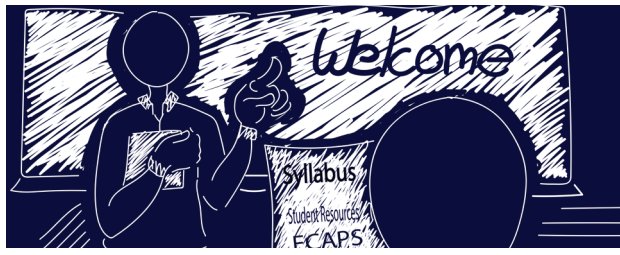


## Column: Love doesn't conquer all



## Healing shouldn't equate failing



## Women's volleyball enters conference play



# The Berkeley Beacon

Emerson College's student newspaper since 1947 • berkeleybeacon.com

Thursday September 20, 2018 • Volume 72, Issue 3



## President Pelton gets a handle on social media

By Annika Hom • p. 7

President M. Lee Pelton hopes to reach more of the community through social media. • Cullen Granzen / Beacon Staff

## Rising tuition compels students to join military

Caroline Broderick, Beacon Staff

Senior Christopher Rogers chose Emerson to create a career out of journalism. Now, with over \$100,000 in student debt, Rogers will join the military after graduation for its student loan forgiveness programs.

Each year, Rogers said he needs to take out roughly \$20,000 to \$30,000 to attend Emerson. Before he applied, he knew money could become an issue, but neither Rogers nor his mother would let that keep him from attending college.

"[My mom] has always been a positive influence in that way," Rogers said. "She wasn't going to let money be an issue about that. Money was an issue our whole lives."

The Military College Loan Repayment Program, available through the Forever G.I. Bill, offers up to \$65,000 in loan forgiveness. For students like Rogers, the program covers over half of their debt.

Rogers has not met with a recruiter, but he heavily researched his decision. He still has questions on how much money he can receive, his main reason for joining.

"It's all about the money," Rogers said. "I'm going to be blunt, because there's no other reason—that's why I'm going."

As Rogers began researching his options, he said he discovered the position of an Army Public Affairs Officer that assists in directing videos for military networks, control media training, and develop communications plans.

See Military, page 6

## Beloved artist and professor dead at 62

Stephanie Purifoy, Beacon Staff

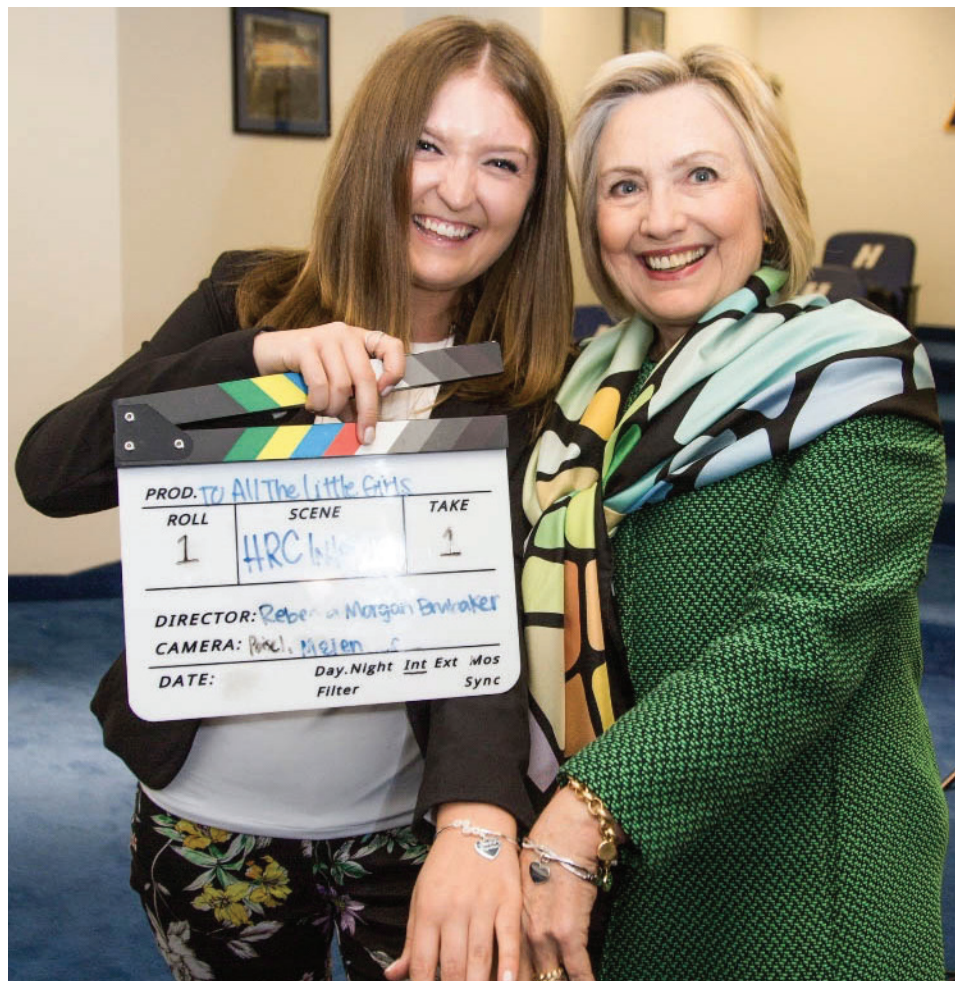
Sydney Manning '13 remembers sitting in the first day of "Europe After the Rain"—a class about European art post World War II—with late professor Joseph D. Ketner II standing in front of her and cracking a few jokes to loosen up the class. While most students appeared amused, a couple remained blank-faced.

"He walked right over to a student's desk, stood there, and yelled, 'It's a joke, Melissa! You can laugh!' with his arms kind of flailing," Manning said. "At that moment, even she had to giggle. It just showed he didn't take life too seriously, but took his job very seriously."

Ketner, 62, passed away on Sept. 14 after fighting cholangiocarcinoma—bile duct cancer—for more than a year. Ketner leaves behind his wife Patricia, their sons Joseph III and Alex, and grandchildren Owen and Julian.

Ketner worked as the Henry and Lois Foster Chair in Contemporary Art Theory and Practice and Distinguished Curator-In-Residence at Emerson. He caused the opening of the Media Art Gallery on Avery Street in fall 2016.

See College, page 2



Hillary Clinton and alumna Rebecca Morgan Brubaker '18 during filming. Courtesy of Kristen Blush

## Hillary Clinton endorses alumna's documentary

Grace Griffin, Beacon Staff

When Hillary Clinton saw Rebecca Morgan Brubaker '18 at a book signing, Brubaker told Clinton her idea for a documentary about the 2016 election. Clinton grabbed Brubaker's hands and asked how she could help.

