

Fast Winter 2018

The LEGACY

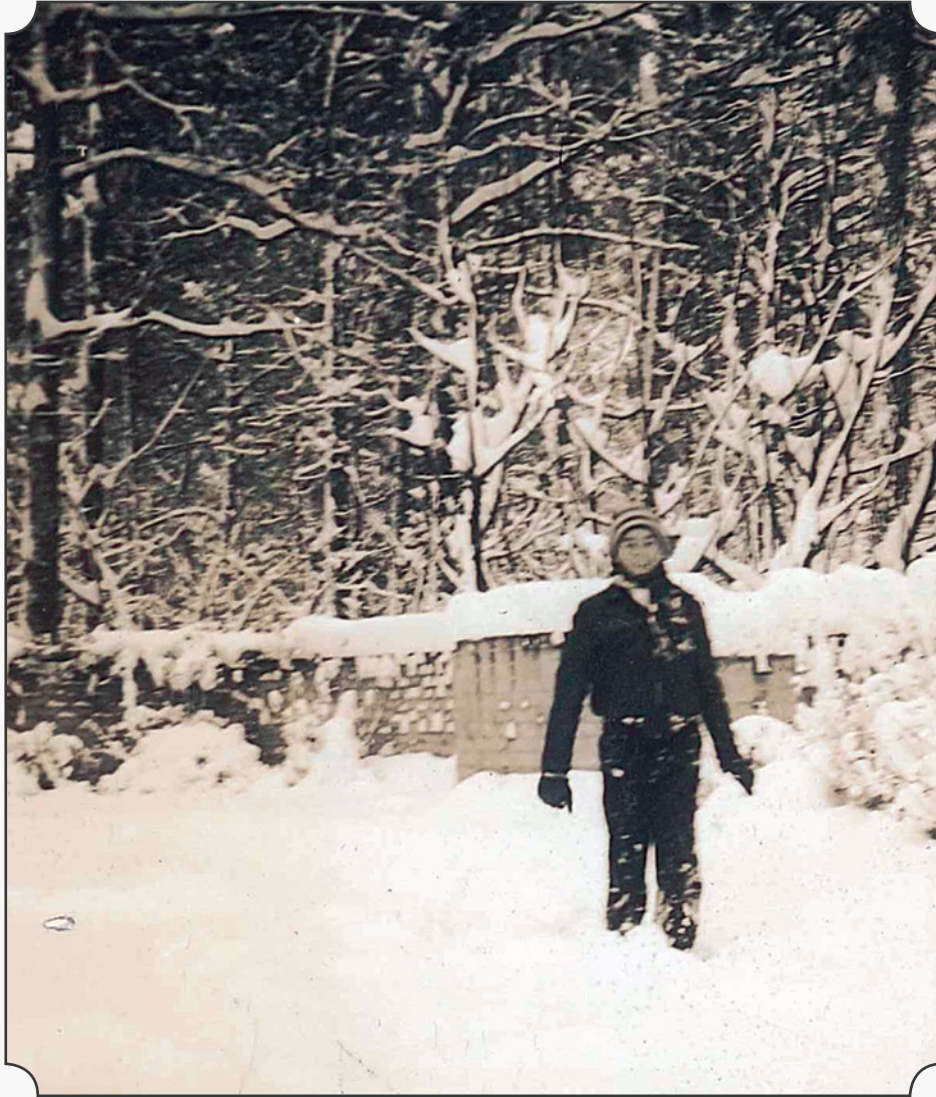
A Publication of Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc.

Winter
WONDERLAND
GOODRUM'S DEEP FREEZE

WALLS
of
FAME
T.R.R. COBB HOUSE FINISHES

Peas
OF MIND
A MEDITATION ON PEAS

Exploring
THE ART
of
NATURE
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Ten-inch snowfall at Goodrum House in Atlanta, Georgia
January 1940



Contents



4

Campus Notes

Watson-Brown Scholar Updates

12

Alumni Spotlight

by Shannon Friedmann Hatch

14

T.R.R. Cobb House

by Samuel M. Thomas, Jr.

16

Goodrum House

by Barbara Hyde

18

Sticks and Stones

by Franke Smith



OUR MISSION

The Watson-Brown Foundation, through creativity, diligence and financial support, labors to improve education in the American South by funding its schools and students, preserving its history, encouraging responsible scholarship and promoting the memory and values of our spiritual founders.

BOARD *of* TRUSTEES

.....R. Byron Attridge
..... Tad Brown
..... W. Wyche Fowler, Jr.
..... Joab M Lesesne, Jr.
..... John F. Woodham

CAMPUS NOTES

Watson-Brown Scholars in Action



MASON BUCHANAN

Mason Buchanan, Junior, Gardner-Webb University: “This year brought about the best and the worst of my time at college. As a college athlete, we get opportunities to interact with lots of people from all walks of life. Our team did several activities that touched people in our surrounding community. I was privileged to attend an FCA retreat as well. My fall semester brought about football and classes. I achieved one of my goals to play in live action. Unfortunately, I was injured in the same game. Having been no stranger to this type of injury, I was initially depressed. My faith in God brought me the strength to undergo another surgery. He showed his love and mercy through an incredibly successful recovery. When I realized that I wouldn’t be able to play that fall, I turned to my next goal to achieve a 4.0 semester average in my difficult curriculum. I came close in the fall but managed to achieve it in the spring. My life has been blessed with both highs and lows, but most of all the faith and family that one needs to be a true success. Thank you, Watson-Brown Foundation, for believing in me and allowing me this special time in life.”



