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The Berkeley Beacon

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Turning Point USA creates space for conservative views on campus

Hanna Marchesseault, Beacon Staff

Turning Point USA—a conservative, nonprofit organization commonly found on college campuses across the country—began the recognition process with Student Engagement and Leadership and the Student Government Association this past week.

Sophomore Camilo Vilaplana reached out to SEAL in September 2018 to bring a chapter of the club to campus after recognizing a lack of space for discussing Republican and Libertarian viewpoints at Emerson. The formal recognition process for the group began last week, Director of SEAL Jason Meier said.

"Sometimes it's hard to talk about political views in class," Vilaplana said. "I wanted to create a group where people feel safe discussing their different viewpoints."

Six chapters of Turning Point USA exist at various college campuses in Massachusetts. In Boston, Harvard University, Boston College, and the University of Massachusetts in Boston each have current chapters, according to the Turning Point USA website.

The organization's mission is to identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote the principles of freedom, free markets, and limited government, according to the Turning Point USA website.

The organization's mission is to identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote the principles of freedom, free markets, and limited government, according to the Turning Point USA website.

See Conservative, page 2



By Anissa Gardizy • p. 8

Kyle Van Noy (left) and Ja'Whaun Bentley (right) pose with the Lombardi Trophy during the Super Bowl parade. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

The EVVYs eliminate gendered awards

May Blake, Beacon Correspondent

As The 38th annual EVVY Awards approach, the show will prioritize inclusivity by eliminating gendered awards and introducing non-binary categories, the executive producer said.

This year, we really want to emphasize accessibility," Executive Producer of The EVVYs Creative Content Division Madeleine Hoffman said. "We want to create a show that reaches as many people as possible, and this is taking us in the right direction."

According to Hoffman, a junior visual and media arts major, the theme for the show on May 10 is "Legacy" to convey the desire for creating a lasting impact.

The EVVYs is a student-run award show put on every year in the Cutler Majestic Theatre. The categories are designed to recognize student achievement in academics and co-curriculars.

Hoffman said The EVVYs have omitted gendered categories such as "Best Actor" and "Best Actress" and will now feature "Outstanding Performer for the Screen" and a new category, "Outstanding Supporting Performer for the Screen."

See The Evvys, page 7



Student launches clothing line from his apartment By Melanie Curry • p. 6

Junior Henry Pew started screen printing clothing in middle school and makes original designs for Brand N/A. • Spencer Brown / Beacon Correspondent

RA applications decrease despite high demand

Flora Li, Beacon Staff

The number of resident assistant applicants dropped by approximately 10.5 percent for the 2019-2020 academic year, despite the demand for RAs increasing because of the opening of the Little Building.

Colonial Residence Director Michael Barcelo chaired the RA selection committee this year and said the number of applications dropped from 220 in the 2018-19 academic year to 183. He attributed the decreased applicant pool to the new college policy that requires students to live on campus for three years.

With the three-year live-on requirement, part of my hypothesis is that many students maybe [didn't feel] as much of a drive to pursue the role because they have to live on campus anyway," Barcelo said.

Students hired as an RA receive both free room and board and single rooms but do not

In addition to the drop in applications, there were also 24 additional positions available due to the reopening of the Little Building.

See Little Building, page 2







news

Emerson alumnus Michael Rulli reflects on Ohio senate seat win

Stefania Lugli, Beacon Staff

Michael Rulli '91 sat in his new state house office in Columbus, Ohio wearing an Emerson sweatshirt on his second day as a state senator.

On Jan. 8, the grocery store operations director, ex-bassist of Red Bliss, and passionate Emerson alumnus laid his left hand on the bible and held his right hand up to swear his duty to his home state. Following the ceremony, Rulli stated his goals for promoting economic development and educational reform in Ohio.

Rulli won as a Republican senator for Ohio's 33rd district with 52 percent of the voteunseating nine-year Democratic incumbent Joe Schiavoni. Ohio's 33rd senatorial district has elected a Democrat in every election since 1951, according to polling data from Ballotpedia.

A once self-proclaimed "raging liberal," Rulli understands people's confusion over his political party as an Emerson graduate. He said he identified as a Democrat until the late 1990s.

Rulli attributed his transition to the Republican party to an overexposure of bad

"These Democrats I would be around with were just garbage people," Rulli said. "They would throw their own staff under the bus, they were constantly trash-talking others... The politicians have a bad reputation for taking

Besides the politics, Rulli said the event that determined his party affiliation came shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks when he comforted crying customers in the aisles of one of his grocery stores as CNN played on a store

"CNN started saying that we sort of asked for it," Rulli said. "We have a lot of flaws in our history. We have a lot of dark sides in our history. But, the narrative started going that America was to blame. That America's imperialism brought on 9/11."

Rulli said the newscast encouraged him to switch parties.

"I'm in no way, shape, or form an alt-righter. I shun them whenever I have a chance," Rulli said. "As far as finances go, I'm very conservative."



Michael Rulli '91 (right) won a seat in the Ohio State Senate as a Republican candidate. Courtesy of the Ohio Senate

Rulli said he studied speech at Emerson, interned for Joe Kennedy Jr., and claims to have started Boston's first grunge band—MTV music

"For me, Boston has the fill of a big city, with an accommodating and small-town feel to it," Rulli said. "I fell in love."

Rulli described his move from a suburb in Poland, Ohio to the east coast as his attempt to attend the school with the best program for his prime skill—public speaking.

"I did extremely well in speech team. All my teachers in high school were like, 'You need to go somewhere that's really strong in communications," Rulli said. "I was really interested in politics, too. I've always been a political junkie."

In Boston, Rulli became friends with Brian McGilvary and Michael Carreiro-the two original members of Red Bliss, a local grunge band named after potato salad.

"[Rulli] was kinda crazy. He was very crazy, actually," McGilvary said.

McGilvary, band's drummer, remembered when he met Rulli in the spring of 1988 for a meet-and-greet with rock band The Replacements at the now-defunct record store Strawberries in Kenmore Square.

"Michael walked up, opened his backpack, and put down a 12-pack of cheap beer and gave it to The Replacements. They got a kick out of it," McGilvary said.

The senator said his family's century-old grocery store business, Rulli Bros. Markets, and a student loan debt of over \$100,000 motivated him to come back to Ohio.

Rulli eventually offered McGilvary a position at one of his family's grocery stores.

