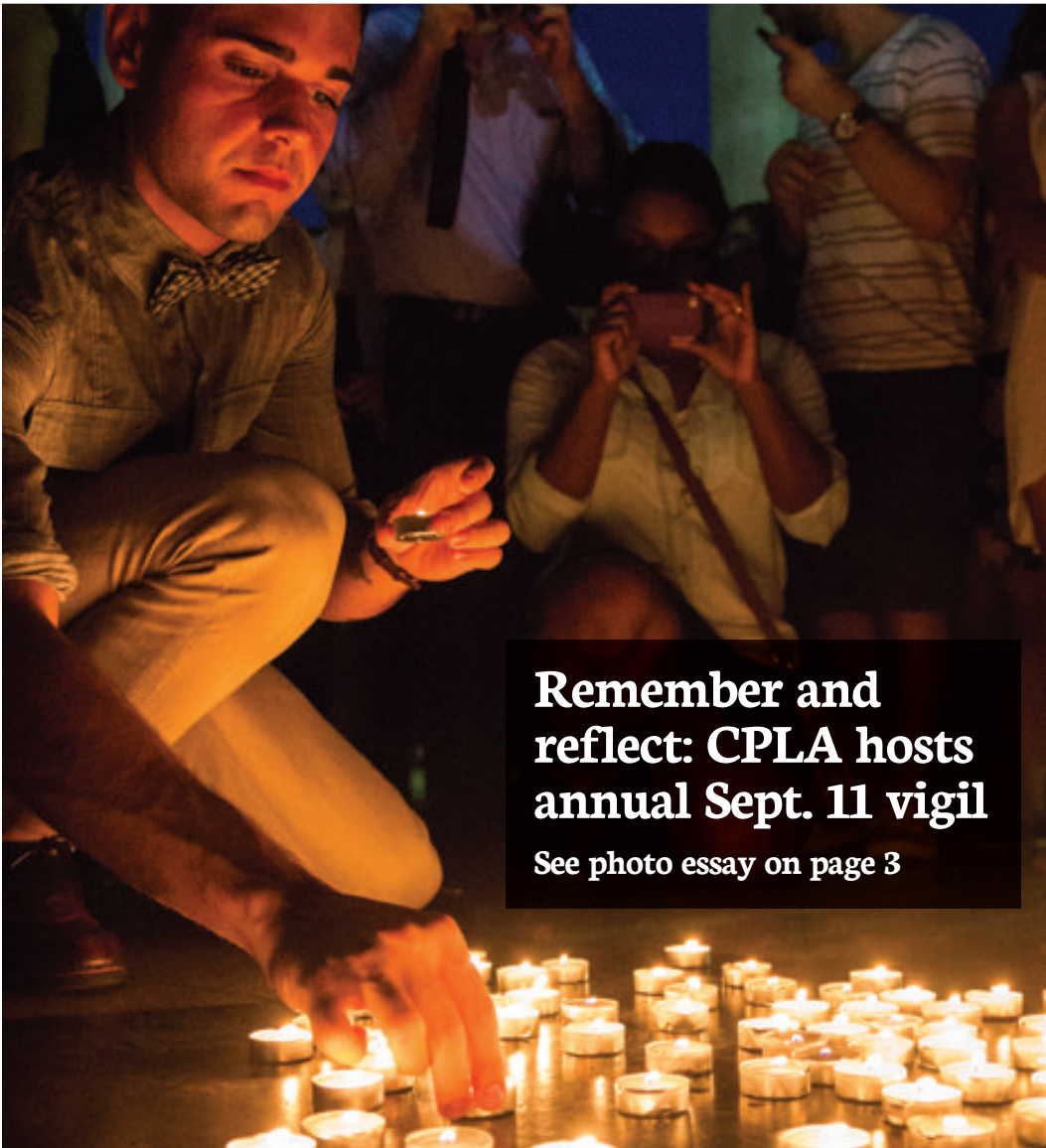


The Berkeley Beacon

Emerson College's student newspaper since 1947 • berkeleybeacon.com

Thursday, September 12, 2013 • Volume 67, Issue 2



Remember and reflect: CPLA hosts annual Sept. 11 vigil
See photo essay on page 3

The Communication, Politics, and Law Association hosted its annual Sept. 11 vigil on Boston Common Wednesday night. • *Ryan Catalani / Beacon Staff*

Make 'em laugh, even outside of Emerson

Dillon Riley, *Beacon Staff*

Emerson juniors Charlie Fay and Jordan Perry don't have too much to say about their comedic experiences, at least not right away. What they really wanted to talk more about was their new apartment by Northeastern — namely, the sad state it was in.

In fact, they seemed uncomfortable at first, meeting with a reporter surrounded by dirt-caked walls and bad lighting, but they swore the squalor was not present when they signed the lease back in May. So there's that.

On the upside, at least they've gotten used to living with a fellow comedian, a point of contention earlier in their Emerson careers.

"It's great and it's hell 'cause when I'm around comedians, I always feel pressured to make jokes 'cause it's expected," said Fay, a visual and media arts major. "I like to separate those parts of my life, and make jokes on my own will."

As interesting as that dynamic was, the



Student comedians Charlie Fay and Jordan Perry regularly perform at open mics. • *Evan Walsh / Beacon Correspondent*

real point of the conversation was the goings-on at a place called Grandma's Basement. Located in the shadow of Fenway Park and in the bottom of Howard Johnson Hotel inside a Chinese restaurant, as Fay said, the infamous Grandma's Basement is an open mic venue that brings out a diverse crowd of aspiring comics.

"Everyone from the drunk sad types, to tough Boston guys, to nerdy college kids, to

See *Comedians* Page 11

Collegiate faculty moves to Summer Street, will help achieve president's plan

Laura Gomez, *Beacon Staff*

The college will look to hire 40 additional full-time teaching staff members over the next five years as part of a plan devised by President M. Lee Pelton, according to Michael Whelan, chief academic officer.

To prepare for this, 60 administrative staff members were relocated last April from the main campus to 99 Summer St., said Jay Phillips, associate vice president for facilities and campus services. This location, located two blocks from South Station, now accommodates the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, the Finance Office, and the Office of Communications and Marketing.

The push to host more faculty on the main campus is part of the college-wide strategic plan approved by the Board of Trustees in 2011 that outlines eight initiatives to "build a college of distinction."

Among goals like strengthening the School of Communication and providing dining space for faculty and staff, the strategic plan seeks to renovate and create additional classrooms, offices and other facilities to foster professional and academic engagement.

From this strategic plan, Pelton developed his vision "to establish Emerson as the world's leading institution of higher education in the arts and communication," as announced at his inaugural address last September.

During that address, Pelton said he hopes to add the 40 new full-time teachers. Currently, the college has 193 full-time faculty, according to

Whelan, so the addition of new faculty as proposed by Pelton would mean a 21 percent increase in full-time teaching staff.

"Currently we are holding a very small percentage of the faculty," said Phillips, declining to specify what percentage of faculty the college is able to accommodate on campus.

Whelan said in an email to the Beacon that most of the full-time faculty is assigned to an office, while part-time faculty—about 240 instructors—usually share workspaces.

"The only way to bring faculty in and create more social space for students is to move administrators out of the [core campus]," said Phillips.

Joseph Arbeely, senior administrative associate of development and alumni relations, said he and his colleagues always understood why the move to 99 Summer St. was happening.

"Our work comes secondary to what the school is about, which is the students," he said. "The move made me feel like one component of the same family."

The building is a 20-story office tower in the Financial District. The college leases the 9th floor.

"Coming into the lobby it feels very corporate," said Arbeely about the distinctive five-story atrium entrance with marble finishes at 99 Summer St.

But when the elevator doors open at the 9th floor, a familiar gold and lavender paint decorates the walls, and the Emerson Lion logo is displayed be

See *Summer Street* Page 2



College administrators moved from the Walker Building last April. *Andrew Harwood / Beacon Staff*

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news

Student Government Association elects commissioners, sets election dates

Kathryn Bennett, Beacon Staff

The Student Government Association determined dates for the upcoming special elections and appointed new commissioners Tuesday during the first SGA meeting of the year.

This semester's special elections will be held to choose senators—student representatives from various departments in the college—to represent journalism, visual and media arts, performing arts, and communication disorders students. They will also choose a treasurer and a secretary for the class of 2014.

Christine Hayes, first elected as the journalism senator in spring 2012 and re-elected in spring 2013, sent a letter of resignation to the group, which was read at the meeting.

"My summer internship asked me to stay on through the fall, but I need to accommodate 18 hours a week of interning during business hours," Hayes, a senior journalism major, wrote in the letter. "Because of that, I won't have the amount of time that the student body deserves from a senator."

