

Student teaches handicapped to fly



Emerson alumna eyes Miss America



Amigos hosts Latin American night



The Berkeley Beacon

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Bird Street connects students

Christina Bartson, *Beacon Correspondent*

Randy Boston stands with a microphone in hand and looks into the camera.

"I'm here to spread knowledge on top of truth," he said. "I'm here to help you help other people. The words that come out of my mouth—I hope it impacts your heart."

Boston, a sophomore at City on the Hill Charter Public School, raps about anti-violence in a public service announcement video on YouTube created by The Emerson/Bird Street Civic Engagement Project—a partnership between Emerson College and the Bird Street Community Center of Dorchester. The project focuses on teaching middle school and high school students to resolve conflict through communication.

Gregory Payne and Spencer Kimball, professors in Emerson's communication department, launched the project last spring as a result of President M. Lee Pelton's civic engagement initiative on campus. Payne and Kimball reached out to the Bird Street Community center, a non-profit foundation that mentors inner-city youth, according to Neil Harris, a Boston public school teacher and the on-site coordinator for the community center.

After receiving a \$12,500 grant from the college in May, Payne, Kimball, and a group of Emerson students went to

Dorchester to teach middle school and high school age Bird Street participants to write, act in, film, and direct videos. The Emerson group hopes participants will show peers in their community that communication can trump violence, said Kimball.

Over the summer, Bird Street participants created PSAs on violence and bullying, which they posted on YouTube, with mentorship from Emerson students Felix Chen, a senior communications major, and Silver Qi, a graduate student in the communications management program. They also started a Facebook page, launched a blog, and wrote poetry.

"They're amazing," said Chen. [The students] are really talented. They're only 15, 16 years old, but you can see the brightness in their hearts and in their minds."

Boston said although he joined the project on a whim, it has greatly impacted his life.

"When you dedicate yourself to something, you stay out of trouble," said Boston. "This program has definitely opened doors for me."

Like Boston, Chen has also felt the impact of this program.

"It's an amazing experience," said Chen. "You can actually apply all the skills you learn in the classroom to society. This is real problem solving. You're

See *Bird Street*, page 3

Panel addresses race and violence in media

Martha Schick, *Beacon Staff*

Panelists gathered in the Cutler Majestic Theater to discuss the role of media and arts in gun violence. • *Andrew Harwood/Beacon Staff*

On Thursday, stories of violence and loss were shared in the Cutler Majestic Theater, leading to tears on and off the stage.

Emerson College hosted a panel on the role of media and art in gun violence, bringing in four activists with deeply personal stories. The event was the first organized by the new Elma Lewis Center for Civic Engagement, Research, and Learning, and was co-organized by ArtsEmerson.

Kelly Bates, executive director of the Elma Lewis Center, coordinated and moderated the discussion, entitled *The Violence Divide: Race and Class Disparities in the Media's Response to Gun Violence*. The panel focused on the media's representations of race and class in instances of gun violence, and on the role art plays in the healing process. The event, which was open to the public, was attended by 150 students and community members.

President M. Lee Pelton opened the discussion with a statement on gun violence. He specifically spoke about its effect on young people, and implored the media to take responsibility in shaping coverage of tragedies.

"[Gun violence] is a public health crisis of enormous proportions," Pelton said. "Media plays a significant role in how we frame gun violence and shootings in our nation."

The panel was not held in conjunction with Pelton's year-old, ongoing initiative to hold discussions about gun violence on cam

See *Gun Panel*, page 3

Candidates speak during quick event

Kathryn Bennett, *Beacon Staff*

The Student Government Association hosted a candidate speech night in the Iwasaki Library on Wednesday, Sept. 25 to give contenders a chance to speak about their goals. Six positions were vacant after last semester's elections.

The 15-minute event was lightly attended—only SGA members, candidates, and student journalists were present. Only three candidates spoke.

The empty positions included the journalism, visual and media arts, communication sciences and disorders, and performing arts senators, plus secretary and treasurer positions for the class of 2014.

Currently, no students are campaigning for the communication sciences and disorders senator, or class of 2014 treasurer positions.

Jasmine Reyes, the SGA elections commissioner, opened the event by reading a statement from Jessica Slavin, a writing, literature, and publishing major running for class of 2014 secretary. Slavin could not



attend speech night because she had class, according to Reyes.

In her statement, Slavin wrote that she hopes to improve communication with her classmates on commencement procedures and promised to plan a "baller" senior week.

See *Speech Night*, page 2

Freshman April Newell is running as a write-in candidate for journalism senator. • *Zhuoting Wu/Beacon Correspondent*

Vandalism found in library

Jackie Tempera, *Beacon Staff*

Library staff discovered two swastikas drawn in yellow chalk on one of the Iwasaki Library's pillars. The pillars were recently painted with chalkboard paint so students could interact with one another, according to Robert Fleming, executive director of the library.

Between 4:30 and 5 p.m. on Friday, library staff found the symbols on the pillar across from the Service Desk. One was a right-facing swastika and one a left-facing swastika, according to a photograph of the vandalism. The right-facing swastika is representative of the Nazi party, while the left-facing image is linked to Hinduism and Buddhism and represents the presence of God and strength.

On Monday, Ronald Ludman, the dean of students, sent an email alerting students and staff of the incident.

"I know most of you will share my upset and anger upon learning about this cowardly and ugly act," Ludman

wrote. "There is no room for such hurtful and odious forms of expression on our campus — such behavior runs counter to our core values and who we are as a community."

In an emailed statement to the Beacon, Ludman said the Emerson College Police Department is continuing to investigate the incident.

According to the student handbook, a person who commits an act of vandalism on the college campus will be reported to the dean's office. At that time, the dean and his staff members will review the case and make an assessment on a punishment.

This is not the first time racially and religiously-charged messages have appeared on campus. Last February, the N-word appeared on an elevator in the Little Building alongside the phrase "Black people, Jews, and Christians." A week later, the message "wake up white America" was found written on the mirror in the men's restroom in the library.

See *Graffiti*, page 2

Online extras More at berkeleybeacon.com/videos



The Beacon Beat: our weekly news recap
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Extended interview with Holland Farkas
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Panel on media's portrayal of gun violence
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news

Student Government looks to fill remaining vacancies

Students elected to committees SGA to hold special election for openings

Kathryn Bennett, *Beacon Staff*

Four members of the Student Government Association were elected to sit on academic and administrative committees during a meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24. The group was also given a presentation by professor Tom Cooper on a new school spirit initiative he is spearheading.

Nicholas de la Canal, Danielle Behrendt, Hannah Perrin, and Hilary Fan will each sit on an official school committee as representatives of the student body. De la Canal, the class of 2015 president, won a seat on the Board of Trustees. Behrendt, the writing, literature, and publishing senator, will serve on the Academic Policy Committee, and class of 2016 Senator Hannah Perrin will serve on the Academic Calendar Committee. Hilary Fan, the vice treasurer, will participate in the Budget and Planning Priorities Advisory Committee.

These student representative positions are held by SGA members every year. Those wishing to hold the positions apply, and then are voted on by the rest of the SGA members. The voting was done in a closed session.

Another commissioner position was also appointed at the meeting. Nicholas D'Errico, a junior writing, literature, and publishing major, will serve as the transfer commissioner. Through this position, D'Errico, who transferred into Emerson as a sophomore last year, said he hopes to make the transition process easier for students who do not start at Emerson as freshmen. He said he hopes to make improvements to the transfer

student orientation series and introduce more networking events, so incoming students can get to know more of their peers and organizations within the Emerson community.

Cooper, a visual and media arts professor, gave a presentation at the meeting about an initiative he is working on called the Spirit of Emerson, which aims to boost Emerson pride.

There will be a new Spirit of Emerson Award that will be awarded each year to two individuals or groups who have exemplified the spirit of the college during the past academic year. One award will be given to a student or group of students, and the other winner will be from the alumni, trustee, faculty, or administrative community, according to Cooper.

Cooper said he, along with Andrew Tiedemann, Emerson's vice president of public affairs, have approached various organizations on campus about getting involved in the initiative, including finding new ways to boost school spirit and presenting their own spirit awards.

According to Tiedemann, several organizations have agreed to participate, including the a capella group Noteworthy and the Emerson Lions Spirit Squad, who cheer at Emerson varsity games and at various events throughout the city.

So far, SGA has not committed to participating in the initiative. It will be discussed in next week's meeting.

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Continued from page 1

The first candidate to speak was sophomore Alicia Carroll, who is running unopposed for visual and media arts senator. If elected, she said she hopes to represent all of the different visual and media arts concentrations and work with co-curricular organizations within the department.

Carroll said she would advocate for more space on campus for these organizations to use, and act as a liaison between heads of these organizations and the administration.

Sophomore Becky Brinkerhoff took the podium next and said, if elected, she would try to set up more workshops with performing arts professors.

"We only come in contact with a small number of performing arts professors," said Brinkerhoff. "But with workshops, we could get a taste of what our fellow students are learning in the classroom."

Two write-in candidates are competing for the journalism senator position: freshman April Newell and junior Renee Deschene. Newell spoke first, and her platform focused on helping underclassmen learn about the internship process.

She acknowledged that being a freshman put her at a disadvantage, but said she was not afraid of getting involved in the department and talking to faculty members about her concerns.

Deschene's speech concentrated on bringing the higher-quality equipment into undergraduate classrooms. She said that freshman journalism students only get to use consumer-grade Zi8 video cameras, and they would be better prepared for their future classes if they were comfortable with better gear. She said she would also try to get more students into the workshops offered by the department, or bring what is taught in

"We only come in contact with a small number of performing arts professors."

— **Becky Brinkerhoff**



Becky Brinkerhoff, a candidate for performing arts senator, said she hopes to bring more workshops to students in her major. • *Zhuoting Wu / Beacon Correspondent*

the classes to the workshops when possible.

Because they are write-in candidates, neither Newell or Deschene's names will appear on the ballot. Journalism students will have the option to write their names in when they log in to vote.

The write-in option will also be available for the positions no one is currently running for. Those interested in filling those positions have until Oct. 7 to fill out an election packet. If the positions are not filled by then, there will be another chance to run in November, when the class of 2017 elects its officers.

