

# The Berkeley Beacon

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

Thursday January 31, 2019 • Volume 72, Issue 16



## Senior starts digital gallery featuring hometown artists

By Riddhima Dave • p. 7

Joshua DeGuzman (left) and Tay Thai (right) created ImaginBrockton to showcase artists from Brockton, Mass. • *Emily Oliver / Beacon Staff*

## OISA hires new director, fills vacant positions

Daniela Lobo-Rivera, *Beacon Correspondent*

The Office of International Student Affairs appointed Andrea Popa as the new director following student complaints about staff vacancies during fall 2018.

The college also reassigned former Interim Director Sheena Loiacono to fill the vacant program coordinator position, and hired an additional program coordinator, Jason Xin Yang. Popa said following the new hirings, OISA is fully staffed.

The college announced Popa's hiring on Dec. 3 in an Emerson Today article, and she officially started as director on Dec. 10. Popa previously worked in Boston University's International Students and Scholars Office for 16 years as an associate director for student services.

Popa said the office historically had one director and one program coordinator. However, considering the increased international student population—16 percent of new first time students are international—OISA decided to add a second program coordinator.

See OISA, page 2

## College to spend over \$1 million on sidewalk expansion

Diana Bravo, *Beacon Staff*

The college plans to spend more than \$1 million to expand the sidewalk in front of its Boylston Street buildings, according to a college official.

Senior Vice President of Real Estate Arthur Mombourquette said the college is receiving bids from construction companies for the project in the millions of dollars. Sections of the Boylston Street sidewalk are decades old and the college wants to make the sidewalk safer for students pushing laundry carts, Mombourquette said.

Mombourquette expects construction on parts of the Boylston Street sidewalk to begin in early spring.

"We need to work out... [how] to keep a portion of the sidewalk open at all times with safe passage into the buildings along Boylston Street," he said.

The college plans to expand the sidewalk from the Little Building to the M. Steinert and Sons building. The expansion will eliminate the parking lane on Boylston Street and add benches, planters, signage, and a crosswalk from the Boylston Place alley to the Boston Common.

The expansion should make the sidewalk feel



The expansion would create a crosswalk from Boylston Place alley to the Boston Common. *William Bloxham / Beacon Correspondent*

more like the college's campus, Vice President and Dean of Campus Life James Hoppe said at a Student Government Association meeting last semester.

"It'll be more like a campus promenade," Hoppe said at the SGA meeting.

SGA Executive Treasurer Ian Mandt said he is glad to see the college preparing for the construction. Mandt said he thinks the construction will add to the student experience, make the college more attractive to prospective

students, and make the sidewalk safer for students pushing laundry carts.

"The sidewalk right now is in disrepair," Mandt said. "If you've ever pushed a laundry cart around during move in, or traveled with equipment, it is hard and frankly dangerous at points."

[✉ diana\\_bravo@emerson.edu](mailto:diana_bravo@emerson.edu)

## Freshman to run Boston Marathon for brother with cancer

Kyle Bray, *Beacon Staff*

Freshman Brendan Beauregard will never forget how he spent the day on Sept. 15, 2017. Sitting in the living room of his family home in Medfield, Mass. texting his friends, he received a life-changing phone call from his mother. She told him he needed to come to Tufts Medical Center as soon as possible—his older brother, Pat, had been diagnosed with cancer.

"I just remember my entire world stopping," Brendan said. "Everything just froze around me, and I collapsed down onto my chair—the shock of hearing that news, and with someone like Pat, who I consider [to be] my hero. If I grow up to be half the man he is, I'd consider that to be a major accomplishment for myself."

Brendan's older brother Pat is a 30-year-old corporal in the Marine Corps and has stage IV colon cancer. Since his diagnosis in October 2017—two months after his wedding—he has undergone surgeries, biopsies, scans, and 30 rounds of chemotherapy.

After Pat's diagnosis, Brendan and his family participated in a 5K run in Boston called Get Your Rear in Gear in an effort to raise money for colon cancer research. After completing the run, Brendan directed his attention to an even bigger goal—running the Boston Marathon.

See Marathon, page 8



# news

## Partial government shutdown interrupted student's food stamps



Graduate student Kenya Hunter decided to save her food stamps after hearing about the partial government shutdown. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

Anissa Gardizy, Beacon Staff

Graduate student Kenya Hunter said she felt lucky the government partially shutdown on Dec. 22 and not any earlier because coming back home to Georgia for winter break allowed her to conserve food stamps.

"I was going to use my food stamps at home because I am allowed to, but when I heard the government was shutting down, I decided to save them instead," Hunter said.

Hunter began using the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps, in fall 2018 when she moved to Boston to study journalism at Emerson. The program did not receive funding during the shutdown since the U.S. Department of Agriculture oversees it.

"This was my first time using food stamps, and I can't believe the government shut down," Hunter said. "At home, I'm not poor, but in Boston, I'm poor."

The longest government shutdown in U.S. history ended on Jan. 25 when President Don-

ald J. Trump signed a bill to temporarily reopen the government for three weeks, or until Feb. 15. The shutdown represented Trump's latest attempt to force Congress to allocate funds toward building a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

College officials said financial aid and international student services were not directly impacted by the 35-day shutdown, but some Emerson students and their family members felt the impact of missing paychecks, job uncertainty, and food insecurity.

A video on Twitter shows Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley speaking to reporters in Washington D.C. on Jan. 15 about an unnamed student who, for the first time in her life, felt food insecure because she knew her food stamps were not guaranteed if the shutdown continued into March.

Pressley spoke about Hunter, who shared her story during the congresswoman's Community Swearing-In ceremony in January.

"She and I ended up making eye contact. I

went up to her and said 'Please don't give into a wall. I know I'm not supposed to be doing this—I'm a student journalist, so I'm not here to be political—but I just moved up here from Atlanta. I'm a graduate student, and I'm on food stamps because if I use my own personal money for food, I won't be able to meet the costs of splitting rent with my roommates,'" Hunter said.

When Pressley asked Hunter if she could use Hunter's name in Congress, Hunter objected for professional reasons. As a journalist, Hunter said she wanted to maintain an objective presence online. But with the government shutdown lingering, Hunter said she realized she had an important story to tell.

"I decided to come out and say, 'Yeah, that's me who Ayanna Pressley is talking about,'" Hunter said.

The USDA worked with states to deliver benefits for February at an earlier time than usual. Hunter said her early benefits for February matched what she normally receives monthly—\$153.

In response to the government reopening, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said in a press release the USDA would work to reestablish services with the thousands of employees back to work in the department. The USDA did not release information on how they will distribute the March benefits if the government shuts down again in February.

Director of Financial Aid Angela Grant said students with a furloughed parent, or parents, would experience the biggest impact from the shutdown.

"In those cases, we encourage students to reach out to my office or the Office of Student Success," Grant said. "It would be on an individual basis, but if they needed extra time to make a payment or they needed to increase a loan, they could do all of those things with [the college]."

Junior David Fadul's mother, a federal employee who worked for the U.S. Department of State in foreign services for 28 years, was deemed "excepted" during the 35-day shutdown—meaning she worked without pay.

"I think it is disrespectful for the government to treat someone who has been a dedicated worker for almost three decades as if she

joined yesterday," Fadul said. "In my opinion, it is extremely disrespectful, though I doubt [my mom] would ever say this."

Fadul said his family was lucky enough to not live paycheck to paycheck, however, he said the shutdown was not easy on his mom.

"The shutdown has definitely caused my mom emotional stress and trauma," Fadul said. "It's not normal stress—it's existential stress of your job not paying you."

Grant said the shutdown would not affect Emerson students' financial aid and Federal Work Study benefits.

"Funds are appropriated for those things before the beginning of the year. That is all set up before the school year even starts, and it is all automatic processing. It is not impacted in any way," Grant said.

