location, and industry.

The Career Center is located in the B. Jones Center (200 Dowman Drive). For more information, visit the Career Center’s website at http://career.emory.edu. You can also join Executive Director Paul Fowler during March’s Parent & Family Programs webinar. Look for an announcement soon with the specific time and date.
**EMORY STUDENTS ARE LEADERS** on campus and in service to the greater community, with 90 percent regularly participating in volunteer activities. Ajay Nair, senior vice president and dean of campus life, is committed to providing these experiences by developing one of the strongest student life programs in the country. Make your gift today to the Campus Life Fund for Excellence and create opportunities outside of the classroom that shape students’ character and expand their horizons.