

Freshmen reflect on Emerson life



MBTA runs student-made videos



Men's and women's soccer previews



The Berkeley Beacon

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Class of '22 sees highest number of international first year students

Stefania Lugli, *Beacon Staff*

The Class of 2022 delivers the highest numbers of international students in the school's history. This follows the college's record-high number of applications for the 2018-2019 school year.

Out of 925 first-time undergraduates, about 16 percent, or 148 students, come from abroad, according to data provided by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The international freshmen represent 21 nations other than the United States, from regions including Asia, Central America, South America, and Europe. The continent of Asia, including Turkey, accounts for 122 of these students.

Ruthanne Madsen, the vice president for enrollment management, said the number of international applicants surprised her. International students made up about ten percent of the applicant pool. The college admitted nearly half.

Other demographics for new first-year students are consistent with last year's results.

This year, about 14 percent, or 130 students, self-identified as Hispanic, which reflects a similar rate from last fall.

Black or African-American students grew from three percent last year to four percent this year.

White students continue to represent the majority of enrollment at 57 percent, or about 528 students. The number declined from 64 percent, or about 598 students, last fall.

See *Asia*, page 2



EAGLE redefines acronym for inclusivity

By Grace Griffin • p. 7

Rachel Gaudet and Christopher Henderson-West spearheaded the EAGLE name change. • Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff

Bathrooms at 172 Tremont exclusively gender-neutral

Chris Van Buskirk, *Beacon Staff*

The Commons at 172 Tremont St. exclusively features gender-neutral bathrooms—the first building to do so—according to college officials.

The college decided to make bathrooms part of an effort to dedicate the \$24 million building to student spaces. The renovation will cost approximately \$2 million, according to an institutional master plan amendment the college submitted to the Boston Planning and Developing Agency.

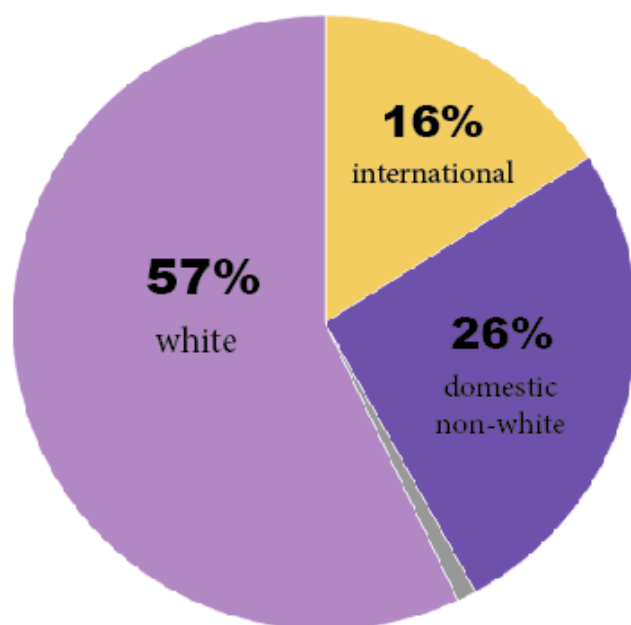
Christopher Henderson-West, president of Emerson's Advancement Group for Love and Expression, said inclusive bathrooms show Emerson's support for its students.

"Or at least [the college] is starting to take care of their LGBTQIA+ students and looking out for their well-being," Henderson-West said. "Even if it's something as simple as going to the bathroom."

The building, purchased last November, will not open in January 2019. Both the lengthy zoning approval processes and a search for contractors forced college officials to push the date back

See *Floor Plans*, page 2

Emerson College Freshman Class



● International ● Domestic non-white ● Unknown ● White

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions enrolled the highest number of international students in college's history this fall semester. • Graphic by Allison Hagan / Beacon Staff

Religious and spiritual life director resigns

Nicole Poitras, *Beacon Staff*

Harrison Blum, director of religious and spiritual life and campus chaplain, will resign from his role on Sept. 21 for a position at Amherst College in Western Massachusetts.

Sharon Duffy, assistant vice president of student affairs, and James Hoppe, vice president and dean for campus life, sent out an email on Sept. 11 informing the college of Blum's departure.

"His compassion, quick wit, and thoughtfulness have been greatly appreciated and will be difficult to replace," they wrote in the email.

Blum said in an interview that accepting the role of director of religious and spiritual life and campus chaplain at Amherst College and relocating to Western Massachusetts is the best move for his family, though he wishes for better timing.

"I very much feel like this is sooner than I would have chosen, or liked, to have left Emerson in an ideal world," he said.

Blum starts his position at Amherst College in early October, and he looks forward to implementing similar programs like mindfulness

See *Chaplain*, page 3

news

About 80 percent of new international students from Asia

Continued from page 1

Madsen believes international students feel drawn to Emerson because of its ranking as a top ten school in the northeastern region, according to the U.S. News & World Report.

"The brand is very strong. The outcomes are very strong," Madsen said. "Our students do go on to do great things in the industries that they choose."

Madsen noted a pattern of decline amongst the international student enrollment at other universities nationwide.

"There are many schools reporting that their international enrollment is down," Madsen said. "So we were fairly aggressive with the number of students we admitted in the international population because it was a huge cloud of uncertainty. We didn't know what would happen."

42 percent of the Class of 2022 is considered diverse or multicultural. The college uses diverse as an all-encompassing term that includes both non-white and international students.

Emerson records enrollment data using the

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, or IPEDS. The system requires colleges to list international students as unknown, because the college doesn't require international students to disclose their race or ethnicity.

Domestic students who chose not to report their race or ethnicity in their application also fall under the unknown category. Unknown students are not considered diverse, according to Madsen.

Emerson currently lists international students as its own category, rather than placing them in the unknown category.

"If an international student is here, they should be considered in our diversity numbers," Madsen said. "They are bringing a diverse background, a diverse perspective. They are bringing a level of diversity that is important to our community."

Esme Wang, a freshman visual and media arts major from the Guangdong province in southeastern China, cited the VMA program and an accepting atmosphere as her motivation for enrolling at Emerson.

"We were fairly aggressive with the number of students we admitted in the international population."

"The film production program is pretty cool and really nice," she said. "I really wanted to come here. I heard that Emerson is pretty artsy and I just like the vibe."

However, Wang admits sometimes

she feels lost when professors lecture American-specific topics.

"It's kind of my choice to come to another country so I know that I might face some difficulties," Wang said. "I think it's kind of just a responsibility when you're choosing this. I want this, so I know it might take extra work for me to get as good as others."

Sophomore Anry Li, an international student orientation leader, connected with freshmen while working at the Office of International Student Affairs. Her work includes processing visas and guiding fresh faces.

"Most of them have trouble adjusting," Li said. "They say, 'I don't know how to talk with the local students,' or 'They speak too fast I cannot understand them.'"

With a large influx of international students, the college now faces the responsibility of aiding them in settling on campus. A working group involving enrollment management, academic affairs, the social justice center, and international student affairs evaluates potential need.

"That's our focus now," Madsen said. "We really are diving in to determine how we can help our students succeed here."

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Floor plans dedicated to inclusive student spaces

Continued from page 1

to sometime in spring 2019, according to Campus Center Director Joshua Hamlin.

A final approval hearing in front of the Boston Zoning Commission took place on Sept. 12. If the commission approves The Commons project, construction will begin by week's end, Hamlin said.

Vice President of EAGLE Rachel Gaudet is excited to see the college's promise to meet student needs come to fruition. Last semester, with other EAGLE they posted about 75 gender-inclusive bathroom signs all around campus, with slogans such as "Can you see us now?" urging the college to recognize a need for more gender-neutral restrooms in high-traffic areas.

"It's very positive to see," they said.

The building's floor plans include a community kitchen available to all on and off-campus students, which features a sink, microwave, oven, stove-top, and central island. Hamlin said the layout also promotes student interaction by introducing various seating arrangements.

"Our hope is that this will be open to students during the day as a lounge space [and] community space," Hamlin said.

The Commons will also see a new Cultural Center and Center for Spiritual Life. The fourth floor houses both centers with views of Boston Common and the CSL includes a private prayer room and an ablution room where Muslim students can take part in the traditional ritual of washing or cleansing themselves before prayer.

SGA President Jess Guida said the building sounds promising based on planned rooms, meeting spaces, and offices.

"I think it's hard to gauge what it's going to look [like] right now, but I'm still excited for it," Guida said. "I'm very hopeful."



Interior construction on The Commons should begin by the end of the week, pending a hearing with the Boston Zoning Commission. Kyle Bray / Beacon Staff

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SGA appoints new vice treasurer, commissioners

Hanna Marchesseault, *Beacon Correspondent*

The Student Government Association appointed two commissioners, the vice treasurer, and the executive secretary at their meeting Tuesday.

SGA unanimously approved Rachel Levin as vice treasurer, who works under the executive treasurer. The position assists with treasury forms, communicates with organization leaders, reviews potential appeals, and is a non-elected and non-voting member of SGA. Last semester, SGA did not fill the role. Levin spoke about her previous experience

"We can bridge the gap between faculty and students and I think treasury is a great place to do that."

as class treasurer and said SGA provides her with avenues to advocate for the student body. Levin also reworked the treasury handbook over the summer with Executive Treasurer Ian Mandt in the attempt to make it more accessible.

"We can bridge the gap between faculty and students and I think treasury is a great place to do that," Levin said.

SGA appointed Julia Stanton as executive secretary, a position that maintains written records, or minutes, of the Executive Board and Joint Session meetings. At the meeting Tuesday, she spoke about her time as secretary last semester and touched upon the writing

skills she brings to the position.

"I really enjoy being secretary because I love to write," Stanton said. "[Secretary] has remained my position in many clubs I'm apart of."

SGA unanimously approved Ann Zhang and Nola Elliffe for spiritual life commissioner and

health and wellness commissioner, respectively. Both candidates held the positions last year.

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Corrections & Clarifications

The November 30th article "Emerson declared sanctuary campus" incorrectly reported that Emerson is now a sanctuary campus.

Last week's editorial, "Bridging borders across majors," implied that the Writing for Television class is closed off to writing, literature and publishing majors. In fact, all 200-level VMA writing classes are open to all majors.

New local security companies hired to reflect college's values

Stephanie Purifoy, *Beacon Staff*

The college invited community members to an upcoming meet and greet with representatives of the two new security companies on campus, WesCon Protective Services and Northeast Security.

Emerson College Police Department, the Division of Student Affairs, and the Student Government Association will host the event on Sept. 25 in Center Stage from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The new businesses replaced Securitas, the college's security company of 13 years, in July.

ECPD Chief Robert Smith said the change stemmed from a desire to hire locally based operations that reflected the college's commitment to social justice.

"If we get locally based companies, if any issue arises where we really wanted to discuss [it] with the person that owns the company we can talk to them face to face," Smith said.

WesCon is a minority-owned company, and Northeast aligns with the Service Employees International Union, an organization for the rights of workers. SEIU includes a branch of Emerson staff members.

"We wanted companies who understood that we weren't just looking for people to watch the front desk but also serve as a member of our community and help our students when they need assistance," Smith said. "Our security team is a critical piece of campus."

Smith said colleges and universities usually hire multiple security companies. Emerson has not done so before.

WesCon services the Ansin Building and the Union Bank Building. It will also work The Commons at 172 Tremont St. when it opens in



Northeast is affiliated with the Service Employees International Union, an organization for the rights of workers. • *Abigail Noyes / Beacon Staff*

spring 2019. Northeast covers all other campus buildings. Smith said they did not assign the buildings this way in the contract negotiation for any particular reason.

Former employees of Securitas could apply for positions with the new companies. Smith said most of the people who applied received jobs, but he did not provide an exact statistic.

The college formed the Security Services Vendor Selection Committee with students and

staff members from the Social Justice Center, Campus Life, and Academic Affairs in January. After accepting applications from about 13 security companies, holding Q&A sessions with applicants, and conducting campus tours with each of them, the college settled with WesCon and Northeast.

Erik Muurisepp, associate dean for campus life and member of the selection board, said the college wanted companies that fit in with the

community.

"As an institution, we are always trying to make sure that we're committed to diversity and inclusion and socially just practices," he said. "We want to make sure that a security firm could understand that and also embody that."

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Campus chaplain resigns after two years

Continued from page 1

meditation and overnight interfaith retreats there.

Blum said his two years as director allowed him to connect, meditate, and laugh with a passionate and excited student community. Some of his favorite memories occurred while he participated in celebrations and events with students on-campus.

"Just walking into the cultural center and the students are playing 'Just Dance,' and they hand me a controller and there I am dancing," he said. "I feel like there's a lot of invitations to participate."

Despite the director's short time at the Center for Spiritual Life, he said his love for the school goes beyond the personal and professional experiences that shaped him as an educator.

Blum grew up across the Public Garden while the college still had performing arts buildings there.

"I grew up walking home from elementary school, hearing Emerson students rehearsing and performing," Blum said. "It's very meaningful for me to have had some of my adult life as an Emersonian."

There will be a reception on Sept. 20 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the private dining room to celebrate Blum's time at the college.

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Chaplain Harrison Blum will resign on Sept. 21 to start a new job at Amherst College in Western Massachusetts. • *Beacon Archive*

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.

Saturday, Aug 25

Staff at Barnes & Noble at Emerson reported that items were stolen from the bookstore.

A contractor reported that their backpack was stolen while working in front of the Colonial residence hall.

ECPD and BPD investigated a report of disturbance between two parties with no Emerson affiliation near the Colonial residence hall.

Monday, Aug. 27

ECPD and the BFD responded to a fire alarm in

the Colonial Theatre. The cause was unknown, and there were no reported injuries.

Friday, Aug. 31

Someone reported that two people were inside Walker Building. ECPD found the individuals and escorted them out of the building.

Sunday, Sept. 2

Two parents reported their cars were hit, causing minor damage, while moving their students into 12 Hemenway residence hall. The involved party came forward, and they exchanged the necessary paperwork.

Tuesday, Sept. 4

ECPD escorted a community member to campus who was approached by an unknown person asking for money.

Wednesday, Sept. 5

A Lyft driver and an Emerson affiliated person got into a dispute. ECPD and BPD advised the community member to contact Lyft's main office.

Thursday, Sept. 6

A student reported they were assaulted while walking. The student was not injured.

Friday, Sept. 7

A student reported that someone broke in and stole from their off campus residency. BPD is investigating the crime.

ECPD, The Office of Housing and Residence Life, and The Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct confiscated marijuana

from a suite.

ECPD assisted BPD with an investigation concerning suspicious activity from a person with no Emerson affiliation at Piano Row residence hall.

ECPD and BFD responded to a fire alarm in the Dining Center. The alarm was caused by burnt pizza. There were no fires or injuries.

Saturday, Sept. 8

ECPD found marijuana and drug paraphernalia inside a lost-and-found bag. They confiscated the items and placed them into evidence for disposal. The owner of the bag is unknown.

editorial

Change still needed with co-curricular organizations

At issue: Student workload increases.

Our take: Don't take advantage of us.

Editorials are written solely by Editor-in-Chief Shafaq Patel, Managing Editor Kyle Labe, Opinion Editor Hannah Ebanks, and Deputy Opinion Editor Katie Schmidt 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.

Student organizations are a huge aspect of Emerson culture. And the system was pretty loose. For example, at the Beacon, if you contributed on a regular basis and worked in the publication, you could earn a non-tuition credit. Now, after a process that took over a year, co-curricular organizations' requirements make them feel more like class.

We coasted along in this weird space of a credit that wasn't a class and evidently wasn't sustainable. We understand where the need for change came from—we don't mind working hard. But we think we can make more changes. So we, the editorial board, vouch for an eight-credit system to reward our efforts throughout our Emerson careers.

The committee behind the change included members of Student Engagement and Leadership, Academic Advising, Student Government Association, and student leaders. Feedback from course evaluations and focus groups inspired the restyling. The committee aims to create a process that

it lacked.

As it stands, students in co-

We put in more work, more effort, more energy, and remain uncompensated. We continue without pay, credit, or remunerative acknowledgement from the administration.

curriculars can only earn up to four non-tuition credits. Even through these

changes and the total restructuring of these organizations, the four-credit system endures. Many student leaders already received four credits despite increased workloads and positions. We put in more work, more effort, more energy, and remain uncompensated. We continue without pay, credit, or remunerative acknowledgement from the administration. Instead, despite the college consisting of mainly student-run co-curriculars, a bureaucratic force controls us.

If students acclimate to working for less reward, they may fall for similar circumstances, such as unpaid internships. Emerson doesn't even pay orientation leaders for their efforts. This leads students to accept bureaucratic red tape that can exploit their labor. As young adults, students must learn that their services and efforts deserve compensation in order to seek fulfilling jobs.

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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The creative minds
of Emerson hard at
work.



opinion

New students share first impressions of Emerson Freshmen adapt to new surroundings

Starting at Emerson, or any college, is a daunting experience for many students. We reached out by email and on social media to ask new students: “It’s the first few weeks of your college experience here at Emerson. What are your expectations for your first semester? What is something you learned about yourself so far that’s surprised you? Has life at Emerson been how you imagined it?”



Starting at Emerson, or any college, is a daunting experience for many students. • Illustration / Ally Rzesza

Xinyi Gao

Gao is a freshman visual and media arts major from Shanghai, China

Back in China, I pretended to be a version of myself which pleased everyone around me. My goal, for this semester, is to stop acting. As a teenager I realized I am neither the nice girl nor the perfect kid my parents, teachers, and friends wanted me to be. I faded into these roles to not disappoint. I moved to Emerson without a name or expectations. The first day in my dorm room, I took a deep breath and introduced myself to my roommate as the person I wished I could have been in the past. She was not scared and told me, “You’re cool, and I like you a lot.” I am glad she accepted me for the truest version of myself, which everyone is going to see this semester.

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Megan Ochoa

Ochoa is a freshman journalism major from San Diego.

I was hesitant about immersing myself in a place that experiences all the seasons. But Emerson faculty and students welcomed me with the same warmth as the California sun. Plunging into journalism courses straightaway was a unique surprise, and it excites me for what is to come this semester. Instead of filling freshman year with general-education courses, there are many opportunities to go out and be a journalist. And with the abundance of student organizations, I signed up for anything that remotely interested me. Life at Emerson, so far, has exceeded my expectations because of all the resources and opportunities given to students. I am excited for the upcoming years.

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Damica Rodriguez

Rodriguez is a freshman journalism major from Cameron, N.C.

Arriving at Emerson felt liberating. The independence, the community, and the alluring creative spaces drew me in the moment I stepped foot in my dorm. A year ago, my dream of being a doctor was a path filled with uncertainty, while my passion for writing and expressing my innermost thoughts through words was my home. Now I stay in that home, with Emerson being a land where I can seize every opportunity without a second thought. Embarking on this journey can have daunting moments, but what lies ahead is filled with new destinations, exciting adventures, and living life joyously. I can honestly say that my greatest self is slowly unraveling.

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Katie Marks

Marks is a freshman journalism major from Taunton, Mass.

Transitioning from a small high school in suburban Massachusetts to a college in the heart of Boston is like being thrown into an ice pool without warning. I was an introvert throughout high school, but Emerson allows me to open up and try new things without fear of judgment or self-doubt. My first few weeks have been superb, and I am grateful that I chose Emerson to further my education. With so many organizations to participate in, so many nice people to befriend, and so many engaging courses to study, I know that this school is going to be home to a wonderful part of my life.

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Diti Kohli

Kohli is a freshman journalism major from Naperville, Ill.

Before college, I mentally prepared myself to dump my high school senior “top dog” status. Once I got here, I realized I missed the comfort of familiarity more than the sense of superiority. I wasn’t as ready to leave home as I thought I was. I missed the ability to wave at my peers in the halls and know the location of my perfect reading nook. Being the oldest and the most experienced didn’t seem to matter at all anymore. Today, two weeks into my time at Emerson, I am glad to say that I’m feeling more at home and closer to the quintessential college fantasy I created in my head.

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Eliza Fu

Fu is a freshman journalism major from Xiamen, China

Since it is my first time in the U.S., everything is new to me. After I committed to Emerson, I imagined millions of times how the U.S. would be and whether I would become homesick. It turns out that so far I don’t find myself as a foreigner. I’m just as comfortable as I would be at home. Maybe it is because the people here, from the orientation leaders to the staff in the Dining Center, are friendly and welcoming to me, or perhaps it’s because we are next to Chinatown and Chinese people are passing by every single day. Emerson makes me feel at home, and is an excellent start for an international student’s college experience.

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The opinion section sends out prompts periodically. If you are interested in responding to a prompt keep an eye on Beacon social media to see when we post.

living arts

Alumna podcast turns mental illness into superpowers

Ian Sloan, *Beacon Staff*

The main character in Marissa Tandon's narrative podcast "Super Ordinary" discovers her powers stem from her panic attacks and she needs help controlling them. Through the narrative, Tandon '16 hopes to bring awareness to issues of mental health while creating unique stories for a realistic protagonist, Anika.

Tandon will release "Super Ordinary" on Friday, Sept. 14 on all podcast apps, such as Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, and Google Podcasts. The first season will contain ten episodes. Tandon launched a Kickstarter for her podcast, which closed on Sept. 9 and reached its funding goal of \$1,500. The money will go to off-set production costs, paying the actors, and helping spread the podcast itself to a wider audience.

"With her anxiety, ['Super Ordinary'] is about Anika's inability to control her powers and the help and scorn she receives," Tandon said. "It's a subtle way of talking about anxiety in general and how a person can deal with it."

Tandon based "Super Ordinary" on her own experiences with mental illness. The original idea dates back to her time at Emerson when she won the Prose Fiction award at EVVY34 in 2015. Tandon revisited the work last year, and some of her friends recommended she turn the work into a podcast. She began working on "Super Ordinary" and sent the first script to the podcast category of the Austin Film Festival.

"When you go through the process with the Austin Film Festival, your idea is pitched to a bunch of executives from sites like Audible and other companies," Tandon said. "They all thought I had something special with the script."

Tandon decided to turn her prose into a podcast because of the new ways she could convey Anika's story using just voices.

"It is a challenge for the listener to get what they want out of a story through listening to Anika's voice and struggles," Tandon said.

Miya Kodama voices the podcast's anxious main character and she says she enjoys conveying Anika's complex personality. Kodama said playing a character with destructive superpowers is particularly challenging to convey with just her voice.

"Instead of using her power for good and helping people, Anika can't control them and hurts the ones around her," Kodama said. "It's just an absolute nightmare for those who actually go through panic attacks."

Kodama said she especially loves the relatability of Anika. She hopes audiences will un-



Marissa Tandon (squatting first row right) with the cast of "Super Ordinary." • Photo Courtesy of Marissa Tandon

derstand mental health issues more after listening.

"Anika struggles to get her side of the story out in a world that has cast her out," Kodama said. "That resonates with a lot of people and they hopefully will have a much better understanding of some with extreme anxiety."

David Bradburn '17 knew Tandon's struggles at Emerson and did not hesitate to take up a role on the project. Voicing a minor role as a train conductor, Bradburn hopes the project's reach will grow and inspire audiences to learn more about mental illness.

"I really want to see the podcast expand to tell even more stories to bring light to different mental health issues," Bradburn said. "It can be a way for people to explore issues like anxiety and depression through an atypical way like a

podcast."

Bradburn, a visual and media arts graduate, wasn't surprised that Tandon wanted to create her story through a narrative podcast.

"Marissa is the kind of person who loves superheroes and loves to tell the important stories," Bradburn said. "Getting the opportunity to write about people with mental illness is something that Marissa jumped at and wanted to share with the world."

Tandon said she knew she had the story and talent to make the narrative podcast work, but she needed funding to get the project off the ground.

"The success of the campaign allows us to focus on widening our reach and getting more people aware," Tandon said.

She started a Kickstarter, which she said was

the most stressful part of the development.

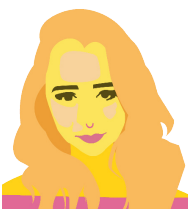
"It was my very first time doing crowdfunding, and we spent so much time reaching out and presenting the idea completely," Tandon said. "Asking people to fund an unfinished project is always difficult, and I know a lot of Emerson students need to kickstart their projects."

Tandon most importantly wants to get this story out so others who struggle with anxiety and panic attacks can hear themselves and know they are not alone.

"I really hope this resonates with people and they can relate to the struggles of Anika," Tandon said. "All I really want is for one person to feel a little less alone."

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She Goes Down: Time away shouldn't clear #MeToo abusers



Allison Hagan
Hagan is a senior journalism major, former editor-in-chief, and the Beacon's sex columnist.

Two weeks ago, and 10 months after he admitted to masturbating nonconsensually in front of five women, Louis C.K. took the stage for a surprise set at a comedy club in New York City. C.K., who made a joke about rape whistles during the set, received a standing ovation afterwards.

The comedian follows a long line of men whose careers survived abuse scandals without even a slight attempt at reparation. Bill Cosby did a surprise standup set while awaiting trial for three charges of aggravated indecent assault, to which a Pennsylvania court convicted him. Five of the six albums Chris Brown released after his brutal assault on Rihanna in 2009 went gold or platinum. There are reports that Matt Lauer, Mario Batali, Bill O'Reilly, and Charlie Rose have all started writing their comeback stories.

Despite the #MeToo movement going mainstream less than a year ago, ousted perpetrators of sexual harassment and assault slither their way back into the spotlight without any attempt to repent for their wrongs other than an apology statement.

The #MeToo movement aims to bring justice to victims of sexual abuse and harassment. Despite making sexual assault a topic of conversation, no criteria yet exists for what happens

after an accused public figure retreats out of the spotlight.

As Roxane Gay wrote in a New York Times op-ed following C.K.'s performance, people spend too much time discussing abusers and not victims. Zeroing in on the fate of an accused man's career negates the underlying point of #MeToo— to bring victims justice through sharing their stories.

Several comedians, such as Norm Macdonald and Michael Che, spoke out in support of C.K.'s comeback. "People have to be allowed to serve their time and move on with their lives," comedian Michael Ian Black said on Twitter. "I don't know if it's been long enough, or his career will recover, or if people will have him back, but I'm happy to see him try."

In his November 2017 apology, C.K. said he planned to "step back and take a long time to listen." So perhaps his attempt at a comeback after disappearing for almost a year should not be a surprise.

Black and C.K. both seem to think time is the solution to C.K.'s predicament. But why should time heal all wounds inflicted by famous abusers?

