

Women's volleyball: Season review**Students hold tiny concerts in dorm****Op-ed: I am more than just my race**

The Berkeley Beacon

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

Thursday November 8, 2018 • Volume 72, Issue 10

**Pop, crackle, squish: student creates successful slime business**

By Zenebou Sylla • p. 7

Junior Tuvana Isildar has over 37,000 followers on her Instagram slime account. • *Chassidy David / Beacon Correspondent*

Religious programming slows after director leaves

Hanna Marchesseault, *Beacon Correspondent*

Part-time advisors of religious groups on campus assumed more responsibilities to maintain the Center for Spiritual Life following the resignation of former Director of Religious and Spiritual Life and Campus Chaplain Harrison Blum.

Blum resigned on Sept. 21 for a similar role at Amherst College.

Catholic Chaplain and Newman Club Advisor Kristelle Angelli said much of Blum's programming for the Center for Spiritual Life like weekly guided meditations went on hold after he left.

Freshman Leah Thomas, who identifies as Jewish, said she received frequent emails from the Center for Spiritual Life over the summer urging her to become involved on campus. She said she looked forward to becoming immersed in a new community of Jewish students.

Thomas said the outreach seemed to stop after arriving at Emerson.

"I've noticed that communication has gone down since the director has been gone," Thomas said. "There hasn't really been emails about events."

Angelli said she, Hillel Advisor Jake Freedman, and Protestant Chaplain Brian Indrelie, continue to do what they can to provide support for all religious students.

See Spiritual Life, page 3

SGA votes to propose POWER commissioner on fall ballot

Diana Bravo, *Beacon Staff*

The Student Government Association approved potential amendments to the SGA constitution including the ability to appoint a new non-voting member from Protesting Oppression with Educational Reform at their weekly Tuesday meeting.

The new non-voting member will potentially represent POWER as its student commissioner. This proposed constitutional amendment comes after POWER staged a two-part protest with hundreds of student participants last fall and mounted a petition with more than 2,000 signatures. SGA approved the amendment to appear on student ballots in the SGA elections on Nov. 14.

Executive President Jessica Guida said in a statement that members of POWER and SGA representatives, significantly overlap. Creating a POWER commissioner allows for an official liaison between the two organizations.

"This way, we can hopefully work together more," Guida said in her statement.

Last year's protest demanded new cultural competency training for all incoming students and a redesigned first-year writing program, among other requests.

The POWER commissioner would advise SGA on any POWER-sensitive issues.

See Commissioner, page 2**Men's soccer looks to grow with young team**

By Andrew Lin • p. 8

Freshman Ryan Anderson attacks the ball against Springfield. • *Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff*

Video game secrets spotlighted on student's site

Danielle Fineza, *Beacon Correspondent*

While playing the video game *Fallout*, junior Taelon Ratliff noticed a *Futurama* reference—a frozen dog named Seymour. Ratliff noticed a trend of hidden messages and recurring images in films and video games called "Easter eggs" and became inspired to create a website dedicated to them.

Ratliff created and named his website Wild Wasteland. In *Fallout*, the term "Wild Wasteland" represents the addition of Easter eggs to the game.

Ratliff's website will launch as a beta in January.

"I was so bored in my high school psychology class, and I was playing some video game at the time like *Call of Duty* or *Fallout* and started googling Easter eggs from the game," Ratliff said.

Ratliff became interested in Easter eggs during his senior year of high school. For example, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* creators disguised *Star Wars* characters C-3PO and Darth Vader as hieroglyphics.

Ratliff couldn't find a website with a comprehensive list of Easter eggs.

"I was super into the website Genius for music lyrics," Ratliff said. "I thought, 'Why isn't there a Genius for Easter eggs? Why isn't there a website all about Easter-egg-related things?'"

Genius provides music-lovers with explanations of song lyrics and allows users to post their own insights on the site. Ratliff modeled his website based on this format.

Ratliff's work on the site began during his freshman year at Emerson.

*See Easter, page 7*The Beacon
online

/berkeleybeacon



@BeaconUpdate



berkeleybeacon



TheBerkeleyBeacon

news

Holocaust remembrance exhibit featured across from campus

Belen Dumont, *Beacon Staff*

The day Ayre Ephrath was born in Bardejov, the Nazi regime began deporting Jewish people from his hometown.

A small caption next to a large-scale portrait of Ephrath, a blue-eyed man in his 70s with gray hair and a worn expression, detailed his life story as a Czechoslovakian who spent his entire young life moving and hiding across the European continent.

The image stands tall among 70 other portraits of Holocaust survivors from across the United States, Europe, and Israel in the Boston Common.

The exhibit, titled “Lest We Forget,” is a commemoration project created by German-Italian photographer and filmmaker Luigi Toscano in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office. The display depicts survivors and runs until Nov. 10. Toscano took nine of the photographs in the Boston area.

“Lest We Forget is a testament to all survivors of the Holocaust,” reads the main panel in the Boston Common. “Through remembrance, we raise awareness of hatred and bigotry in society today.”

Complementing the installation is an illustrated book composed of the portraits, a mobile app, and a documentary film in the works.

Greater Boston is the fourth-largest Jewish community in the nation, according to a 2015 study by Brandeis University. Toscano wrote in

a statement to the Beacon that one of his main objectives is to show people that Holocaust survivors still exist.

“They should be a memorial to us that something like the Holocaust must not happen ever again. If we forget the past we are doomed to repeat it,” Toscano wrote in the statement.

Sophomore Gabriel Shapera discovered the portraits while walking through the Boston Common. Shapera said he grew up in a Jewish community in Beachwood, Ohio, and often heard stories about the Holocaust.

He said he immediately knew the photos were of Holocaust victims—just by the expressions on their faces. Shapera nodded to the publicness of the exhibit.

“People like me, who just randomly walk through and see it, can get caught off guard,” he said in an interview. “I think that’s a good thing because not everyone is like me in the sense that I’ve been exposed to that my whole life.”

Shapera said the recent rise in anti-semitism makes the project particularly significant. He referred to the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh on Oct. 27, which resulted in 11 fatalities and six injuries.

“I had family [members] that died in the Holocaust and so personally, I’m very connected, and pretty much everyone I know who is Jewish is connected,” Shapera said.

Sophomore Benjamin Zieper, the co-founder of Alpha Epsilon Phi—Emerson’s first Jewish fraternity—said he supports education on the



The exhibit, titled “Lest We Forget,” depicts survivors and runs until Nov. 10. *Emily Oliver / Beacon Correspondent*

Holocaust. Zieper emphasized the importance of the location of the exhibit and the impactful nature of photography.

“It’s cool that they’re doing it in the Common because that’s a place that people associate with

beauty, relaxing, and peaceful times,” Zieper said. “It’s hard to imagine what things look like, and hard to imagine what they were.”

✉ belen_dumont@emerson.edu

Momentous midterm election draws students to polls

Stefania Lugli, *Beacon Correspondent*

Four students trudged through pouring rain on Election Day to cast their ballots for the 2018 midterm elections.

Junior Hannah Lemke, along with freshman Anna Stewart and junior Fiona Luddy, were led by Junior David Fadul to the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology—a polling place about a half mile from Emerson for the seventh congressional district, where the college resides.