Election packets were made available on the SGA website to those interested in running for a position on Wednesday, Sept. 11, and are due back to the Office of Student Life by Tuesday, Sept. 17. The 12-page document outlines each available position

and serves as an application for those wishing to run.

Students approved to run will have 12 days to campaign, and will have the opportunity to participate in Candidate Speech Night on Wednesday, Sept. 25. Students can vote online at vote.emerson.edu starting at midnight on Monday, Sept. 30. Polls close at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 1, and the winners will be announced the next day.

The newly-elected senators will then take their positions during the SGA meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8.

SGA commissioners are appointed through an application and voting process within SGA, instead of a school-wide election. Each commissioner represents a different area of need among the student body, but are not associated with a particular organization. These positions were granted during Tuesday's meeting, which was presided over by the new SGA president, Paul Almeida, a junior political communication major.

A secretary and chief justice were also selected through this process. Amanda Cordero, a junior journalism major, and Shekinah-Glory Beepat, a sophomore marketing communication major, will fill these roles respectively.

Jasmine Reyes, a sophomore journalism major, was reinstated as elections commissioner.

New to commissioner positions were Dennis Connors, a junior performing arts major, who will serve as the external programs commissioner; Leigha Morris, a junior marketing communication major, who will work as the public relations commissioner; and Sarah Tedesco, a sophomore journalism major, who was appointed service learning commissioner.

Some of the newly-appointed commissioners expressed interest in getting more of the student population engaged in the affairs of SGA. Members said they hope to do this by encouraging students to vote in elections, work with the senators and commissioners who represent them, and attend SGA-sponsored events.

"I want the student body to be informed about what is going on with Emerson and to be familiar with those who are a part of the organization," said Morris. "I plan to use more of Emerson's tools as a communication school to spread the word on SGA's activities and to provide more of a voice for the student body as a whole."

While some of the commissioners have held these positions during previous semesters, the majority are new to SGA. All of the applicants were voted in without contest.



Christine Hayes, a senior journalism major, stepped down from her position as journalism senator. • Andrew Harwood /Beacon Staff

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College hopes to hire 40 new employees over next five years

Continued from Summer Street Page 1

side the reception desk. "IT and Facilities have helped us feel situated," said Arbeely, who said he was grateful for the work done to give this location an "Emerson feel." This floor has shared common areas with a full kitchen and seating space and a conference room.

Rhea Becker, assistant director of communications and marketing, said initially she didn't want to leave campus, but now she likes the new location.

"I think the spaces are beautiful and comfortable," she said about the new offices. "[The move] has given us a chance to have a conference room to meet with visitors and a whole new neighborhood to explore."

Besides being able to stroll along the Boston Harborwalk—a public walkway that edges the Boston Harbor—at lunchtime, Becker said she benefits from working in the same physical location as the Development and Alumni Relations staff.

Arbeely said the floor plan allows for more personal interaction within all departments.

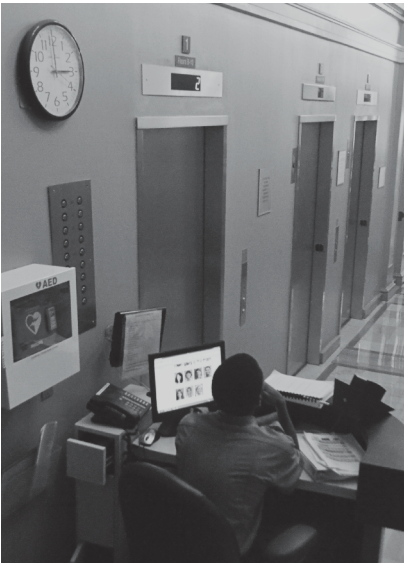
"These three groups usually don't work together, but being here is helping us build relationships," he said.

By intentionally arranging adjacencies of administrative departments, the college is hoping to create physical environments that are in tune with its vision for excellence and innovation, according to Phillips.

After the administrative offices of the marketing communication department moved from the Walker Building's 10th floor to 99 Summer St., the college has been able to concentrate groups that focus on diversity, community action, and global engagement in the old space.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion; the Elma Lewis Center for Civic Engagement, Learning, and Research; the Office of Service Learning and Community Action; the Office of International Student Affairs; and the Office of International Study and External Programs are now located in the 10th floor of Walker along with the Office of Government and Community Relations, which was already situated in that floor.

"People don't naturally collaborate



Some faculty members formerly located in Walker now work from the 9th floor of 99 Summer St.

Andrew Harwood / Beacon Staff

because buildings and structures don't allow," said Sylvia Spears, vice president for diversity and inclusion. "But if you can create intentional opportunities for people to meet, the likelihood for innovation is greater."

Spears said she is excited about the space because the setup of the floor allows for spontaneous engagement between students, faculty and staff.

Similar efforts to strategically group departments in one location to create communities are also happening in the Ansin building.

Senior administrators are now located in the 14th floor of Ansin to enhance collaboration between them, according to Phillips. Christine Hughes, vice president and general counsel, has joined President M. Lee Pelton and Maureen Murphy, vice president for administration and finance, on the 14th floor. Whelan and Richard Zauft, dean of graduate students and associate vice president for academic affairs, will also move to that floor.

"All these things are calling for thoughtful, strategic adjacencies to increase collaboration and free up space in some ways for additional faculty offices," said Phillips.

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College receives \$2 million donation for financial aid, largest in history

Martha Schick, Beacon Staff

In July, Emerson College received the largest gift in the college's history: \$2 million from Leo Hindery Jr. and wife, Patti Wheeler Hindery. The donation will predominantly go to financial aid and to helping students take part in activities they could not afford on their own.

"[President Pelton] has the exact same goals for Emerson as I have and my wife has for the industry as a whole," said Leo Hindery. "Emerson is the best place in America for young women and men who are interested in media."

Of the \$2 million, \$1.75 million will go directly to need-based financial aid, establishing the Hindery Family Endowed Scholarship Fund. According to Vice President for Enrollment MJ Knoll-Finn, the Hinderys wanted the scholarship funds to help students who will be the first in their families to attend college, and the Office of Financial Aid will do their best to respect that wish.

Another \$200,000 will go to helping students afford co-curricular activities in an education enhancement fund, according to Jeffrey Schoenherr, vice president for development and alumni relations. The fund will help students make films, travel to conferences, and even study in Los Angeles or at Kasteel Well, the college's European Center, said Schoenherr.

Students will be able to apply for money with an online form each se-

"[President Pelton] has the exact same goals for Emerson as I have and my wife has for the industry as a whole. Emerson is the best place in America for young women and men who are interested in media."
—Leo Hindery

mester and advocate for what they need and why they need it, according to Schoenherr.

The remaining \$50,000 will go into the Emerson College Annual Fund over the next five years.

Leo Hindery received an honorary degree from Emerson in 2003 for his work in the media. He founded InterMedia Partners in 1988, was the president and CEO of Tele-Communications Inc., became the CEO of AT&T Broadband after a merger between TCI and AT&T, and was the CEO of The YES Network from 2001 to 2004.

Leo Hindery has also received the Joel A. Berger Award Asia Society's Founders Award, the National Action Network's Dream Award, the Hispanic Federation's Individual Achievement Award and the Common Cause John Gardner Lifetime Achievement Award.

Patti Wheeler Hindery has been the executive vice president of programming and production at SPEED channel since 2010 and founded Wheeler Television Inc., a television production company specializing in sports.

Knoll-Finn is optimistic that this will not be the last gift of its kind.

"My hope is that this really starts some momentum, because we need the momentum," she said. "We need people to give to financial aid and we need good people like him."

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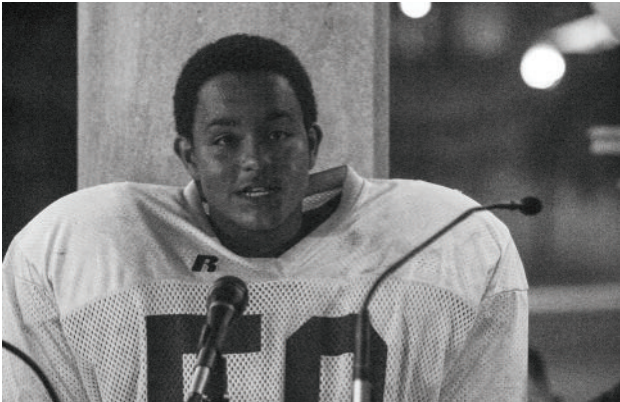
Corrections & Clarifications

Due to an editing error, the Sept. 5 article "There and Back Again" incorrectly stated that Kevin Bright had been on the Emerson faculty since 2003. He had been on the board of trustees since 2003.