"I remember him talking about politics [in the supermarket]," McGilvary said. "It wasn't anything too specific. I think I took it as pipe

Rulli kick-started his career in public policy in Ohio by spending eight years on the Leetonia School Board, from 2009 to 2017. He said he felt inspired to run for a board seat after discovering the Leetonia Exempted Village School District was half a million dollars in debt.

He won the election for school board president in 2015—earning recognition for the district's climb into the top hundred school districts in the state by increasing its overall quality. The Thomas B. Fordham Institute classified the school district as "high quality" in

In 2017, Rulli announced his intent to run for state senate. He ran on a platform of combating population loss, improving public education, and advocating for small businesses.

"When he announced he was running [for state senate] I was shocked as anybody," McGilvary said. "The Republican thing was kinda disappointing."

Rulli admitted how accustomed he's become to his friends and family badgering him for his political affiliation.

"Ninety percent of my friends, 70 percent of my family are Democrats," Rulli said.

Mahoning County and Columbiana County, where Ohio's 33rd district resides, are considered two of the most democratic counties in the state.

Rulli said he's still getting used to hearing people call him "senator," but his settling in did not prevent him from starting initiatives.

As his first piece of legislation, the senator plans to introduce an amendment to create a transportation corridor that would enable an equal distribution of federal funds to each of Ohio's 88 counties. This program extends the accessibility of public transportation in the state.

"In some of the rural parts of our counties, [public transportation] just don't go into their area. We're developing a dollar for dollar program," Rulli said.

Looking forward, Rulli strives towards bipartisan goals for his home state.

"I believe in more freedom. I believe that I should be able to say anything I want to say," Rulli said. "I'm really into criminal justice reform, I'm really pro-gay rights, I'm really for a lot of things that Republicans don't go for."

That is the kind of future Rulli said he wants

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Conservative club begins recognition process despite student concerns

Continued from page 1

Turning Point USA faced national scrutiny in 2017 over their funding and campaign tactics. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Turning Point must be nonpartisan, yet the organization allegedly ignored campaign finance laws by aiding Republican Florida Senator Marco Rubio and Republican Texas Senator Ted Cruz's presidential campaigns during the 2016 elections, according to a New Yorker article.

In 2016, a chapter of the group at Kent State University staged a protest against campus opposition to hate speech. Members wore diapers and held signs that read, "Safe spaces are for children," according to the same New Yorker article.

"Protests happen—it's a right-wing group," Vilaplana said. "I have heard about the concerns regarding their funding tactics, but we're not concerned."

Vilaplana, who will act as the group's

"We want to try and build a good reputation for the group first and communicate, instead of just being loud."

- Camilo Vilaplana

president, said if Turning Point receives the college's recognition, he hopes to run it differently than other collegiate chapters, citing Emerson's different political environment compared to state schools.

We want to build a dialogue with members and those outside of the group," Vilaplana said.

Vilaplana said he looked into multiple groups to try and bring to the school, but Turning Point USA had the best connections with speakers who could come to campus. While there are no official plans for who the group may ask to speak at the college, Vilaplana said he worries about what such an event would look like.



Sophomore Camilo Vilaplana created an Emerson chapter of Turning Point USA, a national nonprofit conservative organization. • William Bloxham / Beacon Correspondent

"This was one of the first things I talked about with Jason Meier," Vilaplana said. "We talked about possibly having backup from [the Emerson College Police Department] if speakers come in. We want to try and build a good reputation for the group first and communicate, instead of just being loud."

SGA previously reworked how organizations receive recognition from the college. This semester, the process includes SEAL in the decision-making process to have more flexibility in supporting student needs, Meier said in an

Starting in spring 2019, SEAL must first approve an organization for affiliation before it can receive SGA funding. To begin the process of becoming recognized by the school, the organization must have a name, a faculty advisor, a constitution, and at least five students, Meier said.

"Students who come to us with the idea for an organization must show us that they have a plan for growth, a plan for engaging in the community, and a plan for organizational sustainability," Meier said. "We need them to show us how they'll thrive on campus."

Vilaplana said over 20 members have joined the group since he put flyers up in campus buildings, and they're in the process of meeting with potential faculty advisors.

Junior Holden Bender-Bernstein learned about Turning Point USA's plan to come to campus through fliers he saw posted around the school.

"I'm less upset that the group exists in Boston and more that they have already made a platform for themselves on our campus," Bender-Bernstein said. "I know this group has made people uncomfortable already."

Vilaplana said Turning Point members at

Emerson have already been called "Nazis" by other students on campus and kicked out of various closed Emerson Facebook groups.

"The criticism we're getting is out of bias, and we don't think it's fair at the moment," Vilaplana

Bender-Bernstein reached out to SEAL with his concerns through Facebook. SEAL responded, explaining the group has a right to assemble, but if they violate the policies on bias listed in the colleges Code of Community Standards, he can submit a formal report. Bender-Bernstein said he identifies as a

"Regardless of political affiliation, I think that there should not be a space made for hate."

- Holden Bender-Bernstein

transgender male.

"As a cis-passing person, I feel that it is my job to stand up and say something about this group," Bender-Bernstein said. "Regardless of political affiliation, I think that there should not be a space made for hate."

Despite the controversy surrounding the group, Meier said the college needs to support and recognize all of its students.

"We have a responsibility to everyone no matter political affiliation," Meier said.

Bender-Bernstein said he recognizes Emerson's Turning Point USA chapter is not breaking any rules yet, and he wants to treat the group in a respectful yet assertive way.

This group is an active threat to students of color and those in the queer community, Bender-Bernstein said. "We need to hold ourselves accountable for our peers who are marginalized."

news

College hopes to earn LEED certification for Little Building

Diana Bravo, Beacon Staff

The college hopes to receive a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification from the U.S. Green Building Council to make the Little Building environmentally friendly, according to a college official.

In 2018, Emerson ranked 165 out of 170 colleges and universities in a RecycleMania recycling competition measuring how much waste the college recycles or composts. In fall 2017, the Beacon reported the college only diverts 27 percent of its waste from landfills. The college currently owns three LEED-certified residence halls-Piano Row, 2 Boylston Place, and the Colonial building.

Gianna Gironda, the Student Government Association sustainability commissioner, said she is glad to see the college taking steps to make Little Building more environmentally friendly, but she wants the college to do more.

"I'd love to see what exactly they're doing with the construction of the building to make sure it is being sustainable," Gironda said. "Emerson as a whole has a really bad grade of being ecologically friendly—we have one of the worst scores in colleges."