The election resulted in Ayanna Pressley winning the seventh congressional district, becoming the state’s first black congresswoman and Governor Charlie Baker retaining his seat against Democrat challenger Jay Gonzalez. Ballot Question 3 passed overwhelmingly—maintaining transgender discrimination protections.

In 2014, 11 percent of Emerson students turned out for midterm elections—a figure seven percent lower than the national average among college students, according to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement. The same study stated 65 percent of the college’s students were registered to vote.

Fal, who woke up at 7 a.m. to vote before his 10 a.m. class, looks forward to a jump in the statistic.

“I’m hoping to at least crack 20 to 25 percent [of students registered to vote]. That’s a minimum,” Fadul said. “I would really love for it to go above thirty percent.”

Fadul worked in coordination with Director of Student Engagement and Leadership Jason Meier on various strategies to push awareness on voting and the midterms. Fadul and Meier initiated email blasts, pop-ups on EmConnect, and a screen in 2 Boylston residence hall depicting why the election should be taken seriously by listing issues such as gun control and climate change.

Lemke, originally from Florida, registered to vote in Massachusetts in 2016, before voting in the presidential election. The 2018 midterm election is Lemke’s first cast ballot since then.



Four Emerson students made their way through the rain to vote in the 2018 midterm elections. *Stefania Lugli / Beacon Staff*

“I was very scared because I had gone inactive,” Lemke said.

A voter is labeled as inactive after failing to respond to an annual street list, also known as the town census, according to Massachusetts law. A local election official then sends a confirmation notice to the inactive voter to confirm they still reside at the address listed on their voter registration.

“It was daunting to me, but it was a lot easier of a process than I expected it to be, which was really encouraging,”

she said.

Stewart voted for the first time this afternoon. “It was very exciting. I’m from D.C., where our votes are symbolic, it feels like. To vote in a place where it matters is really important,” Stewart said.

On the Massachusetts ballot are Democrat and Republican candidates as well as three ballot initiatives placing the future of nurses, money in state politics, and transgender protections in voters’ hands.

The seventh congressional district has Dem-

“It was very exciting. I’m from D.C., where our votes are symbolic, it feels like. To vote in a place where it matters is really important.”

ocrat Ayanna Pressley running unopposed. She beat incumbent Michael Capuano in the September primary.

In March, Emerson joined a school coalition with Freedom for All Massachusetts to oppose ballot Question 3, which would repeal current transgender discrimination protections in the state.

“I really hope people talk about the ballot questions,” Fadul said. “There’s room for discussion on these. I hope to overhear conversations from students about the candidates and ballot initiatives.”

Luddy said she first stepped inside a polling place when she was younger accompanying her mother as she cast her vote. She is a first-time voter for this year’s midterms.

“I’ve never voted actually for myself. It feels cool to actually do something for my state.”

“I’ve never voted actually for myself. It feels cool to actually do something for my state,” she said.

Lemke, Luddy, and Stewart walked out of the polling place bearing grins and “I Voted!” stickers on their raincoats as Fadul waited for them.

The four students exchanged stories about their vote and tonight’s incoming results.

“The feeling of putting the little ballot into the machine was super cool and fun,” Lemke said about her experience.

Stewart said she recognized the value of her vote as a young, female college student.

“I hope it symbolizes progress,” she said.

✉ stefania_lugli@emerson.edu

Non-voting commissioner will potentially represent POWER

Continued from page 1

This includes any potential responsibility that the Executive President or Commissioner’s Council may deem necessary in the future.

Another proposed amendment will officially designate the Executive President as the official undergraduate representative to the college’s Board of Trustees at their meetings.

The proposition faced some hesitation after some members of SGA said the Executive President may not always be the best person to represent the undergraduate population to the Board of Trustees. This dissent came from members of SGA such as WLP Senator Megan Raible, Performing Arts Senator Josh Schussler, and Journalism Senator Joseph Divadi.

“Obviously I trust [Guida], but five years

from now we don’t know who the president will be,” Divadi said at the meeting.

SGA postponed the vote to next week’s meeting because of the indecision.

“My hope with this position is that students would be voting on someone to represent them at the board of trustees,” Guida said.

In the past, SGA has occasionally sent the Executive President to Board of Trustees meetings

as the undergraduate representative. However, in other years the undergraduate representative to the Board of Trustees was another member of SGA. This year, Guida is representing the undergraduate population at the Board’s meetings.

✉ diana_bravo@emerson.edu

Beacon Breakdown: What's the case with cannabis on campus?

Kaitlyn Mettatal, *Beacon Correspondent*

Nearly two years after the legalization of recreational cannabis use in Massachusetts, the college remains substance-free in accordance with federal laws that prohibit any form of cannabis use.

With the advent of legal cannabis and recreational dispensaries in Massachusetts, the Office of Community Behavior and Student Conduct seeks new ways to deal with potential student use on campus. New initiative Cannabis Scent Notices aims to help resident assistants report and track the usage of the drug in students' dorm rooms.

Cannabis use among college students in the United States reached its highest percentage in the past three decades in 2016, according to a study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. In the study, 39 percent of full-time college students indicated that they used cannabis at least once in the prior 12 months, and 22 percent indicated that they used at least once in the prior 30 days.

The Berkeley Beacon wanted to answer some frequently asked questions surrounding cannabis law as it relates to Emerson students.

If a student is 21, can they legally smoke cannabis?

Although Massachusetts considers the recreational use of cannabis legal on the state level for people 21 or older, federal law still outlaws it. Federal law prohibits medical or recreational cannabis use on government-owned or public property like Boston Common and the Public Garden.

Emerson abides by the U.S. Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the U.S. Drug-Free Schools and Communities Amendments of 1989. These two federal policies require the college to remain a substance-free campus despite the contradiction with Massachusetts state law.

This means students aged 21 or over using cannabis on campus violate federal law and Emerson's Student Code of Community Standards, according to the Assistant Director of Community Standards and Student Conduct Melissa Woolsey.

The college must abide by these federal drug

laws in order to maintain federal funds and allocate financial aid like FAFSA to students, according to Woolsey. If the college changed its code of conduct to reflect Massachusetts law regarding cannabis, it would jeopardize the college's access to federal funds.

Massachusetts state law deems recreational use illegal for users under the age of 21. If an Emerson student under 21 decides to consume cannabis off-campus they violate the college's policy and Massachusetts state law.

Suffolk University also abides by these same policies.

What happens if a student gets caught with cannabis on campus?

Junior Libby Sweeney, a resident assistant in the Paramount Center, said RAs assess and collect details on the situation upon obtaining visual proof that a student violated on-campus cannabis policies.

From there the Emerson College Police Department retrieves the illegal substances and paraphernalia. An RA will then file an incident report with the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct stating the student(s) involved and facts obtained.

"It's written as a third-person write-up," Sweeney said. "It's just supposed to recount the facts of the situation."

"I've done a lot of research. What I can say is the cannabis use amongst Emerson students is way above the national average."

Woolsey said directors at the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct read over the report and determine whether or not the student violated college conduct policies—taking past conduct history into account.