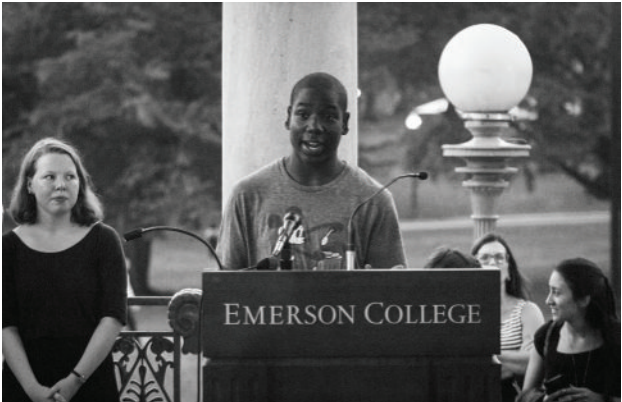
Community members, students gather for annual 9/11 vigil



Lama Migmar Tseten, a Harvard University Buddhist chaplain, led the group of about 50 attendees in a moment of silence and a traditional Buddhist prayer.



Djamilson Daviega, freshman at Community Academy of Science, read a poem he wrote about the attack. “My heart was broken when I realized what happened.”



Randy Boston, sophomore at City on a Hill Charter School, also read a poem about Sept. 11. His piece was entitled “Why?” and was directed toward Osama bin Laden.



Tita Puopolo, an Emerson alumna from the class of 1996, spoke to the crowd about her mother Sonia Mercedez, who died in the attack. Here she holds her mother’s ring, which was uncovered at Ground Zero 11 months after the attack, she said.



President M. Lee Pelton reflected on the day’s events, drawing parallels to the recent Boston Marathon bombing. “Today our memory of 9/11 comes to us with an unexpected freshness because of the April 15th bombings,” he said.



Puopolo stands with Chris Leavitt, a childhood friend. “Her mom was like my mom,” he said in an interview with the Beacon after the vigil.



The gathered crowd lit candles in the bandstand.



Gregory Payne, a communication studies professor and the adviser of CPLA, spoke at the vigil. “We gather each and every Sept. 11 in the oldest continuous vigil. We meet to pay respect not only to honor the past but also to raise hope for the future,” he said.

By Ryan Catalani, Laura Gomez, and Jackie Tempera, Beacon Staff. Photos by Ryan Catalani.

ECPD-sponsored programs hope to bring officers and students together

Jackie Tempera, *Beacon Staff*

In an effort to become more connected with students this year, the Emerson College Police Department will launch a community-liasion officer program and offer department-run classes, said Chief of Police Robert Smith.

This move came after a meeting with several Student Government Association representatives last semester. During the talk, SGA officers mentioned that some students feel uncomfortable coming to Emerson police officers with a problem, said Smith.

“We want to work on building more trust,” said Smith. “If they need help or there’s a problem students are trying to overcome, we want to be a resource.”

Smith said he hopes “Adopt a Cop” will help with this. The program will desig-

nate an ECPD officer to each dorm and some student organizations. Throughout the year, officers will make presentations about different safety issues to campus residents and student organizations, and hopefully build a rapport with those students, said Smith.

“The goal is to have every student know one officer by first name by the end of the year,” he said.

Organizations interested in an officer-liasion should request one with Sergeant Israel Rivera, the program’s coordinator, said Smith. Rivera will select officers, as resources allow, and notify residents and organization members in the next few weeks, according to Smith.

Julianna Buck, a junior marketing communication major, said she thinks this will be beneficial.

“[The officers] really do care about the students, and just the fact that they’re con-

sidering starting this sort of thing should give all Emerson students a sense of security,” she said. “They are in good hands.”

The department will also offer CPR classes upon request. Once 10 students sign up for the training, the class will be scheduled.

“This is an important skill for students to have,” said Smith, on why the department added the course. Students will not pay for the training, just the certification card from the Red Cross, which costs \$19.

Paulina Pascual, a junior visual and media arts major, said she thinks students should take advantage of this opportunity.

“The CPR classes I’ve taken are good for getting a general understanding of being a first responder in the case of an emergency,” she said.

Rape Aggression Defense System courses will continue to be available, as they have been for the past few semesters, but

for the first time this fall, female students can take the class with a female officer. The RADS courses provide a basic self-defense education to attendees.

Smith said that at the end of last semester, some female students reported feeling uncomfortable taking the class with a man, so ECPD officer Jamila Beasley trained in the techniques over the summer.

Some students seemed pleased with the efforts and hoped to continue building a positive relationship with the department.

“There is definitely an unspoken trust between officers and students,” said Pascual. “But the opportunity to build up that trust and develop a better relationship would benefit everyone.”

“We want to work on building more trust.” — Robert Smith, Chief of Police

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editorial

Building upon Keeling's success

At issue:
Emerson searches for permanent athletic director

Our take:
He or she must be willing to follow through on Rudy Keeling's groundwork

On the second lower-level of Piano Row, tucked into the corner of a row of offices that overlooks the Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker gym, sits a room that student-athletes currently use to chat, do homework, or simply recharge their batteries.

The room, once the office of Emerson's athletic director, is expected to resume its former use later this year when the college anticipates it will hire a new, full-time director.

Emerson's athletics program is at a pivotal moment, as it transitions from the Great Northeast Athletic Conference to the more-competitive New England Women and Men's Athletic Conference, a move that will match our teams with schools like MIT, Wellesley, and Babson.

At this decisive moment, the department needs a strong head. The new AD must not betray the potential established over the last several years, from the hiring of more full-time coaches to investments in facilities like the Field at Rotch Playground and the Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker Gym. Emerson owes it to the man who re-

Athletics have come a long way at Emerson, but much of the student body still lacks an appreciation for the strong program that has been growing here.

vealed that potential: former athletic director Rudy Keeling, who died in July after a bout with cancer.

In searching for a new director, Emerson must keep in mind Keeling's creativity and ambition. Keeling, decisive and forward-thinking, oversaw a similarly significant period in Emerson sports, carving out a true space for athletics among the school's focus on arts and communications.

Athletics have come a long way at Emerson, but much of the student body still lacks an appreciation for the strong program that has been growing here. To convince their peers to take notice, student athletes need a director who will take on significant challenges and shepherd significant strides.

When Kristin Parnell, the department's last full time director, resigned in May 2012, her decision was met with optimism among student-athletes who were hoping for an improved relationship with the department. In the 15 months Emerson has spent without a permanent Athletic Director, the college has assessed feedback from current and former student-athletes and

athletics administrators about the department's deficiencies.

Now is not the time to exercise caution. Though Emerson should perform its due diligence in finding a new AD—as it has done by commissioning the services of consulting firm Alden & Associates to assist in the process—the new head of the department should be comfortable taking risks, like Keeling. The candidate should open avenues of communication in the department, something that was amiss during Parnell's tenure.

There was only one Rudy Keeling. But hopefully, Emerson can find a new athletic director with a similar passion and inventiveness.

The editorial is written solely by Editor-in-Chief Evan Sporer, Managing Editors Andrew Doerfler, Opinion Editor Hunter Harris, and Assistant Opinion Editor Liana Genito without consultation from other staff memebers, and does not influence any other stories. Op-Eds reflect the view of only their authors, not the Berkeley Beacon.

Letters If you want to respond to, or share an opinion about, an article in the Beacon, you can write a short letter to the editor. Email it to letters@berkeleybeacon.com. Please note that letters may be edited. Submissions for print must be shorter than 250 words.

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DIY cream cheese is
Sodexo's latest improvement



opinion

The case for Syrian intervention

Tyler Deffebach is a junior journalism major & Beacon contributor

They walk from pedestrian to pedestrian, offering shoe services or selling pieces of gum for a thousand libra (around 66 cents) a pack, and they all have the same desperate cry for help: “I am Syrian, I am hungry, please help me.”

I pass this group of around 10 small children on the 15 minute walk from my apartment to the American University of Beirut. They have dust-covered hair, tattered clothing, and worn-out sandals. Their presence serves as a daily reminder that while the diplomatic steps recently taken by President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry are productive in preventing the use of chemical weapons, they do not put enough pressure on the Assad regime to begin the march towards ending this humanitarian crisis. In order to do this, the United States must hit the illegitimate Syrian government with controlled military strikes.

In my four weeks here in Beirut, I have seen how successfully a country can recover from a civil war. Lebanon was engulfed in its own brutal civil conflict lasting 15 years, which came to an end in the early 1990s. While there are still political and security issues yet to be resolved, Beirut is home to tremendous optimism and progressiveness. Every few blocks there are luxurious apartments being built, and there is an ever expanding upper-middle class eager to spend its wealth within its own communities that are far more socially liberal than other countries in the region.

Lebanon is a shining example of how a country in this region can return from the brink of collapse, and Syria can certainly follow suit. But the U.S. must force Assad to the negotiating table, and, as of this moment, striking him hard, and striking him now seems as though it is the only option.