Polls open on Sept. 30 at midnight and will remain open through October 1. They can be accessed at vote.emerson.edu.

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Students say images were offensive and immature



Two swastikas were found on a column in the Iwasaki Library. • *Photo courtesy of the Emerson College Police Department.*

Continued from page 1

But, Sylvia Spears, the vice president of diversity of inclusion, said this is the first time such an act has occurred so early into the semester in her history at the college. Spears was hired in 2012.

"These things happen on college campuses, I know that," said Spears. "But this timing is unusual. It's only the third week of school."

Spears said she, staffers in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and senior administrators at the college are discussing a plan of action in response to the graffiti. Last semester, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Division of Student Affairs hosted several diversity education programs after the incidents.

Spears said she believes hosting positive events—focusing on diversity rather than how negative graffiti could be hurtful—will be more effective, but no events have been scheduled yet.

"Sometimes it's more powerful to assert things that are right," she said.

Spears said she has spoken to a few students about the vandalism, and these individuals found it offensive.

"Students say they absolutely reject it," she said. "It's insulting and it undermines our message."

Josh Rifkin, a Jewish freshman visual and media arts major, said he feels the act was disrespectful.

"I think they had some sort of targeted intent," he said.

Chloe McAlpin, a freshman writing, literature, and publishing major, said she thought it was immature.

"It seems like a middle school crime in a liberal college environment," she said.

Flemming said he was upset to find that the columns, which were redesigned to help bring the community together, were defaced.

"It was not our goal to give a platform for hurtful language," he said.

"It was not our goal to give a platform for hurtful language."

— **Robert Flemming, executive director of the library**

Flemming said he suspects the vandal wrote on the pillar while the student employee from the Service Desk was helping a visitor to the library. At the time of the graffiti that student was the only staffer working, he said.

"Between 4:30 and 5 on Friday is not a popular time at the library," he said.

Flemming said when the library staff decided to create the chalk display, he worried something like this would happen. If more acts of vandalism continue, the installation will be removed, he said.

"If people can't respect the community," he said, "we'll paint the columns gray and take away the chalk."

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Public Safety Log

Tuesday, September 17

A student's cell phone was stolen at 12:30 a.m. at the St. Francis House at 39 Boylston St. The theft is being handled by an outside agency.

Thursday, September 19

On the Common, a non-Emerson person had cash stolen from them at 11:12 p.m. The ECPD assisted another agency in handling the crime.

A student reported their iPhone missing on Sept. 4. The case is now closed.

A vendor outside of 549 Washington St reported that a laptop was stolen. The investigation is ongoing.

Friday, September 20

Drugs were found in Little Building at 2:30 p.m. They were discovered while the ECPD was taking inventory of property. The investigation into the owner of the drugs is ongoing.

Two swastikas were found drawn on the

chalkboard paint in the Iwasaki Library in the Walker Building. The investigation is ongoing.

Sunday, September 22

Threats were made by a student on a social media site at 12:11 a.m. in the Little Building.

Monday, September 23

An iPhone was stolen from in the Little Building at 7:07 p.m. The investigation is ongoing.

Corrections & Clarifications

In the Sept. 19 article "College creates a more sustainable community," Paramount was incorrectly identified as LEED certified in a previous photo caption due to an editing error.

Due to a reporting error, the sustainability programs including single stream recycling were said to be in place in the residence halls within the next year. However, they are currently being evaluated and researched.

Former nonprofit director brings diverse background to new center



Kelly Bates, executive director of the Elma Lewis Center for Civic Engagement, speaks at a panel discussion last Thursday. Andrew Harwood / Beacon Staff

Jenn Zarate, Beacon Correspondent

A large, framed thank-you letter propped on the table serves as a reminder of a decade of work in leadership and community impact. The thankful message from the Access Strategies Fund wishes Kelly Bates—the fund's former director—well as she moves to a new position: the founding executive director of Emerson's new Elma Lewis Center for Civic Engagement, Learning, and Research.

In this position, Bates said she will work with faculty, students, and staff to engage the Boston community in service learning projects, community partnerships, social discourse, community forums, and policy.

Raised in New York City's diverse and low-income neighborhood of Washington Heights, Bates said she lived with her single mother and grandparents, who were passionate civic participants.

On Sept. 11, 2001, in the midst of the chaos after the terrorist attacks, Bates said her grandmother was most upset that she couldn't cast her vote in the primary elections that were being held that day.

"That was her number one concern. I swear it's a true story and that is the tradition I come from," said Bates, chuckling at the memory.

While these family traditions influenced her as she grew up, it was her father's career in public relations and communications that she said truly inspired her. Bates' father was one of the first men to work for Planned Parenthood, she said.

Bates said she, as a child, had wanted to pursue a career as an actress and singer, but instead attended college at University at Albany, State University of New York, where she participated in student government.

"Becoming involved really politicized me, and I learned a great deal of leadership and organizing skills," Bates said.

This is what led her to later attend law school at Boston University School of Law, where she studied civil rights law, nonprofit law, and legislation, she said.

Unlike many of her peers who went on to work for law firms and the government, Bates said she has worked for the last 20 years running community-based organizations all over the Boston area.

At the age of 26, Bates ran a women's organization, and then a foundation that raised money for women and children who were victims of domestic violence and in need of health care, she said. For the eight years that followed, she said she became a consultant working with nonprofits, helping organizations become more diverse and deal with the power dynamics surrounding race and gender.

Bates said she hopes to bring the different components of the Elma Lewis Center together in big campaigns that will define what Emerson is known for in the community.

"Something so powerful that would make people go, 'Wow, Emerson made such a huge impact alongside the community, and it has had a ripple effect for years to come,'" she said.

On Sept. 19, Bates hosted the center's first panel discussion, which focused on gun violence, in collaboration with ArtsEmerson. She said the Elma Lewis Center would like to increase its role in campus discourse and become more involved with civic issues.

What motivates Bates is the vibrancy of the students and faculty, she said, describing them as an engaged, socially aware, and dynamic group.

"What makes it all worthwhile is seeing

people's minds open up about an issue," she said.

President M. Lee Pelton first announced his plans for the Elma Lewis Center in his inaugural speech last September.

Bates said she was appreciative of Pelton's initiative. Lewis, who graduated from Emerson in 1943, was a nationally recognized arts and black culture activist, and Bates said being able to continue in her legacy is an honor.

Suzanne Hinton, director of the office of service learning and community action, said she feels Bates is a good fit for the center.

"Kelly Bates brings a wealth of experience in terms of social justice and civic and community engagement to Emerson," she said. "I can't imagine anyone better suited for the work that Emerson has begun through our new Elma Lewis Center. Already in her first few weeks here, she is making an impact."

Junior Judy Jun, a visual and media arts major, said she is looking forward to seeing what changes Bates will bring in the future.

"After meeting her during the hiring process, us students that are a part of the office of Diversity and Inclusion were able to see how friendly she was and how she cared about the work she did," said Jun.

Vice President for diversity and inclusion Sylvia Spears said that Emerson was very fortunate to have someone of Bates' caliber heading the Elma Lewis Center and leading its civic engagement initiative.

"[Bates] brings to her role as executive director strong professional skills and abilities, deep involvement in the city of Boston," said Spears, "and all of the right values to advance in civic work in meaningful ways."

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City youth communicate Panelists share stories

Continued from page 1

actually making changes in society."

Juliet Albin, a senior marketing communication major, also participated.

"Emerson always talks about being more involved in Boston's communities, but this project helped solidify that idea," she said.

Albin and Chen both said the project wasn't just about tackling the problem of violence in the community—it was also about building relationships with people from different backgrounds.

"After three months, I felt a deep, personal relationship with them," said Chen. "We come from such different backgrounds. But in the end, something just clicked."

Albin said the students still reach out to her when they aren't feeling good about something or when they have a problem.

"I'm happy to say that I'm keeping in touch," said Albin.

For Bird Street participant Boston, the feeling is mutual.

"The way they look after us is real. They want to see us doing things in life. They give us advice. And when they have problems, they tell us. So it's sort of like, we're pretty tight with each other," said Boston of the Emerson students and staff.

The Bird Street participants presented their work to Pelton in June and he was inspired, said Kimball.

In September, Emerson students and faculty at Bird Street participants resumed their weekly meetings and started planning phase two of the project. They are working to expand the program within the community and nationally, said Payne.

A group of participants from the project will go to Washington D.C. this November to present their project to members of Congress, according to Kimball.

Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick has expressed interest in the project, said Kimball, and Nelly, a rapper, has also paid notice.

Emerson faculty and alumni will



teach monthly workshops at the Bird Street community center on subjects like public speaking, dance, and creative writing, said Payne, and will incorporate different languages.

For Payne and the other Emerson students, the ultimate goal of the project is to have Bird Street students attend Emerson College—a testament to how strongly they feel about the at-risk students and the role dialogue plays in their communities.

"Communication is the most valuable weapon in the world today," said Payne. "If we can truly communicate with people, we can change and influence their hearts and minds."

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Continued from page 1

pus, according to Bates. She said that while the panel was not coordinated with the president's office, he was kept up to date with the plans, and that regardless, both offices are trying to encourage as much dialogue as possible on the issue of gun violence.

The four panelists—Betty Shoels, Taisha Akins, Courtney Mark Grey, and Michael Patrick MacDonald—discussed their experiences with racial discrimination in the media's coverage of violence. Shoels and Akins said they directly encountered gun violence when each lost a member of their family. MacDonald told stories of growing up in a poor white area of South Boston.

Shoels talked about her nephew's death in the 1999 Columbine school shooting. She focused on how the media treated his death differently because he was the only black student among the 13 victims who were killed. According to Shoels, her nephew was unfairly characterized as a bad child because it made for a better story.

"[The media] needs to step up and tell the truth instead of hiding in a corner and telling the story the way you want to tell it," she said.

Akins said she lost her son to a street shooting and felt the impact of his race in the way she was treated. She said the police told her she was a bad mother, and that the press wouldn't take no for an answer when asking for interviews, and she attributed this to the fact that her family is black.