LEED recognitions come at a variety of levels, ranging from certification to platinum, based on how many points a building receives on an exam. A building earns points by installing environmentally friendly technology and using green construction practices. The building receives recognition by working with a contracted individual, known as an LEEDaccredited professional to ensure the building meets criteria the USGBC sets.

Under the current LEED guidelines, a building with 40-49 points is certified, a building ranging from 50-59 points is silver, a building with 60-79 points is gold, and a building with 80 points or more is platinum.

The Piano Row residence hall is certified, 2 Boylston Place is gold, and the Colonial residence hall is gold, according to the USGBC directory. The Commons and the Paramount Center and residence hall are not certified.

Once certified, LEED buildings maintain certification permanently, but the college agrees to re-verification that the building is environmentally friendly from an LEEDaccredited inspector approximately every five years, according to Senior Associate Vice President of Real Estate Arthur Mombourquette.

Mombourquette said in an interview that obtaining gold status for the 2 Boylston Place residence hall was easier for the college than it might be for Little Building. This is because 2 Boylston Place is 2 years old compared to the

102-year-old Little Building.
"With new construction like 2 Boylston Place, it's a little bit easier because you're starting from scratch," Mombourquette said. "It's a lot more challenging with a building like the Little Building where you're adapting an older structure and retrofitting it with sustainable construction techniques.

Both 2 Boylston Place and the Little Building have stormwater control, meaning the college collects all the rainwater that falls on the rooftop and reuses it in the building's toilets. Mombourquette said it was easier to build 2 Boylston's stormwater control because there was more available space on the building's rooftop.

In addition to stormwater control, the Little Building will also use recycled materials throughout the building in areas such as the flooring and will include timed lights to control electricity usage.

Mombourquette said approximately 90 percent of materials from the old Little Building were recycled, such as the concrete exterior panels which were ground up to become filland-paving material for streets.

Mombourquette said the college does not have any plans to upgrade more of its buildings to receive LEED status in the foreseeable future.

Emerson Green Collective's Co-President William Palauskas said he is happy to see the college take steps toward making the Little Building more environmentally friendly.

"Having another LEED certified gold building will be great," Palauskas said. "Platinum would be better, but I don't know if we'll have that."

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The Little Building may join three residence halls with a LEED certification. Greyson Acquaviva / Beacon Correspondent

Little Building to require more RAs

Continued from page 1

Students who applied for the 2018-19 academic year and were not selected may also feel discouraged from applying again, Barcelo

Assistant Dean for Campus Life Elizabeth Ching-Bush said the residence life team, including all RDs and members from the Office of Campus Life, usually select around 80-100 students for the 57 spots. This includes new RAs who were hired for the first time, returning RAs who are eligible for a rehire, and applicants chosen for an alternate pool. The college will hire alternate applicants if a selected RA cannot fulfill their duty. With the reopening of Little

"We are adding some layers to our ability to get the messaging out."

- Michael Barcelo

Building, there will be 81 RA spots available.

"I think [the process] could only be more selective because we still have to have the right people in the right building," Ching-Bush said.

Barcelo said they offered more interviews to candidates this year, and students who were in the alternate pool in previous years would likely be selected during the first round of interviews because of the demand for RAs in the Little Building.

"We are still looking for the top-performing candidates, but we need to cast a wider net to account for the fact that we have a smaller number of applicants," Barcelo said.

Barcelo said residential life team members put in an extra effort to attract more applicants during the application period. The Office of Housing and Residence Life opened applications a week and a half earlier than they did in past years. The team also advertised in the Dining Center and Center Stage, which they have not done before, Barcelo said.

Before the application closed, the OHRL
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required eligible RA candidates to attend an info session which introduced RA duties, such as office hours, solutions for accidents, and evacuation routes. The OHRL added three additional info sessions to the previously offered six and a higher variety of times to accommodate students' schedules

Residence Life also used EmConnect to send messages to all student organizations to remind them of RA info sessions. Additionally, they offered separate info sessions to some intercultural organizations because they saw their applicant pool did not fully represent marginalized groups. However, none of the organizations responded to the message.

We are adding some layers to our ability to get the messaging out," Barcelo said.

Barcelo said he would like to see a change in RA-selection marketing. He said that, even though they had fliers and posters around campus, it might not be the most effective way to advertise RA positions.

RDs interviewed candidates for two and a half weeks to select RAs for the fall. RDs spend five hours each day in RA interviews while also running their buildings and performing other routine work. Barcelo said the RDs worked in pairs to interview each candidate.

"It's a labor of love," Barcelo said. "We enjoy meeting our folks, and we enjoy what it means to have to think critically about building our staff each year and complementing our skill

Xun Zhuo, an RA for the Colonial residence hall, said in an interview that being an RA not only enabled him to make friends in the RA community, but also helped him practice his time management and problem-solving skills.

Zhuo said that the first night he was on duty, he dealt with a situation involving alcohol and called his RD to ask what to do. However, when he later encountered a similar situation with cannabis, he handled it independently.

"Now I know how to handle it, and I can handle it well. I feel that is a big progress that I have made," Zhuo said.

SGA makes appointments for second semester



Executive Vice President Raz Moayed (middle) oversees senate meetings where the new journalism senator will serve. • William Bloxham / Beacon Correspondent

Diana Bravo, Beacon Staff

The Student Government Association unanimously appointed a new journalism senator, assistant public relations chair, and an on-campus commissioner at their Feb. 5

SGA appointed sophomore Molli DeRosa as the journalism senator. If a senatorial position remains vacant in the second semester, after fall midterms, SGA Executive President Jessica Guida retains the right to appoint a replacement for the remainder of the semester. Joint Session must then approve the appointee with a twothirds vote.

DeRosa's appointment denies her of voting rights in Joint Session meetings-where only elected officials can vote-however, she still serves as a voice for students in the journalism department. DeRosa plans to use her position to expand the journalism department's audio and human interest course offerings.

"I'm not exactly sure how to tackle everything, and I am so open to learning from all of you," DeRosa said in the meeting.

SGA also unanimously appointed freshman Cameron Kugel and sophomore Nicole Poitras as on-campus commissioner and assistant public relations chair, respectively. Kugel said he hopes to understand and address students' concerns by speaking to their resident assistants

SGA created Poitras' position to assist PR Chair Liliana Schmalenberger in her duties. Poitras plans to make the livestream of SGA meetings more accessible by adding closed captions, among other ideas.