Over the past two years, the revolution in Syria has grown from a peaceful movement on the list of the Arab Spring uprisings, to a humanitarian catastrophe, generating refugee and casualty statistics so large they rival those of Rwanda, Sudan, and Kosovo.

This mass exodus, along with increased Sunni-Shiite tensions in the region, have been caused by an influx of Hezbollah fighters from Lebanon, Shiite militias from Iraq, and covert troops sent from Iran in Syria. All of this is in support of Assad (who is Alawite, a branch of Shiite Islam), and has emboldened the regime to be more aggressive in targeting the Sunni civilian population in Syria (Sunnis compose the vast majority of the opposition fighters).

In order to end this nightmare for the region, the world needs to put Assad on the defensive. The only way this can be accomplished is through military strikes.

Whether we like it or not, we are the only superpower in the world, and indeed the only country capable of striking the highly technical targets that have been proposed by Obama.

Our invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan has left us war weary and rightfully intimidated by any military action in the Middle East. But President Obama has stated numerous times, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has confirmed, that the proposed military action would strike targets that would cripple Assad’s military

machine that are irreplaceable in the near future. These targets include: 10 air bases, six military facilities, three armored brigades, two mechanized brigades, and three missile sites using our Sixth Fleet, which is currently stationed in the Mediterranean off the coast of Lebanon.

In a column titled “Arm and Shame,” New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman wrote that the U.N. Security Council is useless because of Russia and China’s blind support for Assad, as he secures Russia with a naval base in Tartus, and China uses Syria as a client state for the rest of the region. Europe and the Arab League are military museums that do not have a fraction of our military capabilities, and all other countries are on the sidelines

watching this madness unfold without any action.

And while the prospects of negotiations to secure chemical weapons within Syria are underway between the U.S. and Russia, Assad and Putin will take this as the lesser of two evils, between confiscating chemical weapons or a full bombardment by the U.S. navy. Not striking Assad directly will permit the Syrian military to continue slaughtering innocent men, women, and children.

Alternative routes to military strikes in Syria would be disastrous.

Arming the rebels is not a viable option. The Free Syrian Army is divided, scattered, undisciplined, and incapable, even with the right weapons, of overthrowing this regime.

They are often responsible for killing Alawite civilians, executing captured Syrian soldiers, and having no clear structure of command. The movement also has some extremist Sunni sects, such as the al Qaeda-affiliated al-Nusra Front. The potential of giving weapons to this group would spread sectarian strife into the region, further destabilizing the Middle East, with little or no impact on Assad.

Isolating “the good rebels” in order to put the right parties on the negotiating table with Assad is possible, but throwing weapons at this party would not end the war in a timely fashion without U.S. naval or air support.

American isolation would be even worse. A “red line” has allegedly been crossed and much more than Obama’s reputation is at stake if we do not act. If the U.S. allows Syria to prance over this boundary, it will every military promise the U.S. has made to the world in question.

Our international security goal should be a single, small intervention to avoid future global conflicts. We cannot afford to regress into isolationism by not intervening in Syria. This would invite Iran to accelerate its suicidal march towards nuclear weapons, North Korea to resume skirmishes with the South, and China to fulfill its own bizarre version of manifest destiny by increasing its naval hostilities with the Philippines, Vietnam, and my former home of Japan. All with the belief of impunity from U.S. military intervention.

This we cannot allow, and this is the larger picture if we do not act in Syria.

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The United State’s military’s sixth fleet is currently stationed on the coastline of Beirut. • Tyler Deffebach / Beacon Contributor

It’s hard out there for a student activist

Liana Genito is a sophomore journalism major & the Assistant Opinion Editor of the Beacon

As a student activist, I am familiar with the perpetual struggle of being the little guy trying to make a big change.

Activists of any age want the absolute best for their cause, but there is a certain expectation and trust that goes along with it; we depend on others to care just as much about the cause in order for our ultimate goal to be reached. It pains me to cover up fundraising with cupcakes and car washes, because I want to believe that people are donating for the cause, and not for a treat or clean car. The reality is, it takes something personal to be invested—to give your time, your money, and your effort. It takes more than your heart being “touched by tragedy” to take that step and any other steps necessary to pursue the solution to a problem.

I have been a devoted supporter of Invisible Children ever since their infamous KONY 2012 video in March 2012. KONY 2012 touched hearts by humanizing atrocities committed in an entirely different region. However, what became the most viral video faded like any fad and faced monu-

mental criticism. Being an Invisible Children supporter, I’ve watched people tear apart the efforts of young activists; “slacktivism” or “clicktivism” as it may be called. The Facebook event for Cover the Night in April had 400+ people “showing up” in my closest city. By the time it came around, the hype had ended, and it was just me and one other student hanging posters around town.

The message most people discredited and overlooked was that of advocacy. Don’t take sharing a video as inaction. Sometimes we’re too busy with the expectations of being a good student to do more than change our profile picture or share a video. We don’t always have the resources to take a bus to Washington, DC and rally in front of the White House (but

when we do, it’s awesome). For a problem to be solved, people have to know and care about the problem. As an inner photojournalist, I was so moved by the message of advocacy the KONY 2012 video had sparked. We’re just a bunch of kids. We don’t have much money to donate, or political influence. We cannot just strap on a gun and go fly to Uganda and find Joseph Kony ourselves.

But we still care. We find a reason to care. While I attended Invisible Children’s Fourth Estate Leadership Summit in Los Angeles this past August, I was happy to see over 2,000 others still dedicated to ending Lord’s Resistance Army violence in central Africa. It was then I experienced the moment, when you know and feel exactly why you’re involved

(even if you’ve been involved for a while) and that reason is no one else’s reason but your own.

We in America have the ability to shut it all out and continue on with our lives, but we also have the ability to do something about it; to spark action, to stop a war, to get our political leaders on board. We can tweet and send letters to our officials, we can start clubs here on campus (look out for the new Invisible Children club), we can fundraise like pros, we can and already study for degrees, and eventually, we take that trip across the world and that job with our favorite non-profit—for whatever social justice issue we’re passionate about.

If you’re looking to change the world, don’t get discouraged. If you were inspired to make that change, it’s possible to inspire someone else to help you make that change.

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arts



Ricky Downes III, in character as his uber-Republican alter ego named Ricky. • Courtesy of Ricky Downes III

Conservative Arts pledges hilarity, political satire Junior VMA major Ricky Downes III makes pilot

Jason Madanjian, Beacon Staff

When Ricky Downes III first arrived on campus in the fall of 2011, one thought crossed his mind among the flurry of Beyoncé beats and rainbow-clad students on move-in day: what would my father think? Downes, now a junior visual and media arts major specializing in animation and writing for film and television, has taken that kernel of an idea and popped it into a home-grown television pilot for a show called *Conservative Arts*.

A political satire that's part *Colbert Report* with a dash of *Spongebob Squarepants*' manic humor, *Conservative Arts* takes its uber-Republican main character Ricky—played by and slightly based on Downes himself—and puts him on the Emerson College campus. The result is a skewering of both the out-of-touch Republicans so often maligned on late-night television, and the high eccentricities of a liberal arts atmosphere.

"I come from a very conservative family," said Downes, particularly citing his dad, "so I said to myself: 'what would it be like if we threw him into the most flamboyant, socially conscious place in the whole world — Emerson College.'"

The pilot, broken up into two 20-minute

segments on YouTube, features a stock of stereotypical Emerson archetypes: the feminist, the hipster, and even the seemingly out-of-place jock, and pits them against Ricky, the daffy, American flag-worshipping protagonist.

Amos Stillwell, a sophomore visual and media arts major, plays Blaine Perry, the stubborn and liberal foil to Downes' crazy conservative. Stillwell, who said he also grew up in a mostly conservative house, delighted at the idea of a fish-out-of-water story in which the fish isn't necessarily the character viewers will empathize with.

"It's interesting seeing the school from this perspective," said Stillwell of Downes' Republican character offending nearly all cliques on the liberal arts campus.

And as the episode — which took roughly a month of weekends to shoot according to Downes—progressed, things quickly became even more off-kilter in this Emerson parody.

"It got more and more fun, and more insane as the episode filming went on," said Stillwell. "It became nonsensical."

The comedic gags on the show come fast, with a reliance on clever wordplay and puns. Sight gags have Downes wearing a shirt in one scene saying "HUGS \$3," a parody of the "Free Hugs" mantra. In another, he has a big

"It got more and more fun, and more insane as the episode went on," said Stillwell. "It became nonsensical."



The cast of *Conservative Arts*. • Courtesy of Ricky Downes III

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white binder labeled "women."

Downes wears many hats during production, including creator, head writer, director, and star. He was also in charge of raising funds for the project, which he said he did through online fundraising site Indiegogo. Of the \$1,000 goal, Downes was able to accumulate \$600 for the project. The rest came out-of-pocket from him and some members of the crew.