"They broadcasted all my information ... on the newscasts," she said. "I had to move for fear for my other children."

Both women said the media portrayed their family members as gang members and miscreants. Both boys were assumed to have been a part of the violence that took their lives, as opposed to innocent victims, said Shoels and Akins.

MacDonald briefly touched on his history with gun violence — his mother was killed by a stray bullet shot into their kitchen and three of his siblings, two of whom were involved in gangs, were killed

violently, he said.

He also spoke about what he called a racial spin in the media, saying that South Boston was only covered in instances of aggression with a racial angle.

"[Violence] could only be reported on if we could talk about the black perpetrator, not the black victim," he said.

Grey, director of trauma services for the Boston Public Health Commission, talked about a change that he said needs to occur in the new generation of journalists. He said he wanted to use the panel to reshape the paradigm of how tragedies are reported, specifically in regard to race.

He also told a story of boys performing an interpretive dance after a funeral to express their emotions. Grey said that acts like this, poetry, song, and other forms of art, can help the mourning and healing process.

Phillip Martin, a reporter for WGBH-FM, was supposed to join the panel via Skype, but was forced to disconnect due to technical difficulties.

After the panelists spoke, the audience was invited to ask questions and give comments. Participants, most of whom were community activists and Emerson students, mentioned pressures and racism they said they faced as African-Americans.

Tashanea Whitlow, a journalism graduate student, talked about the racial diversity of reporters she had encountered.

"The newsrooms are not as diverse as the communities they report on," she said, which was received with cheers and whistles in agreement from the panelists and members of the audience.

Tate Drucker, a freshman journalism major, said the panel exceeded her expectations.

"It was a lot more emotional than I thought it was going to be. I came in here expecting a lot of comments about the general national issue," she said, "but what I loved and what I thought made it so powerful and so emotional was how it really honed in on how this is an issue in neighborhoods...in Boston."

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editorial

Civic engagement, on campus and off

At issue:

Emerson introduces several new civic engagement measures

Our take:

The administration should be applauded for following through on Pelton's inaugural initiative

From his very first days at Emerson, President M. Lee Pelton has made civic engagement a priority on campus.

"Our graduates—wherever they live—will encounter the increasing diversity of these United States," he said during his inauguration in 2012.

And rightfully so. Since many of us will one day contribute to the media that is increasingly shaping our culture, the school should be commended for making diversity and community service priorities in our learning.

Pelton has worked to integrate civic engagement at an institutional level, hiring Sylvia Spears as the new vice president for diversity and inclusion within his first year, and, more recently, establishing the new Elma Lewis Center for Civic Engagement, Learning, and Research, with Kelly Bates as its founding executive director. It's notable that Emerson would choose to name such an office after an alumna who was both a patron of the arts and activist for African-American rights, signaling a meld that should be a model for the college's future.

By partnering with the Bird Street Community Center of Dorchester, a local charity

Students have long extended their reach beyond Emerson's classroom, but to see our administration reflect their efforts reinforces those values on a new level.

working with middle and high school students to delve into problem-solving techniques to help troubled communities, Emerson students have continued to increase civic engagement throughout the city of Boston. The partnership between Emerson students and this community center is rooted in a willingness to meaningfully engage with those outside of the Emerson community and to build lasting relationships.

Students have long extended their reach beyond Emerson's classroom, but to see our administration reflect their efforts reinforces those values on a new level. Even outside of Pelton's initiative, there have been other instances of civic engagement that reflect students' commitment, including ventures like Emerald Empowerment, Ribbons on the Runway, and Boston Strong. Activism has long been a part of student life on and off campus, and as each new initiative pops up, it's a good feeling that the administration takes these efforts seriously.

Emerson did not plan for its recent panel on gun violence to occur three days after 12 people were killed in a Washington, D.C., shooting, but the timing highlights the college's ongoing willingness to speak openly about a problem that continually plagues

us and is so difficult to discuss seriously. It shows that the instinct to regularly hold talks on the topic—even without a specific news peg—was right, because the issue is always there.

As a college, it's important that we constantly strive to be an intellectual community that embraces our geographic surroundings, willing to conflate what we learn in our diverse disciplines with our civic responsibilities. Finally having an administration that not only understands this duty, but also encourages it, should be appreciated. Further, its message should manifest itself in us even once we've left Emerson, for civic engagement is an obligation we have not just as students, but as members of any community we are a part of.

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

Letters

To the Emerson student body,
This letter is coming to you from the student leaders that make up this year's Student Government Association (SGA) Joint Session. Of our responsibilities, one is allocating additional funds to organizations during the school year through a process known as SGA Appeals. As part of the comprehensive fee included in your tuition, each year every student pays \$170 in Student Activities Fees. This is the fee that funds all of the SGA-recognized organizations for the year. At the end of each year, the unspent money from each organization is collected into a new account

that serves as the SGA Appeals fund for the following school year.

We are writing to educate the student body about this process, but also to inform you all that this year's SGA Appeals account is lower than ever before. This year, we have \$91,655.26 in the account. This amount is about \$30,000 less than it was during the 2012-2013 school year, and about \$70,000 less than the 2011-2012 school year.

SGA wants to see all of the organizations on campus accomplish their goals, and when it comes to SGA Appeals we will do our part to make sure that the

\$91,665.26 that we have is allocated responsibly and in the best interest of the student body. In return, we ask that organizations who choose to submit an SGA Appeal be mindful of the limited funds available and aware of the needs of other organizations.

If you have any questions please email us at sga_president@emerson.edu or sga_treasurer@emerson.edu.

All the best,

SGA Joint Session

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.

The Berkeley Beacon

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Wondering why DH food
tastes so good?
We got a new cook.



opinion

Privileges for the privileged

Maggie Morlath
Morlath is a sophomore political communication major & Beacon correspondent

Every September, students are faced with the same question: What did you do this summer? In high school it was acceptable to simply say that you babysat your neighbor's kids or worked at the mall. But at Emerson, these answers are not acceptable. Emerson students and faculty members expect to hear that you spent your summer interning in your field. Disappointed that I only worked at an ice cream shop this summer, I qualify my answer by adding that I just wanted to make some money. But I did not just want to make money this summer. An income was a necessity.

Unpaid internships are opportunities for the privileged and unfortunately, paid internships are not easily found. Yes, a lot of internships count for credit, but Emerson only allows us a limited amount of non-tuition credit. This is not to mention Emerson's policy of only giving internship credit to upperclassmen. So without a paycheck, and without credit, these unpaid internships are essentially slave labor. They may provide invaluable experience, but what's the value of a resume when you have no money to pay the bills?

Many Emerson students are lucky enough to take on unpaid internships during their college years; however, there are some Emerson students who are not as fortunate.

Coming from a home that has felt the effects of unemployment, I do not have

parents who could finance my summer in the city. Working for an entire semester or summer without an income is just not feasible for me. And although I am not alone in this, at Emerson I am clearly in the fiscal minority.

A lot of the wealthy students here are able to work a full-time internship while their parents are covering their rent, food, transportation, partying, etc. While these students are putting time and effort into their work, their parents alleviate the financial burden of just living.

A piece in the Guardian by David Dennis recounts when a senior member of a leading national magazine spoke to Dennis and his Northeastern University peers. The senior member said that "if we couldn't pull an unpaid internship off, then we didn't want to succeed badly enough." He then revealed that he "pulled it off" by staying at his parents' spare apartment in New York.

I want to succeed as badly as the wealthy students at this school, but my search for a summer internship ended as soon as I realized that no one wants to pay a college

kid for doing their dirty work. And dirty work it is. Interns sometimes complete petty odd jobs such as fetching coffee and running errands—mindless tasks. However, interns can contribute to the overall success of their employer by performing substantial tasks such as researching, writing, and offering perspective. Mikey Franklin, co-founder of the Fair Pay Campaign, said, "the bad internships are 40 people in a room doing entry-level jobs for free." Franklin's organization is lobbying for legislation that would require pay for internship labor. Franklin also said, "the good internships are only for people who can afford to work for

Unpaid internships are opportunities for the privileged and unfortunately, paid internships are not easily found.

free." It's a catch-22. You need experience to get experience. Potential employers love to see resumes full of internships, but in some cases these are the same employers that refuse to pay their interns. When employers only hire based on past internship experience, they are excluding the population of young hopefuls that could not afford to give up not only their time, but also money. This fault in the system significantly decreases the chance for upward

social mobility. The system is trapping young individuals from lower-income households in a vicious cycle because they cannot afford the luxury of an unpaid internship.

This is an issue that seems to be arising all over the country, but is very visible here at Emerson. Since school started this September, I have spoken with many students about their summer internships, and many of them happen to be from high-income homes. I am not angry with them or jealous of them for pursuing their careers at such a young age—this is Emerson after all. With our highly competitive spirits and super full iCals it only makes sense for Emerson students to be taking on so many internships. I wish I could boast some more interesting accomplishments from my summer.

It's not just my pride I'm concerned about; it's the possibility that I may have to turn down an internship because there is no monetary compensation. I have hope that next summer I will be financially supporting myself. I have hope that I will soon be taking on an internship. But most of all, I have hope that internships will one day only require merit, rather than money.

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FEMEN, an international women's rights protest organization, made headlines for being led by a man. • Photo by Antoine Walter / Flickr; Photo illustration by Andrew Harwood, Chelsea Roden, & Evan Walsh / Beacon Staff

The feminism absent in FEMEN

Deirdre Braun
Braun is a sophomore visual and media arts major & Beacon correspondent

In the spring of 2013, a Tunisian woman named Amina Tyler released images of herself with the words "My Body Is My Own" written on her bare chest as a statement against the oppression of women in the Muslim world. As a result, she received a slew of backlash and went into hiding.

On April 4, the feminist protest organization FEMEN took to the streets of Europe to rally for the liberation of not only Amina Tyler, but also all Islamic women. Despite their blatant white savior complex, FEMEN insensitively dubbed the demonstration "Topless Jihad." Protesters ran around cities across the continent with their chests completely bare, apart from the offensive statements written in bold black ink on their skin. The statements varied from "Fuck Your Morals" to "Bare Breasts Against Islamism" to "Religion is Slavery."

