

## Small Steps to Emerson Day

On Saturday, November 10, the Office of the President and the Department of Performing Arts will host their annual Emerson Day. Faculty and staff members and their families are invited to a free screening of the film *Holes*, followed by a free lunch, prizes, and games. The day concludes with a live performance of the play *Small Steps*, the sequel to *Holes*, featuring some of the characters from the original story.

"*Small Steps* is our annual Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) performance, which Performing Arts and Emerson Stage value highly," said Performing Arts Department Chair Melia Bensussen. "For me, this is one of the highlights of our season, since we focus our efforts on the next generation of theatergoers. We know that early exposure and inclusion in the arts creates a lifelong habit of cultural

engagement. And I love that we can give something back to the hardworking staff and faculty of Emerson with this production."

Director Robert Colby (Associate Professor, Performing Arts) leaped at the chance to produce *Small Steps*. "We are only the second production of the show, and we feel honored to be offering this play to audiences. Louis Sachar's books are much loved by several generations of young readers, and this production continues our strong relationship with Mr. Sachar and his material, since we offered *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* as part of the 2005–06 Emerson Stage season."

The free screening of *Holes* will take place in the Bright Family Screening Room at the Paramount Center at 11:00 am on Saturday, November 10. The live performance of *Small Steps* will begin

at 2:00 pm on the Paramount Center Mainstage. *Small Steps* is suitable for audiences over the age of 11. Lunch, provided by the Office of the President, will be served between the film and the show.

To reserve tickets for Emerson Day, visit the box office at the Paramount Center or Cutler Majestic Theatre with your faculty or staff Emerson ID. Tickets must be reserved by November 5. The box offices are open Monday–Saturday, 10:00 am–6:00 pm. (No phone or online orders, please.)

Performing Arts and Emerson Stage are excited to host their Emerson colleagues and families for the day. Please join us for this special celebration.

By David Colfer, Performing Arts

## Staff Profile



### Mirena Chavdarova

If you have visited Emerson's Print Copy Center, Mirena Chavdarova has probably helped you. She works with faculty, staff, and students across campus on a wide range of copy and graphic design projects. Her full workdays consist of making copies, filling letterhead orders, obtaining copyright permissions for class materials, training Print Copy Center staff on Adobe Creative Suite and other computer programs, and using her graphic design background to touch up page layouts for clients. Mirena has worked in the Print Copy Center since September 2006, and she recently became a U.S. citizen.

Mirena grew up in Veliko Tarnovo, the ancient capital of the second Bulgarian Kingdom, nestled in the Balkan Mountains where homes perch on terraces surrounding the Iantra River. The town's walled city includes a 13th-century castle and several ancient churches, as well as beautiful parks, pubs featuring live music, and plentiful coffee shops with outdoor patios.

The differences between living in Bulgaria and the United States are enormous, as Mirena explained. "We had only two TV channels and radio stations," she noted. Because of a modified electrical power schedule due to the country's energy crisis, she said, "Often we would dine by candlelight, singing and telling stories." Mirena may not miss those problems, but she does miss the Bulgarian food her mother made, including *imam bayildi*, a roasted eggplant, tomato, and garlic dish, and *banitca*, made with a pastry dough sheet, eggs, butter, and feta cheese.

After graduating from high school, Mirena earned bachelor's and master's degrees at St. Cyril and Methodius University in Veliko Tarnovo. Her master's program included a variety of computer science and graphic design courses. After graduating, she worked as a graphic designer for local firms, scanning images, designing brochures and business cards, and laying out newspapers.

Mirena received a green card from a lottery, which allowed her to come to the United States in 2001 to seek employment. "The hope for a higher standard of living brought me here," she said. Before arriving at Emerson, she worked as a copy operator at various print and graphics shops in Boston.

Outside of work, Mirena enjoys cooking, yoga, hiking, camping, dancing, live music, and drawing. "When I was in fifth grade, one of my paintings took first place at a national competition. Now I draw from time to time, as a part of a meditation routine," she said. She also has a passion for computer animation. "I really love Pixar movies, and I hope to learn to do computer animation," she added. She lives with her husband, Plamen, and her 10-year-old son, Christo.

