

Winter 2022

The LEGACY

A Publication of Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc.

NEVER

Going to

QUIT

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Finding
HISTORY

THOMAS R.R. COBB

Going
GREEN

STICKS & STONES



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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.

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CAMPUS NOTES



Watson-Brown Scholars in Action



ANSLEY AUFIERO

SOPHOMORE, AGNES SCOTT
COLLEGE

“I have wanted to visit Italy as long as I could remember, and I got to spend a week in Tuscany as a part of a global immersion course. I took an art and politics course, and I never knew that nearly everything to do with Renaissance-era art had to do with the Medici family. In visiting Florence, Pisa, and Siena, I learned about the Medici family’s influence in Italy and how you can still see it today, and I have even been able to tell friends planning a visit to Italy several fun facts about places they would be going. However, my favorite day of the trip was probably the day we got to spend on our own. My roommate and I spent the whole day wandering the city and shopping at the markets. By the end of the trip, we were very comfortable walking around Florence and had learned our way around the city

a bit. Our last night, we stayed up until we left for the airport because our flight was so early, so we got a late dinner and gelato and spent the night discussing the trip. We hadn’t spoken much before the trip, so we really enjoyed getting to know each other, too. This was my first flight and first time leaving the country, so it was very nerve-wracking and exciting, but it was my favorite experience of the year.”

BRANTLEY JONES

SOPHOMORE, ABRAHAM BALDWIN
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

“My first year of college definitely brought change. I was surprised at the adjustment of living away from home and having new responsibilities. My discipline in attending classes and working hard was evident in my grades during my first year. I participated in intramural basketball and flag football; I also discovered some great fishing holes. Overall, I had a great first year of college



and was able to live and spend time with people from my hometown.”

“My sophomore year will bring about a change. I will be moving farther away from my home and will step out of my comfort zone. I am transferring to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College to pursue a degree in Wildlife Biology. I am looking forward to finishing a few core classes and beginning to take courses from my major. While in Tifton, I plan to explore the wildlife management areas and look for places to hunt and fish.”



DANIELA VELEZ

SENIOR, AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

“My sophomore year was an amazing year. This year has been pretty impactful in my personal and educational life. I was recently able to go to Impressions Day at the Dental College of Georgia, a

program led by dental students that offers an insight into what being a dental student is all about. This experience greatly solidified my goal of becoming a dentist. Being able to meet new people who aspire to the same things and who are just as eager about their next chapter as I am made my journey to getting into dental school feel all the more exciting. I was able to talk to dental students about their journeys and receive great advice that I will take with me. On top of that, I have learned the benefits of surrounding myself with positive energy, and I have learned how to surpass and overcome doubts about my future career. It can sometimes be hard to overcome insecurities and doubts about whether or not you are able to reach a goal that has been a long time coming. Being a dentist has been my greatest goal for as long as I can remember, and I am now applying to dental school this upcoming cycle. This year, I have had to deal with overcoming doubts, and while this is common for anyone passionate about their goals, it can be very stressful, especially when you don’t surround yourself with the right people. Luckily, I have met some really great people that I am blessed to call my friends who are going through the same things as me. We push each other to be the best versions of ourselves, and we lift each other up when we are having doubts. Through them, I have learned the importance of cutting out negative energy and surrounding myself with people who genuinely want to see me succeed. The picture was taken during Impressions Day at DCG with students that I had met that same day who also want to pursue a career in dentistry.”

MEGAN FULMER

SENIOR, CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

“This year was my junior year, and it was arguably the most fun and the most challenging year yet. I am a nursing major, so I was able to gain lots of experience in the hospital. There was one experience in particular that made my year. I remember being at the pediatric unit of a hospital and being able to hold an 8-month-old infant whose parents were not able to be there at that time. I was able to hold

the infant for quite some time, even while charting. The rising sun was shining through the windows and the child was sleeping cradled in my arms. It made me remember why I wanted to go into nursing — so I could help others. It also motivated me to keep going. Despite classes getting harder and more strenuous, I remembered in that moment why I had to stick with it. So, with my college years quickly coming to a close, I want to finish strong because it will be worth it.”



MATTHEW REID

SENIOR, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

“My junior year has been a year of growth.”

“In both the fall and spring, I got confirmation I’m in the right major: I hit the math-filled junior-level electrical engineering classes and I absolutely loved them. Now that I’m all settled in my major, it’s time for me to pick an electrical engineering concentration during my senior year! I’m thankful for Watson-Brown’s financial support, which enables me to take these classes and put the needed time in studying. Although I lived off campus, I kept the dining hall meal plan, allowing me to remain studying on campus until late at night.”



Matthew Reid

“This spring, I also did my first Clemson undergrad research. I wrote computer code in Python for a bioengineering lab focused on giving doctors practical metrics to improve their effectiveness and their patients’ comfort. Specifically, I contributed to code that rates doctors on forehand versus backhand suturing performance on a suturing simulator. I then used those Python coding skills at this summer’s internship at Savannah River National Lab. I know this first taste of undergrad research will help me as I begin senior year electrical engineering photonics research that I hope will culminate in graduating with honors.”

“This past year, I also began serving my church college group Cooperative Student Fellowship through a position on its council. It was a good challenge to choose music for worship each week, help pick themes for the semester, and help to plan our meetings and trips. I also continued to accompany each week’s worship song on piano. On Clemson’s spring break, we drove up to Hurley, West Virginia to serve people who had their house damaged by a flood back in 2020. I learned a lot about basic woodworking, and it was great to get to meet the folks, share a meal with them, and know we were helping their house feel more like home.”

