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Students file fed complaint, say college mishandled sexual assault cases



Sarah Tedesco helped draft a federal complaint filed against the college.

RA said she was forced to resign after defending resident

Evan Sporer, *Beacon Staff*

A resident assistant was fired from her position after attempting to assist one of her residents who had been sexually assaulted, according to a press release from End Rape on Campus obtained by the Beacon. In a later statement to the Beacon, the RA said she was forced to resign and not fired.

Dylan Manderlink, currently a senior, was an RA on the eighth floor of the Little Building last fall. During that time, her resident, then-freshman Sarah Tedesco, reported to the college that she had been sexually assaulted in an off-campus incident, according to Tedesco.

Tedesco, a journalism major and a former Beacon staff member, and other Emerson students have been working with End Rape On Campus, an organization that provides free support to campus activists looking to file Title IX or Clery Act Complaints, according to its website. Title IX and the Clery Act

are federal laws that prohibit sexual discrimination at educational institutions and require reporting of crimes on and near campus, respectively.

"The school has consistently been treating its survivors unfairly, and it wasn't until I adamantly and passionately supported a survivor that I was put on probation and then fired for other outstanding reasons," Manderlink wrote in a statement to the Beacon, referencing other incidents of sexual assault that she said have gone reported and unreported.

According End Rape on Campus' release, Manderlink lost her position as an RA after she began to support Tedesco.

"I think their timing of putting me on probation and then firing me was questionable, and should definitely be examined and challenged," wrote Manderlink in her statement. "It seemed a little too strategic and it definitely made me feel like a failure."

An anonymous student source con

Complainant says she was told "not to make a big deal out of the fact that this occurred"

Jackie Tempera, *Beacon Staff*
Laura Gomez, *Beacon Staff*

A group of Emerson students filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights last week, stating the college's response to alleged sexual assaults violates Title IX, a federal anti-discrimination law, said sophomore Sarah Tedesco and junior Jillian Doherty, who are currently the only public complainants.

Tedesco, a journalism major and a former Beacon staff member, said she was raped by one Emerson student and one Massachusetts Institute of Technology student at an off-campus party on Oct. 12, 2012. When she returned to campus that night, she said she reported the incident to her Resident Assistant Dylan Manderlink, a then-junior interdisciplinary major.

The following evening, Tedesco said she went to the Emerson College Police Department office, where officers recommended she go to a hospital and complete a sexual assault collection test, a typical procedure when filing a police report. The next morning, Oct. 14, Tedesco said she completed the test and filed a case with the Cambridge Police Department.

In December, Tedesco said she followed up with David Haden, the associate dean and director of housing and residence life.

"[I was told] not to make a big deal out of the fact that this occurred," she said in an interview with the Beacon. "He said that it was a private matter and its not something I should be so public about."

Haden declined to comment.

According to Title IX regulations, a school that knows about possible sexual

harassment incidents must promptly investigate those allegations to determine what occurred, then take appropriate steps to resolve the situation.

Some Emerson students feel if Tedesco's allegation is true, the response was unjust.

"She shouldn't have been told just to not make it a big deal," said Billy Finn, senior performing arts major. "I think that's ridiculous."

Tedesco said that Little Building Resident Director Caitlin Courtney suggested she close the investigation with the Cambridge Police.

"She said she thought that because of everything that it would be in my best emotional interest to drop the charges through the Cambridge Police Department," she said. "She said she thought that it was taking over my life and hurting me emotionally."

Title IX states a school should notify a complainant of his or her right to file a criminal complaint for sexual assaults, and should not dissuade a victim from doing so.

The Office of Housing and Residence Life, the department Courtney works in, declined to comment.

Tedesco said she was emotionally impressionable at the time of Courtney's suggestion, so she took the advice. She said because of Courtney's recommendation, she stopped cooperating with police, and the case was left unresolved. Tedesco said there was evidence in her sexual assault collection test connecting the Emerson student who she said attacked her to the rape, but no disciplinary action was taken against the individual by ECPD, the Office of Student Conduct, or the Cambridge Police. Tedesco

"A lack of attention to details — something that is imperative in a rape investigation — is the reason why my rapist still walks on this campus." — Jillian Doherty

College refocuses branding

Laura Gomez, *Beacon Staff*



The college will rework the branding campaign.

College administrators are in the process of selecting a market research firm to determine if the Emerson brand should be revised, a project that could lead to a rewriting and redesigning of all the college's print and online marketing materials, according to Andrew Tiedemann, vice president for communications and marketing.

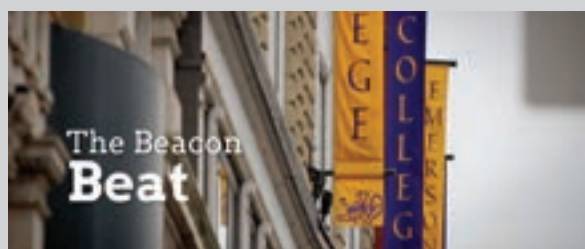
The branding initiative would evaluate, for example, if Emerson's tagline, "Bringing innovation to communication and the arts," is conveying the right message, and whether the college needs to tweak its logo — the Emerson "E" — to create a new graphic identity, said Tiedemann.

"We're pretty sure we are on target, but you are always surprised when you go out and do comprehensive research," said Tiedemann, who said he is working on the project with 14 other senior administrators and Donald Hurwitz, interim chair of the marketing communication department.

Hurwitz said that he volunteered his knowledge of working for 25 years in branding projects to advise the administrative committee.

"The pursuit is to visit the branding," said Hurwitz. "It's a matter of taking a look at who we have been, who we are

Online extras



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news

Consultant firm will evaluate the Emerson story

now, and where we think we want to go, based on the fact that we have a new administration and that various internal offices are getting organized to pursue [President M. Lee Pelton's] strategic plan."

Sage Paquette-Cohen, a senior communication sciences and disorders major, said she came to Emerson because it's a small school, but in her time here has noticed changes that she said are not consistent with the college's identity.

"It's been hard to develop student-teacher relationships because my classes have gone from being 20 students to 40," she said.

According to Tiedemann, the college hasn't done a comprehensive market research study since 2004.

Hurwitz says it's important for an entity to review its brand identity, which he said should communicate what the institution is and what it aspires to be.

"Every now and then you take a general check of whether the world views you the way you are trying to get it to view you and—given the things that we are doing—how it should be viewing you,"

said Hurwitz.

Michelle Lavner, a freshman journalism major, said she chose Emerson because of the good reputation of the alumni network.

"I'm from LA, and if you mention you are from Emerson, people really respect you for it," she said.

Tiedemann said he, along with MJ Knoll-Finn, vice president for enrollment, spoke to then-President Jackie Liebergott about conducting a new comprehensive study. But because this was proposed at the end of Liebergott's administration, Tiedemann said he and Knoll-Finn had to wait for the transition period of administrations to be over.

This summer, Tiedemann said he, Knoll-Finn, and Jeffrey Schoenherr, vice president for development and alumni relations, met with Pelton and began planning the branding project.

The group of administrators have narrowed down the search for a consulting firm from 12 initial candidates to two prospective companies, said Tiedemann, but he declined to disclose the names of these firms.

Tiedemann also declined to comment on the budget the committee has for this

consulting project.

"We've identified at least six key audiences: current undergraduate and graduate students; prospective undergraduate and graduate students; parents; alumni; faculty; and staff," said Tiedemann.

Altogether, the six subsections are covered by the three offices headed by Tiedemann, Knoll-Finn, and Schoenherr. The rebranding project would be divided in two yearlong phases, according to Tiedemann.

During the first phase of the research, the chosen marketing firm will conduct surveys to understand what distinguishes Emerson from other academic communities and determine the perceptions different audiences have about Emerson, said Tiedemann.

In the second phase, the school will use those findings to determine if its marketing materials and the website's content needs revision.

When Tiedemann arrived in April 2009, Emerson was preparing a redesigned website, which launched in May 2010. Before the website launched, Emerson conducted a series of quick focus groups with current students, parents, and alumni with the help of a consultant

**"Every now and then you take a general check of whether the world views you the way you are trying to get it to view you."
—Donald Hurwitz, interim chair of the marketing department**

to gauge the ways these audiences talk about the school, according to Tiedemann.

From the data gathered in those focus groups, the website was redesigned and seven core attributes shared by students, alumni, and faculty were identified, said Tiedemann.

These seven attributes, or ways of telling the Emerson story, are: Emerson is the world's leader in teaching communication and the arts; Emerson is where people with vision find a voice; Emerson is where creativity and 'learning by doing' are possible; Emersonians are innovative and entrepreneurial; Emersonians collaborate; Emerson is inclusive, diverse, transparent, and welcoming; and Emerson is urban and has a global reach.

Tiedemann said these attributes would be used in the rebranding project.

"If we go ahead with this project, the earliest we would have a new website would be summer of 2015," said Tiedemann.

He expects for the marketing firm to be selected by the end of December.

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Changes made to library

Angelica LaVine, *Beacon Correspondent*

To provide more space for students to study and organizations to host events, the Iwasaki Library was restructured this semester, said Robert Fleming, executive director of the library. Changes include a consolidation and relocation of print collections, additional study desks, a new consultation room, and redesigned pillars.

Fleming said the total cost of the renovations was approximately \$80,000, which consisted of \$50,000 for new furniture and \$30,000 for labor and infrastructure like electrical wiring, carpeting, and removal of shelving.

According to Fleming, the library staff was able to create more space by relocating print collections—like scholarly journals—from the center of the library's main room to the right side of the space. Now, study tables and armchairs stand in their place.

The DVD and screenplay collections, which, according to Fleming, are the two most popular ones, have been combined with the print collections so they are more accessible. Fleming said this new location provides more room for these collections to grow larger over the years.

The current issues of the library's print periodical subscriptions are now shelved with bound periodical backfiles from 2006 or later, which are located to the right of the computers near the library's entrance, according to Fleming. All bound periodical backfiles from 2005 or earlier are now shelved in the library's sub-basement compact storage room, said Fleming.

Also, display shelving was taken down in the quiet study area of the library to allow space for more tables. The copying machines have been moved out of their former location and into the quiet study area. This move allowed for the room where the copying machines were previously stationed to be transformed into a conference room with a long table and chairs inside. According to Fleming, the room is now a consultation office meant for faculty and library staff meetings, but may serve as a study space when not in use.

Overall, these changes added 43 new study seats, said Fleming.

Erinn Pascal, a senior writing, literature, and publishing major, said she spends most of her time outside of class in the library. She said she believes the changes are important because they help the library attract more off-campus students and allow more students to meet

and interact.

"Now that there is more seating, it really encourages off-campus students to come and spend time here, because it is a guaranteed place they can go," said Pascal, who lives in Allston.

Other modifications were made to help the library become more student-friendly, said Fleming. Electrical outlets were installed onto six of the study tables in the main room of the library, so students don't have to share plugs on the wall. But Katie Minard, a senior marketing communication major, said that despite this addition, she is still having a hard time finding a place to charge her laptop while studying during certain times of the school day, typically between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m.

"It still took me a half an hour just to find a place to sit where there was an outlet," she said.

Fleming said he hoped the changes made to the library would give student organizations more space to hold events. Space for photography displays, which are currently showcasing the work of Peter Paradise, a staff member in Emerson's IT department, was designed for this very purpose. Fleming said he hopes to invite student organizations, such as Developed Images, to display their photographs on the library walls in the upcoming months.

Three pillars in the center of the main room were painted with chalkboard paint, with the left pillar meant to be an advertisement space for student organizations to publicize upcoming events. The center pillar serves as a signpost for the reserves and for the printers, which Fleming says are the two most common locations asked for by students. The right pillar is meant to be a free communication board for student ideas and interests, and currently houses polls about books read over the summer and candidates for student government association elections.