Liberating, right?

Unfortunately, running around half-naked and screaming insensitive slogans at people who are just doing their grocery shopping is about as good as FEMEN's protest methods get. Not only that, but the whole organization is run by Victor Svyatski, a man.

Svyatski, and Bustle.com founder Bryan Goldberg, use feminism for its marketability, and stuff the rewards in their wallets. Not only are they using a community they share no values with, but they are also indulging in their male savior ideologies. I think they'll ultimately be unsuccessful, because they are only trivializing a community and set of beliefs that I so deeply care for.

In her recent documentary *Ukraine is Not a Brothel*, filmmaker Kitty Green outs 36-year-old Victor Svyatski as the mastermind behind FEMEN. In the film, Green delves into Svyatski's personality and leadership strategies to discover that although highly intelligent, he is also seedy and manipulative. Throughout the film, Svyatski is accused of exploiting the organization's most attractive members, failing to ensure the safety of the girls, and verbally abusing

them. Although FEMEN itself advocates extremely ethnocentric values, Svyatski appears to have no concerns for feminism or other intersecting social issues that the members of FEMEN are so passionate about.

Outside of Svyatski, another male "feminist," Bryan Goldberg, has come out to play. Some of you may already be familiar with Goldberg from his website Bleacher Report. Bleacher Report is a sports news outlet known more in the industry

for seeking page views, and less for its editorial content. With a steady business model, Goldberg has also invested \$6.5 million in his new feminist website called Bustle. According to Goldberg, Bustle will be an overarching feminist publication that "puts news and politics right beside fashion tips." Finally, a site where I can keep up to date on the crisis in Syria and find out

Not only are [Victor Svyatski and Bryan Goldberg] using a community they share no values with, but they are also indulging in their male savior ideologies.

who got a rose on *The Bachelorette*.

The fact that Goldberg doesn't seem to recognize what lies at the core of a feminist publication—news, discussion, and analysis of social norms—isn't the worst part. Goldberg doesn't even recognize that other feminist publications exist. Someone who is founding a feminist publication should have already done his research: Bitch Media, Crunk Feminist Collective, or Clutch, staples on every feminist's reading list, should be the foundation for the outlet he's aiming to create. Goldberg thinks he is inventing an internet community that already exists. Svyatski's career is a time bomb at this point, and Goldberg's previous publication is an indication that Bustle may miss the mark when it comes to producing compelling content.

There are male feminists who actually do feminism some justice: God bless their souls. After all, at its core, feminism isn't difficult to grasp. It's about equality, and what steps we as a society must take to get there.

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arts

Holland Farkas: professional fangirl



Farkas' laptop is key to creating her videos. • Chelsea Roden / Beacon Staff



Holland Farkas' pins, used to help advertise her vlog. • Chelsea Roden / Beacon Staff

Mary Kate McGrath, *Beacon Correspondent*

True geeks often aspire to be professional fangirls or fanboys, but Emerson junior Holland Farkas actually is. When Farkas first heard that Geek and Sundry, a popular YouTube video blog that explores geek culture, had posted a contest looking for 10 new video bloggers, she said she was initially hesitant to enter. Farkas, a film production major, said she had dabbled in video blogging, or vlogging, in the past, but described her attempts as too sporadic and unfocused to garner a real following.

Though she may not have been the most experienced vlogger when she began making videos for the contest, Farkas said she has always been well-versed in geek. She noted that her parents raised her on quintessential nerd films like *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, and *Spaceballs*. Which is why, despite her reluctance, Farkas said her friends encouraged her to enter, recognizing the knowledge she had to offer.

"Holland introduced me to Geek and

Sundry," said friend Ashleigh Heaton, a junior writing, literature, and publishing major, "so when I stumbled across the contest, I posted it on her Facebook wall and said, 'this could be you!'"

With this support from her friends, Farkas said that she committed to the contest, choosing film as the central theme of her vlogs.

"I went with what I knew," she said. "I knew that I could talk about film because it is what I am most passionate about."

Her first submission to the contest was a vlog discussing director Joss Whedon's recent film version of *Much Ado About Nothing*. As this was an ambitiously artistic film from a director whose work is generally based in genres of sci-fi and fantasy, it was a perfect choice for Farkas, who said she loves art house films and nerdy ones in equal measure.

Farkas said that her process for creating these videos is simple, and that it has not changed much since winning the contest.

"I watch the film, so the characters and the plot are fresh in my head," Far-

"She has great insights and shares them in a very infectious way, easily drawing her audience to share in her passion.

-Professor Wendy Walters

kas described, "but from there I really just talk. The only difference now that I've won is I need to make sure there is a definite arch of beginning, middle, and end, and be sure to include the usual YouTube jargon urging people to subscribe."

Professor Wendy Walters said she would argue that Farkas's videos are much more than that.

"She has a deep and passionate interest in film and can speak in knowledgeable ways about all sorts of films," said Walters. "She has great insights and shares them in a very infectious way, easily drawing her audience to share in her passion."

This talent Walters spoke of caught the attention of the judges. Geek and Sundry posts a new vlog every day, touching on everything from geek poetry to gaming, and it does a good job of keeping the material amusing and accessible.

Farkas' videos fit well with the candid, fun nature of the blog, as she balances intelligent analysis of films with friendly enthusiasm and and obscure trivia facts.

The creators of Geek and Sundry saw this potential, and helped Farkas to advance to the final rounds of the contest.

The win is still very new, and the only perk Farkas said she is certain of is that she will receive a button with her name on it. However, she said she is hoping invitations to certain YouTube and geek conventions are in her future, and that someday she will have the opportunity to meet idols such as Felicia Day, the founder of Geek and Sundry, and a nerd icon in her own right.

Farkas' admiration for Felicia Day goes beyond just a love of her work, and she cites Day's do-it-yourself model of filmmaking as an inspiration.

"Felicia Day is really a pioneer of this internet television model. Before I watched her show *The Guild*, I only thought of filmmaking in the classic sense; I just wanted to be on sets," said Farkas. "Now I've begun to realize that this is something that can be pursued as a career."

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Over the rainbow into IMAX 3D

Jasper Yeo is a junior visual and media arts major & a Beacon arts columnist.

In the original book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum, when the motley band of travelers enter the Emerald City, they are instructed to wear a pair of green-tinted glasses at all times within the city. The implication, of course, is that the city's emerald hue is merely another one of the great humbug wizard's illusions. Life is no more sparkling inside the Emerald City than out of it.

Now, glasses to make the commonplace look extraordinary? That could easily double as a rather cynical assessment of the trend of modern 3D rereleases of popular films. The classic 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* is the most recent of these theatrical post-conversions to fill the IMAX screen.

Much like other past 3D reissues like *The Phantom Menace*, *Jurassic Park*, and *Titanic*, companies are banking on audiences paying outrageous prices (in this

case, \$18.40) to see a movie that they love in a theatrical setting again, plus an extra dimension. Depth may vary, of course.

Before home video, revivals weren't a premium luxury, but the only way to see past films, bar television. After all, many of the classic Disney animated features were originally released at a loss, knowing full well that the money was in rereleases. I would even argue that recent revivals are an interesting experience.

Watching an oft-seen movie in a dark theater with no distractions can put a movie into a very new context. Heck, some limited 3D rereleases like *Dial M for Murder* were actually 3D to begin with. Sure, there's no thrill of a new print of physical film beyond art house theaters, but 3D can freshen the experience when used smartly.

Thankfully, the third dimension brings something to the table in *The Wizard of*

Oz: an actual added sense of depth. It's unusual that a movie this old would get the 3D treatment, but this is actually a benefit. Classic-era movies often have much slower camerawork and deeper focus than modern works. These two things are where 3D actually allows an audience to better "inhabit" the on-camera space.

Another big surprise was the conversion of the flat matte paintings in the background, such as the fanciful crags surrounding the Wicked Witch's castle. They have always contributed to *Oz*'s sense of whimsy, but now many have been separated into multiple fields of depth. It has the benefits of something like modern green-screen, with its overbearing busyness replaced with a hand-painted charm.

In comparison, the many disorienting and in-your-face 3D effects in Sam Raimi's recent *Oz: the Great and Powerful* fail

to leave too much of an impression.

All that said, I found that *The Wizard of Oz* as a movie itself remains great. Elements that I used to think were dated—the abundance of matte paintings and miniatures—now are turned to its advantage in creating an extra dimension with actual dimension. The changes aren't all positive: the vibrant Technicolor is muted through the glasses, and the price tag is hard to recommend to the cash-strapped college student. Nevertheless, while the shift between 2D to 3D certainly isn't like *Oz*'s own doorway leap from sepia to color, *The Wizard of Oz* in IMAX proves that rereleases can still indeed surprise us.

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Amigos celebrate Latin America Month with dance, music, and food in Cabaret



Dancing was just one of the many activities Amigos planned for the crowd. Live music and authentic food were also provided. • Maya Rafie / Beacon Correspondent

Caroline Glass, *Beacon Correspondent*

When students walked into the dimly lit Cabaret on Thursday, September 19th, they were immediately hit with the festive spirit. Live Latin music blared throughout the room and encouraged attendees to hit the dance floor while the spicy smells of traditional Dominican, Mexican, and Cuban food filled the air. As the band continued, several students took to the dance floor, spinning and twirling in the traditional styles of salsa and merengue.

The event, The Different Flavors of Latin America was put on by the organization Amigos in conjunction with Multicultural Student Affairs.

Amigos is a multicultural organization on campus that aims to create awareness of Latin culture on campus and to serve Latin communities throughout Boston.

Through the food, three different countries were represented: Mexico, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic.

The Mexican table featured traditional snacks such as tamales and gorditas, the Cuban table boasted empanadas and papas rellenas, and the Dominican table had plantains and kipes, among many other dishes. Trays upon trays of food were brought out

"Music is such an important part of Latin culture, and food and music often go hand in hand."

-Junior Ana Vivas

as the event went on, making sure everyone who attended was treated to the traditional feast that is the cornerstone of Latin cultures. The delicious smells and the variety of options made students go back for seconds and thirds.

