

Staff Profile

Ian Flynn



What does the name “Ramone” have in common with a rose? Both nouns were elements that Ian Flynn and fellow members of the Blue Spruce Theatre group had to incorporate into a musical competition—which they ended up winning.

Ian exudes warmth and passion for the arts and Emerson. A ‘92 Musical Theatre alumnus, Ian has been working at Emerson since 2004 and continues to pursue the arts in his spare time.

When Ian is not singing, acting, or dancing, he works as a student services advisor in the Student Service Center, Emerson’s one-stop shop for students who need to conduct business with the Registrar, Student Accounts, and Financial Aid. He splits his time working with students and parents over the phone and communicating with them face to face.

Ian thoroughly enjoys the one-on-one interaction of his customer service role. He appreciates being able to help students get things done, whether in person or over the phone; but he says the sense of accomplishment is more immediate when helping someone directly. Ian admits he prefers to go to a bank teller to make a deposit; he would rather talk to a person than a machine. That ideology translates well as he helps students on a daily basis.

After Ian graduated from Emerson, he worked in the theater world professionally for several years. He then stepped into the corporate world for the health benefits,

but found the environment soul-crushing. By 2004, he knew he wanted to work for an organization that championed the arts, and he found his way back to Emerson via a customer service position in the Office of Admission.

In Admission, Ian worked as the customer service coordinator, which evolved into managing records as more Admission business went online. One of his last projects in that office was helping Admission go completely paperless, after which he moved to Student Financial Services.

Still wondering about that rose, and Ramone? As part of the Blue Spruce Theatre, Ian was involved in a competition called “Fringe Wars,” which pits several acting companies against each other. Teams used specific elements, such as character names, props, or particular lines, to create their own unique productions. Ian’s team won with its musical, *Potter’s Field Bed and Breakfast: A Musical Murder Mystery*.

Ian acts and dances regularly with a few local theater companies such as the Longwood Players and Blue Spruce, and dance organizations such as LCFD and Gays for Patsy. Be sure to say hello to him in the Student Service Center.

By Matthew Bailey, Web Services

Staff Profile



Tori Weston

Tori Weston is one of many Emersonians who studied here, fell in love with Emerson, and returned here to work. She coordinates the Arts and Communication Pre-College Programs in the Department of Professional Studies and Special Programs.

Weston graduated from Emerson with a BFA in Writing and Publishing in 1998, a member of the last class to live in the Charlesgate and Fensgate dormitories at the “old” Emerson campus in Back Bay. After college, she coordinated programs at Jam’nastics, a Cambridge-based nonprofit after-school program that uses dance and gymnastics to build community, celebrate diversity, and promote positive change. “I learned a lot about programming for young people,” she said.

In 2000, Weston returned to work at Emerson as a staff assistant in the Continuing Education office (now Professional Studies and Special Programs). She soon enrolled in Emerson’s Creative Writing graduate program, earning her MFA in 2004. During the program, Weston had many conversations with her fellow graduate students about writing and their high

school experiences. Inspired, she drafted a proposal for a summer creative writing program for high school students. The program, now in its eighth year, gives high school students “the encouragement we wished we had when we were teens,” she said.

The first summer program enrolled 23 students. It grew beyond creative writing and now spans many disciplines, ranging from political communication to theater. About 160 students are enrolled this summer, including the first group of international students. Weston credits her supervisor, Hank Zappala, with supporting her as she developed the program. “Hank had faith in me from the beginning,” she said.

So what does running summer programs entail? Strange as it may seem, it takes a full year to plan seven 5-week programs and two 2-week programs. As a self-described “jack-of-all trades,” Weston’s work ranges from writing brochure copy to talking with parents and students to hiring instructors and residential staff.

Each year brings new and interesting challenges for Weston. “My job is sometimes searching all over Boston for

gluten-free pizza for students with celiac disease, and giving my cell phone number to parents so they can feel their child is safe in Boston,” she said. “But it pays off when you see how badly some teens need a program like ours.” Another bonus for Weston is seeing students from her summer program enroll at Emerson.

When she’s not busy running pre-college programs, Weston puts her Emerson MFA to work, keeping a regular writing schedule. During the spring and summer she revises work, and in the fall she submits to literary magazines. Last year, Weston had a short story titled “Birthday Cake” published in *Sleet* magazine. She also takes advantage of the ProArts Consortium partnership by taking classes at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. “It keeps me focused,” she explained.

Whether she’s drafting text for a brochure, answering parents’ questions, or spending time with high school students, Weston combines her love of writing and the arts with her deep affection for Emerson.