Mirena said she enjoys the customer interaction and teamwork at Emerson's Print Copy Center. "I am still interested in honing my skills in graphic design," she said. If you're looking for design assistance on a project or simply need some copies made, stop by the relocated Print Copy Center (now at 98 Boylston Street) and get to know Mirena.

*By Jill Davidson, Office of Academic Affairs*

# Staff Profile

## Stan Nance

Stan Nance has held many jobs in Emerson's Athletics Department. His current official title is interim athletic director, but unofficially, he is one of the College's biggest fans. He speaks about his work with passion and pride, calling Emerson a "first-class" institution.

Stan's road to Emerson began in Washington, D.C., where he grew up. He played basketball at Rutgers University in New Jersey, eventually becoming team captain and leading his team to the NCAA Final Four. After graduation, he found his way back to Rutgers as a graduate assistant and part-time coach. This began Stan's long career as a Division I men's basketball coach. He has coached at numerous schools, including Rutgers, Boston College, Northeastern University, the University of Hartford, and the University of Miami.

While he loved coaching, Stan came to Emerson in 2003 because of the opportunity to "learn something else." Working as the assistant athletic director and recruiting coordinator, Stan became the first Emerson point of contact for potential student-athletes, traveling around the country to meet with students and tell them about the College.

Stan joked that he has held nearly every job in the department. At one point in 2006, he held three jobs: facility coordinator, assistant athletic director, and recruiting coordinator. "It was a lot of fun," he said. He also serves as a liaison with other departments, working with them to help meet the needs of student-athletes. Stan is proud that Emerson student-athletes are "leaders in the field and on the court, but also leaders on campus in their projects."



Stan is an early riser and can also fall asleep anywhere. Sometimes, he might fall asleep in front of the television at home, waking up at 3:00 am. Instead of going to bed, he gets ready for the day. "My coaches get a kick out of getting emails from me at 5:00 am," he said. He likes to get paperwork done early in the day, so he can be accessible to answer questions and meet with people.

Stan is also a movie buff. He likes the full theater experience: the surround sound and sitting right in front. Since his wife, Alethea, doesn't share his passion, he often goes to movies by himself. During the summers, when Emerson employees can leave early on Fridays, Stan sometimes sneaks in a matinee at the AMC Loews Boston Common Loews before heading home.

Stan and Alethea, whom he calls "A," just celebrated their 32nd anniversary. They were college sweethearts, and Stan says Alethea is the only person who can tell him when he is wrong. They have a son, Darnell, who played four years of soccer while earning his bachelor's degree at Dartmouth College. Stan also loves spending time with his six brothers, two sisters, and assorted nieces and nephews. "We are a pretty tight family," he said.

Coming up on his tenth year at Emerson, Stan simply said, "I love my job." By his own admission, Stan is "infatuated with being the best, and Emerson is the best."

*By Matt Bailey, Office of Communications and Marketing*



# Staff Notes

## Marriages

- Seamus Gallagher (Human Resources) married Stephen Caraco on September 7, 2012.
- Marissa Capineri (Career Services) married Derrick Shallcross on September 15, 2012.

## Awards and Accomplishments

- Andrea Martucci, managing editor of *Ploughshares*, received an MA in Integrated Marketing Communication from Emerson in August 2012.