"The food is really good. And I haven't even tried half of what they have yet," said sophomore visual and media arts major Lucy Phillips.

Many students said the food was their main reason for coming, as they piled their plates high with fried plantains and empanadas. Some craved the traditional Latin food from their hometowns, while others wanted to try something new.

"I'm really homesick and I miss my mom's cooking, so I really wanted some traditional Mexican food," said Yamel Garcia, a freshman film major. "And this is just as good as my mom's."

Senior journalism major Andres Acosta also said he came to get a taste of traditional food.

"I'm Puerto Rican and it's really hard to find good Latin food in Boston. I thought this would be a good way to get a taste of home," he said.

The organizers of the event said they wanted to feature the importance of food in Latin culture, and decided to put this event

on because of this importance.

"Food is a huge part of our culture, and we think that it really brings people together," said junior marketing communication major Shantal Erlich, a member of Amigos. "We wanted to bring the spirit of a huge family dinner to Emerson."

"There's just a really good vibe in the air. Everyone seems so happy and into it," Garcia said.

Another reason Amigos said they chose to put on the event was to teach Emerson students a little bit more about the Latin culture.

"All of the different Latin countries have such different styles of food, and a lot of people don't realize that," said junior journalism major Ana Vivas. "We wanted to showcase these different styles."

In addition to the food, the event also featured live music by Latin band Fantasia, which played many different styles such as salsa, cha-cha, and merengue.

Though the beginning of the event seemed to be reserved for eating, it wasn't long before the dance floor was full, with several students showing off the traditional dances. Impromptu partnerships were formed as dancers twirled and cha-chad their way across the dance floor, inspiring cheers and hollers from both the band and the audience.

Members of Amigos incorporated music not just to add excitement, but also because it is an important part of the culture, according to Vivas.

"Music is such an important part of Latin culture, and food and music often go hand in hand: We really wanted that feeling of a traditional Latin party, and this is what it's like," said Vivas.

The Different Flavors of Latin America was second in a series of events that Amigos is putting on as part of Latin Heritage Month. Later in the month their events will include the panel Latinos Shaping America, spoken word artist Carlos Andrés Gomez, a poet, and a dance class teaching traditional styles like salsa, merengue, and bachata.

Students filtered in and out throughout the event's two hour duration. Both students and Amigos members said they felt the event was a success.

The organization was particularly happy that it showcased their culture and exposed students to new food and music.

"It went great," said Vivas. There was a really good amount of people and we ran out of food!"

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'Hollow' helps pioneer interactive documentary genre

Meaghan McDonough, *Beacon Correspondent*

McDowell County is getting smaller. As death rates climb, birth rates dwindle, and children grow to adults and move for jobs, a sense of community seems to be disappearing.

Hollow: An Interactive Documentary, created by Emerson MFA graduates Jeff Soyk and Elaine McMillion, shares how McDowell County, W.V. has lost around 80,000 people since the 1950s. Operated through the HTML 5 interactive site hollowdocumentary.com, the project features 30 short films, all revolving around life in the county. Spanning towns, age groups, and people, the site paints a portrait of the county that news outlets rarely do—it, as director McMillion describes, "follows residents in fluent motion."

As an interactive documentary, it requires the viewer to scroll through the site to learn more. At first, the site presents only a historical and statistical view of the county: McDowell County's population peaked in the 1950s, hitting 100,000 people, before beginning to fall in the 1960s. As of 2010, the population of McDowell County was just over 22,000 people.

However, as the viewer delves deeper into the site, information on why the population stopped growing is more evident. Initially a coal-mining town and the

rise of new technologies left many people without jobs. Crime and drug abuse rates rose throughout the 1990s, leaving the entire county with a bad reputation. Just as that fact is revealed, the real story of the website opens up: the story of the McDowell County citizens.

The site could be described as a new media collage. Combining pictures, videos, text-based diagrams, interactive web pages, and some well-mixed sounds, the entire site is based in McDowell County. Many of the videos and photographs were taken by the county's residents, and all of the sounds were taken on-site.

The viewer gets personally involved in the stories of the residents of McDowell County. First, the audience is introduced to Alan Johnston, a creative soul who wants his hometown of Welch to be appreciated for what it really is: a home. As he puts it, "Home is where the heart is, and my heart is here in McDowell County."

The short film he is featured in centers around Johnston's life of creating things throughout McDowell County—music, photographs, and woodcarvings—pretty much anything he can get his hands on. He, like many of the other citizens of McDowell County, is distraught by the media's portrayal of the area. At the Sept. 24 viewing of the documentary, shown in Emerson's Bright Family Screening Room, viewers were introduced to Johnston via

Skype, where he discussed his role in the documentary.

"[The project] was a real positive thing for me, my friends, my associates that I know," stated Johnston. "It was well received by all the local residents. I haven't heard a negative comment."

McMillion, with the help of team members she said she met at Emerson, aimed to present a completely authentic view of smalltown America through her project. A West Virginian who graduated with her MFA in visual and media arts in 2013, McMillion said she hoped this project would encourage people to be more active viewers and raise awareness about issues of population depletion. Together, she and Soyk said they launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise money for the website.

With 530 backers, they raised \$28,788, surpassing their goal of \$25,000. As McMillion puts it, Kickstarter helped to "create a community around [the project] for [her] target audience." With funds in tow, it took a total of eight months to put the entire project together and get the site up and running, according to McMillion. Since then, people all over the world, from every background and backstory, have viewed the site. McMillion said people have done exactly what they hoped they would: "lean back and listen to the story of the people."

Still, though, McMillion said she is not

completely satisfied with the response.

"I'm a little disappointed with the government. I don't think they value this yet," she said at the Sept. 24 viewing.

However, an op-ed written by McMillion was featured in the New York Times in June of 2013, helping her work gain more publicity.

But McMillion said she has hope for the community. Though the county's population continues to shrink each day, McMillion said she thinks those who want to stay will stay and will make things happen.

With the new community site—hollowhome.hollowdocumentary.com—now up and running, the stories of the residents of McDowell County can continue to spread. By getting more people involved within the county, the hope is that the community will begin to grow again. Until that happens, people have McMillion and Soyk's site. With nearly three hours of footage on it, there's certainly a lot to learn.

"The more you scroll, the more you learn, the more you see," said McMillion.

Even if McDowell County is never restored to its old-time glory, there will always be one resident who swears to stay.

"I haven't lived here all my life yet," said Alan Johnston, via Skype. "But I'm working on it."

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**"The more you scroll, the more you learn, the more you see."
—Elaine McMillion**

lifestyle

Slam poet advocates for expression and acceptance

Amigos and Emerson Poetry Project to bring artist to campus



The slam poetry event will be Sept. 26 in the Multipurpose room.
Photo courtesy of Carlos Andrés Gómez

Kelsey Scholl, *Beacon Correspondent*

Emerson faculty and students often brag about the diversity and inclusion on campus. According to the school's Fall 2012 admission demographics, five percent of the student body is comprised of international students, and 10 percent of the incoming class identified as Hispanic. When junior marketing communication major Katie Lohman stumbled upon the work of slam poet Carlos Andrés Gómez—whose work touches on sensitive issues within Latino culture—she said she knew the campus community would benefit from his performance.

On Thursday, Sept. 26, Gómez will be visiting the college and showcasing his poetry talents at an event open to the Emerson community. The free-admission evening will consist of a full performance by the poet at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room, followed by a book signing and photo opportunity for all attendees. The show will also include a special opening performance from student poets, and members of the Emerson Poetry Project.

The event is co-sponsored by Emerson Mane Events, EmersonUNITE, The Emerson Poetry Project, and Amigos, an organization that raises awareness for the Latino community on campus and around Boston. According to Lohman, one of the main organizers for the night, the goal of the event is to help students bridge cultural differences and understand different backgrounds.

"What [Gómez] performs about reaches beyond Latino culture and includes issues of identity and self-discovery that are applicable to any cultural background," she said.

Gómez, a New York City native, said he tours hundreds of colleges and universities, using his work to influence individuals across the country.

"Slam poetry is one of the most expressive and efficient ways to release your inner thoughts through one of the most beautiful means of art."

-Benjamin Rathman

"I felt this urgent need to use my voice and art to catalyze revolutionary healing and transformation that I didn't think I could otherwise create," said Gómez, who has previously worked as a social worker and public school teacher.

Gómez is a star on HBO's "Def Poetry" and appeared in Spike Lee's movie *Inside Man* with Denzel Washington. He also worked with Savion Glover, a Tony-award winning Broadway dancer, and performed on MTV's first poetry slam.

Like many other students, freshman writing, literature, and publishing major Ashley LaChant said she has taken an interest in slam poetry, which has proven to be increasingly popular on campus. On Sept. 16, the EPP hosted a special slam poetry event in the dining hall to cater this growing trend.

"I really like slam poetry because it brings an incredible performance to poetry. It brings dimension to an otherwise dimensionless thing," said LaChant.

Freshman visual and media arts major Benjamin Rathman said he has also given in to the slam poetry movement, saying it allows individuals to communicate emotions in a unique way.

"It is one of the most expressive and efficient ways to release your inner thoughts through one of the most beautiful means of art," he said.

While the various sponsors said they have different goals for the event, Gómez said he wants to reach out to each student and teach them to love and express themselves.

"My hope," he said, "is that each audience member leaves the show saying about him or herself, 'I am beautiful, I am enough.'"

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Upcoming campus mag plans LGBT focus

Alyssa Gocinski, *Beacon Correspondent*

With a never-ending list of student publications on campus, Emerson boasts magazines ranging from fashion to film to literature. However, junior journalism majors Frankie Olito and Jaelyn Diaz, both former Beacon staff members, have found a topic yet to be explored, which led them to create VENT, Emerson's first LGBT lifestyle magazine.

"VENT is not just a fluff magazine," said Olito, who will be the editor-in-chief. "It's not just like 'We're gay, we're

excited.' ... It's a mixture of light, fluffy stories with hard-hitting news."

