

Sophomore chooses Emerson over DI



Juniors named to Top 100 interns list



Creating opportunities outside of class



The Berkeley Beacon

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

Thursday September 27, 2018 • Volume 72, Issue 4



Freshman Jay Zimmer receives an average of 15,000 views per Instagram video. • Anissa Garzidy / Beacon Staff

Freshman social media star rebrands post-Vine

Soleil Easton, *Beacon Correspondent*

Freshman Jay Zimmer had over 120,000 followers and 90 million loops on Vine, an app that allowed users to post six-second videos. Now, he posts sketch comedy videos on YouTube and Instagram, with roughly 15,000 views per post on the latter.

The visual and media arts major's popularity stemmed from a vine recreation posted in April 2015. "IB: Victor Pope Jr.," originally posted by Vine star Victor Pope Jr., features a cashier asking a robber if he has a rewards card.

Zimmer said his fame took off when he gained nearly 1,000 followers from Pope re-posting the vine.

"I started seeking out a larger audience when I realized all of my friends and I were building a platform for ourselves," Zimmer said. "I knew that we could do something impactful."

Zimmer said Vine's 2017 termination helped him grow the fanbase he established on the app, forcing him to expand to other platforms and change his content.

"Ultimately, I was only mad at Twitter for causing the death of Vine," Zimmer said.

See *Vine*, page 6

\$13,000 grant to expand Emerson Prison Initiative program

Nicole Poitras, *Beacon Staff*

The Emerson Prison Initiative received a \$13,000 gift for more courses, educational materials, and students.

The Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation donated funds to EPI, a program that brings courses taught by Emerson faculty to the Massachusetts Correctional Institute, Concord. Two faculty members teach a cohort of 16 students two courses per semester on MCI's campus free of cost.

The Beacon reported that the college funds the basic cost to operate one course at MCI Concord. EPI added an extra course with the new funding. Founder and Director of EPI Mneesha Gellman wants to provide enough course offerings so that incarcerated students can earn an Emerson College liberal arts degree.

Earning a degree requires a minimum of 120 credits. Each completed course accounts for four credits. At this rate, it would take EPI students about seven years to earn a degree.

Provost Michaele Whelan said the college contributes roughly the same amount of funding as the grant given to EPI.

See *Prison*, page 2

Students work to swing New Hampshire left

By Cassandre Coyer • p. 7

Senior Allison Bodner pitches Swing Left to her class. • Cullen Granzen / Beacon Staff

Lynch siblings reunite for cross country team

Anissa Garzidy, *Beacon Staff*

In high school, the Lynch siblings raced cross country and worked at the same job. Now, Madison and Mac Lynch both run for the cross country team at Emerson College.

"They always seem to get along and they kind of keep each other in check," head coach John Furey said. "I like it. It makes us feel like the sibling liked the program enough that they want their sibling to come, so it's all good."

Last week, sophomore Madison Lynch placed first for Emerson and 37th overall at the Pop Crowell Invitational hosted by Gordon College with a time of 26:06.2. Last year, she led the Emerson squad as a freshman—she was the first Lion to cross the finish line at the 2017 New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships with a time of 21:31.

Madison Lynch didn't always enjoy running. In fact, she said she dreaded it. Her mother, Mary Lynch, first introduced her to running while she was in elementary school. She had Madison join a program called Girls on the Run when she was in fifth grade.

"I was always a runner recreationally, so I thought it would be a good program for her, but she wasn't a huge fan," her mother said.

It wasn't until her freshman year of high school that Madison Lynch said she actually began to enjoy running during her first season of cross country. That also led her to compete in winter and spring track as well.

See *Siblings*, page 8The Beacon
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news

Student conduct programs to focus on conversation not punishment

Kaitlyn Bryson, *Beacon Staff*

The college shaped its alcohol and marijuana peer-led programs around conversation and education rather than punishment.

The Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct renamed the alcohol education program from CHOICES to “Bring Your Own Conversation.” In light of medical marijuana dispensaries opening around Massachusetts, the college will rework its educational program on marijuana called Let’s Be Blunt to appeal to more students.

For the first year, the Emerson College Police Department will act as contributors to Let’s Be Blunt in a reaction to the recent state legislation. ECPD mainly gets involved through campaigning and posters to promote the college policies on marijuana, ECPD Deputy Chief Eric Schiazza said.

Two student, or peer, educators lead each of these hour-long programs to foster a more conversational environment, Assistant Director for the Center for Health and Wellness Laura Owen

said.

“We are looking for students who are really good at running a group where they can start conversations and ask questions,” Owen said. “Marijuana is a topic people are pretty passionate about, so validating other people’s sides of it is an important part of it.”

All students interested in learning more about alcohol consumption or marijuana use and effects can attend the sessions, according to Assistant Dean for Campus Life Elizabeth Ching-Bush.

“We have been trying to visibly educate students on different ways on which they can be safe on campus but also understand our policies,” Ching-Bush said.

Resident assistant Sean Zhuo said RAs underwent a two-week long training process in August to become familiar with these programs and other topics such as Title IX, diversity and inclusion, self-care, and how to handle these issues with their residents.

“We just want to make sure they don’t freak out—we want them to understand that it is okay

to make a mistake,” Zhuo said. “The most important thing is that they learn things from it.”

The unlawful possession, use, or distribution of drugs or alcohol by any student on Emerson property, or in connection with any college activity, is prohibited, according to Emerson’s official policy.

A typical sanction for a student’s first violation includes a formal warning, a \$50 fine, a notification to the student’s parent or guardian member, and a mandate to take the educational program that corresponds with their violation.

Ching-Bush cites active communication with students as the most important step in any sanctioning process.

“I think just more of the idea of making sure our sanctioning process, to us, meets the needs of what the students might need based upon the conversations we have had,” Ching-Bush said.

Resident Director for the Colonial Building Michael Barcelo, deals with cases of on-campus alcohol, drug usage, and other residential issues. Barcelo said he talks to students one-on-one for

a better understanding of who they are and their side of the story.