"[Poitras would] not just do things for the sake of doing them, but do things for the sake of doing them right and doing them well," Executive Treasurer Ian Mandt said in the meeting.

Earlier in the meeting, SGA unanimously granted \$9,684 to Emerson College Polling Society for a trip to a national conference April. The Financial Advisory Board

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editorial

Creating a supportive environment for student groups

At issue: Competing on-campus organizations

Our take: We're all in this together

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.

college's focus communication calls for students to have extensive, hands-on experiences in their field, whether through journalism, performing arts, marketing communication, or other tracks. Most of us gain this experience through oncampus, extracurricular organizations where

we work with peers and faculty to develop our skills. Since involvement in organizations is extremely common on campus, we should all try refraining from disparaging other students who are simply trying to master their craft. Organizations at Emerson need to support, aid, and cooperate with each other better in order to improve both the students' experiences in the group and the content those groups produce.

Every student should be proud of the work they produce and the organization they represent. All of us are learning,

and we know we can always do better. But the Beacon cannot improve if we have to continuously jump through hurdles to stand up for what we believe in-providing a voice for students and reporting on stories for the broader Emerson community. We shouldn't be afraid of targeted criticism from others when we share that we work for the Beacon. The biases some

people may hold about the Beacon often stem from many semesters ago, when the leadership and staff were completely different.

The Beacon provides its staff with an outlet for writing, editing, design, photography, videography, and social media skills. We reflect on our own work by collecting feedback from

"While competition is necessary for innovation and productivity, an excessive amount can block collaboration and become counterintuitive."

our readers and trying to correct mistakes we have made in the past. But we also gain a new staff of writers and editors each semester. These new staff members often come in without knowledge or involvement in any Beaconrelated incidents or minor controversies from previous semesters. Carrying over any rancor or hostility toward new staff members only

perpetuates the problem and does nothing to solve it.

While competition is necessary for innovation and productivity, an excessive amount can block collaboration and become counterintuitive. Between magazines, stations, musicals, plays, and other

organizations, there's an inherent desire to outperform one another. We should devote our passions into bettering our own work—not dragging down others'. Don't trash talk the other groups, focus on improving your own, and appreciate the content others are producing.

more Being appreciative organizations will help tame the college's occasionally hostile atmosphere. Students should have welcoming attitudes toward groups on campus, so each organization can feel more comfortable creating and sharing the

content they work incredibly hard on. After college, we won't have these organizations and peers to support our work and to provide praise and constructive criticism when warranted. So, for now, it's important we take advantage of this support system while we still can.



If you want to respond to, or share an opinion about, an article in the Beacon, you can write a short letter to the editor. Email it to letters@berkeleybeacon.com.

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

The Berkeley Beacon

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"Even the sun came out to celebrate the Patriots' win."



opinion

Resisting the biggest threat to digital journalism

Katie Schmidt

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

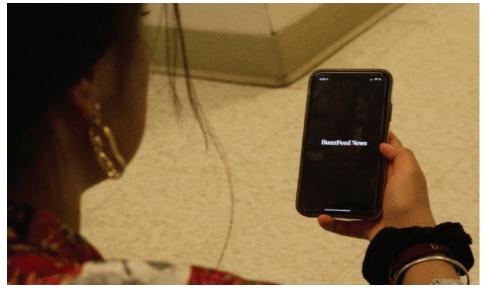
Journalists have faced a grim past few weeks—and this time it's not because of some Orwellian statement made by President Donald Trump.

Last week, four major media companies—Verizon, Gannett, BuzzFeed News, and Vice—announced significant layoffs. Verizon, which owns The Huffington Post, Yahoo, and AOL, cut 8 percent of its workforce, around 800 employees. Gannett, which owns USA Today and local newspapers across the country, announced it was cutting approximately 400 jobs. BuzzFeed news announced it was laying off 15 percent of its workforce, around 200 people. Most recently, Vice announced it was laying off 10 percent of its workforce.

These cuts are not normal, and we shouldn't dismiss them. They're what New York Times columnist Farhad Manjoo calls, "a slow motion doom...a democratic emergency in the making," stemming from "the inability of the digital advertising business to make much meaningful room for anyone but monopolistic tech giants."

The lack of advertising is the root of digital media companies' financial insecurity. Facebook and Google take a large majority of online advertising revenue, which makes it incredibly difficult for digital publications like BuzzFeed News to attract those ad dollars sustainably when their audience pales in comparison to the tech giants' following.

An Axios article states that the duopoly were responsible for roughly 75 percent of all digital advertising growth in the United States during the last quarter. What's the point of a business advertising their product or service in a newspaper or on a news publication website when Facebook and Google can provide



The lack of advertising is the root of digital media companies' financial insecurity.

Emily Oliver | Beacon Staff

detailed information on their millions of users?

The duopoly now even acts as a regulator of content by determining who sees what information and when. "With the flick of an

algorithmic finger,"
David Chavern,
the CEO of News
Media Alliance—a
trade association for
news publishers—
states in his New
York Times oped, "those two
companies decide
what news you see

and whether a publisher lives or dies."

So where do we, as college students, go from here?

Under our current president, who has made over 5,000 false or misleading claims since he took office, one would think the journalism industry would be thriving, not falling by the

wayside. And it's even harder to convince ourselves as college students that we have any influence over the way the world works—but maybe we

"Accentism' applies equally to both

foreigners and native speakers

because of an embedded stereotype

behind every accent that deviates

from the standard dialect."

While proposed solutions include policy reform, public funding and increased taxation, efforts can start small. Many of us resort to

our Facebook and Twitter timelines for the day's news. But what if we went straight to online news publications to browse for stories instead of endlessly scrolling through a timeline cluttered with ads and irrelevant posts that only gather more information about us than we do about them? What if we started our day by scrolling through the Slates and BuzzFeed Newses of the world? I know boycotting social media as a news source altogether is unfeasible for some, but it's still a demonstrative effort toward a greater good. It's okay to find a news story on social media, but be sure click on the story and read it from the source's website.

Don't shy away from subscribing to a publication once you hit a paywall. While publications mainly rely on advertising, monthly and yearly subscriptions from readers also bring in a significant source of revenue. Think of the \$4.99 monthly subscription as a cup or two of coffee a month. Even subscribing to just one publication will contribute to a greater cause.

