

## Staff Profile

### Lauren Labonte

Lauren Labonte is one of the many Emersonians who arrived at Emerson as an undergrad and never left.

She graduated with a BSSp in Marketing in 2004 and an MA in Integrated Marketing Communication in December 2006. A few months after graduation, she accepted a position in the Registrar's Office.

Currently the assistant registrar, Labonte's main responsibility is to make sure the 900+ undergraduates walk across the stage at Commencement every year. She starts by reviewing graduation application forms. Then she does a degree audit of every student; if there is a problem, she works with the student to resolve it.

After ordering and receiving the diplomas, she proofs all of them. Latin honors are decided when the final grades come in, so she manually adds the Latin honors onto the diplomas. She also formats the graduates' information for inclusion in the Commencement program.

When she finishes handing students their diplomas backstage at Commencement, she can "breathe a sigh of relief!"



When Labonte is not busy with graduation prep, she updates DegreeWorks, the College's audit system. Every year she takes the updated course catalogue and makes relevant changes to the system.

She also handles the input of all non-tuition credits. Students are allowed up to 4 non-tuition credits toward a degree. Many co-curricular student organizations offer non-tuition credits.

Having been on the soccer and track teams in high school, Labonte likes to stay active. She works out at the gym almost every day, and enjoys taking bike rides on the bike path near her house.

She also enjoys indulging in a travel bug. She admitted that she's "hooked on cruises" as she disclosed the number of cruises she's been on: 17.

One of her most memorable vacations was a trip to Italy about six years ago. She and her family visited a number of Italian cities on a bus tour.

Labonte also considers Disney World to be a second home. She began visiting the Magic Kingdom at a year old, and has returned several times since. Last year, she ran in the Mickey's Jingle Jungle 5K.

Her homebound activities include a lector role at her church and watching some of her favorite TV comedies, *New Girl* and *Parks and Recreation*.

In 2009, Labonte and her husband, Jeremy, bought a house in her hometown of Blackstone, Massachusetts. They share their home with two cats, Sadie and Sophie. And they will be making room for their first child, a girl due in January.

*By Nancy Howell, Creative Services*

# Staff Notes

## Awards

Amanda Nicoles, the head athletic trainer in the Athletics Department, has been selected as the recipient of the Dr. Donald Grover Memorial Award. She was recognized on September 29 at the 25th Annual Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Convention and Trade Show in North Falmouth, Massachusetts.

The Dr. Donald Grover Memorial Award is bestowed periodically to an athletic trainer of an ECAC member institution who has achieved outstanding success in his or her career, has made an unusual contribution in the interest of intercollegiate athletics, and has rendered meritorious service to intercollegiate athletics.

Since she arrived at Emerson in 2010, Nicoles has revolutionized the sports medicine department. She instituted mandatory yearly ImPact testing for all current and incoming student-athletes

and developed policies addressing concussion management, mental health disorders, and eating disorders. She also coordinated the restructuring of the medical clearance process and mandated a doctor's physical exam prior to each academic year.

Nicoles earned her master's degree in kinesiology from California State University, Fresno in 2006 with a concentration in sports psychology and completed her undergraduate degree in athletic training at Boston University in 2004.

## Weddings

- Lynn Butkovsky (Academic Advising) married Clarisse Hart (MFA '07 and former staff assistant in the Institute for Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies) on September 14 in Petersham, Massachusetts.
- Maria Piteros (Academic Affairs) married Dan O'Connor on July 13 in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

## New Faces

- Robert Amelio, Director of Diversity Education and HR, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Laurie Arnone, Advance Practice Clinician, Center for Health and Wellness
- Kelly Bates, Executive Director of the Elma Lewis Center, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Kevin Becerra, Artistic Engagement Producer, ArtsEmerson
- Valena Berke, Executive Assistant, Los Angeles Program
- Timothy Blank, Counselor, Enrollment Services, Student Financial Services
- Moriah LeGrand, Administrative Assistant, Academic Advising
- Jesse Mader, Senior Buyer, Procurement
- Kendra Rafferty, Operations Coordinator, Graduate Admission
- Esther Roth-Katz, Reference Librarian, Iwasaki Library
- Haiyan Wang, Senior Software Application Developer, Information Technology
- Megan Wygant, Assistant to the General Manager, Performing Arts

## New Faces Spotlight

Emerson student Kendra Rafferty, MA '14, has joined the ranks of full-time staff.

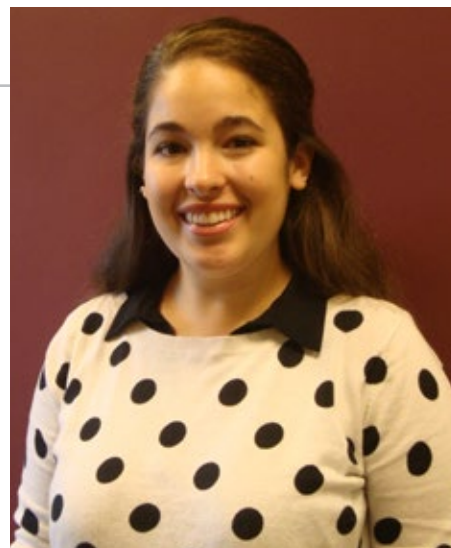
Originally from Brooklyn, Pennsylvania, Rafferty graduated from Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in May 2012. She arrived in Boston to start Emerson's MA in Publishing and Writing program in September 2012.

