

Upcoming Events

Staff Forum
May 17, 2012
2:30–4:30 pm
Bordy Theater

Emerson Staff Gathers for Staff Forum

On March 22, about 150 Emerson staffers attended a two-hour staff forum in the Bill Bordy Theater. The event featured refreshments served during the first half hour, followed by an update from President Pelton and a presentation on Emerson's new facility and expanded programming in Los Angeles.

Pelton discussed the Board's approvals for new positions, including the new Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations as well as the ongoing searches for the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion and a special assistant to the president.

According to Pelton, the College's three key goals are "operations excellence, innovation, and customer intimacy." He emphasized the importance of linking Emerson's marketing and recruiting strategies to its fundraising campaign. The College must keep developing its international strategy, focus on its distinctive campus identity, and continue to add to its brand, strength, and national recognition.

Pelton also ticked off a list of issues that keep him up at night, including the ongoing repair of the Little Building and the new Los Angeles center. Once the new building is complete, Pelton will work with the newly formed L.A. advisory committee to appoint leaders of the expanded L.A. program.

Staff members watched a short video of highlights from the L.A. groundbreaking ceremony. Vice President for Enrollment MJ Knoll-Finn, Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda Moore, Associate Vice President for Government and Community Relations Margaret (Peggy) Ings, and Vice President for Communications and Marketing Andy Tiedemann each provided information about the L.A. facility and Emerson's plans to move the project forward.

Ings's portion of the presentation discussed the building's floor plans and layout. Moore talked about the academic possibilities for L.A., including programs and certificates Emerson might consider offering. Knoll-Finn touched on the results of market research and the significant student interest in an L.A. program. Tiedemann outlined the communications plan for L.A., including increasing the College's story and presence in L.A., as well as strengthening its brand and identity.

The next staff forum will be held May 17 and will feature a discussion of the budget for the 2013 fiscal year.

By Amanda Jenkins, Office of Communications and Marketing

Staff Profiles

Jack Casey



Jack Casey has seen it all. From Boston to Canada to Kansas, Casey's career in radio began at Emerson and spanned much of the United States and Canada before he returned to his alma mater as a part-time faculty member and general manager of the College's award-winning radio station, WERS (88.9 FM). For radio students, he's a shining example of a man who's done it all in the business, and who gives his mentees a clear idea of what to expect in the industry today.

Growing up in small-town Nassau, New York, Casey became fascinated early on with radio as a means of understanding and communicating with parts of the country he'd never seen. "There was one traffic light, a grammar school, and a couple of gas stations," said Casey of his hometown. "Radio was a way of knowing what was beyond that."

Later, a strong desire to be a radio personality and break free from his small town led him to study at Emerson, where he worked at both WERS and WECB, another Emerson radio station.

Casey learned the ropes quickly, and by the time he reached graduation, he had experience as both a program director in Berlin, New Hampshire, and as host of a morning show at WAAB-AM in Worcester.

With a work ethic characteristic of many Emerson students, Casey broke into the world of national radio following graduation. He was involved with developing, hosting, and programming at stations in Alberta, Canada; Kansas; Washington, D.C.; Virginia; and Ohio before returning to Boston. Once he was back in town, Casey developed one of today's most popular local stations, Magic 106.7. He also began teaching part-time at Emerson. By 2004, Casey accepted the position of general manager of WERS.

Unlike most general managers, Casey educates his student employees on the nature of the radio business while also keeping the station afloat, an undertaking that Casey says is challenging. "The job description says you have to be able to function well under large amounts of stress, and...the stress is definitely there, but I thrive on it!" he said.

Thankfully, Casey doesn't work alone. He's assisted by Operations Manager Howard Simpson and Underwriting Director Peter Kirchoff along with Marketing Director Sara Morgan and Membership Coordinator Andrew Kessler.

Casey helps students make creative decisions and advises them on the station's finances, remarking that in his earlier days, "I just didn't realize how important it was for a radio station to make money."

After a lifetime in the radio industry, Casey still has the same passion for radio that he discovered as a child. "Radio has a way of touching people's lives that's very unique and that's something that I wanted to bring to WERS."

