



The Berkeley Beacon

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Students distant from neighbors in Chinatown



Chinatown is a cultural center near the Emerson campus • *Cassandra Martinez / Beacon Staff*

Maya Gacina, Beacon Staff

Sophomore Stacey Wong grew up going to Chinatown for dim sum every Saturday and advocated for the Asian community in high school.

At Emerson, she said students still don't see the neighborhood as a place where people live, work, and play, even though she lives closer to its residents than ever before.

Chinatown is a historic district adjacent to Emerson's campus. Wong said she hears peers at Emerson regard the neighborhood as a place to catch a bite to eat rather than a cultural hub.

"I think the only time I really hear people talking about [Chinatown] is when they want cheap food," she said. "They only talk about dumplings and stuff, they don't really know about ... what it's like over there, what kind of Asian-Americans live over there, or just the whole essence of being in a community."

Jeena Hah, youth programs manager for the Asian Community Development Corporation, said students should look to Chinatown as an active community rather than a tourist destination. She said Emerson does not play a part in the preservation of the neighborhood's quickly eroding borders.

"Cultural erosion and things like that happen when there's change in the long-

See community, page 2

Kevin Bright shines light on documentarians

Ian Sloan, Beacon Correspondent

After executive-producing *Friends* for ten years, Kevin Bright '76 is telling stories in a whole new way. Leaving Central Park and the sitcom world behind, Bright recently launched an LA-based documentary-production company aiming to help young documentarians bring their stories to reality.

Bright described the unnamed enterprise as a starting point for filmmakers who want to cover interesting and unknown stories. He said he looks forward to seeing what up-and-coming filmmakers are creating to entertain and inform audiences.

Though in its early stages, the company is producing two projects. *Shelter From the Storm* is about the dog-breeding industry in Korea. *Doc* is the biography of Doc Severinsen, the former bandleader of *The Tonight Show*.

"These [documentaries] will put an emphasis on people who persevere through difficult circumstances through strength and adversity," Bright said.

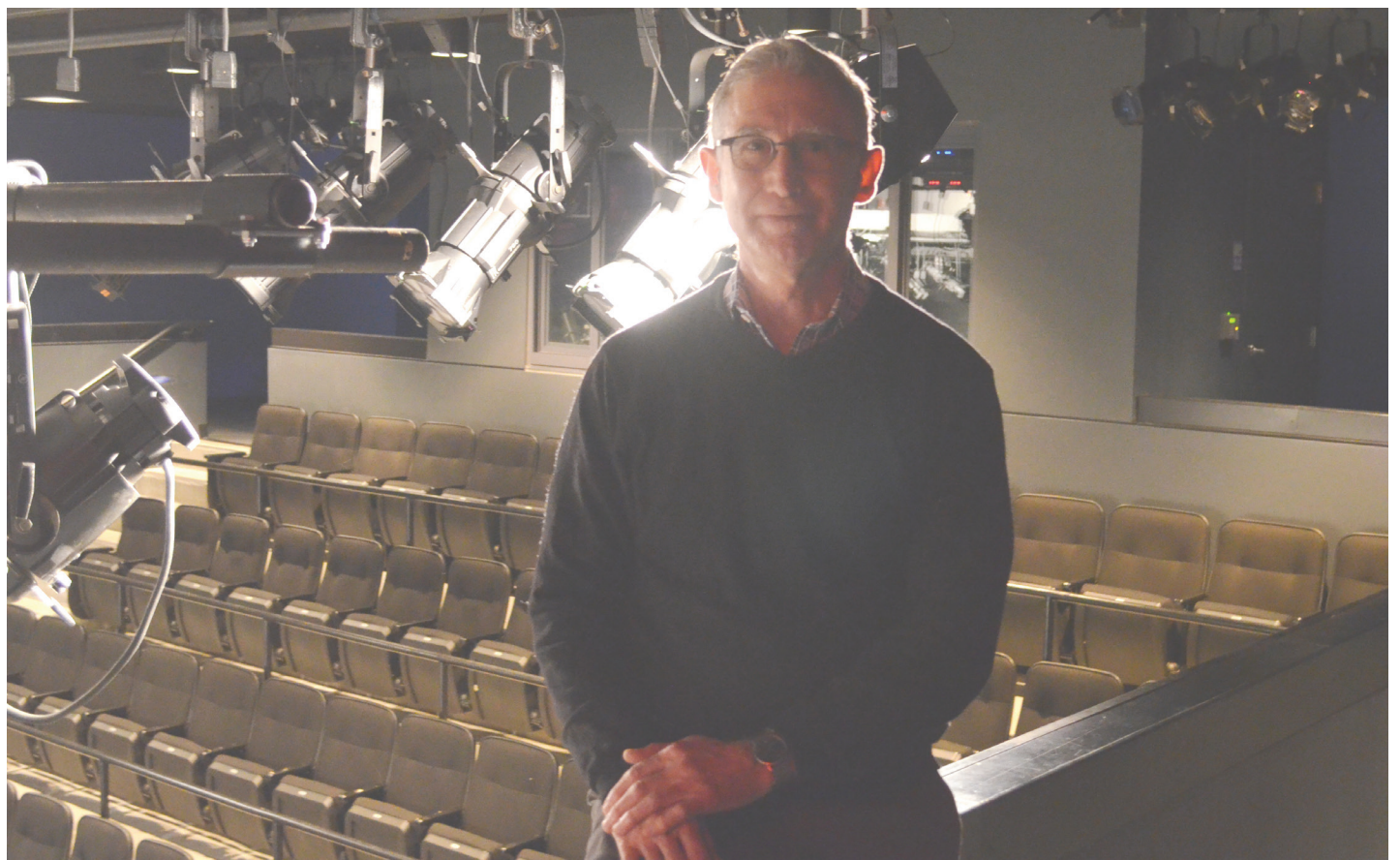
James Macak, a fellow screenwriting professor at ELA, said Bright's ambitions grow larger after each success. Macak said his longtime colleague can connect with audiences across all genres.

"[Bright's] goal is to give people an opportunity to tell their stories in ways that haven't been done before," Macak said. "That's why projects like *Friends* [were] so successful. He can make each story stand out and be effective."

Bright said his production company is the result of a nine-year journey. Following the end of *Friends*—a sitcom depicting the romantic

See Bright, page 7

New performing arts chair selected



Robert Colby will serve as chair of the Performing Arts Department next semester. • *Hardik Pahwa / Beacon Correspondent*

Kaitlyn Bryson, Beacon Staff

The performing arts committee selected Robert Colby to strengthen communication between students and faculty as Performing Arts Chair starting fall semester of 2018.

Colby started at the college's Department of Performing Arts 41 years ago as an instructor in theater education and then transitioned to

a full-time professor. He taught undergraduate and graduate courses in theater for young audiences and directing.

Colby also spent a total of four years as faculty assembly chair from 2000-02 and 2015-17. This position gave him more contact with higher-level administration, specifically regarding inclusivity on campus

"I want to redouble [diversity and inclusion

efforts] particularly in relationship to Emerson Stage and the opportunities it offers students of color, and our audiences," Colby said. "So ... we fully commit to the goals of diversity and inclusion of the college and particularly for what students were asking for very clearly last October."

Melia Bensussen, performing arts chair
See Robert Colby, page 3

news

Chinatown residents find Emerson students apathetic

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term physical landscape," Hah said.