## New Faces

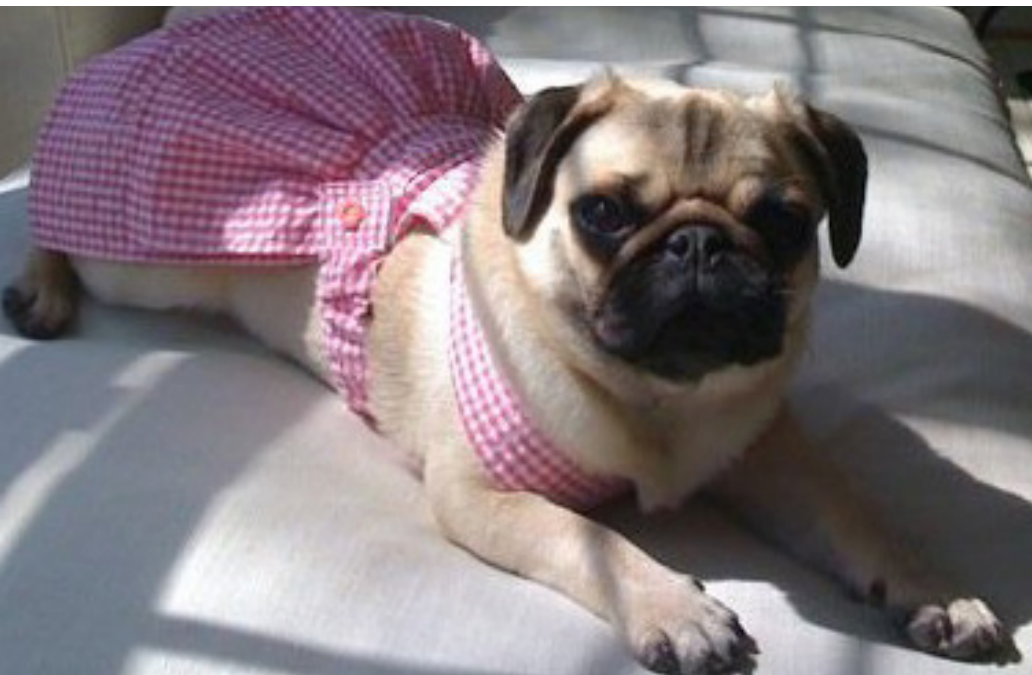
- Michaela Fabrizio, Credential Processing Coordinator, Undergraduate Admission
- Brian Pelletier, Lab Systems/Support Specialist, Information Technology
- Scott Wallace, Associate Director of Production, Office of the Arts
- Gary Walling, Director of Prospect Management Research, Development and Alumni Relations

## News

### Mark Your Calendars: 2012–13 Staff Forums

November 1, 2012	2:00–4:00 pm
March 4, 2013	2:00–4:00 pm
May 2, 2013	2:00–4:00 pm

All forums will be held in the Bill Bordy Theater at 216 Tremont Street.



### Submit Your Halloween Pet Photos

Dressing up your pet for Halloween? Send us your photos! We'll feature a selection in the November issue of *people@Emerson*.

Sweet Pea, owned by Blaine Butler,  
Human Resources

## 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.

# Lunch Break

The temperatures are dropping, the Swan Boats have been put away for the season, and the weather is sometimes a little damp for picnicking. But the Boston Public Garden is still a beautiful place to spend your lunch break.

Located just a short walk from Emerson, the Public Garden is the smaller, slightly more formal neighbor of Boston Common. Licensed as a public space in 1838, it is the first public botanical garden in the United States. Its statues and memorials include several Boston statesmen and clergy; an imposing figure of George Washington on his horse, facing west down Commonwealth Avenue; and a line of bronze figures depicting Mrs. Mallard and her eight ducklings, the stars of



## people@Emerson

Published monthly by  
the Office of Communications and  
Marketing

**Executive Editor**  
Andy Tiedemann

**Editor**  
Katie Gibson

**Designer**  
Chuck Dunham

**Copy Editor**  
Nancy Howell

**Advisory Group**  
Matthew Bailey  
Jill Davidson  
Sharon Duffy  
Karla Fibley  
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](mailto:Katherine_Gibson@emerson.edu).**

Robert McCloskey's picture book *Make Way for Ducklings*. (Visitors can also observe and feed the real ducks and several pairs of swans who make their home in the Garden's man-made lagoon.)

Musicians, tourists, and locals alike flock to the Public Garden for a bit of quiet space and a breath of fresh air in the middle of the city. But even on a crowded day, the park's many

benches make it easy to find a spot to spend a little time eating your lunch, people-watching, or enjoying a good book and a hot drink. (Pumpkin spice latte, anyone?)

*By Katie Gibson, Office of  
Communications and Marketing*



EMERSON COLLEGE