

The Berkeley Beacon

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Freshman pitcher leads NEWMAC in wins



Neely Eddleston traveled to Italy in high school to promote the return of softball to the Olympics. • Zivah Solomon / Beacon Correspondent

Kyle Bray, Beacon Staff

Freshman pitcher Neely Eddleston did not expect to play a big role going into her first season at Emerson. However, in the second week of the season, she was named pitcher of the week for the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.

The West Wareham, Massachusetts native is tied for first in the conference in wins with 11 in 19 games so far. She also sits fourth in the conference with 71 total innings pitched and seventh in strikeouts with 50. Eddleston leads the Lions in wins, innings pitched, strikeouts, and earned run average in her first season with the team.

Senior pitcher Casey Tsamis said she was impressed by Eddleston's conference play and looks forward to seeing what she accomplishes in the future.

"Right now, she is one of the best pitchers in our conference and I think by her senior year it will still be that way," Tsamis said.

Head coach Phil McElroy said Eddleston's ability to find the right location for her pitches set her apart in the beginning of her Emerson career.

"We've had a lot of really good pitchers here at Emerson in my 18 years of being here. Neely might be the most consistent from a percentage standpoint [for] hitting spots," McElroy said. "That consistency has really helped us win more games this year at this point than we have maybe in the last two years."

Prior to coming to Emerson, Eddleston played for Wareham High School and for

See Eddleston, page 8

Tarp off LB, course changes direction

Natalie Busch, Beacon Staff

Students signed up for the Partnered Studio: Projections on a Large Scale course expecting to display public art on Little Building tarp. But after exhibiting their art there for two weeks, the tarp rapidly disappeared as the construction progressed.

After initial frustrations, students refocused their efforts to pioneer the college's first Festival of Light and Sound.

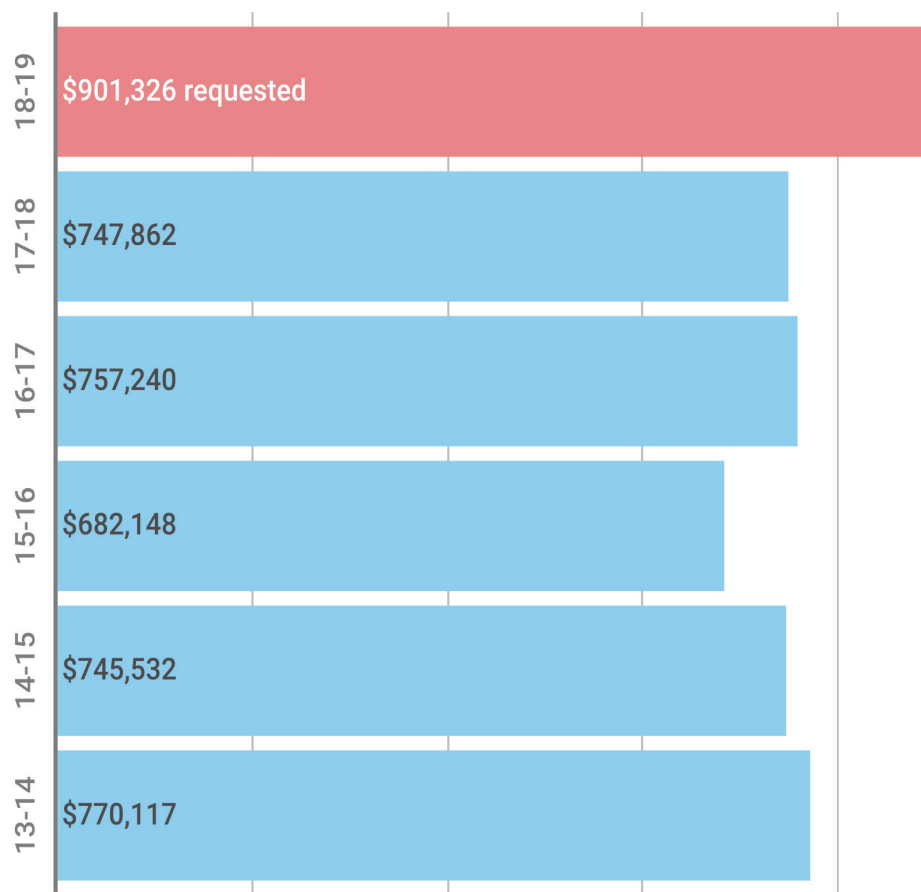
Professor Paul Turano said the festival, which was approved last week, will take place in the Boylston Place alleyway on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21.

"What we'd like to do is use the 1 Boylston [Place] space as an immersive environment to do multiple projections, projection on sculpture, projection mapping, and sound pieces," Turano said.

Professor Paul Turano created four different projects for the class, but expected to display more than one of them onto the Little Building tarp. Although he knew the canvas would not be present for the entire semester, Turano said he heard different estimates of when it would be unavailable.

"It was really hard to get a clear picture of when it was going to come down and what the timeline was, which from a teacher's perspective is kind of frustrating," Turano said. "We got one module in before it got too small to be viable for what we want to do."

See Uncommon Project, page 7



Organization requests up \$153,500 for next academic year • By Chris Van Buskirk • p. 2

Annual budget requests totaled \$901,326 for 2018-2019., according to SGA.
Laura King / Beacon Staff

Poet to speak at undergraduate commencement

Maya Gacina, Beacon Staff

The college named Billy Collins, the former official poet of the United States under the George W. Bush administration, to deliver the undergraduate class of 2018 commencement address this May.

Collins, whose work has been featured in publications like the New Yorker, Paris Review, and American Scholar, served as the United States Poet Laureate from 2001 to 2003. Collins also appears on National Public Radio.

The celebrated poet will receive an honorary degree alongside Massachusetts Supreme Court Justice and Emerson alumna Elspeth "Ellie" Cypher '80, award-winning film director Deeyah Khan, and bestselling novelist Tom Perrotta.

Senior Anahita Padmanabhan, Protesting Oppression With Educational Reform journalism senator, said the college's choice for the undergraduate commencement speaker is disappointing.

"Being a person of color at Emerson and in this class, and being involved in the activism that comes from the students of color, it's just kind of disappointing that it's another white guy," Padmanabhan said. "It kind of sucks that for all the hard work that the students of color in our class put in, it doesn't get reflected when

See poet, page 3

news

Organizations request more funding than 2017-18

Chris Van Buskirk, *Beacon Staff*

The Student Government Association's annual budget requests totaled \$901,326, a \$153,465 increase from last year.

