

## Staff Profile

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### Christopher Grant

Christopher Grant has been working in Undergraduate Admission since 2007. As the senior assistant director, he spends the busy fall recruitment season traveling to college fairs and visiting high schools in his domestic territories of Connecticut, Georgia, North Carolina, New York, and Massachusetts, as well as Central and South America.

Grant, along with the rest of the Undergraduate Admission counseling staff, is charged with enlightening high school students about the undergraduate

experience at Emerson, and subsequently reviewing thousands of applications for admission from hopeful students.

His specialties lie in multicultural recruitment; coordinating efforts to reach special populations; helping to organize pipeline programs for high school students; and supervising student admission outreach leaders, a special team of Emerson student employees dedicated to connecting with international and local communities.



Grant's proudest achievement at Emerson has been the piloting of emersonWRITES, a creative writing program offered to Boston-area

*continued on next page*

## Staff Profile cont.

high school students, which he developed in 2010. The program offers students a unique opportunity to develop writing skills and learn from Emerson's MFA graduate students while spending time on our campus.

Another tradition that Grant looks forward to each year is hand-delivering acceptance letters to students in the Boston public school system with whom he has worked closely. These interactions are often life-changing for the student and very moving for Grant.

A native of Cambridge, Massachusetts, he graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School and attended Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans.

Though he once aspired to be a pediatrician, he gravitated toward social work and youth programming after taking a psychology class in his sophomore year.

Admission has proved to be the perfect outlet for Grant to "help students find their academic and occupational path." He is passionate about the preservation of art programs in education and loves Emerson for its dedication to nurturing creative intelligence.

Grant also likes working at Emerson because "students have the opportunity balance fun and professionalism. They learn that their craft can be fun but needs to be supported with a high level of personal responsibility. With this type of holistic education, Emerson grads leave with confidence and ownership of their craft."

Now living in Randolph, Massachusetts, with his wife Donnaree (also a higher education professional), Grant welcomed his first daughter, Layla, 18 months ago. Together, they enjoy "going to outdoor festivals and exploring the many parks, ponds, and trails in Greater Boston."

## About Undergraduate Admission

### More About Christopher's Department...

The Office of Undergraduate Admission works with prospective first-year and transfer students. The admission process begins with recruitment and marketing, followed by assisting students with the application process and conducting a review of each application received for admission. Once students accept their admission offer, staff award scholarships and merit aid. Learn more at [emerson.edu/admission/undergraduate-admission](http://emerson.edu/admission/undergraduate-admission).

He also engages with education through recreational reading about urban education and diversity and is pursuing a Master of Education at Northeastern.

*By Mia Seidner,  
Undergraduate Admission*

# Staff Notes

## New Faces

- Jessica Chance, Assistant Director, Career Services
- Jonathan Clayden, Director, Post-grad Professional/Certificate Programs, Emerson Los Angeles
- William Curley, Head Coach, Men's Basketball, Athletics
- Ellen Duffer, Managing Editor/Assistant Director, *Ploughshares*
- Melanie Matson, Director, Violence Prevention and Response, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Patricia Nicol, Director, Athletics
- Jennifer Pease, Senior Administrative Associate, Financial Affairs
- Laurie Smith, Senior Administrative Associate, Information Technology

## Births

Karla Fribley (Iwasaki Library) and her husband, Ben Hartman, welcomed their son, Gus, on March 24.

## Announcements

- Please join Vice President MJ Knoll-Finn at a luncheon for all Emerson College faculty and staff who have a child entering college in 2014 or 2015! This lunch will be a forum for sharing thoughts and feedback about the college search process, whether at Emerson or at other colleges, with the Office of Enrollment Management. RSVP to [Adena Smith](#) by June 3.  
Tuesday, June 10  
12:00–1:30 pm  
Location TBD
- Anna Feder (VMA) attended the 67th Cannes film festival with seven Emerson students through a partnership with Creative Minds in Cannes. Ten Emerson student shorts were presented in the Cannes Short Film Corner on May 21.
- Looking for summer reading recommendations? Look no further than the Iwasaki Library! Visit the display that showcases summer reading recommended by the Library staff. The display features approximately 30 books and some films.