In 1987, Emerson began its move from Back Bay to the Theatre District next to Chinatown. Hah said Emerson's new student orientations should include information about its neighboring community and about the residents who live there. She said in 2015 Tufts University and Medical Center, which take up one-third of the district, began incorporating walking tours of Chinatown into four out of five of its graduate programs.

Vice President for Government and Community Relations Margaret Ings said her office and the Office of the President funds multiple institutions in Chinatown, such as the Greater Boston Golden Age Center, which serves Asian elderly in the community. She also said the college offers financial assistance to the Chinese New Year Parade and other annual events.

"Cultural erosion and things like that happen when there's change in the long-term physical landscape."

"We really have become a member of the community," Ings said. "It's the one thing I wanted to have happen when I first came here ... to establish relationships with each and every [community] group that was already in existence and see how they felt about an institution of this size coming into this area."

Assistant Director of Off Campus Student Services Jeff Morris said his office does not tell students about the culture of Chinatown before their apartment search, instead focusing on things like rental procedures and affordability.

"I would say there's definitely less students living in Chinatown, and if you're living in Chinatown, it's the population that can afford Chinatown," he said.

In 2009, Tufts University found that out of all Boston neighborhoods, Chinatown is at the highest risk of gentrification, the process of more affluent people entering an area and driving up the cost of living.

Tufts Medical Center doctor Chih Chen said he was able to live nearby work in Chinatown five years ago on a small salary but has since moved. He said the area is becoming more of a

restaurant business district than a place of cultural attraction.

"The college benefits more than the local people," he said. "The prices [for food in Chinatown] are so low, [the Chinatown employee's] salary is so low."

According to a study by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, higher education institutions are large contributors to Boston's Chinatown gentrification. The study also stated the white population doubled between 2000 and 2010, while Asians make up less than half of the residents.

Junior Lanhua Ma, an international student from China, lives in an apartment building in Chinatown less than a half-mile radius from Emerson. Ma said she and other Emerson students who live in the building pay anywhere from \$1,500 to \$1,600 a month.

"It's very close to the campus," Ma said. "It's very easy for me to get ingredients, and if I don't have time to cook, grab some dim sum. And the price compared to other restaurants is cheaper."

Some businesses in Chinatown believe college students help keep their doors open.

Kevin Miao, an employee at Kung Fu Tea in Chinatown, said about 80 percent of their customers are college students.

"It helps the community out," Miao said. "And most of them are international students."

Carmen Chan, a director at Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, considers the Chinatown-Emerson relationship friendly. She encourages more initiative from students in the form of internships to improve the community. Chan said she saw two Emerson interns in the past three years at BCNC.

"The students of Emerson are very creative," Chan said.

Chan said the college also contributes through ArtsEmerson, which offers space and collaborates on artistic programming for the Center.

Executive Director of ArtsEmerson David Dower said his office incorporates the Asian diaspora in Chinatown by hosting events like the Asian American Film Festival and working with the Asian American Resource Workshop, another community center in Chinatown.

"We know we're at the beginning of building a [relationship], and we're looking forward to continuing partnership in building it," he said.

This is an ongoing series dedicated to exploring the college's impact on neighboring communities.

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Boston's Chinatown is rapidly gentrifying and institutions are playing a part.
Cassandra Martinex / Beacon Staff

Bachelor of Fine Arts reels in photography

Stephanie Purifoy, Beacon Staff

Junior and senior visual and media arts majors can begin the Bachelor of Fine Arts program with a photography focus for the first time starting fall 2018.

These changes are all under the Media Arts Production BFA, a degree that requires more credits from major classes, rather than electives, than the Bachelor of Arts. While visual and media arts majors interested in photography have always been able to go through this BFA program, they will now be able to use their workshop time to complete a photo project.

"Photography students could get a BFA, but the workshops they took were always focused on film," professor Lauren Shaw said. "So with the photography workshops, they will be with like-minded people."

Shaw, who teaches photography at Emerson, said her students always wanted to take more than one semester of the class.

"There's so much talent, and they want to do an in-depth year of finding their voice and a photography project that's not interrupted," she said.

Professor Camilo Ramirez said he had a number of students who wanted to major in photography but couldn't.

"It was never a flood of people, but there were always some students who wanted to do more of it in a concentrated way," Ramirez said. "We wouldn't be offering [the BFA option] if we didn't think students were asking for it or would benefit from it in some way."

Sophomore visual and media arts major Renata Brockmann learned about the new BFA option from Ramirez.

Brockmann said she thought the new BFA track would help meet the demand for a more developed photography curriculum.

"This is coming at a great time," Brockmann said. "I definitely see a lot of people who are interested in heading that way with their careers."

Shaw said she is hoping to expand the photography section of the visual and media arts department even further in the coming years by introducing critical studies in photography classes and a lighting course.

"This is coming at a great time."

Challenges would include finding space and equipment for courses and hiring new faculty to teach them. She said she hopes these additions will come in the future, but the current focus is on building interest in photography on campus.

Ramirez also said he hopes to continue to expand the presence of photography at Emerson.

"I think students should have the opportunity to explore any medium they want at any level, so I think this just increases choice across the curriculum," he said.

Juniors can apply for the BFA program starting this spring.

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Lauren Shaw started working on the Photo BFA 10 years ago. • Courtesy of Lauren Shaw

Black Rainbow Ball funds Sodexo worker's legal status

Shafaq Patel, *Beacon Staff*

The Black Rainbow Ball raised enough money to fund a Salvadoran Sodexo worker's Temporary Protective Status, which allows this employee and thousands of others to live and work in the country legally.

The charity dance raised about \$600, according to Aliyah Browne, president of Emerson's Black Organization With Natural Interest. The money will go towards a Sodexo employee who worked at Emerson for the past eight years.

The Sodexo worker wished to remain anonymous, but allowed student Laura Londoño to inform the Beacon about their background. Londoño, president of Understanding National Immigration Through Education, remains the only cultural organization member with knowledge of their identity.

TPS is a program that grants people from

countries affected by armed conflict or natural disaster with temporary residency. In early January, the Trump administration said it will allow Salvadorans with TPS to stay until Sept. 9, 2019. To stay legally, people with TPS from El Salvador have until March 19 for renewal. The re-registration application of TPS costs \$495, which does not include potential legal fees.

The money for the TPS renewal came from the Ball's entrance fees, ongoing donations from EBONI's alumni association, and other people interested in helping Emerson Sodexo workers. Browne said there may be extra money left over after paying entirely for the particular Sodexo worker's TPS renewal and legal fees.

"I don't know where [the leftover money] will go, but I can only assume that Laura and I will meet and discuss the best place it will go," Browne said.

Londoño said in an interview before the Ball there may be more workers with TPS, but she

only knows of this one who has yet to complete the reapplication. Londoño said currently, TPS workers are scared to reveal themselves—making it harder to find other people who need help.

President M. Lee Pelton said the college does not have information on Sodexo workers because they're under Sodexo's contract, not the college's. After talking to Pelton and realizing this, Browne decided to act. She said EBONI and the student population could stand by this cause if the college could not directly take action.

"This is important because every member of the Emerson community is important, not just the students or the higher-ups, but the people that make everything run smoothly on a day-to-day basis," Browne said. "It is our job as a community to take care of our own and it would be hypocritical to say ... we care about immigration and protecting people's status and not take care of people in our own community who need

that."

Browne said EBONI reached out to other cultural organizations so they could all stand for this cause.