When a student breaks campus cannabis policies the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct assigns a hearing officer to the



People over 21 can use cannabis recreationally and legally according to Massachusetts state law, but for Emerson students, this isn't the case. • Abby Noyes / *Beacon Correspondent*

incident. The student then meets with representatives from the Office of Community Behavior and Student Conduct to discuss their use.

The gravity of disciplinary action depends on the amount of cannabis possessed by the student and the severity of the situation. Sanctions vary from warnings and academic probation to expulsion. They rarely resort to expulsion, according to Woolsey.

"For example, a student in possession of a joint containing a gram of cannabis is a lot different than if we searched a student's room and found several ounces of cannabis and paraphernalia," Woolsey said. "The sanction for possessing a joint would likely be a warning, whereas signs of possession and distribution would result in probation up to a year."

Increasing Dialogue, Outreach

Woolsey said her office focuses on increasing the dialogue between administration and

students held responsible for cannabis use. The college's student-taught cannabis education program "Let's Be Blunt: A Joint Effort" discusses the positive and negative effects of cannabis—relaxation, euphoria, laziness, and paranoia—and responsible substance use on a cannabis-user-heavy campus.

"I've done a lot of research," Woolsey said. "What I can say is the cannabis use amongst Emerson students is way above the national average."

Woolsey said students with anxiety or other mental health disorders often use cannabis as a coping method.

"Its effects of relaxation and euphoria can lead to dependency," Woolsey said.

Emerson Counseling and Psychological Services offer both substance abuse prevention and recovery programs to help students who may suffer from an addiction.

✉ kaitlyn_mettatal@emerson.edu

Center for Spiritual Life hopes for replacement by January

Continued from page 1

Angelli said while she and other chaplains can't put on services for students outside of their respective religions, they're available to answer questions and offer support for the time being.

Angelli, Freedman, and Indrelie serve as part-time advisors who work around 15 hours a week. Sometimes the office stands empty, according to Angelli.

"We're currently trying to keep whatever we can going so it doesn't all collapse," Angelli said.

Angelli said she completes administrative tasks a director would normally handle like coordinating office hours, setting the agenda for weekly staff meetings, and answering phones and the spiritual life email.

She said Blum handled a lot of programming for Buddhist students and programming will hopefully continue once Emerson hires a new director.

The college also hired junior Ann Zhang, the Student Government Association Spiritual Life Commissioner, as a student employee for the Center for Spiritual Life to keep social media and communication running effectively.

Zhang was not available for comment before the time of publication.

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Sharon Duffy handles the hiring process for a new director. Duffy assembled a search committee of students, faculty, and staff to review applicants and help with the decision making.

The committee comprises representatives of campus organizations, people who worked with the Center for Spiritual Life, religious students, and even non-religious students, according to Duffy.

"We want a director who is going to meet all the needs of the community," Duffy said.

Duffy said she received 85 applications after she first posted the job position to Emerson's human resources site in September. Duffy chose ten applicants for a preliminary interview with



The Center for Spiritual Life no longer holds weekly meditations after Harrison Blum's departure from the college. *Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff*

the help of the search committee. Duffy and the committee chose four applicants from the interview to visit the campus within the next two weeks.

This week the applicants will meet with the search committee and Vice President and Dean of Campus Life James Hoppe, have lunch with students from spiritual organizations and members of SGA, and complete an open forum presentation for community feedback, Duffy said.

"We want a director who is going to meet all the needs of the community."

The presentations—open to students, faculty, and staff—begin on Nov. 7 and end on Nov. 15, Duffy wrote in an email to Emerson.

"The goal is to make an offer right after Thanksgiving, with a start date in January," Duffy said in an interview.

Duffy and the rest of the members of the Center for Spiritual Life said they want a director with an understanding of the campus culture who brings new skills and knowledge to the school.

"There is only one Harrison, and it took over a year to find him," Duffy said. "As motivated as I am to find someone to fill this position, I'm not going to settle."

Duffy said the search will continue for more applicants if she and the search committee don't deem one of the four candidates the best fit.

"Harrison had a depth and breadth of world religion, and we want to find someone who can support students the same way," Duffy said.

✉ hanna_marchessault@emerson.edu

editorial

Let's have our backs when other's don't

At issue: Supporting other student organizations

Our take: All of our work deserves recognition

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.

One day after a contentious midterm election, President Donald Trump and CNN reporter Jim Acosta debated a migrant caravan at a press conference. After Acosta criticized Trump's classification of it as an "invasion," Trump turned to another journalist and told Acosta to "put down the mic."

"CNN should be ashamed of itself having you work for them. You are a rude, terrible person," Trump said. "You shouldn't be working for CNN."

The White House later suspended Acosta's press access.

It's hard enough being a journalist on a national and international level. Politicians and others question our credentials and professionalism. We are reduced to "fake news." We, as journalists, sometimes have enemies, so it's important to support each other. After the president berated Acosta, NBC Correspondent Peter Alexander came to Acosta's defense.

"In Jim's defense, I've traveled with him and watched him," Alexander said. "He's a diligent reporter who busts his butt like the rest of us."

We need to follow Alexander's example.

The Beacon admits we can do better. More Beacon members should consume news from all campus

We, as journalists, sometimes have enemies, so it's important to support each other.

broadcast, radio, and print outlets. We should actively read, listen, and watch every campus program instead of only when our friends are in it, and we hope members of other organizations actively reciprocate.

As student journalists, we dedicate hours every day ensuring we fairly represent the student body and give accurate and timely information. We're in it for the belief that journalism represents the truth—not for recognition from the college. However, we believe the college could do a better job recognizing the hard work students devote to organizations.

And this culture of support should span beyond the journalism department. Emerson brims with creative organizations producing valuable work— theater productions, magazines, comedy troupe performances, film screenings, business events, cultural events, and more. The campus cultivates more content than one can possibly consume. But this unending quantity of work should not hinder student's efforts to acknowledge and appreciate all of it. In fact, students should strive to absorb as much as possible.

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

© 2018 The Berkeley Beacon. All rights reserved. The Beacon is published weekly. The Beacon receives funding from the Student Government Association of Emerson College. Anything submitted to the Beacon becomes the sole property of the newspaper. No part of the publication may be reproduced by any means without the express written permission of the editor.

