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Michael Bellesiles' book reviewed in the New York Times Book Review

History professor Michael Bellesiles' new book, *Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture*, was reviewed in the September 10 edition of the New York Times Book Review. Reviewer Garry Wills writes, "For many Americans, the gun is a holy object, the emblem and guarantor of their identity. Without it, they would not be the self-sufficient persons they consider themselves, the very models for all lovers of freedom. To take away this external prop would tear out of them their very essence. This private conviction is verified, in their eyes, by a





public fact -- that American history, separateness and virtue have always been associated with the gun, if (in fact) they did not take their very essence from it. Imagine, then, the shock if this star of the show should turn out to be missing through much of our history. It seems impossible; and that was the reaction of Michael A. Bellesiles, a Colonial historian at Emory University, when -- while searching through over a thousand probate records from the frontier sections of New England and Pennsylvania for 1763 to 1790 -- he found that only 14 percent of the men owned guns, and over half of those guns were unusable."

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Entering Freshman selected as Gates Millennium Scholar

Shawnta Bennett, Class of 2004, was selected to be a [Gates Millennium Scholar](#) from the more than 62,000 individuals nominated for the scholarship. The Gates Millennium Scholars initiative, funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was created in September 1999 and is aimed at increasing the number of low-income, high achieving African Americans, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Pacific Americans enrolling in and completing undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

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Emory tennis teams honored for academics

Both Emory University tennis squads have been recognized as All-Academic Teams by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). Emory is one of three NCAA Division III schools in the nation out of approximately 350 to have both teams honored and both selected for their respective NCAA national team championships.

In addition, seven Emory players were honored as ITA Scholar-Athletes. They are:

Michel Friedman
Brett Kaplan
Jason McCarthy
Rebecca Loveman
Tracy Shub
Julie Sterner
Erin Terrell

The Emory women's team compiled a 3.45 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) for the past academic year while the men's team had a 3.32 GPA. Last spring, both Emory teams advanced to the quarterfinals of their respective NCAA team championship. To be honored, a team must compile a 3.2 GPA. An individual must be a junior or senior academically, a varsity letter winner and have at least a 3.50 GPA.

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Emory Volleyball garners team award

The Emory University women's volleyball team has been honored with a Team Academic Award from the American Volleyball Coaches Association of America. The Eagles are one of 59 teams honored nationally out of approximately 1,000 NCAA schools.

The team compiled a 3.57 grade point average for the past school year, which was the seventh highest GPA in the nation among NCAA teams. Of all the honorees, Emory was the only one to be selected for its respective NCAA volleyball championship tournament and also to be recognized among the top 25 national academic universities by U.S. News and World Report.

Last semester, 12 of the 14 Emory players had a 3.31 GPA or higher (on a 4.0 scale) while six of them made the Dean's List which honors students in the top 20 percent of their class. Last season, Emory amassed a 30-8 record and was selected to the NCAA Division III championship tournament for the fourth consecutive year. To win the award, a team must compile a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.30 (on a 4.0 scale) for the entire school year.

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Whitten studies behavior and hormones in lemurs

At the last turn of the century, most anthropologists thought human behavior was nothing more than an expression of innate drives. But radicals like Margaret Mead later disputed this theory, claiming that behavior was caused by socialization. What both sides of the debate lacked was convincing either way.

To find this evidence, some researchers focus on nonhuman primates. For example, **Pat Whitten** is currently studying a type of lemur called sifakas to understand how hormones and behavior interact.

Historically, people looked at androgens, such as testosterone, to determine rank. A deterministic model arose from these studies claiming that testosterone drove behavior. However, closer examination showed a contradiction.

"In fact, testosterone responds as much to social setting as it drives behavior," said Whitten, associate professor of [Anthropology](#). This has led to more dynamic research focusing on testosterone level as a mirror of success and defeat in social interactions.

For more see the [Emory Report](#) and [Whitten's web site](#).

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Emory Summer Writers Festival welcomes Dorothy Allison

The worst thing about becoming an icon as a writer is you become afraid of your work,"

Dorothy Allison told a bursting crowd in White Hall July 19th, so large that several people sat on the steps flanking the auditorium chairs. "You think, 'I can't write that because they think I'll write that.' I reached a point where I thought I'd better start writing about upper-class Jewish New Englanders."

She was kidding. Allison, author of 1992's "Bastard Out of Carolina," has become an icon, a pitch-perfect writer of Southern fiction who breathes life into the kind of archetypal characters who so often become cardboard cutouts in lesser artists' work. She unabashedly refers to herself and her family as "redneck trash," and she doesn't plan to change.