“It is about helping them understand and/or get them to a point where they see why this policy is in place and why their behavior and/or actions were not congruent with that policy,” Barcelo said.

Sophomore Jack Billotti said two RAs sanctioned him for participating in a party involving alcohol in a friend’s suite in Piano Row last January. After the RAs found marijuana in a room, they filed an incident report. Billotti said he was written up for

a marijuana violation and had to take both the alcohol and marijuana educational programs.

“I appreciated the fact that the students leading the classes were very non-judgemental, and it wasn’t a scared-straight situation, but more educational,” Billotti said.

“We have been trying to visibly educate students on different ways on which they can be safe on campus but also understand our policies.”

“It is about helping them understand and/or get them to a point where they see why this policy is in place.”

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Emerson Prison Initiative receives grant for more resources, classes

Continued from page 1

Gellman said both contributions will fund the cost of supplies for incarcerated students, and transportation for faculty, and the expansion of EPI cohort to 36 students.

This semester, professors Joshua Polster and Keri Thompson will teach U.S. Theatre and Performance and Fundamentals of Speech Communication, respectively.

“I think the biggest area of growth that we have seen has been in increasingly robust course offerings,” Gellman said.

EPI wants to strengthen its presence on Emerson’s Boston campus, and EPI faculty are brainstorming ways for students to get involved, Gellman said.

Emerson professor Cara Moyer-Duncan taught *Rainbow Nation: Race, Class, and Culture in South Africa* at MCI Concord in the spring 2018 semester. She said students could get involved in the future as research assistants. Since the incarcerated students cannot access the library or the internet, research assistants could help them write papers.

Additionally, EPI wants to educate students on the Boston campus about mass incarceration and why prisoners need higher education.

“I think that we are taught in various ways to not think about people who are incarcerated. When we’re taught to think about them, it’s in very stereotypical or narrow ways that are dehumanizing,” Moyer-Duncan said. “We have to challenge that narrative.”

Senior Mason Bowles and sophomore Chesirae Barbano, visual media arts majors, created

a promotional video for EPI at its inception in fall 2017.

Bowles said while he hopes to see more involvement on the Boston campus, he believes MCI Concord’s tight security limits the ways in which Boston students can help.

“I know logistical help is always needed—trying to get press about it to raise institutional support is really essential,” Bowles said.

MCI Concord students can fill out the same course evaluations as students on the Boston campus, except they complete their evaluations on paper instead of online. Gellman said feedback has been positive.

“For students, the opportunity to be a college student while being incarcerated is really allowing them a window into the garden of their own minds, the garden of intellectual thought,” Gellman said.

President M. Lee Pelton and Whelan scheduled a visit MCI Concord in October to meet the current cohort.

“Everyone deserves access to education,” Moyer-Duncan said. “It should be a fundamental human right. People who are incarcerated have dreams, and desires, and ambitions, and skills, and abilities just like all of us ... And so I would hope that as Emerson students learn about our prison initiative, that they really think about their fellow students in those ways.”

News editor Riane Roldan did not edit this article due to a conflict of interest.

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Two faculty members teach two courses per semester at the institute. *Courtesy of Emerson Prison Initiative*

Communication Disorders masters degree goes digital

Flora Li, *Beacon Correspondent*

The college launched its first online master degree program in communication disorders this September.

The online program maintains the same curriculum, cost, and instructors as the on-campus equivalent. Both the online and on-campus program requires 400 hours of clinical practicum experience in schools, clinics, hospitals, private practices, or other facilities to become a speech-language pathologist. The master degree is available on the Speech@Emerson website.

Other online certificate programs exist, but the new speech-pathology degree marks the college’s first venture into online graduate studies, according to a review of the college’s website.

US News & World Report ranked the college’s on-campus graduate program in Communication Disorders is ranked in the top 20 nationally. Because of the ranking, 2U, a company specialized in providing online learning platforms,

reached out to partner with Emerson for the online program to make it accessible to students all over the United States.

“Ultimately, we will have hundreds of students enrolled in this program in five to 10 years,” Joanne Lasker, chair of communication sciences and disorder, said. “There will be more speech-language pathologists with a master degree from Emerson.”

Director of Program Administration Phedra Hamilton-Reyna called the new degree more of an opportunity than a challenge.

“It is a different format, it is in a different

methodology,” Reyna said. “It is a different way and having them learn ... so I think that presents itself to be an opportunity.”

The college and 2u prepared for the launch of the new online degree over the past year. 2U also works with other institutions around the nation, such as Northwestern and New York University.

“It is a process where we were bringing out the components of this program over time,” Lasker said. “We are working with a

curriculum that we were already doing, and just delivering it in a different way.”

Before classes begin, students must attend a two weekend long orientation at the Boston campus. From there, the 42 student September cohort participates in live weekly classes. Both 2U and Emerson help students locate clinics or facilities with Emerson contracts in their communities to practice in-person treatment.

There are three admission cycles for the new online degree beginning in September, January, and May. The January cohort already contains 35 students. The program offers two enrollment options—full-time and part-time. A full-time student can graduate in 20 months, while a part-time student can graduate in 36 months.

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“It is a different format, it is in a different methodology, it is a different way of educating our students and having them learn.”

Journalism classes investigate gun proliferation in Massachusetts

Mark Emmons, *Beacon Correspondent*

Two journalism classes plan on using the \$35,000 grant awarded to the journalism department by the Online News Association to investigate the proliferation of guns in Massachusetts, according to a Boston Institute for Nonprofit Journalism editor.

Participatory Methods and Data Visualization plan to use the grant money to produce journalistic projects over the course of this semester in conjunction with BINJ and MuckRock. BINJ News Editor Chris Faraone described the topic of the project as a different kind of coverage on firearms.

"Generally speaking, [the project covers] a lot of issues around guns that aren't usually considered," Faraone said. "We're not looking at so-called street violence, we're looking at the proliferation of guns in our state by any means."