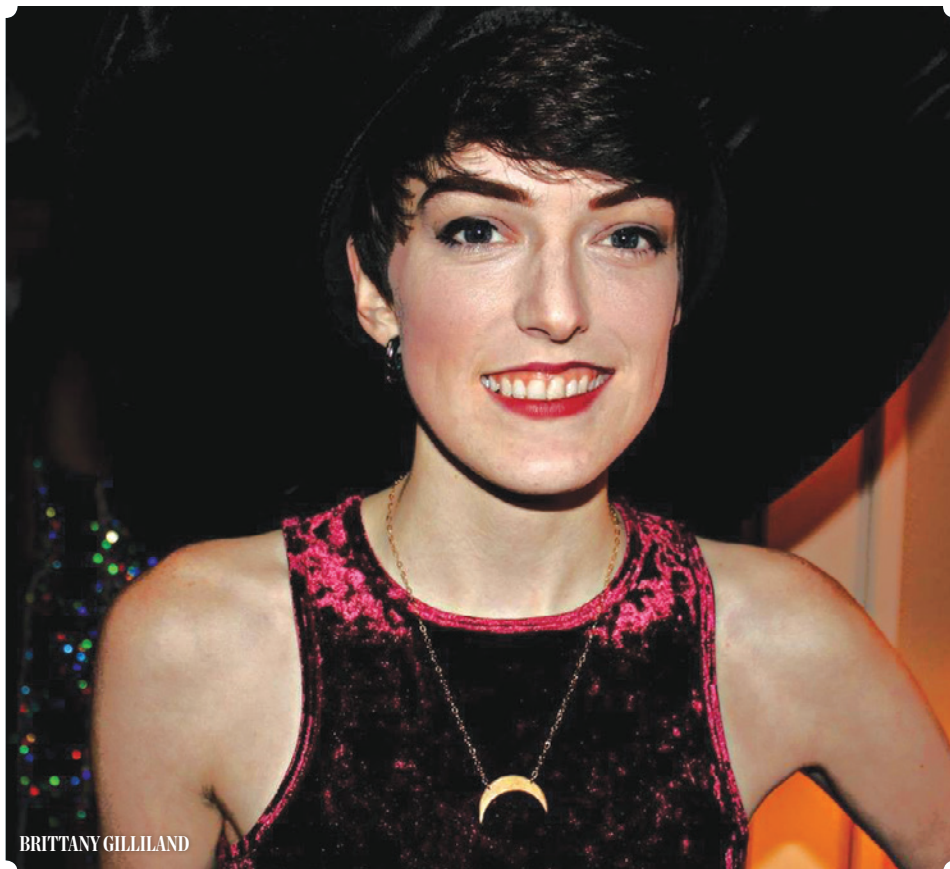
VICTORIA CLARK

Victoria Clark, Freshman, University of South Carolina – Columbia: “I have had an amazing time while studying at the University of South Carolina – Columbia! I have had a lot of great experiences, especially since I am a member of the Carolina Band! While being in the Carolina Band I have met so many people and am having the best student experience getting to go to all of the football games to play my clarinet!

“I am also a South Carolina Teaching Fellow, which is exciting as well! I have met other people who are also future educators, and I have been able to go out into the schools in Columbia, South Carolina, to work with students. I also participated in Cocky’s Reading Express, which meant that I went to schools and read books. I also help give each student a free book and the students met Cocky, our school mascot!

“I have learned a lot while being at USC, and I was so surprised how fast my freshman year went by! I have had so many fun experiences and I have worked so hard! I think the only thing that I was mostly surprised at was how much free time I had. I had to make sure I had enough of free time to complete my homework and study for my quizzes and tests! My freshman year of college at the University of South Carolina was amazing, and I cannot wait to see how the next three years go!”

Brittany Gilliland, Junior, Agnes Scott College: “This past academic year I transferred from Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, to Agnes Scott College. After my initial transition, I am very excited to say that I have found great success here, both academically and in my involvement around campus. We have a



BRITTANY GILLILAND

tradition here called Black Cat Week, which is a spirit week of sorts, which includes a variety of events where each class year competes for points. I took charge of our outdoor decorations for rushing the quad, a mad dash at midnight, sometimes under the guise of the classes’ chosen mascot (ours is the Riveters), which begins the overall event week. Each class puts items painted in their class color around the quad, matching their chosen week theme. This upcoming year, I will be the co-chair of Black Cat Week, which oversees the events and point systems of my favorite tradition!

“Among other things, I also received my Agnes Scott College ring and became part of the ‘Black Ring Mafia.’ This summer, I am a Hubert Scholar at Agnes Scott College which is a program awarded to a select few engaging in public service internships. I am the Special Events/Communications intern at New American Pathways in Atlanta, Georgia, which helps refugees and Georgia thrive. I’m helping to advertise and plan their annual fundraising gala, which will reap funds for the everyday needs of both the organization and refugees of Georgia.”

Joi McClellan, Sophomore, Southern Adventist University: “My first year as a student at Southern Adventist University has been full. Excitement, stress, disappointment and satisfaction have all been a part of

making this year a successful benchmark in my undergraduate studies. As a music student on a pre-dental track, the past two semesters have been beneficial in teaching me how to balance my demanding piano practice time and music courses with challenging science courses. One of the greatest academic highlights of this past semester was an Introduction to Dentistry course that I took. The class provided hands-on labs, such as extractions, tooth-waxing modeling, and mock dental exams. This class provided students with some of



JOI MCCLELLAN



ROSHNI MALDE

the basics of dentistry. In addition to my studies, I have had the opportunity to work as an accompanist for the university's select touring choir, which has helped me grow as a pianist. I also participated in student organizations, such as the Pre-Dental Club and ran for 2017–18 club officer. I have found my college experience to be difficult yet rewarding and am thankful to the Watson-Brown Foundation for helping to make my studies possible."