The documentary, "To All The Little Girls," highlights reactions from Clinton's supporters about her campaign run. The film features footage of the former Secretary of State interacting with supporters during her book tour. It also includes an exclusive one-on-one interview with Clinton. Brubaker released the documentary online on June 13, 2017.

Brubaker worked with Clinton during her 2016 presidential run as a member of her communications team. When Philadelphia hosted the 2016 Democratic National Convention, Brubaker said her dad encouraged her to get involved. Brubaker took photographs of the moment Clinton accepted the presidential nomination.

"Specifically, when I watched Hillary accept the nomination, something in me just clicked," Brubaker said. "I was like, 'I have to go into politics.'"

See Hillary, page 7

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# news

## College expands Emerson brand to Europe, Asia

Maya Gacina, *Beacon Staff*

The college plans to roll out more dual degree programs in campuses outside of the United States within the next two years in an effort to internationalize the Emerson brand.

The prospective campuses President M. Lee Pelton calls “global portals” will include dual degree programs at various universities across Europe. These include Franklin University in Lugano, Switzerland, Blanquerna School of Communication and International Relations in Barcelona, Spain, and Hong Kong Baptist University.

“The purpose of the global portals is to recruit and enroll students from around the world and who do not have U.S. passports, to become students at Emerson,” Pelton said. “Right now, the principal way, actually the only way that students enroll and matriculate, is through our Boston campus.”

The college expects to open applications for these global portals in one to two years, Vice President for Internationalization and Global Affairs Anthony Pinder said in an interview.

Each institution consists of a primarily English-speaking staff and faculty, and a fair percentage of United States exchange students. Pinder said the college looks for these features when partnering with other educational facilities.

“There’s a lot of opportunity out there in the world obviously, but if there is a language barrier that limits your ability to think creatively, to think outside the box ... then you’re really limited,” Pinder said.

The global portals will have a variety of combinations for first-time students, including two 3+1 programs in Switzerland and Barcelona that will allow students to earn a bachelor’s degree in either country in three years, and a master’s at Emerson in one year. A 3+2 program will exist at Hong Kong Baptist University where students will earn a bachelor’s in three years and a master’s at Emerson in two years.

Students attending these programs must pay the tuition and fees associated with whatever university or college they currently attend, otherwise known as the host institution, Pinder said.

Programs held at Franklin University or Blanquerna University will not include room and board. Dormitories are available at Hong Kong University.

Pinder said Emerson currently does not have

institutional funds specifically available for students needing additional financial support in these dual degree programs, but the tuition at each institution abroad is relatively cheaper than Emerson’s home tuition.

To start off the college’s partnership with Hong Kong Baptist University and Blanquerna, Emerson opened exchange programs so that students from either institution can experience education abroad, according to Pinder.

Senior Sydney Rae Chin is an exchange student at Hong Kong Baptist University with two other Emerson students.

“As an Asian-American woman, going to Asia I can learn more about how I can make better representation that is actually fruitful and everything, but put that in a diasporic context when I go back,” she said.

Rae Chin said the non-Eurocentric aspect of studying in Hong Kong intrigued her. She said most of the study abroad programs she sees Emerson advertise tend to lean more towards a European curriculum.

For students interested in only obtaining a bachelor’s degree, a 2+2 program will exist at Franklin where students study liberal arts and international relations courses in two years and spend the next two years studying public communications at Emerson. When the students graduate, they will have two degrees—one in international relations from Franklin and one in public communications from Emerson.

Pinder said they will treat those in the 2+2 program like transfer students in terms of selecting classes and courses necessary to complete their dual degree.

“We would make the decision about increasing [class] sections based on the numbers of enrollment of those particular classes,” he said.

Pinder said the college predicts a revenue increase from global portals after experiencing financial success from global pathways, four-to-six week faculty-led summer programs in about 20 different countries.

“We are not trying to create programs that are sort of again earmarked for the students that can afford it,” Pinder said. “We’re looking to create pathways for students to have really exciting and innovative approaches to education and learning that is accessible to everyone.”

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## College grieves loss of renown artistic director and professor

Continued from page 1

The gallery gave Emerson Urban Arts a space to showcase exhibits from student art to the work of South African artist William Kentridge.

Patricia Ketner still vividly recalls quizzing Joseph on various pieces of art to prepare him for tests when they were 18 and in college together at Indiana University.

“He did everything with a passion. Whether it was as a husband, or a father or grandfather, or coming up with ideas for cutting-edge exhibitions,” she said. “He never cut corners. He had the highest standards possible and made sure that he achieved those standards.”

At Emerson, Ketner taught upper-level art seminars primarily on Andy Warhol and post-war European art. He planned to teach “What is Contemporary Art?,” but another professor took over when he felt too sick to work at the start of the semester.

According to his wife and colleagues, Ketner loved connecting with people, whether they were famous artists or undergraduate students.

“He always loved to party, loved to have people around him. I’m much more reserved, but we somehow found a balance. Even in the depths of his illness, I would get home from work and he would say, ‘Where are we going for dinner tonight?’” Patricia said. “I’ll miss him every day of my life. He was a big personality and it’ll be really hard to fill his void.”

Brooke Knight, chair of the visual and media arts department, remembers Ketner as structured, methodical, and logical in his thinking, but warm and incredibly easy to work with. Knight said Ketner remained a private man, even while struggling with cancer.

“I never heard the word cancer come out of his mouth,” Knight said. “He would talk about medications he didn’t like and that he wanted to get back to swimming, but he never made his battle other people’s battles.”

Ketner was diagnosed in July 2017. According to the American Cancer Society, the 5-year

survival rate for bile duct cancer, at best, is 30 percent. This means that even in the best circumstances, only about 30 percent of patients live up to five years after the diagnosis.

Across campus and the world, people knew Ketner as a consummate professional. Before coming to Emerson, he worked as Chief Curator of the Milwaukee Art Museum in Wisconsin and the Director of The Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University in Massachusetts. He curated exhibits around the globe, including an Andy Warhol exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum, a Jackson Pollock mural at the Guggenheim Museum in Venice, Italy, and the Uncommon Project at Emerson College.

John Craig Freeman, who worked closely with the curator in the visual and media arts department, said Ketner turned his attention to avant-garde video art in public spaces in the last couple years.

“He loved the idea of activating art in areas where people wouldn’t expect it to be,” Freeman said.

Robert Sabal, dean of the School of the Arts, said Ketner held an incredible wealth of knowledge about art which he would miss.

“All of that knowledge came from genuine affection for art and artists and a deep commitment to how art could open people up in various ways,” Sabal said. “I view art all over the world, and every time I look forward [to] coming back and talking to Joe about a recent show I’d been to or an artist I’d seen. We had such a spirited dialogue.”