By Jamie Loftus '14

Sharon Duffy



For Sharon Duffy, associate dean of students, event planning is a passion. Not only is she a staple at student-organized activities around the Emerson campus, but she is also involved in organizing activities in her Malden, Massachusetts, community. Her love of events led her to pursue a career in student life. “I enjoy event planning because to me it’s not work, it’s fun,” she said.

Duffy realized she wanted to pursue a career in higher education when she was in college. She began her undergraduate studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass), majoring in psychology and planning to become a child psychologist. However, she soon recognized how much she enjoyed being involved in campus activities and organizations.

Her faculty advisor suggested that she could pursue this passion as a career. To make that happen, Duffy obtained a master’s degree in education policy and research analysis in higher education from UMass.

After graduation, Duffy took a position as assistant director of student activities at Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia. She later moved on to Simmons College in Boston as assistant director of student activities. Duffy found her way to Emerson in 2001 as director of the student union. She was promoted to associate dean in 2002.

In her current role, Duffy is responsible for student support and providing students with a “great college experience.” She helps students grow personally and professionally outside the classroom. Duffy also assists in building community and school pride and guides students to become active, interested, and engaged

alumni once they graduate. She finds her position fun and dynamic. “I feel like our students are out to change the world, and I enjoy being a part of that,” she said.

Duffy has facilitated numerous events at Emerson. In fact, her first day on campus was Commencement 2001. Other events that Duffy enjoys every year are Undergraduate Orientation and the ERA Awards. In addition, she planned the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational in 2010.

Duffy appreciates the opportunities she has to work with departments across the College. “Emerson is a smaller school with a more intimate community, where I can be involved in all the happenings and work with multiple departments,” she said.

She enjoys her daily interaction with students and said she’s always learning from them. For example, students persuaded Duffy to take up social media. “Every day I learn something new, and I am able to teach students something, too.”

When she is not at Emerson, Duffy spends her time planning family and community activities with her husband and two children, such as an annual Thanksgiving Day brunch as well as the occasional summer barbecue with 200–400 attendees. She has also planned weddings, baby showers, and birthday parties.

“Whether at Emerson or at home, I enjoy bringing people together to share a positive experience that creates a positive memory,” she said.

By Amanda Jenkins, Office of Communications and Marketing

Staff Notes

Births

- Elijah Smith was born January 29, 2012, to Lauren Smith (Information Technology) and her spouse, Sara.
- Rylan Lucca Goncalves was born March 11, 2012, to Alessandro (Facilities) and Jonelle Goncalves. Grandparents are Richard (Facilities) and Georgette Petraglia (Professional Studies).

Engagements

- Blaine Butler (HR) is engaged to Michael Goff.
- Eric Fox (assistant to Kevin Bright) is engaged to Naina Sood.
- Tikesha Morgan (Student Life) is engaged to Dr. Dafina Lazarus Stewart. A Summer 2013 wedding is planned.

Wear It Everywhere

Send us your photos of Emerson gear—T-shirts, caps, water bottles—in an exotic location (read: not Boston!). We'll feature photos in each upcoming issue of the staff newsletter.

Awards and Accomplishments

- Nadine Jackson (Administration and Finance) was inducted into the athletics hall of fame at her alma mater, Amherst Regional High School.
- Linda Sutherland (Professional Studies) participated in the Region 1 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival at Fitchburg State University as a 10-minute play director for the KCACTF National Playwriting Program. She cast the play, rehearsed the student actors, mentored the student playwright through rewrites, and directed the final staged reading.
- Sarah Miles (Registrar's Office) has been chosen by Datatel+SGHE to serve on the Banner Student Customer Advisory Board for a two-year term.
- Sarah Miles and Kelly McCabe (Registrar's Office) are presenting at the 2012 AACRAO conference (April 4) on overhauling communications from the Registrar's Office.



Emerson staff members cheered the Lions on during Athletics Staff Appreciation Night on January 26.