Every student, regardless of their major, faces uncertainty while searching for a job after college. But journalists face a dwindling industry. As an editor of a college newspaper, I worry not only for myself, but for my friends and colleagues who I know do commendable work. I fear that in this deeply divided political climate—and in the haunting era of fake news—my colleagues may find themselves simply out of a job in the next few years.

We may seem powerless now, and these proposed actions may not seem significant enough to completely revive a troubled industry, but it's vital that we stand against its decline with whatever efforts we can provide.

Debunking the common prejudices against accents

"While proposed solutions

include policy reform, public

funding and increased taxation,

efforts can start small."



was not a native speaker. • Illustration by Ally Rzesa / Beacon Staff

Lisa Simonis

Simonis is a sophomore writing, literature publishing major & Beacon correspondent.

The first thing most people say upon meeting me is, "I hear an accent. Where are you from?" Seemingly, there is nothing wrong with this question, but upon further inspection, accents can play a more significant role in society than we may think.

The English Language Learners Seminar in Pronunciation Basics, Basic Public Speaking and American Culture is a one-credit, non-tuition class at Emerson which helps international students improve their English and pronunciation. While I initially signed up for it due to the extra credit, I also hoped it might teach me ways to disguise and lessen my accent so I wouldn't stand out to others. I didn't want conversations to revolve around my origin, my life story, or my reason for being at Emerson.

However, the seminar opened my eyes to the reality behind accents and how they may trick us to make hasty assumptions about others.

Many foreigners in the U.S. are set apart by their accents, but, when the roles are reversed, an American in Europe would also have an accent. This begs the question: Are accents even real? Or are they a social construct?

The science behind the way humans speak is complex. Most people develop their capacity to speak around their first birthday. Patricia Kuhl, professor of speech and hearing sciences at the University of Washington, found that a baby's brain begins internalizing the basics of speech patterns at only six months old. This is when accents will be determined. If their mom pronounces water as "watah," the baby will pick up on it.

The ELL Seminar does a great job at explaining the science behind human speech patterns and phonetics. It mentions how talking is like going up and down a ladder—the higher

note being the most important syllable, and how the sound of the letter 'R' changes between cultures.

I'm not saying that having the ability to switch accents is a bad thing—this ability takes skill and is also a good way to be incognito. We applaud actors for their ability to change accents, but for the ordinary person, changing one's accent "can be tiring and unnatural," as BBC Awardwinning multimedia science journalist Melissa Hogenboom puts it. In her article "How Hard Is It to Fake an Accent?," she said our accent

is part of our identity, and "to change it is to lose an aspect of ourselves." If I had to think about the delivery of every word I was about to say, I wouldn't be able

to spontaneously be myself—I'd constantly fret over the right pronunciation.

It's also worth noting that the seminar doesn't want or intend to rid students of their accent. They want to help students speak clearer English and learn American slang, social cues, and business etiquette, and thus get a deeper understanding of American culture.

But a person's accent may change throughout their life for social and political reasons. Accents can cause prejudice and encourage stereotyping against someone. This discrimination of someone's speech is what Dr. Alexander Barattafrom Manchester University defines as "accentism."

Linguistics expert Chi Luu explains that listeners can attribute all kinds of unrelated personal traits to a speaker—like height, physical attractiveness, social status, intelligence, education, good character, sociability, and even criminality. It's no wonder so many of us are concerned about having an accent.

This would mean that a job interview, an internship post, or any hiring opportunity may be determined not just by qualification and capability, but by the way someone speaks.

Prior to coming to college, my assumption was that people would treat me differently because I was not a native speaker, and I would be left out of some things because I could never relate to them. But it has been quite the opposite here at Emerson. Within the community, there is a sense of acceptance.

"Accentism" applies equally to both foreigners and native speakers because of an embedded stereotype behind every accent that deviates from standard dialect. Luu defines standard dialect as the dialect spoken by most

of the population and "accepted by social institutions such as the media, the law, and government."

Measured by the standard dialect, it is easy to create stereotypes—

British and French accents can seem attractive to some, New Yorkers' accents can come off as rude, and Southern accents make some seem uneducated. In some cases, Hispanic accents can get you berated.

Accents are fun until they become a means for discrimination. It takes 30 milliseconds for a person to be linguistically profiled and have their class, gender, ethnicity, background, or criminal record determined based off their accent.

I'm inclined to never again tell anyone they have an accent. It is common to start the conversation with, "I hear an accent," since it's easy to point out the obvious. Omitting that initial thought is equally as easy.

I'm thankful for the revelation and preparation the ELL Seminar gave me. It is something we should all be aware of, and it is a class that should be open to both domestic and international students alike.

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living arts

Student designs conceptual clothing brand

Melanie Curry, Beacon Staff

Junior Henry Pew started printing tee-shirts in middle school. He cut plastic from folders to create a stencil and spray-painted his design onto the shirt. Pew did this long enough to print a milk carton and a gnome design, which he then sold, and temporarily gave up the hobby.

The hobby never died though, and Pew, a visual and media arts major, now runs a clothing brand, Brand N/A, with his friends Sam Dorow and Ben Kupferman, all from New Jersey. Pew said Brand N/A's name—meaning not applicable or not available—shows how the brand represents vagueness and offers no set

"The idea evolved several times before I became committed to it," Pew said. "I made my first tee-shirt that said N/A on it, but I wasn't even sure if I was going to continue with the brand until I understood the vagueness I was looking for in a brand [and] why I was interested

Senior Chloë Kerwin, a friend of Pew's, said Brand N/A is not a brand, but a concept.

"Pew creates things that will get people thinking rather than just buying something," Kerwin said. "Products with meaning behind them, rather than just a product."

Brand N/A sells T-shirts, pants, jackets, totes, stickers, and other forms of clothing on their website and Instagram. Pew uniquely designs and prints every article of clothing with various designs such as mountains, the Brand N/A logo, or small abstract drawings. Brand N/A's inventory rotates through different articles of clothing on their website, and the team completes custom prints for any customer's choice of clothing.

