



# The Berkeley Beacon

Emerson College's student newspaper since 1947 • [berkeleybeacon.com](http://berkeleybeacon.com)

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## Organization helps first-generation students navigate college

By Cassandre Coyer • p. 7

Sophomore Anthony Rodriguez and junior Cassie Poirier created Gen E-M this semester. • *Tivara Tanudjaja / Beacon Correspondent*

## Social Justice Center welcomes new director of diversity

Hanna Marchesseault, *Beacon Correspondent*

Samantha Ivery joined the Social Justice Center this past September as the new Director of Diversity and Equity Initiatives.

The Social Justice Center left this position vacant after the former director, Robert Amelio, retired in July.

Once Ivery filled the position, Vice President for Equity and Social Justice Sylvia Spears changed the job title from Director of Diversity and Inclusive Excellence to Director of Diversity and Equity Initiatives. Spears changed the title to reflect the office's name change from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to the Social Justice Center.

"Samantha's work includes the work of the old position around diversity and inclusion, but also equity and social justice," Spears said. "The title and scope of work should be in line with what the person in the position wants to do."

The director will help coordinate a new version of the Emerson360 Community Climate Survey, which they will release within the next few weeks. The survey gathers information from students to better understand what they need to do to create a more inclusive environment.

In the past, the survey focused solely on faculty and staff.

See *Director*, page 3

## International Student Affairs low on staff, high in demand

Flora Li, *Beacon Correspondent*

The Office of International Student Affairs began a series of new hires after months of operating at less than full capacity—the changes come at a time when the college enrolled a record number of international students.

The college welcomed its highest percentage of international students this summer. Out of 900 new undergraduates, 16 percent, or 144, identify as international, a 5 percent increase from 11 percent last year.

The college narrowed the number of candidates for the OISA director position to three people this month and hired a program coordinator after having only one employee on staff for five months.

OISA responsibilities include processing international students' paperwork, like passports and visas, and supporting intercultural events.

In an email sent to students on Oct. 15, Associate Vice President for Internationalization and Global Engagement Anthony Pinder outlined actions the college plans to take to provide more support to the record number of students, like hiring new staff to ease their transitions to Emerson.

Pinder said the college will hire a new director at the beginning of November.

See *International*, page 2Women's volleyball seniors pose with team and coaches. • *Cullen Granzon / Beacon Staff*

## Women's soccer, volleyball victorious on senior day

Aaron Miller and Kyle Bray, *Beacon Staff*

The soccer and volleyball teams celebrated the achievements and careers of their senior players last Saturday with food, posters, and cardboard cutouts of players' heads.

While the men's soccer team suffered a loss against Wheaton College, the women's soccer and volleyball teams won on their senior day.

### Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team clinched a spot in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference playoffs with their strong 3-2 win over Babson College. Every scoring play in the women's game involved a senior.

Kira Venturini opened the game with a goal in the second minute, assisted by Jess Frost. Paige Haley then boosted the Lions' lead to 2-0 with a goal in the 27th minute, also assisted by Frost. Frost scored an unassisted goal in the 70th minute and gave the Lions the edge they needed to secure a 3-2 victory over Babson.

Haley—a San Diego, California native—said she felt honored by the celebration before her team's victory over Babson.

"I've always loved playing on senior day because everyone is so pumped and excited for the seniors," Haley said. "It's very special to have been honored today."

Haley said she attributes her team's conference win to each player's intense training and passion for the sport.

See *Seniors*, page 8



# news

## C-Store prices max out CVS and Target for certain items

Lily Hartman, *Beacon Correspondent*

Several items for sale at the C-Store in the Max Cafe cost more than those at other stores in the Theatre District.

For example, a bottled Starbucks Frappuccino costs \$3.52 at the C-Store while the same size bottle costs \$2.79 at CVS and \$2.59 at Starbucks. One Kraft Instant Mac and Cheese cup costs \$2.89 at the C-Store but costs \$1.69 each at CVS—a 171 percent increase.

No change in cost exists between the C-Store and CVS on other products such as a box of Frosted Flakes or a pint of Ben and Jerry's.

For non-food items, a box of 10 Tampax tampons costs \$3.99, or \$0.40 each. At CVS a pack of 18 tampons costs \$6.29, or 0.35 each. It costs \$8.29 for a four-pack of AAA Duracell batteries at the C-Store but \$6.99 at CVS for the same item. A 0.5 ounce bottle of Visine eye drops sells for \$5.99 at the C-Store and CVS.

Bon Appétit District Manager Yvonne Matteson attributes the price discrepancy to the C-Store having a smaller size and lower number of customers than neighboring stores. She said larger stores such as Target can buy goods in more affordable, high-volume orders, allowing them to lower retail costs.

"We are never going to compete in that type of sales based on volume purchases," Matteson said.

Matteson said she could not make direct comparisons to the prices from last year when Sodexo managed the store as they kept no record.

Freshman Alexa Schapiro said she knows items cost less at other stores, but she goes to the Max because of convenience.

"Honestly I don't look at the prices," freshman Allison Bowlin said. "Because I have Board Bucks, money just loses all value in that currency to me."

According to Matteson, Bon Appétit does not dictate pricing—distributors do. Bon Appétit works with three retail convenience store distributors—Core-Mark, J Pol ep, and UNFI—to stock the Max. They also get leftover produce from the Dining Center which comes from local farmers, she said.

The distributors suggest retail prices on their invoice when they deliver products to Bon Appétit which the dining company abides by. Some goods like the \$2.89 Kraft Instant Mac and Cheese arrive with price stickers already applied.

"It makes it much simpler for us as the people who have to sell the items," Matteson said.

According to Duncan Pollock, assistant vice president for facilities and campus services, the C-Store and the Max Cafe accept ECCash, Board Bucks, and regular currency as payment. Board Bucks make up the majority of spending through the store, he said.

Bon Appétit does not receive profits from Board Bucks. Emerson includes Board Bucks in dining plans purchased by students at the beginning of the year. The basic dining plan for on-campus students offers 650 Board Bucks per semester.