“I’ve always loved being in Clemson University Singers, but this fall, I had multiple course conflicts, so that the only choir I could audition for was the

top-level chamber choir called Cantorei. Somehow, I made it in! There were so many talented musicians and then my little brother Timmy made it in as well (as a freshman!), which made choir class extra fun. I hope we both make the cut again and are able to welcome in the new members this fall. Then this last spring, when I could rejoin CU Singers, the director asked me to be the bass section leader. Being section leader made me realize and appreciate how others have welcomed me into my various groups and have built community.”

“Being back on the field playing the sousaphone for Clemson’s Tiger Band this fall was something special. Last season, in 2020, with heavy Covid mitigations in place, we were one of only a handful of college bands to practice, march, and play in the stands, but we weren’t allowed to travel to away games, nor to be on the field during the football games. Instead, we pre-recorded our halftime marching show and played the video on the big screen with live music. This season, it was great to perform our pre-game traditions again and march live for Tiger fans home and away. My little brother Timmy (also a Watson-Brown scholar) joined the sousaphone section, and we had 23 “sousas” — the largest section we’ve had in years.”



Kaustubha Reddy

KAUSTUBHA REDDY

JUNIOR, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

“This year was a battle, but it was a battle that I won. I learned a lot — from academia, like anatomy and chemistry, to lessons about myself, like how to handle personal and professional setbacks. I grew in terms of accepting mental health challenges and in learning that it’s worth leaving the comfort of a toxic routine for novelty that can bring genuine joy.”

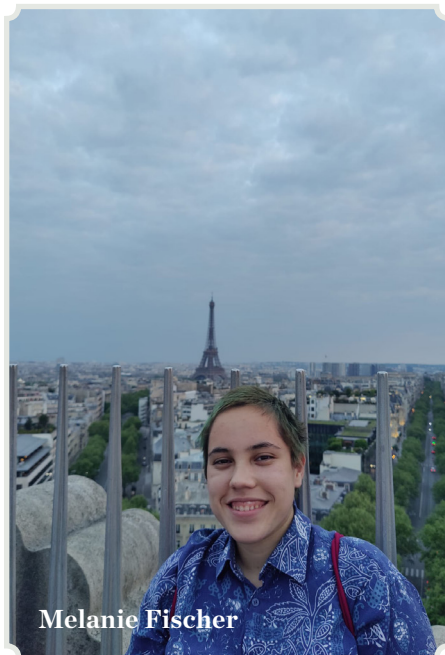
“I am proud of my recent status as a certified trainer for QPR (Question-Persuade-Refer), which is quintessential training intended to identify, reduce, and prevent suicidal behaviors. I hope to conduct workshops next semester to train more students in QPR. Furthermore, I have gained mentorship roles in my medical fraternity Phi Delta Epsilon, where I help novice pre-medical students blueprint their future paths. Lastly, one of my favorite accomplishments this year is my role in being a founding “mother” for Clemson University’s first chapter of The Women’s Network, in which I serve as the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. I aspire to plant the seeds of hope among my female colleagues, and I work as a mentor to spearhead compassion, support, ambition, and success, creating a community of women that celebrate the desire to achieve and cultivate ambition to prepare the next generation of leaders.”

MELANIE FISCHER

SENIOR, COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

“This semester I was fortunate enough to study abroad through Semester at Sea. We visited 13 countries across Europe (including France where the picture of me and the Eiffel Tower was taken). It was an amazing experience for me and allowed me to grow as a person and as a student. Being able to apply what we learned in the classrooms onto real-life issues we saw firsthand was invaluable, including pollution issues in Croatia or LGBT rights in Sweden. Itinerary changes and unexpected opportunities allowed me to become more flexible with uncertainty and not knowing the answers. I was also able to meet amazing

people from all over the globe and make lifelong friends. This semester has been my favorite so far and the excitement continues as I fly off to my Research Experiences for Undergraduates internship at Friday Harbor Labs in the state of Washington in June. I am so excited to conduct research pertaining to the biodiversity of Pacific Northwest fishes, write a manuscript and hopefully figure out more concrete plans for graduate school.”



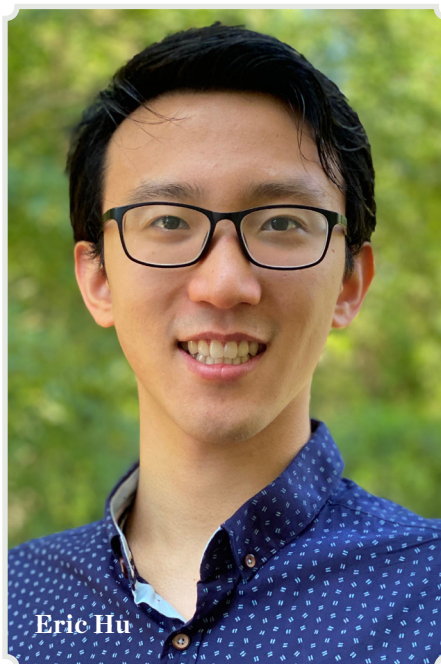
Melanie Fischer

ERIC HU

SENIOR, GEORGIA INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

“I have experienced many memorable and helpful moments during this past year. One of the greatest achievements that I earned during this year was taking the weight of the GRE exam off my shoulders and finishing the exam with flying colors. Additionally, I was also able to meet new friends throughout this year and found a solution through every hurdle that came before me. My favorite club on campus in would have to be HexLabs, which hosts the Georgia Tech HackGT Hackathon. I love working with my closest friends and being able to host a competition for my friends outside of the club is a wonderful treat. I plan on helping the organization out during the summer while I also interning at Regeneron in

New York. This year was pretty hectic, but I loved every second of my third year at Tech.”