"[The cultural organizations have] been struggling to maintain unity and present a united front and we wanted to show that we were still doing this after the [#ThisIsEmerson] protest as well," Browne said.

Evelyn Hernandez, a member of UNITE, is glad they were able to fund the re-registration.

"It just goes to show that when we all get together, we [can] actually accomplish something. I'm so happy that we met our goal," Hernandez said.

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College evaluates mental health policies

Chris Van Buskirk, *Beacon Staff*

Emerson applied to JED Campus, a program created by the national non-profit The Jed Foundation, in an attempt to improve mental health policies and resources on campus.

The Healthy Minds Study, a yearly online survey, and JED Campus are partnered organizations working to evaluate emotional health and prevent suicide among teens.

The college is administering the survey to students this semester to gain a better understanding of how to improve mental health and sources of support on-campus, Director of the Center for Health and Wellness Jane Powers said.

"A lot of times my OCD is brushed aside as just something that I can ignore, and that's just not the case."

The college applied to the program in December 2016. JED was chosen because of the collaborative nature of the review process—one that involves a direct channel of communication between a JED representative and the college.

As part of the JED Campus program, a group of college officials from various offices—including the Division of Student Affairs and Office of General Counsel—formed to complete a self-study evaluating mental health policies on campus led by Powers.

The group will receive feedback on the self-study during the week of Feb. 22, which they will use to brainstorm new mental health pol-

icies for implementation. The Healthy Minds Study will be conducted again in the spring of 2020 to see if any changes made improved the mental health of the college.

Hoppe participated in the group and said he believes mental health, substance abuse, and suicide are important issues at Emerson.

"In higher [education], we're much more aware of [mental health] today than we were 15-20 years ago," Hoppe said.

The JED Campus initiative comes at a time when some students feel like peers with mental health issues and other disabilities are not recognized as a minority on campus. SGA Accessibility Commissioner Erin Burgess is one of these students.

"Individuals with disabilities are also minorities and a lot of times that's just not recognized out in the real world and also here at Emerson," Burgess said. "[But] they are."

Her passion for disability advocacy stems from the ways people treated her own mental health issues. Burgess said she was diagnosed with obsessive compulsive disorder in 2013.

"A lot of times my OCD is brushed aside as just something that I can ignore, and that's just not the case," she said.

Carly Wickham, former Beacon photo editor and president of Active Minds, a student group on campus advocating for mental health awareness, said a stigma surrounding conversations about mental health still exists on all college campuses.

"I think Emerson has gone leaps and bounds from when I first got here, but there is still a lot more they could be doing for their students," she said.

Hoppe said he is sad to hear students with mental health issues feel neglected. He believes the college has taken steps to improve the resources available, noting that within the past year and a half, the college has added two full

time counselors and increased the counseling budget.

"I know from working with friends and family ... when someone is struggling, or in the midst of an episode with mental health, there's no such thing as too much support or enough support," Hoppe said.

Resources available to Emerson students such as short-term individual therapy, sub-

stance use counseling, and group therapy can be found at Emerson College Counseling and Psychological Services located on the second floor of the Union Savings Building. More information is available on their website.

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Jane Powers leads the group responsible for evaluating mental health issues at Emerson.
Lala Thaddeus / *Beacon Staff*

Robert Colby to focus on diversity, communication

Continued from page 1

of 11 years, will return to her previous job as producing director of Emerson Stage on June 30 after finishing her contract.

"I have absolutely no apprehensions about [Colby's] leadership," Bensussen said. "I am very excited about how great he will be for this department."

To find a replacement, the department put together a search committee of students, staff, and full-time faculty for input on the decision. Colby went through eight interviews with constituencies in December prior to the announcement.

Colby is shadowing Bensussen at several meetings to better understand the function of his new role. He also went to the chair forum,

which invites students to share their thoughts on issues concerning the department.

"[Shadowing] has been a good opportunity for me to see how parts of the chairs' jobs function that I didn't see as a faculty member in the department," Colby said.

Senior Khyati Sehgal had Colby as a professor for "Theatre for Young Audiences" last fall.

"[Colby] knows how to navigate a classroom

and keep students engaged," Sehgal said. "He knows how to take multiple voices into account and hold all of those voices together in one space."

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Incident Journal

The Incident Journal is provided to the Beacon weekly by the Emerson College Police Department. Beacon staff edit the Incident Journal for style and clarity, but not for content.

Sunday, Feb. 11

Emerson College Police Department received a lost wallet containing a fraudulent ID card.

Monday, Feb. 12

2 Boylston Place Residence Life staff requested ECPD confiscate drug paraphernalia. ECPD referred the incident to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Steam from a water heater in a building neighboring the Paramount Center set off one of Paramount's fire alarms. Facilities Management and Boston Fire Department evacuated the building. The water heater was turned off for repair.

Wednesday, Feb. 14

ECPD received an anonymous report of a student assaulted by a person asking for money outside Walker Building.

Thursday, Feb. 15

ECPD received a report from security at 2 Boylston Place of an

unidentified male urinating near Backstage Café. The individual was not located.

Saturday, Feb. 17

An ECPD Officer observed a student and guest trying to bypass security at Piano Row. ECPD referred the incident to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct.

ECPD received a report of a vehicle parked in the Hemenway shuttle's spot behind the Paramount Center. The owner removed the vehicle.

editorial

DC stands for Dining Center, not Dumpling Cafe

At issue:
Students treat cultural communities with disrespect

Our take:
Chinatown is more than a food court

Editorials are written solely by Editor-in-Chief Allison Hagan, Managing Editor Laura King, Opinion Editor Abigail Hadfield, Deputy Opinion Editor Hannah Ebanks, and Assistant Opinion Editor Brittany Adames without consultation from other staff members, and does not influence any stories. Op-Eds reflect the views of only their authors, not The Berkeley Beacon.

When Emerson moved from Back Bay to the Theater District in 1987, the new location presented students the opportunity to explore an area with vast historical and cultural significance. Sadly, this narrative of enlightenment and exploration did not come to fruition. Students treat Chinatown like a hot spot for a late-night drunk snack instead of a neighborhood full of hardworking people and vital businesses.

Because Emerson's population and location strays away from the conventional college or university image, many students have reimagined the city of Boston as their own campus. Emerson students have used the school's lack of a physical campus as a way to claim certain spaces, such as City Place and the Common, as their own. The same phenomenon has transposed into Chinatown—where students often treat the neighborhood like an extension of the school.

While it is easy to justify frequent visits to Chinatown as a way of supporting small businesses, this is point-

less if we aren't treating these places with the respect they deserve. The residents are already threatened with eviction from their homes by

Yes, the food is nice for students on a budget, but these businesses are not a secondary dining hall for Emerson students.

short-term rental companies like Airbnb, and the last thing they need is for their home and community to become a commodified social space for college students who don't value

or understand the local culture.

The neighborhood offers students much more than dumplings and bubble tea. Yes, the food is nice for students on a budget, but these businesses are not a secondary dining hall for Emerson students. Shop at one of their grocery stores and try branching out with new foods besides fried rice and lo mein, or visit the historic Hayden Building at 681 Washington Street. Chinatown isn't here for your midnight romps and college shenanigans—would you stumble into an Italian Bistro in the North End wasted at 2 a.m. demanding spaghetti and meatballs?