ABR allows SGA-recognized organizations, and SGA itself, to apply for a yearly budget. Once organizations turn in their requests, SGA holds a private meeting to decide each organization's financial allocation for the following academic year and notifies them by June 1.

The money SGA allocates to organizations is funded directly by undergraduate students through an \$800 yearly charge called the student services fee.

For the 2017-2018 school year, organizations requested \$747,861 and SGA awarded \$647,146 to 81 student organizations. A year prior, organizations requested \$757,240 and SGA awarded \$589,334.

One aspect of the increase is the new SGA scholarship, which is funded in part by the student services fee.

SGA members said in previous meetings that the scholarship is aimed at student-leaders and will not be available to incoming freshmen or transfer students. SGA wants to raise \$50,000 by the end of the year for the fund. To start, they submitted an appeal request of \$25,000 and plan to find another \$25,000 in unspent organization money before school lets out for summer.

Executive Treasurer Ian Mandt speculated that SGA does not have enough money to grant every single request to the fullest extent. The student government estimated they can allocate a total of \$796,650 to organizations for the 2018-2019 school year—compared to the \$901,326 requested.

"I'm not surprised," Mandt said in an interview.

To decide the total amount of money available for allocation for any given year, SGA estimates the number of undergraduate students for the upcoming year. They then multiply this number by \$226—the amount of money SGA receives per year from the student services fee.

"That's always the case," Mandt said. "Every year we give out less than is requested, part of that is due to policies that we just can't fund certain things that are requested."

When deciding requests, Mandt said SGA adheres to the Financial Advisory Board's bylaws. According to the bylaws, when determining budget requests, SGA takes into account the number of active members, the benefit of the proposed spending to the student population, and if the organization spent its funding responsibly in

the past.

"The rest of it follows the priorities that organizations list," Mandt said. "If we get to the point where we need to start cutting things based not on policy, but on the actual availability of funds, then we start cutting based on what the lowest priority items are."

Low priority items are expenses an organization deems less important than those that come before them.

Mandt also said when an item gets cut, SGA provides an explanation in the form of a Google Documents comment. However, when an organization gets awarded a budget, they can spend the money on whatever they choose. If SGA cuts something the organization feels is important, they can reorganize their funds to pay for said item.

"It's not like an appeal where you are restricted to the things it's approved for," he said.

✉ c_vanbuskirk@emerson.edu

"Every year we give out less than is requested, part of that is due to policies that we just can't fund certain things that are requested."

College students to dress up for prom

Belen Dumont, *Beacon Staff*

As the semester reaches an end, the college plans to give all students another chance at prom. The throwback will include food, drinks, music featuring student-DJ Jon Bain, a photo booth, and a Nintendo Switch raffle prize.

The Residence Hall Association is hosting Emerson College PROM, a free formal spring dance, from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. in the Bill Bordy Theatre on Saturday, April 14.

Just like any classic prom, the RHA will decorate the Bill Bordy Theater in Emerson's colors—purple and white—with streamers, lights, and helium balloons.

"We're trying to do it as an end of the year thing, but without having it at the same time as finals," RHA Executive Board Member Patrick Kearns said.

RHA members have started handing out free dance tickets for organizers to keep count of the number of students attending. Sales are ongoing at the Dining Center and will continue until the day of the event at the door.

RHA Executive Board Member Rachel Levin said a dress code won't be enforced.

The RHA is student-run while advisors to the board are resident directors from Piano Row and Colonial Building. For the past two years, the RHA held a Yule Ball, a formal dance in December inspired by the Harry Potter series. Levin said prom seemed like more of an all-encompassing theme, compared to the Yule Ball, which might have turned away non-Harry Potter fans.

"This will definitely be our biggest event," Levin said. "We've been revamping RHA this year, by having more events."

RHA planned four events this year, including Paint-a-Pumpkin in October, Mason jar-decorating in November, Sweaters & Sweets—a decorating gingerbread people event in December, and a Super Bowl party at Center Stage in February.

"We've never done this exact event before," Kearns said.

According to the Facebook Emerson PROM page, 164 people are interested in attending.

✉ belen_dumont@emerson.edu



Patrick Kearns, an RHA executive board member, helped plan the prom taking place on Saturday. *Hardik Pahwa / Beacon Staff*

2020 President requests diverse recruitment efforts

Stephanie Purifoy, *Beacon Staff*

Class of 2020 President Christopher Henderson-West said Emerson should put forth a greater effort to diversify recruitment at the Student Government Association's meeting on April 10.

SGA hosted Director of Financial Aid Angela Grant and Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Data and Analytics Eric Sykes to discuss the college's admission and recruitment process.

Sykes said the college recruits students from areas that contain the highest numbers of graduating high schoolers and from areas where a high number of applicants applied in the past.

Within these cities, Sykes said the college looks for places with affordable venues to host

recruitment events. The school also checks for any an alumni connection in the area who could potentially host the event—saving the college money.

"I completely understand being cost effective and trying to find diversity. But at what point do you sacrifice students for cost?" Henderson-West said.

Sykes said the school engaged in conversations about the lack of scholarships for people of color—a point brought up last

semester in the petition created by Protesting Oppression with Educational Reform.

"There are multiple difficulties there," he said. "Part of it is the cost factor. In terms of financial awards, the cost to move that needle of diversity is very high, and it means shifting money into different areas and would affect students that are currently here."

"I completely understand being cost effective and trying to find diversity. But at what point do you sacrifice students for cost?"

On the admissions side, Sykes said Emerson provides diversity and cultural competency training to everyone who reviews applications.

SGA also approved two appeals. EVVY awards received \$30,148 for rental of the Cutler Majestic Theatre, walkie-talkies for the crew, lights, and set equipment with a vote of 10 yes and one abstention. SGA also granted Emerson International \$1,557 to purchase food for their international food festival on April 13 with a vote of 10 yes and one abstention.

✉ stephanie_purifoy@emerson.edu

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.

Wednesday, April 4

The Emerson College Police Department and Boston Fire Department responded to a fire alarm in the Tuffe Performance and Production Center. The departments determined a broken sprinkler valve caused a flood. Facilities Management responded by shutting the water valve off to make repairs and clean up.