Director of International Student Affairs Andrea Popa said most government services used by international students were not affected by the government shutdown because they are fee-based.

International students use the Department of State Visa and Passport Services and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Some USCIS programs were unfunded during the shutdown, but those programs did not directly affect international students, Popa said.

Popa said she was not aware of any international students affected by the shutdown.

The shutdown came with many uncertainties for students and families, and there is uncertainty over what will happen in Washington on Feb. 15.

Negotiations over border security will continue for the next three weeks as Congress did not agree to allocate money for a wall. In Trump's press conference announcing the end of the shutdown, he said the government could shut down again if he does not receive a fair deal from Congress by Feb. 15.

"I will use the powers afforded to me under the laws and Constitution of the United States to address this emergency," Trump said during the press conference.

✉ anissa\_gardizy@emerson.edu

## OISA hires new director to address student complaints

Continued from page 1

"We've gone from being sort of one person up," Popa said in an interview. "Now that the spring semester has begun, we're fully staffed and prepared."

During the fall 2018 semester, Loiacono was the only OISA employee—serving as a program coordinator and acting as an interim director. In a previous Beacon article, a group of international students said they experienced difficulty receiving their federal documents, such as their F-1 signatures and Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) updates, on time during Loiacono's duty as interim director.

Popa said the college notified her of some of the office's shortcomings related to the vacancy as she was coming into the position.

"I think there were months where perhaps students were not feeling like they were getting the support they needed and I'm glad that I'm here and that Emerson was able to fill my position," Popa said.

Popa said she also read articles from last semester and gathered information from the different student groups that expressed their concerns and need for action.

"As we rolled into the spring, I tried to take those specific concerns that were expressed and try to prioritize what things needed to happen immediately, and what things were going to need more time to develop," Popa said.

Popa said OISA wants to make sure the international student community receives the help, advice, and information they need.

"We're also spending a lot of time speaking about communication and transparency," Popa said. "For this, we've established walk-in hours on Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons for students to come in with their concerns."

Chuchu Yue, a freshman Chinese international student, said OISA helped her clear financial holds on her student account, and keep her F-1 visa updated. Yue said the office improved since the fall semester.



Director Andrea Popa plans to increase OISA's transparency and available services for international students. • William Bloxham / Beacon Correspondent

"I think the efficiency is really good," Yue said. "They have given really good support, advising, and help. You can see a big improvement within the office."

Popa said OISA will work with other offices on campus, including the Career Development Center.

"International student success is a collaborative effort around campus," Popa said. "We'll be doing a list of seminars throughout the semester that will help prepare students for their future careers."

Popa said she is confident that a fully staffed OISA office will give the international student community the services they deserve.

"We're fully staffed and ready to start a new chapter. We're looking forward for students to feel an immediate change," Popa said. "We're taking very seriously all the types of activities and initiatives that will provide the type of support the students need."

✉ daniela\_laborivera@emerson.edu

## College repends to minimum wage increase

Xinyi Xu, Beacon Correspondent

The hourly minimum wage in Massachusetts increased from \$11 to \$12 on Jan. 1 and is scheduled to reach \$15 by 2023. Emerson scheduled the increase into the school budget.

Associate Vice President for Finance Robert Butler said in an interview that the minimum wage increase will cost the college approximately \$500,000 more by June 30, 2020—or 0.5 percent of the college's overall budget. Butler confirmed the college will adhere to the minimum wage increase as it takes effect. The school will adjust pay according to the Massachusetts schedule for any student earning minimum wage.

"Emerson College adjusts departments' budgets to fund the increase in the minimum wage each January," Butler said.

The college does not pay any faculty members at the minimum wage, but it does pay \$11 or more per hour to students with on-campus jobs.

Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Enrollment Management Noah Wood said in an email that the college does not have a list of student jobs that pay minimum wage due to the differences in experience levels and abilities required for various jobs on campus.

Individual departments determine the salaries for student employees separately. Then, they inform the Student Employment department how much each student will get paid. Once students finish the required paperwork, they can start to work. Every week, the payroll office calculates and deposits that week's money into students' bank accounts.

Junior Libby Sweeney began working at the Welcome Desk in fall 2017 and said she has not yet received a notification from the school about the minimum wage increase.

✉ xinyi\_xu@emerson.edu



Beacon Breakdown: College protocol for opioid overdose

Hanna Marchesseault, Beacon Staff

College campuses around the country started taking the initiative to obtain Narcan, a nasal spray used to counteract the effects of an opioid overdose, in 2016, according to a National Public Radio article. Emerson followed and purchased Narcan for the Health and Wellness Center and campus buildings in 2017.

Opioid overdoses contribute to one out of every five deaths among young adults, 24 to 35-year-olds, in the United States, according to a study conducted by St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. The most commonly used opioid among college students is prescription painkillers, according to the Delphi Behavioral Health Group.

In Massachusetts, there were 1,518 confirmed opioid overdoses in the first nine months of 2018, according to a MassLive article. On college campuses, opioid overdoses are rarer.

Narcan binds to the receptors that attract opioids in the brain and can reverse and block the effects of the opioids, according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

The Berkeley Beacon wondered how the college would handle an on-campus opioid overdose.

Why did the college purchase Narcan?

The college purchased Naloxone HCl, commonly referred to as Narcan, through Bound Tree, a medical supply company, two years ago at \$91 for each individual unit, Emerson College Police Department Deputy Chief Eric Schiazza said in an interview. Schiazza was not able to disclose the number of units the college purchased, but there are eight college buildings.

ECPD worked with the Health and Wellness Center to purchase Narcan after the average age of overdose victims shifted from 30 to 39-year-olds to 20 to 29-year olds in 2017, ECPD Chief Robert Smith said. ECPD worked with the Center for Health and Wellness to make sure every building on campus carried Narcan, Smith said.

After Narcan is administered, the individual will be transported to the hospital for further medical treatment, Schiazza said.



The college purchased Narcan for the Health and Wellness Center and every on-campus building at \$91 a unit. • Emily Oliver / Beacon Staff

Has the college ever needed to administer Narcan?

ECPD responded to two overdose incidents with individuals outside of the Emerson community. One incident occurred in the summer of 2015 and the other in 2016, Schiazza said.

ECPD performed CPR on the individuals until the Boston Emergency Medical Service arrived and administered the Narcan, Schiazza said.

"While the chance of a student overdosing [on opioids] is rare, we are proud to have implemented Narcan on campus," Smith said. "It's a terrible epidemic, and we want to make sure the Emerson community is safe."

As of January 2019, the college has never needed to administer Narcan to an Emerson community member, Smith said.

Where is Narcan on campus and who can administer it?

All college buildings contain Narcan, however, ECPD is not permitted to disclose the specific locations. Narcan must be kept

at a temperature of around 55 degrees Fahrenheit, and if it goes anywhere above 80 degrees it loses potency, according to Smith. ECPD has to make sure the Narcan stays within its designated locations.

Narcan is part of an emergency kit in every college building. For safety reasons, only ECPD officers and Center for Health and Wellness staff members are permitted to administer Narcan, Smith said.

"Narcan works almost immediately, and when people overdosing wake up, they can often be violent," Schiazza said. "We don't want students to be put in that dangerous situation."

Narcan requires no medical training, according to the Narcan website. However, Smith and Schiazza said ECPD and the Center for Health and Wellness staff must complete a 40-hour training course on administering Narcan and its effects. Every person that completes the course also receives refresher training every few months, Schiazza said.

✉ hanna\_marchesseault@emerson.edu

Students to vote on \$100,000 for student access

Jacob Seitz, Beacon Staff

An online, Voice Your Choice student vote scheduled for April will decide how \$100,000 in alumni donations will be divided between sections of Student Access.

Scholarships and funds fall under Student Access, which includes the General Scholarship Fund, Student Assistance Fund, Anonymous College Completion Fund, and the Mary Burrill Alumni Scholarship for Diversity. The areas of Student Access on which students will vote on have not been determined, but Associate Director of Student and Young Alumni Engagement Jillian Naimo said the voting should open in April.