Emerson students, lacking a true campus, are often tempted to lay claim over the entirety of downtown Boston. Remember when a class actually made a petition to change the name of the Boylston Street MBTA station to Emerson College Station? We have the privilege of proximity to great Boston locations, but this does not mean we are entitled to overtake them.

Letters

If you want to respond to, or share an opinion about, an article in the Beacon, you can write a short letter to the editor. Email it to letters@berkeleybeacon.com.

Please note that letters may be edited. Submissions for print must be shorter than 250 words.

The Berkeley Beacon

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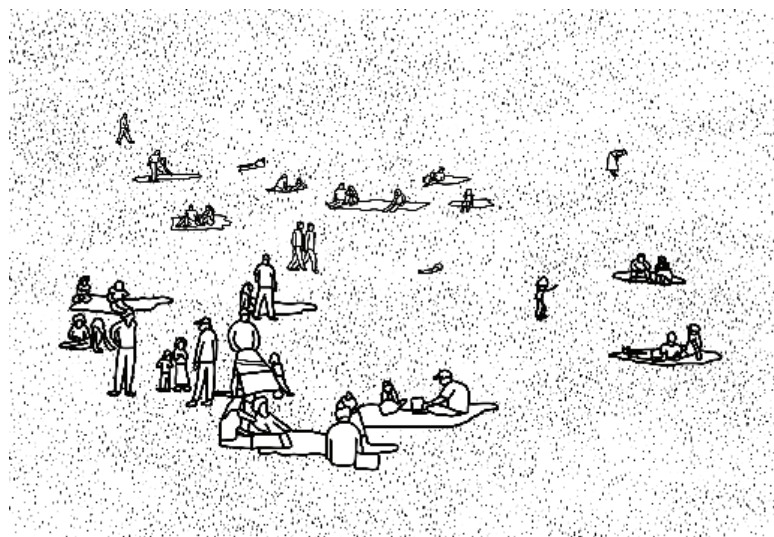
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Years of not recycling finally paid off as climate change brought us 70 degree weather in February—perfect for a day on the Common!



opinion

Make meals simple for students with allergies

Kaileigh Fox

Fox is a freshman writing, literature and publishing major and a correspondent for the Beacon.

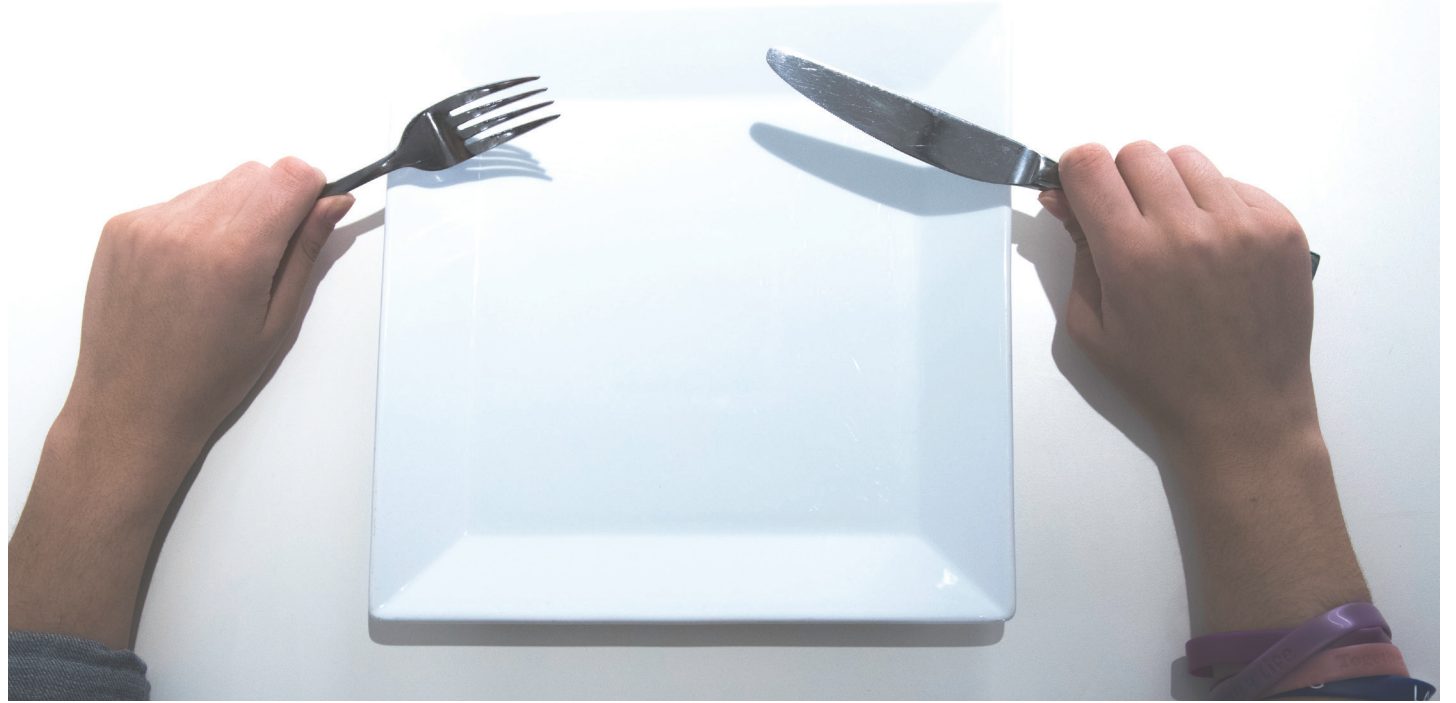
When I first laid down my thoughts for this piece, I laid curled up in bed feeling sick to my stomach with an awful headache. Somehow, my allergen-free menu came in contact with gluten—leaving me down-and-out for two days. The only place that I'd eaten that day was the Dining Center.

As someone with Celiac disease, there's a chance I'll fall ill every time I eat. Thanks to this chronic, genetic condition, my small intestine refuses to digest gluten—which includes anything containing wheat, barley, or rye. In choosing Emerson, I thought I found a school that could fulfill my academic dreams as a writer while providing viable dining options for me. I even upgraded my meal plan because I felt so optimistic about the gluten-free options, but I was soon disappointed.

If Emerson wants to market their allergen-free section to prospective students, they need to meet the national standard for providing viable options for students with allergies. In 2013, the U.S. Department of Justice, referring to a federal law that protects people with disabilities, formed an agreement with Lesley University that required the school to "continually provide" gluten-free dining options. While this law does not apply to every college in the United States, it set a national precedent for how colleges should accommodate gluten-free students—one that Emerson is not meeting.

Emerson provides the Simple Servings station—a major-allergen-free section in the downstairs floor of the DC, next to the vegan station. They don't serve food with peanuts, tree nuts, gluten, shellfish, soy, milk products, or eggs. The staff, according to the website, are trained to have as little cross contamination as possible, despite the disclaimer disclosing a small chance you may end up with an allergen in your food. However, the station is only open at specific times—never at breakfast or before 4:30 p.m. on the weekends. There's gluten-free bread in the fridge next to the station, but no separate toasters to use. Even the slightest contamination, such as using a toaster that's been used with glutenous food items, will make me, and other students with Celiac, incredibly sick.

Gluten-free students should not need to beg administration for reasonable dining options. According to a study from the Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, students said the idea of requesting exceptions and explaining



If Emerson wants to market their allergen-free section to prospective students, they need to meet the national standard for providing viable options for students with allergies. • Photo Illustration by Justin Scott / Beacon Staff

their diet deterred them from speaking up about their concerns.