According to Fleming, chalk is kept at the library staff desks so that members of the Emerson community can write on the pillars at any time.

"We figured we should let the students communicate, because after all, this is a communication school," said Fleming.

However, two swastikas were found drawn on one pillar two weeks ago. Fleming said if more graffiti appears, the chalkboard paint may be removed.

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Group teaches MDMA safety

Martha Schick, *Beacon Staff*

In the midst of a nationwide drug fad that has garnered negative media attention, Emerson Reform hosted a meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 2, to address the pros and cons of MDMA usage with student attendees.

MDMA, or "Molly" in slang, is a crystal or powder form of ecstasy. It can be snorted or swallowed in capsules, and can be mixed with other stimulants. Its effects include increased sensory awareness, feelings of openness and acceptance, and the desire to dance and socialize. While some studies have indicated that in small doses, MDMA can help relieve symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, it is more often used illegally in rave and festival scenes.

Emerson Reform is an organization that aims to educate students about drugs, both legal and illegal, in a more comprehensive way than typical drug education programs, according to Marilyn Willmoth, the group's president.

"Students attend these meetings because they're interested in experimenting with illegal drugs," said the senior political communications major. "These are students who want to come and make sure that they have all of the information that they need to know before they make the decision whether or not to partake in illegal drug use."

Willmoth said the meeting has been planned since the beginning of the year, when the executive board planned all the topics the club would cover. She said it was coincidental that the meeting followed an Emerson College Police Department email warning students of the dangers of MDMA.

On Sept. 6, Emerson Police Chief Robert Smith detailed the effects, appearance, and risks of MDMA in an email to the student body. He referenced two deaths that had occurred in Boston due to the drug, and told students to avoid situations in which it, or any other illegal substances, could be slipped to them.

"I definitely think that all the media attention around MDMA [over the summer] has influenced people wanting to hold the information session, but I don't think it was really related to [the email]," Willmoth said.

Eleven students attended, including Emerson Reform's board. The meeting started with Willmoth reminding everyone that all stories shared regarding illegal drugs were confidential. The group went on to discuss various experiences

they'd had, which often focused on the music scene.

On a whiteboard in the front of the room were four lists: pros, neutrals, cons, and things to be aware of. Willmoth filled out each of the categories with comments from students in the meeting.

The pros list included "feeling music" and "loving everyone." The neutrals were factors like gnashing teeth and raised heart rate, and the cons ranged from mood problems when taking MDMA often to not knowing what other drugs it could be laced with. The list of things to be aware of had tips like staying hydrated and starting with 0.1 gram for the first few times.

Many said they were speaking from personal experience, and Willmoth referenced research she had done before the meeting on sites like erowid.org, which she said collects research on legal and illegal drugs.

"Be cautious" was repeated every few minutes throughout the hourlong meeting, and Willmoth told students that when trying a new drug, they should be aware of the safest way to take it, as outlined in the lists on the board.

When the session was opened up for questions, many were related to MDMA being taken with other drugs. The general consensus was that MDMA and marijuana were relatively safe when combined, as were MDMA and alcohol at or below the legal limit, but that MDMA should not be mixed with other drugs.

A student who, like others in the meeting, asked to remain anonymous, expressed curiosity in another drug as well. The student asked about the amount of cocaine that could be taken safely, and requested an information session. However, Willmoth said that she considers cocaine too dangerous to do without a high risk, and would not promote its use.

Willmoth said she considers Emerson Reform to be a reliable source for students regarding drug use, saying that all members of the executive board are well-versed in current research. An information session on addiction will be held on Oct. 23 and a date rape session will be held in conjunction with Emerald Empowerment on Oct. 30.

"We are a resource for not only the members of our group," Willmoth said, "but the entire Emerson community."

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College kept complaints quiet, say students

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said this is because she believed that at the time of this revelation, she could not legally share the report with the college because the Cambridge Police case was ongoing. The Cambridge Police could not be reached for immediate comment.

In March, Tedesco said she received a series of threatening emails from the alleged Emerson attacker. She said she reported these messages to ECPD, but officers did not take any action. Later in the month, Tedesco said she was raped again by the same Emerson student while on campus.

Title IX requires a school to take steps to protect complainants as necessary. The school should notify the complainant of his or her options to avoid contact with the alleged perpetrator, according to the regulations, and allow students to change academic or living situations as appropriate.

Shortly after the incident, Tedesco said the college called her parents, and told them of the attack without her consent.

Doherty, the second complainant, said she was raped by an Emerson student in an Emerson dormitory. A year later, in the spring term of 2013, she said she reported her case to the college and an investigation began, conducted by Michael Arno, director of the office of student conduct.

Doherty, a writing, literature, and publishing major, said her attacker was studying abroad through an Emerson program during the investigation.

After Arno's investigation—which Doherty said included interviews with her, her attacker, and witnesses—the conduct board, a group of three administrative or faculty members, held a hearing to reach a decision.

"I don't think [Arno] was very thorough," said Doherty in an interview with the Beacon about the document of the investigation's findings that Arno presented to the board. "It should be handled with a lot more care and a lot more respect."

She said Arno let her choose her hearing date: in the summer, conducted via Skype, or the fall term; she chose the former. At the hearing, Doherty said her attacker was ruled not responsible. An appeal hearing will be held next Wednesday, she said.

Doherty said she thinks that a trained detective should have aided the investigation.

"I don't think that someone who is just an administrator should be the person who investigates a rape case," she said. Doherty said at the time, she did not go to police because she didn't feel she had sufficient evidence to present to law enforcement.

All people involved in implementing the proper procedures required by Title IX, from the investigation to a hearing decision, must have training or experience in handling complaints of sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Alexa Jackson, Emerson's Title IX coordinator, was not available to comment on which Emerson staff members are trained on proper procedures.

"I'm really struggling, academically; I'm on academic probation because of the way my grades turned out during the period of the investigation," said Doherty.

Title IX says that, depending on the specific nature of the problem, the school can provide remedies for the victim, like arranging for the complainant to retake a course or withdraw from a class without penalty, ensuring that any changes do not adversely affect the complainant's academic record.

"A lack of attention to details—something that is imperative in a rape investigation—is the reason why my rapist still walks on this campus," said Doherty.

Because of these experiences, and their perception of the school's reluctance to comply with Title IX regulations, Tedesco said she, Doherty, and other students started to consider filing the complaint.

Tedesco, Doherty, and a group of Emerson students worked with End Rape on Campus, a group that helps students to take federal action, to draft the complaint. According to a press release sent to the Bea-

con, the complaint was submitted as part of a larger initiative about the mishandling of rape, sexual assault, and other crimes by college and universities.

An August meeting with orientation workers Sharon Duffy, associate dean of students, and Elise Harrison, director of counseling and psychological service, student orientation core staff, and Ronald Ludman, the dean of students, prompted her to officially file the complaint.

During the meeting, Tedesco and other ESSA member sat down with the group to discuss orientation and how to move ahead with a sexual assault awareness campaign this semester, she said. When ESSA members tried to bring up the violations of Title IX, Tedesco said Ludman asked for examples. Tedesco said she tried to use examples from her own case, and Ludman told her she could not talk about her own case in a public meeting.

"We tried to bring up systematic investigation problems, they immediately shut us down and said that's not our primary focus right now," she said. "So that was really a tipping point because students weren't seeing what they wanted to be done."

Tedesco declined to reveal how many students were involved in the filing. But she said more students were involved in the filing than sexual crimes were reported in the college's records.

According to Emerson's 2013 Clery Act Report—an annual account of crimes reported on or near campus—three forcible sexual offenses were reported in 2012, and two forcible sexual offenses were reported in 2011.

"From January 1, 2013 through today there have been 13 forcible sex offenses reported to the ECPD," wrote Emerson Police Chief Robert Smith in a statement to the Beacon on Wednesday. He added that these offenses may have happened off campus.

In an interview in March, Smith said only one forcible sexual offense was reported from January to March 2013.

According to Title IX regulations, if a student files a sexual assault complaint with the school, regardless of where the conduct occurred, the school must process the complaint in accordance with its established procedures.

According to Ludman in an interview in the spring, Emerson's policy for victims of rape and sexual assault is to have college administrators investigate the allegations, and simultaneously provide support for the student regardless of the outcome. Then, an appointed administrator and the student develop a plan that best fits the needs of the victim, he said.

Students can also report crimes to any member of the Emerson staff. Then, that staff member is encouraged, but not required, to inform Emerson's sexual assault team, which consists of Ludman; Jackson, human resources/Title IX coordinator; the general counsel; and representatives from the ECPD, counseling, health and wellness, housing and residence life, according to the Emerson website.

Victims who wish to file a police report can talk to the ECPD, said Ludman.

Smith said students who file a police report will speak to the officer in charge of the shift to begin an investigation. This consists of a brief interview, concerning where and when the assault took place.

Students who want to pursue criminal investigations will be put in contact with the police department in the area where the incident occurred, he said.

The story of the complaint first broke in a Huffington Post article on Tuesday night, and was broadcasted to the organization's over 3,000,000 Twitter followers. On Wednesday evening, President M. Lee Pelton sent the Emerson community an email addressing the allegations.

In the message, Pelton referenced an email he sent in March in response to an email campaign by Emerson Stopping Sexual Assault club members directed toward the college's administrators. In the campaign, students asked Pelton, Ludman, and Duffy to take larger steps in protecting Emerson students against sexually violent

crimes.

"As I noted in my March letter, sexual assault occurs too often on college campuses, and it is critically important that we redouble our efforts to combat incidents that harm our students and undermine what we stand for as a commonwealth of learning," said Pelton in the email.

Pelton proceeded to outline what the college has done since the March campaign, including hosting a panel discussion with Emerson Stopping Sexual Assault student group, constructing a Creating a Culture of Consent booklet, launching a Sexual Assault Survivor Advocate initiative, increasing the availability of Rape Aggression Defense classes, and providing additional training in Title IX requirements.

In an interview with the Beacon, Pelton said he wants to continue to make positive changes.

"We are really focused on making improvements where we can, increasing support and advocacy where it's needed, and listening and being open to women and men who have the courage to show the college how it can do better," he said.

In the community email, Pelton named a few changes the college will make in light of the filed complaint.

The college will look to hire a Sexual Assault Advocate, who will provide support for sexual assault victims and oversee the college's programs on the matter, he said.

Sylvia Spears, the vice president for diversity and inclusion, and Lori Beth Way, a senior advisor to academic affairs for undergraduate education, will work on a review of the college's sexual assault response procedures, he said in the email. This evaluation will be completed no later than March 2014, said Pelton.

"I think the legitimate question is whether or not [the Emerson's Title IX office] can be improved. I think the easy answer is yes, it can be," said Pelton in an interview. "The more difficult question is how?"

Pelton said he will host a meeting sometime after the Columbus Day weekend, where students and administrators will discuss sexual assault issues, and the racist, anti-Semitic, and discriminatory graffiti recently found on campus.

"Our meeting together will be a call to action, a call to stand united with renewed commitment to be our very best selves," he said in the email.

Students reacted strongly to the accusations.

"It's really, really infuriating," said Kelly Voke, senior performing arts major. "I'm disappointed and a bit ashamed to be going to a place that can't handle a situation like this."

Doherty said she has observed the disappointment and embarrassment expressed by students towards Emerson, but she thinks students should see this issue differently.

"Emerson is a great school," she said, adding that other institutions are struggling to appropriately respond to cases of sexual assault. A 2010 report by the New England Center for Investigative Reporting found that higher education institutions in the area largely mishandled campus rape cases, and that federal sanctions were weak.

"Instead of feeling shame, we should feel a sense of community and try to push this issue into the spotlight," said Doherty.

Pelton said he is proud students are demanding improvement.

