



Staff Profile

Peter Paradise Michaels

Many people know Peter Paradise Michaels from the IT Help Desk. But they many not know that he went to college here and is a photographer.

Paradise Michaels has worked at Emerson for 13 years. He describes his job as helping Emerson community members get the best use of their technology. Paradise Michaels handles work orders that are called into the Help Desk. The majority of the issues are about email, printing, and using copiers. He said, "I really enjoy helping people, so this job is a great fit for me."

Before working at Emerson, he held various jobs in the technology industry. He has worked for employers such as Stream, Inc., Harvard University, and Palm, Inc. He grew up in Newton, Massachusetts, and has lived in the Boston area for most of his adult life.

He graduated from Emerson in 1984, having majored in Radio Broadcasting, or "Mass Comm" as the major was called, because he wanted to be an announcer on a jazz radio station. "I had a great time on the air on WERS," he said. But by the end of his senior year, he decided a DJ's life was not for him.



He received a Mac SE computer as a wedding present in 1990. Since then, computers have been a critical tool for his artistic endeavors as well as a cornerstone for his professional career.

When he is not working at the Help Desk, Paradise Michaels enjoys photography; he has been a photographer for almost 20 years.

You may have seen his work on campus: his work is currently on display in the Iwasaki Library. The exhibit included many images of large landscapes and a series of roses. He also had a "mini showing" in the Visual and Media Arts Department from 2006 to 2008.

Paradise Michaels has photographed a variety of subjects over the years. He started with landscapes, nature, and still lifes. But when he took Lauren Shaw's photography class, "everything changed." In her class, he learned about photographer Diane Arbus and various styles of portraiture. Around the same time, he met some members of the Boston "cultural underground" and began working to document their lives and performances.

Many of his current clients are belly dancers. He tours the country with his wife, who is a dancer herself, and photographs performances. Samples of his recent work can be found at peterparadise.net.

By Jill Davidson, Academic Affairs

Staff Notes

About IT

More About Peter's Department...

Information Technology consists of six teams:

- The **Help Desk** provides the College community with assistance in the use of information technologies.
- **Lab Operations** manages computer labs and classroom computers.
- The **Instructional Technology Group** assists faculty with technology usage.
- **Media Services** oversees audiovisual usage in classrooms and meeting spaces.
- **Enterprise Systems** is in charge of campus-wide computer systems, including Banner.
- **Infrastructure** maintains IT networking, telecommunications, and server systems.

Learn more about each group's services at it.emerson.edu/services.

Awards and Accomplishments

- Christina Zamon (Iwasaki Library) is a newly minted digital archives specialist (DAS). She and 13 other archivists were the first to earn a DAS Certificate from the Society of American Archivists (SAA) after completing required coursework within 24 months and passing comprehensive examinations in August.
- MJ Halberstadt (Undergraduate Admission) has written a play, *not Jenny*, that will be presented by Bridge Repertory Theater of Boston. Performances run from December 6 to 15 in Deane Hall in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts. The production team also includes Rebecca Bradshaw '10 and Philana Gnatowski '04.
- Eugenia Kim (Iwasaki Library) was an Association for Research Libraries/Underrepresented Groups Fellow at the 2013 Digital Library Federation Forum and Taiga 9 Forum in November.

New Faces

- Lindsay DeStefano, Athletics Administrator, Athletics
- Rosalie Gartner, Archives and Records Management Associate, Iwasaki Library
- Brian Geer, Director, Development Communication, Development and Alumni Relations
- Amy Grill, Director, Engagement Marketing and Alumni Outreach, Emerson College Los Angeles
- Sarah Lovell, Research Assistant, Communication Sciences and Disorders
- James Nunziato, Senior Financial and Budget Analyst, Financial Affairs
- Alexandra Parker, Credential Processing Coordinator, Undergraduate Admission
- Ashley Tarbet, Administrative Associate, Elma Lewis Center/Government and Community Relations
- Jacob Wen, Lab Support Services Analyst, Information Technology
- Nadia Yassa, Director of Gift Planning, Development and Alumni Relations

Births

Kerri Jacobs (Financial Aid) and her husband, Mark, welcomed their son, Cooper, on July 28, 2013.



Eloise
Christina Harrington (ArtsEmerson)



Stella
Anna Feder (Visual and Media Arts)

Staff Notes cont.

New Faces Spotlight

Emerson has welcomed back yet another alumna, Ashley Tarbet. Tarbet is an administrative associate for two departments: Government and Community Relations and the Elma Lewis Center for Civic Engagement, Learning, and Research (ELC).

For Government and Community Relations, she is assisting with administrative tasks as well as attending community meetings and learning about the College's local partnerships.