Emerson is no stranger to competition with comparable schools—back when the school emailed about the tuition increase, they included cost comparisons to show that Emerson still offered a fair price. However, they don't live up to the same standard when it comes to dining options. At Boston University, they dedicate a separate kitchen for preparing gluten-free meals. Not only do they offer a gluten-free pantry stocked with allergen free items in three separate dining facilities, they also provide separate toasters, microwaves, and freezers exclusively for students with Celiac.

Ithaca College, another comparable school closer in size to Emerson, supplies three separate gluten-free pantries in addition to their dining stations, and they also provide separate toasters and microwaves. These schools offer better dining options for those with severe allergies, but students should not be forced to attend a college purely based on their dining options. Allergen-free dining options need to be a given, regardless of the institution.

In 2013, the National Foundation for Celiac Awareness surveyed students to see how colleges were handling the dining options for those with Celiac disease and found concerning results—60 percent of gluten-free students report being 'glutened' or becoming

sick from eating at a dining hall or food-service establishment on campus. This problem is not limited to Emerson, and can be seen around the nation. But that survey was conducted five years ago, and Emerson has failed to make sufficient changes to adapt to students' needs.

The college needs to realize that Simple Servings is not a rotating station in the Dining Center like the salad bar or pizza—it's fundamental to students living on campus who have allergies. It needs to be open whenever students can access the Dining Center. The limited hours are unfair to students who cannot eat anywhere else, and the staff are unable to guarantee the food will not induce allergic reactions. It is already frustrating enough to traverse the realm of college pizza parties and North End pastry trips with Celiac. I need my own dining facility to provide three safe meals a day, as promised.

The college needs to realize that Simple Servings is not a rotating station in the Dining Center like the salad bar or pizza—it's fundamental to the students living here who have allergies.

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Scheduling solutions for overworked students



When you can hardly keep double digits in your bank account, making the Dean's List and prepping a resume at the same time seems unthinkable. • Photo Illustration by Cassandra Martinez / Beacon Staff

Laura King

King is a senior journalism major and managing editor for the Beacon.

I once typed a four page paper on my phone from the break room of a Downtown Crossing retail shop over the course of a nine hour shift. I've copy-pasted long, important class readings into the Notes app on my iPhone, and hit "Select All" so Siri could read the text to me in her stilted

voice while I weaved through Boston streets. I've pushed through a week of work with two hours of sleep per night, and lived exclusively off instant oatmeal for multiple days between paychecks. These scenarios I encountered in my almost four years at Emerson are likely familiar to plenty of my peers. Sometimes a to-do list feels heavy enough to drown you. To keep yourself afloat, you have to let go of some of that weight. You can't accomplish your goals if you

let yourself sink.

Students today face immense pressure to reach a vague idea of success. But as opinion editor Abigail Hadfield wrote last week, the tools we use to measure our achievements aren't always the most accurate. Coupled with the urge to come out on top is the reality that the average 2016 college graduate finished with \$37,172 in student loan debt. With the over \$40,000 Emerson bills for tuition each year, I'm personally thousands more in the hole—and I'm certainly not alone. Parents consistently pay less toward their children's tuition each year, and it's difficult to find rent near Emerson's campus under \$800/month. When you can hardly keep a double digit number in your bank account, making the Dean's List and prepping a resume at the same time seems unthinkable.

Balancing class, work, and extracurriculars requires planning and open communication. Budget your income and when you do homework, attend meetings, and fulfill basic necessities: sleep, eat, shower, socialize. Don't feel bad for taking care of yourself instead of chipping at your to-do list. When you don't fulfill your needs first, you will hit a physical or emotional wall that could put you out of service for multiple days—a consequence way worse than losing an hour of homework time for a nap or to cry to a loved one over FaceTime. When you feel like something's not going to work out, warn whoever is impacted—a professor, a boss, a friend—in advance. In ensuring your mental and physical health, you may not get to complete your collegiate master plan. But you will not burn out. And survival is its own kind

of success.

When I look back on my Quaker diet and marathon retail shifts, I can't help but feel a little bit impressed with myself. I'm proud I made it through. But it's a short slide from pride to superiority, especially when we can never completely know the circumstances of those around us. Placing value in a packed schedule promotes unhealthy behavior—none of us should strive to struggle.

All the bullet journals, Moleskine planners, and Google Calendar notifications in the world can't ensure you'll slay an impossible schedule. So take the B- in the Gen-Ed course and call out of work when exhaustion pins you to your bed. Stay as rested, nourished, and clean as possible. And when things don't fall perfectly into place, don't beat yourself up. Your Orientation dreams may not come true. As you learn new things, those aspirations often change.

Barely any of my friends graduating with me are going directly into their major field. Personally, I'll be using my journalism degree come September to teach English in a public school. That wasn't part of my plan, and it's not what I spent the past few years directly working toward. But all the unexpected experiences I've had in the past few years led me here, and I'm so excited to see what the future holds.

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living arts

VMA department offers free film for photo students

Maysoon Khan, *Beacon Correspondent*

Students enrolled in photography classes received free film rolls at the start of this semester to help offset costs for assignments.

The visual and media arts department began providing six photo-film rolls to every student in one of the nine photo classes, including Introduction to Photography and Darkroom Photography. The type of photo film provided varies depending on the class requirement.

Students are still required to pay for other class fees like cameras, developing paper, and extra film.

For her Introduction to Photography class last year, junior communication studies major Amelia Wright went through 20 rolls of 35-millimeter black-and-white film.

Black-and-white photo-film rolls cost around \$6 each on bhphotovideo.com, the same website the VMA department buys its film from.

"[The film rolls] are not enough for the entire class, but we try to help defray the cost of film and processing for students," Brooke Knight, chair of the VMA department said.

In previous years, the department provided each student enrolled in Film 1 or 2 with two rolls of motion picture film.

Photography professors Lauren Shaw and Camilo Ramirez wanted film for their students too.

It took a year of planning in order to provide photo film for the photography classes, Delaney said. While the department gave students some film at the end of last semester, this is the first semester they are distributing the film consistently throughout the classes.

"There are additional costs, and students un-

"If you require something for the class, you should definitely make the effort to provide people with the means to complete projects. They should have been doing that the whole time"