The Data Visualization class plans to work alongside MuckRock using Freedom of Information Act requests to research gun proliferation in Massachusetts. At the same time, the Participatory Methods class intends to collect community feedback on the writing conducted.

The journalism department is splitting the grant money with MuckRock and BINJ for their assistance with the project. Journalism Professor Paul Mihailidis said part of the grant goes to MuckRock because students will use their systems and facilities to search for FOIA requests.

Another part of the grant goes to BINJ because of their work writing and publishing sto-

ries with students. Emerson intends to spend their portion of the grant on any outsourcing that happens over the course of the project and preparing students for reporting.

"The grant money is going to the workshops, the resources needed to do those, for people to help design and develop the final documents, some of the journalism being done, and the supplies we need to do that," Mihailidis said.

Mihailidis completed and turned in the grant application on behalf of the college's journalism department. ONA awards the grant, the Challenge Fund for Journalism Education Innovation, to schools

based on their project's attention to diversity, technology, community engagement and participation, and building trust, according to ONA's website.

Faraone said the decision to join this project resulted from BINJ's history of working with both MuckRock and college students. Students in the Data Visualization class like junior Alisha Parikh look forward to the project.

"I think it's a cool project, it seems really well organized. I'm just really excited to work with these people," Parikh said. "To be able to apply the things we're learning in class to real-life stories, I think it's just really great experience that's just going to serve me well."

News Editor Riane Roldan and Assistant Express Editor Andrew Stanton did not edit this article.

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"Generally speaking, [the project] covers a lot of issues around guns that aren't usually considered."

SGA appoints deputy chief justice, elections chair, commissioners

Diana Bravo, *Beacon Correspondent*

The Student Government Association unanimously appointed the Elections Chair and Deputy Chief Justice along with three commissioners at its Tuesday meeting.

SGA designated Chris Henderson-West and Brilee Carey as Elections Chair and Deputy Chief Justice, respectively. All members SGA appointed do not vote and serve as liaisons between their individual niche communities and joint session, SGA's weekly gathering.

Henderson-West campaigned for SGA executive president last year, but lost to current Executive President Jessica Guida.

"There's a lot of new things that I need to learn, so I feel a lot of responsibility."

Henderson-West said he wants to make voting in SGA elections more common among Emerson students. He said by using student outreach methods such as posters and videos, he hopes to increase the percentage of students who vote in SGA elections by two percent.

"If we can get to like nine or ten percent, I would love that," Henderson-West said.

As Deputy Chief Justice, Carey will work alongside Chief Justice Lizzie Northey to interpret and enforce the SGA constitution. Carey said her past experiences in leadership roles such as SGA class senator and the President of Future Farmers of America will help her this year. Carey said her experience with SGA procedures gave her the idea to create a cheat sheet of the rules to assist people attending meetings.

SGA also appointed Liza Xiao as Service Learning Commissioner, Madi Doelling was



Executive Treasurer Ian Mandt voted to approve new SGA appointments at joint session. • Stephanie Shih / *Beacon Correspondent*

Off-Campus Commissioner, and Tatiana Melendez as Fraternity and Sorority Life Commissioner.

Prior to Xiao's appointment, the Service Learning Commissioner position remained vacant for two years. Xiao said she intends to bridge the gap between the student body, facul-

ty, and the Boston community by working with the Elma Lewis Center for Civic Engagement to present more volunteer opportunities to students.

"There's a lot of new things that I need to learn, so I feel a lot of responsibility," Xiao said at joint session.

News Editor Riane Roldan did not edit this article due to a conflict of interest.

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Incident Journal

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

Saturday, Sept. 15

ECPD is investigating a report of a harassment toward a student.

ECPD assisted BPD after an individual with no Emerson affiliation claimed they were assaulted while attending the Freedom Rally at the Boston Common.

Sunday, Sept. 16

An officer found an unsecured door at the Center for Health and Wellness. They found nothing out of place after they conducted a check of the premises and secured the location.

Tuesday, Sept. 18

An officer found an abandoned backpack with a laptop in the Walker Building. An investigation revealed the laptop belonged to a student. ECPD contacted the student to retrieve their belongings.

ECPD and BPD responded to a fire alarm in the Piano Row residence hall caused by overcooked food inside a microwave.

No fires or injuries were reported.

Northeastern University Police Department contacted ECPD about an underage student found in possession of alcohol.

ECPD investigated a report of a man acting inappropriately near the Ansin Building.

Wednesday, Sept. 19

A student reported an off campus assault. The student was not injured and BPD is investigating the incident.

A security officer reported that an unknown person had bypassed security at the Paramount Center. The individual was not found after a check of the building.

Friday, Sept. 21

The Office of Housing and Residence Life turned over confiscated drug paraphernalia found inside a student suite in Colonial residence hall to ECPD.

OHRL turned over additional drug paraphernalia found inside Colonial residence hall to ECPD.

Corrections & Clarifications

In an article published in the Berkeley Beacon Sept. 13 headlined "Alumna podcast turns mental illness into superpowers," the sentence saying Marissa Tandon's podcast was based "on her own experiences with mental illness" was in error.

Also in that article, we wish to clarify that David Bradburn's references to Tandon's struggles at Emerson were a reference to her creative work. Additionally, Ms. Tandon states that she had investors to fund the project in addition to the Kickstarter campaign. The Beacon apologizes for its errors.

editorial

Leave news to the newspaper, not administration

At issue: Emerson College Today updates mission

Our take: Announcements and news should be separate

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

Emerson's communication and marketing department is revamping Emerson College Today. Now a separate site, Emerson College Today aims to provide information regarding the school for students, faculty, and staff. The site includes news, announcements, statements from President M. Lee Pelton, press releases, and stories from the press highlighting the college and related individuals.

We appreciate Emerson's effort to streamline communication to reduce the amount of emails we receive and create a central location for information. But publications, like Emerson College Today that is linked to the voice of the administration, should not advertise themselves as a source for campus news and should only post announcements.