Roshni Malde, Senior, Georgia Institute of Technology: "I will be working on campus in two different departments this summer. My first job is as a student assistant in the Dean's office of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech, and the second position is also a student assistantship with the Office of Special Scholarships. Outside of my work life, my funk/jazz/rock band Fever Monkey will be recording and touring around the South on weekends during the next couple

of months. I am very excited about this since I have written most of our music. I am now an Advertising Officer for the GT Musician's Network and will be using my graphic design skills to advertise open mics and shows held at the Student Center. I am also going to use this time to do research on biology and mycology graduate programs across the country. My biggest accomplishment this year was discovering the queer scene in Atlanta and widening my support system within the Atlanta LGBT+ community. I have begun to explore the arts side of queer culture, such as drag shows, poetry slams, and queer music, and intend to keep on doing that through the summer."

Juan Migone, Senior, New York University: "Entering the second half of my college experience was very reminiscent of those anxiety-filled days of junior year in high school when I was asking, 'What do I want to do with myself? Where do I want to go to

college? Why is my childhood ending?'" (Cut to mental spasms from fear of the unknown.) This year it looked more like, 'How does grad school work? How do I fund my thesis next year? How do I start adulting?'" I was freaking out but amidst an incredible thrill of events, my favorite being studying abroad at NYU Florence.

"Going into study abroad, I knew I wanted to go big or go home with the experience. Italian would be easy to learn since Spanish is my first language, so I started learning it my freshman year at NYU to make sure my Italian was pretty strong coming in. Staying with a host family brought my speaking skills to a whole new level since this made me speak the language every day, while also completely submerging myself in Italian culture. The weekends I'd stay with the family, I wouldn't speak a word of English. Also, I got very close with my host parents' son and nieces, so, many times I'd go out at night with them and their Italian friends.



“Here was where I got to learn more about and experience the distinctness of Italy’s regional cultures. The kids I hung out with spoke Florentine when together, not Italian. At first the dialect was tough to understand, but after four months of hearing it for hours on end, I even picked some up!

“I knew that being in Europe it would be easy to travel to many other countries, but I was just so curious to know more about these unique Italian subcultures that I mainly stayed within the peninsula. I was able to go visit a variety of regions from the Piemonte by France to the Amalfi Coast in Campagna. My goal in traveling was to get off the beaten tourist path so I could find the locals wherever I went, even in the most touristy of cities like Venice. That’s how I got to experience the incredible differences between subcultures, try the authentic recipes of that place, and avoid the insane crowds of tourists. Not only the language but also the food, buildings, customs, and actions

between regions were so unique. Florence’s diet was much more meat and vegetables while, say, Venice’s was seafood and pasta. Also, I could barely understand Venetians when they spoke to me. Then, in Turin, I noticed how reserved and quiet the Italians were as compared to the more boisterous Florentines and Venetians. In the Italian-culture class I took in Florence, I learned these pronounced regional distinctions began forming after the fall of the Roman Empire because the geographical boundaries within the peninsula, the political and economic insecurities, and the strong family ties encouraged people to stay close to home.

“After coming back to reality this spring semester by being inundated with stress over my fast-approaching senior year, grad-school applications, and GRE preparations, my Italian adventures have forever changed me. Being in a homestay and learning Italian before I went abroad made me comfortable mixing in with the locals, giving

me an inexplicable rush while living in and learning about the richness, beauty, and depth of Italian culture through an Italian’s perspective. I’ve come out so much so with a greater fascination of other cultures and an urge to immerse myself in as many more as possible to the point where my first choice for graduate school is the Polytechnic University of Catalonia in Barcelona (among other reasons that it is an incredible choice for preparing me professionally)!

“My junior year at NYU was full of adventure to say the least. I cannot wait to see what senior year brings as I intern at Craudereuff & Associates, a green design firm that retrofits affordable housing with green infrastructure, or as I travel to Peru and Colombia to do research for my senior thesis on Latin American urbanization. I very much appreciate Watson-Brown’s contribution to my college education, because I know that without this I would not be on such a great adventure.”

William Neely, Sophomore, Holy Cross College/Notre Dame: “This past academic year, I was a part of the Holy Cross College – Notre Dame Gateway Program. Called ‘Gateway’ for short, this program guarantees students transfer admission to the University of Notre Dame after spending a year at Holy Cross College, provided that one maintains a 3.5 GPA. Being a part of this program was an incredibly rewarding experience, and it has allowed me to achieve my dream of becoming a Notre Dame student.

“Located on a grassy bluff above the St. Joseph River and separated from Notre Dame by a four lane highway, Holy Cross College’s campus is very small. There are only



six buildings on campus, and few people have heard of Holy Cross outside of north-central Indiana. But what Holy Cross lacks in size, it makes up for in heart. The school is administered by an order of Catholic monks (Brothers of Holy Cross) who are wholly committed to our education, and all of our professors are invested in our success. Because the average class at Holy Cross has only nineteen students, I have been able to form deep connections with my professors, easily participate in class discussions, and receive detailed and constructive feedback on all my assignments. Going into Holy Cross last August, I had no idea that attending a school with only 530 students would be to my advantage.

“The campuses of Holy Cross College, Saint Mary’s College (an all girls’ school located north of Holy Cross), and Notre Dame are all contiguous. As such, the three schools have formed a tri-campus community in which a student at one school can participate in extracurricular activities at all three schools, receive meal exchange tickets for eating at other schools’ dining halls, and easily take a class at another school. When I learned that I could participate in activities at Notre Dame, I decided to go out on a limb and audition for Notre Dame’s marching band, as I had played trombone in high school. At the time, I did not know that this would be one of the best decisions that I would make as a college student.