According to Bon Appétit's Director of

Goods	C-Store Price	CVS Pharmacy Price	Target Price
Pure Leaf Tea	\$2.55	\$1.99	\$2.00
Totino's Pizza Rolls	\$3.29	\$2.39	Price varies by store
Box of Pop-Tarts	\$3.99	\$3.39	\$2.09
Ben and Jerry's pint	\$5.99	\$5.99	\$4.39
Kraft Instant Macaroni and Cheese	\$2.89	\$1.69	\$1.29
Duracell 4-pack AAA batteries	\$8.29	\$6.99	\$3.99
Dawn detergent, 8 ounces	\$2.59	\$1.59	\$0.99
Visine eyedrops, 0.5 ounces	\$5.99	\$5.99	\$3.99

Graphic by Maya Gacina / *Beacon Staff*

Operations Erik Zamudio, they cannot make money from selling retail goods because Bon Appétit is not licensed as a retailer.

Bon Appétit manages dining services at Emerson, Pollock said, but they do not deal with profit and risk. That responsibility falls on the

college.

"The way we see it, the C-Store is a benefit to students," Pollock said. "So we don't really try and get profit from it."

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## College to hire new international student affairs



Anthony Pinder, associate vice president of internationalization and global engagement, hopes new staff will bring changes to the office. • *Photo by Tivara Tanudjaja / Beacon Correspondent*

Continued from page 1

"We have talked a lot here at the college about the global portals, global pathways, and studying abroad," Pinder said to the Beacon. "What about the international activities that is happening right on this campus?"

OISA currently employs six part-time students and a full-time program coordinator. Student employees hold responsibility for answering phone calls and leading walk-in students to the related staff at the college.

Last year, two official staff members and one intern—Director Virga Mohsini, Program Coordinator Susannah Marcucci and Intern Sheena Loiacono—made up OISA. Marcucci left the college in October 2017 and Mohsini retired this February. OISA promoted Loiacono, its sole employee, to interim director in March.

According to Loiacono's LinkedIn profile, she graduated with a master's degree in International Higher Education and Intercultural Studies at

Lesley University in 2017.

Ann Zhang, a junior from Tianjin, China and the International Pre-Orientation Chair for Student Government Association, collaborated with OISA for the preparation of international pre-orientation.

"I really enjoyed my work this summer, but I did not have enough supports from the [OISA] as the program deserved," Zhang said. "I feel the [OISA] didn't pay enough attention and time to us."

Zhang said OISA was supposed to supervise and plan the orientation with her and her team, but Zhang said her team planned and implemented almost everything themselves, and OISA provided limited advice. Zhang sourced this to OISA's understaffing, which only had one employee—Loiacono—at the time.

Pinder said Loiacono temporarily left the college for personal reasons at the end of last month and will return as the OISA assistant director in November. Between Loiacono

leaving and the college hiring Yang on Oct. 15, only six student employees were considered part of OISA. The Office of Internationalization and Global Engagement juggled OISA responsibilities with their own.

Loiacono did not respond for a comment.

Yang began his position last week. Yang's responsibilities include communicating with international students. After the college hires a new director, Yang will be commissioned to organize more intercultural programs designed to offer students a better understanding of different countries and cultures.

Yang, from Yantai, China, previously worked for the admissions office in the College of Fine Arts School of Music at Boston University, where he processed prospective student applications.

Yang also worked in offices for international students at two local high schools. One of the high schools he worked in was an international boarding school called Cambridge Arts Technology and Science Academy. Out of the 400 high school students enrolled there, 376, or 94 percent, were international students.

Pinder said with Yang's international and bilingual background, he

expects Yang to contribute more useful ideas and engage in the life of international students since he used to be in their place.

"I think for us to have some regional country expertise right here in the international office is a wonderful resource for us," Pinder said.

After the new director comes on board, Pinder said the college may hire an international student advisor if they need more staff to support the international student population.

The three candidates for the OISA director position each have international backgrounds. The candidates fluently speak at least two languages and hail from a country outside of the United States or have experiences working abroad, according to Pinder.

They also each held the job of Principal Designated School Official, or someone with the responsibility of understanding an online system called SEVIS, which international students use to file personal information like visa statuses and passport numbers.

Each candidate had at least seven years of working experience as either a director, associate director, or senior official of the office of international students in their previous institutions of high schools and other colleges.

"Because of the delicate and scary political climate right now ... We need someone who is a real expert on the law, on the SEVIS law," Pinder said.

The candidates each presented their previous professional experiences and future plans at Emerson on Oct. 15, Oct. 19, and Oct. 22. These were open to all students and Emerson community members.

"Some of the areas we want to grow with the position is to do more intercultural programming, more co-curricular programming," Pinder said. "[OISA will] not just be the office where you come to get your I-20 signed."

An I-20 signature enables international students to return to the U.S. after traveling abroad.

The Office of Internationalization will decide the new Director of OISA based on feedback from the presentation, OISA members, and other departments.

"I think, at this point, I see us as having an opportunity to bring in people with new energy," Pinder said.

Quan Do, a freshman from Hanoi, Vietnam, said his only interaction with OISA was when he received an approval of his Social Security Number for a job.

"[OISA] may be the last place I will go to," Do said when asked about dealing with problems of cultural differences.

Pinder said the international students he met appreciate everything they have, but he also said students don't feel fully valued or cared for by the college.

"I found that most of the international students are coming from the point that 'We really like Emerson [and] we really care about it, but as it stands right now, I wouldn't recommend anyone to come to Emerson because there is no real support,'" Pinder said.

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## New opening date for The Commons, Little Building on schedule

Diana Bravo, *Beacon Correspondent*

The renovations of The Commons at 172 Tremont Street and the Little Building should finish in March and August of 2019 respectively, according to a college official at the weekly Student Government Association meeting Tuesday.

The City of Boston has not yet granted a permit for the college to begin renovations on The Commons. The college originally slated the building for completion in January 2019 but does not know when it will receive the permit. Vice President and Dean of Campus Life James Hoppe said building permits take time to acquire due to the slow speed of Boston bureaucracy.

Building permits provided by the City of Boston grant permission to build or renovate a building according to an approved plan.

The \$2 million renovations of The Commons will include a new kitchen, new offices for some student organizations including SGA, and new meeting rooms for students. The college bought The Commons after the former owner's original plan to add a tower of condominiums failed.

"It wasn't necessarily something the

college had been pursuing—it was more of an opportunity that presented itself," Hoppe said at the meeting.

The expected reopening of the Little Building in August 2019 remains on track, according to Hoppe. Construction in the basement and on the first floor will finish sometime during fall 2019, but students can still access the dorms while the renovations finish. The basement will include a cabaret, production, and studio space, while the first floor will contain business spaces that the college will rent out.

The City of Boston requires the Little Building to remain in good repair due to its historical landmark status. The college undertook renovations to the building's exterior facade because it deteriorated, according to Hoppe.

