

people@Emerson

The Employee
Newsletter of
Emerson College



February 2012

Upcoming Event

Staff Forum
March 22, 2012
2:00–4:00 pm
Bordy Theater

Get Fit at Emerson

'Tis the season for New Year's resolutions—or, more likely, feeling guilty about not living up to those ambitious goals you set for yourself on January 1. Now that the holidays are over, winter has set in, and the semester is in full swing, you may be wondering how to fit in a workout or exercise class for that extra shot of endorphins and energy. The answer may be closer than you think; in fact, it's in the basement of the Little Building.

The Emerson College Fitness Center offers free membership to all full-time staff members. (Part-time staff members can purchase a membership for \$50 per semester.) Membership

includes access to the center's 10,000 square feet of workout facilities and all its group classes, which range from boot camp to Zumba. The center schedules an average of 17 classes a week, and staff are welcome to join in whenever they like.

"We also offer free personalized exercise programs to all our members," said Ron Smithers, director of the Fitness Center. Members can sign up online for a personal fitness assessment, in which they will meet with a trained staff member to discuss their fitness goals and develop an exercise routine tailored to their schedule and habits.



Staff Profiles

Jacinda Ojeda



Jacinda Ojeda is a college admissions enthusiast. The senior assistant admission director came to Emerson a little more than a year ago, after working at University of Pennsylvania and Stonehill College.

A native of Scarborough, Maine, Ojeda was the first person in her family to attend college. Her passion for admissions began during her own college decision-making journey. She chose Muhlenberg College, a small liberal arts school in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and worked as a tour guide and in the admissions office there. After graduating, Ojeda went into sales and marketing for a year. The job paid the bills, but wasn't fulfilling or exciting. She decided to revisit her interest in college admissions.

In her short time at the College, Ojeda has been instrumental in improving and updating the school's visitor center and its programs. Emerson's visitor center is the face of Emerson to prospective students and their families. Ojeda takes the importance of that first impression to heart. Aside from making the visitor center comfortable and welcoming, she works on larger initiatives to improve the visit experience at Emerson.

Ojeda is especially proud of the changes she's made to the Student Admission Representative, or "STAR," program. Originally, all students in the STAR program worked both as tour guides and assistants in the Admission Office. Working in both roles stretched the students too thin, and some students were more suited to one job than the other. Now, each STAR works

in one role, depending on his or her strengths. Ojeda admitted it wasn't easy to make such a big change, but the shift has improved things for the students and for visitors.

Updating the visitor center's programs is only part of Ojeda's job. As an admission counselor, she visits high schools around the country as an ambassador for Emerson and reads hundreds of applications. Emerson received 7,400 applications last year, which are divided among approximately 10 admission counselors.

"Life as an admission counselor is really interesting because you spend one or two months in the fall on the road, talking to families and students and guidance counselors all day long about Emerson," said Ojeda. "Then you go home and you go into hibernation, because you're reading applications from November to early March. It's a total 180."

Meeting high school students in person, getting a glimpse into the lives of the ones who apply, and seeing what they accomplish if they come to Emerson is truly rewarding, she said.

"It's exciting to envision what's going to happen once we give this film student [who is applying to Emerson] great camera equipment instead of a Flip cam, or once this writer has access to our faculty members. What these 17-year-olds will be able to accomplish by the time they graduate is really amazing," she said.

By Emily Files '14



John Vanderpol

Many Emersonians know John Vanderpol as the friendly facilities management crew chief who works the evening shift at Emerson. They see him setting up for events, cleaning up around campus, and answering emergency maintenance calls. But what many don't know is that when he's not at Emerson, Vanderpol pursues his true passion: landscaping and agriculture.

Plants are not just a hobby for Vanderpol. He has a bachelor's degree in plant and soil science from the University of Vermont, and his landscaping company, Northern Designs, has more than 50 residential landscaping customers in 10 different Boston-area towns. His clients, who call him "the plant doctor" because of his ability to revive sick plants, include the owner of a local modeling agency, the daughter of a former Massachusetts governor, and several Emerson staff and faculty members.

"It's been a lot of work but a lot of fun," said Vanderpol. "I enjoy working with plants, especially in yards where they need a lot of help resolving problems. I find it challenging, and I like to make things healthy again. It's rewarding when you can see results, making a tree healthy or a lawn green."