"It might have been too much of an undertaking," said Downes of the experience.

But he also said he knew not to stress the little things.

"It was low-key because it was a comedy and not a piece of art," said Downes. "We focused less on the technical aspects."

Still, the affair became time-consuming for all involved.

"By the end of the third week, it was becoming weary," said Willie Burnley, a sophomore writing, literature, and publishing major who had no acting experience prior to being cast.

Heading into a second season of three projected episodes for the semester, the crew said it hopes to become more efficient.

"It's going to be a challenge to keep balancing it," said Burnley. "But I definitely want to see how much I can contribute."

Cast members Burnley and Stillwell

would even like to confer ideas and scripts, given the chance.

"There are some people who want a part of it," said Burnley. "But right now, it's Ricky's baby and I respect that."

Stillwell agreed, although he hopes to broaden the show's appeal beyond Emerson students for its second batch of episodes.

"I want to make it more accessible for everyone going forward," said Stillwell. "It's hard for someone like my uncle to get the show."

Going forward, Downes said he wants to overestimate how long it's going to take, so he's not caught off guard. The entire budget for the second season will be approximately \$2,500, according to Downes, who said he hopes to start filming by the end of September. In the meantime, DVD copies are on the horizon to garner new fans and re-engage those who already saw it at a screening he held last April in the multi-purpose room, he said.

In the future, it's going to be up to Downes to deliver on the promise of new scripts and episodes. Both money and timing will prove pivotal, according to him.

"This isn't for class. This is something the crew won't put on their resume," said Downes. "It's to make something for fun that's funny."

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lifestyle

From Boston to the Boardwalk

Alumna eyes Miss America Title



Russo was crowned Miss New Hampshire in May 2013. • Courtesy of Samantha Russo

Katy Rushlau, *Beacon Staff*

When alumna Samantha Russo first got involved with the Miss America Organization on the local level in Feb. 2012, she entered the Miss Boston pageant and lost. Now, the former journalism student snagged the state title, Miss

New Hampshire, and is one of 53 Miss America hopefuls competing for the crown on Sept. 15 in Atlantic City, N.J. “It was my first time competing at the state level and I really didn’t believe it when I won,” said Russo, a Nashua, N.H. resident. “Now, I want to be the first Miss New Hampshire to be crowned Miss America.”

The self-proclaimed tomboy said she never pictured herself winning the state title, or even competing for the national title. “When I did Miss Boston, I didn’t see the bigger picture,” she said. “I’m not your typical pageant girl.” Russo’s interest in the competition sparked following graduation, as the reality of paying off student loans began to set in, she said. “As we all know, college isn’t cheap and we’re not getting six-figure jobs right out of college,” said Russo. “The Miss America Organization provides women with more scholarship money than any organization in the world and, for this one year alone of competing, I have earned [a total of] \$17,000 to pay off my student loans.” Since being crowned Miss New Hampshire, Russo said she travels the state, speaking at events, performing her vocal talent, and promoting her platform, Kick Butts: Tobacco Education and Prevention. “The reason I chose this as my platform is because I have watched many people in my family struggle with their tobacco addictions my whole life,” she said. “I want to do everything in my power to educate our youth on the dangers of tobacco.” Aside from gaining recognition as a local celebrity, Russo said she also has to prepare for Miss America. According to the Miss America Organization’s website, the pageant is divided into phases including talent, lifestyle, and evening gown. Russo said she trained by taking voice lessons, following a strict fitness and nutrition plan, and participating in mock interviews. “Everyone prepares differently and I am so lucky to have an amazing group of sponsors to help me out along the way,” she said. Brenda Keith, the president and executive director of the Miss New Hampshire Organization, said Russo embodies the objectives of both the Miss America and Miss New Hampshire organizations. “She is a lovely young woman whose work ethic is outstanding and she is very

natural and relatable,” said Keith. “She is absolutely ready [for Miss America]—she was ready at least a month ago.” However, the duties of a reigning state queen, Russo said, are far from all work and no play. Besides competition wardrobe and preparation sponsors, Russo said she is living the high life with a free car for a year, free manicures, make-up, and massages, as well as numerous gifts, prizes, and unforgettable experiences. The contestants are currently in Atlantic City, Russo said in an Aug. 27 interview with the Beacon, attending rehearsals and participating in appearances such as a Phillies v. Braves game, private dinners, and a Blondie concert. This week, the girls will take part in preliminary competitions, divided into three nights, which began Sept. 10. On the first night, Russo performed in the talent phase, singing her own rendition of “Don’t Rain on My Parade,” from the musical Funny Girl, and took home a trophy and a \$2,000 scholarship as the preliminary talent winner. She will also take part in the on-stage question and the eveningwear phases later on in the week leading up to the crowning event on Sept. 15. With Miss America returning to Atlantic City after six years in Las Vegas comes the return of many age-old traditions, such as the Show Us Your Shoes parade, which will take place on Sept. 14, and showcase each contestant’s one-of-a-kind outfits and shoes designed to represent herself and her state. After passing on her crown and title, Russo said she hopes to go back to school and get a Masters in Sports Business. “I have gained confidence from each phase of competition,” Russo said. “My advice [for someone interested in pageants] is just to go for it because you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.” The Miss America competition will air on ABC Sept 15 at 8 p.m..

"I want to be the first Miss New Hampshire to be crowned Miss America." —Alumna Samantha Russo

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Emerson community creates a culture of consent

Thea Byrd, *Beacon Staff*

Emerson College prides itself on its acceptance, LGBTQ-friendliness, progressive mindset, and general openness when it comes to talking about tough issues. But this semester, Emerson is focusing on revitalizing sexual assault prevention and response here on campus. The Culture of Consent initiative grew out of a movement started by a small group of students, including self-described survivors of sexual abuse, to reform the school’s response to sexual assault, according to Sarah Tedesco, a sophomore journalism major and co-president of Emerson Stopping Sexual Assault. The term “Culture of Consent” was created by Tedesco and her fellow founders of ESSA last spring, and appears on Emerson’s website about sexual assault prevention and response policies. “[Consent] is even more than ‘no means no,’” said Sylvia Spears, vice presi-

dent of diversity and inclusion. “It means ‘you haven’t heard me say yes.’” Throughout the summer, ESSA has worked with a variety of different administrators to reform Emerson’s sexual assault awareness and response program in regulation with Title IX policies, according to Tedesco. “I see it as both doing the good work of prevention and education and information sharing, and also strengthening our response,” said Spears. “The initiative will begin to create a culture where it’s okay for people to report that they were sexually assaulted.” Currently, new programs are in development stages for training faculty and students to support victims who come to them with reports of sexual abuse, according to Spears. “People share their stories where they feel safe,” said Spears. “Sometimes it’s to [a Resident Assistant], sometimes it’s to a faculty member who they’re attached to. So our entire community needs to be in a position to respond in a way that’s sup-

portive and helpful if any victim comes forward.” There was also a presentation at orientation this fall on Culture of Consent, according to Rachel Dickerman, a sophomore writing, literature, and publishing major and an orientation leader. “I think the best thing to do is educate and make sure there are repercussions [once an assault is reported],” said Dickerman. “I don’t want Emerson to be portrayed as a school that doesn’t take sexual assault seriously.” Tedesco said the lack of resources and education for students became apparent to her last spring, when Emerson Confessional, a Facebook page where people can submit anonymous posts, published over 15 confessions regarding sexual assault in three days, according to Tedesco. “There were obviously other [posts] since then, but the rate was really alarming to me,” Tedesco said. Seeing the posts on Facebook, Tedesco said she recognized the lack of support

offered to victims at Emerson and began to form the group now known as ESSA. “No matter what was or wasn’t posted, we have to do everything we can do to make sure [students] have a safe experience,” said Spears. Educating students on what consent means, eradicating rape culture, and increasing awareness on sexual assault-aiding drugs are ESSA’s hopes for the future, according to Tedesco. According to Spears, students will notice the effects of the Culture of Consent initiative on campus, specifically throughout the next few semesters. “I think this year you will see increased educational opportunities about prevention, increased education on how to respond if anyone does want to talk about it, and so you should see an overall increase in discussion on campus,” said Spears.

"[Consent] is even more than 'no means no.'" —Sylvia Spears, vice president of diversity and inclusion

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Students respond to Sodexo

The school’s new dining services in review



The new Max snack and drink section offers limited selections compared to ARAMARK. • Andrew Harwood / Beacon Staff

Martha Schick, Beacon Staff

When students are asked about the dining hall food provided by Sodexo, one word is repeated over and over again: disappointing. With complaints ranging from the lack of vegetarian options to the shortage of meat and everything in between, students are voicing concerns about every dining service.