In addition to the Little Building renovations, the college will expand the sidewalk on Boylston Street. The 8-foot expansion will stretch from Edgar Allan Poe Way to the intersection of Tremont and Boylston Streets. The new sidewalk will include seating and planters and will shrink Boylston Street from four lanes to three. Sidewalk construction will begin in February or March of 2019, according to Hoppe.

"It'll be more like a campus promenade,"



Vice President and Dean for Campus Life James Hoppe detailed plans to extend the sidewalk along Boylston Street. *Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff*

Hoppe said.

SGA also confirmed sophomore Daniella Baltazar as the new honors program commissioner. She hopes to use her position to

create a safe space for honors students to voice their concerns about the program.

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## New Social Justice Center director to focus on Climate Survey

*Continued from page 1*

The survey will provide the Social Justice Center insight on what students think the school does well and what needs it needs to improve. While the Social Justice Center can access surveys from 2014 and 2017, Spears and Ivery hope the new climate survey provides them with a more specific information.

Ivery said she believes people often avoid discussing topics regarding racism, sexism, and beyond, and she wants to open dialogue about issues around bias that present themselves on the campus.

"This work isn't a final exam ... I want to know that we're learning from our mistakes and we're going to keep improving," Ivery said. "We have to be willing to look at ourselves, in every direction, top to bottom."

Ivery said her position handles a wide scope of responsibilities, and she does not always work directly with students. Within the Social Justice Center, Ivery said she will create diversity and equity programs designed to educate people within the campus community on inclusion and diversification. Along with this, she said she works to find resolutions for conflicts that come through bias reports.

Before coming to Emerson, Ivery worked as a director for Bennington College in Projects



Samantha Ivery joined the Social Justice Center as the Director of Diversity and Equity Initiatives in October. • *Courtesy of Rebel Roberts*

for Campus Equity and Inclusion. She also worked for Dartmouth College in the Office of Pluralism and Leadership as assistant dean and in the Center for Women and Gender as interim director.

"I cut my teeth doing social justice work at Dartmouth," Ivery said. "Half of my work was in student advocacy, teaching cultural resilience, and how things should work in higher education."

education for the past 13 years on college campuses. Within this work, she focused on student advocacy and providing support services to individuals who need it on campus.

Ivery is also completing a doctorate in higher education at Indiana University.

"I ask a lot of questions, which led me to getting my Ph.D.," Ivery said. "For my dissertation, I'm trying to understand how young black women respond to racism and sexism on a college campus."

Spears has known Ivery for ten years after meeting at Dartmouth, and reached out to her when the office left the position vacant this past summer.

"Samantha brings an air of truth-telling to her work, along with a great depth of experience," Spears said. "She has the ability to look at organizations through an equity and social justice lens and recognize what allows them to thrive."

Spears is hopeful for Ivery's future at the Social Justice Center.

"Emerson is not like any environment," Spears said. "Samantha has a vibrancy and curiosity about human behavior that we need here."

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## ECPD warns students about fraudulent job postings

Rice Foster, *Beacon Correspondent*

The Emerson College Police Department warned students about reports of fraudulent job advertisements on college job posting boards.

ECPD received a Situational Information Report, a document sent out by FBI Boston to every police department in the greater Boston area that described a pattern of fraud targeting college students. ECPD informed students through a community advisory email sent on Oct. 15.

ECPD Lieutenant Robert Bousquet said his department didn't know of any individual cases of fraud affecting Emerson students, but ECPD thought informing students in case it impacted them the most responsible way to handle the situation.

Students can find the college's job posting board through PeopleAdmin, a server that helps students easily find jobs at the school or in Boston.

Bousquet said malicious actors trick students claiming they intend to travel abroad as a U.S. resident, and the so-called employers need someone to pay their bills in the U.S. while out of the country.

"The information was that they were going

to send a check to the persons that become their employee so that they could pay bills," Bousquet said.

The student would supposedly receive payment after paying the person's bills, but the student's check would bounce, voiding any promised payment. The email did not detail how much money the student should receive.

Director of Information Security Ryan Flanagan attributes the lack of fraudulent attacks on student accounts to the Institutional Technology Department's security measures such as Mimecast and Duo Mobile. The security measures protect student emails from actors such as these.

"The biggest exposure that we have from an IT perspective is malicious emails," Flanagan said. "So we have taken a lot of steps to protect against that kind of malicious activity coming into our network."

Bousquet said students should always remain cautious when providing identifiable information such as their name, date of birth, social security number, or bank account information online.

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The college attributes the lack of fraudulent attacks on student accounts to security measures such as Mimecast and Duo Mobile. • *Photo by Abigail Noyes / Beacon Staff*



# editorial

## Supporting students' athletic endeavors

**At issue: Recognizing student athletes' dedication.**

**Our take: We're all in this together.**

*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.*

Last Saturday, the women's soccer team earned a spot in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference playoffs. Since the Lions joined the conference five years ago, they only qualified four times, and two of those are because of the women's soccer team. One of the most challenging conferences in the region, NEWMAC, always seemed like an elusive ambition for each of the 11 qualifying teams. Yet, the women's team qualified twice, despite our tired jokes, despite our campus climate that delegitimized and ignored our athletics for years.

With their recent win over Clark University, the women's soccer team guaranteed a home game in the playoffs. Hosting a playoff game means more than what many students can perceive. It represents how far the team has come and how much work they consistently put in, on and off the field. And it's not only the women's soccer team. It's every team. We owe it to the Lions and to the institution to not only recognize and value the teams and staff, but to support and encourage them as well.

The campus culture surrounding Emerson's sports teams under-appreciates the discipline and passion

of our student athletes. As an NCAA Division III college, Emerson does not have permission to give any athletic scholarships to its athletes. In addition, Division III schools usually receive less attention than Division I and

Just because Emerson is a Division III school does not mean that its student athletes don't put in hours of hard work on top of an already demanding academic schedule. Most sports have an off-season in which athletes practice multiple days a week. Once a season starts, athletes dedicate countless hours of their week for practices and games. Student athletes then must balance their sport with academics, self-care, and their personal lives outside of Emerson—receiving no athletic scholarships and little recognition in comparison to Division I and Division II teams.

We can show our support for student athletes by attending their home games. It can start with the women's soccer playoff game next week. A universal characteristic among Emerson students is our passion, not just in our classes, but outside. We spend our extra hours on film sets, rehearsals, and writing and editing for campus publications because we know it holds value for our future careers. Emerson student athletes dedicate their time to something they love, and that is something to celebrate.