The Office of Student and Young Alumni Engagement began the Voice Your Choice campaign in the fall 2018 semester. Students voted to allocate \$100,000 to one of five areas within the college—Student Access, Academic Excellence & Innovation, Community & Co-Curricular Activities, Global Initiatives, and The Emerson Initiative.

Seniority determined the amount of money each class could allocate. Seniors voted on \$50,000, juniors \$25,000, sophomores \$15,000, and freshmen \$10,000.

Naimo and the Voice Your Choice committee—made up of students—said in a Nov. 30 email to the Emerson community they decided to allocate money to the top four initiatives each class voted on—Student Access, Community & Co-Curricular Experiences, Academic Excellence & Innovative Learning, and Global Initiatives—despite 65 percent, or 325 out of 500 students, voting to award the money to Student Access.

**"It's great that people were upset—it means they're paying attention, and they're absolutely right."**

- Jillian Naimo

"Initially, the way the program was set up in my ... mind was each student would own one area," Naimo said. "Every student could vote, and then the seniors would get their top pick and that would get knocked off, and the juniors would get the next one and that would get knocked off."

Naimo said she and the committee received backlash after splitting the money between the four areas. She said she took the backlash as a sign of people paying attention to where their vote went.

"It's great that people were upset—it means they're paying attention, and they're absolutely right," Naimo said.

One hour after the initial results were released, Naimo sent an email retracting her decision and outlined a plan to allocate \$100,000 to Student Access.

Emma Grant '18 voted for Student Access in the Voice Your Choice campaign as a senior last semester.

"I feel like most people voted for Student Access because we wanted it to be easier for people who come from lower socioeconomic origins to be able to attend Emerson," Grant said. "I'm worried about what applying [funding] in different areas might mean."

Senior Erik Ly, who also voted for Student Access in the campaign, said he thinks the Voice Your Choice committee should do a better job this semester at promoting the vote in advance and keeping students updated.

"I think the concept is good. I just need them to communicate about what's really happening," Ly said.

Naimo said she will restructure the voting process so that, if a majority of students vote for one section of Student Access, the majority vote will count.

"If people decide to all vote for one thing, then that's the student voice. That's what their choice will be," Naimo said.

✉ jacob\_seitz@emerson.edu

SGA appoints new chief justice, sustainability commissioner



Chief Justice Brilee Carey served as deputy chief justice prior to her appointment Tuesday. Maia Sperber / Beacon Staff

Diana Bravo, Beacon Staff

The Student Government Association unanimously voted to appoint a new chief justice and sustainability commissioner at their Jan. 29 meeting.

Sophomore Brilee Carey assumed the role of chief justice following her stint as deputy chief justice under Justice Lizzie Northey. Carey resigned from this role on Tuesday morning, prior to her appointment to chief.

Carey served as deputy chief justice in the fall 2018 semester and worked with Northey to oversee elections and ensure that organizations

followed the SGA constitution. In her time as deputy chief justice, Carey also created a "cheat sheet" of Robert's Rules—the parliamentary procedures SGA uses—for members and visitors.

"I really want to make sure that, in SGA, we're focusing on being as impartial as we can, ensuring that everyone who isn't violating school policy has a right to exist on campus," Carey said in an interview.

Following Carey's appointment, SGA voted to designate junior Gianna Girona as sustainability commissioner during the meeting. Girona said she plans to reinstate the college's

Eco-Reps and have the students collaborate on sustainability goals and programs for the residence halls.

Girona serves as communications director for the Emerson Green Collective, a conglomerate of environmental organizations including Bee Enthusiasts at Emerson and Vegan Emerson Group. She ran for writing, literature and publishing senator in the fall 2018 elections but lost to Writing, Literature and Publishing Senator Anthony Rodriguez in a rare runoff election.

**"I really want to make sure that, in SGA, we're focusing on being as impartial as we can"**

- Brilee Carey

"I could talk for hours about Gianna, but we don't have hours because the Earth is dying and things can't wait," Marketing Communications Senator Will Palauskas said at the Tuesday meeting.

SGA also met with Emerson Launch Director Sanjay Pothan to discuss Emerson Launch's plans for this semester, which include a start-up boot camp and voice-enabled public locations on campus such as voice-enabled printers.

Pothan asked SGA for advice on reaching out to students about Emerson Launch at the meeting. SGA suggested potentially participating in the organization and internship fairs to reach students.

"Getting the word out has been kind of brute force, so I do believe that, when the students know about us and engage with us, they get a lot of value," Pothan said at the meeting.

✉ diana\_bravo@emerson.edu



# editorial

## Taking part in Boston's Super Bowl Festivities

### At issue: Another Patriots Super Bowl appearance

### Our take: Sports fan or not, everyone can enjoy the big game

Editorials are written solely by Editor-in-Chief Maya Gacina, Managing Editor Monika Davis, Opinion Editor Katie Schmidt, Deputy Opinion Editor Diti Kohli, and Assistant Opinion Editor Ziqi Wang 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.

This Sunday, the New England Patriots will return to the Super Bowl for the third year in a row. Fans are gearing up for the team's ninth Super Bowl appearance since 2000—one that could potentially be a record-tying sixth championship. With 11 major sports championships in 19 years, Boston earned its name as the “City of Champions.” So, whether or not you're a sports fan, it's important to recognize that Sunday will be a significant day for the city.

We may attend a communication and arts school, but this should not discourage students from watching Sunday's game. Just because Emerson isn't a Division I school, and sports aren't as relevant to our general student population, that shouldn't discredit people's appreciation for the spirit of this weekend's event.

We can't talk about the National Football League without mentioning some of the glaring faults that come with it. At the beginning of the season, two cases involving NFL players and violence against women sparked an outcry, according to a Washington Post article. Domestic violence awareness organizations slammed the league, and mishandled domestic abuse cases involving NFL from recent years flooded back into headlines.

The NFL may seem overrun with machismo

and toxicity, but despite these faults, we can still join together to celebrate a touchdown. We can make enjoying football a more inclusive activity that sparks a conversation about why the industry has always been tied to masculinity and not other identities and groups.

### The Super Bowl is more than a football game; it fosters an inimitable sense of community in the country, especially within the cities of participating teams.

The Super Bowl is more than a football game; it fosters an inimitable sense of community in the country, especially within the cities of participating teams. Boston is no exception to this principle. Year after year, the city bands together to take part in an annual, day-long NFL binge. Those who don't regularly watch the

sport can even find the game enjoyable. They can watch the commercials, critique the half-time show, or simply use this day of rest and good eating to get together with their family and friends.

In cities with well-performing sports teams, local industries find sizeable profits. At The Boston Globe, print newspaper sales rise because fans frame the front page to save and hang in their family home. Local restaurants and bars are packed the day of the game, and local retailers also see a spike in sales. The Super Bowl isn't just another game for the opposing teams, it's an event that could bring in millions of dollars in revenue and monetary support for the city.

Emerson isn't regarded as a school with a passion for sports, but we should still enjoy this day for what it is. Watch the game—for the game itself, the ads, or Maroon 5. If you decide not to watch, use the day to get together with the people you love and take advantage of the sales on food. If you're over 21, stay safe and have fun.

## Letters

If you want to respond to, or share an opinion about, an article in the Beacon, you can write a short letter to the editor. Email it to [letters@berkeleybeacon.com](mailto:letters@berkeleybeacon.com). Please note that letters may be edited. Submissions for print must be shorter than 250 words.