An Emerson vendor reported to ECPD that they were assaulted by a co-worker. The matter is under investigation.

A student found a camera case inside the Ansin Building and turned it in to ECPD. Upon further inspection, ECPD found possible drugs and drug paraphernalia inside. ECPD seized the property for disposal.

ECPD responded to a report of a possible assault on Boston Common from a non-Emerson community member. The Boston Police Department responded to the incident and took over the investigation as it occurred off-campus.

Corrections & Clarifications

Last week's article "SGA under fire for lack of innovation" said 251 students voted in the Student Government Association elections, but the correct number is 265. A previous version also stated that Jessica Guida is the fifth consecutive white executive president, but she is actually the third consecutive white executive president but it has been five years of white women in a row.

IT takes steps to increase email security

Maysoon Khan, *Beacon Staff*

Information Technology department installed a new email security service, Mimecast, to improve the protection and proficiency of Emerson's databases.

The anti-spam, anti-phishing email service that filters out potentially malicious messages or links went into effect April 3, said Director of IT Infrastructure Frankie Frain.

In January, two faculty members were victims of phishing, or fraudulent email attacks. Three months later, Emerson IT bought and installed Mimecast to improve the filtering, detection, and monitoring of malicious messages, Frain said.

When a student receives an email Mimecast identifies as spam, they receive a separate email from Postmaster saying the message is on-hold. Students can then choose to release the email, block the sender, or permit the emails from the

specific address.

"I haven't been loving [Mimecast] because it's notifying me about all my work emails as spam," Samara DeBruyn, a sophomore and house usher for ArtsEmerson, said.

IT said they didn't anticipate the problems the new software is causing for students.

"We are working to remedy those hiccups in the system," Frain said.

The service also allows students to encrypt, or code, messages when sending sensitive content to outside parties. To encrypt, students must add '[encrypt]', '[sensitive]', or '[protect]' in the subject of the email. A guide available on Emerson's website offers a more

detailed explanation of the process.

IT also decided to move the eCommon system to Emerson's main website on April 8.

"The old eCommon in our opinion had too many roles and was often confusing," Frain said. "We decided to consolidate the [resources on eCommon] to the main Emerson website."

Frain said the old eCommon confused people, so consolidating it with the Emerson website will make it easier for users to find resources. Instead of links categorized under tabs, the new eCommon requires users to log in via Duo with a username and password through Duo, a service that secures campus resources like

Gmail and Canvas.

Logging in via Duo logs students and faculty into software like Panopto, the college's video service; Banner, an information management system; and Emerson Gmail.

"Duo's making it harder to access resources I otherwise had no problem accessing prior to the changes made. It's really frustrating," DeBruyn said.

The new eCommon also offers a two-factor authentication system for employees when accessing confidential data such as budget queries, timesheets, direct deposits, and other personal information. Two-factor authentication makes users provide a username and password and requires them to confirm the login with a security question or an external device.

✉ maysoon_khan@emerson.edu

"I haven't been loving [Mimecast] because it's notifying me about all my work emails as spam."

Permanent cultural committee addresses bias

Stephanie Purifoy, *Beacon Staff*

Members of the Educational Equity and Justice Committee have focused on the bias response program and worked with the Social Justice Center to construct a new staff position since becoming a permanent part of faculty assembly on Jan. 23.

Tim Riley, interim faculty assembly chair, said faculty formed the temporary committee—then titled the Ad Hoc committee on Cultural Competency—in May, 2015 after student protesters demanded diversity training for faculty.

"The faculty wanted to respond with some strong actions and really take a look at student demands and take them seriously," Riley said in an interview. "This committee was the quickest and most efficient way to make that commitment and devote faculty energy and resources to this."

Since becoming permanent, Miranda Banks, co-chair of the EEJC, said the committee put together the framework for a new associate director for faculty development and diversity. The position opened March 14, and the college is accepting applications.

This staff member will work with both the SJC and Academic Affairs to design diversity

workshops and support individual faculty members in need of additional training.

The EEJC also reviews the effectiveness and potential impact of the bias response program. The SJC designed the program to provide support for students affected by bias-related incidents.

Julio Villegas, press correspondent for Protesting Oppression With Educational Reform, said the organization would like to see the school put more emphasis on bias reports.

"We would love to see an increase in the prevalence of the bias report system," he said. "It's so important because it's part of our push for transparency and accountability. If someone wants a promotion or tenure, [the bias report] should show up and not as a little side note."

Students can submit an anonymous report online or contact the SJC to report incidents of bias. According to Emerson's webpage, it

does not serve as a disciplinary process but can refer students to deans or department heads if they believe a disciplinary action should be implemented. Banks did not comment on specific changes for the program.

Villegas said members of POWER work with the new committee to give student input. He said having a long-standing committee versus a temporary group gives the cultural organization more freedom.

"With a long-standing committee, we don't necessarily have to immediately worry about sacrificing some issues for others," he said. "It is significant and it is important because this can lay the groundwork for both short-term and long-term objectives and goals."

Banks said a permanent committee is necessary because of the changing nature of diversity and inclusivity.

"This isn't a problem that's easily solved. Year by year, the issues of inclusivity and the

question of how to make transformative change is going to shift given the state of things in our departments, on our campus, in the country and around the globe," Banks said, "We need to keep looking at new problems as they emerge, and how we as a campus respond."

Former Faculty Assembly Chair Robert Colby said the EEJC worked to diversify the curriculum over the past two years. They did this by calling for an audit of every course and ensuring each syllabus contains materials that represents a variety of perspectives and backgrounds.

By making the committee permanent, Colby said the college made a commitment to continue this work and look at diversity in other areas of the school.

"I don't pretend that we'll have the perfect solution but on issues like this, you have to be committed to staying in the dialogue and taking active steps," he said. "I'm a believer in talk but sometimes it has to be talk and doing. This is the doing step that a lot of students weren't certain was happening."

✉ stephanie_purifoy@emerson.edu

"With a long-standing committee, we don't necessarily have to immediately worry about sacrificing some issues for others."

Billy Collins to deliver class of 2018 commencement speech



Billy Collins, once named the official poet of the United States under George W. Bush, will deliver the undergraduate commencement speech. • *Courtesy of Michelle Gaseau*

Continued from page 1

we graduate."

During last year's commencement speech, speaker and mystery novelist Dennis Lehane—a 53-year-old white man—used the N-word.