Ketner’s family will hold an open memorial service on Sept. 29 at John Everett & Sons Funeral Home in Natick, Massachusetts. On Sept. 30, the Media Arts Gallery on Avery Street will hold a celebration of Ketner’s life.

The family requested that instead of flowers, mourners should consider donating to the Joseph D. Ketner II memorial fund.

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Joseph D. Ketner II passed away after a year-long battle with bile duct cancer. Courtesy of President M. Lee Pelton’s office



Joseph D. Ketner II worked as a world renown artist and curator at Emerson since 2008. Courtesy of President M. Lee Pelton’s office



# SGA approves new appeal request procedures

Frances Hui, *Beacon Correspondent*

The Student Government Association unanimously voted to grant the Financial Advisory Board the authority to exclusively review appeal requests under \$5,000 from student organizations.

SGA Executive Treasurer Ian Mandt said allowing FAB to solely review and grant fundings under \$5,000 is more efficient and frees up time in weekly Tuesday joint session meetings. In the past, appeal requests were passed at FAB meetings and reviewed by the joint session for final approval. Appeals over \$5,000 will still come into joint session, he said.

"This change was proposed directly in response to the experiences of organizations that found the long approval process to be burdensome and challenging to complete," Mandt wrote in a statement to the Beacon. "The goal is to make appeal request funding as accessible to student organizations as possible without sacrificing proper approval processes."

FAB meetings are open to the public and held on Thursdays at 3 p.m. in the SGA office in room L152 of the Max Mutchnick Campus Center.

Mandt said the vice-treasurer or himself will write a report of all approved requests and present it at the joint session meeting for discussion to keep the process transparent for other SGA members. After FAB votes to grant funding under \$5,000 to an organization, it cannot be repealed at joint session meetings, according to Mandt.

Joe Dirienzo, president of Class 2021, expressed concern over the fact that when FAB approves a request below \$5,000, no one can



Executive Treasurer Ian Mandt (right) talks to members of joint session at the Tuesday meeting. Abigail Noyes / *Beacon Staff*

overturn it—even if some sort of controversy occurs during the joint session.

Mandt emphasized he would regularly report applications set for review in the following FAB meetings and at the weekly joint session meetings. Mandt encouraged other members of SGA

to attend FAB meetings if they felt interested in a certain application after hearing about it in a joint session meeting.

FAB consists of the SGA executive treasurer and vice treasurer, a representative from each class, the SGA chief justice, a representative

from the Organization Recognition and Review Board, and the SGA advisor, according to last year's treasury handbook. The chief justice does not vote and neither does the executive treasurer, except in the case of a tie.

Last year, 13 out of 37 appeal requests surpassed \$5,000, according to Mandt.

Still, some members expressed concern that organizations may take advantage of the lack of transparency.

"I know that we could all show up [to the FAB meeting], but I think there is a safety net around joint session because all voting representatives are here witnessing that appeal being made," Senator of Class of 2019 Joe Miranda said.

SGA soon amended the motion to restrict the entire change only for this academic year. Next year, SGA has to revisit the issue and decided whether to keep it in place.

In order to eliminate students' confusion while filing paperwork, Mandt said the treasury team will work with organizations this year to complete their package of appeal documents.

Mandt added the treasury team updated the SGA website with a treasury page that provides students with resources and guidelines necessary for requesting appeals.

SGA also unanimously appointed an athletics commissioner, accessibility commissioner, transfer student commissioner, and a public relation chair.

*News editor Riane Roldan did not edit this article due to a conflict of interest. Chris Van Buskirk contributed reporting.*

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# New program lets students allocate \$100,000 of alumni donations

Melanie Curry, *Beacon Correspondent*

A new program lets students decide where to allocate \$100,000 of alumni donations starting Nov. 12.

The new initiative, Voice Your Choice, is designed to give students more say in the allocation of alumni donations, according to Jillian Naimo, assistant director of annual giving. Naimo said the president and the chairman of the Board of Trustees originally brought up the idea of the Voice Your Choice Program. Naimo said the Trustees wanted students more involved.

"I think that rather than a bunch of people sitting around saying, the students wants to do this, they want to do [that], I went to the students and asked them what is it that you want to do," Naimo said.

Students can vote their designated funds into five areas of support: student access, academic innovation, community and co-curricular experiences, global initiatives, and the Emerson Fund. Voting will take place on the college's

website.

Each class receives a portion of the \$100,000 to allocate and votes on a different day between Nov. 12-15. On the first day, the class of 2022 votes on \$10,000.

Class of 2021 votes to allocate \$15,000 on the second day. The class of 2020 votes an allocation of \$25,000 on the third day. On the final day, the class of 2019 votes to designate \$50,000.

Naimo said each class gets more money because of experience. Naimo said the longer students attend Emerson, the more they're able to see whether funds need allocation to Student Access or Global Initiatives.

An additional vote will take place in the spring where each class decides which specific funds within the five areas they would like to support, according to the college's website. After the college totals the votes, the alumni donation dollars will go directly to the funds with the highest number of votes, the website states.

Junior Brian Peterson said students appreciate the Voice Your Choice program.

"I think Emerson students are knowingly outspoken.

We're very known for that," junior Brian Peterson said. "I think [if] you give us a vote and a chance to say anything, we're gonna make the

most of it and have our voices heard."

Junior Abigail Sockett agreed the Voice Your Choice program would cater to students' desire for involvement and advocacy. However, Sophomore Maya O'Day said she only heard of the program during a class of hers and criticized the lack of advertisement.

"They have not gotten the word out," O'Day said. "I think they should send emails out; they should have announcements, all that kinda stuff."

Sockett never heard nor saw any advertisements for the Voice Your Choice program.

"More flyers in more places," Sockett suggested. "There are plenty of Facebook groups all across the Emerson community in different graduating classes."

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**"I think [if] you give us a vote and a chance to say anything, we're gonna make the most of it and have our voices heard."**

# College changes co-curricular registration process

Kaitlyn Mettetal, *Beacon Correspondent*

The college overhauled the registration process for redeeming non-tuition credits through co-curricular organizations this fall after deciding the previous system lacked accountability.

Under the new system, students must register on emConnect to receive one tuition-free credit. Faculty advisors must also provide a syllabus detailing various requirements for earning credit to interested students. In the past, organization leaders, rather than faculty, recorded credit-interested students. Then, the registrar's office contacted the students to confirm they completed the credit requirements.

Jason Meier, director of the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership, said the old process ran on an honor system, which proved detrimental to students who worked for credit but did not receive it due to miscommunication.

Meier said modifications were necessary to enrich students' academic experience of the organizations while also making sure students get credit for work they complete.

"There wasn't an efficient way to differentiate the ones who worked to earn the credit from those who didn't," Meier said. "For every student that received a syllabus, there was one who didn't."