### The Berkeley Beacon

© 2019 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](http://berkeleybeacon.com)

Phone  
(617) 824-8687

Email  
[contact@berkeleybeacon.com](mailto: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  
Maya Gacina

Copy Managing Editor  
Monika Davis

Visual Managing Editor  
Kyle Bray

Business Manager  
Allison Hagan

Advisor  
Douglas Struck

News Editor  
Chris Van Buskirk

Deputy Enterprise Editor  
Abigail Hadfield

Deputy Express Editor  
Stephanie Purifoy

Assistant Express Editor  
Anissa Gardizy

Assistant Enterprise Editor  
Belen Dumont

Living Arts Editor  
Caroline Broderick

Deputy Lifestyle Editor  
Grace Griffin

Deputy Arts Editor  
Cassandre Coyer

Assistant Arts Editor  
Frances Hui

Assistant Lifestyle Editor  
Katie Redefer

Opinion Editor  
Katie Schmidt

Deputy Opinion Editor  
Diti Kohli

Assistant Opinion Editor  
Ziqi Wang

Sports Editor  
Aaron Miller

Deputy Sports Editor  
Domenic Conte

Assistant Sports Editor  
Andrew Lin

Chief Copyeditor  
Kyle Labe

Photography Editor  
Emily Oliver

Deputy Photo Editor  
Daniel Peden

Assistant Photo Editor  
Maia Sperber

Social Media Manager  
Ally Rzesza

Web Producer  
Dylan Rossiter

### Editorial Cartoon

by the Editorial Board

illustration by Ally Rzesza

“Sidewalk expansion remedies student need for more rehearsal space.”



# opinion

## Defining my body without the burden of cultural standards

Xinyan Fu

*Fu is a freshman journalism major & opinion columnist for the Beacon.*

People who have albums filled with childhood photos make me jealous. While I like reminiscing and looking through old photos, I only have a few old pictures of myself. My mom used to take a lot of pictures of me, but I started avoiding them at around eight years old. Though this avoidance might still confuse my mother, I know exactly what caused it.

I was a feeble child, but after elementary school began I started to grow healthier and gain weight. However, I didn't realize this weight gain until my uncles and aunts started calling me fat. It was a hard time for me. I felt isolated at school, wore oversized clothes, and bore my relatives' ridicule—all because of my weight. As a result, my confidence dropped. I became irritable and sensitive about my weight. I avoided mirrors and taking pictures at all costs. I still remember the bitterness of standing in the dressing room trying to fit into pretty clothes that weren't designed for "fatties" like me. I thought I didn't deserve pretty things.

Looking back at the few pictures of myself, I realize I was "chubby," not "fat." Yet in China, the country where I grew up, looking stereotypically "beautiful" entails adhering to a strict set of physical characteristics—pale skin, thick and smooth hair, big round eyes, double eyelids, a pointy nose, and especially a thin body shape. Because I didn't have a thin enough body shape to abide to Chinese beauty standards, I started to believe I was ugly.

This terrible outlook consumed me until junior high, when I decided to lose weight. I created a diet plan where I skipped breakfast and only ate two tomatoes for dinner. My mom, worried about my health, tried to stop my dieting by telling me I wasn't fat at all. I didn't

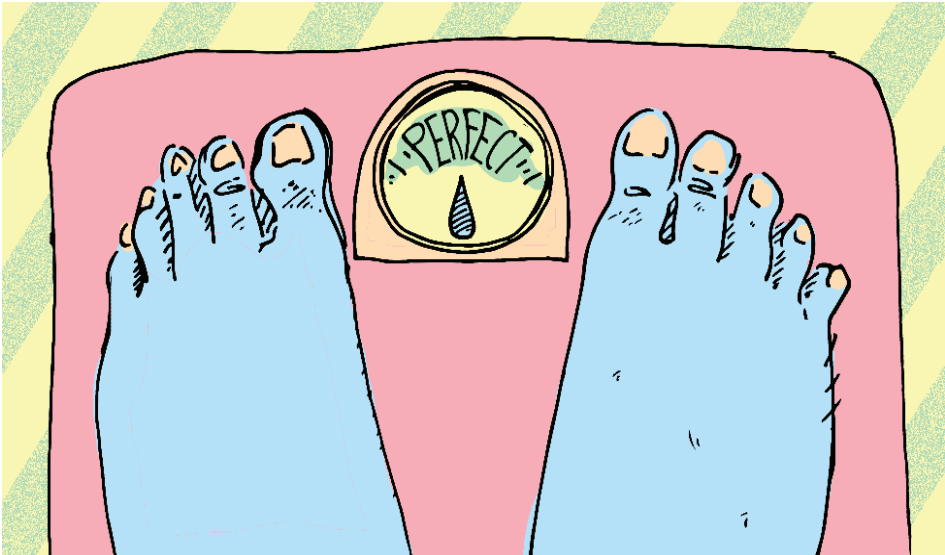
believe her. "She tells me that because she is my mom, not because I'm thin and not fat," I told myself.

This unhealthy lifestyle led to hypoglycemia, a low blood sugar level, and even passing out. But issues with weight and body image also affected many of my female friends. One of my best friends became critical of her weight after a judge for a broadcast journalism competition called her fat. Since then, she becomes sensitive and fasts when she thinks people are calling her "fat" or even "chubby." As a result, she experiences chronic headaches and stomachaches from skipping meals.

When I decided to study in the U.S., I thought my self-esteem might improve because my friends and I assumed Western beauty standards were less rigid. We felt that Western society doesn't generally care about body shape since there are actors of all kinds of shapes in television and film.

As I expected, Western culture did have positive effects on my self-esteem. In China, we are not used to complimenting others frequently. In the U.S., people compliment my outfits, makeup, hair color, and almost everything else about me. Some might find it superficial, but I enjoy the confidence boost. I now dare to wear tighter clothes and stand in front of cameras—I'm gradually accepting myself.

Despite my growing confidence towards my body, I found myself falling into another endless loop of shame. After I came to the U.S., I started following the rules of the West. My most drastic change happened on Instagram. I tend to post more pictures taken by others because doing that makes me look "cool." I avoid posting things that are too "Chinese"—filtered selfies and screenshots of random memes. I don't double-post, and I try not to post a lot. I always think I can post whatever I want on my account, but I can't stop telling myself to follow these rules.



Because I didn't have a thin enough body shape to abide to Chinese beauty standards, I started to believe I was ugly. • Illustration by Ally Rzesal Beacon Staff

The fact that I'm trying to adhere to these standards, even if I hate them, confuses me. I now want to have tanner skin, plumper lips, bigger eyes, and still, a thinner frame—a mixture of Chinese and Western beauty standards. It upsets me that I present myself differently to match up with a culture separate from my own, instead of truly being myself.

Sometimes when I look at myself in the mirror, all dressed up, I tend to think that I wear tight clothes because others do so. I can't tell if I'm enjoying myself or enjoying the little successes of integrating into Western culture.

After all, I still care about how others think of me and am still trying to gain others' acceptance by assimilating into them. Most people tend to care about how others view them more than they care about how they view themselves. It

takes a lot of effort to ignore judgment from others. I would be better off and more confident if people were nicer to me when I was younger, just as my friend would be healthier if the judge had withheld their comments about her body shape.

A few weeks ago, I was in Emerson's Health and Wellness Center when I found two scales with handwritten messages promoting self-confidence and body positivity scrawled across them. These words moved me so much because it seemed like someone finally realized the importance of self-appreciation. I wish I had scales like these at eight years old, and I wish someone would have told me, "You are more than just a number."

✉ xinyan\_fu@emerson.edu

## Overcoming roommate resentment and hostility

Diti Kohli

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

In an effort to be bold going into college, I decided to ditch the Facebook groups and opt for a random roommate assignment for my first semester at Emerson. It was impossible for me to believe that connecting through social media would create a better living situation than being arbitrarily paired with someone.