**Emerson student athletes dedicate their time to something they love, and that is something to celebrate.**

Division II schools. Thus, Emerson's student athletes do not play their sport for financial aid or in hopes of going pro—they play because it's their passion.

### 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.

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### Editorial Cartoon

by the Editorial Board  
illustration by Ally Rzesza

The women's soccer team making the playoffs is our World Series.





# opinion

## Suppressed into spiritual silence

**Diti Kohli**

*Kohli is a freshman journalism major & the assistant opinion editor.*

Last week, as my Introduction to College Writing class engaged in a conversation about global religious persecution, my professor urged my classmates and I to narrow our scope—to focus on the opinion of religion on our own campus. My peers' accounts of mockery and ignorance towards their beliefs surprised me, including their accounts of targeted insults and assumptions about their personalities. Yet, I eventually accepted religious intolerance as an unacknowledged issue at Emerson.

In today's increasingly polarized world, many people equate liberalism with tolerance. If this were true, Emerson would be a haven for all. We are repeatedly named one of the most liberal colleges in the country—39th on this year's Niche ranking and the most LGBTQ-friendly campus according to Princeton Review. However, many religious students feel the breadth of this acceptance does not always apply to them.

Clare Jackson, a freshman comedic arts major, said she practices Mormonism.

"I think it's true that there are parts of identity at Emerson that are not as embraced as others," Jackson said.

The college worked to prevent racial discrimination with initiatives like DiversityEdu and the promotion of multicultural organizations. Each building contains gender-neutral bathrooms to represent Emerson's ideals of gender inclusivity. Emerson should apply the same courtesy to instances of religious discrimination on campus.

As a freshman in my second month, I repeatedly hear rumblings from devout students who feel the anti-religious narrative on campus silences them. No one discriminates against students who do not identify strongly with a religion. Regardless of this irreligious atmosphere, religious students should still have the confidence to identify this college as a safe place for spiritual expression. Nonetheless, many students feel compelled to keep quiet.

Madeline Harrant, a freshman journalism major who is exploring the Islamic religion, said she practices privately.

"I just kind of quietly believe in it, especially coming here," Harrant said. "I'm definitely not going to get up and talk about it."



We need to practice what we preach—accepting different beliefs and different viewpoints in all realms of identity.

*Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff*

Other than this underlying disassociation from religion that suppresses devout voices, students expressed they experienced occurrences of direct oppression.

Jackson, for example, said she witnessed her religion mocked during a seemingly harmless conversation.

"There was an instance where somebody made a joke about, 'What if they were Mormon?,' not knowing that I was Mormon, and another person physically scooted away from them," Jackson said. "As if to say, 'If you were a Mormon, I wouldn't want to be near you.' That just really hurt me."

Religious organizations also fail to promote their presence on campus to students.

Lillian Cohen, a sophomore journalism major, said two years ago she only applied to colleges with Hillel, the Jewish student organization. But, time and time again, she said she was disappointed by the low turnout and general unenthusiasm.

"There's so much funding, but their programs aren't really good," Cohen said.

The lack of apparent allies in the administration leaves devout students feeling isolated. Resources at the Center for Spiritual Life and other faculty need to make themselves more accessible to unheard students by

saying they accept various faiths and feel willing to have a conversation about these differences. Even though religion is deeply personal, many students seek a community that shares, or at least understands, their belief systems.

"I don't think there's really anyone on campus I would feel comfortable talking to," said freshman Garrett Speller who identifies as Christian Protestant.

The question remains how students and administration can mend this culture of neglect towards religious students. Obviously, we cannot easily fix this isolating attitude since it is cemented into the campus climate. Even devout students themselves disagree over the correct approach.

Speller said he feels fairly comfortable in his religion and urges students to speak about their own.

"I think students need to be more open about their faith if they are faithful," Speller said.

But not all devout students think they must announce their religious beliefs.

"I think that sometimes it's private, and it's a personal experience. I don't necessarily vocalize my faith," Harrant said.

Despite these dissenting opinions, many religious students agree the Emerson community must move away from shunning devoutness. We

need to practice what we preach—accepting different beliefs and different viewpoints in all realms of identity.

The administration must advocate for religious inclusion from the day freshmen walk into orientation. The school burnt skits against sexual harassment and Mr. Joy, a play that comments on racial tensions, into the minds of many students; yet, Emerson didn't explicitly teach us to accept religious differences.

"I think that during that orientation week, we talked so much about tolerance, but religion and faith are left out of that conversation," Jackson said.

The college should also continue to work to fill the position of campus chaplain and director of spiritual and religious life. The position remains vacant since Harrison Blum resigned in late September of this year. Filling this office is the first step in ensuring that devout students have a group with authority and expertise to turn to with questions and struggles. This office also needs to become a major resource.

The answer is simple: ensure Emerson recognizes people of all definable aspects of identity, including spiritual beliefs.

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## Opening journalists to a global mindset



With the top ranking journalism program in the country, Emerson should teach future journalists a global vision.

*Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff*

**Xinyan Fu**

*Fu is a freshman journalism major & an international student columnist.*

I grew up as one who always sticks up for others. The older I get, the more interested I become in speaking up for social justice. Although China has many great journalists and media figures, the mainstream media is still censored and restricts a lot of information. As a result, many citizen journalists, or "snow shovelers," dig to reveal the truth. Growing up in such an environment, I decided to pursue journalism in college.

However, I knew studying journalism in

China is risky due to those restrictions from authority. That's why I found Emerson. It is the best place for me because of its location in downtown Boston and its wonderful journalism program. I arrived as a keen student who pictured herself as a future Pulitzer Prize winner. Yet now I sit in the advisor's office, seriously contemplating the possibility of switching my major.

This is not because my passion for journalism faded. Actually, I've never felt more enthusiastic about my journalistic career. But after two months at Emerson, my experience tells me that studying journalism here might not be the best idea. People here seem to care too much

about politics and focus more on the domestic news while ignoring most international news.

When school started, I felt Emerson assumed all journalism students have the same cultural background and want to work in the country after graduation. The journalism department requires us to take a civics test similar to the U.S. citizenship test. The school shouldn't expect international students to know everything about the U.S. government. Not only am I a non-U.S. citizen, but I'm not planning to pursue political journalism or stay in the U.S. post-graduation. Most international students cannot even stay in the U.S. after graduation anyways due to the cruel lottery system used

to obtain the H-1B working visa. Given these reasons, I thought international students would have a lower passing grade. However it wasn't, and I failed. For the first time, I felt studying journalism at Emerson might not be the best idea for me.