Requirements for receiving credit remain unchanged, according to Meier. The organization's advisor plans requirements around what they feel academically enriches the members.

"The purpose of co-curriculars is to make students curious, and this change is intended to create a more hands-on experience for the members and aid them in building strong relationships with Emerson faculty," Meier said.

Jack Casey, faculty advisor for WERS, said compared to the old system, this modification requires more advisor involvement.

"I am unsure of the gravity of this change and how it will affect the workload of the advisors," Casey said. "But we will do everything in our ability to comply with the requests of the college."

Sophomore Destiny Pineda, director of edu-



Ryan Bartlett hosting his Wednesday night show "Wicked Local Wednesday" at the co-curricular WERS. • Cullen Grazen / *Beacon Staff*

cation for The Emerson Channel, said she and her members find the extra forms and added layer of bureaucratic procedure confusing and irritating.

"It feels extremely unnecessary and makes the process more complicated than it has to be," Pineda said. "I personally have to go through several people just to get the names of the people who are simply 'interested' in receiving credit."

Kassiani Mamalakis, executive producer for

the EVVY Awards, said the change makes it easier to ensure active members earn credit.

"There isn't a big difference for us," Mamalakis said. "In the past, credits have been easy to obtain and have been as simple as putting your name on a list. This way, the people who do put in the work will be the ones to end up with a credit."

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# editorial

## Emerson's plastic straw conundrum

**At issue: Emerson re-vamps its image.**

**Our take: Change doesn't always mean progress.**

*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.*

On July 9, 2018, Starbucks announced the company will slowly faze out single-use, plastic straws in favor of lids or alternative-material straws to reduce pollution. Starbucks enacted this even though the Ocean Conservancy's Coastal Cleanup Report stated plastic straws amount to 3 percent of trash found on beaches worldwide. So, did this matter as much as Starbucks made it seem? Or was the company, in the same vein as Emerson, evading universal concerns with something minimal, but attractive, to occupy headlines?

Similar to Starbucks' plastic straw stunt, President M. Lee Pelton renewed his presence on social media, specifically through Twitter and Instagram. While Pelton's appearance on these platforms allows students to communicate with him on a more personal level, it's still a facade for larger, more complex issues the college faces. Pelton's social media presence merely serves as a mask that students can relish due to its popularity and accessibility.

Social media is one step, and a small one at that. What does an online image matter when tuition increases with every year, but financial aid remains unchanged? Why do students feel they

when students can barely afford food for themselves?

In the past, we covered Emerson initiatives, like the Student Assistance Fund, food pantry, and meal swipe donation program. These programs all rely on the generosity of the Emerson community, and while they do make a difference, the big picture is still important Emerson's expensive tuition and little financial aid makes it even harder for those from diverse backgrounds to attend. If the school is working towards making itself accessible to more students, they should actively communicate this to the student body.

As a college, Emerson fails to appropriately recognize these issues and their corresponding solutions. But at least we can now tweet our opinions in 280 characters or less to @LeePelton.

**If the school is working towards making itself accessible to more students, they should actively communicate this to the student body.**

must enlist in the military to pay off their debt? What about Emerson's attempts at expansion and globalization even though we lack student diversity? How far can a single meal swipe donation go

## 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](mailto:letters@berkeleybeacon.com).

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

### The Berkeley Beacon

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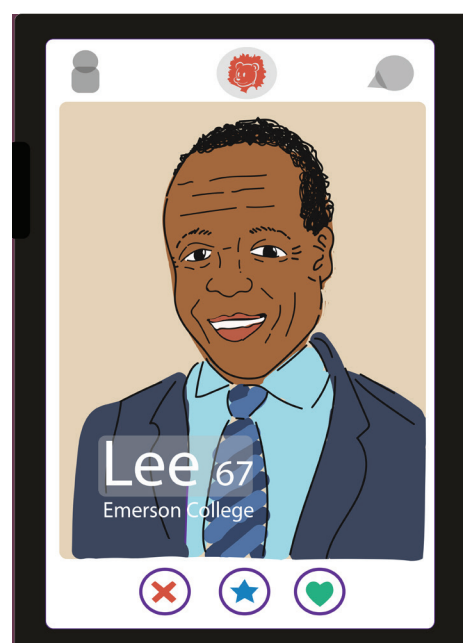
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by the Editorial Board  
illustration by Ally Rzesza

Pelton gets social.





# opinion

## Professors should emphasize ECAPS on day one



Professors should highlight the services at ECAPS at the beginning of the semester. • Illustration by Ally Rzeska / Beacon Staff

**Isabella Pelletiere**

*Pelletiere is a junior journalism major & a Beacon correspondent.*

I felt confused and lonely after I missed a week of class due to suicidal thoughts. When I explained my situation to the counselors at Emerson Counseling and Psychological Services, they sent me to the hospital. The ECAPS staff told me they emailed my professors, who excused me from class that week. I went home, took the week off, and regained the strength to finish the fall 2017 semester. I returned to class confident, knowing ECAPS told my professors about my situation and hoping they would help me catch up on what I missed.

Most of my professors asked about my well-being, and it seemed like they cared. But in one

class, my professor pulled me aside to notify me that I could fail the class. I ended up passing, but I questioned if I passed solely because of my hospitalization. I asked myself, “What about the students who struggle with mental health issues, miss a lot of classes, but don’t go to ECAPS and get sent to the hospital?”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the third leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 24. Since the majority of students fall into this age

range, it’s critical to address the mental health policies and resources on campus.

Assuring all students know about ECAPS is key. As a transfer student, I didn’t know about ECAPS until many months into the academic year. To fix this, professors should highlight the services at ECAPS at the beginning of the semester. It’s required for faculty

**By opening the discussion on mental health, professors will show students the importance of their psychological well-being.**