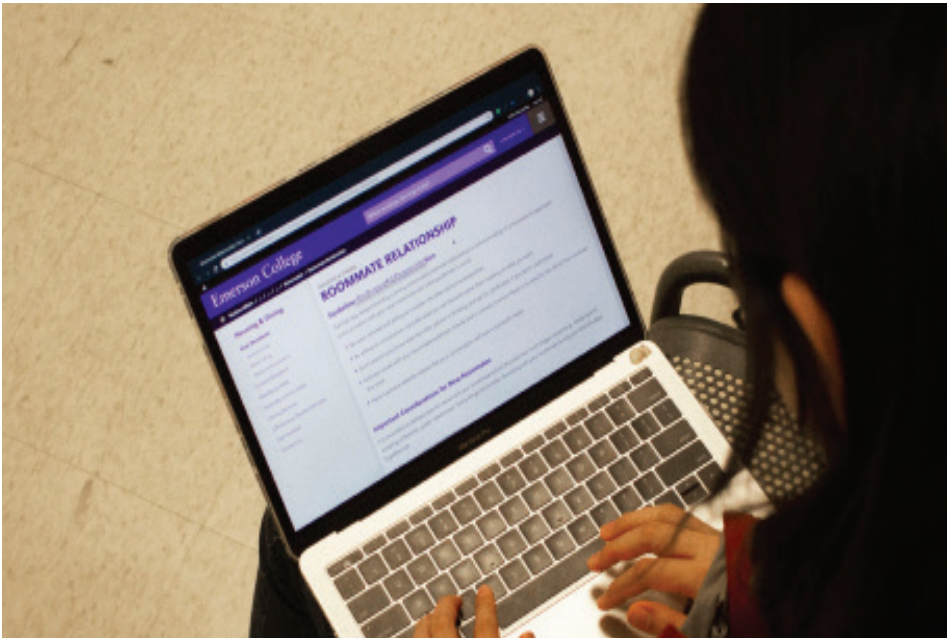
Initially, my roommate and I got along well. Although she took the saying "loud and proud" to an unexplored level, I did my best to understand her. She was simply different than me, and our situation was in no way unlivable.

Because she grew up as an only child, she quickly became annoyed by our suite mates. She believed they would purposely ignore her requests for quiet time, fail to do their chores, and genuinely disliked her.

According to Psychology Today, humans possess the ability to feel both compassion and anger, and extreme versions of these emotions can reveal themselves in close quarters—that is to say, college dorms. Residing in close proximity with a handful of students rarely makes for a problem-free living environment, but the frustration that builds up in these living situations hinders us from living a healthy life and forming positive relationships.

I accepted my suite mate's shortcomings as the expense of living with other people. What got on my nerves was my roommate's inability to confront our suite mates with her issues, and I grew tired of hearing her complaints. When she sensed my irritation with her, she pulled away, blocked me on social media, and requested a meeting with our resident assistant on the premise that her living situation had become hostile.

My roommate stopped sleeping in our room and took refuge in her home a half-hour away. She started locking the door to our room at all times when before we had previously left it open. We wouldn't talk—not even to greet each other or make small talk in the kitchenette. Before winter break, she emptied out her closet and drawers and left only her bedspread behind. Her



I accepted my suite mates' shortcomings as the expense of living with other people. Illustration by Ally Rzesal Beacon Staff

appearances in the suite became unpredictable and sporadic.

Housing issues are not uncommon. In fact, in the meeting, our resident assistant said that tension within suites reaches its peak around the year's halfway point.

She navigated an honest conversation about what all of us thought concerning our living situation. Near the end, however, she highlighted that the meeting would not solve all of our problems and that much of our resentment would linger after the meeting.

In the months following the meeting, I strongly held onto this resentment of which my resident assistant warned me. My roommate's inability to amicably co-exist with me and our suite mates infuriated me and rendered my only personal space on campus miserable.

I know my problems with my roommate are not, and will never be, unique. There are presumably hundreds of students at Emerson facing comparable problems in their dorms and apartments. The breadth of this issue is why it is vital to understand the deterring effects of living with hatred.

**"I don't know if I have reached the point where I can forge a reconciliation with my roommate, but I do know I should not antagonize her."**

I continued to accumulate these feelings because they allowed me to feel as if I had a kind of power over her. According to Psychology Today, the connection between resentment and strength is wired in people's twisted psyche. This connection instigates an adrenaline rush that serves as positive reinforcement for person's feelings and incentivizes the individual for feeling hateful.

My suite mates' shared animosity toward her also nurtured my hostile attitude. An essay in the Journal of Hate Studies shows how groups tend to feed off each others' anger. Although my suite was bitter below the surface, group mentality allowed these negative feelings to blossom as we continually talked to each other about the situation.

Eventually, everything my roommate did irritated me. When she was in the room, I disliked her for being there and, when she wasn't, I didn't understand why she couldn't toughen up and make do in our dorm. The drawbacks of constant aversion began to outweigh the power it had previously given me.

About a week ago, I realized I could not continue to feel anxious in my own living space. I don't know if I have reached the point where I can forge a reconciliation with my roommate, but I do know I should not antagonize her. We are opposites, but for the benefit of my health and sanity, I decided to not to let our relationship bother me anymore.

Holding on to the kind of frustration I felt is scientifically proven to have mental and physical effects, according to John Hopkins Medicine. And finally letting go of these grudges allows for healthier relationships, improved mental health, and even lower blood pressure. A 2014 TED Talk even shows that this kind of stress increases the chance of death.

For the sake of our own health and that of others, we have to move away from these feelings of frustration in order to create and sustain positive relationships with the people in our lives—especially those we live with.

✉ diti\_kohli@emerson.edu



# living arts

## Freshmen bring community service to Emerson

Taina Millsap, *Beacon Correspondent*

Freshmen Eryn McCallum and Liza Xiao arrived on campus last semester ready to start volunteering and give back to their community both in the Greater Boston area and at Emerson. When they noticed a lack of student-run community service organizations on campus, the two students decided to start their own by creating an Emerson chapter of Circle K International.

Circle K International is the world's largest student-led collegiate service organization, according to its website. The organization operates under Kiwanis International, a non-profit organization that helps children with disease, poverty, hunger, and illiteracy.

McCallum, a journalism major who serves as president of the Emerson CKI chapter, said she felt shocked by the absence of an organization dedicated to community service.

"I loved doing community service in high school, and the fact that I didn't have that here left a hole in my heart," McCallum said. "But then I thought, 'Hey, that's interesting because it's a project I can take on.'"

Instead of starting her own organization, McCallum looked to her previous involvement in Key Club, another organization founded by Kiwanis International for high school students. McCallum decided CKI could act as a way to get students involved in work that contributes to the community.

"I was a part of Key Club in high school, so I was already comfortable with Kiwanis International because I knew more about how they operate," McCallum said. "My friend from high school was the president, so I also saw the behind-the-scenes of how they operate."

McCallum said Key Club went all around Chicago to volunteer at different events.

"We volunteered at The Salvation Army around Christmas time. We helped with the Chicago Polar Plunge where people run into the ice water to raise money for charity," McCallum said. "We volunteered at a marathon—we also started an initiative for planting and gardening."

McCallum said she saw CKI as a way to give students opportunities to act on their ambition to help, which she believes is a shared desire in the Emerson community.

"Emerson is a school that's full of amazing

people that I feel like care a lot about social justice and want to help, but don't know how or where to start," McCallum said. "Obviously we can't get to the whole world quite yet, but you can start locally and give back to the people that are here."

Vice President Xiao, a marketing communication major, is particularly excited about one of the club's concrete ideas for the future—volunteering at the Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk, a nighttime walk to raise awareness for suicide prevention. The annual walkout is organized by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and will be held in Boston and San Francisco in June of this year.

The process of making an official Circle K chapter at Emerson may take a month due to the financial barriers and the need for more members, according to McCallum. McCallum and Xiao must recruit a minimum of 20 people before Kiwanis International charters them with \$600 of funding.

In addition, every member of the club must pay a \$6 annual fee starting next semester, according to McCallum. The fee will go towards leadership training, travel costs, marketing, conventions fees, and administrative purposes.