Little Building Dining Hall

The Little Building Dining Hall, Emerson’s most popular and largest dining facility, contains the grill, homestyle cooking, vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free options, the deli, and salad bar. And all of these options are available for just one swipe.

However, the reviews on Sodexo’s presence in LB are underwhelming. Graham Finley, a sophomore visual and media arts major, has found the lack of variety disappointing, particularly with an unlimited plan.

“This year, there’s barely any food to eat and the home cooking is much worse,” he said. “With unlimited meals, you’re trying to do healthy, small meals at intervals, but they don’t really have any lean protein or good cooked vegetables.”

The salad bar in the Little Building Dining Hall has some slightly better reviews. Rebecca Contreras, a junior political communication major, noticed a difference from the last year’s offerings.

“The [quality] has gone way up,” Contreras said. “Everything is separated and properly labeled... everything is a lot neater and the presentation value has gone way up.”

While Morgan Wilson, a sophomore visual and media arts major, thinks that the quality of the fruits and vegetables has gone up, she finds the amount of food inconsistent, leading to times when all that’s left out is lettuce and tomatoes.

The grill under ARAMARK had daily specials as well as regular items, including burgers and sandwiches. Now it only has a selection of daily specials, which many students have found limiting to their meals.

The deli station also has fewer options for students to create their own wrap or sandwich on a regular basis. The pizza

station, although higher quality and including calzones, produces pizza much slower than previously.

Unlike ARAMARK, Sodexo replenishes desserts throughout the night rather than placing them all out at once.

Emerson’s Café

Emerson’s Café also received less than stellar reviews. Accepting EC Cash, Board Bucks, cash, and credit and debit cards, the café has coffee drinks as well as sandwiches and pastries, which are available for less than five dollars.

The food itself is generic and relatively low quality, but the coffee is convenient and good enough to make a stop before an early class. Hayley Gundlach, a sophomore writing, literature, and publishing major, said that the lack of variety in the café is a problem for her, particularly compared to last year.

Emerson Café’s new menu items include the change to Pete’s coffee and the addition of Café Frios, drinks equivalent to Starbucks’ frappuccinos. There are also new sandwiches and paninis available to order.

The Max

The Max, located in Piano Row, has



A Sodexo employee serves food at the dining hall. • Andrew Harwood / Beacon Staff

also lost its appeal for some students, particularly vegetarians and vegans. Contreras, a vegan, was disappointed by the change in the menu, particularly the vegan options being replaced with food options like meatballs in a cup.

The Max is unique in the wide variety of snack foods and drinks it offers, including everything from Red Bull to individual cups of hummus and pretzels. New snacks this year include a wider variety of granola bars and candy, but include fewer grocery items.

There are also different food stations, including the grill, which serves burgers and fries, and the pizza and sandwich stations. Although the pizzas are about half the size as ARAMARK’s, they are also half the price and better quality.

The pasta station has been closed, a student favorite since they were able to choose their sauces, meat, and vegetables. Additionally, stir-fries are no longer available in the Max, but are now available in The Paramount Café. The stir-fry was a good option for vegetarian students since tofu was a meat substitute option, but now getting it from Paramount Café is more of an inconvenience for the majority of students.

The Max also accepts EC Cash, Board Bucks, cash, and credit and debit cards.

The Paramount Café

The Paramount Café has gluten-free options that the Max seems to be missing. With gluten-free soup, deli sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, and gluten-free soups for under five dollars, and stir fry for \$5.69, the Paramount Café has more variety than the other cafés, but students still aren’t over the moon about it.

Corey Umlauf, a freshman performing arts major, doesn’t think the food is quite up to snuff. She said she wants more fresh fruits and vegetables offered and doesn’t think there are quite enough snacks available.

Paramount Café also accepts EC Cash, Board Bucks, cash, and credit and debit cards.

Thea Byrd, assistant Lifestyle editor, contributed to this article.

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Love Notes

The hook-up culture

Leah Casselman

Casselman is a junior marketing communications major and Beacon love columnist.

Emerson students love reminding each other how busy we are. Everyone has a million film shoots, projects, jobs, internships, and classes we need to do to get ahead in our careers, but what has it done to our love lives? Everyone needs a little loving every once and a while, but who has time for relationships?

The start of a new semester always re-sparks the internal debate about what you are really looking for. You may be surprised to find that what you thought you wanted isn’t what you are looking for anymore. Ask me over the summer when I am free of clubs and homework, and I am a diehard monogamist. Ask me two months into the school year, and I am considering throwing the cute guy in psychology on the floor for some one-on-one tutoring after class.

I read an interesting article in the New York Times this summer that said college students are giving up on love and relationships in favor of the “steady hookup” or the popular one-night stand. One look at the hot, sweaty bodies of Emerson students rubbing up on each other in a basement in Allston would suggest that this is true. However, if you head back to campus and apartments there are almost an equal number of sickeningly cute couples enjoying a night in front of the TV. Emerson has an interesting mix of the hopeless romantics and the artistic free spirits.

Students interested in relationships can’t hook up with someone who is only interested in something causal, then be surprised when it never transforms into something more.

When picking the person you want to spend your evenings with, it is important to keep in mind what camp you fall into, and which one your bedtime buddy does.

I know I’ve found myself jumping for joy when I get a text inviting me over from the hottie I’ve been talking to in class. I think he is actually interested in some sort of relationship, only to find out he was really just interested in the good old-fashioned hump-and-dump. The subsequent ignored text messages and awkward encounters in the Walker building elevators can really hit your self-esteem.

Students interested in relationships can’t hook up with someone who is only interested in something causal, then be surprised when it never transforms into something more. The person you’re interested in told you how they felt and there isn’t much you can do to change that. Sometimes you can feel pressure to have sex with a person that you really don’t want to sleep with, and you shouldn’t say yes just because you feel embarrassed to say no. Your overall happiness is more important than their sex drive.

On the other side of the coin, people can assume that if you are hooking up with someone after a party, things are going to remain casual. There is nothing more awkward than thinking a hookup is a one-time thing and having to tell the person after they’ve been calling and texting you for days that you really aren’t that interested. There is no greater mood killer like the phrase “I just want to keep this casual, I’m not looking for anything serious,” right before you hook up with someone, but it is better to know where you stand ahead of time. If things don’t work out, remember that there are plenty of other fish in the sea.

After getting it on with a person who was on a completely different page than you, you’re left feeling like a used tissue or the biggest jerk on the planet. This is 2013: what you want to do in the bedroom may be your business, but it is also your partner’s business. If both parties can communicate what they really want, we can all thrive in the hook-up culture with relatively few headaches and broken hearts.

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sports

Tennis stars set Emerson standard

Women’s tennis doubles duo equally strong as singles

Connor Burton, *Beacon Staff*

As a doubles tennis pairing, Savannah Mosser and Lacey Russell have racked up 37 wins and only 2 losses, but Emerson’s standout seniors have also provided a pair of singles stalwarts for the Lions.

“We compliment each other’s games really well,” said the 5-foot-8 Russell, who won the Great Northeast Athletic Conference Player of the Year Award in 2011, her sophomore season. “The reason we have stayed together through everything is because we really love the team and we have so much fun.”

Mosser and Russell’s doubles record is staggering, but their individual accomplishments are equally as imposing.

A senior visual and media arts major from Malibu, Calif., Mosser was named the GNAC Player of the Year in 2010, and has a 32-2 record during singles play over her first three seasons at Emerson.

The 5-foot-10 Mosser went an undefeated 12-0 in 2012, finishing out the season having won 20 consecutive singles matches, a run that dated back to September 2011.

Russell is a senior marketing communication major from Roswell, Ga., and has a 28-5 overall record. She has been named to the GNAC First-Team Singles and Doubles each of the past two seasons.

“Savannah always finishes her matches so quickly because she is so precise and never gets frustrated, and Lacey is really competitive and always keeps calm,” said junior teammate Jana Winfield. “They make sure we stay tight as a team even though we play as individuals.”

Mosser’s near two-year win streak came to an end in the team’s first ever New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference match, a 9-0 loss to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Sept. 7. MIT, the

defending NEWMAC regular season and tournament champions, was unanimously picked to finish first again this year in the conference preseason coaches’ poll. The Lions were predicted to finish sixth out of nine teams.

Although Mosser and Russell have had successful careers on the whole, they both agreed there are certain memories that stand out to them.

“Last year, we had a really close match to go to the [GNAC] finals. It came down to one match and we are all cheering on our teammate and she won and then we all ran out and celebrated,” Mosser said. “We also made it to the finals our sophomore year without a coach, which was pretty incredible.”

Now the duo is looking to the future and preparing for a new level of competition in the NEWMAC.