"These are women who came forward because they have a love for Emerson," he said. "And they want it to be a better place for them to live, work, and study."

The Office for Civil Rights under the Department of Education, is currently closed due to the government shutdown, according to a message on the office's answering machine. Cases will not be reviewed until the office reopens, said the message.

Editor-in-Chief Evan Sporer and Assistant News Editor Martha Schick contributed to this report.

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College to review training policies

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firmed to the Beacon that Manderlink was fired toward the end of the fall 2012 semester, around the same time Tedesco said she reported her assault to the college.

President M. Lee Pelton said he was aware of the press release and its claims, but declined to comment on any incident involving a specific student.

"That's obviously a serious matter," said Pelton in a phone interview with the Beacon. "We will follow up."

When asked about the circumstances surrounding Manderlink's dismissal, David Haden, associate dean and director of housing and residence life, declined to comment.

Emerson's RA contract, obtained by the Beacon, describes what would lead to the dismissal of an RA.

"I understand that I may be subject to disciplinary action and/or my contract may be terminated at any time by the Associate Dean for any breach of the expectations stated above," reads the contract, which includes 26 guidelines for RAs to follow, such as spending quality time on their floor with their residents, and acting as a referral agent to residents.

However, Title IX prohibits retaliation — by the college and other individuals — against students with claims of sexual assault.

Pelton said Emerson strives to train RAs to best help the students they oversee, including incidents involving sexual assault.

"We have prevention and education and training programs, and we have advocacy and support programs," said Pelton. "Sexual awareness programs are a part of residential advising training that's part of orientation."

Ronald Ludman, dean of students, outlined the orientation activities RAs went through in August during their training sessions.

"Prior to the start of the fall semester, the residence life staff, including all the residence assistants, participated in a comprehensive training program that included enhanced modules on sexual assault awareness and response," Ludman wrote in a statement to the Beacon through Andrew Tiedemann, vice president of communications and marketing.

Ludman said the training sessions were facilitated by the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center and the Counseling Center.

Although the college already has sexual assault response measures in place, Pelton said there might be room for improvement.

"The question is around the programs' efficacy," said Pelton. "What we want to find out is if they're effective, and if not, how can we improve them."

Manderlink said she hopes to create a better environment for future RAs who might encounter similar situations. She clarified that this reflected her personal experience as an RA and not the entire program.

"I want to also make sure that future student employees of the school are given sufficient support, advice, and consistent help when they are responsible for caring for a victim of sexual assault and aren't neglected by their superiors," wrote Manderlink in a separate statement to the Beacon. "Although I lost my job, I hope that no future Resident Assistant or student employee feels unsure, unsupported, and unconfident in their position because of their superior's negligence."

News Editor Jackie Tempera and Deputy News Editor Laura Gomez contributed to this report.

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**"We will follow up."
—President M. Lee Pelton**

editorial

Complaints demand transparency

At issue:

Students file complaint against Emerson administration in response to violating federal anti-discrimination law

Our take:

Emerson must show complete transparency throughout investigation

Emerson has long been lauded for being progressive in matters of sexual health—from workshops to lectures, our campus is never lacking in sex ed, and many campus organizations encourage awareness of sexual assault. But in the past 10 months, over a dozen students have reported cases of forcible sexual assault, according to the Emerson College Police Department, compared to only five in 2011 and 2012. And just last week, a group of students filed a complaint alleging Emerson's administration failed to follow requirements spelled out by Title IX, a federal anti-discrimination law, when responding to sexual assaults.

In instances like these, the best policy is transparency—as much as possible without violating the privacy of the victims. Student groups, like Emerson Stopping Sexual Assault and Emerson Confessional, have shown a willingness to provide open forums for students to discuss sexual assaults. That same candor should be matched by the Emerson

administration throughout the upcoming investigations.

In the coming weeks and months, there will be more news stories to follow like the Huffington Post's. Internal reviews will be conducted, policies revisited, and new information will be uncovered. It would be in Emerson's own best interest to be as prompt and transparent as possible in divulging any information it discovers—and in responding to allegations in media accounts—to the Emerson community.

College students have plenty to worry about, but their safety and well-being should be a given. Under Emerson's watch, students reported they felt unsafe and uncomfortable in the wake of alleged instances of sexual assaults. While the incidents themselves are still under investigation, their emotions are certain, and the administration should be held accountable for perpetuating an environment that led these students to distress.

As Pelton mentioned in his email to

College students have plenty to worry about, but their safety and well-being should be a given.

the Emerson community, sexual assault is an issue present on campuses across the country. Sexual assaults, and colleges' responses to them, are an institutional problem larger than any one university, and students and administrators nationwide are beginning to take action. If Emerson wants to be a part of the solution, being transparent is a crucial first step in rectifying the current allegations—and putting students who felt belittled at ease.

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.

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The Berkeley Beacon

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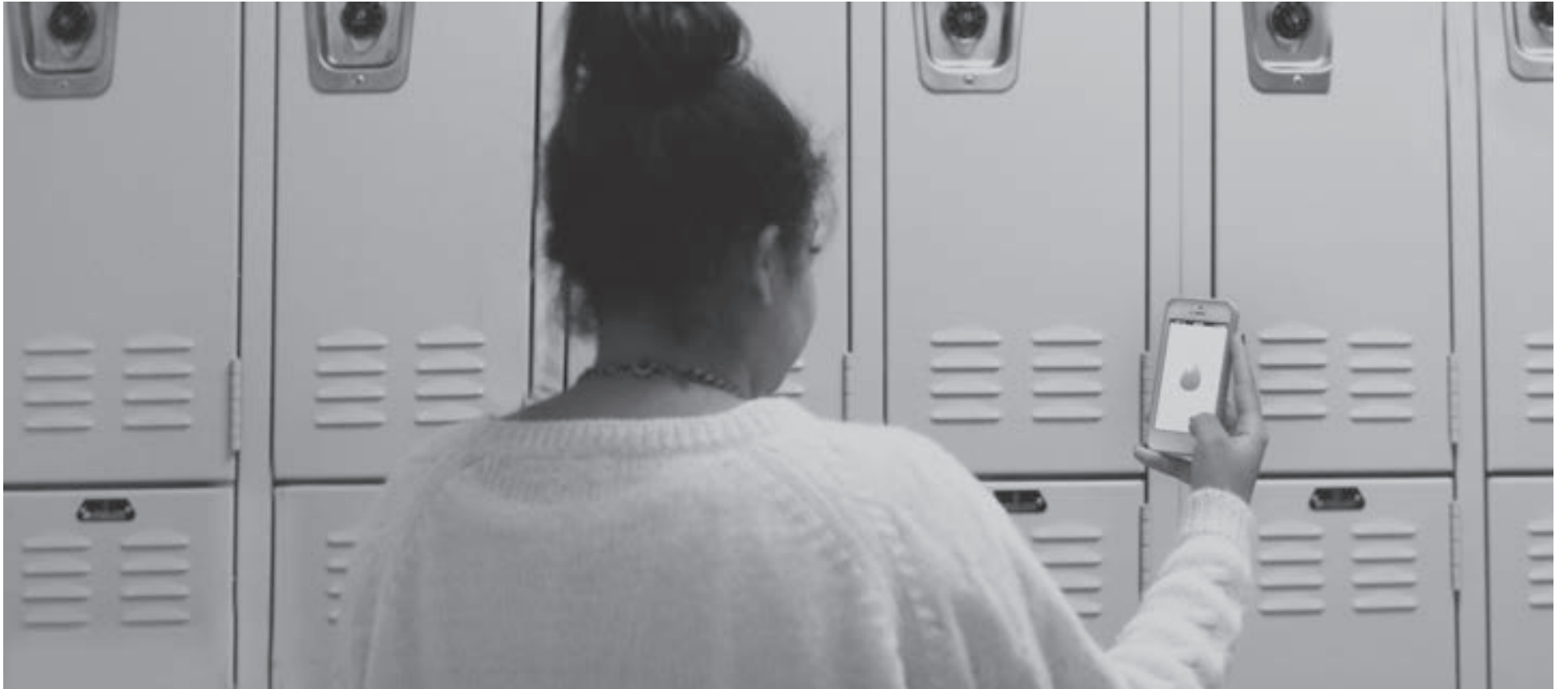
by Holly Kirman

Emerson Reform hosts
MDMA informational
session



opinion

Tinder is only the tip of our vanity iceberg



Tinder is a playground for human vanity, not for creating meaningful interactions. •••••

Trelawny Vermont-Davis is a senior political communication major & a managing editor for the Beacon

As a social experiment, I spent 72 hours searching for dates without any intention of actually going on one, wearing a mud mask from the comfort of my own couch. This is all thanks to Tinder, the app that almost all of your 20-something friends already have. They have it because it has finally cracked the dating code — it tells you if the people you want to sleep with want to sleep with you.

The way it works is simple: Users peruse pictures of other singles within a given radius, swiping right if they're into them and left if they're not. A left swipe means never seeing their picture again, and a right swipe—given they right swipe you as well—allows you to chat with them and presumably make plans to meet up. One of the bonuses of the app is that no one finds out about unrequited lust; you can only see if someone likes you if you like them first.

Crucially, the app has the appeal of no longer having to deal with the inherently awkward dating scene. Spending \$10 on a drink for someone only to be rejected once the recipient has swallowed it is discouraging at best. Tinder has created

a dating scene devoid of rejection and brimming with mutual admiration.

But the excitement about this utopian dating scene began to die down when I spent 45 indecisive minutes picking the Facebook profile picture that would be the face of my Tinder identity. The sole focus on physical appearance made me realize the vainness of it all.

For years, women have complained about being judged purely on their physical appearance, and yet here we are, doing the same thing to men and inviting them to do it to us.

But this revelation became even more disappointing when I realized something bigger: Tinder isn't about finding a casual hookup or love — it's about feeling validated. This became relatively obvious when I noticed how many people randomly swiped yes and never proceeded to start a conversation. And while some

do, the overwhelming majority of Tinder matches fail to spark a flame. After questioning numerous Tinder-using friends, it became evident that there are many people who swipe yes to every recom-

mended user just to see how many people think they are attractive. And while this is certainly embarrassing to my whole generation, it's only the tip of the iceberg.

There is a science around online validation. Studies like the one by Kristen Lindquist, professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, say social information feels intrinsically rewarding to people. "Likes" on Facebook and retweets on Twitter give users a jolt of dopamine, making them feel happier. Over time, the effect on the reward center in the brain is similar to that of drug addicts. There is even a formula (which I have seen many of my Facebook friends use) to creating a status that generates maximum likes. I have witnessed friends

delete statuses and tweets because they have not received the amount of attention they had hoped. Tinder is just the latest example in our perpetual need for validation.

There are even people in relationships using Tinder, just to see if they've still got it. One friend said she and her boyfriend go on the app together, browsing through the endless stream of faces, comparing who gets more likes. I'm sure we are on the brink of our first Tinder divorce.

This is even more undignified than preliminary fears about Tinder — that it encourages us to value people solely on looks. Don't worry, it does that too. But what's really disappointing is that Tinder, which seemed like a promising app whose formula cracked the dating code, is just as vulnerable to superficial liars and cheaters as any other form of dating. You can create the most brilliant app, but what you can't do is conquer old-fashioned vanity.

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Tinder isn't about finding a casual hookup or love — it's about feeling validated.

Undeclared majors only one group in land of the lost

Liana Genito is a sophomore journalism major & assistant opinion editor of the Beacon.

As college students, we are expected to categorize our future into a major: study the major, plan on the major, work on the major, live, breathe, and be the major. But having a major is expensive. Four-years-of-tuition expensive.

There's a stigma against people who pay for college without a clear focus—the "undeclared majors." Admittedly, I shared the same resentment against them, too, at first. College is beyond a financial investment, and not all of us have the resources to put all of our eggs in one basket. As much as we hate to admit it, the stigma held against undeclared majors is that of jealousy: Undeclared majors have the guts to admit they are lost.