On July 19, no one wanted her to. Her reading, part of Emory's Summer Writers Festival, drew a standing-room crowd, easily the event's largest turnout in recent years. Allison read a not-yet-published short story titled "Compassion" and alternately moved her audience to laughter and tears with her animated, even dramatic presentation of the tale, in which three sisters grieve for a mother slowly dying of cancer.

Earlier in the day Allison had teamed up with Emory's own **Jim Grimsley** for a discussion on fiction writing. Grimsley, senior writer-in-residence in [English](#) and [Creative Writing](#), is the author of "Winter Birds," winner of the 1995 Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and "Dream Boy," winner of the American Library Association GLBT Award for Literature. His fourth and latest novel, "Comfort & Joy," was published last October by Algonquin Books.

For more see the [Emory Report](#).

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Keiji Morokuma elected president of International Academy of Quantum Molecular Sciences

Keiji Morokuma, professor of [Chemistry](#) and director of the Emerson Center was recently elected president of the International Academy of Quantum Molecular Sciences. He will serve a three-year term. The IAQMS is an organization of the top quantum molecular scientists in the world, and includes in its current membership 5 living Nobel prize winners. Said Dean Steven Sanderson of Morokuma's election, "It's a great honor, richly deserved."

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CBS scholarships awarded to Emory College students

Ashante Dobbs and Tiffany Harlow are two of just 26 students nationwide chosen to receive the CBS Foundation Scholarship for the academic year 2000-01. The scholarships are administered through the [Foundation for Independent Higher Education](#) and are designed to recognize and assist minority students preparing for careers in broadcast communications.

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Matthew Simms awarded Gould Fellowship at Princeton

Matthew Simms, assistant professor in [Art History](#), was recently awarded the Florence Gould Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship for the academic year 2000-01. The residential fellowship is administered through the [Art and Archaeology Department of Princeton University](#). Simms will continue his research in 19th century French painting and photography, and will work on his book about French painter Paul Cezanne. Chair of Art History Gay Robbins says, "The department is delighted by this achievement."

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Monks construct and deconstruct sand mandala

At Emory this April, monks from the Drepung Monastery in Dharamsala, India painstakingly prepared, and then destroyed, a sand mandala in the artistic tradition of Tantric Buddhism. In a ceremony meant to call forth the forces of goodness, the site at the Dobbs University Center was consecrated through chanting, music, and mantra recitation. Over the next five days, millions of grains of sand were laid into place on a flat platform, creating an intricate and exquisite work of art.



Then, as a metaphor for the impermanence of life, the mandala was swept up. Part of the sands were distributed to the audience as function of healing and the remainder was poured into a nearby body of water. The waters symbolically carried the healing blessing to the ocean and throughout the world for planetary healing.

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Emory College Language Center to be Technologically Advanced

Dean Steven Sanderson announced in April the creation of the Emory College Language Center to enhance foreign language instruction. Founding director Mahmoud Al-Batal in [Middle Eastern Studies](#) will bring more than just his international reputation for Arabic instruction to the job: he has just secured a two-year \$249,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop web-based materials for teaching Arabic.

The Language Center will be a collaboration with the language departments, the Information Technology Division, Woodruff Library staff and the Center for Teaching and Curriculum. There are two exciting features of the new center. The first is a technologically advanced language laboratory that will be built in the annex of Woodruff Library. The lab is being designed now and construction will begin as soon as practically possible, according to Sanderson. Second is the development of two classrooms within Woodruff Library specially equipped for teaching languages. The recent curriculum revision has boosted the foreign language requirement for all Emory undergraduates, so the center will go a long way to supporting the increased numbers and enhances Emory's goal of increased internationalization. In fact, the [Institute for Comparative and International Studies](#) will oversee the Emory College Language Center.

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Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Awarded

The Mellon Foundation has awarded Emory a \$475,000 grant as part of its Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) Program. Established in 1989 with a select group of colleges and universities, the program seeks to boost the numbers of African-American, Hispanic-American and Native American students in doctoral programs. The long-term goal is to increase the diversity of faculties at institutions throughout the country in order to bring a wider range of experiences and perspectives to teaching and scholarly discussion.

The MMUF complements an existing Mellon-funded diversity initiative at Emory: the United Negro College Fund/Mellon Summer Institute. The institute is a program for African-American students interested in graduate school and college-level teaching careers, a "boot camp for black intellectuals," according to institute director Rudolph Byrd, associate professor and director of the [Program in African-American Studies](#). Byrd and Mark Sanders, associate professor in [English](#) and associate director of the Program in African-American Studies, will direct the new MMUF.

Learn more about the [Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Program](#).

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