“The reason we have stayed together through everything is because we really love the team.” -Senior Lacey Russell

“It’s going to be a challenge to adjust to a new conference,” Mosser said. “We had some easy matches [in the past] and some were difficult, but I think this year is going to be really difficult.”

Russell said the skill level of GNAC competitors was inconsistent, but said she expects her slate of opponents in the NEWMAC to be completely different.

“We always have to be fully focused and put everything into it,” Russell said. “Before, we didn’t have to worry. Now, we really have to step it up.”

Regardless of how they play this next season, Mosser and Russell, who are close friends off the court, said they will never forget their time together.

“We always used to sing, eat and laugh together in the vans on the way to practice,” Russell said. “Our relationship really grew in the last few years. We really complete each other well.”

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Savannah Mosser and Lacey Russell accept and award. • Andrew Harwood / Beacon Archive

Athletic department gets funding increase

Student-athletes gameday needs addressed entering NEWMAC

Kyle Brasseur, *Beacon Staff*

In an effort to further improve conditions for student-athletes, Interim Athletic Director Stanford Nance and the Emerson College Athletic Department made several key changes this summer as the Lions transition from the Great Northeast Athletic Conference to the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference.

“The institutions of the NEWMAC have been doing this for a long time,” Nance said. “They are good academically and they’re good athletically. Emerson is good academically; we are working on being good athletically.”

The changes, all made in an effort to capture Nance’s desired theme of “14 varsity sports, 1 team,” are a direct result of funding from the Athletics Working Group, which Emerson President M. Lee Pelton formed to ready Emerson for the rigors of NEWMAC competition, according to Nance.

The additions include new goals for the soccer and lacrosse teams and improved ice

machines at Rotch Field and the Bobbi Brown & Steven Plofker Gym. Also new are fleet buses to ensure safe travel for teams. Players or coaches often used to be tasked with driving the team vans to games and practices, something Nance personally took care of before working group funding came through.

In addition to the buses, Nance mentioned up the school’s purchase of sweat suits and travel bags, something he hopes will help players look more like a team when on the road.

“We didn’t have those things. When our teams traveled, sometimes we had kids wearing jeans or you wear whatever — we looked like rag-tag,” Nance said. “They’ve got a uniform, they’ve got a travel sweat suit, they’ve got a bag and we feed them. [It’s] very important to us to have all 14 varsity teams like that.”

Nance emphasized the importance of student’s being able to eat before games as opposed to waiting until afterward and playing on an empty stomach.

“[We’re making] sure our students [are] getting meals when they get out of class to go compete for a game,” Nance said. “Not get out of class, hop on the bus, go to the game, compete [in] the game and then get something to eat. That’s not right. If you don’t have energy, you’re not going to be able to do your best in the game, so we cleared that.”

“We’re all on the same team,” Nance said. “We root for one another. If one is hurting, we’re all hurting. When we win, we all win; when we lose, we all lose.”

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Nance’s theme of “14 varsity sports, 1 team” illustrated on athletic department staircase. • Andrew Harwood / Beacon Staff

Gold and Suvak promoted to full-time

Men’s lacrosse and women’s soccer coaches mark first hires in three-year plan

Kyle Brasseur, *Beacon Staff*

"I feel like we're in a good position to help the program. I'm glad that the athletics department is behind the lacrosse program."
—Dan Gold, men's lacrosse head coach

For the first time in the school’s history, Emerson College has hired full-time head coaches exclusively for the women’s soccer and men’s lacrosse teams, promoting David Suvak and Dan Gold from their part-time positions. The athletic department announced the decision via press release on August 12.

“When you’re young, it’s about recruiting and building your team,” Interim Athletic Director Stanford Nance said regarding the 24-year-old Gold, who graduated from Emerson in 2012 and took over the Lions’ men’s lacrosse team just months after playing his final game. “You’ll become a better coach once you get good players. That’s why we’re elevating our part-time coaches to full-time.”

The promotion of Gold and Suvak to full-time positions are the first hires in what Nance said is a three-year plan to staff full-time coaches in all 14 varsity sports by 2015. Currently, men’s soccer, men’s and women’s tennis and baseball are the only teams without full-time coaches.

The plan coincides with Emerson’s move from the Great Northeast Athletic Conference to the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference, starting this fall. Gold, a native of Randolph, N.J., spoke positively about his team’s chances to progress as the school’s athletic program improves.

“I feel good,” Gold said. “I feel like we’re in a good position to help the program. I’m glad that the athletics department is behind the lacrosse team.”

The funding for Emerson’s summer personnel moves came via the Athletics Working Group, of which Nance was a member, which President M. Lee Pelton organized to identify the needs of the athletic department heading into the NEWMAC and its more established sports programs.

Mike Blanchard was hired as Emerson’s first full-time lacrosse coach in 2006, but Nance said he was over-stretched, coaching the men’s and women’s team at the same time during the spring season. Blanchard said the extra time Gold can spend on recruiting and his status as a recent Emerson player will serve him well.

“Think about it, by being there, by being on campus, by being a student, he can look those kids in the eye that are coming in and he can tell them exactly what it is they’re going to run into,” said Blanchard, who usually talks with Gold once a month, but tries to only act as a sounding board, he said.

A two-year captain at Emerson, Gold was described by Nance as someone who “bleeds purple and gold.” He took over the team as part-time coach last fall after approaching Nance with an interest in helping out.

“I can’t stress enough the passion that he has for the game,” Blanchard said. “You talk to Dan about lacrosse and he just lights up.”

Gold led the team to a 2-9 record during the spring 2013 season as a part-time coach, an improvement on their 1-9 season under then-coach Nate Mayo in 2012.

“As far as coaching experience, I think there’s definitely more for me to prove,” Gold said. “I’m a young guy, so I still have a lot to learn about just coaching and managing players and people.”

Meanwhile, fellow full-time hire David Suvak brings a long list of coaching knowhow to the helm of the women’s soccer team. With over two decades of experience, Suvak compiled a 21-26-5 record over his first three seasons at Emerson, and led the team to the GNAC Quarterfinals last year.

“Everyone was really pleased that he was hired as the head coach full-time,” senior defender Casey Jablonski said. “He definitely deserves it, and he is a really great coach. We’re very lucky to have him.”

The team claimed its first victory this season on Sept. 3 in a 2-0 win over Wentworth. Having been a member of the team for four years now, two with Suvak, Jablonski noted the positive changes she’s seen from Suvak since his first year with Emerson.

“He’s improved the team itself immensely just by his recruiting process,” Jablonski said. “[He’s] bringing in a lot of better players into the program. As for his coaching style, because of the stronger players, that gives him the ability to incorporate more difficult drills and more complex playing styles.”

Recalling his time as a player, Gold believes that the biggest positive to come

from his promotion is the greater focus he’ll have as a full-time coach.

“It’s tough when you have a part-time coach who’s not there and [doesn’t have] the office there at ground level to see what’s going on with the team,” Gold said. “It’s tough for the players and it’s tough for the coach.”

Jablonski said having Suvak around more often will serve as an advantage this season.

“It gives the players a chance if they have any concerns, whether it be with soccer or school or anything in general,” Jablonski said. “He’s always available for

us to go talk to.”

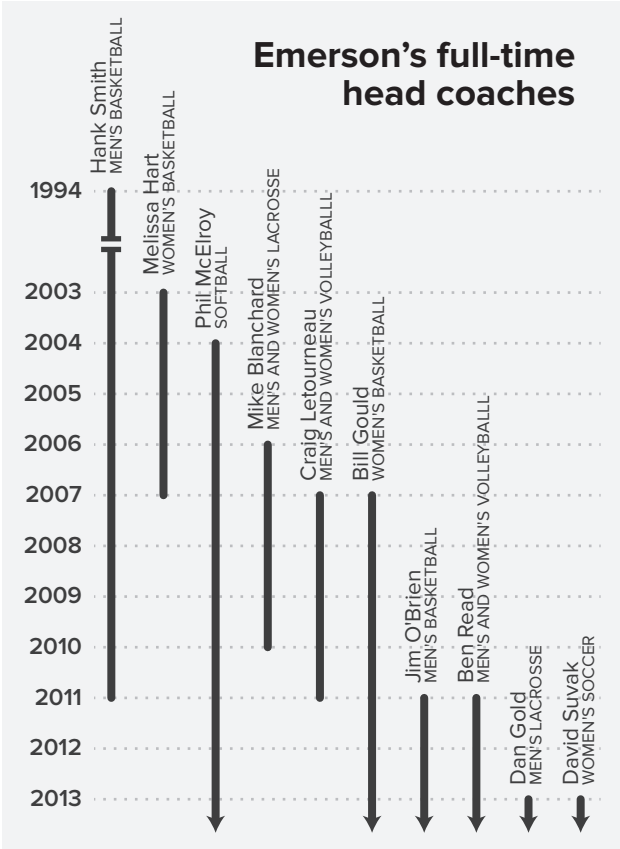
Gold maintains that there’s still more to be done for the department moving forward.