I also feel like most people in the U.S. do not care about international issues. It is weird to see news agencies caring more about the Red Sox than the tsunami in Indonesia that happened on Sept. 28. News agencies also focus primarily on domestic politics instead of international politics. As I browse through the news apps in my phone every night before I sleep, all I read about is Trump slamming someone as "horseface" or commenting on Elizabeth Warren's DNA test, while news about international politics like the reunification between South Korea and North Korea weakens. Because of this, I tend to skip all news related to politics. Yet, I feel obligated to read it, because if not, I fail quizzes or am unable to participate more in my classes. Therefore, I must force myself to read it, or put it directly into Google translate and get a quick glance.

I agree that it is hard to change. Most Americans only focus on domestic news. It is different in China, even though the agencies and authority filter most news. We still can get most of the international news from news agencies and the trending of social media apps like Weibo, which is similar to twitter.

It is true that, since international students are in the U.S. now, we should learn the happenings in this country. However, as a school that strives for inclusivity and worldwide expansion, Emerson should encourage students to have a broader vision. With the top ranking journalism program in the country, Emerson should teach future journalists a global vision.

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# living arts

## Globe festival features alumna's film on parking dibs

Danielle Fineza, *Beacon Correspondent*

Armed with her camera and winter coat, Sarah Ginsburg '11 roamed the streets of Massachusetts during the 2015 blizzard and searched for the subjects of her new documentary "SPACESAVERS." The film played at the GlobeDocs Film Festival's Life in Focus event.

The short depicts various objects Massachusetts residents place in their parking spot during heavy snowstorms to prevent others from parking. It screened at the Brattle Theatre on Sunday, Oct. 14 to a packed room of viewers, filmmakers, and actors.

The GlobeDocs Film Festival showed six

documentaries including "SPACESAVERS" at the Life in Focus program designed by The Boston Globe to highlight honest and important filmmaking. The event supported the publication's dedication to showcasing truth, by creating a series of screenings followed by open-dialogue throughout the six-day festival.

Ginsburg's film ran the shortest at three minutes and 30 seconds, and the other five filmmakers chose human subjects.

"Every film is not meant to be stretched out," Ginsburg said in a phone interview. "I'm really excited that there's a push for short film whether it's documentary or fiction."

Aside from a recording of Mayor Marty

Walsh detailing space-saving laws, Ginsburg shapes the short without human involvement. "SPACESAVERS" features chairs, walkers, and other items used to save spaces.

"I laughed as soon as I saw the title," Amy Kremer, an Arlington resident who attended the film festival, said. "The opening scene was hard to hear over the laughter."

While living in Somerville post-graduation, Ginsburg said the whole scenario charmed her. She said she observed neighbors saving their spots with a variety of different objects and knew she wanted to capture the phenomenon. The film opens with images of the snowstorm while Walsh's recording plays.

"I considered doing a photo series. I took that

idea and made it more alive with the movement in this town," Ginsburg said.

Ginsburg said she trekked out during snowstorms to witness space-saving in person. She described the experience as meditative and solitary.

"It was just me freezing with a Canon 5D and a metal tripod, which was so cold," Ginsburg said.

Ginsburg walked for hours at a time to capture different stages of the storm. She noticed how the whole city seemed to shut down in response to the snow.

"That blizzard went on for so long. The winter goes deep into your soul," Ginsburg said. The blizzard resulted in up to three feet of snow on parts of New England. Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency and asked residents to stay off roadways.

Kremer said the audience could connect with the scenario.

"If you live in Boston, it's something we can all relate to very much," Kremer said.

Paul Turano, an associate professor in the visual and media arts department, met Ginsburg during her BA capstone class.

"She was really a person who was passionate about the topic and subject matter," Turano said. "She had tremendous technical skill, so she was a really good shooter, a really good editor, and really good at helping in a collaborative way."

Turano enlisted Ginsburg's help in a personal project after she impressed him with her work in his class.

"We became great collaborators, great friends," Turano said.

Taylor McNeil, an attendee of the festival, said the documentary depicts its subject in a light-hearted manner with simple shots and an equally simple message for the viewers.

"It's very lightly done, and it was just right for what it was," McNeil said. "It was just the right length."

Discussion following the Life in Focus program focused on short films as an artform. Filmmakers said they valued the shift toward shorter media online, thus broadening the audience for short documentaries.

"There's a chance for anything, no matter how short, to be seen," Ginsburg said.

The public can access "SPACESAVERS" on Aeon, an online platform, this November.

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Sarah Ginsburg '11, now living and working in Los Angeles, filmed "SPACESAVERS" during the 2015 Boston blizzard. Courtesy of Sarah Ginsburg

## Age of the Twink: When sexuality steals your youth



**Kyle Labe**  
Labe is a junior writing, literature and publishing major, the Beacon's managing editor, and the LGBTQ columnist.

Over the summer I celebrated my best friend's 21st birthday with him and some others from high school. We drank beer, sat around a fire pit, and shared memories. They chatted about camping trips and summer vacations, senior weeks and afterschool activities, yet I sat in silence. I had nothing to add.

I realized that, regardless of how I ruminated over my teenage years, I had no memories in which I found a fondness for nostalgia. It felt almost as if my life from adolescence to early adulthood didn't exist. My life, although a quarter past, didn't start until college, and I understood then that much of it wasn't my fault. I am gay, and like so many queer people, I was stripped of a chance at normalcy because of it.

I recall myself as talkative and lively in junior high. Though I can't recollect anything specific, I remember smiling. I remember friends. I remember an exuberance for the future. Then came high school. All niceties aside, high school was hell. I fell into myself, sequestering myself in a shell, hiding in a hole into which no light leaked. I was depressed. I lost touch with everyone. In retrospect much of this related to early childhood trauma. However, another factor took precedence: my sexuality.

I realized my attraction towards men

around age 12. Before puberty, I didn't have an inkling of sexuality—prepubescent boys said crude things about our female classmates, and I couldn't comprehend from where their remarks emerged. My hometown in central Pennsylvania—small and conservative—did not and will never feel like home to people like me. Every day it exposed me to iniquity and meanness, to violence and bigotry.