Eric Hu

ROBYN RAYFORD

SOPHOMORE, UNIVERSITY
OF GEORGIA

“I have been all over the Eastern and Southern United States in the past ten years. I’ve seen Georgia, where I live, and probably around 15 other states. Aside from maybe Colorado and California, I’m not sure I’d want to explore the West Coast due to my unyielding devotion to the East Coast: We’re definitely the superior side of the country. It makes sense that when the opportunity to explore potential study abroad locations arose, I chose to continue to look eastward and southward.”

“I didn’t even think something like a study abroad experience was in my realm of reality. My family has never left the country, so I assumed I would follow suit. Not only do expenses play a pivotal role in my participation in international travel, I was certain that I would lose my mind spending too much time away from home. I had only heard of half-year semesters and yearlong semesters, and I knew that I would get homesick. For Christ’s sake, I drive almost two hours home from school every weekend. Even with that in mind, I looked into some programs just to see what was out there. There were unfortunately no programs available for my major. Defeated, I

scrolled through the website anyway.”

“I saw that there were shorter terms available, even going down to just one week abroad. Though in hindsight, those trips are far too expensive for just one week. When I found out there were May semester terms available, I started to seriously consider a trip out of the country. Some of my apprehensions were fading away. I knew that I didn’t want to go to Europe — concrete jungles are just not my vibe. South America, Asia, and Africa had a surprisingly large number of available programs. I was able to narrow my search down to three locations: Tanzania, Indonesia, and Togo.”

“I still didn’t think I’d end up going, but sent an application on a whim anyway. It was December and the applications were about to close. I threw together some essays and did some interviews and I actually got accepted. I do have confidence in my academic performance, but this wasn’t high school. I didn’t have to only compete against the few other students who cared enough to apply for incredible opportunities, this was university, the land of go-getters. I was so shocked to see my acceptance into two programs, Togo and Bali. When I found out, I told everyone. Everyone in my inner circle, heck, even my outer circle, knew that I was studying abroad.”

“I decided to go to Togo, a country in West Africa. The flight was easily the longest I’ve been on; I will definitely try to get first class my next go-round. I am going



Robyn Rayford

to be honest; I saw right through the actual classwork and paid sole attention to where I was going when I applied. I ended up studying the psychology of racism and prejudice while I was there, and I absolutely loved it. It was our professor's first time orchestrating that trip. Our coursework was so engaging and interesting. We had three-hour- long, discussion-based classes every day, so we were able to participate a lot. We got to meet with so many important people in Togo, including two mayors and the president of the university we were studying alongside. We got to see waterfalls, mountains and beaches. The traffic there was so different, so many people rode on scooters instead of in cars. The fruit was fresh and locally grown, the hotel was beach front, the staff was wonderful. I have nothing but praises for this experience, and I will definitely be going again!"

CAMRYN HIPP

SENIOR, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA COLUMBIA

"This semester has truly shown me my passions and ambitions. It was also the most rewarding semester of my college career thus far. I changed my major about a month into the semester after realizing that broadcast journalism was not for me. I'm now a mass communications major who hopes to work in nonprofit communications after graduation. I felt a weight lift off my shoulders after that switch, and I was so much more passionate about my education. My mentality was considerably better, and I finished the semester with a 4.0. Aside from my classes, I started my position as president of Advocates Against Alzheimer's. This organization was one of the factors that influenced my decision to change my major and pursue nonprofit communications. This semester, I also had a great internship. Chernoff Newman hired me as a media intern and invited me to stay for the summer and upcoming semesters. It's been a fantastic internship, and I'm learning so much. In the last few weeks, I've been approached by a nonprofit in my hometown about taking over

their communications, and I'm very excited about that as well. Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to figure out my passions and path, and I am grateful every day for receiving it and being able to attend my dream college."



RUTHIE NASH

SOPHOMORE, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA

"This year I joined Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and received the Buff Award for making Dean's List for Fall 2021. I also made the Dean's list this term (Spring 2022). I have joined the hiking club and the textiles club. This summer I am working at Hickory Hill with the summer camp and looking forward to school starting in the fall. I plan on taking on some leadership positions within the sorority and my clubs."

"The photo is of my initiation day into Alpha Gamma Delta with my big sister, Caeley Wilson and the gold steeple atop Price Memorial Hall at the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega."

DELARIO NANCE JR.

JUNIOR, DAVIDSON COLLEGE

"During the spring semester, my relationship with God strengthened. Specifically, when taking the second

test in one of my courses, I was completely stuck on two questions for hours. I did not have any idea how to solve them. Despite trying multiple different methods, I could not solve them. While taking the test, I realized that my knowledge so far in my life was only because God allowed me to have it. Therefore, I prayed to God, asking him for understanding to score an A on the test if allowing me to do so was his will. Later that day, during the night before the test was due, I still could not complete the test. Therefore, I had to make a choice: 1) Would I stress over the test and stay up all night trying to complete it? or 2) Would I get my rest and not stress, trusting that God is in control regardless of what I score on the test?"