“Participating in a college marching band has been immensely different from my high school band experience. In northern Indiana, we don’t have to contend with the Georgia heat while practicing outside, and rehearsals are always organized and efficient. Since we are part of the oldest college marching band in the United States, the University treats us very well—this year, a dedicated practice facility was built for the band, and most band members travel several times a year to perform at bowl games and playoff games.

“I would argue, though, that the best aspect of being in the Notre Dame Band is not the free plane tickets to bowl games or even the music that we make. Rather, it is all of the incredible friendships that I have formed with my fellow band members. We played our instruments together, but we also studied together and ate together every day; we always have each other’s back. When you are struggling with your statistics homework, a band friend will drop what she’s doing to help you. When you have studied in the Notre Dame library until 4:30 a.m. and you don’t want to walk back to Holy Cross in the blowing snow, a band friend will



TRISTON SAUVOLA

let you sleep on his couch. As a future transfer student, knowing that I will have a superb group of friends for the next three years has made an immense difference in my life.

“As the legendary Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz once said, ‘For those who know Notre Dame, no explanation is necessary. For those who don’t, no explanation will suffice.’ Attending Notre Dame has been my dream, and this year, I made that dream into a reality. I am grateful to the University of Notre Dame for allowing me to prove myself in the Gateway Program, and I cannot be thankful enough for the Watson-Brown Foundation’s support of my ambition.”

Triston Sauvola, Senior, Wofford College: “This year, I began planning my schedule as if I were a creative writing minor, along with my typical biology major schedule. I found that the English and writing courses I took were a nice reprieve from the incredibly dense science courses required for my biology degree. For the spring semester, I declared a minor in creative writing and enrolled myself in an interim program dedicated solely to writing at least 750 words a day for the month of January. Prior to this experience, I had only written a few short stories for fun and had never shared anything I had written with anybody. However, through the month of January, I became more comfortable and confident sharing my work with my peers. I had never received any feedback on my work before, and I was pleasantly surprised to have such a warm response to my work. I continued my creative writing journey with a playwriting course in the spring semester, which included a surprisingly profound break from the short story customs with which I was becoming familiar. Still, the course offered me

insight into my own writing ability, strengths and weaknesses, and gave me some guidance regarding how I should approach writing creatively in the future, a practice that I have every intention to continue, with a short story writing course on my schedule for the fall.”

Elijah Scott, Senior, University of Georgia: “The past year has been filled with transformative experiences that I never could have imagined myself doing, all thanks to the support of the Watson-Brown Foundation. I spent six months living in Nairobi, Kenya, working for two nonprofit organizations. I facilitated two trial advocacy training programs for Kenyan lawyers and a wildlife crime conference for Kenya Wildlife Service officers and investigators through Lawyers Without Borders, ensuring that wildlife crime is properly investigated and litigated. I also worked with the African Prisons Project in three maximum-security prisons around the country, where I taught death row prisoners about the law and served as a paralegal to wrongly accused prisoners. In this role, I led a World Day Against the Death Penalty conference featuring members of Parliament, nonprofit leaders, and prisoners who were successfully challenging the death penalty in Kenya. I even managed in my free time to climb Mount Kenya, the second-highest mountain in Africa.

“For the past five months, I have worked as a criminal defense investigator at the Georgetown University Law Center Criminal Justice Clinic, where I zealously conducted investigations in order to ensure the constitutional rights of indigent clients. This work consisted of conducting investigations on behalf of clients accused of misdemeanors and felonies and included canvassing



ELJAH SCOTT

crime scenes, interviewing witnesses, and conducting background checks. The support of the Watson-Brown Foundation permitted me to focus primarily on the task of protecting the rights of the indigent and criminally accused and ensuring that their defense was just as good as those who could afford attorneys, rather than worrying about how I was going to live in Washington, DC, and pay rent for five months.

“This summer I will be working in the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education, and I am looking forward to the amazing educational and professional experiences that I will continue to have thanks to the Watson-Brown Foundation.”

Rebecca Wang, Freshman, John Hopkins University: “During this past year, I attended

Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. In my freshman year, I learned more about who I am and how to balance an academic and social life. I was able to meet so many new people from all around the world. Their experiences and interests have further inspired my academic interests and make me want to learn more and be more. I want to learn more languages; I want to travel more; I want to see more.

“During my freshman year, I was involved in a student organization called Charm City Science League, which is a student organized club that goes out to Baltimore public schools and mentors students in preparation for the Maryland Science Olympiad. I was elated by the students’ interest in the difficult subjects in the events of the competition and shocked by how quickly they were able



REBECCA WANG



QUINTAVIAS WATTS

to learn the information presented to them. Seeing such unpolished passions for sciences reinvigorated my passion for the sciences and my classes.

"This summer, I am going to work as a research intern at Augusta University and take a few online courses in various subjects that have sparked my interests during the year. I cannot wait to get started on my summer plans and see where these experiences will lead me."

Quintavias Watts, Freshman, University of South Carolina – Columbia: "Wow, I cannot believe how the year has flown by. I learned that attending college is a time of 'firsts.' For me, I spent the first half of the fall semester just getting acclimated to life away from home and learning my way around a big city, meeting new people, as well as running into people I already knew from my past but didn't realize we were attending the same school. College is a big adjustment. But adjustment in a good way. I learned what it is to have to really and truly buckle down and study to make good grades—study groups and sessions are a plus—and how important it is to develop relationships with your professors. My greatest accomplishment of the year was I would have to say learning to do my own laundry without messing up my clothes. Let's face it, until now I relied on my mom to do that. The thing that surprised me most about college is that I actually survived the freshman year. I joined an organization

called JCA (Japanese Culture Association). It is a club that brings Japanese culture to USC through fun and interactive social events. I took Japanese this past year and plan to study abroad in Japan next summer. I figured this would give me insight into the culture before I get there. As for the summer, I just plan to relax, work, volunteer and take a family vacation."

