

Staff Profile

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Cheryl Schaffer

Cheryl Schaffer and her team are well known to students, faculty, and staff who use media equipment in the College's classrooms. As manager of media services, Schaffer oversees the Media Services Center (MSC), which maintains and supports all of the projectors, sound systems, and video decks in the classrooms. She also trains students, faculty, and staff on how to use the equipment.

The MSC also circulates laptop computers, data projectors, and voice reinforcement equipment. Departments such as Communication Studies; Visual and Media Arts; and Writing, Literature and Publishing have iPads and other types of e-readers available for students enrolled in specific courses.

Schaffer and her team also support the media equipment that is used for

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Staff Profile cont.

special events, such as Board meetings and staff forums. They also help staff and faculty use videoconferencing equipment.

When asked what she likes most about working at Emerson, Schaffer replied that she enjoys working with the students because they are so creative and engaged in their education. She also likes working with the talented faculty and staff.

Her job stays interesting because technology is always changing. And she has seen quite a lot of advancements during

her 21 years at the College! She also noted that she is always happy to “teach faculty how to enhance their teaching” by using technology in the classroom.

It’s not a surprise that Schaffer has a creative bent herself. She holds two Emerson degrees: a bachelor’s in Television Production and Creative Writing and a master’s in New Media. One of her favorite hobbies is playing blues guitar with her wife, Sue, who plays the harmonica.

Schaffer is also a devoted metal detectorist. She searches for artifacts at colonial sites around New England. Her favorite find is a colonial boot buckle that was engraved by

its owner, and her favorite location for searching is the Brooks Estate in Medford, Massachusetts.

She and her wife live in Medford, Massachusetts, with their two rescue beagles, Harvey and Ruby, and cat, Schmooley.

Staff Profile cont.

Media Services Center Profile

How many people work in your department?

There are 3 full-time staff and 14 student workers.

Where is your department located?

Ansin Building, Room 409

What are your department's major functions?

The MSC provides, maintains, and delivers media equipment in many of the College's classrooms and meeting spaces. Staff members are available to assist in the setup and operation of this equipment. The MSC provides technical assistance for special events. Services include setting up and operating data projection systems, facilitating teleconferencing, and providing amplification for speakers.

What population does your department work with?

Staff, faculty, and students

What do you think is the most interesting facet of your department's contribution to the Emerson community?

We support technology but we work with people. We maintain close contact with our patrons, assisting them in classrooms, answering questions at our center, and always being available to help.

Has your department recently accomplished a goal or does it have one in the works that may be of interest to the community?

We recently installed videoconferencing systems in two classrooms that allow students in Boston and LA to take the same courses together.

Do you have an interesting factoid about your department to share?

In FY14, we assisted our patrons 710 times, through special events and support of courses. We support 55 mediated spaces (classroom and special event spaces) on campus.

Staff Notes

New Faces

- Melissa Federico, Assistant Box Office Manager, Office of the Arts
- David Howse, Assistant Vice President, Managing Director, Office of the Arts
- Maria Maxell, Senior Associate Director, Enrollment Management, Office of Enrollment Management
- Ramona Ostrowski, Associate Producer, Office of the Arts
- John Richardson, Lead Developer, Engagement Lab

Service Excellence @ Emerson

Jesse Swayze would like to acknowledge the Department of Visual and Media Arts and Office of the Arts staff for working together to resolve the issues that arose in the recent student shoot *Lilly*. Their hard work “resulted in an excellent project for the students and staff involved.”

Announcements

- Georgette Petraglia (Professional Studies) has taken early retirement; her last day was April 3. She worked at the College for 15 years.
- The Iwasaki Library’s Interlibrary Loan Department would like to invite staff to check out the new Commonwealth Catalog, a statewide library borrowing and lending network. Other participating libraries and networks include the Minuteman Library Network, Cape Libraries CLAMS Network, and Bridgewater State University. Several other networks are scheduled to join as well, including the Boston Public Library and UMass Amherst.