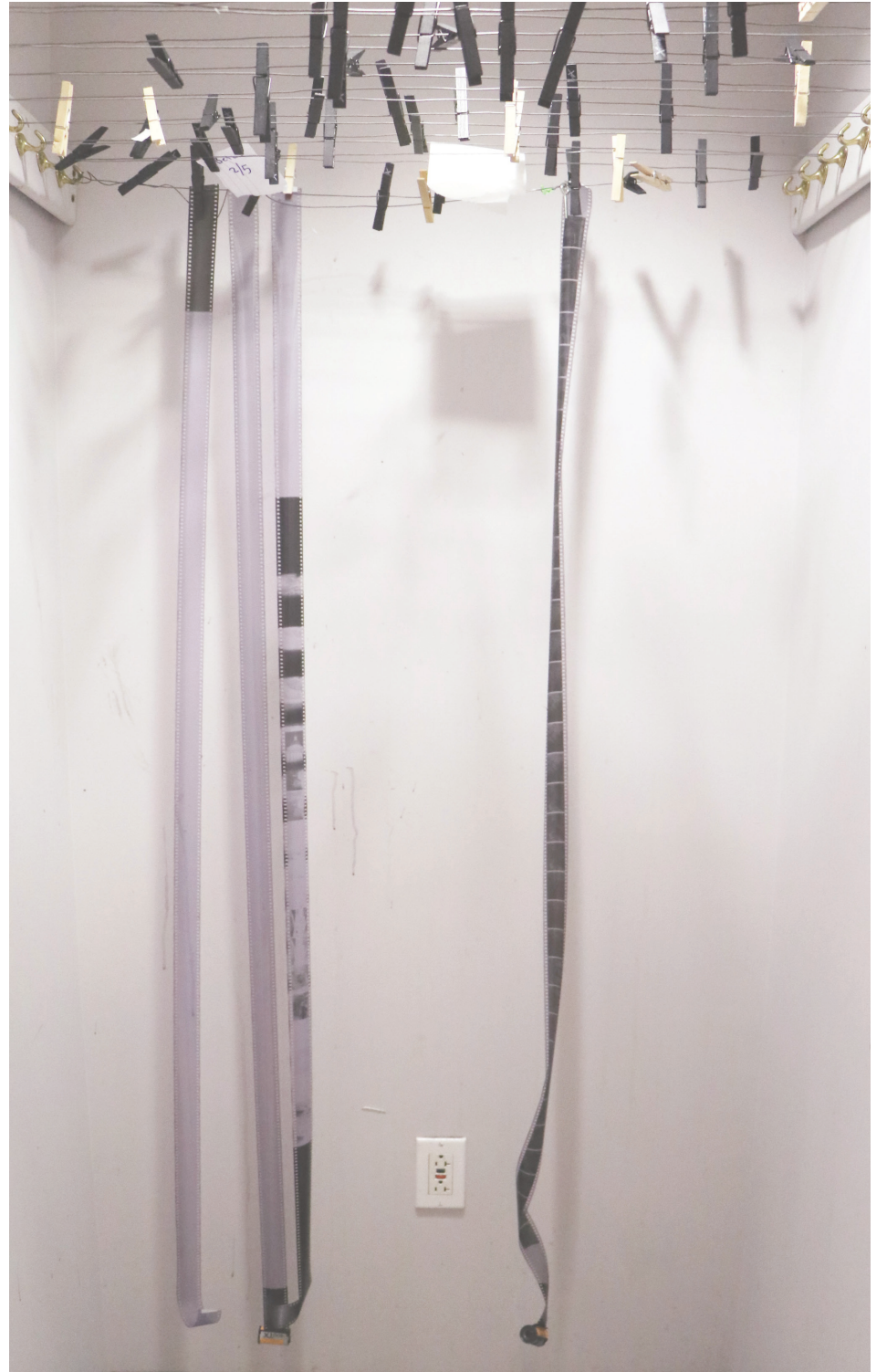
derstand this when they enroll. That has always been the case for all the years I have been there," Shaw said.

The money for the film rolls comes directly from the VMA Department budget.

Already, \$8,000-\$10,000 is set aside for students in the Film 1 and 2 courses. The department plans to spend \$5,000-\$6,000 on photo film yearly, according to Delaney, the department's budgets and operations manager. The final cost cannot be determined until all the orders are complete.

"If you require something for the class, you should definitely make the effort to provide people with the means to complete projects," Wright said. "They should have been doing that the whole time, it would've been very helpful."

Editor-in-chief Allison Hagan did not edit this article due to a conflict of interest.



For the first time, the visual and media arts department is offering free film rolls to students.

Lala Thaddeus / Beacon Staff

"[The film rolls] are not enough for the entire class, but we try to help defray the cost of film and processing for students."

"[The VMA department] was very cooperative," Shaw said. "If film students received film rolls by the department, why couldn't photo students get it too? It's a no brainer."

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LGBTQ Column: Winning hearts and gold medals



Andrew Stanton
Stanton is a sophomore journalism major and the Beacon's s LGBTQ columnist.

This year, the world watched the first openly-gay Team USA athletes compete in the Winter Olympics. Many people in the LGBTQ community are celebrating figure skater Adam Rippon and skier Gus Kenworthy for their courage and shameless self-expression in the athletic spotlight, where the queer community has been historically limited.

The LGBTQ community has always struggled to find acceptance in sports. While this intolerance is changing, queer athletes have experienced more acceptance in recent years. A Repucom study shows that 80 percent of lesbian, gay, and bisexual athletes have experienced or witnessed homophobia in athletics. Slurs were the most common form of homophobia, but violent threats and

assaults were also widely reported, according to the study.

Transphobia is a widespread problem in athletics as well. At least 80 percent of transgender athletes reported experiencing transphobia in sports, according to a study by Equality Network. Many transgender people are completely barred from participation in sports. Transgender athletes have only been allowed to participate in the Olympics since 2016.

Homophobia and transphobia create a toxic environment for LGBTQ athletes, who deserve to enjoy their favorite sports without the fear of being assaulted or harassed. For many people, sports provide a way to build a community, but the barriers queer people face make athletics inaccessible and sometimes dangerous for many people in the LGBTQ community.

Many queer people have created sports leagues specifically aimed at members of the LGBTQ community. These provide a great way for people to find this community and pursue their passions without facing homophobia or

transphobia. But the existence of these leagues cannot let us neglect the widespread bigotry that exists elsewhere in athletics, as these leagues aren't found in places without high LGBTQ populations.

The athletic community needs to foster a more inclusive environment. Coaches need to take bullying seriously and encourage dialogue about bigotry with athletes. According to the Repucom study, many queer athletes believe that coaches and parents need to combat homophobic and transphobic bullying from a young age.

The study also shows athletes think famous LGBTQ athletes coming out will increase tolerance in sports. Rippon and Kenworthy's highly publicized participation in this year's Olympic Games will hopefully break down stereotypes and force the sports world to become more inclusive. People will see their success and understand that LGBTQ athletes are just as capable as everyone else.

In addition, Rippon, Kenworthy, and many other LGBTQ athletes are giving young queer athletes idols to look up to. It's important for

LGBTQ youth to have role models they identify with. These inspiring idols show young queer people that they are not defined by stereotypes or expectations, and that they can achieve anything.

Although I'm not an athlete, watching Kenworthy and Rippon compete inspires me. Their successes remind me of how strong the queer community is. After a year where LGBTQ rights and safety were at risk, the athletes' successes make me think about queer peoples' resilience and bravery.

Seeing the LGBTQ community unite in support for the athletes allows me to reflect on the progress we have made. Only 10 years ago, queer athletes competing in the Olympics would have been unthinkable. In another 10 years, we will hopefully make more progress, opening up sports for all.

"Seeing the LGBTQ community unite in support for the athletes allows me to reflect on the progress we have made."

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Former ELA director premieres production company

Continued from page 1

and comedic adventures of a group of friends in New York City—in 2004, Bright said he decided to tell stories of real people instead of depicting fictional lives on television.

“After ‘Friends,’ I knew I wanted to take a break from Hollywood and the traditional sitcom environment that I grew accustomed to for over ten years,” Bright said. “After teaching for a while, I got started with a documentary titled ‘Best and Most Beautiful Things,’ which shifted my focus more towards documentary filmmaking.”

‘Best and Most Beautiful Things’ follows a young blind girl finding happiness in a world she cannot see. Bright said he volunteered nine years ago at Perkins School for the Blind in W Watertown, Massachusetts, where he met student Michelle Smith, the subject of the documentary.