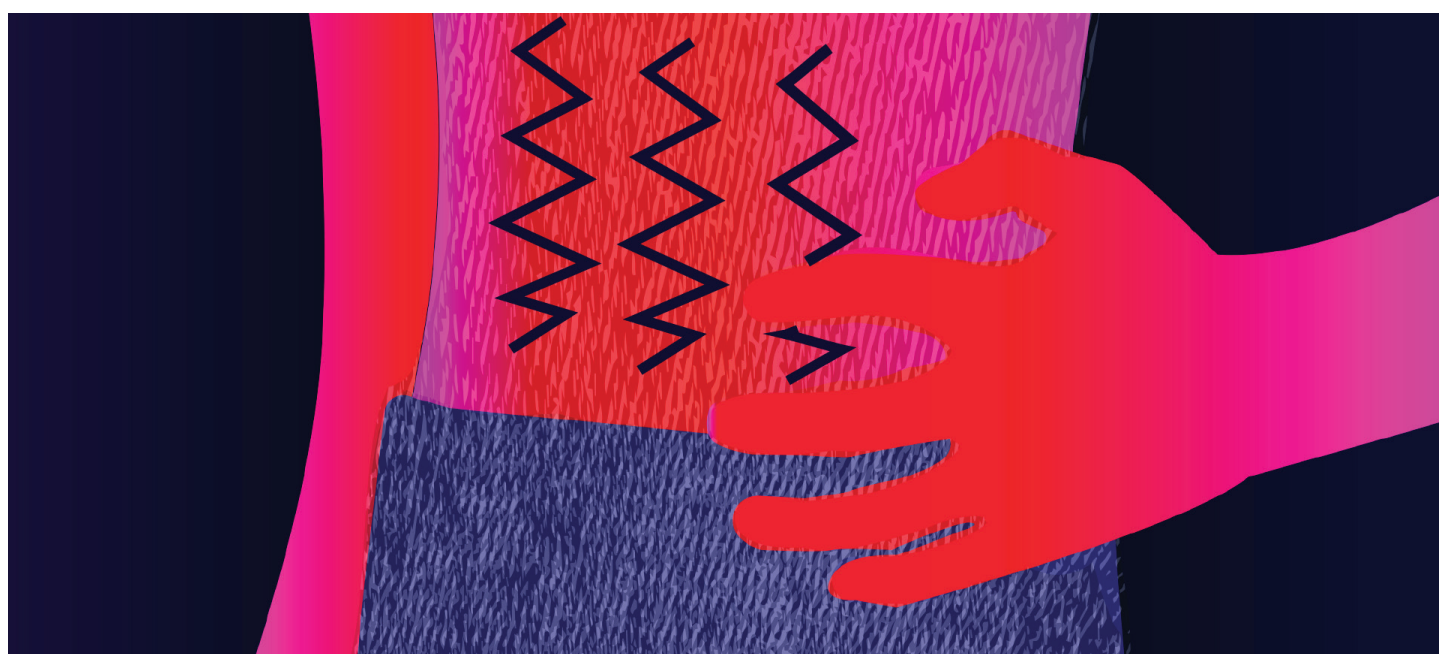
to place a statement about Student Accessibility Services on their syllabi, but not about ECAPS. Requiring this of professors would create an

environment where students feel comfortable addressing mental health.

If professors acknowledge the topic of mental health at the beginning of the semester, more students will feel comfortable confiding in their professors about their situation. In return, professors can help these students get back on their feet. By opening the discussion on mental health, professors will show students the importance of their psychological well-being.

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## Honesty is the best policy for periods



Absences due to periods should not negatively affect a student’s grade. • Illustration by Ally Rzeska / Beacon Staff

**Katie Schmidt**

*Schmidt is a senior writing, literature, and publishing major & the Deputy Opinion Editor.*

One morning last spring, I was lying in bed, feeling drained and dizzy, with an excessive amount of lower abdominal pain. It was the second day of my period. As I began an email to my professor that explained my absence, I paused. Was I really going to tell my professor I was on my period?

In my experience, there has never been any discussion on how to inform your professor you’re missing class because of your period. I feared that mentioning menstruation to my middle-aged, male professor would draw an

awkward response. Given the stigma around periods and how they are often perceived as “gross,” I worried that my professor would become uneasy or even repulsed. This stigma even convinced me that my period was too personal and controversial of a topic to mention to my professor.

Instead I used “personal issues” as my reason. I knew my professor would suspect I was ditching class, but I did have a legitimate excuse for a health-related issue. It wasn’t fair that menstruation happened to be one of the most stigmatized bodily functions.

When menstruation prevents a student from class, that student should not be responsible for conjuring some secondary excuse. More importantly, professors—specifically those at an

institution as progressive as Emerson—should feel more open mentioning periods as a valid absence at the beginning of each semester. By introducing the topic themselves, professors will show a disregard for the stigma around menstruation. Students will then see this as an indication that honesty around their periods is accepted.

Emerson Flows, the school’s PERIOD chapter, already helped establish us as a “period-friendly” college by providing free feminine hygiene products in women’s, men’s, and gender-neutral restrooms on campus. While the work of Emerson Flows is vital for ending some of the stigma around periods, the protocol for period-related absences still remains taboo. Professors should be understanding of this

monthly occurrence enough to uphold it with Emerson’s attendance policy, which currently allows professors the authority to dictate how many tardies and absences are acceptable before a student’s grade is affected. Absences due to periods should not negatively affect a student’s grade.

One may argue that students will start to use their periods as a justification to ditch class. Others may even question if periods are painful enough to miss class in the first place.

Periods only occur on a monthly basis, leaving no opportunity for students to abuse this policy at their will. Besides, a student who wants to abuse a policy just to get out of class probably isn’t cut out for college or the real world.

Secondly, yes, periods can be that painful. According to an article by Health magazine, periods can reduce one’s pain tolerance, affect constipation, increase the risk of yeast infections, and promote clumsiness. All of these lesser-known symptoms commonly occur on top of the standard abdominal cramps, nausea, dizziness, mood-swings, and bloating.

An article from The Guardian details that 20 percent of women suffer from menstrual cramps severe enough to interfere with daily activities. The notion that those who get periods must silently persevere through classes, jobs, and other duties while in a considerate amount of pain is unjust.

Just as the pain from an illness is a justifiable excuse for your professor, so is menstrual pain. Eliminating the hesitation around speaking to professors about periods is the first step towards ending the larger stigma. Part of the solution relies on professors to welcome and respect the discussion of periods, and the other part relies on students to speak about them— as if no stigma exists at all.

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# living arts

## Students resort to military to pay off debt

Continued from page 1

Rogers currently works as a video production assistant for Harvard University Athletics and worked with Emerson Channel Sports as an executive producer and assistant director.

"I thought it would be a good idea for me to pay off my loans, but to also not miss a beat in what I'm trying to do in my career," Rogers said. "It's all on the same path I think. A couple years in the military to pay for my schooling is something I'd gladly trade off since I'm still accumulating skills I started gaining at Emerson."

For Rogers, joining the military instead of the workforce could provide an entry-level journalism salary, without needing to pay for food, rent, and loans.

"If I were to go into the workforce, I'd be so stressed about the money," Rogers said. "It would probably affect my work. It helps all parties by doing this. I'm going to be doing better work, and I'm going to be debt-free, or at least make a huge dent in it."

According to Emerson's website, annual tuition totals \$46,016. Since 2015, tuition rose by \$3,000. College Board reports tuition in the U.S. averages \$32,410 for private institutions, and \$23,890 for public universities. These tuition costs do not cover living expenses, food, textbooks, or other fees.

In a statement from President M. Lee Pelton in January, the college approved a 4.5 percent increase in tuition for 2018-2019. Hiring more professors, transforming the dining hall, and redoing the Colonial Theatre, among other expenses, contributed to the tuition increase.