Website
berkeleybeacon.com

Phone
(617) 824-8687

Email
contact@berkeleybeacon.com

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

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

Editor-in-Chief
Shafaq Patel

Copy Managing Editor
Kyle Labe

Visual Managing Editor
Monika Davis

Advisor
Douglas Struck

News Editor
Riane Roldan

Deputy Enterprise Editor
Maya Gacina

Deputy Express Editor
Chris Van Buskirk

Assistant Express Editor
Andrew Stanton

Assistant Enterprise Editor
Stefania Lugli

Living Arts Editor
Caroline Broderick

Deputy Lifestyle Editor
Grace Griffin

Deputy Arts Editor
Annika Hom

Assistant Lifestyle Editor
Ian Sloan

Opinion Editor
Hannah Ebanks

Deputy Opinion Editor
Katie Schmidt

Assistant Opinion Editor
Diti Kohli

Sports Editor
Kyle Bray

Deputy Sports Editor
Aaron Miller

Assistant Sports Editor
Anissa Gardizy

Chief Copyeditor
McKinley Ebert

Photography Editor
Erin Nolan

Deputy Photo Editor
Cullen Granzen

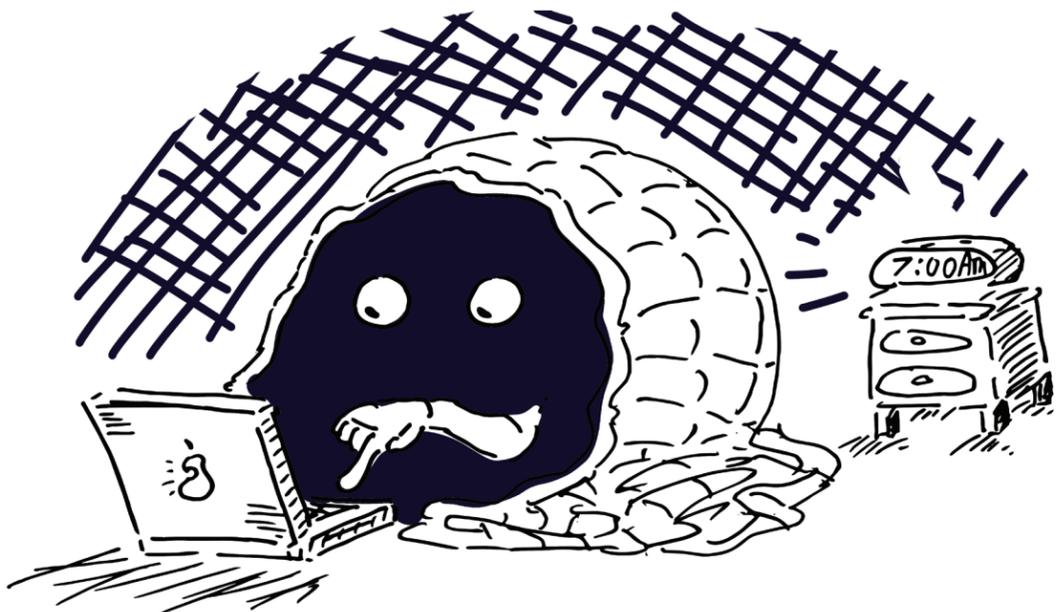
Assistant Photo Editor
Abigail Noyes

Social Media Manager
Ally Rzesza

Editorial Cartoon

by the Editorial Board
illustration by Ally Rzesza

Some lucky students
got to experience
registration twice.



opinion

Admitting students for more than their race

Ziqi Wang

Wang is a sophomore journalism major & the assistant opinion editor.

Last August, several Asian-American students who Harvard rejected during fall 2018 filed a lawsuit accusing the institution for discriminating against Asian-Americans. They claimed Harvard holds higher standards for Asian-Americans than other racial minorities. According to the Boston Globe, Harvard gives each of their applicants a personality score based on essays, interviews, and school recommendations. “Enthusiasm, effervescence, and a chipper disposition” are some of the most important personal characteristics the admissions look for, according to Harvard officials.

However, it seems Harvard’s personality scores don’t have much range, as the scores for many Asian-American applicants were very similar. According to a 1990 investigation of Harvard’s admission process by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights, Asian-Americans are often stereotyped as “being quiet/shy.” This view instantly disadvantages the community. Although the OCR claims these comments or stereotypes don’t discriminate against the applicants, they still imply Asian-American students lack dimension.

When writing college admission essays, counselors may often recommend using small details to catch the admission office’s eyes—something not widely-known like interesting alumni or the school’s colors. They believe mentioning these facts helps the applicant stand out because it may show they have a unique personality.

I do believe universities prefer students with interesting personalities and backgrounds that bring new perspectives and energy to the campus. But when they start looking for certain kinds of uniqueness, they create a lack of diversity by pigeonholing students through an unfair and non-inclusive system.

I am very aware of my identity at Emerson, that I am an international student from China who wants to study journalism—a major which requires me to write in my second language and a profession that is seen as limited in my country. I remember when, during a first-year class, my professor asked us why we were there. I said that as an international student I aspired to bring a different voice and a different point of view to the class. But this lawsuit makes me think—am I here for my voice? Or am I here because of my race?

I don’t want to attend this school to fulfill the diversity standard. My race is a very important part of my identity. When I introduced myself to other people, I mention I am an international student from China. I correct people when they mispronounce my name. I am a proud international student and Asian—but not all the time. Sometimes I introduce myself only by my name, because I am not just my race and I don’t want people judging me based solely on it. When I speak in class and when I interview people, my race doesn’t really matter, but my voice does. I like pitching stories about issues related to international students because I feel very passionate about them and think they’re very important to address. At the same time, however, I’m very



Schools should judge students on the qualities they can control and nothing else.

Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

hesitant to pitch them because I worry that I’ll only be seen as the reporter of international student affairs due to the fact that I am an international student.

16 percent of the class of 2022 are international students, a 5 percent increase from last year’s 11 percent. It is the highest number in the school’s history, and I notice the difference around campus. Schools should recognize different races, religions, sexualities, and cultural backgrounds, but they shouldn’t limit what students can do, or place standards on how students

should behave. Schools should clarify how they admit students. Admission emails and letters should differ from student to student, instead of one, templated facsimile. This way, students can see why schools accept them and feel more confident. Emerson shouldn’t mirror Harvard, where students worry about their personalities more than their academic prowess. Schools should judge students on the qualities they can control and nothing else.

✉ ziqi_wang@emerson.edu

Students advocate for curriculum modifications

Planning a class schedule can stress students out, especially with limited course options. To understand what specific issues students face with course availability, we asked, “Course registration for the spring 2019 semester is right around the corner. When browsing for courses, are there any changes you’d like to see in course availability within your major? Are there any courses you’d like to see added?”

Katie Schmidt

Schmidt is a senior writing, literature and publishing major & the Beacon’s deputy opinion editor

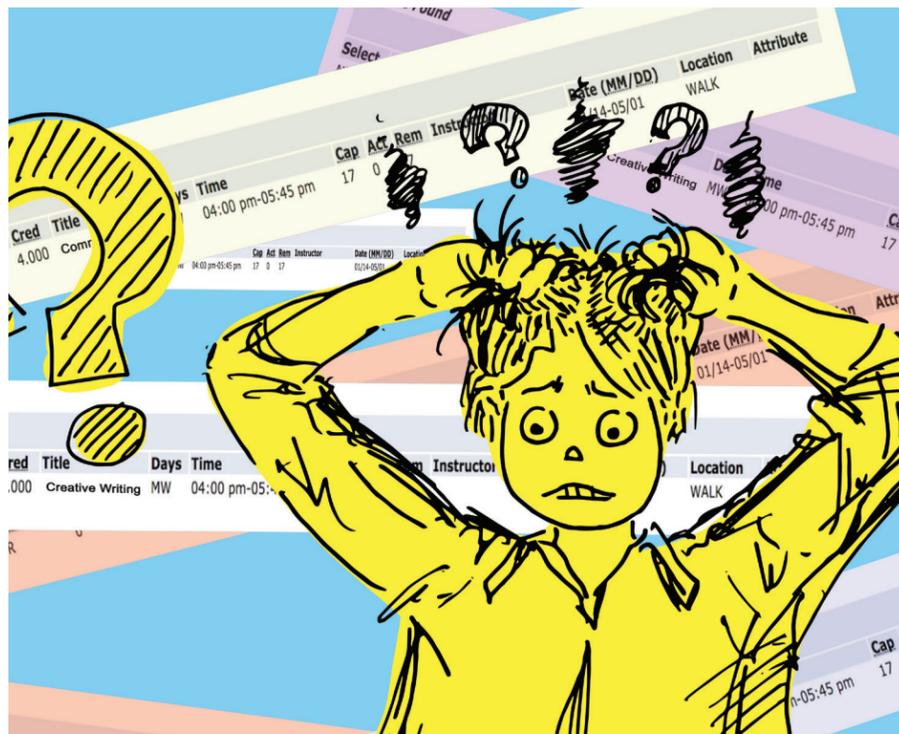
As a writing, literature and publishing student, I am required to take two 400-level publishing classes to graduate in the spring. When researching and browsing course selections last week, I felt frustrated with the lack of diversity in the 400-level publishing course options.