Notwithstanding obvious reasons, there is necessity in the fact that the Beacon is editorially independent and student-run. SGA recognizes and funds us, but no one

reads the Beacon before print. We serve as the unbiased source of student voice

Publications, like Emerson College Today that is linked to the administration, should not advertise themselves as a source for campus news and should only post announcements.

and opinion. It is dangerous for any

institution to advertise and promote their own agenda, for fear of it becoming propaganda.

In the past, students who contributed to Emerson College Today received payment. If this continues, contributors could feel pressured to not criticize Emerson. That's not news—that's PR. Students and staff could censor criticism to sugarcoat the school and its procedures. It's a dangerous mindset, and in our culture's current journalistic hysteria, student reporters need a resource that honors and values their voices.

Instead of luring students with paychecks and bylines, perhaps Emerson should encourage students to work *with* students on a paper *by* students.

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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by the Editorial Board
illustration by Ally Rzesza

Em celebs get to use the priority lane in Walker at 1:45 p.m.



opinion

Investing in local media is mutually beneficial



The college's ownership of a real station could meaningfully translate to a co-op experience for Emerson students. Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

Dylan Rossiter
Rossiter is a sophomore journalism major & Beacon staff.

Emerson's co-curriculars for broadcasting and journalism—WEBN, Emerson Independent Video, and The Emerson Channel—offer an environment where students can make mistakes and learn the basics, but at the end of the day, it's not the real world. The stakes change dramatically when one works alongside professionals on a product that is going to potentially reach thousands of homes, not just parents, Facebook friends, and the occasional late-night YouTubers.

Emerson has a golden opportunity to not only save a local journalism institution, but to provide students with better, real-world experiences. In August, Cox Media Group, which owns Boston 25 News—the local Fox affiliate—announced that it intended to sell off the company's local TV portfolio of 14 stations, including Dedham based WFXT, located roughly 20 miles from campus.

The college's ownership of a real station could meaningfully translate to a co-op experience for Emerson students. Students would have

the opportunity to assist in field and studio production, assignment editing, investigative reporting research, graphic design, and more. Marketing students could also gain experience at the station through its sales and advertising departments. It could essentially be an extension of the classroom in the real world.

This is not to say the college should do away with co-curriculars, as they are stepping stones to the real world, but the institution should not pass up the chance to offer more and to preserve diversity in the marketplace by purchasing Boston 25.

Student working in a real-world setting at an organization owned by Emerson is a proven and successful model for the college. WERS operates less like a college radio station and more like the type of environment students may end up in after graduation. There is professional oversight,

and the station is one of the top 25 most listened to in the market. Alumni have gone on to work

The college's ownership of a real station could meaningfully translate to a co-op experience for Emerson students.

at NPR and other recognizable institutions at the local and national levels. The downside to WERS, from a purely journalistic perspective, is its lack of original reporting. Reading a script of aggregated information from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. is great practice for news presenters, and its one-hour weekly news magazine is good. But, by design, this style forces short, feature reporting. Emerson needs more resources for students to gain valuable hard and breaking news experience.

Emerson would not be the first Boston-area college or university to own a major local news

organization. WBUR, despite its affiliation as an NPR member station, is owned and operated by Boston University. The station is widely recognized as a leader in its coverage of local, state, and national news and politics, with shows in syndication throughout the NPR system. WBUR does not publicly advertise any kind of preference to BU students applying for internships and, to be fair, a number of Emerson students cite the station as experience on their LinkedIn profiles. Given its relationship with the school, one could argue that BU students have more access and connection to WBUR—an advantage Emerson students could have with Boston 25.

In theory, Cox could just sell Boston 25 to some other company with faraway offices, but given the current state of the Boston market, that probably won't happen. There are five stations: four have network affiliation and the fifth, WHDH "7 News," is independent. The success of WHDH's model is uncertain as it was an NBC affiliate 21 months ago, but if the station were to land the city's Fox affiliation, its profit margins would be more secure. If this happens, the Boston 25 and WHDH newsrooms would merge—leading to layoffs and fewer reporters covering the area.

It's unclear how much of a financial burden acquiring Boston 25 would be for the college. A leaked Wells Fargo market analysis report of the Cox stations obtained by Scott Jones of the industry insider website FTVLive estimated WFXT brought in \$101.9 million in revenue last year. Factoring in the operational expenses and capital needed to purchase the station, it is admittedly challenging to calculate what kind of financial impact purchasing Boston 25 could have on the college.

The idea that Emerson should buy a television station in support of its mission—educating students to assume positions of leadership in communication and the arts—will understandably be met with pushback from a student population frustrated with the way the college spends money. I'm not and don't claim to be an expert in media, but I see an opening for the college to further itself and the community. Opportunities can be unexpected, and there is value in Emerson taking a look at this out-of-the-box idea.

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Me vs. the homo sapiens agenda

Kyle Labe
Labe is a junior writing, literature and publishing major & the Beacon's Copy Managing Editor.

Following the nationwide legalization of same-sex marriage in 2015, someone told me that my generation is now responsible for setting the standard for queer love. At first, I didn't grasp what that meant. But now it makes sense. Never before, in America's recorded history, could queer people express their sexuality so publicly and so openly. There aren't many, if any, precedents or examples of queer love in America's past from which to model ourselves. This leads to the conundrum: Because we have nothing to replicate, we are forced to imitate roles governed by heteronormativity. We're the first generation dealing with this conflict, this struggle, so like it or not we have to pave the way.

We didn't ask to be in this position—all we wish is to be ourselves in the most liberating sense possible. People—from the Uranian movement in the nineteenth century, to the conception of Pride—had to hide, fight, and die for us to be where we're at today. But it's also worth mentioning that none of us—the fighters and activists of the past, and the present result of their work—desired to do it. If one sat down with an activist and posed the question, "Would you prefer to fight for civil rights, or have them by default?" I can almost guarantee that nobody would answer the former.