Assistant Vice President for the Office of the President Anne Shaughnessy wrote in an email to the Beacon that the people Emerson selects to speak at commencement speeches often contribute to the welfare of society.

"[The recipients] made a substantial contribution to human knowledge or to an academic discipline or profession ... and have provided extraordinary leadership or support for the college," Shaughnessy wrote.

Khan, an Emmy and Peabody award-winning film director, will address the graduate class of 2018. The Norwegian-born director with Pashtun and Punjabi descent founded Fuuse, a media company that tells stories of those often silenced or ignored by the media, which includes women, minorities and third-culture children, according to the company's official website.

"You would think that's more along the lines of what Emerson would want to represent for both classes," Padmanabhan said. "I'm happy for them but it sucks to know that we got halfway there."

Senior Arden Jurskis, who is flying to Boston from Emerson Los Angeles for commencement in May, said his mom used to read him poems by Collins. But he said the college should have chosen someone a little more quirky and representative of Emerson to deliver the undergraduate commencement address.

"I think [Collins is] a better commencement speaker than they've had in a while, but it's just utterly not thrilling," he said. "We're all young and we're all like hungry for activism ... and they just picked some 77-year-old white guy who writes poems for grandparents."

The college will hold the undergraduate and graduate ceremony Sunday, May 13 in the Agganis Arena at Boston University. Both ceremonies will be live streamed at emerson.edu/live.

✉ maya_gacina@emerson.edu

SGA election results released

Executive President

Jessica Guida

Executive Vice President

Raz Moayed

Executive Treasurer

Ian Mandt*

Class of 2019 President

Ally MacLean

Class of 2019 Senator

Joseph Miranda

Class of 2020 President

Caroline King

Class of 2020 Vice President

Matthew Enriquez

Class of 2021 President

Joe DiRienzo

Communication Studies Senator

Annie Noel

Journalism Senator

Joseph Davidi

Marketing Communications Senator

Will Palauskas

Performing Arts Senator

Josh Schussler

WLP Senator

Megan Raible

*Rachel Levin is working out an agreement to become the equivalent of the Executive Vice Treasurer.

editorial

Don't ask students to fund scholarships

At issue:

An SGA-funded scholarship for student leaders

Our take:

Let's focus on the scholarships our student body demanded

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.

The college tells us our Student Services fee, an \$800 annual charge, is for funding resources for all undergraduates to use. So why is the Student Government Association planning to put a portion of this money toward a scholarship for student leaders?

SGA wants to create a scholarship for a student leader from an SGA-recognized organization. The money for this scholarship would come from the \$226 SGA receives from the student services fee. For the 2018-2019 school year, SGA estimated that the total funds available for allocation—at \$226 per undergraduate student—would be \$796,650. Orgs have already requested more than is available from this fund, so why should even more of that money come out to benefit just one or two students? The responsibility to provide funding for a student's education should fall on the college—not our wallets.

We've yet to hear details from SGA on the creation of the scholarship, or who it will be awarded to. They haven't

released any apparent criteria for what qualifies a student leader and have not announced who will choose the recipient. Considering the scholarship

Student organizations deserve the opportunity to grow and use our funds to improve every year—our collective budget shouldn't be going to an individual's scholarship.

will be funded by student money, it's concerning to see SGA budgeting our money for this without having the details fully fleshed out. Student organizations deserve the opportunity to grow and

use our funds to improve every year—our collective budget shouldn't be going to an individual's scholarship.

Discussing any new scholarships seems inappropriate when progress on scholarships for students of color—demanded by *Protesting Oppression With Education Reform* during the #ThisIsEmerson protest last fall—has been glacial. If the college pledges such a commitment to diversity, that's where our priority needs to be, not with new and unnecessary awards. Rather than offering another merit-based award, there should be more urgency in implementing progressive measures that the college claims to support.

We aren't afraid to beat a dead horse here at the Berkeley Beacon, so here's another reminder that this is your opportunity to have a say in how the college spends your tuition money. If this piece sparked any thoughts or feelings on annual budget request or the student scholarships, email them to SGA Executive Treasurer Ian Mandt at sga_treasurer@emerson.edu.

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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Website
berkeleybeacon.com

Phone
(617) 824-8687

Email
contact@berkeleybeacon.com

Office Address
Piano Row, Rm. L-145
150 Boylston St.
Boston, MA 02116

Twitter
[@BeaconUpdate](https://twitter.com/BeaconUpdate)

Editor-in-Chief
Allison Hagan

Managing Editor
Laura King

Advisor
Douglas Struck

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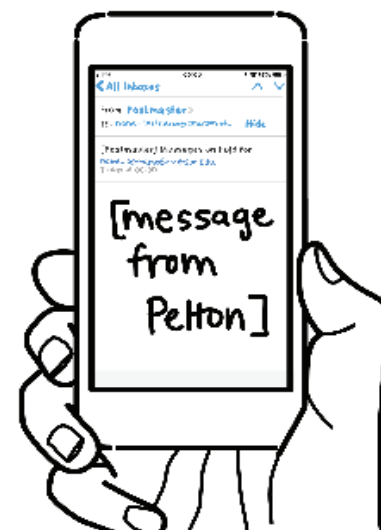
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Editorial Cartoon

by the Editorial Board
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Postmaster might start marking Pelton's emails reaffirming the college's commitment to diversity and inclusion as spam.



opinion

Insects won't kill you, but pesticides will

Amy Elvidge

Elvidge is the Campus Sustainability Coordinator at Emerson.

Last month I found a beetle wedged in the head of pre-washed organic lettuce from my Sun Basket meal delivery kit. The company promises “fresh organic and sustainable ingredients and recipes” delivered to my door. I know that organic means natural, not perfect, so the bug did not surprise me. I brushed it off and began chopping.

Like fifty-two percent of my millennial peers and I, Emerson College is also transitioning to organic products. Organic typically costs more than conventional, and Emerson is voting with its dollars to champion local organic produce when in season. This is good news, as substantial evidence shows the detrimental effects of industrial agriculture on our bodies and on the planet. The occasional insect found in our dining center pales in comparison to the dangers we could be consuming.