Hallie Engel, who attended Emerson from 1999 to 2001, said she could not continue her education due to the high tuition price. Engel estimates tuition at the time fell around \$25,000.

Prior to leaving Emerson, Engel's father lost his job and her family filed for bankruptcy.

Emerson did not provide her with substantial financial aid, and when her loans added up to \$55,000 only halfway into her schooling, she knew she could not continue.

"I was just thinking, 'I can't do this,'" Engel said. "It was really painful to leave. I was really into my major, I had done an internship, I had a lot of friends, and I really liked it. So leaving was so difficult. I cried and cried. It was really a tough decision."

Engel said she found an army hotel in Germany where she could work without a visa. She lived there for under two years when she re-



Senior Christopher Rogers plans to join the military to help pay off student loans • Cullen Granzon / Beacon Staff

turned to Boston, jobless and living in a cheap apartment, to search for another opportunity. At 23, she moved to Qatar to work as a telephone operator on an air force base. Each year, Engel made \$66,000 in a country that did not take taxes out of payment.

"So it was basically \$66,000 a year in cash, in your pocket," Engel said. "It wasn't something crazy, but when you don't pay taxes and rent, that's a lot of money."

Once she saved \$15,000, she called the loan company immediately to make a large payment. She paid off her debt in two years.

She said she spent two years in a trailer in the middle of a desert answering phone calls and leaving her room before sunrise to begin

12-hour shifts.

"Working for the military, there's always lots of official things going on," Engel said. "Lots of paperwork, lots of red tape, and it can be a very frustrating place to work."

In 2007, Emerson's tuition was \$27,497, meaning it increased by 59.75 percent in 11 years.

Emerson states the college distributed \$40.3 million in aid in 2017, 22.8 percent of total tuition. Students still need to find ways—often life-changing—to support their education as tuition steadily increases each year.

As someone who continued their education at Emerson while simultaneously throwing themselves into debt, Rogers questions some of the college's decisions. With the purchase of

134-136 Boylston St. for \$7 million in April, and the renovations to Little Building, many students wonder where their tuition goes.

"It's almost like a private real estate company. That's why our tuition is going up, and we still are not getting sufficient financial aid throughout the community," Rogers said. "Student debt is a national crisis. It's hindering people from excelling in their lives. I do this to relieve the stress I know would be in the future."

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## Head Over Feels: Long-distance love will never be convenient



**Grace Griffin**  
Griffin is a sophomore journalism major, and the Beacon's love columnist.

When I was 15, I remember hearing the lyric, "This love will never be convenient," in the Front Bottoms song "Tattooed Tears."

Although The Front Bottoms still remain my favorite band, I always found that lyric stupid. I believed that if you truly loved someone, you made time for them. You made love convenient.

Four years since first hearing that song, and one harrowing breakup later, I now understand that relationships aren't easy or convenient, and that fact alone can outweigh any emotion.

On Tinder last summer, I met a boy—I'll refer to him as Jake—but we joked that we met on Words With Friends. He opened with a compli-

ment about my bio that read, "I'm not flirting, I'm networking."

We went on a few dates, started talking everyday, and soon I started calling Jake, Boyfriend Jake.

Everything about our relationship felt right. However, I went to school in Boston, and he went to school in Connecticut. We said goodbye to each other at the end of the summer and agreed to try long distance. Only one state apart, we naively believed it wouldn't be hard.

But long distance was hard. He visited me the first weekend after I moved in, and I sat in the South Station Bus Terminal crying as soon as he left. We talked everyday, but often one of us was busy with homework and not paying attention. I had meetings every night until 10 p.m. or later,

and he had homework until 3 a.m. or later. I planned to visit him at the end of the month, until he got his syllabi and realized that he would spend 10 of the 24 hours on homework.

I wish I could say this was a temporary hardship, but, as the song warned me four years ago, our relationship would never be convenient. We couldn't be together physically together for longer than a month at a time in the foreseeable future.

But there were times when it did work. We had great conversations that sometimes lasted for hours. We spent one blissful weekend in Boston. Unfortunately, that happiness was provisional.

According to the Center for the Study of Long-Distance Relationships, 14 million people in the U.S. are in long-distance relationships as of 2018. That means 14 million people probably feel the same way he and I did—the feelings were there, but the logistics were not.

Despite this, I really do think long-distance relationships are a good thing as long as some factors align.

First, long-distance relationships require an end-date. One of the most reported causes for long-distance breakups is the lack of one. Long distance can work for a while, but when it's not permanent. As someone who looks too far into the future regarding anything I do or any relationship I form, I saw it coming. I think part of me wanted to prolong our relationship even though I saw its infeasibility. But deep down, I

knew it would end.

Another component to any successful long-distance relationship is managing time apart. Time away from a partner allows room for vital personal growth, self reflection, and forging an independent lifestyle, which come naturally through long distance.

Time apart is a make-or-break factor to a long-distance relationship. When Jake and I were apart, I sometimes felt that by missing him, I was actually missing out on my own life. There is a thin line between time apart spent on personal

development and time apart spent hurting.

Getting these factors right takes time, planning, and real work. Entering a long-distance relationship means accepting commitment and expecting difficulties. You can't always make time for someone no matter how deeply you care for them. Jake and I just couldn't do that right now.

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**"We said goodbye to each other at the end of the summer and agreed to try long distance. Only one state apart, we naively believed it wouldn't be hard."**

**"There is a thin line between time apart spent on personal development and time apart spent hurting."**



## Alumna creates documentary on Hillary Clinton's campaign

Continued from page 1

Brubaker said she did not see any media focusing on Clinton supporters following the election, so she decided to change that.

"I wanted little girls to see resiliency after the election," Brubaker said. "I was so frustrated that the media wasn't talking about this. So I said, 'I can either complain that the media isn't out there, or I can make it myself.'"

Brubaker said she started working with Clinton's office staff and formed a relationship based on shared values and a passion for uplifting female voices. Clinton endorsed the documentary on Twitter, tweeting, "Proud of you, Becca!" along with the link to Brubaker's Kickstarter campaign on Nov. 12, 2017.

Marina Khalili, director of the documentary, said she hoped the documentary would impact

viewers by helping them realize their own potential.

"Age does not limit you in what you can do. Gender does not limit you. Nobody should ever feel that it does," Khalili said. "This documentary proves that. A bunch of 20-something-year-old girls came together and made a documentary with one of the most well-known women in the world."

Following the D.N.C., Brubaker worked at Somerville for Clinton and volunteered in Massachusetts

and New Hampshire to create content for their social media accounts.