“There’s a lot of work to be done still; there’s a lot to accomplish. The program has a ways to go,” Gold said. “It’s a good step in the right direction, but I don’t think anything has gotten to where it needs to be.”

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(above) The women’s soccer team gathers in a huddle. • Courtney Tharp / Beacon Archive
(below) Brandy Eggermann set it to a Lions’ hitter • Andrew Harwood / Beacon Staff



Ryan Catalani / Beacon Staff

Emerson sports this week

Women's Soccer

9/10 at Home	
Emerson	5
Mount Ida	1

Men's Soccer

9/11 at Newbury	
Emerson	3
Newbury	4

Women's Volleyball

9/10 at Home	
Emerson	3
Amherst	1

Women's Tennis

9/11 at MIT	
Emerson	1
Roger Williams	7

With a Lion's heart, Keeling sought challenges

Carl Setterlund, *Beacon Staff*

Faculty remembers late pioneering athletic director

His laundry list of accomplishments mark former Emerson Athletic Director Rudy Keeling as a pivotal figure in changing Emerson sports from an arts school afterthought to a rising Division 3 program, but those who knew Keeling say that receiving credit meant little to the Lions' self-assured leader. Once a goal was met, the man who led the Lions from 2002 to 2007 would turn his gaze to the future, always looking for the next challenge.

"Little did I know that he was making greatness," said Interim Athletic Director Stanford Nance, an assistant men's basketball coach under Keeling at Northeastern University, and one of Keeling's first hires at Emerson in 2003.

Keeling's five-year stretch was a flurry of activity as he laid the foundation for Emerson athletics' recent strides. This year, the Lions upgraded from their NCAA conference of the past 18 years, the Great Northeast Athletic Conference, to the more athletically and academically competitive New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference.

It was Keeling who oversaw the construction of Emerson's two significant facilities investments over the past decade—the Field at Rotch Playground, located in the South End, and the Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker Gym.

It was Keeling who introduced five varsity sports, hired nine head coaches, and made Emerson Title IX compliant. It was Keeling who identified a need for full-time coaches—there was just one, former men's basketball coach Hank Smith, at the time of his hiring—for recruiting and competitive purposes. (Nance said Emerson plans to have full-time coaches in all 14 sports by Fall 2015.)

It was Keeling who first had Emerson apply to join the NEWMAC in 2006.

It was Keeling who graduated 100 percent of the student-athletes during his tenure, according to an April 2011 report by the Beacon.

Harold Rudolph "Rudy" Keeling, 66, passed away peacefully on July 6 among family in his Londonderry, N.H., home, having confronted his final challenge: cancer.

While Keeling won't get to see the long-term results of his groundwork, Nance said he has made it a goal to carry out Keeling's vision since taking control of the athletic department in May 2012.

"He had tremendous, tremendous family values," said Nance, whom Keeling hired as assistant athletic director and recruiting coordinator. "He loved his family and the family values come out in your everyday work. You know how to treat people, you know how to talk to people, [and] your interest is to help people grow."

Nance said Keeling's skills as a longtime head basketball coach—Keeling went 104-124 in eight years at the University of Maine before spending five seasons at Northeastern—translated to his administrative work. Keeling, he said, endowed subordinates with personal responsibility as members of a larger team.

"He was a planner with the creative abil-



Rudy Keeling, center, speaking at the 2004 groundbreaking of Piano Row, oversaw construction of the building's gym. • Photo courtesy of Emerson College

ity to bring dreams to reality," said Vassar College Athletic Director Dr. Sharon Beverly, who knew Keeling from their time serving together on the NCAA Division 3 Nominating Committee. Keeling was the delegate from the NCAA's Management Council, which reports to the NCAA Board of Directors. "He was also an unbelievable motivator and knew how to mobilize people to accomplish common goals."

According to Nance, Keeling arranged a \$5 million, 25-year lease with the City of Boston for the rights to use Rotch Field and allocated another \$1 million toward the installation of field turf, fencing, and clubhouses for the players. The refurbishments were finished by the Spring 2005 sports season.

The investment in Rotch Field benefited the men's and women's soccer and lacrosse teams, which previously played at Sartori Stadium in East Boston, and the softball team, which formerly played at the public field on the Common.

"He wasn't about face time. He was about results, getting it done," said softball coach Phil McElroy, who Keeling promoted to full-time in 2004. McElroy said he valued the times when Keeling would come in for a one-on-one just to check in.

When Emerson built the Max Mutchnick Campus Center and Piano Row Residence, Keeling convinced the college to invest another \$5 million in a below-ground basketball gym—which opened in September 2006—solving one of the college's toughest

facility quandaries.

The Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker Gym was built to such a high standard that a 2009 article by Benjamin Austin for the Journalism Students' Online News Service listed nine NBA teams that have used the gym to practice when in town to play the Boston Celtics.

Keeling, a former board member of the Minority Opportunities Athletics Association, left Emerson to take over the Eastern College Athletic Conference in May 2007. Keeling's new position established him as the first African-American commissioner of a major sports conference.

"It was one of the hardest decisions I've ever made because I think we're on the verge of doing something special here," Keeling told the Beacon in April 2007 as he bid adieu to Boylston Street.

Upon reflection at the July 13 memorial service Nance and Beverly organized at Brown & Plofker Gym, Nance said he felt the ambitious move fit Keeling's personality.

"Once we built Rotch Field and the Piano Row Gym, I was kind of startled, like 'Why are you leaving to go to the ECAC?'" Nance said. "He wasn't someone to rest on his laurels. He was looking forward to the new path, the new road to pave."

Those in attendance at the memorial service included Beverly, former Emerson AD and current GNAC commissioner Joe Walsh, former men's basketball coach Hank Smith, former Emerson Athletics Coordinator Roger Crosley, and Keeling's family, among many others.

"It was an absolutely beautiful service," said Crosley, a personal friend whose stepson, Alex Lambert, played basketball with Keeling's youngest son, Cory, at Londonderry High. "It was probably longer than most memorial services, but there were a lot of people that had amazing things they wanted to say about Rudy."

Crosley, who Keeling hired at Emerson in 2003, said he enjoyed being around him so much that he rejoined Keeling as ECAC director of communications in 2012.

One of those who spoke was his daughter, Dr. Kara Keeling, an associate professor at the University of Southern California.

"From everything that I've heard from others about my father in the past weeks, it is clear that he buoyed and supported people," reads a written copy of Kara Keeling's speech. "He ran towards his goals with integrity and in community with others."

Nance said Dean of Students Ronald Ludman, who oversees athletics, quickly approved putting on the ceremony, and Nance had strong support from Emerson.

"He was a wonderful colleague and pro-

vided, from my perspective, strong leadership for the athletic program," Ludman said. "We saw increasing competitiveness in a fair number of the sports under his watch, so he helped to get the athletic program moving in a positive direction."

Keeling—whom Nance referred to as "a pioneer" and "a builder"—continued to take on challenges as commissioner of the ECAC, the country's largest and only multi-division athletic conference, a position he held until his retirement in January 2013.

As commissioner, Keeling helped establish the NCAA's Division 2 Lacrosse League and oversaw the 2008, 2009, and 2012 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Final Four, held at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass. The 2009 Division 1 final between Syracuse University and Cornell University, played in front of 41,935 fans, is considered to be an all-time classic; the Orangemen fought back from a three-goal deficit over the final 3:37 of regulation, tying it with four seconds to go and winning in overtime.

While running the ECAC, Keeling also secured the conference as host of the 2014 NCAA Division 1 Men's Hockey Frozen Four, to be held this winter at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia, Pa.

Born March 17, 1947, Keeling grew up in Harlem, New York City, and went on play college basketball—first at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., before spending his final three years at Quincy College in Illinois. It was there he met his wife of 42 years, Jane, who survives him, along with his children, Tina and Cory, both of Londonderry, and Dr. Kara Keeling of Los Angeles, Calif.

Nance said the type of things he'll remember most are the times at the end of a work day when they would sit together swapping stories about their kids. Crosley said that when Keeling would ask about his family, Crosley could tell it was out of genuine interest, not formality, and it was that thoughtfulness that helped win him so many allies.

"If we hadn't spoken for a while, one of us would call the other," Beverly said. "He was a dear friend who I considered family."

It was Keeling who addressed a crowd at Adelphi University during Black History Month in February 2010, telling those in attendance, "I think that what we need to keep in mind is what do we want to do? What do we aspire to do? And then run at it as hard as you can, because you never know what you're capable of."



Current Interim Athletic Director Stanford Nance and Rudy Keeling in the the Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker Gym in 2006. • Photo by Rick Friedman, courtesy of Emerson College

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