Originally from New Jersey, Vanderpol moved to Bennington, Vermont, as a teen and attended the University of Vermont. He discovered his interest in landscaping while working at a part-time, high school job maintaining the grounds of a local bank.

After college, Vanderpol worked maintaining the grounds of a large company in Vermont. A short time later, he moved to the Boston area and began working for Mahoney's Garden Center in Winchester, one of the largest gardening centers in New England. During the winter slow season, many employees were laid off, including Vanderpol, and that's how he ended up at Emerson.

"I came in 1991 thinking I would only stay for the winter, but I came and never left," he said. "I love the people at Emerson. It's almost like a family, with a lot of interesting people to work with."

At Emerson, Vanderpol's work includes typical facilities duties, but he's also been able to incorporate some of his love for plant life into his job. He maintains the playing fields at Rotch Field; he takes care of plant life on campus; he landscaped the courtyard at Piano Row; and he's always eager to give plant advice to Emersonians who frequently go to him with questions. He gets so many questions, in fact, that he's even thought about holding a free gardening and landscaping seminar for his Emerson co-workers.

Vanderpol's favorite Emerson experience has been working at commencement every year. To him, it's an exciting time to work backstage. And over the years, he's met a wide variety of celebrities there, including Senator John Kerry, actress Jane Fonda, and media mogul Ted Turner.

With a time-consuming second job and an hourlong commute from Hudson, Massachusetts, Vanderpol doesn't have time for much else, but that's the way he likes it.

"It's nonstop," he said. "I work a little too much, but the landscaping is almost like play time to me. It's a lot of fun, but I definitely get more sleep and have more time for extra fun activities in the winter."

After more than 20 years at Emerson, Vanderpol doesn't plan on leaving any time soon. But someday, when he's looking for a less physical profession, he hopes to continue on as "the plant doctor" in a new way: He'd like to open a greenhouse and sell plants, such as his favorite, the notoriously difficult to grow Lace Leaf Japanese Maple.

By Allison Teixeira, Office of Communications and Marketing

Staff Notes

Births

- Grayson Garner was born to Beth MacEachin (Housing) and her husband, Caleb Garner, on November 14, 2011.
- Bennett Bradley MacArthur was born to Timothy MacArthur (TRF) and Colleen Bradley-MacArthur on January 3, 2012.

Weddings

- Amanda Turnley (Housing) married Adam Lanthier on December 3, 2011.
- Carole McFall (Communications and Marketing) married Patrick Ramirez on February 2, 2012.

Engagements

- Robin Hoyt (IT Lab Operations, MA '07) and Daniel Chace (formerly of IT) were engaged on October 12, 2011.

Awards and Accomplishments

- Darby Smotherman (Office of the Arts) earned her MFA in sound design from Boston University in December 2011.

New Faces

December 2011

- Susan Stockwell, Benefits/Compensation Manager, Human Resources

- Crystina Hammond, Benefits/Compensation Coordinator, Human Resources
- Lenny Manzo, Director of Production and Safety, Visual and Media Arts
- Chris Chernicki, Coordinator of Wellness Education, Center for Health and Wellness

January 2012

- Casarae Clark, Events Coordinator, Undergraduate Admission
- Stephen Walter, Community Coordinator, Visual and Media Arts
- Bailey Pickens, Student Service Representative/Application Coordinator, Graduate Admission
- Douglas Nevins, Admission Counselor, Undergraduate Admission
- Andrew Santiago, Admission Counselor, Undergraduate Admission

Diversity Spotlight

Join the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and EBONI in celebrating Black History Month. Check out our events schedule below; we welcome your participation!

Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl

Film Screening and Q&A with creators Issa Rae and Tracy Oliver
Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 7:00 pm
Bright Family Screening Room
Paramount Center, 555 Washington St.

Brother OUTsider

Film Screening and Q&A with director Bennett Singer and Walter Naegle, executive director of the Bayard Rustin Fund, Inc.
Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 7:00 pm
Bright Family Screening Room
Paramount Center, 555 Washington St.

Tour of Boston's African American Museum

Friday, February 24, 2012, 1:45 pm
Meet in the Little Building Lobby; we will leave at 1:45 pm. To reserve your ticket, email emerson.eboni@gmail.com with your full name. Tickets are limited.

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