McCallum said that, when the chapter develops, she and the other club members will brainstorm on how to help the Greater Boston community through events, volunteering, and community service. The club will work mostly on a spontaneous schedule depending on when volunteer opportunities arise.

"The way it works is it's usually a month-by-month thing—you find events as they come and then you contact the person that's running it and ask, 'Hey, do you need 10-20 people to help you with that because I can do that for you,'" McCallum said.

McCallum and Xiao already have some specific causes and communities of people in the Greater Boston area that they would like to help.

"I would love to focus on social justice, work with communities of color, the environment—like cleaning up trash—gender equality, LGBTQ+ issues, or at a homeless shelter that helps domestic abuse survivors," McCallum said.

The club looks to volunteer at the Greater Boston food bank to help pack food, at the Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly organization to spend time with the elderly, and at the BalletRox to assist dance classes to kids in Boston's public schools.

Additionally, they want to focus on giving back to their own community at Emerson.

"I want Emerson faculty and students to know that we're available for events that they want help with as well," McCallum said. "I want us to be known around Emerson as a group of people that want to help out."

Leah Jablo, a freshman journalism major, said she wanted to join the Emerson chapter of CKI to meet new people and find others who have the same commitment to community service as she does.

"It's important to do things for the community because most of the organizations that we have at Emerson are more for yourself, for career goals," Jablo said. "And I think doing something not for yourself is also a pretty healthy thing to do."

McCallum said she believes the organization will not only benefit the community, but the actual members who will hopefully feel the effects of helping others.

"I think Emerson students would benefit a lot from seeing what an impact it has on other people to actually do something," McCallum said.

Regarding the future of the CKI Emerson chapter, McCallum said one of her aims is to have more than the minimum goal of 20 members. McCallum said she hopes members will come back next year to help further the club's progress.

The organization was present at the Another Org Fair at the beginning of this semester, where they got 30 sign-ups.

McCallum and Xiao held their first informational session on Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. in the Max Mutchnick Campus Center, and 10 students attended. The organization plans on having another information session in the near future, according to McCallum.

Xiao said she hopes their chapter of CKI attracts students who are truly invested in community service.

"I only want people who genuinely want to give back to the society, so [I am] not forcing people to commit to community service," Xiao said. "But if you'd like to join, we're happy to have you."



Freshmen Eryn McCallum (left) and Liza Xiao (right) began an initiative to start a Circle K International service organization on campus. • *Maia Sperber / Beacon Staff*

✉ taina\_millsap@emerson.edu

## Person of Color Column: Do you see my color?



**Frances Hui**  
Hui is a junior journalism major, assistant arts editor, and this week's POC columnist.

I ran into my Foundations of Journalism class late on my first day last semester. As I rushed in, the room went silent, and I flushed with embarrassment. I felt as though people were staring, wondering, "Who is this Asian girl? Why is she here?"

I sat down in the only seat available in the first row, so people would direct their attention away from me. More judgments crossed my mind as I imagined what my classmates thought about having an international student from Asia in their class. I scanned through the faces in the class, a burden lifting off my shoulders as I realized I was not the only person of color in the room. However, I was the only Asian in the class.

My professor took pride in her dedication to diversity in journalism, and I never doubted that. During a lesson about reporting on diversity, she counted off the list of different racial minority groups in America—black people, Native American people, Latino people. I hoped she would mention Asians, but she skipped us—rather than saying she "skipped" us, though, perhaps I should say she forgot us.

In situations like this one, I think to myself,

"The Asian community didn't go through discrimination as brutal as black people faced, so who cares?"

Since coming to the United States three years ago, most of the American racial justice history I learned includes lessons about black discrimination, such as the civil rights movement in the 1960s. Yet, I found no trace of Asian-American history in the curriculum.

In 1850, Chinese people began to migrate to the U.S. and work as gold miners and field workers for whatever wages they could get. This disrupted the labor market by drastically decreasing wages. Some Americans also argued that drug dealing and prostitution in Chinatowns across the U.S. lowered the moral standard of American society, according to the Office of the Historian's website.

With rising discrimination and hatred against Asian-Americans, white people viewed them as inferior. In 1854, the Supreme Court of California ruled in the case *People v. Hall* that Chinese people have no right to testify against white people because they "are incapable of progress or intellectual development beyond a certain point." A decade after that, when naturalization extended to blacks, Asians were not included.

The public outrage pushed Congress to pass the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which suspended Chinese immigration to the U.S. for 10 years. The law soon branched out to other acts prohibiting the reentry of U.S. citizens traveling from China and expanded the jurisdiction to cover Hawaii and the Philippines. The U.S. government extended the act indefinitely until

1943 when it was repealed to restore ties with allied countries.

At the same time, during the anti-Japanese era of World War II, more acts of racism toward Asians occurred, such as the placement of Japanese-Americans in internment camps regulated by the U.S. government. This is just a portion of the forgotten past of Asian-American discrimination.

Without knowing about these periods of American history, I would not have recognized the hardships my Asian-American ancestors have faced, and I understand why people don't recognize these hardships either like they do other minority groups' history of discrimination.

It was not until I discussed racism with my friend from China at Emerson that I realized I am not the only Asian who feels marginalized.

Mainstream media, like the movie *Crazy Rich Asians*, often portray Asians as a successful socio-economic group and top academic achievers. The false label of "model minority" with lighter skin—although many Asians have different skin tones—allows people to believe that Asians are similar to white people and that we are not a part of a minority. At the same time, people use the idea of Asian-Americans as the model minority to highlight the "downfalls" of other minorities, who therefore see us as an enemy.

Some people from other minority groups believe Asians do not face the same conflicts as other minorities, while the majority of Americans sees us as aliens. As a result, a lot of Asian-Americans find themselves not fitting in

on either side. Hilary Wong, an Asian-American who spoke at an event called Misconception of Representation at Malden High School on Jan. 26, told me she finds herself and her peers growing up in America feeling lost and not knowing where they belong.

"In the white community, we often can't advocate for ourselves because they would be like, 'Look at those minorities who are facing more discrimination,' and at the same time, when we go to minority communities, we would face things like, 'Oh, you are one of the white people,'" Wong said. "So there is an idea of the perpetual foreigner where we are also too exotic to be a real American and ... viewed as we do not belong here."

I still remember sitting alone in the first row of my journalism class and feeling so isolated from my peers around me—my ears burned red because I felt so nervous and upset. I kept reminding myself we should all get used to feeling uncomfortable when we encounter differences and ignorance no matter what ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, or ability people may possess.

Perhaps what we need today is to bring up the overlooked history of Asian-Americans and learn and understand the misconceptions that reinforce racism in America. All of us should begin conversations about race without the presence of stereotypes and allow the Asian community to have their own voice and representation in society as a minority.

✉ wingting\_hui@emerson.edu



# Alumna Gaby Dunn tells all in new money memoir

Dana Gerber, *Beacon Correspondent*

Gaby Dunn ‘09 first appeared in the public eye as a brassy YouTube comedian. After accomplishing the goal many strive for—building a following for her channel, making a career out of it—she felt she was still missing something. Despite a seemingly glamorous lifestyle, she wrestled with financial instability for her entire life, especially in her YouTube career.

“I get a brand deal, and I use that brand deal to immediately pay off credit card debt,” Dunn said in a Skype interview. “So, you guys think I’m rich from my brand deal with *Hello Fresh*, but I actually am just barely keeping up.”

Dunn makes \$8,000 per video with *Hello Fresh*, a meal-kit company, and makes five videos per year with them. Her YouTube advertisements bring in about \$1,500 a month. Her most stable income has been her multiple book deals.

Dunn’s latest endeavor, published on Jan. 1, 2019, is a book titled *Bad With Money*. The book, which is part-advice and part-memoir, follows Dunn through her journey to destigmatize financial issues and explains how other

young people can begin to do the same.