Decades of scientific research links

Organic farming is the opposite of industrial agriculture. It promotes diversity in plants and animals, encourages species resiliency, and restores the soil.

pesticides to numerous health problems, including certain cancers, symptoms of autism, ADHD, Parkinson's, asthma, and birth defects. Additionally, industrial agriculture expedites soil erosion, pollutes waterways, and relies on

fertilizers derived from fossil fuels that are heavy contributors to climate change. Not to mention, tens of thousands of industrial agriculture farm workers are poisoned by pesticide exposure each year.

Organic farming is the opposite of industrial agriculture. It promotes diversity in plants and animals, encourages species resiliency, and restores the soil. Plus, it's not covered with chemicals that harm people who grow and

I'll take an insect in my lettuce I can see over all the harmful chemicals I can't see.

eat organic. Research shows organic produce may have higher concentrations of vitamins and antioxidants than conventional produce, because organically grown plants have to boost their own production of phytochemicals to strengthen their resistance to bugs and weeds without the help of chemical pesticides.

There are trade-offs for organic produce consumers beyond the higher cost. Because organic plants have to fend off bugs without chemical pesticides, there is a stronger likelihood of aphids or caterpillars winding up in your Whole Foods kale or farmers' market corn. If we want healthier food in our eateries and a cleaner environment for our generation and future generations, we must learn to accept the inevitable imperfect produce.

I'll take an insect in my lettuce I can see over all the harmful chemicals I can't see. I encourage Emerson to continue its support of organic agriculture and not shut it out for fear of a few bugs.

✉ amy_elvidge@emerson.edu



The occasional insect found in our dining center pales in comparison to the dangers we could be consuming. • Photo Illustration by Lala Thaddeus / Beacon Staff

Weighing the costs of creativity

Allison Hagan

Hagan is a junior journalism major and Editor-in-Chief of the Beacon.

I wanted one thing when I graduated eighth grade—a digital single-lens reflex, or DSLR, camera. Both of my grandmothers planned to collaborate on the gift, so I felt certain my photography career would soon begin. At first glance I adored the black Nikon Coolpix L120, but upon further inspection I realized they bought me a point-and-shoot camera, void of any the settings or capabilities I fantasized about learning to use.

The type of camera I wanted was too expensive, my parents said.

Success in photography, filmmaking, painting, and countless other forms of visual art are dependant on the tools an artist can access. You can't paint like Claude Monet using a toothbrush and food coloring, and you can't shoot like Annie Leibovitz using a point-and-shoot or an Android manufactured in 2011. Young artists that lack financial means to purchase expensive equipment and software should not allow these challenges to discourage them from pursuing their passions.

For years, I looked at high-resolution photos of white girls sitting in sunflower fields with envy, taken by kids my age who could afford professional cameras and pricey editing software. I promise I am not ungrateful—believe me when I say I tried to work with the tools I had handy. My photos didn't look anything like those that inspired me to pursue the medium. There was something off about my images that I could not identify. When the time to upgrade to a smartphone arrived, I made a regrettable decision to purchase

an Android phone equipped with a grainy, blurry camera that also produced unsatisfactory results. My pictures just looked like pictures, not interesting works of art. Now that I understand how to make a photograph, I realize it was impractical to hold myself to such a high standard.

Digital photos are produced by exposing a camera's sensor to light. Cell phones and point-and-shoot devices often possess small sensors, which limits the image quality potential. The cheapest DSLR on the market costs \$500, with an additional \$50 if you want a year of insurance. The average 35mm film cameras cost \$50 online—with an additional \$3.29 per roll and around \$12 to develop each. A subscription to Lightroom and Photoshop costs \$10 per month. Additional tripods, lenses, lights, flashes, memory cards, external hard drives, negative carriers, ink, and photo paper all add up. I worked throughout most of high school, but saving this much money felt unattainable as someone earning \$7.25 an hour.

I continued to create in the ways I could, but I believed I did not possess whatever artistic gene allowed local skater boys to take such sharp portraits of their cute friends. I found my grandmother's 35mm point-and-shoot and tried to start making art, but the camera would stop working in the middle of the roll every time. Those rolls still sit on my dresser because I couldn't afford to develop them, but I still enjoyed every moment of shooting high school parties and random adventures. I wouldn't feel satisfied producing half-used rolls today, but I'm glad I kept trying.

Emerson provides students from any socioeconomic background with

opportunities to get involved with the photography program. This year, the visual and media arts department allotted each person in the program six rolls of free film—and this is not the only way the college can provide support. By applying for the Emerson Enhancement Fund, students with identified financial need can ask the college to fund a photography minor or Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Film and developing costs for these classes can run high, but the fund allows the college to purchase the necessary materials for eligible students. Students enrolled in photo classes receive access to the Equipment Distribution Center, where they can check-out a variety of DSLRs, film cameras, tripods, and lights to complete assignments.

As members of an artistic community, we must all contribute to ensuring our spaces are accessible. Make a point to appreciate lo-fi, do-it-yourself art. Expand the Instagram accounts you follow beyond professional, established photographers. Support creators still struggling to figure out how to live as working artists.

Don't allow perceived aesthetic standards of success to discourage you from pursuing a passion. Rich parents and easy access to the woods provide some with a leg-up in this medium, but these advantages alone do not make an artist. Don't give up—I promise seeing your first darkroom print sheen in the light will make the struggle worth it. The challenges you face finding the means to execute your visions will make you a versatile, innovative creator capable of facing any adversity.

✉ allison_hagan@emerson.edu



As members of an artistic community, we must all contribute to ensuring our spaces are accessible. Courtesy of Allison Hagan

living arts

Science Chick experiments with science and comedy

Ally Rseza, *Beacon Staff*

On her Bumble dating profile, senior Suzie Hicks described herself as a female Bill Nye the Science Guy while she worked at the New England Aquarium last summer. Her friend suggested she change the description to Suzie Hicks the Science Chick, and her boss told her to make it a TV show.

Hicks and senior Kate Bell co-created “Suzie Hicks the Science Chick,” a satirical science show produced by Emerson Independent Video this spring. Informing viewers about plastic in a variety show format, the first episode includes a band called the Fact Checkers who remix “Under the Sea” and a sketch that teaches students how to avoid plastic waste at a party. The series will have two installments, with episode one available on YouTube.

“I want to be the person to be like, ‘Hey, we’re going to talk about the environment, but you’re going to have fun doing it,’” Hicks said. “And [I want to] make people realize that they are like an ambassador to the Earth, and they do make a difference—whether it’s good or bad—on the way the ecology works in the world.”