By Jill Davidson, Academic Affairs

Staff Notes

Awards and Accomplishments

Vaughn Calhoun, interim assistant athletic director, earned his doctorate in higher education administration from Northeastern University.

New Faces: June and July 2012

- Brittany Bailey, Staff Assistant, Student Life
- Polly Carl, Institute Director, Center for the Theater Commons
- David Dower, Director of Artistic Programs, Center for the Theater Commons
- Andrew Feland, Network Director, Information Technology
- Jamie Gahlon, Co-Associate Director, Center for the Theater Commons
- Russell Goldenberg, Engagement Lab
- Matthew Harrington, Front of House, Office of the Arts
- Donna Heiland, Vice President and Special Assistant to the President
- Vijay Mathew, Co-Associate Director, Center for the Theater Commons
- Nnamdi Ogali, Information Analyst, Information Technology
- Peter Owens, Compensation and Benefits Director, Human Resources
- William Palumbo, Assistant, Library Operations
- Savannah Pearlman, Student Services Representative, Graduate Admission
- Sean Porter, Director, Graduate Admission
- Ryan Riberio, Residence Director, Housing and Residence Life
- Robert Smith, Director, Public Safety
- Nancy Trevethick, Controller, Finance
- Cindy Yao, Financial Reporting Analyst, Administration and Finance



Staff Participate in AIDS Walk and 5K Run

On June 3, Emerson staff members from several offices participated in the AIDS Walk and 5K Run. The Emerson College Staff Team raised \$2,221, including \$685 raised by Amanda Wade from the Registrar's Office. Pictured from left to right: Lauren Labonte (Registrar's Office), Kellie Fuller (Student Service Center), Gregory Chick (Financial Aid), Kerri Jacobs (Financial Aid), and Sarah Miles (Registrar's Office).

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 issue of the staff newsletter.



Blaine Butler
(Human Resources)
sports Emerson pride
in Italy.

Pet Photo Quiz

The pets pictured below belong to the Emerson staff members listed. Can you match the pets with their owners? Send your answers to Katie Gibson at katherine_gibson@emerson.edu!



1. Twister



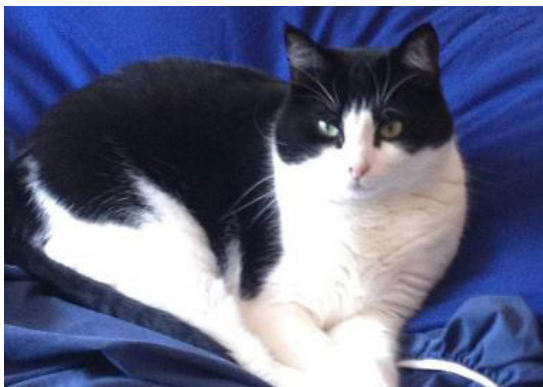
4. Sadie



2. Jeb



5. Benson and MacGruber



3. Jade

- a. Maria Piteros, Institutional Research
- b. Rachel Pearson, Alumni Relations
- c. Sara Brookshire Cummings, Admission
- d. Christina Zamon, Iwasaki Library
- e. Paul Mills, Admission

Lunch Break

Lunch Break is a new column featuring fun restaurants, activities, and sights that are easily accessible on your lunch break from Emerson.

We're in the middle of summer, which means area farmer's markets are bursting with colorful produce. However, many markets run only during business hours, which can make it difficult for commuters to visit the markets in their towns. Can't get to your neighborhood market? The Copley Square Farmer's Market is a mere four blocks from Emerson.

Every Tuesday and Friday, from mid-May to mid-November, more than a dozen stands offer a wide variety of items, from fresh fruits and vegetables to locally produced goat cheese, honey, and granola. Sofra Bakery, Cook's Farm, and the Danish Pastry House, among others, sell a wide variety of baked goods, from pies to pastries to doughnuts; Gilson's Herb Lyceum sells

potted herbs and flowers (though you might have a hard time carrying those home on the T).

Forgot your lunch? No problem. Iggy's Bread of the World sells sandwiches made on its own bread with fresh ingredients and Seta, next door, offers cooling salads and Mediterranean dishes, including hummus and baba ghanoush.

Most vendors require a cash payment, but with five different bank branches located on the Boylston Street side of the square, you can withdraw some cash and turn it into fresh, healthy produce to take home and enjoy. And while you're at it, listen to some local music, grab a bouquet of sunflowers, or plop down on a bench and do some people-watching.

By Katie Gibson, Web Services



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