It is an excellent resource for audiobooks, DVDs, children’s books, and popular fiction. Log in at flo.org/comcat.htm using your last name and the number under the barcode on the back of your Emerson ID and see what the Commonwealth has to offer!

Call for Volunteers

Commencement

Volunteers are needed for the Commencement ceremonies on May 18 at the BCEC. The undergraduate ceremony begins at 10:00 am, and the graduate ceremony begins at 3:00 pm. Volunteers must be available approximately two and a half hours before the ceremonies begin. Contact the [Commencement Office](#) for more information.

Alumni Weekend

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations is looking for volunteers (especially alumni) to help with Alumni Weekend, May 29–31. If you are interested in directing guests, taking attendance at events, or serving as an ambassador, contact [Chris Serwacki](#).

Staff Notes cont.

New Faces Spotlight

Alumnus Johnny Richardson recently started working at the Engagement Lab, in the newly created position of lead developer. He is tasked with assessing how to streamline standards and processes for the Lab's game development, since until about a year ago, the Lab contracted out all of its development work. This means that the Lab's projects were created in all different languages and databases.

Richardson's overarching goal is for the Lab to be on the cutting edge regarding technology. He said that by creating standards and automating more processes, the Lab's output will increase and a higher-quality bar will be set for projects. One specific issue that he is tackling right now is how to make it easier for the graphic artist to input assets into Unity, the game development engine used by the Lab.

Richardson is thrilled to be back at Emerson as an employee. "It feels like coming home," he said. He graduated

with a degree in interactive media in 2009. While a student here, he ran a student organization called Emerson College GameDev for students who were interested in game development. He noted that he built an educational game for his senior thesis.

After graduation, he worked at a game development startup. After the company folded after releasing one game, he worked for Jack Morton Worldwide as a developer in the digital department, creating games and databases for clients such as Subway and Blackberry. While at Morton, he contracted at another startup to help create a *Game of Thrones* game. He eventually accepted that company's offer to work full time as the lead user interface engineer. Although he enjoyed his work on social game development, he felt more passionate about working on educational games. So when he saw the posting for the Engagement Lab position on a job board, he knew serendipity was at work.



Richardson is a native of Rochester, New York, and lives in Brighton, Massachusetts. Exercising and cooking are two of his favorite hobbies—another one being gaming, naturally. His favorite games include the first *Sims*, *SimCity*, and *Grand Theft Auto*. He likes to try new indie games that he finds at the app store as well. He also enjoys traveling and hopes to take a trip to Europe in the fall.

Staff News

Alternative Spring Break 2015

During this year's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program, Ashley Tarbet DeStefano '09 (Elma Lewis Center) and Journalism faculty member Cindy Rodriguez served as advisors for eight undergraduate and graduate students who traveled to El Paso, Texas, to engage with community members and participate in service projects related to immigration.

Through a partnership with Casa Alexia, a ministry of the School Sisters of St. Francis, Emersonians met with community members who told their stories of crossing the border, local youth who are or whose parents are undocumented immigrants, and even a Border Patrol agent originally from Mexico himself. They had an opportunity to serve with and visit a number of local agencies providing services to immigrants and their families, including the Nazareth Hall temporary shelter for families released from detention; Sin Fronteras (the Border Farm Worker Center); Villa Maria women's shelter; Centro San Vicente Family Health Clinic; and Diocesan

Migrant & Refugee Services, Inc., which provides free or low cost legal services to immigrants. The team also met representatives of the Tigua tribe of the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Nation, Dr. Josiah Heyman of the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies at the University of Texas at El Paso, a dedicated long-time volunteer on the area's Human Trafficking Taskforce, and an advocate at Centro de Derechos Humanos Paso del Norte, A.C. (the human rights center in El Paso).