Hicks said “Nathan for You,” a comedic docu-series about business on Comedy Central, and “Round Planet,” a parody of Planet Earth on BBC, set the template for her show’s style. She said Bill Nye’s impact on education, despite the backlash he’s received for not having a doctorate’s degree, inspired her the most.

“Environmental advocacy has to change, because you shouldn’t have to have a Ph.D. to be able to tell somebody how to change the world,” Hicks said.

She said her team contacted Bill Nye’s publicist to receive feedback on the show, but they have yet to receive a response.

Bell said she felt happy to help out when Hicks approached her with the idea. She said her background in TV worked well with Hicks’s

background in science. The two aim to empower women through the show.

Bell said she and Hicks wanted to hire an entirely female crew but couldn’t find enough women to fully staff the show. She said they succeeded in making women the majority, with a staff of 12 women and nine men.

Bell said the educational comedy stands apart from everything else on Emerson Channel and EIV.

“There’s nothing out there that has feminism and education,” Bell said.

Amy Elvidge, Emerson’s sustainability coordinator, appeared as a guest on the show.

Elvidge said she loved how Hicks combines comedy and solutions for individuals to preserve the environment, and hopes to see more participation at Emerson’s environmental events.

“[Her solutions] are easy things,” Elvidge said. “They don’t cost money, and most people can do them. I support the mission, and I’m really glad she decided to take this on.”

Hicks organized an Out of the Darkness Walk, an event from the nationwide campaign for suicide

prevention. Hicks said she lacks sleep, but she recommends others to pursue everything important enough to sacrifice for.

“With graduating, I’m realizing that there’s never going to be a time in my life that I can do all of this with such ease,” Hicks said. “I might as well do them all while I have access to them and then chill afterwards.”

Hicks said she hopes her show will empower others to fight for the environment and to question how our society treats waste.

“College students, who often feel like they have so little power in the world right now, often have more power than they think they do,” Hicks said. “It’s just a matter of tapping into the resources they have accessible to them.”

✉ ally_rseza@emerson.edu

“I want to be the person to be like, ‘Hey, we’re going to talk about the environment, but you’re going to have fun doing it.’”



Suzie Hicks combines science, feminism, and comedy in her new EIV show. *Cullen Grazen / Beacon Correspondent*

Music Column: Chicago rap rises from underground



Joseph Green
Green is a junior visual and media arts major and the Beacon’s music columnist.

The history of hip-hop tends to focus on music from the coasts. When the genre was born in the 1970s, most of its early pioneers came from New York City. Later, in the 80s and early 90s, California artists unleashed their own take on rap music. After this, it became common practice to define hip-hop as a struggle between the East and West Coast, with little attention paid to anything in between.

In the last few years, changes in the recording industry—in particular, the advent of accessible distribution platforms like SoundCloud—have led to a rise in underground hip-hop across the country. In particular, the city of Chicago has become a wellspring of alternative rap. Empowered by the success of local talents like Chance the Rapper, a new generation of Chicago artists has created some of the most exciting hip-hop of the last five years. Their music is diverse, creative, and underrated.

Mick Jenkins is one of my favorite rappers of this Chicago new wave. Like many of his contemporaries, Jenkins sounds best not on polished studio recordings, but on the more intimate format of the free mixtape. Without having to worry about releasing a hit single or

reaching the top of the charts, he can focus his energy on creative production and complex lyricism.

On his 2018 mixtape *Or More, the Frustration*, Jenkins collaborates with THEMPeople, a production team that contributed to developing a distinct Chicago sound. “Go Time,” the first track on the tape, features a delicate keyboard line that sounds like a lullaby. On “Energies,” from a project earlier this year, the beat samples a ticking clock. In their work with Jenkins and his peers, THEMPeople and other Chicago producers have cultivated a warm, glittery style that contrasts the thudding basslines and icy 808s of popular rap.

More so than his beats, however, Mick Jenkins has gained recognition for his high concept, socially-conscious lyrics. His past projects focused on a single theme. On his 2014 mixtape *The Water[s]*, water serves as an extended metaphor for truth across the entire tape. His debut studio album, *The Healing Component*, explores love in all its forms—from romantic, to platonic, to spiritual. This thematic cohesiveness persists across Jenkins’ discography.

On *Frustration*, Jenkins shows off his range as a writer. He talks about childhood trauma

on some songs, such as “6 AM Matinee” when he raps, “I had the knowledge on me early / I knew violence from an early age / I knew dollars couldn’t save me / way more focused on those pearly gates.” Elsewhere he is less serious, speaking of his love for thrift shops on “Rags” or ducking out of a bad party early on “Cry if you Want.” Whether he is discussing trivial matters or deep truths, Jenkins’ lyrics are meticulously crafted, a treat for the attentive listener.

“For any rap fan who has grown bored with the mainstream, I urge you to take a trip to Chicago.”

Chicago hip-hop is a close-knit community, but it never feels walled off or exclusive. New talents emerge in the scene often, and always receive support from established artists. One of the most promising new voices of the last few years is Freddie Old Soul. Born Fredrianna Harris, Freddie Old Soul creates intimate, captivating poetry in the form of hip-hop.

Harris, like many Chicago artists, wrote poetry before she started rapping. Her lyrics attest to both her natural ability as a wordsmith and the countless hours she has spent developing her voice. On the song “GOOD” off her new mixtape *SINK*, she spits rapid-fire, multisyllabic rhymes in run-on sentences. It is difficult to untangle the meaning of a line like “you can feel the karma catch up / the rolled up backwoods /

the cry and laughter / the contradictions.” The longer I listen, however, the more I get lost in the texture of these lyrics. In Harris’ capable hands, words become more than just their meaning. Every syllable sounds sensuous and new.

Harris’ lyrics do not prioritize style over substance. Her 2017 song “So Beautiful” discusses her complicated relationship with her beauty routine—a topic seldom touched upon in the male-dominated world of rap. “Beauty and pain attend the same church,” she says in one simple but gut-wrenching lines. In the next line, she personifies her self-image as an abusive lover, begging it to “punch me in the jaw and wrap your hands on throat / throw me out of car and tell me I’m a joke.” The song is raw and confessional, but it does end on a hopeful note. “This pain is kind of beautiful / how I rise out of that coffin,” she says. Freddie Old Soul has yet to gain much recognition, but with her thoughtful lyricism she carries the torch of Chicago hip-hop into the future.