At age 14 I thought my life changed because I met a fellow queer person for the first time. I found a safe space and a confidant in them. I revealed to them everything that troubled me: my identity crisis, my burgeoning sexuality, my suicidality. Although I don't hold it against them now, they used my secrets against me and held them over my head. They mocked my confusion, shaming my uncertainty as if it were a betrayal to my friends, my family. They labeled me—telling me I was this or that—before I even learned the terms. They outed me to their friends without my knowledge or consent. Frankly, they gaslighted me, and it made everything that much worse.

Even in the most liberal places, those questioning themselves experience pushback and confusion. But I did not grow up in a liberal place. Despite being unaware of my own sexuality—I was closeted until college—everyone assumed it for me. Daily my high school peers called me "faggot." They pushed me into lockers. In the cafeteria, one boy would chew his food, spit it out, and throw it at me. This became such an everyday occurrence that I ate alone in a classroom. Another boy, waiting in line for lunch, grabbed my ass, laughed, and slurred at me. At a time when I was overweight,

a group of boys cornered me and jabbed their fingers into my stomach. Teased and taunted in locker rooms, I changed clothes by myself in a corner, far from everyone. No one chose me for teams in gym class, nor did anyone ask me to hang out. Teachers and counselors witnessed all this and did nothing.

I had no one. Each day the borders of my town felt tighter and smaller until, eventually, they would cave me into smithereens. I had nobody to turn to, nobody to trust. I befriended a nice boy who I thought would remain in my life forever, but even he came to betray me. My deteriorating mental health and sexual confusion created a feeling of oppressive sadness. Even now, when I visit my hometown, an immense fear seizes me that something terrible will occur and force me to stay there.

It's because of this that when I first watched the 2018 film *Love, Simon*, I laughed and said to a friend, "This is obviously fiction."

"Why?" he asked.

I told him: "Because the closeted gay kid has friends."

Life only began for me when I moved to Boston. Here I could fully be myself. Here I have a place. Here I found a reason for being.

People were kinder, more compassionate, more open-minded. I found friends, ambition, and passion. Even though Boston isn't immune to its own anguishes and hardships, I learned the meaning of growth. The liberation that came with city life allowed me to speak openly about my sexuality, and I could engage in discourse, conversation, and political debate. Those with whom I spoke, while educated and intellectually driven, accepted me. I wasn't an elephant in the

room or some alien creature. It felt as if some weight that built throughout my adolescence in Pennsylvania suddenly eased and, with that, I could finally be human.

Despite this, I can't help but yearn for what I lacked. I missed out on so many staples in my life because of my sexuality: I never attended prom, homecoming, or football games. I never had a wild teenage romance. I never participated in athletics. I never hung out late into the night with friends. Each day I fell victim to straight people surrounding me, happy and smiling, and I wondered why I couldn't have that. I only recently realized the hole in my life where all this should be. Back then I convinced myself none of it would matter once I got away from Pennsylvania. But it did then, and it does now. My sexuality stole my youth from me.

Naïvely, I believed I could remedy all this in college. I was of the opinion that I could rectify the experiences I missed. But nothing is that simple. I arrived at college traumatized and emotionally stunted, and that feeling followed me everywhere rather than vanishing when I left Pennsylvania.

My friend's birthday, while a small happening, represented something much bigger. I didn't forget my high school years as I previously believed. I repressed them. Those days lurk somewhere in the back of my brain, waiting to attack. While I hardly think of them now, they're forever a part of me.

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## Alumni production of *Rock of Ages* journeys across US

Ally Rzesza, *Beacon Staff*

Small-town girl Sherrie met city boy Drew 10 years ago on Broadway. Now audiences can meet the duo again in the *Rock of Ages Tenth Anniversary Tour*.

*Rock of Ages* follows Drew, Sherrie, and others attempting to live their rock 'n' roll dreams while developers threaten to destroy West Hollywood's Sunset Strip. The musical features 1980s classic rock music from artists

like Journey, Styx, and Twisted Sister.

*Rock of Ages* rocks the Boch Center on Tremont St. Oct. 23-28.

Nathan Gehan '99 selected *Rock of Ages* as the inaugural production of Fifth Estate Entertainment, a production and general management company he started last year.

He said the timing of the show's 10th anniversary aligned perfectly, and he loved the '80s setting.

"[*Rock of Ages*] is just a ton of fun," Gehan

said. "The show is explosive and is set up almost like a concert."

Gehan said the production process of *Rock of Ages* moved fast, and he hired a top-notch staff—many with Broadway credits. The show opened last week in Elmira, New York but its press opening will take place in Boston Oct. 25.

"I remember sitting in Elmira with my wife and just thinking, 'Wow, this is happening,'" Gehan said.

Gehan graduated Emerson with a performing arts degree and worked as a performer before entering the production business. He said the industry requires the ability to form connections and analyze surroundings.

"Anyone can [become a Broadway producer] if they work hard enough, and relationships are so important in this industry," Gehan said. "You just need to believe you can do it."

Chris Renalds '15 plays Franz, the son of a German real-estate real estate developer, in the tour. Renalds said the bitter temperatures during the early morning of open auditions made him want to stay home. Instead, he ventured out, auditioned with hundreds of people, attended several rounds of callbacks, and received the call.

"I had a brief moment of elation [after booking the role] but then knew it was time to buckle down and get to business," Renalds said.

The actor said he has no complaints about the show and loves working with the cast. He said the ensemble learned the vocals of the show in two days, and he feels a genuine sense of collaboration with the other actors.

"There's been no drama or stress ... We're just having a good time," Renalds said.

Renalds said he has to warm up thoroughly and take care of his body to avoid injury because *Rock of Ages* features vocally demanding rock

music. The tour's actors perform up to eight shows a week.

"I have to tell myself sometimes, 'I'm being paid to perform and practice, but I'm also getting paid to go to bed on time,'" Renalds said.

Renalds graduated with a musical theater performing arts degree and said the theater faculty, notably his acting teacher Scott LaFeber and voice teacher Gary Durham, prepared him with a steady acting process.

"Whenever I run into a problem or feel confused on how to approach something I have the means of getting past it," Renalds said.

Renalds said he admired Emerson's environment because every major has something special to offer. According to Renalds actors pursuing musical theater need to find their own space and trust themselves despite the competition in the industry.

"It's like the saying, 'Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard,'" Renalds said. "In this day and age everyone is talented. There's that [writing, literature and publishing major] who has the best singing voice you've ever heard. It's awesome."

Maura LeBlanc, a sophomore musical theater performing arts major, said she found it awesome that Emerson alumni worked on *Rock of Ages* and that Gehan went onto a career in management.