## Awards and Accomplishments

Congratulations to the following staff who graduated from Emerson in May or will graduate in August: Tony Ascenso (TRF), Liliana Ballesteros (Creative Services), Linda Best (Human Resources), Kendra Rafferty (Admission), Al Ragone (Professional Studies), and Jonathan Satriale (School of Communication).



# Staff Notes cont.

## New Faces Spotlight

Jessica Chance, an alumna from the Class of 2000, has recently joined the Career Services Office as assistant director, liaison to alumni and graduate students.

Chance meets with alumni and grad students one-on-one to discuss résumé and cover letter writing, as well as how to conduct industry research, network effectively, and interview for internships and jobs. Chance helps her students and alumni decide on the best way “to market themselves and tell their story” in interviews.

Also included in her role is helping with the professional development program for grad students called EmersonNEXT, which is a collaboration among Career Services, Graduate Studies, and the Graduate Student Association. Through EmersonNEXT, grad students attend special employer information sessions, panels, and networking events with faculty and alumni.

For alumni, she’s been working with the Alumni Office and Multicultural Student Affairs on the EBONI Mentoring Program, which pairs alumni with students who would like support around networking, industry information, career advice, and using resources at Emerson. Chance also works with the many alumni who have “dual careers,” i.e., they work a day job as well as engage in creative work such as acting.

Chance enjoys working with such alumni because she has a similar background. As a student, she studied acting and creative writing. She found that her passion for theater for social justice easily transitioned into a passion for counseling and helping people reach their professional goals.

A few years after graduating from Emerson, she enrolled in Lesley University’s master’s program in clinical mental health counseling. She discovered career counseling through a faculty mentor of hers. During the program, she did a one–



year graduate internship in Emerson’s Career Services Office. After graduation, she worked at Boston College Career Center for five years as an assistant director of diversity resources and career counseling. Chance is happy to be back at Emerson, a place where “her heart is.”

Outside of the office, Chance acts in productions at Boston Playwrights’ Theatre, Company One, and Huntington Theatre Company. She will perform in Company One’s upcoming play, *Astroboy and the God of Comics*. She also likes to run and is “always in between reading three different books.” Chance is originally from Connecticut and lives in Somerville, Massachusetts.

# Staff News

## Where Creativity Rolls Up Its Sleeves

Our website boldly tells prospective students that Emerson College is a place “where creativity rolls up its sleeves.” In January, the Office of the President launched a series of “Conversations About Creativity,” inviting faculty and staff to engage in just that.

Donna Heiland, vice president and special assistant to the president, convened the conversations with the goal of setting aside a time for faculty and staff to roll up their sleeves and brainstorm together about what creativity is, how it develops in individuals and in institutions, and how institutions become the “nimble, risk-taking, innovative, and imaginative places that they say they want to be. Creativity is at the heart of everything we do here at Emerson,” said Heiland, and it is essential to realizing our shared vision for the College, as articulated in our Strategic Plan.

More than 60 faculty and staff participated in the four Conversations, held over breakfast in the Beard Room, which featured discussion about what creativity is, how we can harness creativity to achieve innovation, and how we can help ensure that our community members are able to fully develop their creative capacities.

Thomas Vogel, graduate program director for Global Marketing Communication and Advertising, helped facilitate the Conversations and spoke about some of the findings in his new book, *Breakthrough Thinking: A Guide to Creative Thinking and Idea Generation*.

The Conversations included discussion of the “creative campus” and how this idea might help us foster creativity in the work we do and the education we offer. The final Conversation, held on April 15, asked participants to think about developing further programming on creativity for next year, which generated

ideas that included seminars, speaker series, workshops, working groups, and communication tools that encourage cross-departmental collaboration.

Given our current tag line—“Bringing innovation to communication and the arts”—our commitment to innovation is one that we want to live up to, and can. This summer, the Office of the President will publish a summary of the Conversations About Creativity online, as well as links to the readings on creativity that helped jumpstart the Conversations.

Heiland said she hopes to begin more formal programming on creativity for faculty and staff in the fall. Staff who would like to be a part of that process are encouraged to contact Heiland directly at [donna\\_heiland@emerson.edu](mailto:donna_heiland@emerson.edu).