"The next morning, when continuing to work on the test, another way to solve a question entered my mind. At first, I wasn't sure if the way would work. I essentially thought, "Well, no other way worked so what's the worst that could happen in trying this new approach?" It turns out that that approach would be the approach that I would use to solve the problem. Thankfully, God allowed me to score a 96 on the test, even though I had accepted the fact that not getting a good grade would be okay if such was his will. I can't logically prove that God was behind anything that occurred while I took the test that I have described here, but I know that he was."

MAKARIA SANDERS

SENIOR, ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

"People always say that college is the place to make lifelong friends. It's a unique time of life where we get to meet people who are often very different from us but are united by common interests and passions. In college, we pursue our individual career path, but we do it alongside people our age. From early morning 8 a.m. classes to late-night exam cram sessions, incredible memories and lasting connections are made. These connections are huge part of what college is all about. But not

every connection continues. Not every freshman-year friendship deepens into a lasting relationship that has the potential to outlive our time at school.”

“As a rising senior, I’ve spent the past four years reflecting on what it is in each friendship that determines whether it will fizzle out or finish strong.”

“A friendship is only as strong as the thing around which it is centered. In other words, the focus of a friendship determines its lifespan. Let me explain: Two freshmen girls who meet during the first week of classes might become fast friends during the excitement and angst of a new environment. Having a familiar face in an overwhelming crowd of people is fun and reassuring. However, if the two girls learn little about one another’s interests or do not make the effort to spend intentional time together, their relationship will struggle to last longer than the initial freshman hype. In the coming semesters, busy schedules and evolving friend groups will make it increasingly difficult for those girls to remain connected. Their connection was based on easy access rather than mutual commitment. To some level, their friendship was more about what they each received than about what they each gave.”

“The friends who invest in each other, even when it isn’t easy, are those whose future together is most hopeful. These are the people who prioritize relationship with others over personal gain or comfort. Even in the middle of especially busy and stressful weeks, they choose to be interruptible.”

“I can still tangibly remember a time during my sophomore year when an upperclassman girl named Morgan interrupted her own life to step into mine. It had been a highly stressful and discouraging week for me. Assignments were piling up, due dates were approaching, and above all I just felt lonely and overwhelmed, and Morgan could tell. At the end of our team meeting for Reformed University

Fellowship (a campus ministry), she took one look at me and said, “You’re coming back to my house with me, okay?” One hug, one heart-to-heart conversation, and one warm cup of tea later, I was feeling rejuvenated, steadied, and cared for. Morgan was likely even more busy than I was, but she invested precious time in listening to me and in deepening our friendship.”

“In doing this, Morgan wasn’t just helping a fellow student out. She was grounding our friendship in something more durable than going to college together. She was establishing our relationship around selflessness and listening.”

“It’s friendships like this that continue throughout all four years and have the potential to last beyond college. Even this past year, when Morgan and I were our busiest selves yet, we remained close in a way that we couldn’t have if our relationship was only built on fun memories or identical class schedules.”

“Morgan taught me by example how to make those famous, lifelong college friends. You do it by making your friendship about more than just you. You do it by choosing selflessness. You do it by not giving your impressive, color-coded schedule a higher priority than it deserves. Instead, you choose to



Makaria Sanders

be interruptible. That’s the way to build friendships that will last.”

WILLIAM POWELL

SENIOR, GEORGIA INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

“My junior year was my favorite year of college yet and it brought back a sense of normalcy. I was once again able to get reinvolved and reconnected with the organizations and people that bring me the most fulfillment in college. Through my involvement with The Hive Makerspace on campus, I was able to help lead a monthly robotics workshop for middle and high school students. I continued my involvement with the First-Generation Investors chapter at Tech and taught an eight-week course on basic investing principles to a group of local high schoolers. I rekindled my involvement with the campus Baptist Collegiate Ministry and built strong relationships with my peers there. And in my free time, I was able to enjoy my favorite pastime of playing pickup and intramural basketball with my friends at the campus recreation center.”

“Academically, classes gave me freer rein to delve into topics I found interesting. A lot of my classes revolved more on large-scale technical group projects which allowed me to develop important skills (like printed circuit board design) that I will be using this summer with my applications engineering internship at Texas Instruments in Dallas. I’ve truly had a great school year and look forward to working in Dallas this summer!”

CAMERON ROBINSON

SENIOR, GEORGIA SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY

“During the 2021–2022 school year, I got to gain valuable experience in my first on-campus job. In the middle of the Spring 2022 semester, I began working with the Georgia Southern IT Department as an IT Support Automaton. I have learned fascinating facts about how the Georgia Southern IT control works, including how school-

owned machines are imaged, configured, and added to the domain.”

“Knowing that every machine in the school can be monitored with a single program makes me interested in the different maintenance and surveillance methods that I can perform with the program. In addition, I got to learn how updates are pushed to every machine using a time clock function, which is why every computer on campus remains powered on when in use. I

also learned more about the hardware side of computers, as I was tasked with fastening computer monitors to monitor stands.”