I don't know what you did in high school, but I didn't get to do a whole lot of soul searching. Our generation has been pushed by our parents toward education so much that we've skipped the step of realizing what education means for ourselves. It has become a norm to go to college right after high school, leaving grad school as our true calling to education.

College should be seen as an independent, conscious decision. Instead, it is seen

as a continuation of high school, grades 13 through 16. Most of us haven't known our life's path since we were three years old; we need time. Gap years after high school are OK. Gap years in the middle of college are OK. What is not OK is taking out loans to search our soul in an academic setting and then judge others who have the nerve to admit that's what they're doing.

There are two types of lost people: those who have no idea, and those who have too many ideas. Neither knows where their futures start.

During one of my classes, while discussing projects on our prospective career fields, one student simply said, "I have no idea." She shared her fear of having no plan past her 22nd birthday (more than most of us), and she felt as if she was the only one who was lost.

But I was nodding while she spoke. My professor proceeded to sample the whole class on how we felt, and student after student sympathized and shared her fear. We're all lost, to some degree—and about our degrees.

Career Services tries to appeal to the "no idea" lost students in class presentations. But as a "too many ideas" lost student, I've only come out of these presentations with 10 new careers I could get involved in—and 10 different majors—all for the same reasons. Career Services can't charter our life

maps. Choosing a major can seem like setting your future in stone. When you're not even a legal adult, and you're choosing which schools to apply to, it can be an intimidating decision. But your major is more of a trial and error: a prerequisite to your career, not a permanent path. It's often said that adults change their careers

several times.

At Emerson, students put themselves through a narrow curriculum and self-identify as career-oriented students, though at some point, we all question our education. Most of us will find ourselves in school again when we find a much more purposeful and personal reason for getting a specific education. We could save a lot of money, time, sleepless nights, and mental breakdowns if we gave ourselves time to go school for our own reasons, no matter when we find those reasons. This is probably why Emerson students are so involved in extracurriculars; to truly test out their major. There hasn't been much time for real-world experience between senior year of high school and freshman year of college.

So while we all figure out the rest of our lives, cut the undeclared majors some slack. We might be the busy Emerson community, but we're all a little lost here.

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There are two types of lost people: those who have no idea, and those who have too many ideas — neither of whom know where their futures start.

arts

Rock on:

Wax on Felt hosts annual Battle of the Bands



Cody Masters gets the crowd amped during the Battle. •••••



A guitarist jams out on stage. •••••

Tori Bilcik, *Beacon Correspondent*

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, Emerson's student-run record label, Wax On Felt, hosted its annual Battle of the Bands in the Cabaret. The contest is open to both Emerson bands and colleges in the surrounding area. Immersed in the ambiance of a colorful light show and old-school pop-punk anthems, the musty smell of sweat and perfume filled the room as students filed in by the dozens.

Once the competitors took the stage, a professionally produced and stylistically eclectic assortment of live musical performances entertained the crowd for hours on end with six incredible acts. The stakes were high as each artist performed in hopes of winning the audience's votes and competing for prizes, including recording time and promotional assistance from Wax On Felt.

Boston-based "funkcore" group Juneva's heavy sound led to the formation of the only mosh pit of the entire show and earned the band first place in the battle, including a free full-length album recording with Wax On Felt. From lead vocalist Paul Buonomo's killer range to the band's professional-grade stage presence, their entire performance was well-received.

"[Juneva] had the best energy," said Nick Levesque, a freshman visual and media arts major who attended the battle. "Some bands had lulls or dull moments in their set, but there was none of that in

theirs."

Juneva's bassist, Johnny Capece, responded to the win, saying "[the battle] was really cool, there were a lot of people there, and I had no idea what to expect, but a lot of people really responded to our performance."

Now, their future album presents its own set of challenges.

"We still have writing to do," said Buonomo. "We weren't 100% sure going in if we were going to win."

"One of our main goals now is to hammer down the material."

Emerson's own Chris Collins, a freshman marketing communication major from Cohasset, Mass., kicked off the battle with an energetic, captivating rap performance. Despite being the only rap act on the lineup, Collins held his own. He engaged with the audience throughout his entire set, making sure everyone in the room was entertained, and he took second in the battle.

"I felt the performance went well," he said following his set. "Unfortunately, the crowd was not much of a rap crowd, but ... after my set, I had a lot of individuals come up to me and congratulate me on the performance. They definitely appreciated it, even though they couldn't vibe out to it as much as a 'hip-hop head' would."

During the concert, it became clear the hip-hop genre wasn't the clear favorite, perhaps providing a disadvantage.

"I'm not really a fan of hip-hop or rap,"

**"I had no idea what to expect, but a lot of people really responded to our performance."
--Bassist Johnny Capece**

said freshman visual and media arts major Michelle Gallego, following Collins' performance. "But kudos to him for being able to come up with something that flows. Rap seems difficult. I could appreciate the effort."

Collins said he will be recording an EP for free with Wax On Felt for taking second place.

"I plan to show how versatile I can be on a hip-hop record," he said.

Vundabar, an indie rock band based out of Boston, and The Rolling Coasters, a ska punk band of seniors from Watertown High School, tied for third place, and will each record two songs for free with Wax On Felt.

Haley Gorycki, a freshman writing, literature, and publishing major, said that Vundabar and The Rolling Coasters were her two favorite performances of the night.

"[Vundabar] reminded me of other indie bands I like," she said, "and they were the closest to my personal music preference. But I really liked The Rolling Coasters too. [Both bands] had the tightest sound, and they were definitely the most put together."

According to Virginia Wright, the vice president of Wax On Felt, in addition to the recording time that each of the artists won, the record label will sign all four winning bands and help them with promotion, graphic design, and booking shows around Boston for the remainder of the school year.

Other performers at the 2013 Battle of the Bands included Allston rock band Flashbang!, and pop-rock singer-songwriter and senior writing, literature, and publishing major Cody Masters.

Having four winners to sign instead of the expected three is a hefty task for the Wax On Felt team to take on, but Wright is confident they'll be able to rise to the challenge.

"We did not go into the battle expecting to sign four bands, but as a label, we feel confident that our team can handle the work," she said. "Our lineup this year is very diverse and we're all very excited to work with all of our artists."

This year, the Wax On Felt team worked harder than ever to market the 2013 Battle of the Bands to potential competitors and clients, Wright explained.

"Each year we print out flyers about submissions and put them up around Emerson and Berklee," she said. "This year, we started flying in the summer, to get more submissions."

Wax On Felt's hard work paid off. According to Wright, this year's event ran smoothly and the entire Wax On Felt team is proud of how the battle went.

"The turnout this year was awesome," she said. "In years past, the turnout has been about the same, but more people stayed for the entire show."

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Birds, words, & finding literature in unexpected places

Blake Campbell
Campbell is a junior writing, literature, and publishing major & Beacon correspondent.

In a review of William Sitwell's book *A History of Food in 100 Recipes* posted on The New Yorker's books blog this past summer, culinary historian Bee Wilson writes of the pleasures of reading recipes as works of fiction.

"Being asked to read recipes, for their own sake, rather than with a view to cooking, gives us a clearer sense of how they stimulate our imaginations," Wilson explains. This charming conceit got me thinking about other texts that most people don't view as works of literature, yet which still provide some of the same joys as a novel, memoir, or collection of poetry. Specifically, I thought back to my own lifelong obsession with field guides.

At the most basic level, field guides are books that enable convenient identification of wildlife. They are also the first books I read on my own. Growing up in the backwoods of Pennsylvania, I was fascinated by the biodiversity that surrounded me. From early childhood, I sought to identify every snake, frog, and butterfly I stumbled upon, and soon amassed a sizable collection of field guides, from insects and arachnids to reptiles and amphibians.

I loved reading the natural history of each creature as much as I loved gazing at its illustration on the page. Whenever I would find something new—a slimy

salamander under a fallen log, two velvety cecropia moths mating on the side of my neighbor's garage—I recognized it immediately, with a wave of jubilant satisfaction.

I suspect these early scientific pursuits not only fostered in me a healthy appreciation for the natural world, but also shaped my current literary tastes and predilections as a writer. Writing in field guides must be scientifically accurate and accessible to the layman, meticulously detailed, and brief enough to make identification fast and easy. It's a fine line for the author to walk, and the resulting prose often takes on a life of its own.

The work of Roger Tory Peterson, one of the great innovators of the field guide genre, displays this kind of liveliness. Consider this spirited description of the voice of the ruffed grouse, from his bestselling *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America*: "Sound of drumming male suggests a distant motor starting up. Low muffled thumping starts slowly, accelerating into a whir: Bup...bup...bup...bup...bup bup up r-rrrrr." It's a carefully controlled, beautiful piece of writing; Peterson has rendered the male grouse's voice so effectively on the page that the reader can almost hear the bird in the forest.

Field guides bridge the gap between humans and other species, allowing us to

understand the diversity of life that surrounds us on a deeper level.

Just being able to identify the raptor flying overhead as a red-tailed hawk (or even a *Buteo jamaicensis*; Latin names carry their own kind of literary euphony) shows a greater appreciation of the animal and its place in the world than simply referring to it as "that bird up there." Field guides can also provide fascinating insights into human life.

"Audubon's *Birds*, Audubon's *Words*," a current exhibition at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, showcases the art and nature writing of John James Audubon (1785-1851), who traveled across North America to paint and observe wild birds. It couples his magnum opus, *The Birds of America*, a groundbreaking collection of life-size color prints of several hundred American bird species, with excerpts from its follow-up, the *Ornithological Biography*, a collection of Audubon's writings about various species of birds.

The lush prose truly brings his paintings to life. Audubon's style is as colorful and varied as the bird species to which he devoted his career. Overall sarcastic, visual, and keenly observant, Audubon's ornithological writing reveals a complex individual with a remarkable appreciation for the natural world.

To be precise, Audubon did not write field guides as we understand them today, but his work had a considerable influence on the development of the genre. David L. Wagner's 2005 field guide, *Caterpillars of Eastern North America*, stands out as a notable recent work in this tradition.

Throughout the text, Wagner shares revealing anecdotes that not only bolster his credibility as a scientist, but also characterize him as a man of wit and intrepidity.

"Males also drink at mud puddles (and soil wetted with urine)," he writes of the Abbott's sphinx moth, and the reader can't help but to wonder how he arrived at this piece of knowledge.

The best field guides are not only informative, but are moving texts that speak to our most human emotions: the thrill of discovery, endless curiosity, and a humbling appreciation for the splendor of nature.

They are not just guides to frogs, toads, snakes, or lizards, but guides to who we are, chronicling the human condition with all the nuance and precision of a great novel and reminding us that literature can be found in the most unexpected places.

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Girlie Project stands out with stand-up

Erica Mixon, *Beacon Staff*

On Thursday, Oct. 3, under the colored lights of the Cabaret, John Bickerstaff, a senior visual and media arts major, stood on-stage and gave a knowing laugh.

"You know, I learned something this summer," Bickerstaff said. "A giraffe's tongue is 20 inches long."

The audience hummed with anticipation as Bickerstaff paused.

"I'd love to get a rim job from a giraffe," he said.

It was a surprisingly raunchy joke for a school-sponsored event, but it received a lot of laughter.

"I just like talking about things that I find funny or seem odd to me," Bickerstaff said prior to his performance. "A lot about my sex life, personally."

Though not all of the performers delved quite as deeply into their personal lives, they did share odd things they had experienced with honesty and candor. Some joked about Boston stereotypes, the Emerson community, and their friends—subjects that many students can relate to.

The night was put on by The Girlie Project, an on-campus sketch comedy troupe, but it incorporated the entire comedy community at Emerson.