Dunn received a \$150,000 advance for *Bad With Money*.

Her financial transformation began in 2015 with a *Splinter News* article, where she revealed that most YouTube celebrities—including herself—struggled financially despite appearing well-off online. The article, “Get Rich or Die Vlogging,” drew over 56,000 views.

“People lost their minds reading that,” Dunn said.

Soon after the article came out, Dunn received a deal to produce a podcast called “Bad With Money.” Up until then, her online presence dealt with issues related to the LGBTQ+ community and sexuality. For the podcast, Dunn said she wanted to share the financial struggles she’s experienced since childhood, which freelancing and unsteady brand deals only exacerbated.

“I was like ... ‘I need to talk about money or otherwise I’m going to scream,’” Dunn said.

The podcast resulted in a book deal with Simon & Schuster, Inc., and Dunn is currently on a national book tour promoting *Bad With Money*.

ey.

Dunn said she approached *Bad With Money* with an analytical eye reminiscent of her journalism career at Emerson.

“There were a lot of systemic problems, and there were a lot of things that this generation were up against that the other generations aren’t ... so I started getting even angrier,” Dunn said.

Even though Dunn said she began writing because of her first-hand experience with financial hardship, she described the research process as illuminating.

“I can’t speak about credit cards without speaking about women being kept from having their own credit cards until the [1970s],” Dunn said. “Or how redlining kept black people from getting good interest rates on loans and mortgages.”

During her time at Emerson, Dunn found herself financially strained. Although she managed to work an unpaid internship at *The Daily Show*, she failed to receive academic credits for her work because it did not sufficiently relate to journalism, according to Dunn’s book.

Janet Kolodzy, Dunn’s former advisor and current chair of the journalism department, remembered Dunn for her unyielding perseverance to receive credits for her outside experiences.

“As much as I tried to figure out a maneuver around the rules, I was stuck because of the way the rules were,” Kolodzy said.

Dunn discusses this frustration in her book, citing it as an example of how financial security can affect education and career mobility.

Since Dunn’s graduation, however, the rules have changed. Emerson now offers a professional experience credit for those who have an internship or outside work experience that does not directly pertain to their major, or if they have maxed out internship credits.

“I personally could call it the ‘Gaby Dunn rule,’” Kolodzy said.

Although Dunn said she maintains fond memories of Emerson, she writes about the weight of her student loans. Despite scholarships, Dunn said she graduated with \$30,000 in debt.

“I didn’t have any concept of what I was going to be paying back,” Dunn said.

Dunn said she wishes she could tell her college self to simply pay more attention to finances. She said saving for the future was the last thing on her mind while studying at Emerson.

“I think it would’ve been beneficial to actually look at what I was spending and where that money was going,” Dunn said.

Nathan Hurst ‘06, Dunn’s former edi-

tor-in-chief at the Berkeley Beacon, said he remembers Dunn as a dedicated journalist, both willing and eager to throw herself into a difficult story.

“I really expected her to be one of those people that’s like, ‘Oh, and now I’m reporting on national social issues for the New York Times’ or something,” Hurst said. “She’s taken such a multimedia turn—it’s been really interesting.”

Hurst also said he understands Dunn’s financial instability, considering that a career as a writer and YouTuber rarely lends itself to a steady paycheck.

“[Dunn] was freelancing and having to really hustle to put rent together,” Hurst said.

Hurst, like Dunn, faced student loan debt after his time at Emerson. He said he wishes he better understood and paid more attention to loans before committing to them.

“I couldn’t help but feel kind of stupid,” Hurst said.

Dunn said she believes that these feelings of shame surrounding money are not coincidental and that openness can eliminate its stigma.

“It benefits [the people at the top] to actually promote this lie that if we talk about money we’re tacky or stupid,” Dunn said.

Dunn said writing the book was nearly as difficult as gaining financial control over her life. This is her first non-fiction book, and she said allowing herself to accept help—which she eventually did with Research Assistant Emily Parsons—was the biggest barrier she had to overcome.

“I was so ashamed to ask for help about money, and then I was so ashamed to ask for help on the book. It’s like, why are you so ashamed about asking for help?” Dunn said.

Dunn said she realizes a book about money diverges from the lighter fare content she normally produces.

“Nobody’s ever been like, ‘Oh, what a hip dude that money person is!’” Dunn said.

As for the future of financial literacy, however, Dunn said she feels encouraged by the growing dialogue among young people about money.

“I don’t remember anyone in my group of friends talking about this stuff as openly as I see [Generation] Z talking about it, so that makes me hopeful,” Dunn said.

✉ dana\_gerber@emerson.edu



Gaby Dunn ‘09 discussing her latest book, *Bad With Money*, about her financial struggles from childhood through adulthood. • Courtesy of Laura Massa Michael Priest Photography

# Senior creates platform for Brockton artists to shine

Riddhima Dave, *Beacon Correspondent*

Senior journalism major Tay Thai discovered her purpose at Emerson during her Digital Storytelling class—to promote artists from her hometown of Brockton, Mass. As a person who considers herself connected to her roots, Thai wanted to give a platform for local artists to be discovered.

Thai created ImaginBrockton, a digital gallery for local artists like rappers, producers, actors, and painters to feature their work. Thai already had the idea for an Instagram page ready when she was assigned in class to use social media as a medium of storytelling. She partnered up with her friend, Co-creative Director Joshua DeGuzman, a sophomore visual and media arts major.

Together, Thai and DeGuzman combine skills from their majors and interests for the project by having Thai interview local artists and DeGuzman handle the video and photography aspects. They film interviews which then go up on the gallery. Although the digital gallery focuses on Brockton artists, Thai said she may want to expand to other towns in New England and go beyond interviewing artists.

“It was a passion project for me,” Thai said. “I knew I always wanted to incorporate visual arts and storytelling as a platform.”

A little over a week after ImaginBrockton’s Jan. 19 launch, Thai and DeGuzman already have 30-40 artists scheduled for interviews. They plan on holding interviews for ImaginBrockton nearly every weekend in the Cabaret and the Huret and Spector Gallery.

Freshman performing arts major Zeiana Andrade is one of the subjects featured by ImaginBrockton. Andrade lives in Brockton and

performed a monologue on ImaginBrockton’s Instagram, accompanied by a headshot with a small biography.

Thai said she likes to use the phrase “by artists, for artists” to describe her project. Thai and DeGuzman both describe themselves as artists. Thai designs clothes and writes, while DeGuzman also designs clothes and is a visual artist. Thai said creativity was an important part of their identity, and they wanted to incorporate that into the project.

When DeGuzman photographed music producer Isaiah Valmont, a 20-year-old University of Massachusetts Amherst student, he used a water bottle to create a prism-like effect on the photos.

ImaginBrockton is Valmont’s first stint of publicity. His interview garnered over 900 views on the ImaginBrockton Instagram page, and over 500 on his personal page.

“I just began to tell my story,” Valmont said. “With that interview alone, a lot of people are anticipating what is coming next from me. It definitely opened my fan base’s eyes a little more.”

DeGuzman said they want to include and reflect an artist’s voice and talent through videos. He said ImaginBrockton’s purpose is not to only showcase artists to the world, but to connect them with other local artists. Thai and DeGuzman agree that being in a community is an essential part of art.

“Art doesn’t stand by itself. You can’t make art without love and support from other people,” Thai said.

DeGuzman is originally from Bridgeport, Conn., which he believes is very similar to the environment Thai grew up in.

“I was surrounded by dance and music,



Senior journalism major Tay Thai created ImaginBrockton, an online gallery showcasing artists from Thai’s hometown of Brockton, Mass. • Emily Oliver / Beacon Staff

graphic arts and theatres,” DeGuzman said. “It is all about local artists. That’s something I have gone by my entire life—supporting local artists is what I am all about.”

Describing themselves as multidisciplinary artists, Thai and DeGuzman said they want to incorporate other hobbies and possibly develop a company where they could create merchandise with supporting artists.