Abigayl Windsor, Sophomore, Wake Forest University: "This year was full of learning. Learning in the classroom, learning about the people around me, and learning about myself. Academically, I learned that science does not come easy to me. After three hard semesters full of challenging science courses, I realized I did not enjoy the classes and that no part of me wanted to learn any more science ever again. Instead, I declared my Spanish major this fall. Spanish is something I truly love and something about which I am excited to learn more every day. As wonderful as my spring semester was academically, I would say I learned just as much outside the classroom as I did inside. I lived in a house with nine other girls this year, which was an experience in and of itself. We lived in themed housing for Christian girls, sponsored by our campus ministry Reformed University Fellowship. Living in the house was hands-down the best part of my year. It was not always easy, but it was absolutely an incredible experience. I learned so much about how to be a good and considerate roommate. I also now really understand the value of flexibility and communication; it is always best to communicate clearly with those around you, but when that doesn't occur, you have to just roll with it. Beyond that, the girls I lived with taught me about life in general. We had hiccups this year, to be sure, but through watching how others handled strife, I learned much about how to have kindness and grace in tough situations. I was constantly reminded of how important it is to laugh. I cannot enumerate how many nights this year I went to bed with a stomachache because I was laughing so hard. The balance of sweet, serious moments and times of laughter resulted in an environment in which I was both insanely loved and challenged to improve.

"As I am reflecting over the past year, two themes stick out to me. The first, as I have previously mentioned, is learning. The second theme is something I learned more about this year and is slightly more complex than the first: the best moments of this year were also some of the hardest moments.



ABIGAYL WINDSOR

As someone once told me, ‘There are no shortcuts to life’s greatest achievements.’ I think I knew that before this year, but through the experiences I have had over the past nine months, I understand on a deeper level. What is worthwhile is not easy to attain, and obstacles almost always bring joy.

“This summer I am working as a camp counselor, and I know the skills I gained this year will be valuable assets. I am also studying abroad in the fall as part of the program for Spanish majors. I will be spending three months in Spain, where I think flexibility and knowledge of myself will probably be invaluable. Though this year at Wake Forest was one of the most challenging

years I have yet experienced, I can say with certainty that it was also one of the best years, and I am eager to see what I will learn these next few months.”

Amy Youngsman, Georgia Institute of Technology, Junior: “Since January of this year, I have been completing a co-op as a process development engineer with Abbott Laboratories (formerly St. Jude Medical), in Sylmar, California, outside of Los Angeles. Abbott is a large medical device company, and I have been working in the cardiovascular division, which primarily helps develop pacemakers, implantable cardioverter devices, and other implantable

devices. This program has been an incredible experience for me. I have loved getting to explore Southern California and have had a truly great experience at my company. I have enjoyed working on a variety of projects which I feel have helped me gain a great deal of practical knowledge in my field and have given me a better idea of what to expect from a future career in biomedical engineering. I am excited to finish up my degree at Georgia Tech next year and continue working in the medical device industry.”



AMY YOUNGSMAN

AUTUMN VON PLINSKY



Alumni Spotlight

BY SHANNON FRIEDMANN HATCH

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY HWONG, ILLUSTRATIONS BY AUTUMN VON PLINSKY



Male painted buntings look like rainbows with wings: Vermillion breast, chartreuse wings, cobalt head. The French call the striking birds *nonpareil* or “unrivalled,” and it’s easy to see why. However, the female buntings are dowdy by comparison, and their pale green plumage easily shrinks behind the leafy foliage where the species likes to hide.

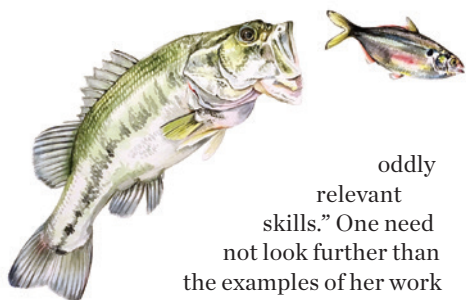
These are the sort of details that thrill Autumn Von Plinsky, an artist and graphic designer, who, from an early age was drawn to drawing nature. As a child growing up in Augusta, Georgia, she’d take walks with her grandparents through the trails of Phinizy Swamp, a 1150-acre wetland that hosts otters, alligators, and hawks. The park’s species captivated her imagination and sketchpad, and a middle school afterschool program on scientific illustration at John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, where she attended, added dimension to her career aspirations. Autumn said that the class, “opened my eyes to a professional direction other than, ‘I want to be an artist.’”



Autumn’s parents encouraged her to follow her creative pursuits. “There was not a lot of pressure and a lot of support,” she recalled. After graduation from high school, she followed her “wanderlust” to leave her hometown and landed at Yale University. “It was a big culture shock, as it was the first time I spent a significant amount of time outside of Georgia,” she said. But as she acclimated, she said it was the best decision she could have made. “I was surrounded by new viewpoints, intellectual arguments, and beautiful libraries and museums.” Plus, during her senior year, she was able to follow her interest in the natural sciences to the Museum of Natural History in New York City, where, as an intern, she re-cataloged and photographed microfossils the size of sandgrains.

It may seem a jump from artist to paleontology intern, but Autumn’s passion for art stems from a desire to showcase the majesty and mystery of the natural world, no matter the medium. Translating her gift from project to project is a skill that she’s picked up along the way. “Yale teaches the general idea of a topic, but leaves the how-to up to the students,” she said. As a graduate, she’s unflinching in the face of new creative challenges. “I’ve learned to unabashedly ask questions when I need to figure something out—as a result, I’ve developed disparate but

“I’ve learned to unabashedly ask questions when I need to figure something out—as a result, I’ve developed disparate but oddly relevant skills.”



oddly relevant skills.” One need not look further than the examples of her work in her portfolio to back up this claim: a 200-page field guide which she illustrated and designed for the Great Mountain Forest in Connecticut; greeting cards with hand-drawn raucous, party-hat-donning flamingos, kittens, and chameleons; and floral tea-canister wrappers and canvas totes for the New York Botanical Garden, where she recently served as the museum’s retail department’s full-time designer.