For the ELC, she is supporting its programming and goal-setting efforts. She is especially happy to be involved with the ELC's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program, as she herself participated in ASB twice while a student. Students in the ASB program

visit different areas of the country during Spring Break to engage in a variety of community service projects.

After graduating from Emerson with a Political Communication degree in 2009, Tarbet recruited individual and corporate volunteers for the Boston nonprofit Cradles to Crayons, through the AmeriCorps VISTA program. After her VISTA sponsorship ended, she was hired as a full-time staff member. She spent the following three years creating the organization's "Giving Corps," a comprehensive volunteer training program. While at Cradles to Crayons, Tarbet remained involved with Emerson by hosting Alternative Spring Break projects.

Tarbet's passion for creating positive change extends to her personal life as well. She enjoys volunteering at



Community Servings, which prepares and delivers meals to people with life-threatening illnesses in the Greater Boston area. This past summer, she ran her first half marathon in support of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation.

Tarbet is a native of Brockton, Massachusetts, and currently lives in Braintree with her fiancé Nick and their two cats.

President M. Lee Pelton
invites you and your family to

Celebrate the Season

at the Emerson College Holiday Party

Wednesday
December 11, 2013
5:30-8:00 pm

InterContinental Boston
510 Atlantic Avenue

RSVP by December 4 to
presidentialevents@emerson.edu.
Please include the number of
adults and children in your party.

*Roundtrip bus transportation
will be provided.*

Staff News

Staff Forum Recap

President Pelton held a staff forum on November 7 in the Bill Bordy Theater. Director of Compensation and Benefits Peter Owens started the program with an update on the compensation study that began last fall. He went over the study's objectives and its progress thus far.

He announced that HR will hold meetings for staff in November to explain the new salary structure and job leveling scheme in more detail. Staff will receive letters about their new job level and salary range in December.

President Pelton gave a brief overview of his recent State of the College address. He noted recent successes for the College as well as the challenges it faces. The text of the address can be found at emerson.edu/about-emerson/administration/president/speeches-remarks/state-college.

Pelton moved on to discuss the recent Office of Civil Rights complaint that has been filed against the College, regarding its violation of Title IX policies. He briefed the audience on the history of Title IX, which was originally an amendment of the Higher Education Act that ensured equal access to higher education for women.

He noted that the amendment eventually transformed into sexual assault policy. In 2011, the federal government stated that sexual assault would be considered sexual discrimination, and a crime. Subsequently, colleges across the country, including Emerson, began to recalibrate their sexual assault policies.

The College has hired an external reviewer to examine its current policies and procedures; an internal review will focus on the College's current sexual assault prevention, education, and support services.

Chief Academic Officer Michael Whelan was the final speaker at the forum. She gave a presentation on the current state of online education and what online education at Emerson may look like in the future.

After providing an overview of current strategies and misconceptions regarding online education, she explained goals for the College's future program, which would target adults interested in career advancement.

Whelan said that it will be imperative to invest in people to make online education at Emerson a reality. Staff will be called on to do everything from create software and train faculty to market the online programs and monitor compliance issues.

Photo Contest Winner



Congratulations to Paul Twist (Iwasaki Library) for correctly identifying the mystery photo in the October issue. The image is a part of a mural found along the top of the Little Building lobby.

Tech Spot

IT Help Center

You can now submit support requests online, in addition to calling or emailing the Help Desk. The online form is found at:

it.emerson.edu/support

Staff News cont.

Staff Volunteer for Emerson Action Day

On Veterans Day, the Office of Off-Campus Student Services hosted its annual Emerson Action Day, a day devoted to community service. Forty-five students and staff members completed more than 100 hours of community service at St. Francis House, Goodwill Massachusetts, Hale House, Boston Rescue Mission, Sierra Club, Women's Lunch Place, and Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Operation Appreciation, a letter writing campaign for veterans, servicemen and women, and their families, was held on campus throughout the day.

A special thank you to staff volunteers Steven Martin and Samantha Neary (Off-Campus Student Services), Claire Suthar (Enrollment Management), and Robert Fleming (Iwasaki Library).



Suthar volunteered for Operation Appreciation. She enjoyed the experience because she brought her children along, which gave her the chance to do an activity with her family that helped others. Fleming helped in the kitchen of St. Francis House with a team of students. "There's something about fighting back tears together while peeling onions or dodging the spray from the dishwasher that

Bob Fleming (far right) with students

encourages communication and sharing," he said. "Overall, it was a very worthwhile experience, and I will definitely participate in the next Emerson Action Day on Veterans Day, if not before."

Sustainable Emerson

Green the Breakroom

There are so many ways to green your breakroom area!

Recycle plastic and paper products (yogurt containers, plastic cups, cardboard containers, etc.). If your breakroom is missing a bin type, please place a work order for one.

Put your food waste in a brown paper bag and bring it to any of the dining facilities to be composted: Dining Hall, Emerson's Café, Common's Café, and Paramount Café.

Plug the microwave and coffee machine into a power strip and turn it off before you leave every night to reduce energy consumption.

Buy eco-friendly cleaning products for the office.

Use cloth napkins and towels if possible, or buy paper napkins and towels with recycled content.

Use reusable mugs, plates, bowls, and cutlery if possible, or buy disposable items with recycled content.

Purchase coffee for the office that is fair-trade certified and/or organic.

Staples makes it easy to buy green products online. Just put "recycled" in the search field or look for the Eco-conscious Products and Recycled Products sections.

HR and You

Inside Scoop

New Voluntary Life Insurance Program

During open enrollment, eligible faculty and staff may purchase additional life insurance in increments of \$10,000, up to an additional \$300,000 of coverage. Up to \$100,000 of the \$300,000 limit may be purchased without proof of health; amounts in excess of \$100,000 are subject to approval based on completion of a health questionnaire. Spousal Life Insurance and Dependent (Child) Life are also available for purchase. For more details, including rates, visit emerson.edu/about-emerson/offices-departments/human-resources/benefits/life-and-long-term-disability-insurance/voluntary-life-insurance-program.

HR Spotlight

It was great to see so many of you at the Benefits Fair at the Bordy Theater; thank you for joining us for a fun and informative day!

This year's fair launched the Healthy You wellness program for faculty and staff. The program is offered in partnership with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and the Boston Consortium for Higher Education. In its first year at Emerson, the program will focus on preventive screenings and interventions that can help to identify risk factors for illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

Faculty and staff who are eligible for medical benefits may complete an online Health Questionnaire (harvardpilgrim.org/emersoncollege, for Harvard Pilgrim members) anytime

during open enrollment. If you complete the Health Questionnaire and submit your raffle ticket to Human Resources before December 6, you will receive a \$75 Visa gift card later in December.

Open enrollment will end on Saturday, November 30. Remember that this is your annual opportunity (unless you have a change-of-status event during the year) to enroll in and/or change your current benefit elections at emerson.edu/open-enrollment. Please note that if you want to continue your Flexible Spending Account(s) (Health Care Reimbursement and Dependent Care Reimbursement Accounts) for 2014, you must elect this option each year; it will not renew automatically.



Maya Rafie '17

Joe Arbeely (Development and Alumni Relations) checks in at the Benefits Fair.

people@Emerson on the Web

You can find the employee newsletter publication schedule, submission information, and archives at emerson.edu/about-emerson/offices-departments/human-resources/current-employees/people-emerson.

Work Smarter

Clean Out Your Office Day Returns

This is a new section that will feature tips and resources for making your work life easier. If you would like to share your tips on staying organized or help demystify certain College procedures, send a note to people@emerson.edu.

The Records Management team will be holding a “clean out your office” event December 17 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and December 18 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Bordy Theater at 216 Tremont Street. Clean out your file cabinets and bring your boxes of paper to be shredded/destroyed. There will be several bins so bring as much as you can!

The Records Management staff can also advise you on what to keep, what to shred, and what should be sent to the Archives. This event is for Emerson College records only. Please **do not** bring in personal papers from home.

If you have questions about this event, please contact the team at records_management@emerson.edu.

people@Emerson

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Send news or suggestions to
people@emerson.edu.



EMERSON COLLEGE

Upcoming Events

Here are snapshots of upcoming events. See the online Events Calendar at emerson.edu/news-events/events-calendar for more details.

November 30–December 8

Mies Julie
ArtsEmerson Production

December 3

Passion: An Evening with Academy Award–Nominated Producer Sarah Green '81
VMA Bright Lights Series

December 5

DER Presents:
A Life Without Words
VMA Bright Lights Series

Campus-Wide Food Drive

The Office of Government and Community Relations; the Elma Lewis Center for Civic Engagement, Learning, and Research; and the Max Mutchnick Campus Center invite the Emerson community to contribute to a holiday food drive to benefit the Greater Boston Food Bank. Canned and other dry good items will be collected at two locations on campus through Wednesday, December 18:

- The Information Booth on the first floor of the Campus Center at 150 Boylston Street
- The 10th floor lobby of the Walker Building at 120 Boylston Street

For more information on what items to donate, go to gbfb.org/perch/resources/FFD_ToolKit_070213.pdf.