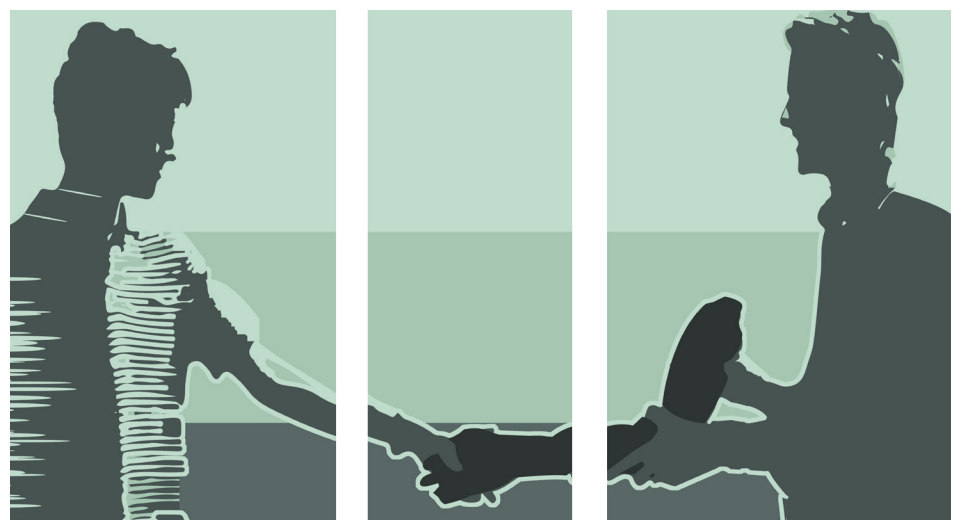
Consider marriage. Is marriage even for us, now that we have it? Marriage, as it stands, is conventional, and by that I mean heterosexual. Marriage was and is formed around a basis of the religious perception of love—that it's

a union of man and woman. At the outset, it was created for that, and queer people have only adopted it. We are expected to believe we can be ourselves in a system not meant for us. That because in 2018 we can marry, we are a fully realized community, when instead we become a cheap knockoff of a heteronormative institution. Tradition, as a concept, is seemingly not for us—from marriage, to religion, to public and private spheres, to even storytelling—we have nothing deemed *ours*.

When I contemplate recent queer narratives, my mind jumps to *Call Me By Your Name*. When I first read André Aciman's masterful novel, I hailed it as a queer classic. I recommended it to some people and was underwhelmed by their reactions. Then, I realized: *Call Me By Your Name* is so specially tailored for the gay male experience that, obviously, not everyone will have the same emotional response that I did.

Considering such, I was surprised to discover Aciman was a heterosexual man, married and with children. This is no slight on Aciman—if anything, I laud his radical empathy. But, as I have found with stories like *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, *Brokeback Mountain*, and *The Song of Achilles* that serve to detail the queer experience, to find out a heterosexual author penned our narratives for us is rather exhausting and a tad disappointing.

I would call for queer artists to create and fashion our own stories, but we already do that—I think of James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*, Patricia Highsmith's *The Price of Salt*, and Paul Monette's *Becoming a Man*. However, these, with rare exceptions, hardly receive the same attention as their heterocentric counterparts. Why is this? Sometimes I believe it's because the general public is only ready to learn about



There aren't many, if any, precedents or examples of queer love in America's past from which to model ourselves. • Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

queer experience through a heterosexual lens. Other times, I think it's because they distrust us to tell our own stories. Whatever the case, I'm convinced they don't want to hear us.

Fathoming a culture opposed to our own is almost impossible. All I know is we are fed lies, and we can't keep pretending to be ourselves through a lens of heteronormativity. We may not aim to please and satisfy straight people, but, beneath the surface, that's the mistake we repeat and repeat. With marriage—while before I only worried myself with earning the right—I now face the same quandary as straight people: I am pressured to find a partner, and to find one quick, or else risk being alone. What troubles me, nevertheless, is that if marriage isn't for us, does that mean love isn't either? Just because we

can freely exist now doesn't mean there's a place in this world for us.

Perhaps I conceptualize these extreme opinions because I'm insecure, and this is somehow a means to reaffirm my existence. But is there a queer person out there who can confidently say that they believe they're authentic, at all times, and in all scenarios? That's not rhetorical. I'm genuinely curious.

Maybe we're not actually going to pave the way. Perhaps, when it comes down to it, what we're going to accomplish is figuring things out, so the subsequent generation can set the road on top of our footsteps.

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living arts

Freshman Vine star finds new creative outlets

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"I had a good relationship with the Vine staff, and they did their best towards the end to better accommodate their creators."

Zimmer said he comes up with content for YouTube and Instagram by using puns or writing down interesting things he sees or hears in a notebook.

"If there is a joke I am super confident about, I will write a script and build it from there," Zimmer said.

Zimmer met one of his close friends, Miles Hampton, through a group chat of Vine creators. Hampton currently has 130,000 followers on Instagram. Hampton said they would text about their ideas and FaceTime constantly, though they did not meet in person until about two years ago.

"I don't know who is as clever with his jokes and delivery as Jay is. Jay is a straight-up genius."

"I don't know anybody who is as clever with his jokes and delivery as Jay is," Hampton said. "Jay is a straight-up genius."

Sophomore Grace Tepper has known Zimmer since her senior year at Bethesda Chevy-Chase High School in Bethesda, Maryland. Tepper said she knew Zimmer before his rise to fame in the digital world and said his presence on Vine captured his personality well.

"Jay is not only a fun guy to be around," Tepper said, "he is a hard worker and his sketch comedy videos reflect that."

Zimmer said he never sought fame on Vine, but wanted to release funny content. He said he found it comforting when his audience could relate to him about personal issues, like when he came out as gay over social media in 2017.



Freshman Jay Zimmer has over 18,000 followers on Instagram, and had 120,000 followers on the app Vine
Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Correspondent

"People really open up to me, and that is a responsibility I choose to bear with," Zimmer said.