Mick Jenkins, Freddie Old Soul, and their contemporaries don’t sound like anyone else in rap today. Their production is inventive, and their lyrics are engaging and poetic. I enjoy popular hip-hop, but these artists remind me why I fell in love with the genre in the first place. For any rap fan who has grown bored with the mainstream, I urge you to take a trip to Chicago. I think you’ll find it a breath of fresh air.

✉ joseph_green@emerson.edu

Pop goes the evil weasel in alumnus' puppet show

Owen Murray, *Beacon Correspondent*

From a purple, faraway planet to the urban landscape of Queens, New York, Richard the Wish Weasel, along with his gang of puppets and aliens, grants wishes and fights battles against evil extraterrestrial demons.

Richard Downes III '15 is the puppeteer and main voice actor behind the comedic puppet show *Wish Weasel*. The show is about a puppet named Richard, a Wish-O-Mite—a species that gains energy from bringing misery to the human race—who is trying to change his ways.

Wish Weasel was written, produced, directed, and created by Dan McNamara, who graduated from School of Visual Arts in Manhattan. The *Wish Weasel* team hopes to air the show on local stations in New York, and to submit it to film and television festivals.



Richard Downes III hopes to air his puppet show, *Wish Weasel*, in stations around New York. • Courtesy of Richard Downes III

"[The show] brings joy and the whole point of the wish weasel is to make people smile."

"We filmed three episodes that make up a pilot, so that's the way we want to send it out. The big one we want to send it to is the New York Television Festival where a lot of network representatives go to look for pilots. Hopefully [we will] gain some notoriety and make it a full-fledged series," Downes said.

McNamara says he thinks the show would fit in well on Adult Swim or late night TV and appeals to a wide audience.

"The tone right now, it's got a bit of an edge, but it's really funny and silly, and I don't see how it could be offensive to a younger audience," McNamara said.

At first, McNamara funded *Wish Weasel* himself. Though the show is almost finished taping, its Indiegogo page remains open. So far, they've raised about \$1,600 of their \$5,000 goal.

Downes said old school cartoons and Jim Henson films influenced *Wish Weasel*.

"It's in the vein of 80s cartoons and movies like *The Dark Crystal*, *Labyrinth*, and, of course, *The Muppets*," Downes said.

McNamara described the show as a unique blend of genres.

"It's an ironic take on over-commercialized kids shows from the '80s and '90s ... It's kind

of like if John Carpenter did *Fraggle Rock*," McNamara said.

Downes said he first pursued puppetry and performing at Emerson. He performed with the comedy sketch troupe *Police Geese* and wrote jokes for the Emerson Channel show *Breaking News*.

"I was really blessed to be a part of these projects and organizations," Downes said. "It was really the right time when these shows were trying to find their voice, and a lot of that collided with my unique comedy and wackiness."

While at Emerson, Downes used puppets in his parodic, one-man adaptation of *The Lion King* called *The Loony King*, which eventually helped him land the position of puppeteer and main voice actor on *Wish Weasel*. He got the job through a post on the Emerson Mafia Facebook page.

"At first it was kind of difficult, because he's

not a puppet like Kermit the Frog where you move your hand as if it was a mouth. His mouth is moved by a pulley system," Downes said. "It's a lot more elaborate than puppets I have made, so it was a very difficult process."

In addition to puppeteering and voice acting, Downes does a monthly standup show in New York City called the *Duck Show* which has a similar tone to *Wish Weasel* and also features puppets.

McNamara said that he hopes to start submitting *Wish Weasel* to festivals by the end of the summer.

"When it's finally finished I'm going to be very happy, and I think everyone who sees it will be happy too," McNamara said. "It brings joy and the whole point of wish weasel is to make people smile."

✉ owen_murray@emerson.edu

Uncommon Project course shifts focus to festival

Continued from page 1

The class proposed a text-based module to project on the LB elevator shaft, Turano said, but administration rejected the proposal due to concerns over the text distracting drivers. As a result, Turano said the class decided to focus entirely on the final festival.

"The students have felt, and I agree, that given how much time we have left in the semester, all our resources should be put towards that ultimate exhibition," Turano said.

Turano said he sent the proposal to Rob Sabal, dean of the School of the Arts. He said he has also been working with Brooke Knight, chair of the department of the visual and media arts department, Margaret Ann Ings, vice president for government and community relations, and Joseph Ketner, curator of the Uncommon Project.

Turano said he has received support from administrators, but there is not a protocol in place to help students to display public art.

"As I'm learning about the system, I'm seeing that there are certain people that can do certain parts," Turano said. "But I'm not aware of one person who can just be like, 'Here's how we can get this to happen. Here's who you need to talk to.' It's more like learning as we go."

Turano said he wished Emerson hired a public art coordinator, or someone to create a protocol for engaging with the community through art.

"We're excited to be the first people to do [the festival], but we would like it to be a little easier, and for the path to be a little less vine-riden," Turano said. "We're hacking away with machetes a little bit."

Devan Brady, a marketing communication graduate student, wrote the proposal's cover letter. Brady said she took responsibility for logistics and communicating with administration, and drew on her experience as a film set production coordinator. She said her



The Festival of Light and Sound will occur on April 20 and 21. • Justin Scott Johnson / Beacon Staff

classmates have used their strengths to help make the festival a reality.

"If [students] have a passion or interest and they think that they can be beneficial to our process overall, they've tried to step up and be in those different areas for us," Brady said. "It's been very organic."

Jake Bridgman, a junior visual and media arts major in the class, said the course is teaching him about advocating for public art.

"We want to make public art. What are the

hurdles we have to jump over to make that a reality?" Bridgman said. "So we're figuring that out as a process. A bit of a bubble version of the real world."

Brady said she hopes their work will pave the way for future endeavors.

"If we can get this done successfully and showcase everything it would be a great starting point for other classes and other students if they wanted to continue this festival year to year," she said.

Turano said his student's creativity and critical thinking abilities in the face of uncertainty impressed him.

"The course was designed for them to share their art with the community and I think they feel that everything is very abstract right now," Turano said. "And without any concrete ideas about what we're going to do, it's really hard to design projects when things are not clear."

✉ natalie_busch@emerson.edu

sports



Lions aim for playoff spot after hot start

Dylan Rossiter, *Beacon Staff*

Emerson softball is poised to make the playoffs for the first time since joining the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference in 2014.