"It's nice to know I don't have to be only performing on stage, I can stick to offstage as well, and that there are other people who've done that," LeBlanc said.

Students can purchase \$30 tickets for select performances by presenting their ID at the Boch Center box office.

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Anthony Nuccio plays Drew and North Andover resident Katie Lamark plays Sherrie. Courtesy of Fifth Estate Entertainment

## First Gen E-M helps first-generation students

Cassandra Coyer, *Beacon Staff*

Junior Cassie Poirier identifies as a first-generation college student, yet she didn't know what that meant or the challenges it entailed until freshman year.

"It was this feeling that everyone else around me was more prepared, not only academically, but socially and just existence-wise," Poirier said. "There was this sense of, 'We know how to navigate situations like this and places like this.'"

Poirier said she didn't know who to reach out to for advice freshman year when she realized Emerson did not provide enough resources or support for first-generation college students like herself. She said she felt she must take the matter into her own hands and started First Gen E-M with sophomore Anthony Rodriguez.

Poirier said she and Rodriguez, the only other first-generation student she met at Emerson, decided to create an organization for students like themselves after a resident assistant introduced them to each other.

First Gen E-M aims to provide first-generation college students with the resources and connections originally unavailable to them. Poirier said they want a collaborative organization that communicates with students and bases their work on their needs.

Poirier said she and Rodriguez work closely with the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Student Success to create places for first-generation college students to get financial support.

"That is something that is a real big part of the first-gen experience—money and loans, and trying to figure that out—it's a real nightmare. And it's caused me to almost have to drop out of Emerson multiple times," Poirier said. "And it's caused me to really suffer as far as grades are concerned."

Rodriguez said he always believed he would attend college despite his parents never finishing high school. When applying to colleges, Rodriguez said he never thought of himself as a first-generation college student and didn't realize the stigma around students like him before starting at Emerson.

"Knowing that I go to a school with mainly white, privileged kids—being a person of color, low income, and first-gen—I know that I have such a different viewpoint of life," Rodriguez said. "At first, when I first realized it, I felt like a fraud for being here for a little bit."

Both Rodriguez and Poirier said financial aid poses the main struggle for first-generation college students. They said they took out government loans and are financially independent.

Rodriguez said he faces \$80,000 in debt due to limited financial aid from the school after only two years at Emerson.

"Actually, when I had applied, I never told my parents how much it cost to save them the heart attack. I dealt with all the financial aid stuff on my own. I filled out my FAFSA on my own. I did the Parent PLUS Loans on my own," Rodriguez said.

The organization hosted an event on Friday where Carol Smolinsky, associate director of student success, offered financial counseling. Smolinsky, Poirier, and Rodriguez helped students fill out their FAFSA and answered questions about their financial concerns.

Poirier said their organization, which just began planning regular events this semester, will host two events a month. One will focus on an educational aspect such as the FAFSA event. The other one will allow students to socialize and connect with others sharing the same experiences.

This summer the pair partnered with Sharon Duffy, assistant vice president for student affairs, and sent videos to incoming first-generation college students sharing their experience at Emerson and encouraging freshmen to join First Gen E-M.

The two students said they hope SGA approves them for the next academic year. Meanwhile they work with the offices on campus to reach out to as many first-generation college students as possible.

Chris Daly, director of retention and student success, said Emerson only started tracking data on first-generation college students about five years ago, but the school now actively tries to better meet the needs of these students.

"I think a role our office could play, should play, and can play is just raising awareness among faculty, staff, and students and the rest of the college community, just about first-generation college-goers and what some of the great things they bring are and what some of the challenges that they might be facing are," Daly said.

Last year the Office of Student Success partnered with others on campus and started a free one-credit class called "Emerson" that meets once a week and helps incoming students transition into the school.



Sophomore Anthony Rodriguez and junior Cassie Poirier thought Emerson didn't have enough resources for first-generation students, so they made their own.

Tivara Tanudjaja / *Beacon Correspondent*

Daly said he hopes the class can provide the extra support that some first-generation college-goers might need and make them feel comfortable at Emerson.

"I think for some students it's just having someone on campus—a faculty member, a staff member, a student employment supervisor—who feels like gets them and understands a little bit of the context of what they're going through and their life experience," Daly said. "Our hope is that we can provide a little bit of that too so that students can just feel comfortable."

Senior Elizabeth Morier, a first-generation American student originally from Singapore, said navigating the American educational system by herself posed a challenge.

"It was actually super difficult because I know that in American high schools you have counselors to help you with your applications. So, basically, I did everything myself," Morier

said. "It's hard because you're supposed to turn to your parents when you want to talk about these things, but they didn't know."

Poirier said, although the school has gotten better at answering their needs, Emerson needs to change how students and staff think about first-generation students.

Rodriguez said he hopes Emerson becomes a better place for first-generation students by the time he graduates.

"Even though I didn't get the chance to get that for myself, I am so grateful that I'm able to give it to other students, whether it be new students or returning students. Because, honestly, someone has to do it," Rodriguez said.

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# sports

## UPCOMING ACTION

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: Emerson @ Springfield, 1 p.m. Saturday

MEN'S SOCCER: Emerson @ MIT, 1 p.m. Saturday

WOMEN'S SOCCER: Emerson @ MIT, 4 p.m. Saturday

## Women's soccer team lights up Common for cancer awareness

Domenic Conte, *Beacon Correspondent*

The women's soccer team raised over \$5,500 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at the Light the Night Walk on Oct. 17.

The team joined 4,000 blood cancer awareness supporters to illuminate Boston Common with red, white, and gold lanterns. Supporters carried red lanterns, those who lost a family member carried a gold lantern, and survivors carried white lanterns. LLS played music, prepared food, and arranged photo booths on the Common. The women's soccer team collected \$5,571 for LLS since Sept. 11—the third most they've raised.

This year marked the seventh time in the last eight seasons the soccer team raised money for LLS, elevating their donation total to \$30,936, according to head coach David Suvak.

Gabrielle Grimaldi, the Light the Night campaign specialist for Massachusetts, said the team's donations aid all angles of the fight against cancer.

"Our fundraising goes to patients, families, and groundbreaking cancer research," Grimaldi said. "Some of the funds help patients with co-pay, chemotherapy, and travel assistant programs that get patients the care they need."

Senior midfielder Kira Venturini helped Suvak and Grimaldi organize a fundraising team for the LLS at the beginning of the season. Suvak set a goal for each player to earn at least \$100 and most of them collected donations through shareable links and Facebook.