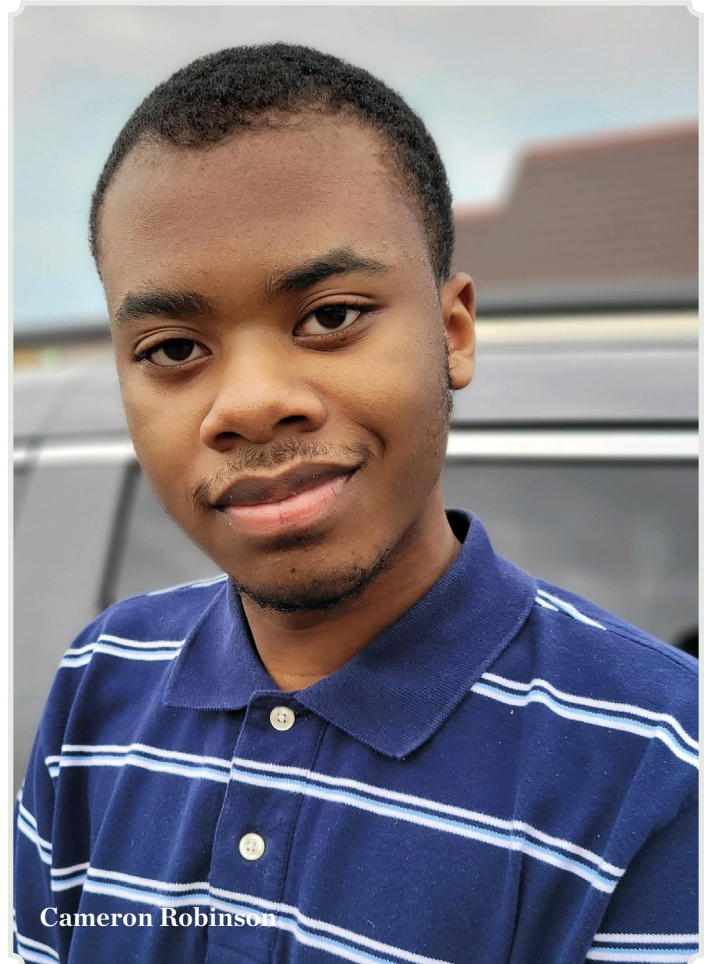
“I also gained some on-location experience by helping to examine machines in the biology building, which had not been fully updated. I learned a more effective method of manually updating computers than Windows Update. I also learned about an issue with the AppReadiness Service during

my time, and was tasked with disabling the program on a variety of machines.”

“I plan to continue working in this position for the rest of my college career, and even use it for my internship next semester. I hope that I continue to gain valuable skills from this position and be better prepared for future job and internship opportunities, as well as pursue a wide range of certifications to enhance my IT toolbox.”



William Powell



Cameron Robinson



DAN'TALISHA DEANS



Alumni Spotlight

BY SHANNON FRIEDMANN HATCH

When talking to Dan'Talisha Deans, it quickly becomes apparent that she has the ability to make anyone feel like they can achieve anything — and many organizations throughout her academic and professional journeys took note.

In October, Dan'Talisha became the Development Director for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging at the University of Pittsburgh, the same place she received her Master of Social Work. In this role, she helps the university develop and establish strategies to support inclusion and underrepresented communities. She also teaches at Howard University's School of Social Work in the MSW program. "When it comes to having multiple opportunities to make impact in major ways, neither one of these is a small feat. They both require a lot of attention, a lot of learning, a lot of educating. The key is time management and being clear on priorities and organization," Dan'Talisha said.

As a mother, teacher, and leader, she describes her life as a "beautiful balance." While a student at Glenn Hills High School in Augusta, Georgia, she earned a scholarship to Alabama A&M, where she crossed Delta Sigma Theta and was part of the basketball dance team. She graduated top of her class in her undergraduate program and went on to earn her Master's degree at the University of Pittsburgh as a Blue Chip Scholar.

It was at Pitt where she cultivated ways to create opportunities for herself and others. Her goal post graduation was to become a part of the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program, the federal government's premier leadership development program for advanced degree holders. However, the first time she applied, she was denied.

"I had to learn how to pivot. How do you keep moving when the thing you thought was going to happen — the way you thought life was going to go, doesn't go?" Dan'Talisha recalled.



“Nothing comes without challenge and nothing comes without perseverance and determination to get to a desired level of success, because success looks different for everybody.”

As a research assistant and eventually project coordinator (a position she advocated for after her temporary professional setback) in the University of Pittsburgh’s Center on Race and Social Problems, Dan’Talisha researched racial demographics in Pittsburgh and did macro-level work on policy, nonprofit management, human resources, and human services management. But her sights were set on PMF.

The following year, when the time came around to apply for the program again, Dan’Talisha went to chat with one of her mentors and professors Keith Caldwell. She told him that she was contemplating applying for PMF but was reluctant to try again.

“It was as if he knew that I had been discouraged the first time, and all he simply said to me was three words: Sure you will.” Dan’Talisha said it was those words that encouraged her to apply, and she submitted her application 30

minutes before it closed. With Caldwell’s encouragement and Dan’Talisha’s perseverance and resilience, she got into the program; and it should come as no surprise that she excelled while there.

As a Presidential Management Fellow in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Obama administration, she worked with the nation’s leaders on leadership development. In another example of Dan’Talisha creating opportunities for herself and others: She established the first PMF Council at HUD. She stayed on as an analyst and helped the agency develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate employee engagement practices and strategy.

In one of her curveball moments, as she calls them, she left the government in 2018 to become a professional recording artist. Her songs are released under the name Dan’Talisha Nicole, and her music reflects her life, such as the single Brick Wall on her album *Breaking Free*, which talks about being strong, powerful, and equipped enough to do what needs to be done to get on the other side of a brick wall.

When she decided to come back to her social work roots, she became the development director at BEST Kids, Inc., a nonprofit in the DC area that supports youth in foster care by partnering them with mentors. Her administrative role was to fundraise for the organization and support communication efforts. Now, she’s back at Pitt in a role sure to impact many. In this position, and as an adjunct professor at Howard University, she has the ability to transform lives and organizations, which she has done most of her life. “I’ve always had a heart to serve others,” Dan’Talisha said.