“‘Best and Most Beautiful Things’ was really what got me inspired to start the production company,” Bright said. “The way Michelle [Smith] was able to inspire audiences just by doing what makes her happy made me want to document the human condition in reality and not on a sitcom soundstage anymore.”

While volunteering at Perkins, Bright also met Garrett Zevgetis ’05, a Navy veteran at the

"It's no accident that 'Friends' plays all over the world. There's something about the human condition that [Bright] can just tap into."

produce ‘Best and Most Beautiful Things.’

“The film represents not just [Smith], but all the kids at Perkins who say, ‘Just give me one shot,’” Zevgetis said.

Zevgetis said he felt unsurprised at the film’s success due its heartfelt topic and Bright’s filmmaking talent.

"I have this fantasy one of my [Emerson] students will one day have a great idea and we could collaborate. Students can get that great idea just by starting early, committing themselves to any project, and covering things that they are passionate about."

“Kevin is tough, because you have to be tough to be that successful,” Zevgetis said. “But it’s no accident that ‘Friends’ plays all over the world. There’s something about the human condition that he can just tap into.”

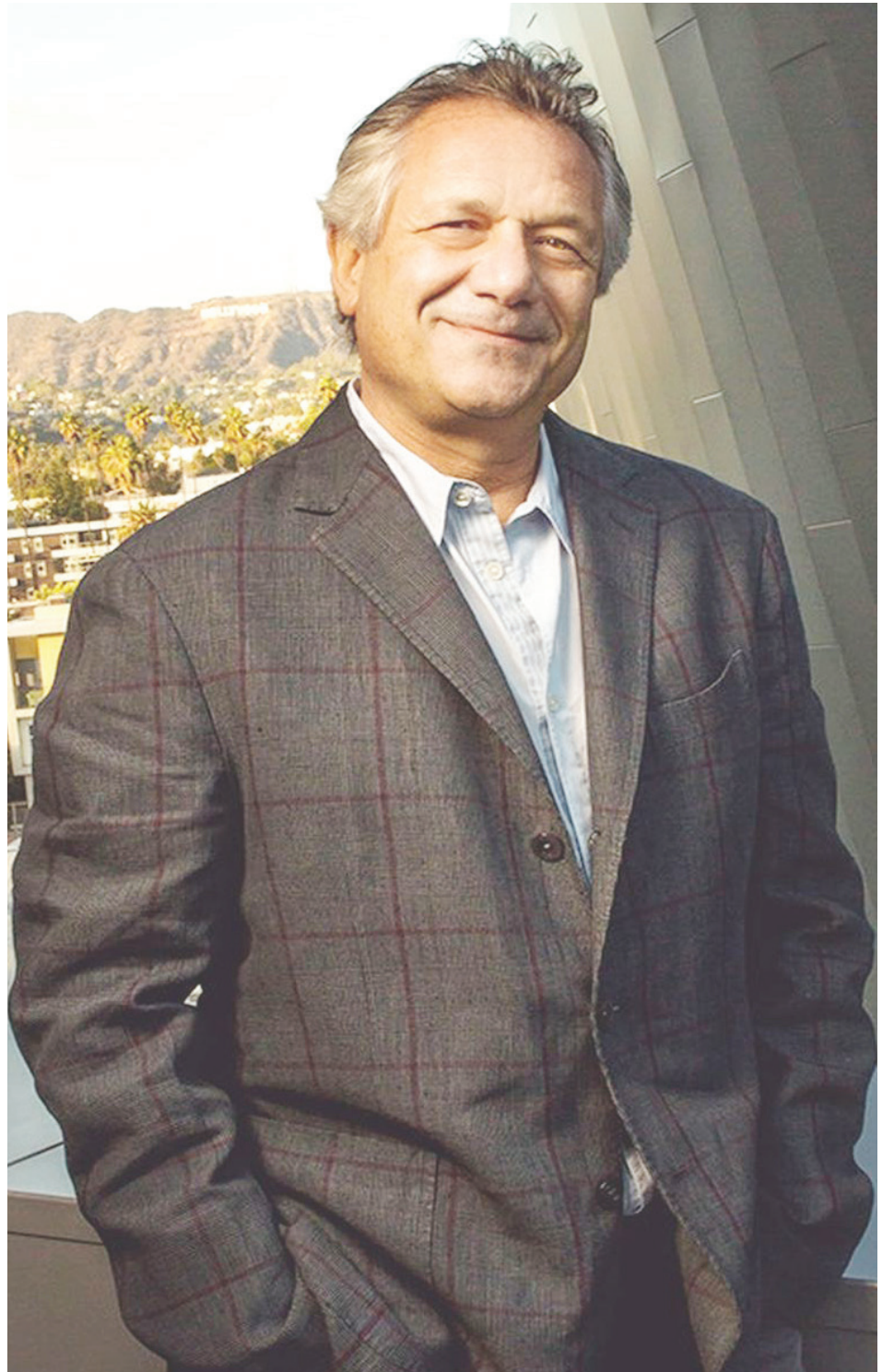
With his new focus on documentaries and helping documentarians, Bright said he hopes to inspire young filmmakers across the economic and social spectrum, especially those in his Emerson classes.

“I have this fantasy one of my [Emerson] students will one day have a great idea and we could collaborate,” Bright said. “Students can get that great idea just by starting early, committing themselves to any project, and covering things that they are passionate about.”

school searching for an angle for a new project. Zevgetis had the idea to make a film at Perkins about how blind people perceive beauty.

Zevgetis and Bright teamed up to direct and

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Kevin Bright is launching a new production company for up-and-coming documentarians. *Beacon Archives*

Student band enters the Boston punk scene

Emily Mason, *Beacon Correspondent*

“Fruit punk”—a more lighthearted offshoot of punk music—is band Squitch’s genre of choice. Freshman Emma Spooner started Squitch her senior year of high school, and now the trio is working on their second album, playing shows, and planning a tour for this May.

Freshman business of creative enterprises major Spooner fronts Squitch as lead singer and guitarist, while freshman visual media arts major Emma Unterseher plays bass and Northeastern University junior Denzil Leach plays the drums.

Squitch’s tour will start in Boston and end in Chicago, bassist Emma Unterseher’s hometown, while stopping in several cities along the way. The band plays within the “DIY scene,” which describes a network of smaller shows in private residencies, rather than established venues.

“I want to break into the DIY scene in Chicago, which is like the house-shows scene, and it’s all organized through Facebook. It’s very similar to Boston,” Unterseher said.

Squitch formed in Spooner’s senior year of high school when she started writing music that she viewed as better suited for a band. She met Leach in their New Hampshire high school’s

band class and together recorded Squitch’s first album *Caterpillar Killer* in Sept. 2016.

“[Leach and I] had been friends for a long time and I’d always written softer, more acoustic stuff,” Spooner said. “But then I started writing stuff that would sound great with a full band, so we started jamming, and we decided to record an album.”

Unterseher became Squitch’s bassist after she and Spooner decided to live together after meeting in the Emerson College Accepted Fall 2017 Facebook group.

“I really like playing bass,” Unterseher said. “It’s been interesting to not be the front person of a band. I like being the person that helps build the sound.”

Spooner credits Emerson College for creating a sense of excitement among the group’s concertgoers.

“[Emerson students] get excited because

there’s only so many bands from Emerson, so when there’s one playing shows they’re excited,” Spooner said.