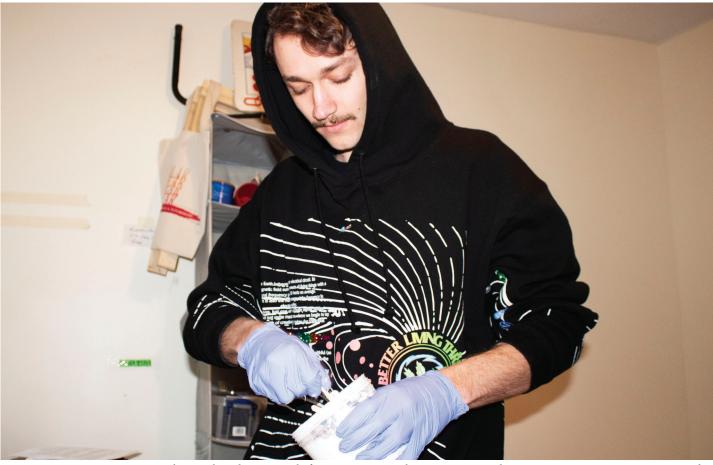
Brand N/A charges their customers based on the time it takes to print and what graphics the customer wants.

Kerwin said the prices are reasonable for streetwear, and she is happy to support Pew.

"Knowing that my money is going to [Pew] makes it easier for me to spend that kind of money," Kerwin said.

Pew said the process of creating Brand N/A's clothing starts with him buying clothes from thrift stores. Next, Pew uses his personal screen printer in his North End apartment to transfer custom graphics onto the clothes. Then, he markets the finished product on Brand N/A's website and Instagram.

Junior Kerry Ferrell, Pew's friend, said Brand N/A is different from other clothing brands because of Pew's dedication to the brand and its



Junior Henry Pew mixes paint in his North End apartment before printing a new design onto a sweatshirt. • Spencer Brown / Beacon Correspondent

vague identity.

"He is not looking for what people are expecting," Ferrell said. "He is just designing straight out of his mind."

Pew said he also allows customers to provide their own clothing for him to print on and charges them at a lower rate.

"[The price] depends on the piece of clothing you bring to me," Pew said. "If you want a jacket, I'd charge like \$50 to \$70."

Pew said he plans to give out promo codes on

Brand N/A's website to appeal to new customers. Using his own screen printer helps Pew keep product prices low. He also invests money into Brand N/A from his job at George Howell Coffee in Downtown Crossing.

So far, Pew said he sold merchandise to almost 40 customers and built up a regular

customer base comprised of around 25 people. Ferrell said Brand N/A is not made for profit, but for Pew to do what he loves.

Ferrell said he first heard of Brand N/A in fall 2017 through Pew's roommate, junior Max Kolomatsky. Ferrell said he bought a sweatshirt, a tote, and a shirt because the designs on the clothing intrigued him.

"He has this free-flowing designing process," Ferrell said. "The way he designs and the way his mind works leads to some really cool output."

Brand N/A will release their first official clothing line called LUNISOLAR later this month. Pew said Brand N/A was previously discovering its identity before LUNISOLAR.

"Behind every clothing drop, there is going to be a reason why we're doing the drop, and that reason will be explained in the clothing," Pew

The concept behind LUNISOLAR is to acknowledge the theory of a 13th month, "Virtuary," Pew said. He said he discovered

this idea after watching a Youtube video with mathematician Scott Flansburg explaining how the 12-month calendar year doesn't make sense.

'[Brand N/A] is advocating for [the] change of the calendar year to having 13 months instead of 12 and having every month be 28 days," Pew said. "Essentially, we're taking all the 29s, 30s, and 31s of the 12 months and putting them into a new month.

Pew said LUNISOLAR will consist mostly of shirts starting at \$25-\$35 and hoodies at \$60. He said he plans to give out promotional

Ferrell said the concept behind LUNISOLAR is interesting and funny.

"I'm definitely going to get a shirt or something," Ferrell said.

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The B Side: Let artists' unfinished work rest in peace



Kyle Bray Bray is a sophomore journalism major, Beacon's visual managing editor, d music columnist.

 $Controversial\ rapper\ XXXTentacion \^{s}\ newest$ project, Members Only, Vol. 4, was released on Jan. 23—just in time for his 21st birthday. The project features verses from the rapper himself along with many

features, yet there's one small detail about this album that shouldn't overlooked-XXXTentacion died on June 18, 2018.

Member's Only is not the musician's first posthumous release-XXXTentacion's label also released an album titled Skins on Dec. 7, 2018. While there are not many reviews out for his Members Only, Vol. 4

release, Skins received overwhelmingly negative reviews from critics—a contrast from his projects released when he was still alive. Dropoffs like this are why I believe record labels

should stop releasing posthumous albums.

Posthumous releases are not uncommon in other areas of art. Books, music, movies, and more are often released after the artist behind them dies. Sometimes they are well-received, such as with famed poet Emily Dickinson who became well-regarded with the posthumous release of most of her poems. But in the case of musicians like XXXTentacion-who died while awaiting trial for domestic violence charges brought forward by his former girlfriend—it only serves to hurt their "artistic" legacy and to benefit the record label.

XXXTentacion's first posthumous release, Skins, faced negative criticism from music

"It is clear that these

releases are not

meant as a way to

honor the rapper's

legacy."

critics because the album appeared unfinished. album, 17, scored a 6.5 out of 10 on the music site Pitchfork, while Skins earned only a three out of 10. Sheldon Pearce, the author of the Skins Pitchfork review, wrote that Skins is "the worstcase

for a posthumous release, not only devoid of meaningful ideas and moving music but making little to no case for its existence in the process."

Along with his two posthumous albums, the

late rapper also appeared as a feature on many big album releases after his death, such as Lil Wayne's *Tha Carter V* and even the compilation album for Marvel's Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse soundtrack. XXXTentacion is rumored to appear on multiple upcoming albums, including projects from Kanye West and Isaiah Rashad, completion of the album but before the release according to XXL

Magazine and Hot New Hip Hop.

With the release of unfinished material and multiple posthumous appearances, these releases do not honor the rapper's legacy, but rather attempt to squeeze as much cash out of XXXTentacion as possible.

Don't get me wrong, not all posthumous releases are bad. Columbia Records, the

label for hip-hop artist Lil Peep, released the album Come Over When You're Sober, Pt. 2 after his death in 2017, and the album was well received—Pitchfork gave Pt. 2 a rating of 7.2 out of 10, while Pt. 1 received a 7.3 out of 10.

Posthumous releases do not accurately represent the artist because of the artist not creating it themselves. The label may not have released certain parts of an album because the artist wanted to cut those parts out. Worldrenowned pianist and composer Frédéric ☑ kyle_bray@emerson.edu

Chopin wrote shortly before his death in 1849 that he wanted all of his unfinished and unpublished work to be burned because he saw the pieces as "unworthy for the public."