Dan’Talisha’s life is filled with faith, support, and mentorship. “I am a Christian and a believer that I could not have done any of this on my own.” She credits her mentors and familial support system for encouraging her and helping her balance her time as a mother to her one-year-old son and within her career. Dan’Talisha emphasized, “When you want to quit or when you’ve been discouraged, having those champions and mentors in place to get you back to where you have that push again, man, it’s so key.”



IN MEMORY OF JIMMIE



Goodrum House

BY BARBARA HYDE

One question always asked on tours at the May Patterson Goodrum House is “Where did the money come from to build this grand home?”

Raised in humble beginnings, May spent most of her early childhood in the Castleberry Hill district in Atlanta surrounded by her maternal and paternal relatives and in the shadow of her father and uncle’s stonecutting business on Stonewall Street. She attended public school at the Walker Street School where she was frequently honored as a diligent student, but her school records stop rather abruptly during her high school years. Her father’s business had failed and with his move to Winder, leaving her and her mother to continue life in Atlanta, she had to provide for the family. By the age of 24, she was listed in the 1912 Atlanta City Directory as a clerk at Brown & Allen Drug Store, and by 1920, she was listed as a manager of a drug store. The following year, she tried her hand as a clerk for Jacob’s Pharmacy, of the famed first Coca-Cola fountain drink, and within a few years she rose to the level of a buyer. By 1924, she decided to try her hand at selling antiques with Mrs. Alice Porter in a shop called Porter & Patterson. While seemingly on

stable financial ground, she provided enough income for her and her mother to live, but certainly not enough to create a beautiful home like the ones she was called upon to decorate along Peachtree Street.

Jim Goodrum, or “Jimmie” as his friends and family called him, grew up in Newnan, Georgia. Born in 1879, he was 11 years May’s senior. He briefly attended the University of Georgia in Athens before moving to Atlanta and starting the J.J. Goodrum Tobacco Company, an importer of tobacco and cigars. It was a successful business, allowing Jim access to the movers and shakers of the city. He seemed to love new technology: He purchased a newfangled automobile and is credited with having the first car accident in Atlanta in 1904. By 1911, he decided to sell the tobacco business, and try his hand at banking. Eventually, through his friend Ernest Woodruff, he took the post of a vice president for the Trust Company of Georgia, helping to manage the offering of Coca-Cola stock to the public. Jim recognized a good product when he saw one and heavily invested in the stock himself. He also participated in many philanthropic endeavors — fundraising for a variety of causes, including the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee

School, Egleston Children's Hospital, and several cultural institutions throughout the city.

In 1914, Jim turned an eye to his personal life, marrying Elizabeth High, the daughter of J. M. and Hattie High (who would eventually donate their home on Peachtree Street as the first High Museum). But two years later, Elizabeth passed away of consumption, leaving the couple childless. For many years, Jim attended social functions and had a large circle of friends, but it wasn't until 10 years after Elizabeth's death that he found another match. How did he and May Patterson meet? That's a mystery that will probably never be solved, but by 1925, they were mentioned together in the local newspapers and married in New York City on February 19 the following year. Sadly within 18 months of their marriage, Jim was diagnosed with throat cancer and succumbed to the disease in June 1928. Childless and left to once again navigate the waters of her life, May had the safety net of a

substantial marital trust to help cushion the blow. Two years later, she moved into her newly built home in Buckhead, possibly like the one she and Jim had been planning since their marriage.

Jim never lived in the home that bears his name at 320 West Paces Ferry Road, but we do have a small collection of Jim's personal items. Recently acquired from Jim's great grandnephew Lon Norris, photos of Jim as a student at the University of Georgia, a diamond stickpin he frequently wore in his tie, and a brush with the symbols of his fraternity, Delta Tau Delta, carved into its handle can be viewed by the public. Upon Jim's death, his peers at the Trust issued a memorial statement lamenting the loss of Jim's contributions to Atlanta, "His was a sunny nature — that of an optimist — who constantly radiated happiness. He looked upon the bright side always, and he helped carry light into dark corner." A testimony to the life he lived. augment their efforts.



J.J. Goodrum Jr. and classmates at UGA.





NAMES WRITTEN IN HISTORY



T.R.R. Cobb House

BY SAMUEL N. THOMAS, JR.

In September 2021, the Georgia Museum of Art reached out to Sam Thomas, our curator, to notify us that a plantation logbook that might be of interest to our museum was going up for auction in Connecticut. These plantations were owned by Howell and Mary Ann Cobb, as well as her brother John B. Lamar. You can read more about how we wound up purchasing this consequential resource in The Legacy article from Winter 2022.

Since it has been a year since the logbook came into our hands, we wanted to highlight some of the interesting pieces of information that we have uncovered.

The Book, as we have come to refer to it, contains the names of the enslaved people at the Swift Creek (Bibb County), Jackson Place (Sumter County), Bivins Place (Sumter County, also known as Puckett Place), Cowart Place (Sumter County, also known as Spring Creek), Hurricane (Baldwin County), Worth

(Worth County), and Domine (Sumter County) Plantations. After looking closely at how the names are listed, we believe that they are listed in family groups, and in some cases, people who were housed in the same cabins together. Some of the names are crossed out and say “married” or “dead,” which will help us as we move forward in trying to learn more about every person listed. John B. Lamar also listed how much fabric for summer and winter clothing was provided for each person, which will give us insight into each person’s relative age due to the size of clothing.