In April 2017, Autumn took her artistic talents to Kikkerland Design, Inc., a company that produces quirky home goods—one iconic design is a rainbow maker. There she primarily conceptualizes packaging and also sketches ideas for new products. In this new role, Autumn’s love of applied art is simply expanding to functional items that bring a smile to those who use them.

She’s years and miles away from the elevated wooden trails over Phinizy, where visitors still scan the wild Georgia wetland for a glimpse of high-stepping cranes wading in the water and painted turtles breaking the surface for a spot of sun. Wildlife may be skittish, but two abandoned silos at Beaver Dam trailhead stand like sentinels, tall and grey, much like the like the steel buildings that populate the island of Manhattan that Autumn now calls home. As a young artist trying to make her way in the city, Autumn was professionally inspired by those who assured her that she



didn’t need to know her way right away. “I learned that as I explored my interests, I became more comfortable with doing more exploring,” she said. At the foot of the Beaver Dam trail is the first sign Autumn designed for the park. She wanted to give back to a place that had given her so much. She’s found a way—full circle—to offer direction in the place she started, a beckoning to explore, an invitation to soak in the beauty of the natural world. Follow her steps, and explore.



PAPER HANGINGS



T.R.R. Cobb House

BY SAMUEL N. THOMAS, JR.

In *Architecture of the Old South*, Mills Lane wrote that historic houses are “three-dimensional history books.”

The history of a historic house evolves over the years with changes in ownership, the building of an additional wing, the adding of elaborate elements, or an altering of the furnishings to the latest style. All of these changes over time contribute to the home becoming a more suitable social space.

The home of the mid-1800s was seen as a place of respite, a comfortable and reflective sanctuary, a balance to the outside world. Wallpapers were seen as an important addition to any home. With wallpapers, the home was made more reflective of its owner's character and style, and the owners were often judged by the style of their furnishings.

The most popular wallpaper designs of the eighteenth century were Rococo inspired, with their elaborate scrollwork, ornate floral patterns, and naturalistic elements. Wallpaper design, production, and availability quickly entered into the upper- and middle-class lexicon following the opening of the London Exhibition of 1851, sometimes better known as the Crystal Palace. The exhibitions of the Crystal Palace were a display of the technologies, industrial accomplishments, and decorative arts from all over the world. (It was also designed to showcase Britain's might and patronizing advancements.) More than anything, however, the Crystal Palace exhibitions ushered in a period of the consumer class desiring all manner of home furnishings.

Andrew Jackson Downing, the great American landscape and architecture writer of the mid-nineteenth century reminded

his readers in *The Architecture of Country Homes*, published in 1850, that “every thing in architecture that can suggest or be made a symbol of social or domestic virtues, adds to its beauty, and exalts its character. Every material object that becomes the type of the spiritual, moral, or intellectual nature of man, becomes at once beautiful, because it is suggestive of the beautiful in human nature.”

His book was so widely read it became considered the essential “bible” of nearly everything having to do with the home or landscape. Every mid-nineteenth century woman had a copy of his book close at hand. Over the next decade, others jumped on the bandwagon. In 1852, the *Godey's Lady's Book* summarized their guidelines for wallpaper: “The scale of the room should determine the scale of the paper; large patterns were suitable only in large rooms. Diagonal trellis patterns and stripes appeared to heighten low rooms; wavy stripes were deemed most graceful. Small geometric patterns would hide soil in high-traffic areas such as sitting rooms, stairs, halls, and passages. Those based on ‘Elizabethan’ designs, such as quatrefoils are particularly good. Marble papers in light gray or yellow were also recommended for passages...”

So, what sort of wallpapers did the T.R.R. Cobb House have? We know that the rooms were wallpapered as Marion writes in a letter or two, but she never describes her papers. A.J. Downing suggested that “...in country houses, gilding should be very sparingly used...and very delicate tints, such as ashes of rose, pearl-gray, pale apple-green, etc, have a more chaste and satisfactory effect for the side walls—relieved by darker shades, for contrast.”

In September, we determined to paper both of the T.R.R. Cobb House's Sitting Rooms. For this project, we needed the expertise of a small cadre of specialists. We began the process by contracting a wallpaper study to be done in 2013 by a wonderful papers expert, Maryellen Higginbotham. Maryellen traversed the Southeast in search of homes of the period with intact 1850s wallpapers or knowledge of the period papers. In the end, her report documented her findings and laid out a list of recommendations as to what wallpapers Marion might have adorned the walls of her home.

After studying the final report, we conferred with Steve Larson at Adelphi Paper Hangings in Sharon Springs, New York. Steve is one of those rare individuals who combines a scholarly study of all things wallpaper with an artistic eye for what will work and what won't. Based on the wallpaper study findings and with Steve's recommendations, we made our selections. For Marion's Sitting Room, we chose a style known as “Rococo Strapwork,” dating to the 1845 to 1855 period. For Tom's Private Sitting Room, we chose “Wheatlands Volute,” dating to the mid-1850s.

This later choice was quite coincidental—or was it? It seems that the Wheatlands sample is so-named because it adorned a house in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, called “Wheatlands,” built in 1828 by William Jenkins. Twenty years later, the house was purchased by Secretary of State, James Buchanan. In 1856, Buchanan conducted his “front porch campaign” for President from the front porch of Wheatlands. Buchanan was a close friend of Howell and Mary Ann Cobb. After his election as President, Buchanan named Howell as his



“The scale of the room should determine the scale of the paper; large patterns were suitable only in large rooms.”



Secretary of the Treasury. Buchanan was also an acquaintance of T.R.R. Cobb. In fact, the Cobb family believed that Buchanan would go down in history as the greatest president the United States would ever see. I guess you can't be right about everything. It seems that everything done in this house in the present period, in one way or another, makes a connection back to the Cobb family—even when you don't set out with that intention.

Now that we had the designs, Steve and his crew went to work producing the two historic designs in their factory in New York. Once completed, they were shipped to us in two large boxes.

All we had to do now was to hang them.

The last time that I attempted to hang wallpaper myself almost led to divorce. So, we determined to find the right experts who could hang wallpaper in the historic way. These wallpapers are not like those that you pick up at the neighborhood wallpaper store, take home, spread out, put some water onto the adhesive backing and then try very hard to hang them straight. These papers had no adhesive backing, just as those of the 1800s.

Enter Jim Yates of Historic Wallpaper Specialties out of Johnson City, Tennessee. Jim and his crew of three came in and worked for a week in preparing and hanging the papers in the same way as any paper hanger of the nineteenth century. First, a primer was added

to the walls, followed by a coating of medium weight cotton muslin. Next, an acid-free paper liner was applied over the muslin to promote the longevity of the paper. A paste is then added to the walls, and finally the paper goes up. The key to the last stage is to ensure that the seams of the paper overlap approximately one half inch, in keeping with nineteenth century standards, while ensuring that there are no breaks in the overall design.

The final result is worthy of anything that Marion or any of the Cobbs would have seen at the Crystal Palace in 1851. I think you'll agree that as one of our older visitors commented upon seeing the newly opened room, “It's just darn purty.”



SNOWPOCALYPSE



Goodrum House

BY BARBARA HYDE



Having grown up in the Snow Belt of New York and lived with the possibility of “lake-effect snow” falling between October and April, it was impossible that a 10-inch snowstorm could shut down Syracuse, New York. So when I came across photographs of a snow-covered Goodrum House in Atlanta, Georgia, I had to investigate. In January 2014, most Atlantans probably didn’t realize ‘snowpocalypse’ wasn’t the largest snowfall in Atlanta. That distinction was set on Tuesday, January 23, 1940.

The Atlanta Constitution’s morning headline on Wednesday, January 24, 1940 read “DEEPEST SNOW IN HISTORY CRIPPLES CITY; FREEZE THREATENS MORE TROUBLE TODAY”. Georgia was blanketed in snow from her northern mountains to as far south as Americus and Swainsboro. Atlanta’s accumulation peaked at 10.3 inches. While retail stores sold out of overshoes and golashes, milk and newspaper deliveries were temporarily halted. Residential garbage collection was at a standstill. All 250 city taxi cabs were in short supply as street cars were overwhelmed with workers trying to return home. By Tuesday afternoon public buildings and retail establishments had closed, and the county courthouse ran with a skeleton crew to field incoming phone calls.

Atlantans, ever resourceful, came up with a variety of activities with which to while away the time. The ‘Snowman Cocktail’ was reportedly the most popular alcoholic beverage in downtown office buildings. Likely a concoction of items found in most office kitchenettes, the recipe printed in *The Atlanta Constitution* read:

*Snow. Pure Cream. Sugar.
Season to taste with rye or rum.*

The rum, experts explained, gives it a sheen somewhat akin to that of a mint julep, and therefore is highly preferable to Southern palates.

Housewives pulled out their recipes for ‘Snow Ice Cream’ from four years prior when 8.2 inches accumulated on their windowsills. They scooped it up, mixed it with cream and a little flavoring to serve as a sweet end to the cold evening’s supper.

Schools closed and both teachers and students engaged in



SNOW COVERED GOODRUM HOUSE



May at the steps of Goodrum House



Clara Cody, housekeeper at the gate

snowball battles or showed off their snow-sculpting skills. “Girls Vanquish Tech Men in Bitter Battle of Snow” recounts the details of a snowball fight between merciless girls with superior throwing skills and ill-equipped, overdressed boys. With the December 15 premier of *Gone With The Wind* fresh in everyone’s mind, the most popular snow lady was Scarlett O’Hara. Schools would remain closed the rest of the week while sledding, skiing, and ice-skating became fleeting pastimes.

Here at Goodrum House, the residents ventured out with dogs and a camera in hand. Clara Cody, the housekeeper, looks

fashionable in her full-length coat as she wades through calf-deep snow in the serpentine garden. Everpresent in most the photos is Clara’s canine shadow, Mack, a favorite mutt brought home from the stray dog pound years prior. The photograph of May, pictured in her three-quarter length mink coat, offers a rare glimpse of the stack-stone staircase leading from the Gothic-styled camellia house to the rear terrace of the main home. Ken, Clara’s fourteen-year-old son, traipses around the yard in his knit cap and scarf. It was likely the gates to the property remained closed until sanitation crews could remove the snow in residential

areas some two to three days later.

By Monday, temperatures had risen to the low 40s. January would go down in the Atlanta Weather Bureau books as the coldest in its sixty-one-year history. Produce and fruit had perished throughout the South causing spikes of 200 to 300 percent in pricing. Fear of drought for the upcoming summer was running high. Newspaper headlines returned to debating the effectiveness of President Roosevelt’s New Deal policies and the continuing war in Europe. Life slowly resumed its regularly scheduled program.





A MEDITATION ON PEAS



Sticks & Stones

BY FRANKE SMITH

A decade ago or so I was offered a bag of peas. Not just any peas, mind you, a very special bag of peas. These were peas no longer grown in the South but were once ubiquitous on the Southern table—a cherished cousin of the black-eyed pea but with a smoother texture and a gentler flavor. I was offered a bag of Sea Island Red Peas.

The gentleman doing the gifting was none other than Dr. David Shields, a professor of literature at the University of South Carolina and a self-made Southern culinary historian. He explained that these magic beans were a form of cow pea, brought from Africa in the seventeenth century and grown on the Sea Islands of Georgia and the Carolinas. They were the original pea used for Reezzy Peazy in the spring and in Hoppin' John during the remainder of the year. I admit I was skeptical, not being a fan of black-eyed peas, that this would be a crop worth growing let alone eating. But the anthropologist in me won out and into the ground went the seeds.

Dr. Shields works to reestablish many of the "lost" foods of the Southern table, among them Carolina Gold Rice, black Benne, African runner peanuts, and other highly flavorful, yet challenging to grow and harvest, crops. The Sea Island Red Peas were one of these lost varieties.

"The colored people were given their rations once a week, on Monday, they got corn, and a quart of molasses, and three pounds of bacon, and sometimes meat and peas. They had all the vegetables they wanted; they grew

them in the gardens. When the boats first came in from Africa with the slaves, a big pot of peas was cooked and the people ate it with their hands right from the pot."

— Henry Brown, *Federal Writer's Project Slave Narratives*, 1937

We planted sparingly the first couple of times, barely growing enough to generate new seed for the following year, observing the growth habits, irrigation needs, etc. It was clear from the beginning that the deer loved the peas. They bedded down in them, chewed off every leaf, yet the peas still produced delicate purple flowers that morphed into 8- to 12-inch-long pods filled with tiny, ruddy brown peas on long twisting vines that were apt to trip the inattentive picker. And they were prolific, happily churning out pods until well after the first frost. Once or twice we had sufficient stock to give away, but I was still reticent to invest a Sunday in doing a proper pea cooking.

This year, we decided to attempt an actual full plot, which as anyone who knows our "never-do-things-by-half-measure" grounds keeper, meant a large plot with a second illicit patch tucked between the brown cotton and zinnia patches on the other side of the property. We began picking in early September when the first deep green pods turned a pale tan and crackled at the touch.

These are not cooperative peas, oh no, they do not all transform from green to brown within the span of two weeks to facilitate picking. Rather, like most things Southern, they take their own sweet time over the

course of months forcing pickers to visit the pea patch thrice weekly under a blazing sky to liberally moisten the ground with sweat and, occasionally, blood when a yellow jacket is grabbed along with a pod. Glenn Roberts, founder of Anson Mills and Shields' partner in culinary crime, once observed, "these things grow like kudzu." Indeed.

FIELD PEAS

"There are many varieties of these peas; the smaller kind are the most delicate. Have them young and newly gathered, shell and boil them tender; pour them in a colander to drain; put some lard in a frying pan; when it boils, mash the peas, and fry them in a cake of a light brown; put it in the dish with the crust uppermost—garnish with thin bits of fried bacon. They are very nice when fried whole, so that each pea is distinct from the other; but they must be boiled less, and fried with great care. Plain boiling is a very common way of dressing them."

— Mary Randolph,

The Virginia Housewife, 1824

Faced with, quite literally, gallons of peas I decided to delve into the finer culinary arts of old Southern pea cooking. Four hours of preparing a proper ham and chicken stock, ninety minutes of simmering peas with carrots, celery, bell pepper, and onion, and a pot of Carolina Gold Rice later produced a sweet, creamy dish that no chalky, bitter black-eyed pea could possibly equal.

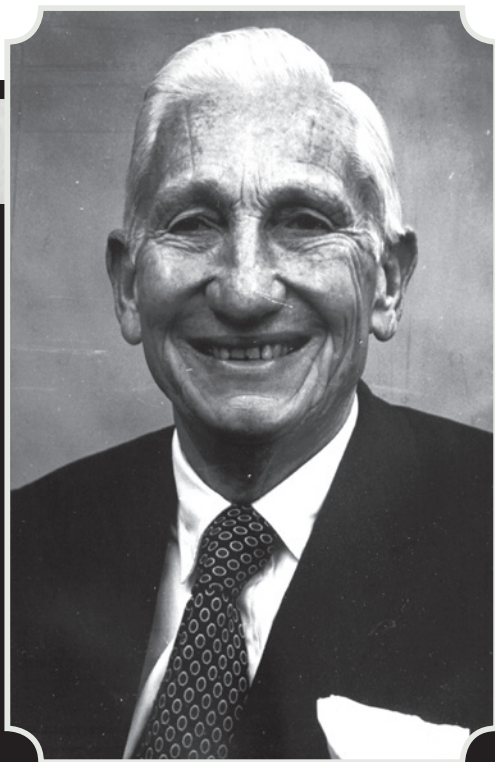
Next year, we trellis the peas!



310 TOM WATSON WAY | THOMSON, GA 30824-0037

watson-brown.org

NON PROFIT
PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
#61
THOMSON, GA



OUR FOUNDER

Walter J. Brown was a journalist and a broadcast pioneer who built and chaired what would become Spartan Communications, Inc., one of the larger privately held TV companies in the country.

Early in his career, Brown had an office in the White House when he served on the staff of Secretary of State James F. Byrnes. Brown's enduring love for politics was eclipsed only by his respect for Jimmy Byrnes. Inspired in part by Byrnes's philanthropy—which in 1948 established the James F. Byrnes Foundation—Brown created his own private Foundation in 1970. Named for Thomas E. Watson and J.J. Brown, the men to whom Brown attributed his success, the Watson-Brown Foundation today continues to ensure that hundreds of deserving students are provided the opportunity to excel at the college of their choice.