Zimmer came out last September in an Instagram post. He wants to relate and connect openly with the LGBTQ+ community, the post said.

"I only hope that more closeted men and women can one day find the right environment and work up the courage to express themselves freely with a loving support system around them too," Zimmer wrote in the Instagram caption.

The post received 620 comments from fans supporting Zimmer.

"This is so cute! And so inspirational! Thank you for being a new voice in the community and being true to who you are," wrote fan Dominic Tran-Le in a comment.

"The best part of making sketch comedy is coming up with the scripts."

Hampton said Zimmer has done a lot for the LGBTQ+ community, and it shows Zimmer's genuine character.

"Jay is intelligent, spontaneous, and authentic," Hampton said. "He really cares about the people around him."

In the future, Zimmer said he hopes to continue writing and producing sketch comedy.

"The best part of making sketch comedy is coming up with the scripts," Zimmer said.

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Students named Top 100 interns by Way Up

Diti Kohli, Beacon Staff

Last week, Jessica Braunstein received over a dozen crates of Red Bull. The junior, along with junior Lilly Milman, just won a year's supply after Way Up named them Top 100 Interns this August.

Way Up, a job search website for college students and recent graduates, partnered with Red Bull for the contest. Winners were given around 288 cans, according to Milman. Way Up created the contest to showcase student interns, Head of Brand Marketing Hannah Berg said.

The company then chose Braunstein and Milman from over 800 applicants. Applicants interned anywhere from Fox Television to the New York Mets and hailed from colleges across the country.

"The goal was really simple," Berg said. "We just felt like everyone should know about these incredible students and what they were doing."

For the contest's inaugural year, Berg said Way Up contacted experts in the intern space to find out what makes a good intern prior to launching the application. Eventually, Way Up filtered Braunstein's and Milman's applications, along with 800 others, through a two-step process.

Public votes determined 30 percent of the application, and a panel of judges determined the remaining 70 percent.

The panel comprised of Way Up Founder and CEO Liz Wessel, Society for Human Resource Management Editor Roy Mauer, and New York University professor and early career expert Trudy Steinfeld. They evaluated applications blindly.

"It was truly about the projects they worked

on, and the passion behind what they're doing, and how eager they are to apply in the future," Berg said.

Milman, a Beacon Living Arts staff writer, served as an intern with Billboard Magazine. She said it was one step on her way to become a music journalist.

"The whole time I was there, it didn't feel like it was really happening," Milman said. "Like, I couldn't believe it."

Braunstein applied after a promotions internship this summer at Atlantic Records and its subsidiaries in New York City. She and the promotions team were responsible for submitting different songs to radio stations.

Braunstein said she remembers assisting in a phone interview with Brendon Urie, frontman of Panic! at the Disco, as one of her favorite experiences.

"I connected his call to the station that was interviewing him," Braunstein said. "So, that was really exciting! This was honestly my dream internship. I wish I didn't have to leave."

Braunstein said her time at Atlantic Records gave her a specific direction in her career, and she hopes to intern at a touring agency in the coming year.

"I realized being there that my really, really big passion is in live music and touring," Braunstein said.

Both students said getting on the list surprised them. According to them, neither expected an award because they did not get many public votes.

"The list came out and I was on it, and I was like, 'Wow, this is cool, I can't even believe this,'" Braunstein said.

Though Braunstein and Milman said receiv-

ing the accolade was enough, Milman said a year's supply of Red Bull was a nice perk.

"Winning the Red Bull was just something hilarious to top it all off," Milman said. "I made a throne out of it. So, there's just a throne in my apartment of like 12 cases of Red Bull."

Braunstein said the prize did not appeal to her as much.

"I personally don't drink Red Bull," she said. "But my family does, so I sent it home. I got all these calls from my dad the other day, and he

was like, 'What is going on?'"

The goal of the contest will remain the same in coming years.

"Let's give these students an accolade that they can really be proud of," Berg said. "I feel really excited because I know we gave at least a hundred students the confidence that what they're doing matters and that they are valued."

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Junior Jessica Braunstein at her internship with Atlantic Records.
Courtesy of Jessica Braunstein

Swing Left Emerson aims to flip the House

Cassandra Coyer, *Beacon Staff*

After seeing Hillary Clinton tweet about the Swing Left fellowship program, senior Allison Mitchell aimed to inspire Emerson students by bringing the program to campus for the November midterm elections.

Swing Left, a national grassroots movement, started after the 2016 presidential election. The volunteers act locally to replace Republican House seats with Democrat seats in the upcoming election on Nov. 6.

Since March, Mitchell, a political communications major, serves as the Swing Left Emerson lead organizer. Swing Left is not an SGA recognized organization, and there is no mandatory

membership. The group's purpose at Emerson, Mitchell said, is to make political engagement easier and more accessible for students.

"Everybody has a stake in this election," Mitchell said. "No matter who you are or where you identify on the liberal spectrum—whether you're a socialist, whether you're a moderate, whether you are very active in your community, or whether you take a back seat and let other things happen around you—everybody has a stake and everybody's rights are at stake, no matter who you are or what you believe."

Mitchell works with sophomore Alexa Bodner, the fundraising coordinator, and senior Erin Graham, the social media coordinator.

On Thursday, Sept. 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the

Campus Center 227, Swing Left Emerson will host its general information meeting to explain the mission of the movement and how to get involved.

Mitchell said people don't realize the amount of activism and volunteering required to get a candidate elected.

Mitchell explained that Swing Left Emerson aims to get students volunteering in swing districts to campaign for Democratic candidates. A swing district is an area that doesn't consistently vote for a particular party.

Swing Left Emerson will focus on the New Hampshire 1st Congressional District, a swing district, and support Democratic candidate Chris Pappas, who won the primaries in September.

On the weekend before Nov. 6, Mitchell plans to send a bus of Emerson students to New Hampshire to knock on potential voters' doors and encourage them to vote.