The Lions, 15-9 (3-7 NEWMAC), were picked to finish in last place in the conference's preseason coaches' poll. However, with six games left in NEWMAC play the team is within one spot of a postseason bid. All the team needs now is to win the majority of their final six conference games.

"We can make the playoffs, and we will make the playoffs so long as we keep playing our game," senior infielder Jillian Gearin said. "We need people to just kind of figure out what we do. All of us have been playing softball for almost 12 years at least. We know the fundamentals."

The Lions split their first three outings—all of which were doubleheaders—with teams picked to finish multiple standing slots above them: Mar. 24 vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute (W 9-6, L 9-5), Mar. 30 vs. Wellesley College (L 9-5, W 7-4), and Mar. 31 Springfield College (W 2-1, L 6-1).

Coach Phil McElroy said getting picked to finish last by his colleagues invigorated his squad.

"I think we took it as a little bit of an insult, a little bit of a shot at what may be the respect that used to be there," McElroy said. "Maybe we had to look at ourselves in the mirror and say, 'Hey,

maybe they're looking at us as a team that is not competitive."

The Lions—who boast a team batting average of .440—struggled last weekend, as they were outscored 21-4 in four straight NEWMAC losses.

"This weekend was a little bit of a struggle, but I think it also is a little bit of a wakeup call," Gearin said. "I pulled the returners together after the game and said, 'Make sure you remember this isn't last season.'"

Gearin said that in past seasons off-the-field commitments hurt the team, but that this year has been different.

"The past three years have been very difficult for all the seniors, and last year we decided to make a change," Gearin said. "We said, we need to make sure people are lifting three to four times a week, and that people are putting softball first aside from academics."

McElroy said he is satisfied with the team's efforts.

"Overall, I think it has been a pleasant surprise the way we've played," McElroy said.

Emerson next hosts Smith College for the second annual Sexual Assault Awareness Game. The doubleheader starts at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 13, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Council is providing Shake Shack catering for the event.

✉ dylan_rossiter@emerson.edu

🐦 @ByDylanRossiter



Jillian Gearin steps up to the plate during a recent game. • Courtesy of Jillian Gearin

Freshman pitcher dominates NEWMAC

Continued from page 1

different club teams, including the Canton, Massachusetts based New England Dirt Dogs. Eddleston said playing club softball helped her adjust to the college game and contributed to her success so far this season.

"Playing with a good club team help me adjust a lot because people who play on club teams usually play in college so those good hitters [I faced] are coming to college when I'm coming to college," Eddleston said. "It was somewhat of an easy adjustment."

During the summer of her sophomore year of high school, Eddleston traveled to Italy with the Dirt Dogs to help promote softball and campaign to get it back into the Olympics

for the 2020 Tokyo games. The International Olympic Committee added the sport back to the Olympics, along with baseball, during summer 2016. Eddleston said the experience of traveling to Italy was very exciting.

"We went to Milan, Florence, and Rome and it was a lot of fun and it was a cool experience," Eddleston said. "We played a lot of really good Italian teams, and some not so good Italian teams but it was fun to interact with them, learn about their culture, and go sightseeing."

Eddleston came to Emerson because of its reputation as a film school and she studies visual and media arts at the college. She and a group of friends entered the Spring Film Festival this year and Eddleston said although they didn't win anything, they had fun.

"In high school I took a lot of film classes because it really interested me, and I wanted to continue that [in college]," Eddleston said. "I wanted to do something I was interested in instead of business [which] is not that fun."

With four-year pitcher Tsamis graduating in May, McElroy said Eddleston's standout freshman season makes him feel positive about the team's future.

"I think it gives the team confidence not only for this year but going forward," McElroy said. "I think everyone is confident and feels good about the future."

The Lions sit in seventh place with a 3-7 conference record, which puts them one place out of the NEWMAC playoffs. Tsamis said that the team's goal for the season is to make the

playoffs for the first time, and that Eddleston will play a huge role if they make it.

"For her to pitch her heart out and completely just dominate the mound, I think she's going to play a huge role," Tsamis said. "I wouldn't doubt that she would pitch the first game in the playoffs and do very well there."

Tsamis said that Eddleston has already endeared herself to the team.

"Neely's so funny. When we're on the bench we hang out and we eat Fruit Loops from time to time," Tsamis said. "She has a very good energy about her and she works really well with the team overall."

✉ kyle_bray@emerson.edu

🐦 @KBray63

Softball hosts sexual assault awareness game



The softball team raised \$1000 for RAINN at last year's event. • Courtesy of Jillian Gearin

Dylan Rossiter, *Beacon Staff*

During Jillian Gearin's junior year, a discussion about Colin Kaepernick and other sports figures using their platforms to promote social causes came up in her sports reporting class. The conversation got the infielder thinking about what Emerson's softball team could do to help the college community.

"I got the idea in my sports reporting class when we were talking about NFL players taking a knee during the national anthem and athletes using their platforms," Gearin said. "I realized that even though we're D3, and a small school we still have a platform and sexual assault is a really big problem on campuses, so we decided to tackle that one."

On Friday, Gearin, her softball teammates, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Council are teaming up for the second annual sexual assault awareness game to help end the stigma surrounding sexual assault.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, 11.2 percent of college students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation during their education career. Additionally, 4.2 percent of students reported experiencing stalking since entering college.

The doubleheader against Smith College—first pitch at 3 p.m.—will feature Shake Shack

catering and cookies for students. Attendees are encouraged to donate towards the cause. Proceeds will go to RAINN.

RAINN's website states it is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. The nonprofit helps survivors and their loved ones, changes attitudes and beliefs surrounding sexual violence, and creates more opportunities for justice.

Freshman pitcher Neely Eddleston said she is excited to participate in her first awareness game.

"It's really exciting. I've never done a game like this where we've raised money. I'm excited to see the turnout and to see how much money we actually raised," Eddleston said. "I know they did it last year and it was a huge success and I'm hoping this year it's an even bigger success."

As of 10:06 p.m. Wednesday, event donations totaled \$1,320. Gearin said they hope to raise at least \$2,500 this year, \$1,500 more than last year's total.

"It's just our way to make a difference in the world and remember that there is a life outside of softball," said Gearin. "We just want people to come, donate, and really just start the conversation about ending the stigma."

✉ dylan_rossiter@emerson.edu

🐦 @ByDylanRossiter