VENT, which is planned to formally launch in December, will focus on a variety of topics such as news, art, music and fashion, according to Diaz, who will be the managing editor. The news section, she said, will highlight local, national, and international news directly related to the LGBT community, such as the Defense of Marriage Act. Likewise, the arts section, Diaz said, will cover television, movies, music, books, and theatre, specifically Boston-based topics.

Staff positions for the publication in-

clude editors for the various sections, a marketing team, photographers, a film crew, models, stylists, a design team, and copy editors, according to Diaz. Once the staff is formalized, she said, the group will meet once a week.

According to Olito and Diaz, the magazine's content will be posted solely online until the first print publication, for which an exact date has not yet been determined. Diaz said that she and Olito plan to publish web content on a regular basis but will have separate articles for the print versions. Diaz said they are still in the process of selecting staff members and have been working on promotional videos and advertisements. The promo videos, which she said will be released in October and run through December, will explain the concept of the magazine.

Olito said he found it odd that no publication on campus was devoted or catered to the LGBT community, despite Emerson being rated the number one school for LGBT friendliness by The Princeton Review. Olito said he identifies as gay and Diaz identifies as straight. He said the main purpose of VENT will be to give the LGBT community a spotlight and a voice. However, both Diaz and Olito said they hope writers and readers who don't identify as LGBT will be interested in the content.

Darian Carpenter, a junior visual and media arts major, said he thinks the magazine will fill a void left by the current collection of elite publications on campus, such as *Your Magazine* and *Atlas*.

"It is kind of the missing piece when it comes to the publishing and magazine culture at Emerson," he said.

Malcolm Meyer, vice president of Emerson's Alliance for Gays, Lesbians, and Everyone (EAGLE) and a former Beacon staffer, said he hopes to be a columnist for a section on queer dating. The junior



journalism major also said he is excited for VENT to take its place among the on-campus organizations and to focus on something missing in magazine publishing.

"The queer community gets singled out [a lot]," he said. "Pop culture magazines aren't geared towards the gay community."

Eventually, both Diaz and Olito say they hope to become recognized by the Student Government Association. The duo said they are currently planning to generate revenue by working with advertisers.

Alexandra Fileccia, a junior journalism major, said she thinks VENT not only fills a vital niche at Emerson but also has the unique LGBT focus that is not typically recognized, even in magazines beyond the campus.

"It's important to talk about and spread LGBT news," Fileccia said, "especially at Emerson where there is a large LGBT population."

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Diaz and Olito plan to launch their magazine in December • *Portrait by Evan Walsh / Beacon Staff.*

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Dreams of flying fulfilled for handicapped Non-profit teams up with student film crew



Above: Max Clary created the Phoenix Collaborative. • Portrait by Andrew Harwood /Beacon Staff.

Below: Clients learn to fly planes with hand controls, rather than traditional foot controls. • Photo courtesy of MightyMagination Productions

Kaela Holmes, Beacon Correspondent

Steering, accelerating, and navigating a plane through the sky is now possible for people without the use of their legs, all expenses paid.

Max Clary, a junior marketing communication major, helped create this opportunity through his non-profit, The Phoenix Collaborative, which gives people who do not have the use of their legs the chance to fly an airplane.

"I saw a hole in the market," said Clary. "[Flying] was thought of as a restriction in the past."

A few months after starting work at Pilgrim Aviation, a company that provides flight training and airplane rentals, according to its website, Clary was assigned to market a new plane the company had bought from a paraplegic — one with hand controls rather than foot pedals. Clary said he was passionate about the concept of the physically disabled being able to fly an airplane, but did not want to market flying lessons to the physically disabled at a high cost.

"It's not about the flying. It's about helping people... I think everybody should have the chance."
-Max Clary

"I loved the project, but the only way to do it [was] to go out and do it on my own ... as a charity," said Clary. "Just because it wasn't the way I wanted to do it, didn't mean it couldn't be done."

Clary proposed the idea of creating a nonprofit program to Pilgrim Aviation for use of the handicap accessible plane, and then left the company to start The Phoenix Collaborative, the only school for handicapped flying lessons in the northeastern United States. He partnered with Pilgrim Aviation, who donated the cost of the initial flying lessons, and offer free use of the plane. It takes 100 hours and \$10,000 to attain a

pilot's license, said Clary, and he wanted to make it feasible to the physically disabled who do not have the funds to do so.

Conor McDonough, a board member on The Phoenix Collaborative, said if anyone could make this plan a reality, it would be Clary.

"Most people pay quite a bit to learn how to pilot an aircraft," said McDonough. "For these people who have gone through so much struggle in their lives to have a chance to do it for free is

a beautiful thing."

According to a study done by Spalding Rehabilitation, 10 percent of persons with full function of their body are interested in flying, while 90 percent of the physically disabled are, said Clary. Clary also said he spent hours talking to lawyers and other legal counsel to learn the logistics of starting a non-profit.

"I didn't have any money," said Clary. "All I had was time, and time is enough."

Soon, The Phoenix Collaborative was approved as a non-profit organization, and a website, Facebook page, and logo were established. Clary said he began compiling a team, holding fundraising events, and speaking with private donors.

"It truly is a collaborative effort," said Clary. "If we have two pennies to rub together, we'll put it in."

Within months, Clary had three clients. Aaron Souza was one of Clary's first clients, and Clary said he got to ride in the back of the plane with him, watching his client take flight.

"Being bogged down in a wheelchair, it's not the same as being up in the sky," said Souza. "The freedom - it's just amazing. It changes things. I wish that a lot of other people in wheelchairs could have the same experience. They need to."

The Phoenix Collaborative's team expanded with marketing members, said Clary. He added MightyMagination Productions, a group of Emerson film students, who signed on to film and piece together video of the clients' first flights—all free of charge, said McDonough. Three clients flew within just the first few months of the Collaborative being established, including one woman who had been paralyzed in a car accident at the age of 18.

"It has truly been one of the most valuable experiences I've ever had," said Clary, his smile stretching towards his ears. "I go to work every day and know [I'm] helping people."

Clary had dreamt of a smooth process where the client would come, take their pre-flight lesson, wheel onto the runway, get in the plane, and fly on their first day. Sure enough, all three clients, with a flight instructor beside them, flew an airplane on the first day.

"When the first flight happened, his excitement was only overshadowed by his eagerness to help someone else get the same opportunity," said McDonough, speaking of a client who McDonough said had not flown since 20 years prior.

Clary has never flown a plane himself, nor does he have any loved ones who are physically disabled, but that never stunted his passion for the project.

"It's not about the flying," said Clary. "It's about helping people. ... I think everybody should have the chance."

Two wings are tattooed on Clary's arm. "Second chances," he says. He said struggled his first semester in college, and felt his transfer to Emerson was a second chance. The wings are an ode to the rebirth of a phoenix, he said.

For Clary, The Phoenix Collaborative is a second chance for people to do something they never thought would be possible.

Evan Sporer, editor-in-chief and Clary's roommate, did not edit this article.

Kaela Holmes, president of Earth Emerson, was assigned this story prior to being quoted in the Sept. 19 issue of the Beacon. She will no longer be contributing to the newspaper.

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Across the Pond Becoming a traveler

Anna Buckley

Buckley is a sophomore writing, literature, and publishing major & one of the Beacon travel columnists.

A little over three weeks ago, the most exciting thing on my agenda was a 90s movie night at my best friend's house. But, within the past two weeks, I've biked to Germany twice, meditated on the edge of a moat, and temporarily moved into a 14th century castle.

I grew up in one of the million sunny suburbias of America, whereas the town of Well, where Emerson's Dutch castle is located, is a very small and very European village with brick houses, cornfields, and a church in the center of town that sounds its bells at dinner time every evening. Now that I'm finally here, I find it interesting to compare my prior expectations with this reality.

At the start of this summer, I read Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* as well as John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley*. This was a terrible idea, considering I had four months to laze away before finally flying off to the Netherlands. And these novels left me with more than a few questions that all involved the word, 'Why?' Why was I so anxious to lose myself in Europe? Why did Kerouac's novel about searching for meaning represent an entire generation? Why did Steinbeck feel the need to spend months alone with his dog searching for some elusive meaning of what it means to be American? Why is the dream of travel so irresistibly intriguing?

Hopping on a plane, train or bus and getting off in a foreign land doesn't make you a traveler. Frankly, more likely than not, it just makes you a tourist.

Now that I'm here in Well, I've begun to find a few answers. I know now that there's no better place to learn about yourself than in a foreign country. You're bound to learn a lot more about yourself when you agree to bike to Germany and end up getting lost for three hours in the woods than you would ever learn while walking around the same town you grew up in.

But, hopping on a plane, train, or bus and getting off in a foreign land doesn't make you a traveler. Frankly, more likely than not, it just makes you a tourist. This weekend, while in Amsterdam, I learned this lesson the hard way.

As an avid (but still amateur) photographer, I tend to use the lens of my camera as a third eye. I hide behind it so I can people watch, and I often see the sights around me within a frame. Going into the city, my goal was to try to capture authentic Amsterdam in photographs. But as the day passed and my SD card filled up with photos of historic buildings, canals, people on bikes, and giant clogs, I knew I was doing no better of a job than the average tourist.

Then it happened: The authentic image I had been waiting to capture formed right in front of my eyes. From across Dam Square, I saw an old woman in a bright red coat and headscarf hobble through a big group of tourists and through a flock of pigeons. There was something about the way she glided, alone, through the crowded, commercial, tourist trap of the square that had me convinced that she was an authentic Amsterdammer. I raised my camera to snap the fateful shot, and at that precise moment, she looked me in the eye. I froze, and she lifted her hand modestly, gently waving, and gave me a thin-lipped smile. In shock, I shyly waved back, lowering my camera.

In that moment, I acknowledged and was acknowledged among a sea of unfamiliar people in a vast city of unfamiliar streets. And then I knew that tourism was about seeing and moving on, while traveling was about immersing yourself in the foreign and genuinely trying to understand something or someone so much different from yourself. Perhaps that's where the appeal of travel truly lies.