Non-member performers were able to participate, and Jamie Loftus of Emerson's sketch comedy group Chocolate Cake City was featured as a quick-witted host, who opened the show with an anecdote about Facebook friending people who share your name. She said she used to talk to a male Jamie Loftus who lived in England and propositioned her for sex when she mentioned she was traveling to his area for a trip. Loftus ensured the show ran smoothly by introducing each comic and providing a funny quip.

Emmy Hauptman, a sophomore writing,



Sophomore Emmy Hauptman, president of The Girlie Project, performs. •••••

literature, and publishing major and the president of The Girlie Project, joked about her childhood.

"I was an awkward, weird kid," Hauptman said.

During her few minutes on stage, she talked about how she reenacted the musical Rent with her American Girl dolls and wrote a screenplay about a monster she naively named "Shat."

Hauptman said there was no way she would have performed stand-up comedy if it wasn't for The Girlie Project.

"It helped me to break out of my shell in terms of finding a group of people," Hauptman said.

Even an hour prior to the show, Hauptman was in her element, jokingly debating with fellow cast members about Saturday Night Live's recent Girls parody. (According

to Hauptman, it was spot-on.) The comedians were in high spirits, singing pop songs and goofily dancing to the pre-show music

Sam Crichton, a freshman visual and media arts major, agreed that being a part of The Girlie Project helped her find a niche at Emerson.

"I've never done [stand-up comedy] before, but I've always wanted to," Crichton said. "I didn't expect to do it in my first six weeks of college, and I'm excited and nervous—but mostly nervous."

When Crichton stepped onstage, she admitted to her jitters, mentioning that she has a tendency to yell when she's nervous. She joked about the difficulty of making friends at Emerson and starting conversations with new people.

"It's like I'm having a lot of conversation one-night-stands," she said onstage.

"It's like I'm having a lot of conversation one-night-stands." —Sam Crichton

For Crichton, The Girlie Project seemed to be the least intimidating out of all of the sketch comedy groups at the organization fair and the auditions.

"It was different from all of the comedy troupe auditions," Crichton said. "I stood in front of them and they were like no, no, no, you can sit down."

Crichton said she prepared a sketch she had written called "Bonnie Hunter," a Disney commercial parody about a seventh grade girl who lives a double-life as a bounty hunter. The sketch left an impression on members, who still recall the audition, weeks later.

All of the members of The Girlie Project said their audition had a laid-back, casual atmosphere.

"We're not big on intimidating," said Hauptman.

The result is a comedy troupe reminiscent of a family, or at least, a tight-knit group of best friends. During the show, they supported each other enthusiastically, shouting words of encouragement from the front row.

Sean O'Connor, a sophomore marketing communications major and one of four male members of The Girlie Project, fed off the energy of his fellow comedians as he performed. During his time in the comedy troupe, he's perfected his impressions of Bill Cosby and "existential crisis bro," a character he's created through observation of his friends.

O'Connor said despite the overwhelming amount of estrogen in the group, being a part of The Girlie Project has been a positive experience.

"I have to be honest with you, sometimes it's confusing," O'Connor joked. "I just say smile and nod, and it works out. I try to keep the sports references at a minimum."

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WECB tunes up with fall shows

Dillon Riley, *Beacon Staff*

Tellingly billed as "The Underground Sound of Emerson College," WECB's online stream doesn't have the range of WERS. However, what the station lacks in radio signals, it more than makes up in variety. This semester's slate of shows boasts an impressive range of programs within the realm of indie rock and pop, making it the place to hear that one band you swear you knew before everyone else on campus—a sentiment at Emerson are drawn to.

The Futurist Sound Manifesto: Sundays 8-10 PM

This show, hosted by Emerson juniors Luca Piacentini, Colin Faherty, Tania Rios, and Adam Kaplan, looks to bring some experimental sounds to its Sunday night block. The show essentially revolves around several different genres of what can loosely be described as experimental rock including noise rock, avant-garde compositions, and even early electronic music experimentation. The show brings together these seemingly divergent tunes through a specific underlying aesthetic.

"For a long time now in music there's been a notion of striving for a quote-unquote 'future sound' that sort of breaks modern musical conventions," said Kaplan. "That's kind of like our tagline, and we try to pick artists that fit into that notion of striving for that sound."

The foursome previously collaborated on a WECB show called "Mind Detergent" in the fall of 2012. That show, while encompassing some of the sounds they play on "The Futurist Sound Manifesto," had more of a focus on dream-pop and shoegaze bands like *My Bloody Valentine* and *The Jesus and Mary Chain* as opposed to the broader experimental tag they're sticking to this time around.

Shade: Tuesdays 8-10 PM

"Shade," hosted by sophomores Dondré Taylor-Stewart and Jeff McHale, deals in all things chill. The show uses chillwave artists like *Washed Out* as an entry point toward a whole host of different genres.

So long as it gives off good vibes, they will play it. The intention behind Shade is to showcase how many different kinds of music can fall under the "chill" umbrella, regardless of its chosen classification. The catch behind the show, however, lies in the name.

"The reason we called the show 'Shade' is, each week, the show gets based off the genre we're highlighting," said Taylor-Stewart. "So, each show gets a different color or shade, and at the beginning of the show we announce what the shade is going to be for the week." Take, for instance, the first week of programming. Taylor-Stewart and McHale dubbed it "Blue Fluidity" and proceeded to play music indicative of the ocean.

In line with the chosen aesthetic of the show, Taylor-Stewart and McHale encourage listeners to tune in however they please, whether they use it as background music amongst friends or as the playlist to the night's round of homework.

That '90s Show: Sundays 12-2 PM

Hosted by Emerson juniors Louis Roe and Jenny Hannigan, "That '90s Show," unsurprisingly, has a sharp focus on '90s culture and music. Without sticking to any specific genres, Roe and Hannigan play a collaborative selection of the best music the revered 1990s had to offer, from *Pearl Jam* to *Cat Power* and back again. The show isn't all grunge and alternative rock, though. The two also try to break down exactly what makes the '90s such a nostalgic era.

"We pick a different '90s thing to discuss each week, usually something cultural," said Hannigan. "Last week, we talked about Play-Doh for like 15 minutes, you know, the history of it. We usually just try to pick one aspect of '90s nostalgia to discuss."

This is the third go-around for "That '90s Show," as Hannigan put the show together back in the fall of 2011, and then was joined by Roe for another round in Spring 2012, largely under the same format.

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The freeform station boasts impressive slate of indie rock and pop programs this semester.

EMERSON stage

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lifestyle

Sorority hosts networking workshop for college community



Students engaged in an interactive presentation on networking. • Evan Walsh

Alyssa Gocinski, *Beacon Correspondent*

Eager, career-oriented students of all different ages, majors, and backgrounds mingle at Emerson on a daily basis. On Oct. 2, Kappa Gamma Chi taught students to use those networking skills at its first campus-wide professional event.

The workshop instructed attendees how to effectively use social media and other resources to create a strong network of interpersonal connections, and how to tap into the hidden job market found through sites such as LinkedIn.

Katie Prisco-Buxbaum, Kappa's professionalism chair and former Beacon staff member, said she felt having the event on campus was essential.

"These skills are incredibly transferable to any field or major, and I think it

is significant that Kappa is expanding our campus outreach to help promote professionalism on campus," she said.

Danielle Reddy, Kappa alumna and director of annual giving on campus, and Shawnea Frett Ajao, a professional accountant, shared their networking expertise on building strong connections with important, helpful people at the session.

Reddy said she works with the college's alumni relations office to connect students with alumni in their fields. Ajao professionally helps LinkedIn users amp up their profiles so employers take them seriously.

Through step-by-step illustrations with helpful tips, Reddy and Ajao presented on networking through LinkedIn and interpersonal relations as a practical, advantageous tool for college students.

"Building your online personal branding is so important."

-Shawnea Frett Ajao.

"I've always thought of networking as an obnoxious word," Reddy said as the opening to her lecture. "But Emerson is such a natural networking place ... Emersonians are relationship people."

Everyday interactions among students at Emerson can easily transform into career-oriented, collaborative networks, Reddy said. Both she and Ajao stressed that networking is all about finding a common denominator and expanding on it.

The majority of the students who attended the workshop said they had LinkedIn accounts, but are not active members due to the complexity of the website. Students said they made profiles for themselves but rarely log on to pursue job opportunities or to find people they may know.

During the event, Ajao taught students how to properly use sites like LinkedIn to put themselves on the job market and connect with influential people who could help with their careers.

"Building your online personal branding is so important," she said.

The networking experts encouraged students to keep an open mind, and reassured them connections are everywhere.

Reddy also explained that students can remain part of the campus network even after graduation.

"Alumni are super psyched to talk to students," she said. "Emersonians are really willing to help other students out."

Victoria Masteller, a sophomore performing arts major, said this workshop helped her view professional networking as a more accessible and useful tool that will prove to be beneficial in her future career.

"I had been invited to LinkedIn but I didn't understand it," she said. "It felt like junk mail!"

She said the presentation helped her

better understand how to use these tools.

"I realize that it's okay to make basic connections," Masteller said.

Andrea Gordillo, a senior performing arts major, also said she found the workshop very informative and intriguing.

"[It provided] a depth of specificity for professionalism," said Gordillo. "It was a great opportunity... it made me more network-minded."

Kappa Gamma Chi hosts many similar professional events as well as mentor programs with Kappa alumni, but they are usually internal and only open to active sisters, Prisco-Buxbaum said.

Prisco-Buxbaum, a senior political communication major, said she wants to plan more events throughout the semester for the entire Emerson community to participate in. She also said she has revamped Kappa's workshops so there will be a minimum of one per month.

Kappa will host the \$tart\$mart Salary Negotiation Workshop, which will address the wage gap between men and women, Prisco-Buxbaum said. She said it will also teach young women to negotiate fair salaries. There will also be a workshop for instruction and guidance on interview and workplace etiquette.

Through these workshops, Prisco-Buxbaum said Kappa Gamma Chi will provide students with the proficiency needed to overcome obstacles they may face in today's competitive job market. She said she hopes to help them succeed in their careers so that they can become leaders and mentors.

"I wanted to open these workshops up to the Emerson community," said Prisco-Buxbaum. "As the only local professional sorority on campus, part of our mission is to promote professionalism, especially in young women."

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Students learn the ins and outs of internships

Deirdre Murray, *Beacon Correspondent*

The task of applying for internships can be confusing, lengthy, and at worst, daunting. Emerson's Career Services wanted to help fix this problem by hosting Internship GPS, an informational program aimed at giving sophomores the tools they need to complete the internship process.

The two-hour-long event began at 2 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room on Oct. 4. According to Carol Spector, director of career services, the program was meant to assist students who are just beginning to learn about internships. Career Services sponsored Internship GPS for the first time last year as an initiative for sophomores, said Spector.

"There's always kind of an emphasis on freshmen getting settled and for seniors when they're leaving, but not enough emphasis for sophomores," said Spector. "We also feel that for sophomores, the big issue is getting an internship or how to get an internship."

The event was split into five different sections including Starting Your Internship Search, Internship Directions, Navigating eHire, The Employers Radar, and Rev Up Your Resume. Each workshop focused on an aspect of the internship process. From finding out what type of internship to look for to learning how to navigate Emerson's online employment database, eHire, the event covered all the bases of internship necessities.

The rotating schedule allowed students to pick and choose which workshops they wanted to attend based on their own needs. Workshops were held at 15 minute increments, allowing students to attend individual events with-

out staying for the whole two hours. Students could attend up to four out of the five workshops if they chose to.

Career Services hosts similar events for students to access internship opportunities. On Oct. 23, they will host the Internship Fair, a bi-annual event that gives students the ability to meet representatives from major companies face to face, according to Spector. Throughout Internship GPS, staff stressed that students looking for internships for next spring and summer season are encouraged to visit the Internship Fair.