Three of these courses center around book publishing, while only one focuses on magazine writing—my intended career field. Because of this narrow selection, I ended up in a book design course which doesn’t relate to my intentions of branching out into the magazine world post-Emerson.

The other 400-level course selections are either an internship, directed study, or “Topics in Publishing,” which includes a design course and writing for the Boston Globe Magazine—a course that even I as a writing, literature and publishing major didn’t hear about until a week before registration, after the professor filled all the seats in the class. As I begin to plan out my final semester at Emerson, I’m disappointed the college isn’t offering a wider variety of courses that center around the magazine industry or stray away from the typical “book publishing” topics.

Many of my classmates have spoken about their similar frustrations when registering. A lot of my peers with a publishing concentration have to take their two 400-level publishing classes and feel hopeless with the minimal selection Emerson offers. Numerous classmates admit the need to settle for a course with which they are uninterested in to meet graduation requirements. Unfortunately, I will do the same.

✉ kathryn_schmidt@emerson.edu



Planning a class schedule can stress students out, especially with limited course options.

Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

Hannah Ebanks

Ebanks is a journalism major & the Beacon’s opinion editor

I knew I wanted to focus on print-based journalism since my freshman year of high school. Magazines like Teen Vogue and Marie Claire helped me realize my career could revolve around culture, specifically fashion and social issues. At Emerson, I chose all my courses carefully in order to develop skills and gain experience pertaining to long-form and feature writing.

I appreciate that I’m often required to create video or audio packages—however, I wish that the magazine-based classes listed as writing, literature and publishing courses are also offered to journalism majors. I can take these courses as long as I completed the prerequisites, but the larger issue is that, as a journalism major, I don’t know about these classes. While browsing for general electives for my final semester, I stumbled on travel writing and profile writing. I’m interested in both, yet they don’t qualify as journalism electives despite the fact that both types of writing are found in magazines, which is a type of journalism. The course description for profile writing included this sentence: “This course is designed for students interested in magazine writing, biography, journalism feature writing, and nonfiction writing that focuses on the lives of other people.”

Additionally, I wish minoring in a foreign language was also an option at Emerson. As the college expands globally, it should emphasize the importance of communicating in other languages. The school’s introductory courses are a good start, but it’s frustrating to not be able to continue learning a certain language. When I arrived at college, my French skills were higher than the courses offered at Emerson or through Berklee’s ProArts Consortium. I hope to live and work in France one day, so minoring in French, and therefore furthering my understanding of the language beyond introductory level courses, would make that transition abroad easier.

✉ hannah_ebanks@emerson.edu

Grace Koh

Koh is a freshman journalism major & a Beacon correspondent.

As a first-year student, my schedule for next semester is set by my advisor. I could leave it as it is, but I am curious about the other courses Emerson offers. As I browsed through the courses Emerson offers, my excitement increased over the classes I could take later on.

Before fall registration, I filled out a survey that marked the subjects that interest me. There weren’t any journalism courses on the survey, which I thought was strange. Now I realize there are set courses for first-year students and, later on, I can choose which path of journalism to pursue. I agree that learning from scratch as if we have no previous experience in our major will create a solid basis for everyone. However, I would prefer if we had the chance to experiment with specific sub-majors within journalism—such as photojournalism or sports reporting—earlier on. This would allow me to decide which direction I would want to take at Emerson.

College is a time to help young adults figure out their career. If Emerson could think of a way to allow diverse experience opportunities for students, it will help create confidence in our career choice.

✉ grace_koh@emerson.edu

Alfonso Mateo

Mateo is a senior visual and media arts major & Beacon correspondent.

I wish there were more topics in screenplay genres for screenwriters at Emerson. As of now, Emerson only offers “Writing the LGBTQ” and “Writing the Dark Femme.” I would love to see the inclusion of a horror option, a thriller option, and perhaps a course on writing a foreign script. I have wanted to learn how to write a script for a story that takes place in another country, in a different culture, or even in a different language. Unfortunately, Emerson only offers basic courses for screenwriting, and the options feel limited. Adding more classes in relation to directing will also be beneficial for those who want to become directors, which is a large portion of visual and media arts majors. However, Emerson only offers Directing Image and Sound and Directing Actors. The Emerson Los Angeles campus offers far more interesting visual and media arts classes compared to the Boston campus. I feel as if students at Emerson Los Angeles are more prioritized when it comes to better opportunities.

✉ alfonso_mateoemerson.edu

living arts

Tiny dorm, sizable sound: Students host on-campus concerts

Cassandra Coyer, *Beacon Staff*

Saxophone music streamed from suite 1020 to fill the 10th floor of the Colonial residence hall on Oct. 18.

Sophomores Zach Cargie, Justin Wood, Chris Tirado, and friend Sam Schneider hosted the first session of Tiny Dorm, small personal concerts by Emerson musical talents in college dorms.

“Really, the whole thing is just to celebrate Emerson’s musical talent,” Cargie said. “There are a lot of people who write their own music and songs, and you never really know about it because there’s not that much infrastructure to really exemplify that.”

Cargie said the idea came from a friend running Tiny Dorm at Grinnell College, in Iowa. The concept was inspired by Tiny Desk, a National Public Radio series of intimate live recorded video performances.

Cargie said he shared the concept with Wood, Tirado, and Schneider who shared his vision of bringing it to Emerson.

“I think we were all on board pretty much instantaneously. It felt like a really good idea that could definitely turn into something really special,” Wood said. “Something that could outlast us at Emerson possibly.”

Cargie said Emerson lacks a space focused solely on music, so he created one. He said the open mic nights in Center Stage often attract not only students interested in listening to music, but also those looking for extra seating to eat, and therefore aren’t as effective as they can be.

To create the atmosphere for the venue, Cargie said he and the three sophomores decorated their suite with string lights and created a mural from blue painter’s tape reading “Tiny Dorm Emerson” on their wall.

The first event started at 8 p.m. and attracted 15 students. The show lasted 45 minutes and three musicians performed.

One performer, sophomore Cameron Barth, played the saxophone for the first time in two years. He said he wouldn’t have thought of performing at Emerson before he heard of Tiny Dorm if it wasn’t for his friend Cargie, but is now interested in doing it again.

“I would recommend it to anyone who just wants to perform in front of an audience,” Barth said. “I played classical saxophone, and that’s not something that before going into it I would assume would have worked in that kind of setting, but it worked.”

Cargie said he asked permission from a res-



Sophomore Zach Cargie shows off his 10th floor Colonial suite, home of the new Tiny Dorm concert series. *Abigail Noyes / Beacon Staff*

ident assistant, who approved his event so long as it didn’t become a fire hazard and didn’t involve any illegal substances.

Shelby Grebbin, resident assistant on the 10th floor of Colonial, said the boys did not ask for her permission, but she didn’t have a problem with it. She said she wished students would start more art projects independently.

“I don’t think they have to ask me whether or not they can start one of these projects,” she said.

Grebbin, a former Managing Editor for the Berkeley Beacon, said she supports and encourages Tiny Dorm. She said she has only heard positive feedback, and no one on the floor complained about it.

Quiet hours in the dorms on weekdays start at 11 p.m., but courtesy hours are implemented 24/7.

The group reached out to junior Mia Manning, who works for WECB and hopes to partner with them to become a part of WECB Live and record the performances.

In the future, Cargie said they also hope to get Tiny Dorm SGA-approved to help them produce shows more efficiently.

Cargie said he plans to study abroad next semester at Kasteel Well and hopes Tiny Dorm will continue without him. Schneider said he will continue to host shows throughout the semester.

“We’re going to do our best to keep the dream alive, to keep it going. I think to that end, our goal is just to build as much of a community and as much momentum around it as we possibly can for what time we have left of the semester,” Schneider said, “So by the time we come back next semester, we reboot our interest and we don’t have to start from all over again.”

Cargie said Tiny Dorm can become a more accessible alternative to house shows for on-campus students.

“People doing house shows can do the same thing with Tiny Dorm, and it’s a lot easier for on-campus Emerson students who might not necessarily know anyone hosting a house show, or having gotten the details,” Cargie said. “It’s always something on campus and it’s fairly easy to produce each week. So there’s always something going on that people can stumble their way onto or just float on by.”

The next show is scheduled for the weekend

of Nov. 10 in suite 1020, and Cargie said they will release more information in the days leading up to the show.

Cargie said he hopes it can become a weekly event. He said the group hopes Tiny Dorm will expand so others on campus can offer their dorm as a venue by filling out forms available online soon.

“I think the biggest goal is that we’re not the only suite doing it, that it becomes something bigger than us. Because we already got multiple people interested in hosting in their suite, so that’s kind of the ultimate goal is having it all over the place, each week, and also something that gets established and outlasts us,” Wood said.

“At Emerson, the first question out of everyone’s mouth whenever you meet someone is, ‘What major are you?’ So if you tell someone you’re VMA or journalism, that’s what you’re going to be associated with,” Schneider said. “You never really talk about music. It’s the idea of finding, not necessarily a hidden talent, but maybe something that people don’t necessarily

✉ cassandra_coyer@emerson.edu

Pretty Girl Rock: I am a cakeface queen



Caroline Broderick
Broderick is a senior journalism major, the Beacon’s living arts editor, and beauty columnist.

After the final performance of my community college’s spring play, my director sat me down for a heart-to-heart reflection on the show.

“You know, I almost didn’t cast you because of *this*,” he said, gesturing to my face.

By *this* he referred to my winged eyeliner, filled-in brows, foundation, bronzer, highlight, and mascara. He meant he almost cast someone else because of my face and what I see as art.

According to him, I needed to wear less makeup. However, I never once viewed my makeup usage as the deciding factor in casting me, hiring me, or befriending me. My makeup is my art and should not be the determining factor for my character.

I am no stranger to unwanted opinions on my makeup. I first asked for mascara and eyeliner in seventh grade and thereafter became obsessed with it. I began sporting a thick black line on my upper eyelid, and while everybody—especially my parents—wished I’d ditch it, I never listened.

As a young girl, a correlation between wearing makeup and insecurity seemed to exist. But the intent behind wearing makeup had nothing to do with my self-consciousness and every-

thing to do with having fun. Even at 22 I’m still giddy when I sit in front of a mirror and transform myself based on my mood. Beauty lovers like me and makeup artists view faces as canvases.

The comments on my makeup never went away. As a freshman in high school I would bring powder and mascara to school for touch-ups. In my study hall one day, I pulled out my CoverGirl powder and L’Oreal Carbon Black mascara to reapply. To me, this was nothing out of the ordinary. To the three girls sitting a table over, this was hilarious. They began to laugh at me, making comments to each other and glancing my way. I left the room to cry in the bathroom. Then I reapplied my makeup to cover the tear streaks in my foundation.

The comments from loved ones and strangers created my view that wearing a lot of makeup made me inferior to those who do not. It became a constant thought in my mind whenever I would go somewhere: Are they staring at me? Is it because of my eyeliner? I never thought this hobby would turn into its own insecurity at 13.

People try to avoid wearing “too much” makeup although “too much” is subjective. Shape Magazine’s article, “What Men Really Think About Your Makeup,” compiles a list of men’s opinions on women’s makeup. The small pool of 15 represents what men tell women: Natural beauty is best. Don’t wear too much—you’ll be a cakeface, you’ll look like a clown.

When you decide to ignore the demands for “less is more” you take ownership of your femininity.

Taking ownership of yourself goes beyond wearing makeup. You become powerful by living life by your standards—makeup or not. Society expects women to wear makeup but still look natural. You take ownership by breaking either mold.

When Lady Gaga went into her *A Star is Born* audition Bradley Cooper took a makeup wipe to her face, according to an interview in the Los Angeles Times. The article implied Gaga didn’t give permission, and Cooper didn’t apologize. Gaga still possessed her skills and acting ability under the makeup. It just so happened that she wore makeup, and Cooper didn’t like

that. Gaga admits it helped her get into character in the article, but it reminds me so much of my own audition for the spring play. If my director demanded to remove my makeup, only to eventually do it himself, I would have felt violated.

My director cast me as the lead in the spring play for my acting skills. He based his first impression of me solely on my appearance, but I could take all of his notes, connect deeply with my character, and perform exactly how he wanted in the end. My makeup played no role in this—makeup is not me, it is an extension of me.

The talk with my director gave me a glimpse of my potential professional life. I enter every interview frightened of what impression my makeup will leave. To me it should show employers how detail-oriented I am, but I’m always left feeling it may appear superficial and not serious. I always question whether I should sacrifice my character and wear less makeup, but if my face keeps me from a job, I don’t think I want to work there.

After my director told me he almost didn’t cast me because of my face I nodded, took offense, and replied, “*This* is not something I am willing to change. *This* is my art form, and *this* is who I am.”

✉ caroline_broderick@emerson.edu

"My makeup is my art and should not be the determining factor for my character."

Student molds business out of slime

Zenebou Sylla, *Beacon Correspondent*

What started as a slime hobby ended up making junior Tuvana Isildar thousands of dollars.