"I think that students in general just don't have the opportunities that a lot of older people do to get involved," Mitchell said. "I think that by providing an easy way for students to talk to voters, to talk to legislators, to make a difference, people will really get involved."

Swing Left will provide a bus for \$5 per student, said Bodner. The money raised would potentially cover that fee, with any extra fundraising going to Pappas' campaign. Bodner hopes to allow any interested students to go to New

Hampshire for free through funds from their GoFundMe page.

A party needs 218 seats out of 435 to control the House of Representatives. With control of the House, the winning party can pass its own legislative agendas and block the opposite ones.

During the weeks up to election day, Swing Left Emerson will write potential voters letters to convince them to vote through

phone banking—calling a list of potential voters. The Emerson branch also plans to put boxes around campus for professors and students to donate stamps, Bodner said.

"A lot of people really don't like what's going on, especially with the current administration and the government, but they don't know how to help, and that's a very overwhelming feeling," Bodner said, "I feel like this and Swing Left in general is a great way to help."

After the midterms, Mitchell, Bodner, and Graham hope to transform Swing Left Emerson to continue to keep students politically engaged year-round.

"I mean, we do have to swing left the presidency, [but] that hasn't happened yet," Graham said. "So if that's a focus, I would be happy to work with that to try to help students get their absentee ballots or register in their districts."

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Sophomore Alexa Bodner is the fundraising coordinator for Swing Left Emerson • *Cullen Granzen/Beacon Staff*

Alumna publishes her first full-length novel

Damica Rodriguez, *Beacon Correspondent*

Jana Casale '11 published her first novel in April, *The Girl Who Never Read Noam Chomsky*—a story detailing the everyday life of the main character, Leda, who buys a book by Noam Chomsky, the "father of modern linguistics," with the intention of reading it but never does.

The novel follows Leda's life from a writing student in Boston to her adulthood, including relationships, school, and self-image to paint a larger narrative on feminism. As the story progresses, readers see Leda's ambitions fall short as she settles for a life different than imagined, all while not reading Noam Chomsky's book.

"I wanted to write a book about modern womanhood and the challenges that the women I see in my life, or in general, deal with," Casale said. "I feel like that wasn't written or talked about enough."

The idea for the book came when Casale wrote her capstone for her writing, literature and publishing major, she said.

"I walked away from Emerson with the beginning of a novel that ended up being a novel in full," said Casale.

The Girl Who Never Read Noam Chomsky has a write-up in ELLE Magazine and it currently has 392 ratings on Goodreads, with an overall rating of 3.59 stars out of five.

"There was a girl doing a presentation on Noam Chomsky in my non-western history class and at the end of the presentation, Professor Yaacoub Hallak asked, 'Have you ever read any Noam Chomsky?'" Casale said. "She says, 'No, but I would like to when I have more time,' and I thought, 'Oh, she's never gonna do that,' It's just one of those things."

It took Casale seven years to publish *The Girl Who Never Read Noam Chomsky*. Fiction Professor Steven Yarbrough said the concept of the book felt fresh, and he hadn't seen before.

"I thought immediately that it was unusual and when it comes to fiction writing, unusual is almost always good," Yarbrough said.

Casale continued to work on her book as part of her thesis at the University of Oxford in England, where she hit a roadblock.

"The professor I worked with there, she just didn't get it," Casale said. "Isn't this a book about nothing?" she said. I could've really given up at that point, but I didn't."

More problems ensued when she looked for an agent to represent her book. Casale underwent the process of "cold-querying," where you send a letter to an agent asking to consider your work.

"Cold-querying" means you don't have a connection—you just send it out of the blue," Casale said, "And I sent a ton."

Casale said her search for an agent to represent her book made her question if she had enough on her resume, if not publishing short stories was the right decision, and how long she would have to wait until she heard a "yes."

"The publishing industry is a difficult industry," Casale said. "The stars really have to align."

Out of the many letters Casale sent, one agent expressed interest in her book. Alfred A. Knopf, a conglomerate of Penguin Random House, ended up publishing the novel.

Casale emphasizes Leda's struggles such as body image, self-worth, and communicating honestly in relationships as a way to urge readers to challenge these burdens women face. Leda never fully overcomes these struggles, even though they lose their importance as she ages, she is never free of her burdens, Casale said.

"I wanted to write a really feminist character who's ideologically a feminist character, but then realizes that she has a harder time applying those ideologies to herself," Casale said. "So, it's a fine line to walk between how self-aware she's gonna be. She has to be true in the story, but also be that kind of voice for us as it contains intimate truths."

The Girl Who Never Read Noam Chomsky reaches out to women who tend to internalize their issues. Casale said awareness of what burdens women from embracing their most genuine selves is essential in alleviating those struggles.

"My goal, more than anything, is for women to read it and feel less lonely in a lot of those things," Casale said. "I really wanted to be as realistic and vulnerable and honest as I possibly could, and just go for it."

Casale highlights the significance of writing women that adhere to their unique individuality, rather than contending with men. She kept this concept in mind while writing Leda's character.

"I think there are a lot more books that kind of examine masculinity in that totality of like what makes a man, a man," Casale said. "But,

the question of what makes a woman, a woman— meaning being her truest, most authentic self, whoever she is, isn't asked a lot."

Despite her endeavors, Casale advises college students to believe in their work, just as she did in hers.

"Don't get discouraged in school," she said. "Even if you have people telling you that your work isn't good, don't listen to them. 50 percent of people loved my book, but the other 50 percent didn't get it. I didn't care because I knew in my heart they were wrong."

Casale is currently in the process of selling a different screenplay and is writing her second novel, *How to Fall Out of Love Quickly*. An Em-

erson event for Casale that includes a possible reading of her new book is also under works.

"For anybody who's writing something that's a longer work, hang onto it," Casale said. "Keep it exciting for yourself and not have everything planned out. The best road trips are where you have the destination in mind, but you don't mind taking a little side-trip here and there."