With about seven to nine students visiting each workshop, the attendance didn't increase much from last year's 35 students. However, those who attended said they found the information given to be extremely helpful.

Mary Krantz, a sophomore performing arts major, said she plans to use the material she learned at the workshop while looking for internships in the future. She said she is focused on working with the online tools suggested.

"I hear about all these things like eHire and these internships that students do, and I just don't know what the next step is," said Krantz. "This was very helpful because they showed me how to get there and what the resources do."

Although it was meant for sophomores, a variety of undergraduate and graduate students attended and found the event to be beneficial. Wenjie Song, a marketing communication major, said she went even though she is a graduate student.

"I want to get an internship during my study here," she said. "I think it will help me learn more about the industry in America so I can know the difference between the American industry and that of China."



Career Services will sponsor internship events throughout the semester.

She also said the event helped clarify what she needs to compete in a competitive application pool. A workshop she found especially helpful was The Employers Radar, which gave her the company's perspective on the interview process.

Caroline Cassard, a sophomore writing, literature, and publishing major, said she attended despite having a prior internship at Girls' Life magazine. While she already has this experience on her resume, she said she feels she still has a lot to learn when it comes to finding internships that are paid or credited.

"I thought that coming to this internship fair would help me know what to look for in an internship with more guidance and what to get out of my next

internship," said Cassard.

Aaron Griffin, a junior writing, literature, and publishing major, said his biggest fear was finding an internship that wouldn't give him actual work experience. Aspiring to work for a publishing company like Penguin, he wants an internship that will give him an active role. He said he'd like to showcase the skills he's learned, not just do busy work.

"I'd like to just get a foot in the door," he said. "I don't want to just get coffee. I want to really see what they're doing and help them."

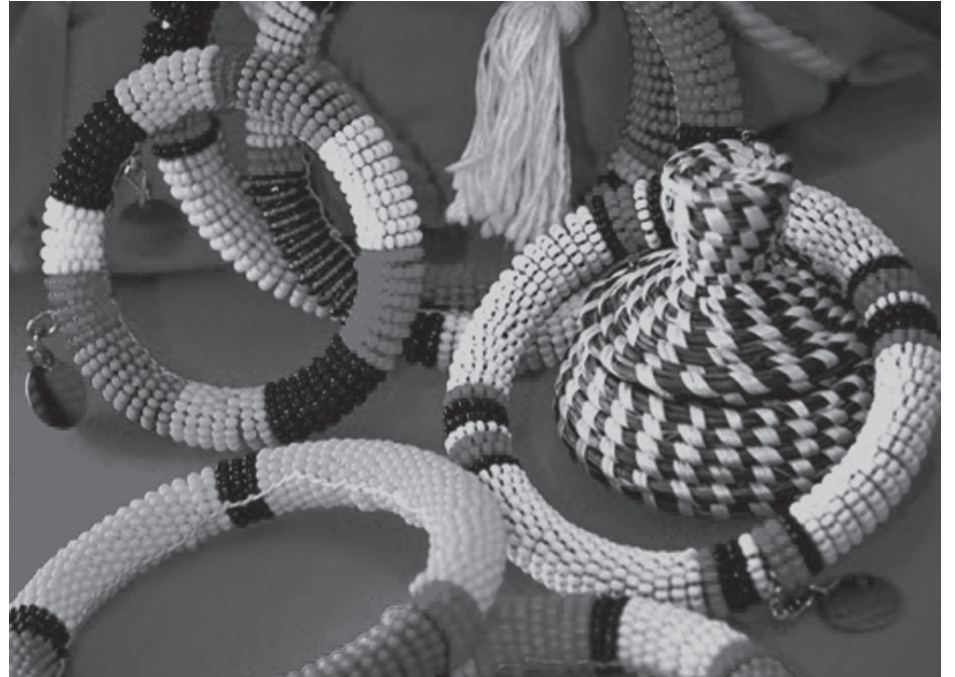
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Bracelets break down cultural barriers

Freshman's charity connects campus to Kenya



Notrica has traveled to Kenya many times and founded his foundation following his second visit. • Courtesy of Michael Notrica



The colorful bracelets' proceeds go directly to the Kenyan communities. • Courtesy of Michael Notrica

Jessica Waters, *Beacon Correspondent*

At a glance, Michael Notrica is a fairly average freshman. He's lean and lanky, with bright brown eyes and a smile that comes easily. He wears a cotton shirt with the sleeves rolled up and a distinctly unremarkable pair of jeans. When he moves, however, dozens of multicolored bracelets that cover his arms halfway to his elbow jingle. He laughs.

"They're pretty much part of my arm at this point," he said.

There are thin metal bangles, traditional friendship bracelets, woven hemp, and plastic cuffs that stand for a variety of causes. The most distinctive are fat bangles covered in hundreds of colorful beads, which Notrica, a visual and media arts major, said are handmade by women of the Maasai tribe in Kenya.

Notrica said he has acquired them through a series of trips to Kenya, both for personal reasons, and as part of the charity he founded for the preservation of Kenyan culture. Each of his bracelets has a story behind it, which he shares with enthusiasm.

One with deep blues, bold reds, bright whites, and somber blacks was given to Notrica by the Maasai elders during his last trip to Kenya. It was a token of thanks for the more than 100 handheld chalkboards he donated to the local cultural school, a place where children previously had to write in the dirt with rocks, Notrica said.

The chalkboards were purchased by the non-profit foundation Notrica founded

after his second visit to Kenya, called the Shukuru Foundation.

"The purpose of the foundation is to preserve traditional Kenyan culture, particularly in low-income areas," said Notrica. Notrica, a Phoenix, Ariz. native, is also a self-described world traveler. He claims to have traveled to 31 countries, including three trips to Kenya alone, each time staying with tribesmen in the Northern bush.

"I'm obsessed with cultures," said Notrica. "The [traditional Kenyan] culture really had an impact on me. There are just so many aspects of it that I love."

He said this cultural passion is what led to the creation of the Shukuru Foundation.

"Shukuru means 'thankful' in Swahili," he said. "It's a way of giving back to a country and a culture that's given so much to me."

The foundation, Notrica said, makes money by selling bangles like the ones he wears, with all profits going directly back to the women who make them. Notrica has also produced and recorded an album of traditional Kenyan music from the Maasai tribe, which he sells on iTunes. Proceeds go to various projects in Kenya, particularly education. Notrica said the foundation's next big venture is building a water delivery system to another local cultural school.

Another recent initiative, following the terrorist attacks on a Nairobi mall that left 67 people dead, is the production and sale of plastic awareness bracelets, according to Notrica. The bracelets, he said, come in the colors of the Kenyan flag and are emblazoned with the words "Amani Kwa Ken-

"Kenya and Boston are not unlike each other. We are all connected."
-Kelly Bates

ya," meaning "Peace for Kenya" in Swahili. The initiative was a joint effort between the Shukuru Foundation and Emerson Peace and Social Justice's International Committee, which Notrica said he is also a member of. According to Notrica, all of the proceeds from these bracelets go to the Kenya Red Cross.

Sandrayati Fay, a sophomore performing arts major, and fellow member of the International Committee, said she compared the events in Nairobi to what happened in Boston last April, when a terrorist attack at the Boston Marathon killed three people and injured hundreds more.

"We all felt a certain kind of pain that day," said Fay. "We were all feeling the same things. Afterwards, Boston got so much support from all over the world. I think it's so important that we show that kind of support for Kenya."

Notrica also said he had similar sentiments.

"[What happened in Nairobi] really hit home with me," he said. "I have friends there—people I consider my unofficial brothers and sisters. I've been in that mall before. I was there less than two months ago."

According to Notrica, these events are part of what led to the creation and promotion of the Amani Kwa bracelets.

"It was an act of terrorism, in the worst way," said Notrica. "No one should ever experience that. Not anywhere. I think when people buy and wear these bracelets, they show that they have the drive to stand up against that."

Kelly Bates, the executive director of the Elma Lewis Center, an institution at Emerson College dedicated to civic engagement, learning, and research, said she helped Notrica with the project. The Center has assisted Notrica with tips on how to solicit donations for his cause and has helped him promote the bracelets on Emerson's campus, according to Bates.

"Kenya and Boston are not unlike each other," said Bates. "We are all connected."

Bates added that Emerson has placed a particular emphasis on the elimination of gun violence. In September, the Elma Lewis Center, in conjunction with ArtsEmerson, hosted a panel discussion on race and class disparities in the media's response to gun violence, said Bates. The presentation included a performance of *Columbinus*, a drama based on the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School.

President M. Lee Pelton has also been very outspoken on the issue of gun violence. According to Notrica, he was very supportive of the Amani Kwa bracelet, purchasing one himself, and personally making time to meet with the Emerson Peace and Social Justice International Committee.

"Emerson itself has been such an amazing source of support," Notrica said. "Everyone who hears about this project has shown such interest. I want people to know what happened in Kenya. I want them to be talking about it. In the end, that's all I could really ask."

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Love Notes: Putting yourself out there

Leah Casselman

Casselman is a junior marketing communications major & Beacon correspondent.

We are now over a month into the school year, meaning we're comfortable in classes, we know the best places to score a good meal, and we have well-established crushes. If you are like me, the fifth-floor cutie with the booty has no idea you've been on their Facebook page every day for the past two weeks. Well, it's time to do something about it.

I know letting someone know you like them is more stressful than your first presentation in speech class, but no one ever got what they wanted by hinting at it. "Hey, I like your Adventure Time backpack" in no way means "I want you."

Since we first joined the dating game, everyone from our friends, to our

teachers, to the media has been telling us the rules of getting together. Ignore everything you think you know about the rules and make your own set. There is no formula for who has to ask out whom and where an appropriate place to meet someone is. If you find yourself over-analyzing something, there is a good chance you are setting yourself up to fail.

If you are too busy trying to figure out the rules of dating to ever do something, someone is going to step up to the plate and take what you've been pining for.

to step up to the plate and take what you've been pining for. If you want a piece of that action, either go for it, or quit whining about them when they are gone. I am not saying you should overtly state your romantic intentions to a

person who hardly knows you. It makes everyone involved super confused and uncomfortable, but for Pete's sake, stop writing wistful romantic posts on Emerson Confessional and lay some groundwork. Anonymously posting that you hate being single does not make you any less single. It might even make you more single.

I know all of this is easier said than done. I've been giving this advice to my friends for years, and every time, someone asks me if I've ever had the guts to do it myself. I have to admit, I too have done the over-analyzing and I-should-just-give-up junk.

The few times I have actually put my money where my mouth is and gone for it, I've never regretted it. I once ordered a hundred pizzas in a month just so I could see the cute delivery guy. Every time he would come up to the door, I'd debate asking him out. Then I'd chicken out and just pay for the pizza. Finally, I got sick of paying for so many pizzas, walked into Pizza Hut, and asked him

out. The funny thing was, he said yes.

The best advice I have gotten was from the adorable kid's movie, *We Bought a Zoo*: "You know, sometimes all you need is 20 seconds of insane courage. Just literally 20 seconds of just embarrassing bravery. And I promise you, something great will come of it."

Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. The worst that can happen is the other person isn't feeling it and you sob into a bucket of ice cream, but is that really a bad thing? On the flip side, you could also have just asked out the single greatest person you will ever meet who changes your life for the better. More than likely, something in between will happen, but I think the rewards outweigh the risks.

The moral to all of this isn't that you need to date. It's that if you want to date someone, quit being a pansy and go for it.