Isildar's hobby evolved into spending her weekends creating, filming, and selling homemade slime for hundreds of people to watch and play with.

Isildar posts slime videos on her Instagram account @tuvs.slimes that over 37,000 people follow. She also sells her slime through an Etsy shop.

This November will mark Isildar's first anniversary in the slime business.

"Although this is my business, it doesn't feel like work to me because I enjoy every process of

it," Isildar said.

She said she sold over 1,000 different kinds of slime and made \$15,000 since last November, not including the cost of materials and shipping.

Isildar creates her slime, a type of putty, using glue and a white salty mineral that dissolves in water called borax. Slime creators usually add dyes, glitters, sprinkles, and other ingredients to differentiate their products. It takes Isildar six to eight hours to create the custom slime and two hours to prepare it to ship.

Slime experienced a rise in popularity on platforms like YouTube, Etsy, and Instagram. Searching #slime on Instagram yields over 10 million results, and 1.3 million people subscribe to "Will It Slime?" on YouTube.

Sophomore Maddie Kerr said she likes slime's association with the autonomous sensory meridian response, or ASMR, movement.

"I think it has become so popular because of the ASMR movement that is becoming more and more normalized," Kerr said. "I think slime is a more accessible form of ASMR that can introduce people to the concept of it."

Isildar said slime started as a hobby and stress reliever. She said touching slime helps with stressful and uneasy situations.

"I benefit from having something to fiddle with and distract me from the stress happening in my head," Kerr said. "Especially on platforms like Instagram, you see videos of slime that have millions of views because it is so satisfying and has a natural calming effect."

Isildar said her interest in watching ASMR and videos on Instagram ultimately led her to start her own slime business. She said she created slime for herself and friends, who encouraged her to make a business from it.

Freshman Beatriz Andrade said she tends to enjoy the goopy texture of slime as she plays with it in her hands.

"Usually the goopier and slimier it is, the better," Andrade said. "Because it's so popular, I'm able to find videos on

YouTube with different ways to make slime, so it can be a DIY project too, which I also love."

Isildar experimented with different smells and textures from recipes online for a year. She then made her Instagram for people to watch her slime videos, and she opened up her Etsy shop after around two months.

Isildar said she creates different slime textures for customers so they can choose what they prefer. Textures vary from thick to thin, cloudy to buttery, and sometimes crunchy.

Her Etsy store features slimes like Thicki Funfetti, Shooky Cookie, and Cookies and Milk.

"I just get inspiration to make different slimes based on real life foods or candies, even a K-Pop group which a lot of customers seem to enjoy," Isildar said. "I also scent each of my slimes a different scent to match."

In the future, Isildar said she would love to expand and open a pop-up shop named Tuvs Slimes. She said she is currently developing and sharing more slime projects in order to build a tighter community between her and her followers.

"Honestly I didn't think I would get 32,000, let alone 2,000, followers, so it's insane to me that I've come this far," Isildar said. "The amount of support I get from my followers is crazy."

Isildar said she balances the lifestyle of a student and young creator. The lessons she learned as a visual and media arts student helped her to film and edit her Instagram videos, she said. She encourages others to start their own businesses as well.

"Being a full-time student, full-time business owner, as well as working on different productions as a VMA major was hard at first, but throughout the time I've been doing this it's been a really amazing journey learning how to really time manage," Isildar said.

"Although this is my business, it doesn't feel like work to me."

"I just get inspiration to make different slimes based on real life foods or candies."



Junior Tuvana Isildar has made \$15,000 since starting her slime business one year ago. *Chassidy David / Beacon Correspondent*

✉ zenebou_sylla@emerson.edu

Student starts virtual hunt for media Easter eggs

Continued from page 1

However, he was unfamiliar with coding and the process of creating a functioning website. He searched for a class or program on campus that could help him. Ratliff found a program designed to help student entrepreneurs called Emerson Launch. He met with Director of Emerson Launch Sanjay Pothen.

"Taelon told us he wanted to do it because he would be disappointed if someone else did it and didn't do it right," Pothen said.

Emerson Launch helped Ratliff turn the idea for the website into a reality.

Wild Wasteland will allow users to search for specific media, such as a movie or game, and see posts written about the film's Easter eggs. Users can filter posts based on date published and number of likes.

Wild Wasteland will also launch with a mo-



Junior Taelon Ratliff has been working with Emerson Launch in hopes of creating the largest Easter egg database. *Sabrina Ortiz / Beacon Correspondent*

"You'll be able to find whatever you're looking for. It'll be like a giant Wikipedia for Easter eggs."

Pothen said Ratliff's unique idea clearly showed his passion for creating this site.

"We've been really impressed with his level of maturity," Pothen said. "It's exciting to see him turn this seed of an idea into a reality."

The website's development began by gauging public interest in the idea. He turned to Reddit and other websites where people already posted about similar topics. He began to message people about the idea, receive positive feedback, and connect with individuals who would use the site.

"I think Easter eggs are neat. If I was browsing and found this website, I'd use it," Bobby Wilson,

Emerson Esports organization member, said.

The design process began after a series of successful tests. Emerson Launch gave Ratliff MadValley Labs Co-Founder Garrick Gauch as a mentor. Gauch's technical agency specializes in website and app production and worked to make Ratliff's process as cost-effective as possible. Ratliff sold his father's house after his death and used all the money to create the website.

Ratliff designed the look of the website in conjunction with MadValley Labs prior to beginning work on the software behind it. The site's layout resembles a blog, with posts in the center and clickable content in the sidebar. It is

currently in the coding process.

"I hope he gets a lot out of this from a learning perspective—that's the most important [thing] for me," Gauch said.

Ratliff hid stickers of the website's logo, a broken Easter egg, around Emerson's campus. He will post stickers featuring QR codes linked to the website closer to the launch.

"You'll be able to find whatever you're looking for," Ratliff said. "It'll be like a giant Wikipedia for Easter eggs."

✉ danielle_fineza@emerson.edu

bile website that enables users to upload Easter eggs as soon as they discover them. Emerson Launch also assisted with this element of the site.

"Emerson has been helping me out through all the legal stuff, all the business stuff," Ratliff said. "I've learned so much."

sports

UPCOMING ACTION

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Emerson @ Gordon, 7 p.m. tonight

CROSS COUNTRY: Division III Invationals, Saturday

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Emerson @ Boston University, 1:05 p.m. Sunday

Women's volleyball looks to future after tough season

Maximo Lawlor, *Beacon Staff*

Women's volleyball wrapped up a season filled with injuries, but has its eyes set on a successful future.

The women's volleyball team finished with an overall record of 15-14, an improvement from 13-14 last year. The Lions placed ninth out of 11 teams in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference with a 2-8 record.

One major theme for the Lions was the plethora of injuries throughout the season according to Senior setter Moira Brennan. Brennan said the absence of three key players—Carolyn Vaimoso, Jessica Braunstein, and Anna Hamre—were huge obstacles the team had to overcome.

"We have had a lot of injuries, but we kind of halted that a little bit," Brennan said. "We talked a lot about [the injuries] off the court, but on the court, we all definitely stepped up."