As much as I wish I had gone and talked to the woman in red, I was glad I had learned my first real lesson about traveling: The only way to be a traveler, and not a tourist, is to look behind the smokescreen in search of the fire itself.

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sports

Center stage at Gillette Stadium

Emerson soccer player sings national anthem at Patriots game



Molly Caron sings in front of a sell-out crowd before last Sunday's Patriots game. • Courtesy of the New England Patriots

Carl Setterlund, *Beacon Staff*

Emerson freshman Molly Caron sang the national anthem at the New England Patriots home game this past Sunday, but the long road to what she called an unforgettable experience traces back to another memorable moment at Gillette Stadium nearly a year ago.

In her senior year of high school, Caron got her first big musical break. Then at Bridgewater-Raynham High School, she was picked to sing the Star-Spangled Banner at the New England Revolution's home finale.

A top local athlete who now plays as a midfielder on the Emerson women's soccer team, Caron took the field in front of 25,534 fans at Gillette Stadium back on Oct. 20, 2012, performing in front of, at that point, what she said was the largest audience of her life.

Something went wrong, though, as the stadium fire alarm went off and 16 seconds into Caron's performance — just as she began singing “at the twilight's last gleaming” — the stadium's public address system automatically turned off.

"Singing in front of that many people was a little nerve-wracking, but I just looked at it as an experience I'll never forget."
- Molly Caron

Stadium employees scrambled to get the microphone turned back on roughly 45 seconds later as she began the final line, “O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave,” but Caron got an assist in the meantime from those in attendance.

“Singing in front of that many people really brings everyone together,” Caron said. “When the microphone went out a year ago, people could tell that I didn't forget the words or anything... [The crowd] almost immediately came right in.”

Caron said she was told that type of malfunction had never happened before, and in reconciliation she was brought back to sing the national anthem again for a Revolution home game on Sept. 8, only this time she pulled double duty.

“For the Revolution game, they played [the Montreal Impact], so I actually had to sing the Canadian national anthem also,” said Caron, who said she is part French-Canadian. “A long time ago when I was recording the anthem to send to the [Boston] Bruins I kind of thought that it would be a good idea to put the Canadian National Anthem

in there just in case... so I've known it for a while.”

Director of In-Stadium Entertainment Abbey Thelin and Production Manager Kevin Collins made a joint decision vowing to give the 18-year-old Raynham native a second chance. According to Collins, after an excellent rendition at the Revolution game, they decided to invite her back to sing on an even larger stage.

This time, Caron would perform in front of a capacity crowd of 68,756 as the New England Patriots hosted the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in a 1 p.m. football game.

Caron said her parents, David and Laura, and her 14-year-old brother Jake were each given all-access passes, but the game was already sold out by the time she was booked to perform, precluding any other friends and family from attending.

According to Caron, all of her soccer teammates and most of the people on her floor in the Little Building tuned into the Patriots broadcast to watch her sing, only to find that the anthem was not included on the television feed of the game.

Caron, a marketing communications major who said she has been taking voice lessons since the fourth grade, said singing the Star-Spangled Banner is important to her because it shows pride in her country.

“I sing the anthem more traditionally than most,” Caron said. “I try to stay to the original score of the music, so I don't really change that much about it. ... I try to keep it basic because I feel it's respecting the song more.”

After a moment of silence commemorating the victims of the recent Washington Navy Yard shooting, it was Caron's turn to step into the spotlight.

“I really got a positive feedback from the audience. It was really nice that they were cheering me on,” Caron said. “Singing in front of that many people was a little nerve-wracking, but I just looked at it as an experience that I'll never forget.”

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Men's soccer falls to defending NEWMAC champ

Carl Setterlund, *Beacon Staff*

It wasn't the result the Emerson men's soccer team was hoping for out of its first ever New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference match, but the Lions faced a tall task against the reigning NEWMAC champions from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Saturday at Rotch Field.

The Engineers' Kareem Itani victimized Emerson just 2:47 into the match for the first goal in a hat trick for the freshman as MIT charged to a 5-1 victory.

“They got some goals on us early,” said Lions head coach Jared Scapaci. “To chase the game like that can be

tough, but I was happy with how the guys didn't give up.”

Emerson freshman Elais Romanos tallied his first collegiate goal in the 83rd minute, a late consolation off a left side cross by classmate Samir Beria.

“I knew it was my job to go to the back post and so I made sure I was there, and once the ball came to me I just took a breath, relaxed, and finished it,” Romanos said. “I'm not used to scoring goals that much, but it felt really good to score.”

Scapaci said Romanos, a second half substitute, normally plays in central midfield, but Romanos had earned playing time, so he gave him a shot playing outside, where the Lions have less competition for minutes.

“He's really technical and that was a tough ball,” Scapaci said. “He had to take it down and then he buried it. He's excellent and hopefully there's more from him.”

MIT took a 3-0 lead 25 minutes in as Itani got in to redirect a free kick past sophomore Carter Bowers, who made nine saves on a busy day in goal.

“When you play good teams like this, you really have to pressure them early and get on their first touch,” Scapaci said. “You have to force them to make mistakes because they're not going to make unforced mistakes. They're a good team.”

The Lions showed a marked improvement out of the intermission, and Scapaci said during halftime they

pledged to break through with a second half goal.

“The way they came out in the second half, really pressing a bit more, they put us on our heels for some time,” said MIT coach Mike Singleton. “If they can stretch that out over 90 minutes, they're going to be competitive in every game.”

Scapaci said that, along with Romanos, he was also impressed by the play of freshman Pat Kudej and sophomore Alex Van Pelt on the defensive end, and junior forward Evan Gooden up front.

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"Once the ball came to me I just took a breath, relaxed and finished it."
- Elais Romanos

Next Match

Men

Soccer
Springfield

VS.
EC
at **Rotch Field**
9/28
12 p.m.

Cross-Country
Runnin'

Monks Invitational

at
Saint Joseph's College of Maine
Standish, ME
10/12

Women

Soccer
Regis
VS.
EC
at **Regis Stadium**
9/26
4:30 p.m.

Volleyball
Springfield

VS.
EC
at **Brown & Plofker Gym**
9/28
12 p.m.

Tennis
Clark

VS.
EC
at **Corash Tennis Courts**
9/28
1 p.m.

Cross-Country
Runnin'

Monks Invitational at
Saint Joseph's College of Maine
10/12

Women's soccer drops NEWMAC opener late

Carl Setterlund, *Beacon Staff*

The Emerson women's soccer team fell 2-0 against Wellesley College in the program's first ever conference match as part of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference, but the final result didn't fully reflect the run of play in an evenly played defeat at Rotch Field.

The Lions were beaten twice in the final half hour on Saturday off of through balls played on the counterattack, spoiling a day in which they held strong possession throughout, but couldn't put away several chances at the doorstep.

"I don't think [Saturday's] match was a good reflection of the team's ability," said Emerson head coach David Suvak. "There's a couple of factors — this was the third game in six days, so they might not have had the legs that they needed to compete out there."

Along with fatigued legs, Emerson (4-4, 0-1 NEWMAC) dealt with the absence of impact left back Riana Odin (concussion) and starting forward Haley Moser, who came off after the opening 20 minutes with a thigh injury. Moser, a sophomore, has scored three times this season, each coming in a win.

"It's the first NEWMAC game, so we're still getting used to things," said sophomore Alyssa Giannone, who took Emerson's free kicks and corners against Wellesley.

The Lions have just two more non-conference matches remaining — Sept. 26 at Regis College (Mass.) and Oct. 1 at Gordon College — and nine more against NEWMAC opponents, including a home game versus Mount Holyoke at 3 p.m. on Sept. 28.

Suvak said Emerson will look to improve on a defense that has allowed sev-

en goals in the past three matches after giving up just three over their first four.

"We gave up two balls in the middle that we shouldn't have given up, and they counterattacked on us very quickly and left us exposed," Suvak said. "We had one player that tried to take a shot from very far out and it was the wrong moment to do it and we got caught attacking, so we were out of position."

That goal, a low finish by 5-foot-11 Wellesley forward Juliette Fry, came in the 62nd minute, as Fry got a well-timed through ball and was able to hold off freshman left back Katherine Dobson, who was giving up half a foot in height.

Wellesley's LJ Foster scored on a near identical build-up in the 75th minute, except her through ball from Sumner Hanula was played up the left side instead of the right.

The Lions' Courtney Major and Natalie Benjamin, both freshmen, had second-half looks inside the 6-yardbox, but couldn't find the finishing touch.

Major's 50th-minute toe poke was cleared off the line, while Benjamin's attempt went just wide of the left post.

"We missed some connections that could have got us behind the defenders," said Suvak, citing a lack of urgency. "I just think it was a little bit off today."

With all underclassmen in the midfield and offensive third, several Emerson starters are green at the college level, but Giannone likes the youth movement.

"Having freshmen play such an integral part in the team is one of the most important things we can do," Giannone said. "Because it keeps it fresh."

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Fitness center beefs up over summer

Connor Burton, *Beacon Staff*

After a two-week undertaking that started this June and extended into July, Emerson College's Fitness Center—located in basement of the Little Building has an all-new look, which includes an updated layout, freshly painted purple and gold walls, and improved equipment.

"The fitness center now has a flow and is more accommodating," said Macy Day, a junior marketing and communications major and a three-sport athlete in basketball, lacrosse, and tennis. "It's more organized and has more defined workout spaces. It's much better [than last year]."

Along with its new layout, the fitness center replaced almost all of its old equipment.

"About 90-95 percent of our equipment is brand new," said Fitness Specialist Johnny Dunbar.

The center's primary room has 12 new elliptical cardio machines, 12 new treadmills (both made by Life and Fitness), and a new set of IGX dumbbells.

The area formerly used for group exercise has been repurposed as the center's primary lifting space, and now houses four new Hammer Strength powerlifting racks and one incline leg press machine.

The group fitness area, which is used for warming up, group programs such as yoga and Zumba, and mat exercises, was moved to the back section that was previously used for bench and bar workouts.

"The setup is a lot better," said junior Tori Carriuolo, a visual media arts major specializing in television studio production. "The fact that they switched the weight room and the back room is great."