“I think that’s what is beautiful about this project, is that since it’s something that’s coming from my home and my heart, it was easy to connect to these artists,” Thai said.

Thai and DeGuzman are using their own equipment for the interviews and photo-

shoots, but they plan to start a Kickstarter to raise funds to support their project. DeGuzman said they believe that producing quality content is the path to get followers and sponsors. Thai believes that a project like this is essential on a campus like Emerson.

“Emerson needs to branch out of the ‘Emerson bubble,’” Thai said. “On this page, you might find your next lead actor for your BFA or your next screenwriter or maybe your next music producer for your final. There is a world of art outside of Emerson.”

✉ riddhima\_dave@emerson.edu



# sports

## RECENT RESULTS

MEN’S BASKETBALL: Wheaton 88 — Emerson 79, Jan. 30

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: Emerson 66 — Babson 52, Jan. 30

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: Springfield 52 — Emerson 43, Jan. 26

MEN’S BASKETBALL: MIT 96 — Emerson 73, Jan. 26

## Rose, Benavente, Alberts named women's soccer captains

Jake Peter, Beacon Staff

The women’s soccer team selected junior forward Veronica Alberts, sophomore defender Amanda Benavente, and freshman goalkeeper Megan Rose as team captains for the 2019 fall season.

Head coach David Suvak and assistant coaches Colin Connolly and Loy Urbina chose the three players based on their applications. Captains from the previous season also wrote recommendations about who they believed should take their place.

Alberts, a journalism major from Half Moon Bay, Calif., scored five goals last season, including two game-winners. She was also inducted to the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference’s Academic All-Conference Team after the 2018 season.

Suvak said Alberts kept the team engaged at all times last season.

“She’s willing to talk to players about their commitment, work ethic, and the technical proficiency that they should be showing in practice and in matches,” Suvak said. “She has a very high standard for how players should look in training and in matches.”

Alberts said she will embrace the challenge of helping her younger teammates grow during her final season.



Rose (left), Benavente (middle), and Alberts (right) are the 2019 season team captains

Photos by Anissa Gardizy and Kyle Bray / Beacon Staff

“I’ll definitely have more responsibility,” Alberts said. “I’ll need to be more calm and collected on the field, and that will help me be a smarter player. There’s a lot more riding on my actions and how they reflect on the Emerson women’s soccer team.”

Benavente, a business of creative enterprise major from Boca Raton, Fla., totaled three

goals and three assists in 19 starts last season. She made the NEWMAC All-Conference First Team and Academic All-Conference Team.

Suvak said Benavente’s dedication makes her a great teammate with a passion for soccer and for the team.

“She is very invested in our team physically and emotionally,” Suvak said. “She’s super en-

gaged with everybody on the team as well.”

Benavente said she is excited about the team’s future and is looking forward to being a captain.

“Now I’m in a role where it’s not just about me,” Benavente said. “I’m the one who needs to be pushing everyone else. It’s about my team as a collective.”

Rose, from Danville, Calif., finished with 102 saves and an 8-6-1 record last season. She was also inducted to the NEWMAC’s All-Conference Second Team.

Suvak said Rose’s attitude and engagement made her a perfect choice for the position of captain.

“She organizes and communicates to the players in front of her on the field,” Suvak said. “She has a great personality and is naturally a strong leader already.”

In 2018, the team finished with an 11-7-1 record and won the first home NEWMAC playoff game in Emerson’s history. Suvak said he believes the three new captains will lead the team to another successful season in 2019.

“I feel good about these three kids,” Suvak said. “They’re coming from different classes and different places, and they can bring something special to this team.”

✉ jake\_peter@emerson.edu

## Freshman to run marathon for brother with cancer

Continued from page 1

Brendan said he wanted to make a difference for families impacted by cancer like his.

“It all started from seeing my brother fight his cancer battle,” Brendan said. “Meeting all the people I’ve met, whether it’s at the hospital he gets treatment from or other people that he’s gotten to know, and just hearing everyone’s stories inspired me to do something more for every family that has a cancer battle.”

At 19, Brendan is the youngest of his four siblings. Despite the age difference, Brendan said he considers his older siblings to be his best friends. They talk almost every day and watch their favorite Boston sports teams together and, according to Brendan, one of his favorite memories with Pat was attending a New England Patriots playoff game as a present for Pat’s wedding.

“We had so much fun. It was just me and him at the game, and we had pretty good seats too,” Brendan said. “They didn’t play the best of games, but they did win. A couple months after that was his wedding, which was just a lot of fun.”

Brendan said the reaction from friends and family to his decision to run the Boston Marathon was overwhelming.

“I’ve even been told I’m people’s hero, which, to be honest, is crazy,” Brendan said. “I’m just a 19-year-old kid in college. I feel like I really haven’t done anything yet, and people are still calling me an inspiration.”

Brendan’s roommate, sophomore David Kemp, said Brendan’s drive and humility allow him to focus on helping those with cancer.

“He doesn’t feel like he’s doing anything awesome—he really just sees it as himself wanting to make the world a better place and wanting to find a cure for cancer,” Kemp said. “He doesn’t care about any of the pats on the back he’s getting. He’s just so driven on helping his brother and anyone with the disease.”

Pat said he was surprised when Brendan told him he wanted to run the marathon, since Brendan has no prior experience with long-distance running.

“I was a little surprised when he told me he first wanted to do it,” Pat said. “He [works] out, but long-distance running is never something he’s done.”

Brendan began his training after the 5K run, most recently completing the length of half a marathon as part of his preparation. Despite Brendan living in Boston, he does most of his training in his hometown. Brendan said the hardest part about preparing for the marathon has been hill and elevation training.

“Those are just monsters,” Brendan said. “Heartbreak Hill [in Boston] is a different beast on its own, but I have this one hill back in my hometown—Hospital Hill—and that alone gets me good after my runs.”

To participate in the Boston Marathon, runners can either qualify by finishing a marathon arranged by age within a certain time or by participating in a charity team, according to the Boston Athletic Association. Brendan joined the marathon team for a non profit called the Cam Neely Foundation for Cancer Care that helps provide support and resources for cancer patients and their families. By joining the team, Brendan had to raise \$10,000 before April 15 to earn his bib for the marathon.

Brendan raised money through a CrowdRise page and by selling T-shirts with sayings from his brother on his own website. Pat said Brendan met his goal the week of Jan. 27 after starting his fundraising only two months ago. Kemp also helped Brendan promote his website on his Instagram page. At the time of publication, Brendan fundraised \$10,085.

Pat said he admires Brendan’s devotion to fundraising and training.

“He’s extremely dedicated, and you can see it with his fundraising and his marathon training. When he sets his mind to something, he’s going to achieve it 100 percent,” Pat said. “He texted me the other day and said, ‘\$10,000 is a good starting point, but I want to continue and raise more and more. I can’t just be satisfied with hitting my goal.’”

Pat said Brendan embarking on this journey makes him proud, and he hopes to stand alongside the finish line to cheer him on.

“I’m extremely proud of him for doing something he’s never done before,” Pat said. “It’s probably out of his comfort zone, so I absolutely applaud him and commend him for doing this.”

✉ kyle\_bray@emerson.edu

🐦 @KBray63



Freshman Brendan Beauregard (left) will run the Boston Marathon for his brother Pat (right). Photo courtesy of Brendan Beauregard



Brendan began training for the Boston Marathon less than a year ago. Photo by Anna Moon / Beacon Correspondent

### Upcoming games:

#### Men’s Volleyball

Emerson @ Dean College  
Tomorrow, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m.

#### Women’s Basketball

Coast Guard @ Emerson  
Saturday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m.

#### Men’s Basketball

Springfield @ Emerson  
Saturday, Feb. 2 at 3 p.m.

#### Men’s Volleyball

Emerson @ Newbury College  
Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.