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sports

Men's soccer takes step forward vs. WPI

Carl Setterlund, • • • • • • • • • •

WORCESTER – Emerson's men's soccer team lost by large margins in its first two New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference matches, but the Lions took a step forward on Saturday, Oct. 5 against Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Emerson conceded a goal just before half-time and then again in the 62nd minute, but a standout performance by sophomore goalkeeper Carter Bowers kept the goal-starved Lions in it with a strong performance in a 2-0 loss at WPI's Alumni Field.

"As the season's going on, we're starting to get better and better results," said Bowers (seven saves), who has been called to action frequently. "The first two games we kind of got thrashed, but this game, 2-0, as much as we would have liked that

"As much as we would have liked that [win], it does show that we're improving."

- Carter Bowers

[win], it does show that we're improving."

The Lions previously took a 5-1 loss against the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and fell 6-0 to Springfield College.

It was the fourth time this season Bowers has turned away at least seven shots. He currently leads the NEWMAC with 48 saves through nine matches in net.

"[Bowers] played outstanding," said Emerson men's soccer head coach Jared Scarpaci. "We certainly wouldn't have been in the game without him."

Bowers made five of his saves in the second half as the hosts sent in 10 of its 12 shots taken after the break. Those stops included turning back WPI freshman Matt Farrell on a 47th-minute breakaway and making a reactionary save on two quick headers in the 71st minute. Bowers saved three shots by WPI's Tynan MacLeod.

In both previous NEWMAC matches, Emerson (6-5, 0-3) fell behind within the opening three minutes. On the offensive side, the Lions have scored just once in the NEWMAC—a late consolation against MIT—but have averaged 2.4 goals per contest in eight non-conference matches, going 6-2 against competition commensurate to its old league, the Great Northeast Athletic Conference.

"That was actually one of our goals: not to [give up an early goal]," Scarpaci said. "We were excited about that part. We were excited that we battled all the way to the end, too, but we need to work on some things tactically."

WPI (8-2-1, 2-1) played without the NEWMAC's leading scorer, senior Chris Ciampa, but broke through 40:41 into the game on an individual effort by Kurt Naugler, who also assisted on the Engineers' second tally.

Naugler took possession past the penalty spot 15 yards out, sidestepped to the left, and left Bowers helpless to respond with a finish into the upper left corner.

"They played very hard," WPI co-head coach Malcolm MacPherson said. "Jared does a nice job with them. I just think as the years go on they'll get better and better. Their goalkeeper played very well, one of their center backs [junior Pat Lowndes] played very well, and they were dangerous

[on offense]."

Lowndes had to come off in the 58th minute due to a strained right quadriceps.

The Engineers exposed his absence three minutes later when Farrell received a through ball from Naugler and slotted a low shot past Bowers, who couldn't

close out the angle, setting the final score at the 61:02 mark.

"Their defense was very aggressive and they played the ball out of the back well," Bowers said. "They played a very direct ball right into my [18-yard-box], right through the middle of the field. They're a very direct, athletic team and that's something that we haven't seen in the past and that we're learning to cope with."

MacPherson said WPI tweaked its formation at halftime, packing the middle with three central midfielders and pushing numbers forward to go for the win.

Adam Halliday led Emerson with two shots on frame. Halliday sent a header on target in the 32nd minute and also sent in a late try in the 87th minute.

Along with Bowers and Lowndes, Scarpaci said he was also pleased with the play of sophomore defenders Mitch Lapierre, Jeremy Leder, and Alex Van Pelt, but that the Lions need to work on their finishing touch.

"We still want to make the conference tournament, we still want to win 10 games, and we have the opportunity to do that," Scarpaci said.

Emerson has five games left on the docket, four against NEWMAC teams.

Next, the Lions take their furthest road game of the season, a trip to Coast Guard in New London, Conn., for a match at noon on Saturday, Oct. 12.

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Women's volleyball falls to Wheaton in five sets



Emerson women's volleyball huddles up before facing Wheaton • Mia Zhao / Beacon Correspondent



Emerson's women's volleyball team played Wheaton College for the first time as a member of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference and hosted the Lions for the first time since Emerson coach Ben Read and Wheaton coach Craig Letourneau swapped positions in 2011.

Read coached the Lions to the NCAA Division 3 Tournament in 2012. The Emerson women reached the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 2009 under the guidance of Letourneau, who was named the Great Northeast Athletic Conference Coach of the Year the same season.

Letourneau's Lions beat Emerson by set scores of 21-25, 26-24, 25-27, 25-20, and 15-11.

Kat Rice sends the ball over the net (above); Emerson head coach Ben Read (right) with Wheaton head coach Craig Letourneau walking toward his bench in the background
Mia Zhao / Beacon Correspondent



WPI engineers late goals to oust visiting Lions

Carl Setterlund, • • • • • • • • • •

WORCESTER – After securing the program's first ever New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference win two Saturdays ago, the Emerson women's soccer team was in the mix late against a top NEWMAC opponent this past weekend in Central Mass. against Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

The Lions came out attacking in the first half, but head coach David Suvak said his team "ran out of juice" in the final 45 minutes, giving up two goals within four minutes late in the second half to fall, 2-0, to WPI on Saturday, Oct. 5.

"I think that the team performed very well in the first half," Suvak said. "I think our speed of play could have been a little bit faster than what it was, but we were doing pretty well. The second half, our

pace of the game slowed down."

In a late afternoon match that followed a men's loss to WPI by the same score, Emerson (6-6, 1-2) sputtered out in the second half, managing just two shots after the break, highlighted by sophomore Alyssa Giannone's 66th-minute attempt.

"We're slowly building up," said freshman midfielder starter Natalie Benjamin, who played in high school a town over at Shrewsbury High. "Game by game we're getting better and better at connecting and playing our game. We're getting there."

The host Engineers (8-3-1, 2-2) outlasted the Lions, finding the back of the net off a corner kick in the 71st minute and then doubling their lead four minutes later.

"They did a really good job scouting us," said WPI head coach Steph Schafer. "The first half, they definitely had our number in terms of going to the ball."

Senior goalie Marissa MacDonald made six saves in her fifth start this season, but let in the first WPI goal off a right side corner by Megan Forti. Natalie McMillan banged in a header to put Emerson in a 1-0 hole.

"We're having trouble at the moment coming back from being a goal down," said Suvak, whose team has scored just three times in its last six games, going 2-4. "I would like this team to score early and I think we would have more success."

WPI sophomore Emily Doherty sent the Engineers to a commanding lead at 74:20 with a low shot into the left corner.

Doherty took possession after Emma Turton carried the ball down the right sideline all the way from midfield, finally sending it into the box to bounce around.

Along with Giannone's late try, junior Tayllar Righini had the Lions' only oth-

**"We're having trouble at the moment coming back from being a goal down."
- Emerson head coach David Suvak**

er strong look at goal, but sent it at the Engineers' senior captain in net Maddie Willer (six saves) on an open look in the box in the 52nd minute.

Suvak said he thought Righini was Emerson's best player against WPI, but he was also impressed with center back Samantha O'Donovan's communication in organizing the Lions' back line.

Emerson has a full six days off, its longest stretch between games of the season, before returning to action at home against Smith College at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12.

"We have a light week ahead," Suvak said. "We need to get healthy. It's a groin pull here or shin splints there and those things are factors in their performances."

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Emerson sports roundup

Next Match

Men

Soccer-
Coast Guard
vs.
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Women

Soccer-
Smith
vs.
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1 p.m.

Volleyball-
Brandeis
at
EC
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& Plofker
Gym
10/10
7 p.m.

Tennis-
Suffolk
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Connor Burton, • • • • • • • • • •

Welcome to the first installment of the Emerson sports roundup, a weekly feature re-capping every game from the previous week.

Men's soccer

Record: 6-6, 0-3 NEWMAC

Oct 7: Emerson 3, Rivier 1

Player of the Match: Carter Bowers

Sophomore goalkeeper Carter Bowers (six saves) propelled the Lions past the home-standing Raiders (1-8-1). Three different players scored for Emerson in the first half, including sophomore midfielder Austin Alphonse in the 12th minute, for his third goal of the year. Thirteen minutes later, senior midfielder Jon Havens put away a pass from sophomore forward Adam Halliday to put the Lions up 2-0. Kilian Fisher, another sophomore midfielder, scored the Emerson's third goal, his first of the season, with 26 seconds remaining in the first half. The Raiders' only goal came in the 78th minute.

Oct 9: UMass-Boston 4, Emerson 0

Player of the Match: Adam Halliday

Sophomore forward Adam Halliday and sophomore midfielders Austin Alphonse and Mitch Lapierre led the Lions with three shots on goal apiece in a road loss to the Beacons (8-4-1). Halliday's 33rd minute header was Emerson's best scoring opportunity of the game, but was grabbed by the UMass-Boston goalkeeper. The Lions were outshot in the match 19-12, but held a 5-3 advantage in corner kicks. Halliday received a straight red card in the 59th minute with Emerson trailing 3-0. Goalie Carter Bowers made four saves before coming off for sophomore classmate Jacob Sigler (one save) in the 52nd minute.

Women's tennis

Record: 2-8, 2-6 NEWMAC

Oct. 5: Emerson 8, Smith 1

Player of the Match: Lacey Russell

Senior Lacey Russell led the Lions with dominant performances in singles and doubles over the Pioneers (1-6, 1-6) in Northampton. Russell played at number one singles and won her match in back-to-back 6-0 sets. In doubles, the duo of Russell and senior Savannah Mosser defeated the Pioneers' number one team 8-4. Emerson's victory also included a strong doubles performance from ju-

niors Jana Winfield and Natalie Nichols, who won 8-5. Winfield and Nichols both won their singles matches, as did Sophia Trilling, who came out on top in a 10-8 tiebreaker. Trilling also teamed with Madeline Bilis for an 8-5 win in third doubles.

Oct. 8: Wellesley 7, Emerson 2

Player of the Match: Savannah Mosser

Savannah Mosser picked up both wins for the Lions in a loss to the Blue (7-2, 6-1), topping Andjela Stojkovic, 7-5, 6-1, in second singles and then combining with Lacey Russell to take an 8-4 victory in first doubles.

Women's volleyball

Record: 12-9, 2-4 NEWMAC

Oct. 4: Emerson 3, Plymouth State 0

Player of the Match: Alyssa Thorne

Senior Alyssa Thorne led all hitters with 12 kills, followed by freshman Julianna Augustine (10 kills) and junior Kat Rice (nine kills) as the Lions topped the Panthers (10-9) by set scores of 25-23, 25-19, and 25-23 in their first match at the Johnson & Wales Invitational in Providence, R.I. Sophomore Juliana Tucker had 37 assists and 10 digs, while Jamie Morgan (16 digs) and Heather Park (15 digs) helped out on the back line.

Oct. 4: Emerson 3, Regis (Mass.) 0

Player of the Match: Julianna Augustine

Middle hitter Julianna Augustine led the way with 10 kills on 18 attempts to send the Lions past the Pride (8-16) by set scores of 25-12, 25-16, and 25-18 at the Johnson and Wales Invitational. Outside hitter Kat Rice contributed a versatile five kills, five service aces, two blocks, and two digs. Sophomore Kat Westbrook had seven kills, her second-best total of the season, while setter Juliana Tucker assisted on 31 Emerson kills.

Oct. 5: Coast Guard 3, Emerson 1

Player of the Match: Kat Rice

Junior Kat Rice racked up 22 kills, the highest single-game total of any Lions player this season, as Emerson fell to the Bears (15-5, 4-2 NEWMAC) by set scores of 25-21, 25-19, 16-25, and 25-22. Senior Alyssa Thorne chipped in 17 kills, her second-best total of the season, against a Coast Guard squad that went on to win the Johnson & Wales Invitational. Setter Juliana Tucker also had a stand-out performance with 17 service aces and 42 assists, while senior Brandy Eggermann led the Lions with 20 digs.