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Jana Casale '11 recently published her book, *The Girl Who Never Read Noam Chomsky*. Courtesy of Elena Seibert

sports



Cross Country

Lynch siblings continue cross country bond at Emerson

Continued from page 1

Michael Lynch, their father and director of undergraduate admissions at Emerson, believes freshman Mac Lynch started running after watching his sister.

"Mac got to see what his sister was doing in high school, since he is a year younger," Michael Lynch said. "Mac has a natural talent, so even without significant preparation, he seemed to be able to run very quickly. The better he got, the more he enjoyed it."

Mac Lynch's running career at Dartmouth High School in Massachusetts did not end as expected. He broke his leg running in the middle of the state meet.

"Unfortunately, during his senior year, while he was having the best season of his high school career, he literally fractured his leg in the middle of a race," Michael Lynch said. "He collapsed at the finish line, so we took him to the emergency room and found out the day of states that he had a fractured leg."

Even though he hasn't competed this season at Emerson, Furey said he sees Mac Lynch's potential for the team.

"We knew he was good in high school, and we knew he would help us. He just hasn't run

in any races yet because he just got cleared last week," Furey said. "But I'm sure he will be a top runner—we just haven't seen him in action yet."

Sophomore teammate Phillipe Legagneur said having siblings on the team is an interesting dynamic.

"They act normal like brothers and sisters would," Legagneur said. "Sometimes we josh them for being brother and sister, which is kind of funny. I'm sure they have little innuendos that only they know because they have lived with each other and they know each other. They have probably done things like that, but I am just too oblivious."

Madison Lynch, a communication studies major, said she is involved with the Emerson organization Generation Citizen. Through Generation Citizen, she

teaches action civics to middle and high schoolers.

Mac Lynch, a visual and media arts major, said video production intrigued him from a young age.

"I'm really interested in creating content for people to see," Mac Lynch said. "I probably got started in fifth or sixth grade when I made YouTube videos with one of my friends. They were just comedy videos, and they were so bad, but I have been into making videos ever since."

"We are proud of the work they are doing and hope they continue to find enjoyment in running."



Madison (left) and Mac Lynch (right) raced together in High School. • Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff

Both parents expressed pride as their children pursue their degrees and athletics.

"We are proud of the work they are doing and hope they continue to find enjoyment in running, both as a competitive sport and for enjoyment as well," Michael Lynch said. "We are

pleased to see that they are able to continue that at Emerson."

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Versatile sophomore takes charge for women's soccer



Benavente (No.2) plays as both a defender and a forward. • Kyle Bray / Beacon Staff



Benavente (No.2, right) leads the women's soccer team with eight points. Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

Aaron Miller, *Beacon Correspondent*

Even though sophomore defender Amanda Benavente received offers to play soccer for various Division I and II schools, she chose Emerson—a Division III school.

"I loved the idea of being in the city of Boston, so Emerson was such a good fit for me," Benavente said. "I didn't just come here for soccer. I came here for the academics, so I'm so happy that my life is in sports and academics."

Benavente leads the team with eight points and two assists. She's also tied for three goals with senior forward Jess Frost.

Frost said Benavente's vigor weighs heavily on her ability to play at such a demanding level all around the field.

"From forward, to outside back, to center back, she transitions easily and freely," Frost said. "[She is] one of the fittest people on the team."

Emerson Athletics named Benavente as one of the Lions of the Week for the week of Sept. 18. This was the first time she was given the title in her two years playing for the team.

"It definitely boosted my confidence," Benavente said. "The week before that, I was feeling a little down with my performance in a game, and getting that title helped me realize

that I do have positive things I need to focus on. Now that I have this title, I want to go further and keep going up, because you can always keep learning in soccer."

Benavente scored the game-winning goal against Mount Holyoke College, on Sept. 15, from a free kick halfway through the second half of the game by shooting the ball at the far left post of the net. It bounced once and went in the net for a goal.

"I was trying to go for the upper corner, but it actually hit the [left] post and bounced down," Benavente said. "The goalie thought it was going to bounce in front of her, but it hit her in the head and went in the goal. It was an awkward goal, but it went in."

After the team's 2-1 loss to Springfield College in Emerson's New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference home opener, head coach David Suvak said Benavente has a dynamic personality and it comes from her passion for the sport.

"She is an amazing athlete," Suvak said. "She is very energetic and she's playing enthusiastically

for this college. She brings a lot of positive energy to the team."

Suvak also said that Benavente's talent as a striking forward and defender on the pitch allows her to play any position.

"She's a truly talented soccer player," Suvak said. "We can play her in a lot of different positions, so she's adding a lot of value to the team."

Benavente said she began playing soccer at nine years old for her local recreational team and quickly moved up to a travel team in an organization known as the Elite Club National League in her junior year of school and that is where her passion for soccer really

flourished. "It was such a crazy transition, because the speed, intensity, and reading the game was so different, but it really prepared me for college," Benavente said. "I got to play with girls of all different skill levels."

This past summer, Benavente played for Team Boca Blast, a semi-professional team in the Women's Premier Soccer League, which she said really upped her game coming into her sophomore year.

"She is very energetic and she's playing enthusiastically for this college. She brings a lot of positive energy to the team."

"I was the only Division III girl, and I was getting to play with all these Division I and II girls that played at top schools," Benavente said. "It was such a confidence booster and prepared me so much to come here to have fun and prove myself."

Benavente, a business of creative enterprise major, said when she's not on the field, she enjoys marketing and fashion. She works for CodeStart and Adriana's Tailoring, both located near her hometown in southern Florida.

She said her dream is to open her own business, particularly a store or boutique.

"I've been trying to do things to lead me in the right direction, and marketing has a lot of connections with the business world," Benavente said.

Even if her dream career lies in marketing and fashion, Benavente still holds on to her passion for soccer.

"Soccer has shown me so many valuable life lessons that people may not realize you can get from being an athlete," she said. "Being a collegiate student-athlete is part of my life and I don't mind all of the work it involves because it's what I love to do."

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