New Faces

- Erin Wagner, Nurse Practitioner, Center Health and Wellness
- Alissa Minot, External Affairs Fellow, Office of the Arts
- Chris Serwacki, Coordinator for Alumni Events, Development and Alumni Relations

Belated

- Marissa Capineri, Assistant Director/ Internship Coordinator, Career Services
- Mary Sullivan, Associate Director, Career Services
- Michelle DeAngeles, Senior Associate Vice President for Financial Affairs
- Danielle Reddy, Director of Leadership Giving, Development and Alumni Relations

News

The Department of Professional Studies and Special Programs is accepting applications to the 2012 Arts and Communication Pre-College Programs. If your teen has an intense interest in musical theater, acting, stage design, TV writing and production, creative writing, journalism, or political communication and is looking for a summer program to explore those interests, we encourage him or her to apply. Visit our website for more information, or contact Tori Weston at ext. 8940 or at tori_weston@emerson.edu.

Glad You Asked

Q: Do staff members get discounts or reimbursements for parking and/or public transportation?

A: Yes! Emerson College contracts with Crosby Benefit Systems to allow eligible employees to use pre-tax dollars to purchase transit passes and pay parking expenses online through payroll deduction (up to IRS amount limits). Exempt or non-exempt employees regularly scheduled to work at least 20 hours per week are eligible.

The College will deduct the cost of transit and/or parking from your last paycheck each month. Since these deductions are taken on a pre-tax basis, you are not paying income or Social Security taxes on the wages used to purchase transit or parking. Therefore, you are saving taxes and receiving an effective discount.

For public transit, Crosby offers two options: public transportation passes for MBTA (i.e., Charlie Card, commuter rail), buses, trains, ferries, etc., and “commuter checks,” used to pay for commuter expenses where passes are not available. Crosby will mail transit passes to your home address.

For parking, Crosby offers three options:

1. **Direct Pay:** Crosby makes a monthly payment directly to the parking provider.
2. **Parkcheck:** If Crosby cannot validate the parking provider information or if you have to pay parking expenses on a weekly or daily basis, Crosby will send you a “Parkcheck” payment, which you pass on to the parking provider.
3. **Parking Reimbursement:** You pay out-of-pocket for parking expenses (meters, MBTA parking garages, etc.) and submit a reimbursement claim

form to Crosby. Crosby will send a check directly to you or deposit the reimbursement directly to your bank account.

To order passes or set up parking reimbursement, set up a user account on the Crosby website and click on “Commuter Benefits” to place your order. You must order passes by the first day of each month for the following month (i.e., August passes must be ordered by July 1).

View more information on the College’s Human Resources website.

Q: Can staff members borrow books, DVDs, and other materials from the Iwasaki Library?

A: Yes. If you have a valid Emerson ID, you can borrow books, DVDs, and other materials (except reference materials) from the library. Books, CDs, LPs, and audio cassettes may be checked out for a term loan (until the end of the current semester), and circulating DVDs can be checked out for seven days.

Staff members may also access the library’s resources from off campus, and request books and articles from other libraries through Interlibrary Loan (ILL). With an Emerson ID, you can access and check out circulating books from any of the Fenway Libraries Online or the Fenway Library Consortium member libraries, or obtain a Boston Public Library card.

View more information on the Iwasaki Library website.

Q: Do staff members get a discount and/or membership to ArtsEmerson events?

A: Yes. As an Emerson staff member, you only pay \$30 for an ArtsEmerson annual membership—half the regular price of \$60. Your membership entitles you to the following benefits:

- Savings of 30% per ticket for up to 20 tickets
- One complimentary ticket (bring a friend!)
- \$2–\$5 discount on music programs
- 25% off film showings
- No per-ticket service fees
- A chance to see award-winning shows and support Emerson’s vibrant performing arts culture

View full details and buy a membership on the ArtsEmerson website.

people@Emerson

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Executive Editor
Andy Tiedemann

Editor
Katie Gibson

Designer
Chuck Dunham

Copy Editor
Nancy Howell

Advisory Group
Matthew Bailey
Jill Davidson
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Colleen Kelly
Keira Lyons
Gloria Noronha-Peschau
Diana Potter
Mia Seidner
Karen St. Clair
Linda Sutherland
Tiffany Tate

**Send news
or suggestions to
Katie Gibson at
Katherine_Gibson@emerson.edu.**



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