**"Age does not limit you in what you can do. Gender does not limit you. Nobody should ever feel that it does."**

"How we started working together was kind of an alignment of stars, as cheesy as that sounds," Brubaker said. "We had this shared passion for wanting to tell these stories. Hillary wanted her supporters to have a microphone to share them, and she was grateful that I was setting out to do that."

Clinton inspired the title with a quote from her concession speech: "To all the little girls watching, never doubt that

you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world."

Brusker said she made the documentary to give hope to women in politics.

"For me, it wasn't about converting people into Hillary supporters," she said. "What I wanted my documentary to do was provoke thoughts around why we demonize powerful women, why they are met with so much resistance, why the media doesn't celebrate powerful women, and why we tear each other down."

Craig Melendes, director of photography for "To All The Little Girls," said he hoped to capture the way Clinton interacted with her supporters.

"This documentary is meant to bring light not only to Secretary Clinton herself, but really to all the little girls she's inspired," Melendes said. "I think today in the media we sort of get wrapped into this whole idea of Hillary Clinton as a company."

Melendes said the documentary aimed to create community around ideas of hope.

"With any project that I do, I want to bring individuals together so they can communicate, grow, and learn together," Melendes said. "I hope that this documentary does that. I hope that it also highlights all the little girls that look up to Secretary Clinton, and I hope that it gives them the voice that they need."

Additionally, Brubaker said she hopes viewers of the documentary who did not support Clinton's presidential run can see Clinton in a more human manner. Brubaker wants people to ask themselves why they did not like Clinton.

"I wanted them to be faced with these images of her with women, seeing her and getting to know her as a person and not as a candidate," she said. "I wanted people who didn't like her to question what their dislike of her is rooted in. Is it rooted in disagreement, or is it rooted in something else?"

Brubaker said she hopes her film will push viewers to question the gender roles in play when women enter politics.

"I wanted Hillary supporters to know they weren't alone," she said. "I wanted them to know that we are going to move onward together and the community is still very much alive and fighting for the same things we were in 2016."



Hillary Clinton with alumna Rebecca Morgan Brubaker '18 during filming of "To All The Little Girls." • Courtesy of Kristen Blush

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## President Pelton gets on the 'gram

Annika Hom, Beacon Staff

President M. Lee Pelton revamped his social media presence over the summer to improve communication between him and the Emerson community.

His new approach notifies students and staff about changes within the college through Twitter and Instagram and reveals insights about his personal life.

He said he would respond to students who direct message him on Twitter and Instagram.

"I want to break down these barriers and engage in a two-way dialogue with students, rather than a unilateral email that goes out from me," Pelton said. "This is a more intimate and 21st century way of communicating."

If students prefer, they can reach Pelton on Twitter @LeePelton and Instagram @lee.pelton. At the time of publication, Pelton has 137 Twitter followers and 354 Instagram followers.

Freshman Justin Schmalholz said he prefers receiving announcements via email compared to having to log on to social media.

"No matter what, I'm going to be checking my email because there's a lot of important information coming through there," Schmalholz said. "To click on one more email and quickly skim through it is not that bad."

Pelton's social media also offers general college news. He said tweets with a link to the college news website Emerson College Today could replace some of the mass emails he sends to students. However, people without social media can still access the site.

Pelton said he typically writes the majority of tweets and Instagram posts on his accounts, though he said marketing and communication administrators may write tweets under his name for news, such as construction updates. Pelton said other administrative responsibilities limit how much he logs on, but he said he hopes to

post consistently this year.

The college will still disseminate important information through email, but this attempts to reduce how many students receive. Students can also follow campus news through the college's official Instagram page, which has over 10,000 followers.

Sophomore Brilee Carey said she appreciates the reduction of college news emails.

"I think that's nice because it's all in one place, and sometimes the emails are too excessive," Carey said.

Schmalholz said he likes the idea of Pelton using social media more because it personalizes his role as president.

"I like how he uses social media—I think he's a cooler president than other college presidents that I've seen in the news," he said.

Already, Pelton featured a picture of Schmalholz at the President's Reception. Schmalholz told Pelton how his mother and grandmother graduated from the college in 1990 and 1963, respectively. Afterwards, Pelton asked the third-generation Emerson student to take a photo for his Instagram.

"I've only been here for two or three weeks, and I've already been on his Instagram page, which I wasn't expecting," Schmalholz said. "To just have that relationship with him and just know that he knows my face is kind of cool and good for the future."

During the 2018 orientation, Pelton approached Carey and two other orientation leaders about jumping in a photo for his Instagram. Carey said posting about events organizations arrange makes the content more personal to students.

"Especially on Instagram, you get to see the faces and see what organizations are doing," Carey said. "It keeps it more personal than the large mass posters, especially with highlighting smaller activities."

Pelton said he welcomes how his professional and personal relationships might integrate. For example, faculty, students, and strangers may view posts regarding his passion for biking. He said he plans on posting race times for an upcoming Boston cycling race, Hub On Wheels.

"It'll all be intermingled with posts to the Emerson community," Pelton said. "That's who I am. I don't mind pulling the curtain back so that you see the human Lee Pelton as opposed to President Lee Pelton."

Pelton said he also expects to come across content by Emerson students or faculty who might tease him, impersonate him, or turn him into a meme. However, he doesn't intend to

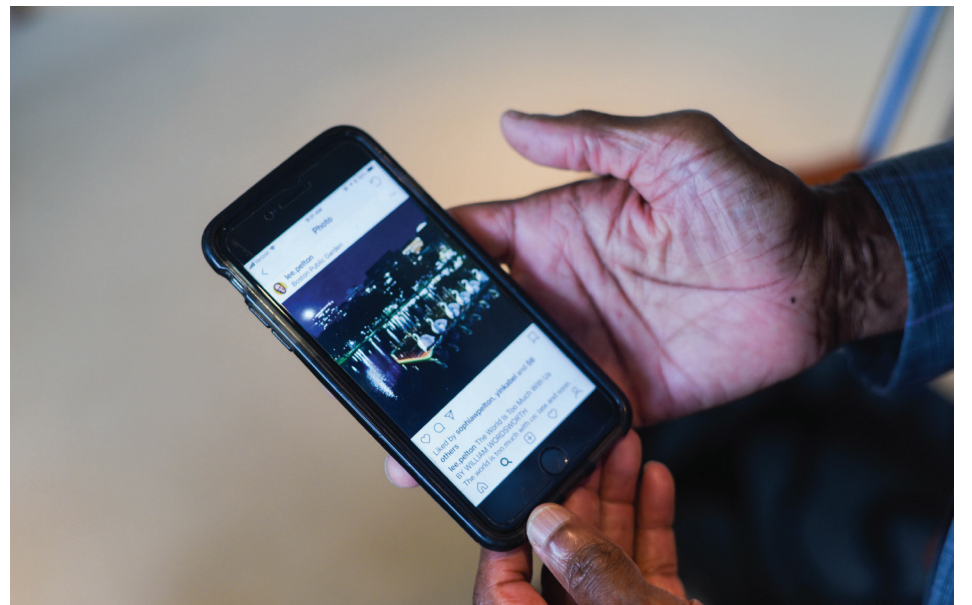
monitor or condemn comments.

"I wouldn't call a student or a member of this community out publicly if they made an offensive comment about me," Pelton said. "I need not respond."

In addition to college announcements and personal feats, Pelton's Instagram showcases topical news, such as a post commemorating a Boston Red Sox win.

"If used in the right way, it's a platform for dialogue. It's my hope that both Instagram and Twitter will be focused on Emerson College," Pelton said.

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President M. Lee Pelton revamped his social media to engage the community. Cullen Granzon / Beacon Staff



# sports

## UPCOMING ACTION

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: Emerson @ Brandeis, 7 p.m. tonight

MEN'S SOCCER: Emerson @ Coast Guard, 2 p.m. Saturday

WOMEN'S SOCCER: Emerson vs. Springfield, 1 p.m. Saturday

## Women's volleyball looks to build on 2017 successes

Anissa Gardizy, *Beacon Correspondent*

The women's volleyball team added five new freshmen and lost one senior after missing out on the playoffs last year in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.

Head coach Ben Read said, on paper, this squad is one of the most talented teams he's seen during his eight years at Emerson.

"Our team already looks much different. We are a stronger passing team, we are definitely a better defensive team, and we are serving tougher," Read said. "It is still early in the season, but we have definitely improved."

However, Read said the Lions will not get ahead of themselves.

"I looked at our team early on, and I knew we were going to be a better team than in previous years," Read said. "But what does that mean? Being a little bit stronger at passing, serving, and defense—what does that equate to? Is it going to be more sets won, more games won, or just being more competitive with other teams?"

As the Lions attempt to live up to their season's expectations, freshmen players step into important roles on the team. Freshman outside hitter Carolyn Vaimoso stands out in the NEWMAC, as she ranks third in kills per set with 3.71 and third in points per set with 4.2. Freshman defensive specialist Lauren Quin also makes her presence known on the court as she earned a pair of block assists against the United States Coast Guard Academy.

Senior middle Kelley Guerra said the maturity of the freshmen made a difference in the team's mentality.

"I don't think they knew coming in that they would have starting positions," Guerra said. "However, I think those who have had to step



Carolyn Vaimoso (left), Moira Brennan (center), and Grace Tepper (right) cheer after a point during a game against Coast Guard. • Anissa Gardizy / *Beacon Correspondent*

into starting positions have done it gracefully. They have power and enthusiasm. We can get through really long runs where we are not getting points and work together through hard parts of games. Their energy is a big part of why we can do that."

This year, three seniors—Moira Brennan, Fara Cohen, and Guerra—lead the team.

"The seniors are really strong leaders," Sophomore outside hitter Grace Tepper said. "They

all play different positions and have different strengths on the court, so they balance the team out with a stable base."

Emerson started off the season 4-0 after opening with the Western Connecticut Invitational. With a conference record of 0-3, Guerra said the team prepared themselves to face the most challenging part of their season.

"We got over the hurdle of preseason, which is the hardest physically on our bodies," Guerra

said. "Now we are reaching the point where we are in classes, and we have games against really tough teams. This is where the mental focus and sharpness really comes into play."

The Lions lost their first three conference games to Wellesley College, Coast Guard, and Babson College. On top of that, this week features a conference game against a 0-3 Mount Holyoke College.

"I'm not sure if we have lost to [Mount Holyoke] since I have been here, but they are improved from last year and are definitely going to create quite a few problems for us on Saturday," Read said.

Read said Emerson outgrew the "underdog" label that followed their team last season.

"This year more than ever, I think teams respect us more," Read said. "Last year, we were kind of the underdogs, and we surprised some teams. That's not happening this year, since early on we beat some non-conference teams. Salve Regina [University] was a big win, and beating them the first game of the year was eye-opening for other teams in the conference. Teams are not overlooking us this year."

Read said because of the Lions' mentality, they could be a threat this season.

"They are extremely motivated, they are very hard working, and they want to be the best that they can be," Read said.

Emerson will travel to Brandeis University on Thursday, Sept. 18 for a 7:00 p.m. matchup before hosting Mount Holyoke on Saturday, Sept. 22 at 12:00 p.m.

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## Freshman goalkeeper secures starting role early on



Rose is second in the NEWMAC in saves with 36. • Kyle Bray / *Beacon Staff*

Karina Sanchez, *Beacon Correspondent*

Freshman goalkeeper Megan Rose cemented her position as the starter early on for Emerson women's soccer team.

In the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference, Rose ranks second with 36 saves so far this season.

Rose said transitioning into college-level competition as a freshman comes with difficulties.

"As it is, playing goalie is a super high-pressure position, so I'm used to having a lot of pressure on me while I'm playing," Rose said. "But I will say that [during] the first few games, and even practices, I was really nervous that I would screw up and lose my starting position."

Head women's soccer coach David Suvak said Rose's ability to kick a ball accurately up to 40 yards sets her apart from other goalies.

"Her experience and compelling attitude are what makes her a strong goalie," Suvak said. "She is an excellent vocal leader—she communicates in a very positive, direct way with the players."

Senior captain Kira Venturini described Rose as fierce, intuitive, and confident on the field.

"She makes other players all around the field feel more comfortable and confident," Venturini said. "They know that she would never put them in a bad position."

Rose, a visual and media arts major, said her parents encouraged her from a young age to try out different sports.

"I've been playing soccer since I was six, but I didn't even start playing goalie until I was 12," Rose said. "I remember being thrown in and my coach saying, 'Let's see what you got.'"

Suvak said one of Rose's standout moments as a soccer player came from a mistake in Emerson's game against Wesleyan College.

"[She] received the ball and she was trying to play one of our midfielders. And she struck the ball; it went just a little stray, and a forward picked it up," Suvak said. "The goal was open, but she backtracked, made an amazing save where she backpedaled, touched it out, and the ball hit the bar, and she saved it. It was a mistake that she made and that she cleaned up on her own, but that sticks out because I have not seen a female college soccer player make that kind of save in my nine years here."

Rose said after moving from California, she



Jess Forst (left), Rose (center), and Amanda Benavente (right) defend the goal against Wesleyan College. • Kyle Bray / *Beacon Staff*



Rose started playing soccer when she was six-years-old. • Kyle Bray / *Beacon Staff*

felt some nerves, but entering college with 30 teammates helped her settle in.

"There is a sisterhood here. Everyone gets along, there aren't any cliques, and all the upperclassmen were super helpful and nice here,"

Rose said. "It doesn't really feel like there is a seniority kind of thing, so I really like that."

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