We have been showing The Book to several historians and museum and humanities employees to see what they might notice. The authors of *Seen/Unseen: Hidden Lives in a Community of Enslaved Georgians* were curious of what became of Alfred Putnam, an enslaved man who was moved from Howell and Mary Ann’s Athens home to one of the Sumter

plantations after he was caught in Dahlonga running away to avoid punishment. Thanks to a penciled-in note from The Book, they discovered that Alfred self-emancipated and joined the North during the Civil War. After showing The Book to Laura McCarty, president of Georgia Humanities, she mentioned a professor in southwest Georgia who might know something about the topic. Evan A. Kutzler, associate professor at Georgia Southwestern State University, had been looking into the topic, and sent us a digital copy of a plat map of Jackson Place. This map sent us down more rabbit holes than we expected!

The Jackson Place plat map was created by Williams Rutherford and his son, John C. Rutherford, in December 1865. Williams Rutherford was a math professor at the University of Georgia and conveniently also married to Laura Cobb, Tom and Howell's sister. As we looked further into Williams' role, we discovered that the family had been using his services for surveying family properties for many years. The map also details exactly where some of the slave cabins and overseers' cabins were located on the property. After noting those cabins, we went back to The Book and discovered that there are notations for buildings within the map that John B. Lamar drew in the back.

One of our fall interns, Jeffrey Bussey, has been looking at the letters from the various plantation overseers to John B. Lamar. While researching, we uncovered two dental bills (one in Athens

and one for the Sumter plantations) that lists the enslaved by name and what procedure(s) were done. We will be able to cross reference these names with the names from The Book to see if there is any movement throughout the plantations (which we already know happened) and to ensure that we are providing the most complete list of names possible when we unveil our upcoming website about this research. While visiting the Hargrett, we also found another plantation account book that precedes and overlaps with The Book and should fill in some research gaps for us.

One other story that we have been following is that of an enslaved man named Phil. Jeffrey learned about Phil through Horace Montgomery's Johnny Cobb: Confederate Aristocrat. Johnny (also known as John Addison Cobb II, son of Howell and Mary Ann) requested that John B. Lamar send Phil and his musical instruments to Johnny's camp in Virginia during the Civil War. We were able to locate the letters mentioned in Montgomery's book and have since found other mentions of Phil within the Cobb family letters. Phil played the fife to entertain the camp and was apparently granted some mercies as evidenced by avoiding punishment when he returned to camp late not completely sober one time — a tolerance not granted to most.

We cannot wait to see what else we can uncover so that we can better tell the full story of the Cobb family.





PLEASE, DON'T LICK THE BOOKS



Sticks & Stones

BY FRANKE SMITH

T Perched on the shelf, shining brightly in the dim light, the books appear innocent enough. But don't be fooled, that innocuous volume with its alluring viridescent boards and gilt title can lure you to your demise with a siren song of...dun dun dun...PARIS GREEN!

Paris green also known as Schweinfurt green or Vienna green could well pass for a dastardly character in a Marvel movie. It is a compound of copper acetate and arsenic trioxide and was created in the early 19th century as the emerald green replacement to Scheele's green, a dye that tends to darken over time. Its toxicity was almost immediately known, but the color proved durable and thus, became all the rage in Paris fashion.

The color became instantly popular and used to produce fabrics, wallpapers, and book bindings. Paris green is chemically unstable when it is damp it releases toxic fumes. It is thought that arsenic-imbued wallpapers may have hastened Napoleon's



THE ARSENIC WALTZ.
THE NEW DANCE OF DEATH. (DEDICATED TO THE GREEN WREATH AND DEER-MONSTER.)

In April 1862, *Punch*, a British humor magazine, pointedly attacked the danger of women's fashion.

death on St. Helena. The British Times raised the alarm in the 1860s that children may be poisoned in their nurseries. Artists including Monet, Turner, and Renoir used Paris green. Gowns and bonnets in the bright green hue appeared in Harper's, Godey's Lady's Book, and other fashion books of the era. A wan complexion and a languorous demeanor were sought after accessories by women in the 19th century. Certainly, the dresses aided them.

In 1867, farmers in Idaho discovered Paris green was effective in killing the potato beetle and a new era of usage bloomed. It was used as an aerial-sprayed pesticide in many parts of the world until the mid-20th century. Use of Paris green in fabrics and wall coverings was outlawed beginning in 1900.

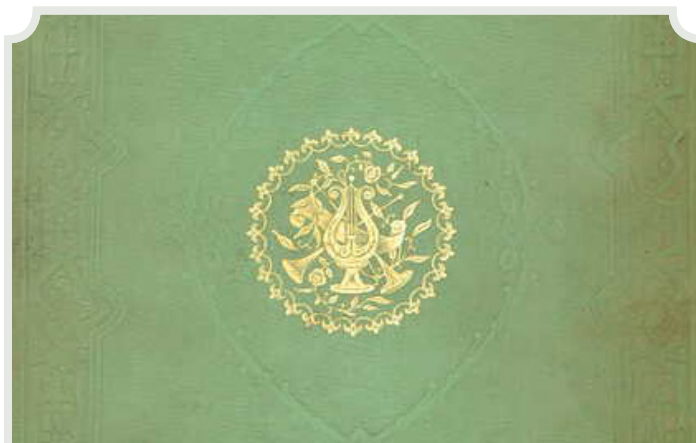
So, what does Paris green have to do with a little house museum in rural Georgia? Because those innocent books referenced earlier happen to sit inside a barrister case in the Study at Hickory Hill, along with several equally toxic companions.