The only case when a label should release posthumous albums is if the artist dies after the

> date. In this case, the artist saw the album through and signed off on everything, which means it is a truly accurate representation their art. If a record is finished and then not released because the artist doesn't want to, their record label shouldn't just release the album after their death in an effort to make more money.

> > I'm no fan of

XXXTentacion by any stretch, but, as a lover of music and art, it is sad to see an artist's musical legacy tarnish because of his label releasing unfinished albums and verses without his direction. When an artist dies, let their unfinished work go with them to the grave and appreciate them for the art they did release

"Certain parts of

an album may not

have been released

because the artist

wanted to cut them."

living arts

Grad student becomes Boston's newest poet laureate

Melanie Curry, Beacon Staff

Creative writing graduate student Porsha Olayiwola read one of her poems aloud for the first time in her senior year of high school. She used the story of *Beauty and the Beast* to construct a poem about domestic violence. Thirteen years later, Mayor Martin J. Walsh named Olayiwola as Boston's Poet Laureate.

The Boston Poet Laureate program was created in 2008. The chosen laureate raises awareness and consciousness of art, language, and poetry in Boston by attending public readings, civic functions, and poetry events, according to the City of Boston's website.

Kristina Carroll, communication director for the mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, said the Boston Poet Laureate is a ceremonial appointment that lasts four years.

"Their job is to enhance the city through poetry by integrating poetry into the civic and daily lives of residents and visitors in Boston," Carroll said in a phone interview.

The qualifications for earning the title of Boston Poet Laureate are living in Boston for at least one year, being 21 or older, and serving as an active professional poet with a dedication to the community, according to the City of Boston's website. The application process includes a written application and a follow-up panel interview.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh called Olayiwola into his office on December 2018. He asked her about poems, the city, and then said, "Congratulations." Olayiwola had just been named the Boston Poet Laureate and all she could do was smile.

A selection committee comprised of seven poets and authors, including former Poet Laureate Danielle Legros Georges, selected Olayiwola. David Howse, the executive director of ArtsEmerson and a member of the selection committee, said Olayiwola is a new and young voice for Boston.

"[Olayiwola] brought a fresh perspective and energy I think the city is ready to embrace," Howse said in a phone interview.

Carroll said Olayiwola was selected as the next Boston Poet Laureate because of her experience working with children and her plan to establish a youth poet laureate program.

Olayiwola officially started in the position

on Jan. 1. She said she plans to provide more resources to artists by bringing them together with events such as writing retreats and conferences.

"One thing I said in my application was that I really wanted to continue some of the work that I'd already been doing," Olayiwola said. "[The Boston Poet Laureate] provided me a platform and a resource to further the artists service work I'd already been doing."

Olayiwola said someone sent her the application on Twitter and urged her to apply.

The Boston Poet Laureate receives a stipend and a budget for their programs of choice. Olayiwola said she plans to apply for a lot of grants to offset the costs of the programming she plans to do.

"Outside of poetry, I've been a youth worker my entire life," Olayiwola said.

Olayiwola's experiences include working as the artistic director for the Massachusetts Literary Education and Performance collective, also known as MassLEAP, a non-profit organization dedicated to youth. Olayiwola said MassLEAP gives her opportunities to work with the youth in Boston Public Schools, such as coaching a youth poetry slam team and teaching professional development to artists and educators interested in incorporating poetry in their curriculum.

Olayiwola also worked as the dean of enrichment at Codman Academy for five years and volunteered at Pine Street Inn, a homeless shelter in Boston.

In 2014, Olayiwola co-founded House Slam, a Boston Poetry Slam venue in Dudley Square. She said she wanted to bring the first poetry slam venue to Boston to encourage all kinds of artists and make them feel welcome by providing resources and establishing a writing community.

In the first year of House Slam, the team won the National Poetry Slam competition and made it to the final stage, Olayiwola said. She said House Slam makes sure all artists have access to the resources to compete, such as writing conferences, by fundraising.

"When I went to National Poetry Slam, I had to pay out of pocket," Olayiwola said. "We have been working to fundraise. There hasn't been a person who hasn't gone for free [or] who hasn't been required to go on a retreat to write."



Mayor Martin J. Walsh named graduate student Porsha Olayiwola Boston's Poet Laureate in December 2019. • Courtesy of Porsha Olayiwola

According to its website, House Slam holds poetry competitions every second and fourth Friday of the month.

Olayiwola is also the 2014 Individual World Poetry Slam Champion, and Get Konnected! named her as one of Boston's Most Influential People of Color, according to her personal website.

Last fall, Olayiwola released a theatrical poetry production named *Black & Ugly As Ever*, according to her website. Olayiwola said the 45 to 50-minute one-woman show mixes movement with poetry.

Sophomore Dani Jean-Baptiste is directing an Emerson production of *Black & Ugly As Ever* that premieres in March. She said Joseph Antoun, a senior affiliated faculty member

of Emerson's Performing Arts department, reached out to Jean-Baptiste and asked her to direct *Black & Ugly As Ever* after she worked as assistant director on the production *Bulrusher*.

"[Black & Ugly As Ever] is a chronicle of the poet's growth in terms of her specific identities [such as] her blackness, queerness, and her body image," Jean-Baptiste said. "It chronicles what her perspective and her relationship with her body and queerness was when she was younger and what it is now."

This year, apart from being the Boston Poet Laureate, Olayiwola will release a book in November called *i shimmer sometimes, too* with Button Poetry, an independent performance

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The EVVYs recognize student achievement regardless of gender

Continued from page 1

Hoffman noted that these adjustments contribute to the show's pursuit of inclusivity while also maintaining the usual award quantity and run time of three hours.

Hoffman said the award modifications were first suggested in an executive meeting at the

beginning of the school year.

"As soon as it was said, everyone just knew it was the right direction to take the show in," Hoffman said. "It was a no-brainer."

To obtain a deeper understanding of the performing arts community's desires for The EVVYs, Hoffman said the staff reached out to the Performing Arts Department last fall. Most

people suggested a differentiation between plays and musicals, so this year the stage awards are separated into "Outstanding Performer for a Play" and "Outstanding Performer for a Musical," rather than "Outstanding Lead Actor or Actress For Stage."

Senior Nicole Cooper said she felt positive about the changes.

"I think it's really amazing that they're making the awards genderless," Cooper said. "Emerson is such a progressive place, and this is just another way our school is leading movements."