Head coach Ben Read said the team achieved some major goals throughout their season, but he wished they made it to playoffs.

"The major goal we were looking at was a winning record, which we did get," Read said. "We also wanted to have a record that was good enough to go ahead and get us into NEWMAC playoffs, which we obviously did not accomplish."

Emerson's final game ended with a 3-1 loss against regionally ranked Springfield College.

Read said even though there were many setbacks this season, the Lions always competed at the best of their abilities.

"At one point we had four people out, so it's really tough to go ahead and battle back from that, but looking back on it, we finished with a 15-14 record," Read said. "We were very competitive in every single NEWMAC game we played."

Read said the team surprised Springfield with their level of play despite the outcome of the matchup.

"On their senior day, we kind of stunned [Springfield College] a bit as well, winning the first set 27-25," Read said. "Those are minor vic-



Freshman libero Lauren Quan plays the ball towards the net. • Anissa Gardizy / *Beacon Staff*

tories, and we feel good about that. We wish we would have won, but we feel really good that we were able to take a set and make it competitive."

Read said games against Wheaton College and Massachusetts Institute of Technology positively stood out to him. The Lions were upended by Wheaton in a tight five-set matchup 3-2—however, Grace Tepper tied her career best against the Lyons for 20 kills in a single game.

Emerson also lost 3-1 to MIT in a competitive matchup, but Tepper shined with 10 kills and 11 digs, with teammate Fara Cohen close behind with 10 kills and 10 digs.

"15 wins is quite an achievement, so that right there is huge," Read said. "[We pushed]

Wheaton College to five sets who were regionally ranked I think fifth or sixth in the region. We took nationally ranked MIT to four sets, and we stunned them in the first set and made it pretty competitive."

Read said the team always strived to get better and improve themselves.

"The effort this team had every day in practice—getting better, lifting as well—was huge," Read said. "It shows the mindset of our team that we want to keep getting better as individuals for the team and being the best we can be, and [the team's] going to work hard to go ahead and do it."

The three seniors leaving the team are setter Moira Brennan, middle blocker, Kelley Guerra,

"The effort this team had every day in practice—getting better, lifting as well—was huge."

and outside hitter and defensive specialist Fara Cohen.

Freshman defensive specialist Lauren Quan said the seniors impacted the team in a positive way throughout the season.

"The seniors have created this awesome team culture that has really brought everybody together," Quan said. "Everybody is positive—everybody is kind and hardworking and aggressive and competitive while being a team at the same time."

Brennan said she is excited for the future of the team as there are good things to come.

"This was kind of a building year, and all the underclassmen, the freshmen—they're so good. And [the team] is just going to get better, especially with the new recruiting classes coming in," Brennan said. "They can really take names in the NEWMAC."

Brennan said, as a senior, she wants the future of the volleyball team to focus on having a close bond and enjoying each other's presence.

"I just hope that the girls continue to have fun and just focus on the team," Brennan said. "Winning sets and all, like that's fun, but when you're older you remember the team. Winning isn't as important."

Quan said in the future she hopes the team continues the team dynamic the seniors implemented her freshman year.

"As a team, I think our upcoming goal is to keep the same team culture that the seniors left and implicate it into next season and keep it going," Quan said.

Read says the goals for next year are still up for discussion, but he wants to make sure the team is all on board for the future.

"We want everyone to be on the same page—I don't want to just sit them down and say, 'Hey, these are my goals, this is what we want to accomplish,'" Read said. "We want to decide these things together because we are a team. We are going to work together to accomplish that."

✉ maximo_lawlor@emerson.edu

Young men's soccer team aims to build on 2018 season



Men's soccer placed last in the NEWMAC with a 1-6 record. • Anissa Gardizy / *Beacon Staff*

Andrew Lin, *Beacon Correspondent*

Although the men's soccer team missed out on the playoffs, the team is optimistic about its youth and its potential to become a competitive program.

The Lions finished with a 3-13-1 overall record including a 1-6 record in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference. They ended in last place out of eight teams for the sixth consecutive season since Emerson's inaugural season in the NEWMAC.

Junior captain and defender Creighton Dorfman praised how the squad performed better than what their record suggests.

"Our record might not show how well we played this year, but in my time here this was the best team we've had," Dorfman said. "Everyone's going to be returning, so I think there's a lot of potential."

Entering this season, head coach Bryan Harkin said he hoped the team could compete in the conference and qualify for the playoffs. However, the team opened their first five games with four losses and ended the season with an eight-game losing streak consisting of seven losses and one draw. Overall, the Lions conceded a

total of 31 goals while scoring 10 this year.

Junior forward Gavin Faucette led the Lions with five goals while senior midfielder Paul Bou Aziz scored three.

Freshman midfielder Avery Niles said the team struggled with communication early on as they had to adjust with 16 new faces, including 13 freshman players. However, Niles also said the communication struggles gradually improved as the team built more chemistry together.

"I do think that we definitely struggled in the beginning with our formation as a team, in keeping tight throughout the midfield and the defense," Niles said. "But as the season went on, I think a lot of our relationships grew, and the consistency [in communicating] really grew. I'd say that was the biggest growth."

Harkin said the team will need to find ways to win even on bad days.

"We had to play really well to win games, and good teams win games whenever they're not playing well. They bend but they don't break, and we broke too many times this year," Harkin said.

Though the Lions struggled this season, Harkin said there is reason to hope they will have



Freshman Darius Boamah chases the ball against Springfield. • Anissa Gardizy / *Beacon Staff*

more success—the team is incredibly young. He believes that, with increased training and a new batch of recruits next year, they will be ready to compete with a young team.

"Spring will be a vital time for this group to grow together, to get in the weight room together, to play games together, to train together," Harkin said. "The group has a lot of potential. We have a lot of good players and good characters. We will add another group next year and they will be the group to transform Emerson soccer and get us to the next level."

As the team prepares for next year, they will also lose three seniors—forward Max DeLuca, forward Danylo Kowal, and Bou Aziz. Niles said that, with the loss of these senior leaders, the squad will look to the leadership of Harkin and Dorfman to guide the younger players and keep the group motivated and focused.

"The thing that kept us together the most was our leadership, whether that was from our captain or from our coach," Niles said. "I'd say the leaders have always kept us motivated and kept us focused on what we were trying to do."

With over half the team comprised of underclassmen for next season, Harkin said the Lions will have to once again rely on youth to drive

them towards their goal: the playoffs. Harkin said there is a lot of positive energy and optimism since the players all want to improve for next season.

"It's been fun to be around the guys and see them learn, mature, and keep working. It would've been easy to just quit at times but this group showed a real good energy and desire that they want to improve and want to get better," Harkin said. "I give them a lot of credit for sticking with that, and we'll go into the offseason with some positivity despite a tough season."

Despite a rough season, Niles said he hopes the young core will develop and lead the team to a more successful season next year.

"I'm just really excited to get the core group of guys back and bring in some new people and let them know what we're trying to work towards," Niles said. "I think we have a super strong core group and a good group of young guys that are going to carry this team and, hopefully, we'll see a lot more success."

Deputy Sports Editor Aaron Miller did not edit this article due to a conflict of interest.

✉ andrew_lin@emerson.edu