Venturini said her interdisciplinary major, which focuses on non-profit management & writing, compelled her to take charge.

"One of the reasons I was excited to



The women's soccer team raised \$5,571 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Courtesy of David Suvak

participate is because I want to work at a non-profit organization in the future, specifically in fundraising," Venturini said. "Having 30 people on the team provided us with a solid foundation to make something special happen."

Grimaldi said the team's \$5,500 donation stands as the second highest total amongst the 11 college organizations that participated.

Grimaldi said the soccer team's contribution compares well with other top donations.

"Out of the 241 teams that helped raise money, [the women's soccer team] is right up

there with BioPharma companies and other big business corporations," Grimaldi said. "We really appreciate the awesome work they've done for the LLS."

Freshman Sophia Giordano, who raised \$900, said her motivation came from experience with cancer in her family.

"Personally, I have had several people in my family pass away because of cancer, one of them because of blood cancer," Giordano said. "When I posted my fundraising page on Facebook, I received a lot of donations from my family

and friends who have also had to deal with the effects of cancer."

During the Light the Night Walk in Boston Common, Giordano said the most memorable moment came from the cancer survivors in attendance.

"It was touching when the survivors gathered in a circle and shared their own courageous stories," Giordano said. "After they spoke, they shined a white spotlight into the sky from the center of the circle. It was a very emotional and powerful moment."

Suvak credited the purpose and proximity of the Light the Night Walk for inspiring players to participate each year.

"I think the cause is important to the players on the team," Suvak said. "It's especially important for us in particular because it's right on our front doorstep here in downtown Boston, and it's great for the kids to learn how to come together and help causes that are bigger than themselves."

Venturini said she cherished the opportunity to combat cancer with other members of the team.

"It's nice to know that you share certain values with your teammates," Venturini said. "We're used to winning and losing together, but it's unique to make an impact together off the field and learn about other aspects of life."

Following the soccer team's substantial donation total, Grimaldi said she commends charity efforts from college organizations.

"I love working with college students because they are the future," Grimaldi said. "It's great to foster a relationship with the next generation of researchers, donors, and fundraisers."

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## Fall sports honor seniors with pregame ceremonies

Continued from page 1

"We've worked super hard throughout the summer, preseason, and normal season," Haley said. "It shows that if you have a lot of heart and people are in it together, you will win and good things will come."

Frost—a Palos Verdes Estates, California native—scored one goal and assisted in two others during Saturday's game.

"The goal was amazing—I pointed right to my parents when I scored and gave the crowd a wave afterward," Frost said. "It was great to have seniors contribute to every goal, whether it being the goal itself or an assist. Everyone did great today, especially the seniors."

The women's soccer team also won their final home conference match up against Clark University in a 2-1 victory in double overtime. Their win against Babson already guaranteed a playoff spot, but this win secures the Lions a home playoff match.

### Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team also celebrated their seniors on Oct. 20, but their 4-1 loss against Wheaton in their last home game of the season knocked them out of a possible playoff run.

Freshman RJ Dziejma scored the lone unassisted goal for the Lions—his first collegiate goal.

The men's team will say farewell to three seniors, but the team's loss did not ruin their spirits.

A significant crowd from Max Deluca—a Rockland, Massachusetts native—hometown cheered him on.

DeLuca said he had fun despite the loss and feels proud of the four years he dedicated to Emerson soccer.

"The result was tough, but it was fun. The boys worked hard," DeLuca said. "Unfortunately, we didn't get a lot of balls to fall our way, but that's how the game works sometimes. It was a great game, and it's been awesome playing at Emerson for four years."

Danylo Kowal—a Winchester, Massachusetts native—only played one season with the Lions, but he said he appreciated how easily the team and coaching staff accepted him into their squad.

"I wasn't here for very long, but it felt like right away the team took me in," Kowal said.

Kowal said he covered the men's soccer games for Emerson Channel Sports for three years. The summer before his final year at Emerson, he

finally tried out.

"Last season, recording the guys and broadcasting the games looked all too fun, and I missed it too much, so I had to come out and give it a go," Kowal said. "The coach was welcoming enough to let me come in with the guys and give it a go, and I'm grateful for the opportunity he gave me."

Kowal said his team did not accomplish their main goal.

"It all came to an end very quickly—especially the way this game ended," Kowal said. "Our goal was to make the playoffs, but we didn't quite make that goal. It's bittersweet."

Paul Bou Aziz—an international-student from Nice, France—scored three conference goals this season. He said, while the team's performance in the senior day game disappointed him, they pointed the program in the right direction.

"It's disappointing—we felt like we didn't really give our best foot forward," Bou Aziz said. "In parts of the game we just didn't play them, and then they just punished us on counters. Next year [Emerson will] probably come back stronger, and that's all they can push for."

The men's soccer team plays their final conference game against the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Oct. 27, but the loss against Wheaton already eliminated them from playoff contention.

### Women's Volleyball

Women's volleyball capped off their senior day with two wins—3-0 over Framingham State University and 3-1 over Connecticut College.

The team honored its three senior players—Fara Cohen, Kelley Guerra, and Moira Brennan—before the matchup against Connecticut with a ceremony on the court. The seniors posed for photographs with their coach and family members following a testimonial from each.

Guerra said two things went through her head during the ceremony.

"Try not to cry—which did not go to well—and basically enjoy the day because we only have two more games after this," Guerra said. "We end a week from today, and so it just feels like this is the end of my volleyball career. Enjoy the moment, enjoy every second I'm out there with the team, and every moment I'm off the court with the team."

Cohen led the seniors with 23 kills across the two games. Brennan tallied 76 assists in the two matches and earned three service aces in



Men's soccer honored three seniors during the festivities. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff



Women's soccer clinched a NEWMAC playoff spot on senior day. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

the matchup against Framingham State. Guerra closed out the day with three solo blocks against Connecticut.

Guerra said she considers finishing their senior day with two wins a special moment, especially after the hard work the team put in to decorate the Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker Gym with posters for and photos of the seniors.

"The underclassmen did an amazing job," Guerra said. "The gym looks amazing, and then to just finish it off with just great play, playing as a team, pushing each other so hard—it was like

the cherry on top of a perfect day."

Women's volleyball failed to qualify for the NEWMAC playoffs this year. They close out their season with a home matchup against MIT on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. and an away matchup against Springfield College on Oct. 27 at 1 p.m.

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