Rafferty became a student employee in the Grad Admission Office, working part-time as a graduate visit coordinator. She enjoyed working

with other students and her coworkers so much that she applied for a full-time position that opened up in the office over the summer.

As an operations coordinator, her main responsibility is "decision processing." She handles the creation and submission of letters regarding student acceptance, deferral, and withdrawal. She also helps oversee the graduate visit program.

Stop by and say hello when you are in the Admission Office!



# Staff News

## Fitness Center Gets a Makeover

The Emerson College Fitness Center underwent a major renovation over the summer, using recommendations from the Athletics Working Group. The working group was headed by Dean of Students Ron Ludman and included Interim Director of Athletics Stan Nance, Head Softball Coach Phil McElroy, and a number of current and former Emerson student-athletes.

This is the first major upgrade to the facility in a number of years. The center's layout has completely changed, with the swapping of the group fitness room and the weight room and the addition of new equipment. New flooring was installed throughout the center, and new sauna units were put in the locker rooms. Ninety percent of the equipment is brand new.

Not only are most machines new, but many have also increased in number. The working group assessed the current inventory and, with the help of Fitness Center General Manager Ron Smithers, figured out which machines were most frequently used, in order to make



Fitness Center main area

purchasing decisions. There are now more elliptical machines, treadmills, stationary bikes, summit trainers, and leg presses. There are also two full sets of dumbbells, ranging from 5 to 50 pounds.

Membership is free for all full-time faculty and staff. Part-time faculty and staff pay a fee of \$50 per semester. Locker rental and towel service can be purchased on a semester or yearly basis. Faculty and staff can register for membership by completing an online form found on the Fitness Center's website at [emerson.edu/fitness-center/membership](http://emerson.edu/fitness-center/membership).

The Fitness Center offers free personalized exercise programs for all members, which are designed by its professional full-time staff. (They all have degrees in exercise science and some of the top certifications in the

fitness industry.) To get started, just complete the online form at [emerson.edu/fitness-center/exercise](http://emerson.edu/fitness-center/exercise). The group fitness class schedule is posted on the center's Facebook page. Weekly offerings include yoga, Pilates, Zumba, cardio kickboxing, and spinning. An Olympic lifting class will also be offered sometime during the upcoming year.

In late spring/early summer 2014, the center will relaunch its "Choose to Lose" Staff Departmental Challenge. More information about this program will follow in the coming months.

You can learn more about the Fitness Center by visiting [emerson.edu/fitness-center](http://emerson.edu/fitness-center).

*By Nancy Howell, Creative Services*



Fitness Center weight room



# HR and You

## Upcoming Events

### Open Enrollment Begins in November

It's that time of the year again, open enrollment! This is your opportunity to review your benefits selections and make changes. Remember, this is your only opportunity to change your benefits until next year. Please contact the benefits team if you have any questions about your plan or options.

### Benefits Fair: Friday, November 1

Please join your friends here in HR in the Bill Bordy Theater on Friday, November 1, for our 2013 Benefits Fair. This is a great opportunity to meet our benefit vendors, ask questions, and most of all, have fun!

Just like last year, there will be raffles, giveaways, healthy snacks, massage chairs, and much more! Look for an email in the coming weeks with additional details.

*Have any questions that you would like answered in "HR and You"? Please send your questions to [blaine\\_butler@emerson.edu](mailto:blaine_butler@emerson.edu).*

## Sustainable Emerson

### Volunteer Project on the Esplanade

A group of faculty and staff helped the Esplanade Association on September 18. Volunteers raked leaves and weeded a portion of the Esplanade.



Clockwise from above:  
Christina Zamon, Bob  
Fleming, Ken Cheeseman  
and Eric Van Vlandren



### Sustainable Stationery

Emerson stationery and business cards are now environmentally friendly! The paper used is 100 percent post-consumer and 100 percent soy-based ink will be in use by early next year.

Thanks to the following staff who collaborated to make this happen: Eric Van Vlandren and Jay Phillips (Facilities Management), Jay McMahon (Print Copy Center), Chuck Dunham (Creative Services), Karen Dickinson (Business Services), and Andy Tiedemann (Communications and Marketing).

# Elevator Chat

We asked staff:  
What are your  
favorite Twitter  
handles?

"@Skillcrush  
@AskthePast"

*Robin Chace*  
(IT)

"@ECStudentLife  
(that's me!!!)  
@jaclynf  
@bostontweet  
@timjacobwise"

*Sharon Duffy*  
(Student Affairs)

"@jasonrobert  
@BeaconUpdate"

*Claude Bartholomew*  
(Center for Innovation in  
Teaching and Learning)

"@NatGeoTravel"

*Liliana Ballesteros*  
(Creative Services)

## people@Emerson

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Send news or suggestions to  
Nancy Howell at  
[nancy\\_howell@emerson.edu](mailto:nancy_howell@emerson.edu).

## Tech Spot

### New Website Launched

Have you checked out IT's new  
website yet?

[it.emerson.edu](http://it.emerson.edu)

### Emergency Notification System

If you haven't signed up for the  
College's Emergency Notification  
System yet, do so here:

[emerson.edu/ens](http://emerson.edu/ens)

### Borrow an iPad from the Iwasaki Library!

The library now has three iPad 2s in  
circulation for faculty, staff, and  
students. They can be borrowed for  
two days at a time. To borrow, inquire  
at the Circulation Desk and be  
prepared to show your Emerson ID.



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