*By Diana Potter, Development and Alumni Relations*



# Pet Quiz

Emersonians are animal lovers! Match the pet with his/her owner. Answers are on the following page.



1. Twyla



2. Josie



3. Henry



4. Bongo



5. Muffin Top Blackheart

- a. Suzanne Hinton (Service Learning)
- b. Ryan Walsh (Office of the Arts)
- c. Trent Bagley (Professional Studies)
- d. Diane Paxton (Disability Services)
- e. Garrett Herzig (Office of the Arts)

## HR and You

### Upcoming Events

Friday, June 11, 9:00 am–5:00 pm:

TIAA CREF

Friday, June 18, 9:00 am–4:00 pm:

Fidelity

Wednesday, July 16, 11:00 am–4:00 pm:

VALIC

### HR Spotlight

We hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful spring weather after such a long, snowy winter! In addition to summer hours (3:00 pm closing on Fridays) between May 23 and August 22, we hope everyone has the chance to take some much-deserved vacation time this summer. Please take a moment to log into eCommon and check your leave balances. Don't forget that you also earn three use-or-lose personal days every year on your hire date—perfect for a few extra-long weekends!

## Upcoming Events

Here are snapshots of upcoming events.

See [artsemerson.org](http://artsemerson.org) for more details.

### *Eugene Onegin*

June 6–7

ArtsEmerson production

### *GMO OMG*

June 11

ArtsEmerson film screening

### *Driving Miss Daisy*

June 6–8

ArtsEmerson film screening

### *Henry IV Pt. I*

June 27–29

ArtsEmerson film screening

### Staff Forum

June 5, 2:00–4:00 pm

Bordy Theater

### Pet Quiz Answers

1. b.
2. d.
3. e.
4. c.
5. a.

# Sustainable Emerson

## Tips for a Greener Summer

It was a rough winter, but summer is on the horizon! Here are some tips for a greener summer.

### Walk or Bike to Work

Take greener modes of transport in the warmer months. You'll reduce carbon emissions with the added benefit of improving your health. That's a win-win.

### Eat and Shop Local

Starting in May, farmers' markets will be opening for the season. Invite your coworkers to get lunch at a nearby market. The Copley Square market is every Tuesday and Friday. The Boston Public Market in Dewey Square is every Tuesday and Thursday. The City Hall Farmers' Market has been moved due to construction; it is at 136 Blackstone Street on the Greenway every Monday and Wednesday.

### Fans and Air Conditioners

Before you leave for work in the morning, turn down (or off) your fans or air conditioners. If you have central air, you can buy a timer at a home improvement store and program it to turn the air back on before you return home.

# Tech Spot

## Summer Workshops

Do you have questions about Excel, Outlook, or Adobe CC? Wonder how best to prevent malicious attacks on your devices and keep your data safe?

We're here to help! Bring your questions, projects, or devices to our training clinics for individualized help from a technician. All sessions are open to current students, faculty, and staff.

Browse our new summer listings and sign up for sessions at [it.emerson.edu/workshops](http://it.emerson.edu/workshops).

If you cannot attend these workshops but are interested in training, contact the Help Desk at ext. 8080.



# Work Smarter

## Website Tips

### Did You Know...

#### ...You can use an Emerson-specific link shortener?

The shortener (akin to Bit.ly) allows you increase click-through rates in email blasts, offer concise messaging via social media, and view analytics on who is clicking on your links. To start, visit [ec1880.us](http://ec1880.us).

#### ...You can request Google Analytics on your web pages?

Simply email webmaster [Nicole Leete](mailto:Nicole.Leete@emerson.edu) and specify a date range and what you'd like to track (e.g., page views, visitor information, content drilldown).

#### ...You can get trained in Drupal, the College's content management system?

Trainings take about an hour and a half and occur throughout the month. You must first get approval from your chair or

department head. Have him or her send a formal written request to [web@emerson.edu](mailto:web@emerson.edu).

**Note:** Please request training only if you expect to update web pages on a regular basis. If you do not expect to update pages often or if you need help with a one-time project, please contact content developer [Sarah Teczar](mailto:Sarah.Teczar@emerson.edu); she can update the pages for you.

Visit [press.emerson.edu/webservices](http://press.emerson.edu/webservices) for more tech tips and information about Web Services.

## people@Emerson

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