The name Squitch came from a game Spooner and a friend played in high school. They would replace “sh” sounds in words with “itch” sounds. When they played this game with the word squishy, they came up with “squitchy.” The term became a running joke and Spooner thought it worked as the band name.

While the band described their initial music



Squitch is touring nationwide starting this May, beginning in Boston and ending in Chicago. *Courtesy of Charlie Debevoise*

as “fruit punk,” Leach said that Squitch’s music has become darker, and they feel themselves moving away from the label.

“We didn’t want to just be like, ‘We’re an alternative band,’ or ‘We’re indie rock.’ It just really doesn’t mean anything anymore,” Leach said.

Spooner said queerness is an apparent theme in the band’s music.

“There [are] already a lot of queer people in the Boston DIY scene and in Boston in general, so that’s a part of our audience,” Unterseher said. “And [Spooner and I are] both queer, so that just happened.”

Freshman Lily Myrick has been friends with the members of Squitch since they began play-

ing in Boston and attended most of their shows.

“They’re really fun. [The shows are] all house shows, so it’s always a very cool atmosphere, and it exposes you to a lot of local Boston music,” Myrick said. “Usually I’ll go for Squitch and discover like three other bands on the bill.”

Squitch is currently focusing on releasing their next album, but fans can stay up to date on show announcements through the band’s Facebook or Instagram. Their music is also available to stream on Bandcamp and Spotify.

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sports



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UPCOMING ACTION

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL: Wentworth @ Emerson, 7 p.m. tonight

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL: Emerson @ Dean College, 12 p.m. SAT

WOMEN'S LACROSSE: Emerson @ Univ. of New England, 3 p.m. SUN

MEN'S LACROSSE: Emerson vs. Mount Ida, 4 p.m. WED

Lions fall to Babson in first playoff game since 2015



Emerson junior Natalie Busch dribbles against Babson on Wednesday. The women's basketball team lost 85-57. • Chris Van Buskirk / Beacon Staff

Kyle Bray, Beacon Staff

Babson College proved too much for Emerson women's basketball team as the Lions lost 85-57 in the quarterfinals of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference playoffs Wednesday night.

This was the women's basketball team's first playoff appearance since the 2014-15 season, when they lost to Wheaton College in the quarterfinals. Head coach Bill Gould said he will not let the loss overshadow his team's achievements this season.

"I told the team [that] this is one of the tougher conferences in the country and one of the toughest regions in the country," Gould said. "[Being] one of the better teams in a tough conference in a tough region is a good thing for us."

Both teams started slowly, as the score was locked at 2-2 after the first two minutes. Babson took advantage after earning three steals on three consecutive plays to bring the score to 6-2. The Beavers led at halftime by a score of 52-20 and shot 21-of-36 from the field along with a 70 percent shooting percentage from beyond the arc in the first half.

The Beavers were led by junior Katherine

Tamulionis, who scored 19 points on 8-of-10 shooting and shot 3-of-3 from beyond the arc. Junior Payton Ouimette scored 10 points on 5-of-8 shooting, added six rebounds, and tied for the lead in steals with four.

Emerson's game early on focused around the perimeter, as 11 of its 28 shots in the first half came from beyond the arc. This was the Lions' downfall in the first half, as they shot 2-of-11 from long range.

The second quarter proved especially tough for the Lions as they only managed seven points. Senior Maya Savino said the team's early struggles came down to inexperience in the postseason.

"We were just nervous. Me and Eastin [Ashby] were the only people that had been in a postseason game and it was [our] freshman year," Savino said. "We just went in the locker room and we calmed down and [tried to] stay composed."

The Lions came out stronger in the second half, as they outscored the Beavers 37-33 in the third and fourth quarters combined. Sophomore Quinn Madden scored eight of her team-leading 12 points in the second half. Madden said that the team's performance in the second half came down to a change in mindset.

"In the beginning everyone had the mindset where they had to do it themselves, including me," Madden said. "In the second half we all

just agreed that we play our best when we play for each other and [make] the extra passes."

Gould said he was impressed with the way his team bounced back in the second half.

"Once we righted that ship, I thought we played right with them and we played well. And if we could have done that the whole game, it would have been a much more competitive game," Gould said.

One turning point came in the third quarter

when junior Charlie Boyle left the game after colliding with a Babson player. Boyle exited the court limping and spent the remainder of the quarter joggling behind the bench.

With Boyle off the court, Babson took a 34-point lead—its largest of the game. Boyle returned in the fourth quarter and ended the game with 11 points on 5-of-6 shooting with five rebounds. Gould said the team faced a tough challenge after losing Boyle.

"That's a significant loss when you lose a kid like that and she was starting to get some things going for herself inside," Gould said. "But she came back and she did well."

With 1:08 remaining, seniors Ashby and Savino exited the game for the final time in their Emerson careers. Savino said that although they lost the game, the team focused on making it a enjoyable occasion.

"We knew Babson was going [to] come out and play well so it was [about] having fun," Savino said. "We all like each other and we all love being in each other's company."

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"I told the team [that] this is one of the tougher conferences in the country and one of the toughest regions in the country."

Sophomore libero quarterbackbacks men's VBALL

Dylan Rossiter, Beacon Staff

Carl D'Aguiar can't roll out of bed, throw on a pair of boardshorts, and kick-start the day with a game of volleyball on the beach during Boston winters. Hardwood or sand, the sophomore libero knows how to lead his team on and off the court.

"[D'Aguiar's] been doing a great job for us this year," head coach Ben Read said. "He's one of those people that's going to step up and make those changes that we need during games."

D'Aguiar, named Great Northeast Athletic Conference defensive player of the week for the week of Feb. 5, is a dominant back-row force for the Lions. Through eight matches, the sophomore communication studies major leads the conference in digs per set—averaging 3.3—and ranks ninth in total digs at 80.

"I think we've had a pretty good start to our season," D'Aguiar said. "Recently, I've been trying to focus on being a leader to the freshmen

and bring them up to speed a bit with the team chemistry."

The Lions (6-2) have yet to play a conference match and are locked in a four-way tie for third place. As the team's libero, D'Aguiar is the odd man out. He is restricted to the back row, cannot serve, and wears a different colored jersey than the rest of the team.

"The back row is kind of mine, and the front row is someone else's," D'Aguiar said. "It's a little challenging because I want to focus on myself at times and just improve as a player; but at the same time, I need to focus on my other back-row players and what

we want to get done as a unit."

Read likens the 5-foot-8 Tujunga, California native's position to that of a football quarterback.

"[Liberos] need to be very strong defensively and be one of the serve-receivers," Read said.

"They've got to have the confidence back there to be able to lead not just by example on the court, but talk about the adjustments you need to

make with your defense against different teams."

One of nine returning players from last year's playoff team, senior captain Stig Regan, says D'Aguiar is a critical part of the team's makeup.

"[D'Aguiar's] got a really good sense of the game and not just his position, but other people's positions."

"Carl is a very hard working guy," Regan said. "He's got a really good sense of the game and not just his position, but other people's positions ... he's often speaking in huddles, and he's got really good insight into changes that need to be made."

D'Aguiar said he knew of Emerson from the Los Angeles campus, but never gave the school much thought until a former assistant coach approached him at a tournament. He said he chose to major in communication studies because he wasn't sure what career he wanted to pursue.

D'Aguiar is unsure what he wants to do after graduation, but is considering an extended stay in academia at a law school. He also may venture into public relations.

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