In 2018, a Dutch library discovered arsenic in a few of their older volumes — 16th and 17th century primarily. The toxicity had leached from the covers into the very pages of the books. Gradually, libraries around the world began to test their older

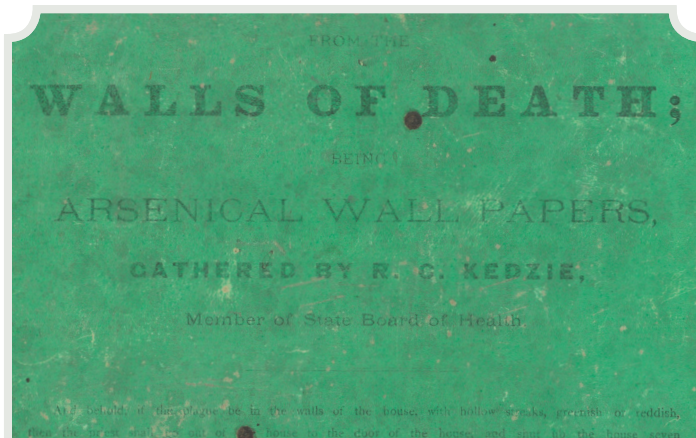
collections until in 2019, Paris green was identified as the toxic culprit in 19th and early 20th century books, and the Poison Book Project was born. Conservators at the Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library, have been testing books of varying green hues ever since and have determined that Paris green was widely used in book binding and is extremely unstable in damp climates. Notably, the books bound in green rarely, if ever, have any evidence of insect or rodent damage!

Based upon the Winterthur findings, we know that book binders continued to use Paris green until around the 1920s, well within the Hickory Hill's scope of collections. Presently, we are identifying the books that likely fit the suspect profile and hues, recording that data, photographing them, and placing them behind glass. Once we have identified all suspects, we will test each one and make a determination on how and where they will be stored. We will then begin testing the red books, the blue books, and the yellow books.

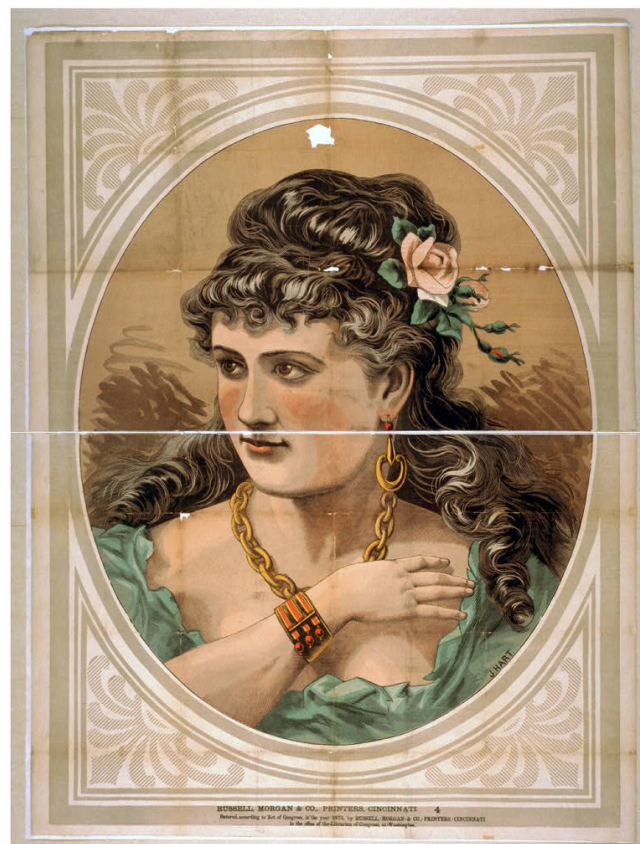
For more information on The Poison Book Projects going on around the world visit: iiconservation.org/content/poison-book-project



Tom Watson gave this Paris green-laced volume of *Lays and Legends: English Life* by Camilla Toumlin to Mrs. Georgia Watson in 1899.



Samples of arsenic wallpapers were compiled by Dr. Robert C. Kedzie in 1874



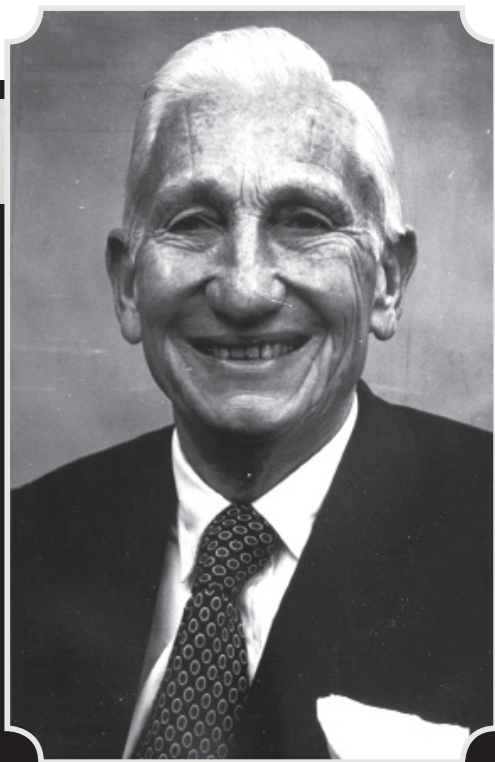
Theater poster from 1875 shows a woman wearing a fashionable Paris Green gown



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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.