Although Carriuolo said the renovations are a positive change, she still thought there are some improvements to be made.

"The lighting is a little gloomy and I wish they had different weighted bars," said Carriuolo. "I'm used to putting weight on a

Tips to improve your workout

By *Stephanie d'Orsay*
assistant athletic trainer
& Beacon health columnist

Cardio alone isn't enough

Instead of just cardio, try strength training 2-3 times per week. Building muscle through resistance training will increase your metabolism, helping your body to naturally burn more calories while at rest.

Warming up is important

Do a thorough dynamic warm up before you begin your workout. Properly warming up your muscles can help prevent injuries and improve the quality of your workout by allowing your muscles to move more smoothly through their full range of motion.

Sprints are worth your while

Add some sprint intervals into your cardio sessions. Sprint intervals allow you to burn a higher number of calories in a much shorter amount of time.

35-pound bar for Crossfit because the grip is a lot smaller. The part of the bar is so thick at the gym I can hardly grab it!"

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A sit-down with Emerson's new women's tennis coach

Kyle Brasseur, *Beacon Staff*

Sue Sookiasian took over the Emerson College women's tennis program on Sept. 11 following the Lions' home loss against Roger Williams University. Sookiasian, a native of Cohasset, Mass., takes over the team from interim coach Bill Gould, who also coaches the women's basketball team. Although still winless in four team matches under Sookiasian, the Lions have been competitive in three of them — all 6-3 losses — including a Sept. 14 matchup against New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference opponent Mount Holyoke.

The newest addition to the Emerson athletic department sat down for a formal interview with the Beacon on Sept. 25.

Q: How much coaching experience do you have?

A: I've been coaching high school on and off for 10 years. I've been playing tennis my whole life. [I] played as a junior, played tournaments, played college for four years, [and then I] played women's competitive tennis later, after I had my kids. I've been a United States Professional Tennis Association [professional coach] for about 11 years now. Tennis has just been pretty much a cornerstone of my life competitively, and career-wise I've taught tennis for 15, 20

years on and off. I have two children so I've been raising them, but my job outside of my kids has been tennis.

Q: What got you into coaching?

A: My love of the game. I was a [physical education] teacher early on and my connection with kids ... I just love to work with kids. Tennis is such a lifetime sport; I just love to impart that to other people.

Q: How did the hiring come together?

A: A good friend recommended me that had been a prior coach here (former assistant softball coach Robert Spofford). I got the call from [interim athletic director Stanford Nance] and came in and interviewed and that was it really. I was hoping this would be a next step for me, collegiate tennis, so when the call came I was totally thrilled. This is what I wanted to do.

Q: What's your initial impression of your team?

A: They welcomed me right away. The captains, [seniors] Lacey Russell and Savannah Mosser, have been fantastic. They really embraced me coming in. Because I came in a week into the

season, I've leaned on them a little bit asking them some questions. The team, as a whole, is just a close-knit group of girls. They really lean on one another; they're supportive of one another. Stan, who hired me, was great. [Interim associate athletic director] Erin Brennen has been a constant source of support. Bill

Gould has been just incredible. He transitioned me and I am just very thankful to him; he was so kind and helpful. I feel so supported from them so it has been great, especially since [Emerson] jumped into a

new conference this year, there's some challenges with that. The athletic staff, all the coaches, have been very welcoming and supportive.

Q: What is your coaching style?

A: Watching their matches, I really try to analyze what they're doing on any given day and try to work with that. It's always changing in tennis — you can come out one day and play one way and the next day come out and play a different way so I think it just depends upon the day. I'd like to say about the girls, they have been very responsive to me. When I do go to coach them, they really

listen to what I'm saying and really try to do the suggestions that I'm making throughout their tennis. It's been great, I try to be very positive, but firm.

(Sookiasian said that after asking several of her players what they thought of her coaching style, the girls all agreed on "nice, but firm.")

Q: How difficult was it to take over the team mid-season?

A: The only thing that's been more challenging is [balancing players' individual] schedules, trying to work around everybody's schedules and classes and not having everybody here. We haven't had everybody together on one day yet. Every time I get in touch with them about a change in the schedule everyone is very responsive and open to changing. It's been nothing, really, but positive.

Q: What's your goal for the season?

A: To post a win. We haven't had a win yet but I think we can get one. As long as I see the kids growing and taking positives away from every match, I'm good with that. It's not always about winning and losing — if you lose but you play a great match and you've done what you can and you left it all out on the court, I'm OK with that. Play to win, don't play not to lose.

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Bearhug members (from left to right) Patrick McDonald, Kelly Voke, Roger Ouellette, Monica Baker, Ryan McGowan, Maggie Monahan, Jeremy Sender, and Robin Zlotnick. • Courtesy of Bearhug Comedy

Comedy troupes converge in L.A. to form Bearhug Comedy

Thea Byrd, Beacon Staff

Spending four years in college can quickly turn any novice spender into a professional penny-pincher. Living on a budget—or lack thereof—can force students to get creative with their money. It's a lesson that seems to have stuck with Bearhug Comedy, which currently is producing videos for its YouTube channel at \$50 tops.

"I will say that we have more freedom, but less budget because we're paying for every-

thing ourselves," said Emerson alumnus Patrick McDonald. "It's fun to figure that out."

Hailing from different sketch comedy groups during their time in Boston, Emerson alumni formed a Los Angeles-based web sketch group. The goal was to create a postgraduate environment that embraced Emerson sketch groups' comedic style and work ethic, according to McDonald.

Bearhug Comedy Troupe was founded last October, and since then, the group has been writing, performing, and producing comedy sketches for their YouTube channel.

"We hadn't really worked with each other because we were in different troupes [at Emerson]," said McDonald. "And then once we were out [of school], it was kind of this idea that none of us are technically in any troupe at this point, so why don't we all come together and make something that we know we can do, because we speak the common language that sketch troupes speak at Emerson?"

McDonald, who had been a member of Jimmy's Traveling All-Stars while at Emerson, was one of the founding members of Bearhug Comedy. The group started with a few Emerson alumni and other friends of his, but quickly became an exclusively-Emerson troupe.

"We found out that everyone from the different groups kind of operates the same way," McDonald said. "[The non-Emerson alumni] didn't have the same kind of ethic; they saw themselves out very quickly after a couple of days, and the Emerson people were the ones that stuck around."

Not only does the troupe have a specific work ethic, it also has a signature comedic style. McDonald called it wacky, and the group's sketches range from mocking acting class finals to advertising a school called The Institute for Figuring Out if You're Adele.

Although there is a wide range of subjects in its videos, they all seem to target an audience of college-aged or recent graduate viewers, as they mostly stay within the realms of love, dating, and school.

And now, with less overhead and financial independence, work ethic and creativity are paramount to the group's success in the cutthroat environment of Los Angeles, according to McDonald.

"[When we started] we thought, 'we can either submit for live stuff in three or four months or we could, in a week, write, record, and put it up so people can see it,'" McDonald said. "So it was really the most viable option."

The troupe pays for everything out of pocket, said McDonald. He said that it was a big adjustment from working within the Emerson comedy troupe community with a decent budget, although they already owned most of equipment to produce the videos.

"We've adapted, that's what we needed to do," he said. "We all like video; I certainly like live [performances] a little bit more, but video is fun to figure out. It's a bit more of a puzzle."

Soon after Bearhug's inception, its four founders began causally recruiting other recently graduated Emerson students who had been in sketch comedy troupes, including Maggie Monahan, who said McDonald reached out to her when she moved west in January.

"I had just moved out to Los Angeles, so I was pretty excited to just get back in the habit of writing and producing something," Monahan said.

McDonald said the group is currently working on assembling props for an upcoming video, asking friends for random items they need so they don't have to buy them, in-

cluding a giant teddy bear, as it works toward organizing its first live show.

They've been working together for over a year, McDonald said; the 10 members meet once a week to plan their writing, producing, and editing schedule, then shoot the videos themselves most weekends. According to McDonald, six of the 10 members are also currently taking improvisation classes at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in Los Angeles.

McDonald said the group's goal is to produce one video a week, but more often they can only finish two or three videos a month due to scheduling restrictions.

Bearhug's marketing recently attracted the attention of a Laguna Beach talk and variety radio show, KX93.5's Magic Hour Radio. Cameron Wohlschlaeder, known on the show as "The Camshaft," said he asked them to be on the show after seeing its skits on YouTube and after being attracted to Bearhug's simple comedy.

"The videos they do, production-wise, I wouldn't say they take a large budget or a lot of special effects," said Wohlschlaeder. "They make funny videos without a huge budget. Their videos take everyday situations and make funny things happen."

Wohlschlaeder said interacting with the troupe was just as funny, if not funnier, than he expected. He said its comedy is not too forced; during its interview on Sept. 16, he said group members just spent time hanging out with his co-host.

McDonald said he and the other Bearhuggers worked on producing online content with their organizations at Emerson, but not to this extent. Although many of the members trained with different troupes at Emerson, Monahan said they have been able to find similarities in all their techniques and standards of production.

"We were all trying to reach different audiences at Emerson, and it's cool that now we're all trying to reach the same audience," McDonald said.

The audience, for now, is primarily family and friends, said Monahan. Their most-viewed video on YouTube has 1,143 views.

"At this point I'm not really worried about being an internet sensation," Monahan said. "For me, the number of people we reach isn't as important as the quality of what we produce."

Although the members are busy with their jobs, both Monahan and McDonald said practicing sketch comedy after Emerson was a priority and they certainly see themselves continuing to dedicate time to the troupe.

"It's a great art form and it's really fun," McDonald said. "I wouldn't say it's easy, but it's definitely accessible."

Andrew Doerfler, managing editor of the feature, did not edit this article.

Kelsey Drain, Beacon staff, contributed reporting.

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EMERSON stage

Big Love

By Charles Mee
Directed by Courtney O'Connor

October 3-6

Greene Theater/Tufts

Thurs - Sat at 8pm
Sat & Sun at 2pm

50 brides, 50 unwanted grooms.
The Bachelorette with a bloody twist.

Tickets \$8
with Emerson ID

AESTages.org