

EMORY UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

DECEMBER 7, 2011

The year is 1836.

In Newton County, Georgia the Methodist Church is creating a new school – Emory College.

Three years later the city of Oxford was incorporated.

They grew up together as if they were siblings.

This kinship has grown over the years and today the city and the college work together in a variety of ways, especially when it comes to protecting and preserving the environment.

Recently a presentation to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs intended to gain the coveted designation “Water First” included four examples of environmental stewardship in Newton County. Two of the four were from Oxford – East Village on the campus of Oxford College and the new Oxford City Hall building. Prior to this year there were two such examples and both were in Oxford.

Things have changed from the days when a mule-drawn streetcar took arriving students from the Covington train depot to Emory College. Today they have many modes of transportation and a seemingly endless number of ways to communicate. Especially among themselves.

If you visit Oxford today you will see many changes such as a new city hall and a new maintenance facility. Some changes you will not see – major upgrades in the electrical and water systems – with more to come.

Yet, some things remain the same. Oxford still vigorously protects its tree canopy and its historical features. And the collaboration between Oxford College and the City of Oxford remains strong and everlasting.

On behalf of the City of Oxford and the Newton County Board of Commissioners we congratulate Emory University on this milestone anniversary. And as Mayor of Oxford I, Jerry D. Roseberry, have issued a proclamation declaring December 10, 2011 to be Emory University Day in Oxford.

(Speech given at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church on the campus of Emory University on 12/7/2011))