The show will also introduce new categories including "Outstanding Podcast" and "Outstanding Web Series" to replace the previous "Outstanding Video Blog" award. These categories were originally created to allow variety in the types of content that students can submit for awards.

Although The EVVYs are known for their recognition of stage and film awards, Hoffman hopes that the entire Emerson community feels welcomed to submit material.

"We are striving toward becoming more inclusive as an organization and as an award show," Hoffman said. "We want people to know that we have awards for all majors, including marketing, communication studies, writing, and more."

Hoffman also noted that, this year, the live show will feature subtitles and that, for future shows, the staff will consider other ways to accommodate students with physical disabilities.

"In terms of staging, we've talked about including wheelchair ramps, or something that will make the show more accessible," Hoffman said. "We want everyone to be able to enjoy The EVVYs."

Despite the significance of these changes, the team posted the updated categories on Facebook in January without any official announcement. Hoffman said this was a decision made by The EVVYs staff to both normalize non-binary awards and avoid capitalizing on marginalized

communities.

"We posted the new awards just so people know, but it's not something we're trying to benefit from," Hoffman said. "It's for the students"

Despite the lack of an official announcement, the new categories have already begun to circle around in the Emerson community.

Junior Ayo Xavier expressed optimism for the new categories, as she believes they speak to a greater societal change.

"Given the fact that our society's understanding of gender and identity is changing so much, it makes sense to leave genders out of the awards," Xavier said. "I think it'll help people feel more comfortable and relieve some anxiety or frustration for nominees who don't necessarily fit into their 'expected' gender."

Although The EVVYs have been historically modeled after major award shows such as the Oscars, Hoffman said the organization's focus has shifted toward creating a show that reflects the campus culture rather than the mainstream media

"We want to create as many opportunities as possible to connect to the Emerson community and to show that we are here for them," Hoffman

Additionally, The EVVYs will sponsor its first blood drive with the American Red Cross on Feb. 13 in the Bill Bordy Theater in hopes to further extend their relationship with the student body.

Hoffman said that, although the team will not achieve some of the goals they had for this year's show—such as installing wheelchair ramps—she hopes the changes will live up to the "Legacy" theme.

"I'm really happy that more people feel recognized by The EVVYs," Hoffman said. "We're hoping to set this precedent that other shows will follow."



Madeline Hoffman (left) and Emma Giulianti (right) running an EVVYs meeting. EVVY38 will not include gendered award categories. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

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sports

RECENT RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Emerson 88 — Clark 76, Feb. 6 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Emerson 89 — Springfield 84, Feb. 6 MEN'S VOLLEYBALL: Emerson 3 — Newbury 0, Feb. 5

Alumnus continues soccer career on and off the field

Domenic Conte, Beacon Staff

Duncan Bochicchio '17 knew at a young age that he wanted to incorporate soccer into his

"As a kid, I was a block away from a park," Bochicchio said in a phone interview from Los Angeles. "My family is a traditional American football and baseball family, but as a three year old, I was obsessed [with soccer] and I played on my first team at four years old. By nine, I fell

Bochicchio plays soccer for the LA10 football club in the United Premier Soccer League—a semi-professional league—while serving as an associate producer for Fox Sports in his hometown of Los Angeles.

Bochicchio transferred to Emerson from Santa Monica College in California for his junior year and started all 17 men's soccer games he played for the Lions. As a captain in his senior season, he scored seven goals and recorded two assists.

"I always assumed I would go to school in Los Angeles," Bochicchio said. "Emerson reached out to me, and I went on a visit and just loved it."

In his two seasons at Emerson, Bochicchio said his favorite moment came during his junior year when the Lions won their first New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference game in team history against United States Coast Guard Academy.

Senior forward Max DeLuca, a sophomore during Bochicchio's senior season, said Bochicchio brought great skill and positive energy to the field.

"Duncan was one of the most talented soccer



Bochicchio joined the LA10 football club five years ago. • Courtesy of Duncan Bochicchio

players I've played with," DeLuca said. "He always played the game with a smile on his face and played better when he had fun."

Although Bochicchio graduated before current head coach Brian Harkin took over, Harkin said he knew about Bochicchio's legacy.

"The biggest message that came across was that he was a really talented player with a good demeanor and a team-first mentality," Harkin

Harkin said he keeps in touch with Bochicchio because of his soccer connections in California.

"When I took the job, I reached out to alumni, and Duncan had a good reputation being involved in the sports communication world," Harkin said. "He's been trying to help some players get internships, and he's a good resource for recruits out in the [Los Angeles]

Bochicchio said he remains in contact with his former soccer coaches in California so he can pitch the idea of attending Emerson to younger players.

"California has such a big talent pool for soccer, but not many people know that Division III at Emerson is an option for them," Bochicchio said. "If your own coach isn't reaching out to schools for you, it might be difficult."

Off the field, Bochicchio's passion for

soccer carries over into his profession. After graduating in summer 2017, he followed in the footsteps of his friend and applied to Fox Sports. Bochicchio spent his first six months recording statistics but replaced one of the two writers in the soccer department to begin reporting on the Bundesliga—the top soccer league in Germany.

Bochicchio said playing soccer and covering overseas sports at the same time keeps him

"Because of the European time zones, coverage starts early on the weekends," Bochicchio said. "I'm in at work at [3 a.m.] on Saturdays and Sundays, get home by 11:30 [a.m.], change, and go straight to the game. It's really draining."

Eight months ago, Bochicchio became a creative director for Fox Sports, where he puts together informative graphics to be analyzed during game coverage. Bochicchio provided data for every game of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, working remotely for 36 days straight.

"It's every kid's dream to play in the World Cup," Bochicchio said. "Covering it was just about the next best thing."

Bochicchio said players should always seek to challenge themselves if they want to take their game to the next level.

"What's important that I learned playing different programs is getting yourself out of your comfort zone," Bochicchio said. "My parents always played me up an age level. The only way you really get better is when you are playing with players who are more experienced than you."

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Patriots' sixth Super Bowl parade draws thousands



Patriots head coach Bill Belichick waves his Super Bowl champions hat to the crowd. Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff



From left to right, Patriots running backs James White, Sony Michel, and Jeremy Hill celebrate during the Super Bowl parade on Tuesday. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff



Patriots offensive lineman David Andrews (center, shirtless) sits atop a truck during the Super Bowl Parade. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff



According to the Boston Police Department, 1.5 million attended the parade. Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff