

## Staff Profile

### Johanna Acevedo

If you have paid a bill at Emerson College, she has helped you. Johanna Acevedo works in Accounts Payable as an accounts payable specialist. Her duties entail the processing of expense reports, consultant payments, and invoices. Her department works closely with outside vendors to ensure that payments get made and maintains good working relationships with vendors. Having worked at Emerson for eight years, she enjoys the work environment and the people.

Before arriving at Emerson College, Acevedo was a teller manager for the University Credit Union. A graduate of Snowden International High School on Newbury Street in Boston, she has lived in Boston all her life, but her family is of Puerto Rican descent.

Acevedo has taken classes at Suffolk University and is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Communication Studies at Emerson. One class that she loved, the History of Dance, touches on a personal passion of hers. As a girl, she took dance classes, and now she coordinates a dance program for girls on a volunteer basis. She and her sister Syreeta founded,



direct, and do all the teaching and choreography for a free girls' dance program based out of Boston's South End for girls aged 12–16.

The dance troupe, called the South End "ShowStopperz" Dance Team, dances a variety of music from hip-hop to Afro-Caribbean. Its repertoire includes many Latin dances such as merengue; bachata; and plena, which is a traditional Puerto Rican folkloric dance. "We introduce our Latin culture to the girls while also staying modern," Acevedo said.

The team is sought after to perform at many well-known, widely attended local events such as the St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston, the Boston Gay Pride Family Day in Faneuil Hall, and many Latin festivals. Acevedo and her sister manage all of the fundraising for the program—from bake sales to family bingo nights—to cover expenses such as costumes and shoes to keep the program free for all participants.

Recently, the girls also had some acting lessons. Acevedo invited co-worker Matthew Finn in the Office of Academic Affairs, who performs in community theater productions, to lead some acting workshops over the summer.

The South End ShowStopperz Dance Team began in 2007 with only four girls. There are currently 12, and all are inner-city youth from the South End, South Boston, Mattapan, Hyde Park, and Dorchester. One reason the two sisters decided to start this program was to give back to their community. Acevedo said, "It's a very positive environment to be a part of. Performing is just a plus! It's about helping create and inspire these girls to be outstanding women in our society."

*By Jill Davidson, Academic Affairs*

# Staff Notes

## Awards and Accomplishments

- Maria Piteros and Michael Duggan (Institutional Research) presented a session at the 2013 HEDS Annual Conference in Indianapolis in June.

## New Faces

- Camille Bouknight, Assistant Director, Graduate Admission
- Kevin Bright, Executive Director, Los Angeles Program
- Eric Fox, Assistant Production Manager, TRF Operations
- Eric Glaskin, Counselor, Student Service Center, Student Financial Services
- Jason Laperriere, Associate Director, Undergraduate Admission
- Lisa Mattei-McDonald, Assistant Director, Marketing, Office of the Arts

- Robyn Shahid-Bellot, Associate Director, Student Service Center, Student Financial Services
- Rebecca Smith, Customer Service Travel Coordinator, Undergraduate Admission
- Estelle Ticktin, Administrative Assistant, Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Ryan Walsh, Fellow, Office of the Arts
- Robert Weiner, Strategic Sourcing Specialist, Procurement
- Michael Whelan, Vice President, Academic Affairs
- Christina Wilson, Engagement Game Lab Project Manager, Visual and Media Arts

## Family Additions

- Sean Ganas (Graduate Admission) and his husband, Matt, welcomed their new 11-month-old son home on June 23.



Javi

## Upcoming Events

### Clean Out Your Office Day!

The Records Management Team will be holding a “clean out your office” event August 5–6 in the Multipurpose Room in Piano Row. The event will run Monday, August 5, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and Tuesday, August 6, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Clean out your file cabinets and bring your boxes of paper and media 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 any personal papers.

If you have questions about this event, please email [records\\_management@emerson.edu](mailto:records_management@emerson.edu).

# Staff News

## Staff Collaborate, Learn, and Lead Outside of the Office

Many staff are involved in professional organizations. Through their memberships, they take advantage of opportunities to collaborate with peers from different institutions. Some gain leadership experience by heading sub-committees and planning conferences. Here are just a few examples of staff who collaborate, learn, and lead in local and national professional organizations.

Christina Zamon (Iwasaki Library) is a member of three different archive-related organizations: the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the New England Archivists (NEA), and the Academy of Certified Archivists. She participates in these organizations to learn new skills and network with other archivists.

She especially enjoys networking with local colleagues from NEA because it allows her to “create partnerships between institutions to leverage educational opportunities and assistance with projects or research.”

Zamon has held a number of leadership roles throughout the years. Most recently, she was the co-chair of the NEA's Spring 2013 meeting, which was

its 40th anniversary meeting. She has also served on other committees, led meetings, and given presentations.

Josh Hamlin and Sharon Duffy (Student Life) are members of the Association of College Unions International (ACUI). It was due to their involvement that Emerson hosted the College Union Poetry Slam Invitational in 2010. Hamlin has also hosted sessions for recent regional and national ACUI conferences. Hamlin said of ACUI, “[It’s] a great organization in which to share ideas, resources, and discussions on the operational management of student unions or campus centers.”

Duffy has also been a member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) since graduate school. She has attended regional and national conferences, and has presented at a national conference. For the last four years, she has reviewed and evaluated program proposals for the national and regional education sessions presented at conferences.

A number of Human Resources staff are members of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Allegra Sandak is a member of SHRM and four other professional organizations. The memberships give her “access to the

latest research and best practices, and to other individuals who focus on the same professional areas of interest [that I do],” she said.

Gary Walling (Development and Alumni Relations) is a member of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the Association of Professional Researchers for Advancement (APRA), and the New England Development Researchers Association (NEDRA). He attends annual conferences and virtual seminars for continuing education, networking, and informational purposes. He was on a planning committee for a symposium at this year's annual APRA conference.

Many staff from the Development and Alumni Relations and Communications and Marketing offices are involved in CASE. Andy Tiedemann (Communications and Marketing) is the co-chair of the 2014 District I Conference in Boston. Charles Dunham, Nicole Miscioscia, Nicole Leete, and Nancy Howell (Communications and Marketing) and Danielle Reddy and Jeff Schoenherr (Development and Alumni Relations) are serving on various committees for next year's conference.

*By Nancy Howell, Creative Services*

SHRM CASE NEA ACUI APRA NASPA SAA  
NEDRA CASE NEA ACUI APRA NASPA  
SAA NEDRA SHRM CASE NEA ACUI APRA  
CASE ACUI SHRM SAA  
APRA NASPA SAA NEDRA SHRM CASE NEA

# HR and You

## HR Spotlight

### Manager's Toolkit

The Manager's Toolkit is now available on eCommon under the "My Job" tab. The toolkit is designed to provide helpful information for supervisors and managers at Emerson on the key aspects of hiring, supervising, and managing employees. The toolkit is still in development so be sure to check back frequently as we update it with additional resources.

Do you have any suggestions on what you'd like to see included? We'd love to hear from you! Email the HR Advisory Council at [hr\\_advisory\\_council@emerson.edu](mailto:hr_advisory_council@emerson.edu).

## Upcoming Events

### Mark Your Calendars!

August 26: VALIC

A registration email will be sent out soon. Slots fill up quickly so don't delay!

### HR Inside Scoop

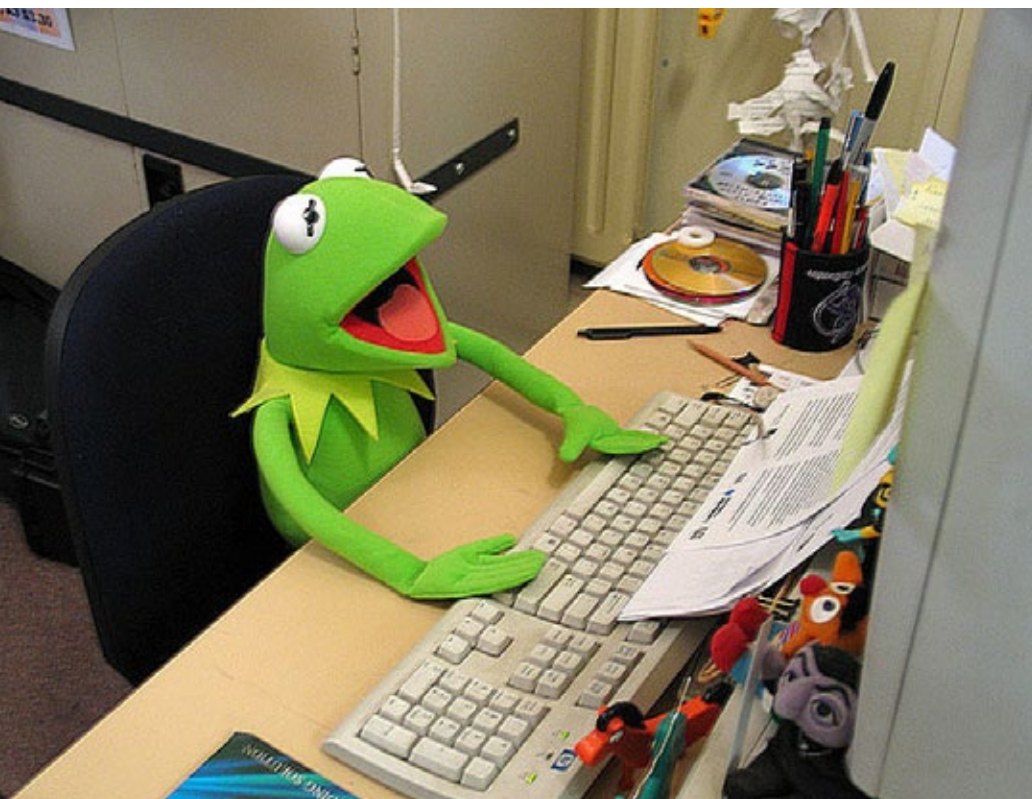
Did you know that we now have a Nursing Room? Located in the Walker Building, Room 120A, the space is designed as a private area for new mothers to feed their infants during the workday. To reserve a date and time, please contact Rachel Gelaw at [rachel\\_gelaw@emerson.edu](mailto:rachel_gelaw@emerson.edu).

## HR Advisory Council

The HR Advisory Council continues to meet and discuss initiatives. We highly encourage all staff members to visit the council's web page on the [emerson.edu](http://emerson.edu) site to stay up to date on its discussions and to submit feedback or ideas.

*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



*"Sustainable Emerson" is a new section dedicated to sharing news about the College's sustainability efforts as well as tips and resources to help "green" your office environment.*

## Energy-Efficient Computer Use

Save energy by shutting off your computers at night! Although there is a surge of energy when computers are turned on, it wastes more energy to leave computers on for a long period of time. Learn more about energy-efficient computer use at [energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-efficient-computer-use](http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-efficient-computer-use).



# Elevator Chat

**We asked staff:  
What's your  
hidden talent?**

**"I know more about  
Derek Jeter and Kelly  
Clarkson than any  
normal person should.  
Also, dancing."**

*Brittany Bailey*  
(Student Life)

**"I'm a gospel singer."**

*Jo Craig*  
(Advancement Services)

**"I'm a 'works anywhere  
guy.' I can appear to be  
an employee at any  
location I visit (stores,  
restaurants, etc.)."**

*Gary Walling*  
(Prospect Management  
and Research)

**"I have a decluttering/  
organizing business. I'm  
also a longtime political  
activist and a newly  
hatched violinist."**

*Rhea Becker*  
(Communications and Marketing)

## 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

### Upcoming Workshops

#### Lunch 'n' Lynda

Bring your lunch and join us for a discussion on getting the most out of *lynda.com*, the online video tutorial library you can access for free as an Emersonian. This self-paced learning tool offers a variety of basic to advanced tutorials in one-minute to half-hour increments. We will navigate the website, answer questions, and raffle off some Emerson prizes!

Aug 1 @ 12:00 pm in Walker 417

For more information, visit *emerson.edulabs* or follow @EmersonIT.

### New Password Policy

After gathering feedback from users, I.T. enacted a new ECnet password policy. Learn more at <https://tagteam.emerson.edu/myaccount/password/newpolicy.php>.



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