Allegations made against longtime CBS chief executive Les Moonves may turn out tangible reparation for assault survivors. Moonves stepped down three hours after the New Yorker published an article detailing allegations from six women.

The network pledged to donate \$20 million from Moonves' severance package to organizations that support the #MeToo movement once the internal investigation ceases. That sounds

like great news, yet Moonves' severance package still totals \$100 million. But media analysts predict that Moonves won't see a cent once CBS finds him guilty.

This donation, should it happen, could mark the first instance of someone on the side of the accused opening up their wallet willingly without a court order. Many accused men, like C.K., lost television shows and movie deals following

"Abusers can walk away and belittle the impact of their actions, but those they harmed are left traumatized and ostracized."

exposure of their crimes. \$20 million may be spare change to a huge corporation like CBS, but I would like to see more instances of companies coughing up cash in light of allegations instead of just contract cancellations.

Abusers should not receive forgiveness over-

night for crimes that victims will spend a lifetime trying to forget. CBS wants to save their reputation, so they're willing to pay. Defamed men who want to see their name in lights again should take note of the difference between taking action to earn forgiveness and expecting automatic absolution once a little time passes.

Time may allow emotional and psychological wounds inflicted by sexual abuse to scab, but the cuts will not heal. Abusers can walk away and belittle the impact of their actions, but those they harmed are left traumatized and ostracized. Women who come forward jeopardize their careers and sacrifice professional opportunities to speak up. Between the painful memory of the assault itself and the turmoil caused by the victim-blaming that follows, survivors cannot recover without hard work.

If victims need to invest in hours of therapy and rebuilding remedies to try to move on from an assault, why should admitted abusers like C.K. and Lauer take the stage again after a few months of hiding out on a financially secure vacation from their past?

When a group of victims accuses a famous man of assault or harassment, the public should not feel immediate concern for the future of his career. Before worrying about seeing your favorite abuser's face on stage or on screen again, one should consider whether they paid for their crimes.

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MBTA stations screen student commercials

Cassandra Coyer, *Beacon Staff*

Instead of the dirty walls of subway stations, students and Bostonians can now watch educational content created by Emerson students.

Last September, Emerson students partnered with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to produce 10 commercials addressing commuter issues. The videos first posted on the MBTA's Twitter account at the beginning of August are now on the TV screens of several Boston stations such as Boylston, Park Street, and Harvard Square.

Visual and Media Arts Production Coordinator Nicholas Corsano taught the MBTA Partnered Production Studio class last fall. The MBTA presented 10 students with complaints and concerns they wanted to address in the videos. Otherwise, the students possessed total creative freedom.

"[The MBTA] loved the idea of having students who are heavy users of the T be the ones that help generate the content, come up with the concepts, and figure out how to address that to fellow students and other riders of the T," Corsano said.

The MBTA reached out to Emerson for a partnership and paid \$5,000 to cover production costs. Emerson returned any unused money.

Corsano said the students learned how to work with clients, pitch creative concepts, manage expectations, and collaborate on a professional project with real exposure.

"The MBTA was a unique partnership," said Corsano. "Because it's a huge tie to Boston, our students are deeply connected with it, and there's a potential high visibility for the content they get to make."

Split into three creative teams, all the students filled different positions doing camera work, acting, screenwriting, animation, and more.

Junior visual and media arts major Morgan Wright said he saw the class as an opportunity to apply skills into real-life experience.

"It was like I was a part of a small studio rather than a class, which is definitely a good thing," he said.

Wright said that, as early as their second class, each student came in with two pitch ideas which they discussed and refined in class. The class selected and presented six of them to the MBTA, who chose three with which to work.

Travis Amiel '18, who completed Corsano's class last year, said he decided to join the class because of his interest in public transportation and its politics.

"What was really brilliant about this project was the emphasis on collaboration," Amiel said. "Everyone brought something completely different to the room."

Each segment addresses unspoken etiquette of the T, including backpacks annoying other passengers on crowded trains or littering on the tracks. According to Corsano, students produced each 15-second video in a comical yet direct way to deliver the message.

One of the videos, featuring students in inflatable animal costumes taking up space in the car, encourages people to move further into the train so other passengers can enter.

Another, depicting a backpack eating a woman's coffee cup, teaches onlookers to put backpacks on the ground.

Students filmed the videos in the underground MBTA training facilities of South Boston and they currently have over 10,000 combined views on Twitter.

Amiel, who is in London, said he hopes to return to Boston by the end of the month to see the videos at the stations. He said he felt excited when he saw his video initially published on MBTA's Twitter page.

"It put a big smile on my face," Amiel said. This semester, Emerson offers the course for the second time.

Corsano said the college usually reserves the class for juniors and seniors, and it requires an application and portfolio submission.



Morgan Wright helped create and acted in the MBTA videos. • Erin Nolan / *Beacon Staff*

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EAGLE changes name to broaden inclusivity

Grace Griffin, *Beacon Staff*

Even the president of EAGLE, Christopher Henderson-West said he felt othered by the name "Emerson's Alliance for Gays, Lesbians, and Everyone." The junior, who identifies as bisexual, said the mention of only gay and lesbian identities in the EAGLE acronym made him feel excluded.

On Sept. 5, the group announced a name change for the organization: Emerson's Advancement Group for Love and Expression.

"Saying 'Gays, Lesbians, and Everyone' doesn't really encompass the queer community in 2018," EAGLE Vice President Rachel Gaudet said.

In a statement posted on EAGLE's Facebook page, Henderson-West said the change was necessary for the organization's membership.

"We have learned more about the unspoken members within our community. We have become more cognizant of erasure," the statement read. "Which means, there is a problem now. Well, actually the problem has always existed,

but we just didn't realize it."

Henderson-West mentioned members requested a new name for the organization for years.

"We wanted to do something that really expressed what we wanted to do for Emerson and for the community—not just something about who we represent," Henderson-West said.

He said when he became president of the organization last year, he spoke to the members of EAGLE about changing the name. The organization did not take action.

"I always say that no one wanted to put in the work to find what goes with the letter L," Henderson-West said. "By the time we got to the end of this past year I just thought, 'There's never going to be a good time to do it, so let's just go ahead and do it.'"

Gaudet initially suggested the EAGLE acronym stand for "Equity, Action, Guidance, Leadership, and Education." Henderson-West said EAGLE ended up using that interpretation as a tagline, but went with Emerson's Advancement Group for Love and Expression because it

sounded better as an organization name.

"I think that it's perfect timing, especially since some of the terms like 'Gays, Lesbians, and Everyone' is outdated," EAGLE member Tatiana Meléndez said. "I'm glad they reevaluated what they are about and are expressing that change."

Henderson-West stressed the importance of keeping the EAGLE acronym, since students on campus knew the organization for it.

"EAGLE has clout. It has a name on campus," Henderson-West said. "I'm all for sentimental value and I don't want to change the name completely from something that's been around for years."

The organization, founded in 1991, operated under the title "Gays at Emerson." In 1993, the name changed to Emerson's Alliance for Gays, Lesbians, and Everyone and adopted the acronym EAGLE.

"[The name change] was something that was in talk for a bit, but it was just a matter of to what we were going to change it," said Gaudet. "We didn't want to take away the history of the organization by getting rid of EAGLE completely."

Treasurer Kyle Eber said he hoped the name change would reflect their efforts to make EAGLE more inclusive as a whole organization.

"I think the new name is fantastic, because it doesn't specifically say it's a queer organization.

But then you get 'love and expression,'" Eber said. "How [the words are] used is really beneficial so people don't feel ostracized."

EAGLE hosts annual events that Henderson-West says are a staple for many students on campus. The organization sponsors panels with queer speakers such as author Sarah

Prager, showcases drag culture at Emerson every year during Dragtober Fest, and hosts a Going Home Conversation every year before winter break for queer students returning home for the holidays.

"One thing we've done a lot this year is focus on intersection-

ality," Gaudet said. "We're looking forward to doing collab events with other organizations, particularly other cultural organizations. We don't want to ignore how different identities intersect and how that might impact a person."

EMERSON'S ADVANCEMENT GROUP FOR LOVE AND EXPRESSION



EQUITY. ACTION. GUIDANCE. LEADERSHIP. EDUCATION.

EAGLE's original logo paired with their new title and tagline. Courtesy of Christopher Henderson-West

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sports

UPCOMING ACTION

MEN'S SOCCER: Emerson vs. Clark, 7 p.m. Friday

WOMEN'S TENNIS: Emerson vs. Suffolk, 10:00 a.m. Saturday

WOMEN'S SOCCER: Emerson @ Mount Holyoke, 1 p.m. Saturday

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: Emerson vs. Coast Guard & Endicott, noon & 4 p.m. Saturday

Women's soccer aims for playoffs after disappointing 2017



Jenna Case (No. 22) challenges for the ball against Wesleyan College. • Kyle Bray / Beacon Staff

Kyle Bray, Beacon Staff

The women's soccer team aims for its furthest playoff run since 2016 following a tough 2017 season.

Last season, the Lions trailed 3-7 in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference and finished ninth—two places from a playoff spot. Their struggles came after No. 2 scorer Paige Haley suffered a torn ACL, combined with no dedicated goalkeeper on the squad. For the 2018 season, the Lions overhauled their roster, adding 11 new freshmen including three goalkeepers—Sophia Giordano, Megan Rose, and Silvia Dowdell.

While Dowdell will miss the season due to a torn ACL, Rose and Giordano have made early impacts on the squad. Rose started in all four of Emerson's opening nonconference games and leads the team in saves and wins with 23 and 3, respectively.

Giordano earned a shutout in her lone appearance against Regis College.

Head Coach David Suvak said having three dedicated goalkeepers now is great for the team.

"Having three recruited goalkeepers on the team right now is super important to the confidence of our team," Suvak said. "I think the players that play in front of them feel comfortable and confident with them and their abilities in the goal."

Senior captain Jess Frost said Rose emerged as a leader in the team despite her freshman standing.

"Megan's unstoppable. She's great, and we're really lucky to have her," Frost said. "She's [been] a great vocal leader as a freshman which you don't see a lot."

Frost said that she was impressed with the freshmen so far.

"We have a bunch of freshmen stepping up on the field and in practice just pushing us and the rest of the team to get better every day," Frost said.

Freshmen Grace Cosgrove, Kayla McNamara, and Keelie Verbeek featured in all of the Lions' opening four games this season along with Rose. Cosgrove even scored her first collegiate goal in Emerson's 5-0 victory over Regis on Sept. 2.

Rose said the team's upperclassmen helped the new players settle into their important roles early on in the season.

"Quite honestly, I don't think any of us expected to start, so that was really cool to see some of the freshmen starting," Rose said.

"Making it into the NEWMAC playoffs and getting a win is really our goal for the season, and just showing everyone that two seasons ago wasn't a fluke."



Grace Cosgrove (No. 5) scored her first Emerson goal against Regis. • Kyle Bray / Beacon Staff

The Lions are 3-2 to commence their 2018 campaign after beating Emmanuel College 2-1 in overtime, Regis 5-0, and Wesleyan College 1-0. Their lone loss came against Tufts University—who made the 2017 Division III NCAA tournament last season—in a 4-0 defeat. In their fifth game on Wednesday, the Lions lost to the Wentworth Institute of Technology 2-1 in double overtime.

After their tough season last year, Frost said the team's strong start to the season is important for the team's success in the NEWMAC this season.

"I think everyone's just got a new mentality," Frost said. "Everyone just wants to move forward and go back to being super competitive in the NEWMAC, and I think a [3-2] start is great."

NEWMAC named Frost as its women's soccer Offensive Athlete of the Week for the opening week of the season after she scored three goals in Emerson's opening two games, including a two goal game against Emmanuel.

Suvak said Frost is one of his team's best players this season.

"I think she's gained a lot of respect from the

coaches who are in the NEWMAC," Suvak said. "If she can get a goal in every NEWMAC game, we would be in a good situation."

Frost said the team has big expectations for a playoff run this season.

"We have really high hopes for ourselves and high standards," Frost said. "Last year we did not play anywhere near where we should have. Making it into the NEWMAC playoffs and getting a win is really our goal for this season, and just showing everyone that two seasons ago wasn't a fluke and that we're actually a competitor in the NEWMAC."

Despite failing to qualify for the playoffs in 2017, Suvak said he believes the team can earn a spot this year.

"We were 3-0 in the conference and probably needed two more wins, but with our goalkeeper issues and losing Paige, things kind of faded away on us," Suvak said. "I feel really good about the quality of the entire group that we have and being able to accomplish making the playoffs this year with five or six wins."

On Sept. 15, the Lions open their conference play against Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley.

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Men's soccer looks to contend with young squad

Kyle Bray, Beacon Staff

The men's soccer team aims to contend this season with a squad full of new faces after losing key seniors from its previous season.

The team added 16 new players to their roster for the 2018 season after five seniors graduated. The new recruits include 13 freshmen and three transfer students. Newcomers account for over two-thirds of the Lions' squad, leaving only seven returning players from last year's team.

Junior defender Creighton Dorfman said he's impressed with the way the newcomers have adapted to playing at the college level.

"I think I've seen improvement from all of them in some way three games in," Dorfman said. "I'm excited to see how they keep adjusting and I'm proud of the guys and the way they can compete. It's not easy coming in being 17 or 18 years old and being thrown into a college soccer game."

Due to the low number of returning players, the newcomers already take up important roles in the Lions' team. Freshmen Ryan Anderson and Pierce Eldredge, along with transfer student Arturo Ruiz, all started for the Lions in their opening four games.

Head Coach Bryan Harkin said with the number of new players in starting lineup, the focus of the opening games is to find a group that works best.

"It's really just trying to learn their tendencies, what they can improve upon, and what they can bring to us," Harkin said. "It's [about] figuring out what the best combination of players on the field is and giving them the courage to go out there and make mistakes that we'll learn from, improve, and get better."

The new season also led to a change in formation for the men's soccer team. While the team



RJ Dziejma (No. 14) takes the ball down the wing in Emerson's 2-1 loss to Salem State. Kyle Bray / Beacon Staff

spent most of last season in a 4-2-3-1 formation—a lineup with four defenders, two defensive midfielders, three central midfielders, and one forward—the Lions adopted a 3-5-2 formation for this campaign—a lineup with three defenders, five midfielders, and two attackers. Harkin said he moved to the 3-5-2 to fix common issues the team faced in the 2017 season.

"Last year we didn't create enough chances and weren't dangerous with our guys in the attacking area of the field," Harkin said. "But we think with two forwards we can handle that. We still have the same amount of guys in the

midfield and hopefully, we're more solid in the middle but we'll just ask more of those two wide guys."

The Lions are off to a tough start to the season with a 1-3 record after four nonconference games. Emerson lost to Pine Manor College 3-0 in their season opener before losing 2-1 to both Emmanuel College and Salem State University. The Lions' lone win came against the University of Massachusetts Boston in a 2-1 double overtime win.

Harkin said he's seen many positives so far in his team's performances this season.

"I've seen a lot of positives all the way through the preseason and through all the games that we've played so far," Harkin said. "[In] all these [nonconference] games, we're using them to figure out what our best lineup and formation is and to just clean up some of the details with the younger guys. I'm excited for them."

Harkin said the key to success for his team this season is to get a win early on in conference play.

"We want to get that result earlier in the season so we have something to cling on to," Harkin said. "We want it to be a little bit tighter which helps us if we get that result earlier in the season and get that belief. Four out of our seven [NEWMAC] games were tied at halftime so we want to turn those close results into wins for us."

Going forward, Harkin said he hopes to create a positive culture surrounding the team this season.

"The biggest thing for me was creating that culture where we believe that we can win and that we're doing all the right things on and off the field," Harkin said. "From top to bottom, we're just a family and if we create that culture, the training environment is good and positive and everyone gets better. If you take care of that then the wins will come. It's challenging with a younger group, but hopefully, they can teach the younger guys and give them that momentum every game."

The Lions open their conference play against Clark University on Friday, Sept. 14 at Rotch Field at 7 p.m.

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