Male Athlete of the Week



Ally Chapman / Beacon Archive

CARTER BOWERS: Goalkeeper, men's soccer

Through 12 matches, sophomore goalkeeper Carter Bowers (Gorham, Maine) leads the NEWMAC in saves with 58. His total is seven higher than the next closest NEWMAC goalkeeper. Bowers has racked up 17 saves in his last three matches, including his fourth seven save performance against Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Oct. 5.

Oct. 5: Johnson & Wales 3, Emerson 2

Player of the Match: Kat Rice

Kat Rice led the Lions again with 17 kills as Emerson won the first two sets, but sputtered out, falling in five sets to tournament host Johnson & Wales (4-15) by set scores of 22-25, 24-26, 25-20, 25-19, and 17-15. Alyssa Thorne and Julianna Augustine each added 12 kills, while Juliana Tucker had 41 assists and nine digs. Senior Jamie Morgan was the Lions' top defensive player with 18 digs.

Oct. 9: Wheaton (Mass.) 3, Emerson 2

Player of the Match: Alex Lynn

Julianna Augustine and Kate Rice each had 14 kills as the Lions held set leads on two different occasions, but fell to the Lyons (10-9,

Female Athlete of the Week



Andrew Harwood / Beacon Staff

KAT RICE: Outside hitter, women's volleyball

Junior outside hitter Kat Rice (Delmar, N.Y.) has rounded into form over the Lions' last three matches, posting her three best kill totals of the season. That includes 39 combined kills against Coast Guard Academy and Johnson & Wales University this past Sunday at the Johnson & Wales Invitational.

3-2 NEWMAC) by scores of 21-25, 26-24, 25-27, 25-20, and 15-11. Juliana Tucker added 37 assists and nine digs, while junior Alex Lynn had a season-best five service aces to go along with seven digs.

Burton did not write or edit women's volleyball recaps because he is a member of the men's volleyball team.

Sports editor Carl Setterlund picked the Women's Athlete of the Week and contributed women's volleyball recaps to this report.

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Women's tennis still shrouded in secrecy

Kyle Brasseur, • • • • • • • • • •

There has been no announcement from the Emerson College Athletic Department regarding a recent major hire.

There were no press releases or emails and the athletic department's official website doesn't make any mention of it.

It's almost as if the school never hired a new women's tennis coach.

It did though.

Despite the radio silence, Emerson's women's tennis team has been operating under the leadership of coach Sue Sookiasian for nearly a month, having taken over the program following the Lions' loss to Roger Williams University on Sept. 11.

The news of Sookiasian's hiring was buried—she was not made available to the Beacon until Sept. 25—along with the rest of a difficult three years for the program.

The tumult began with the resignation of then third-year coach Mason Astley who, in his time with Emerson, won the Great Northeast Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year Award in 2009 and led the Lions to a 10-1 record in 2010.

Astley said he was offered an assistant coaching job at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2010, and after deliberating with his family, he said he decided the move was in his best interest.

John Nestel replaced Astley for the 2011 season. Nestel had previously coached the women's team at Mount Ida, and is currently a registered tennis pro working out of Cohasset, Mass., according to his personal

website through the United States Professional Tennis Association.

At first Nestel appeared to make a seamless transition.

"As an incoming coach, I look forward to working with all of the student-athletes and [creating] a fun team atmosphere," Nestel said in a preview of the 2011 women's season posted on Emerson's official athletic website.

Nestel's tenure did anything but, as he resigned five games into his first season.

On his way out the door, Nestel accused Astley and the 2010 women's team of stacking their lineup in order to gain an unfair advantage. He filed complaints with both the GNAC and the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

Emerson was cleared of the allegations a week after Nestel's departure.

Angel Prinos, associate director of the ITA, said in an October 2011 interview with the Beacon that a team is allowed to play its top two players on separate doubles teams so long as the No. 1 doubles team is still the team's strongest pairing.

Nestel said in the same article, published on Oct. 6, 2011, that he had a different understanding of the rule. Nestel could not be reached at present for a follow-up comment on the situation.

Astley agreed to speak with the Beacon to look back on what transpired.

"For whatever reason, it didn't seem like [Nestel] wanted to be there or he was uncomfortable about something," Astley said in a phone interview. "I've never talked to him about it and I haven't even had to talk

to administrators or anyone at Emerson about it."

As a result of Nestel's resignation, the team played the majority of its 2011 season without a coach. Last year, men's head coach Gavin Barton—who was hired before the team's 2012 season to replace Nestel—coached the women's team to an appearance in the GNAC Championship.

The Lions began this season with women's basketball coach Bill Gould stepping in to fill the team's coaching vacancy on an interim basis before Sookiasian's hiring. Of Gould's two matches as coach, both losses, one came against New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference rival MIT, coached by Astley, on Sept. 7.



Former coach Mason Astley chats with his players • Anum Hussein / Beacon Archive

Elma Lewis' long legacy of high standards

Over decades, new center's namesake spread the arts

Jackie Tempera
Beacon Staff

A collection of photographs, plaques, and certificates hangs in a newly filled glass case on the far wall of the Little Building's lobby. At the center of the display is a photo of a woman with a serious expression — she stares intensely through a pair of wide-rimmed glasses, a bouffant hairdo atop her head.

The woman is Elma Lewis, the namesake of the college's new civic engagement center and a 1943 Emerson graduate. In the featured picture, part of a diversity display new to the building this fall, Lewis, an African-American woman, holds a certificate representing the Presidential Medal of the Arts, presented to her by President Ronald Reagan in 1983.

Lewis' impact is far-reaching — an arts activist and educator, she established African-American artistic centers, and was a persistent presence in the Boston community until 2004, when she died in her Roxbury home at 82 from complications related diabetes, her obituary in *The New York Times* said.

She received 28 honorary doctorate degrees and was an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Metropolitan Cultural Alliance, among other organizations. A list of her accomplishments, as outlined in a recent Emerson archives project, spans the length of four pages.

Her reputation and legacy set a high standard: As Emerson kickstarts *The Elma Lewis Center for Civic Engagement, Learning, and Research* this semester, the center's heads will work to properly honor Lewis, said Kelly Bates, the recently-appointed founding director. The center, originally announced in President M. Lee Pelton's inaugural address in September 2012, will look to increase the college's civic role within the Boston community.

A Life in Boston

Lewis grew up in Roxbury, a child of two immigrants from the West Indies. In public school, Lewis stood out — a pre-school IQ test measured high. But teachers warned her parents that most African-Americans' scores become lower as they get older, said a timeline compiled by the Emerson archives team. Her experiences with racism motivated her to open the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts later in 1950, she said in an interview with *The Boston Globe*.

"We keep saying there's a level playing field," said Lewis. "But this kind of nonsense still exists."

With the Roxbury academy, she sought to teach minority students about theater and the arts. The school operated until 1986 when it burnt down, the Emerson archives team found through its research.

Her strong-willed personality is something those who worked with her both knew and feared, said Theodore Life, a distinguished director-in-residence in the visual and media arts department. Life said he worked at the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts while he was attending Tufts University in the late 1960s.

"You knew her," said Life in a Beacon interview, "because even if you were doing your own thing, Miss Lewis was always sticking her head in."

After she was awarded her first of two MacArthur Foundation Fellowships after her 60th birthday in 1981, Lewis was interviewed by Diana Korzenik, the chairwoman of the Art Education Department at the Massachusetts College of Art. The pair discussed her introduction to art — through her father, a poet. Lewis took to poetry and performance early, but said she was not a talented vi-



A display in the Little Building traces Elma Lewis' life and work.

sual artist.

"In art class in school I would consider myself highly unsuccessful," she told Korzenik. "My tour-de-force was music, was drama, was dance."

But even as a child, Lewis knew what she wanted when it came to art. In the interview with Korzenik, she remembered a "tense moment" in one of her elementary school art classes. She had colored a tree with multiple shades of green, and her teacher said the image should only be one color.

"She was wrong. Oh no! I've never had a low opinion of what I thought," she said in the interview. "I didn't know why she wanted to spoil my picture."

Respected and Feared

Life said what he remembers most about Lewis was her drive for excellence, and her unwillingness to accept anything below that quality from her staff. But her high standards for herself and others could wear on people, too. Life recalled an instance while he was working with Lewis and students on a play about Marcus Garvey — he couldn't remember the title — when her demands caused directors and volunteers to run out of the theater, exhausted from the pressure.

"She would say, 'Okay, then goodbye. I will find someone who can do this,'" said Life. "And she would."

The trembling respect for Lewis extended to the city's highest figures: The *Boston Globe's* obituary of Lewis quoted former Boston Mayor Kevin White as saying, "Nothing caused me greater fright, really, than when my secretary would come in and say, 'Mr. Mayor, Elma Lewis is outside.' Of course, when Elma came in I'd jump up and say, 'Good to see you, Elma.'"

But Life said he appreciated the high standards — he said he wishes Emerson would implement such high expectations in coursework, and hopes the new center will do the same.

"Something they don't always teach you at Emerson is the importance of being on time, responsible, having no excuses, and getting a project done on time and on budget," he said. "As long as the center is a place where excellence is the mantra in everything that it does, then I think you're doing Miss Lewis proud."

In Boston, Lewis also established Playhouse in the Park, a company that presents free performances from local artists on summer nights, and the National Center for Afro-American Artists, a Roxbury museum. Both are still running today. The projects, focused on African-Americans, stemmed from Lewis' belief that struggling people create the best art.

"The only time art suffers is in times of affluence," she said. "You take a trip to Europe; you might buy a boat. When you can't buy a boat, you must sing a song. It's essential for survival."

Emerson junior Donovan Birch Jr., the president of EBONI, said the organization's members hold Lewis in high esteem, and hope the college's center does so as well. Lewis helped to establish EBONI — Emerson's Black Organization with Natural Interests — in the 1960s.

"She goes right at the top of our leaders," said the political communication major. "She embodied the use of art as a

form of communication and civic engagement. She was a black leader and deserves the distinction."

In her interview with Korzenik, Lewis reflected on her days at Emerson. While pursuing her degree in literary interpretation from the college, she would stroll on the Es-

planade — or "the Espie," as she called it — sipping sodas with her professors and friends.

"[We] used to go over there," she said. "And talk endlessly...yes."

Her Name Lives On

Her alma mater's plans to honor Lewis haven't thrilled everyone who knew her. Sarah-Ann Shaw, a Roxbury resident well known as Boston's first African-American television reporter, said Lewis was her camp counselor. She later sat on the board at the fine arts school, and considered Lewis a close friend.

"She was a larger than life person," said Shaw. "She was smart, she was creative, she was determined."

But Shaw said that she feels the college didn't meet with enough people who knew Lewis personally for the center to properly represent her friend's legacy.

"Without knowing her, really knowing her, you can't begin to honor her," she said.



A portrait of Lewis, who graduated from Emerson in 1943 and went on to be a force for arts education in Boston.

Bates, the center's director, said she is continuing research on Lewis and strives to honor her appropriately. She said she has plans to meet with her family soon. Bates has been working to understand Lewis by completing research of her own, and speaking to people that worked with Lewis.

"She was a real firecracker," said Bates. "She was no joke, you didn't mess with her."

The new department plans to foster discourse on social issues, develop advocacy and policy campaigns, and create community partnerships that will lead to service projects within the Boston area, said Bates. In keeping with Lewis's mission, the center will work with the minority community throughout the city, said Bates, who is of African-American and Irish descent.

"In everything we do I want her spirit to be alive," she said. "In my mind I think, 'Would this meet her criteria?'"

Pelton, said in an interview he chose Lewis's name for the center because of her accomplishment in Boston and across the nation. He first heard of Lewis in the '70s when he lived in Boston, but never met her, he said.

"She was a real force of nature as they say," said Pelton. "And she was just wonderfully committed to introducing young people from diverse socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds to the transformative power of art."