For Tarbet DeStefano, who participated in ASB for the eighth year in a row, her experience is rooted in that of the students: "It was an incredible and thorough week. We literally learned about immigration from every possible angle. But the best part for me was seeing the students who were already passionate about the issue become further inspired to action. Every single student had an 'Aha!' moment, where I could see them realize how being an advocate and change maker for this cause could fit into their future.



From left: Cindy Rodriguez (Journalism faculty) serves alongside students Anne Marie Jubinal '15, Alex Echeverri '15, and Angelika Romero '15 to sort and catalog book donations for the youth in one of El Paso's poorest *colonias*.

They saw how they can use their skills and talents in the arts and communication to effect change for this community."

And for the second year, staff and faculty were invited to participate in the Boston ASB program, whether it be for a few hours or for a day-long project. Boston volunteers also experienced a wide range

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Staff News

of service opportunities throughout the week. Starting in Dorchester, Emersonians worked with the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) to distribute flyers and information door-to-door about an upcoming citizenship clinic to provide education about the often-challenging process of becoming a U.S. citizen.



Volunteers create signs for an upcoming fundraiser for the Chinese Progressive Association. *Kneeling, from left:* Nancy Howell (Creative Services), Anna Zembo '16, Chris Daly (Student Success). *Standing, from left:* Taylor McMahon '16, Melina Morris '18, Mary Krantz '16, Samantha Manns '15, Gina Brindisi '16, and Alexis Clemons '16.

Venturing across Tremont Street into Chinatown, participants learned about residency challenges in the neighborhood and helped create signage for the Chinese Progressive Association's Stabilization Campaign to keep Chinatown residents in Chinatown. Later in the week, the team witnessed a citizenship ceremony for 200 new U.S. citizens, after which the participants helped MIRA register these new citizens to vote. Later in the week, Emersonians helped community members develop their conversational English skills during an English class at the Chelsea Collaborative. The volunteers rounded off the week by partnering with Emerson's Career Services Office to provide résumé building techniques and mock interviews to a group of Haitian immigrants from the Gilbert Albert Community Center in Dorchester.

Chris Daly (Student Success) served as the Boston advisor. Reflecting on her experience, she said, "There were so many

great things about ASB: getting to know organizations in Boston that I wasn't very familiar with, working alongside students and other staff and reflecting on the shared experiences we were having, and learning more about immigration issues. As is often the case with service, I found that I had come to volunteer but actually got a lot more back than I gave."

Maureen Tripp (Iwasaki Library) helped with the door-to-door canvassing on behalf of MIRA. She said, "My ASB experience was all about meaningful connections: with the people from MIRA who trained us, the other Emersonians who volunteered, and the people we spoke to in the neighborhood."

ASB is a program of the Office of Service Learning and Community Action.

By Ashley Tarbet DeStefano, Elma Lewis Center

Staff News cont.

Emerson UnCommon Update

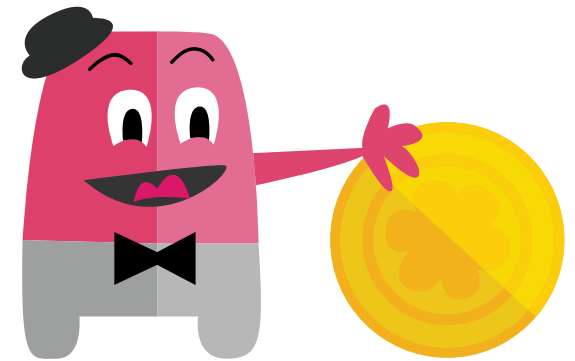
Last fall, nearly 1,000 Emerson community members, including more than 120 staff members, registered to play Emerson UnCommon, a month-long campus-wide civic engagement game. Designed by Emerson's Engagement Lab, Emerson UnCommon featured question-based missions that allowed students, faculty, staff, and alumni to share ideas about the strategic plan priorities that President Pelton has set for the College, which include academic excellence, civic engagement, internationalization, and innovation.

In March, the Engagement Lab prepared a [Data Summary Report](#) about the game for the Office of the President. The report was released to the Emerson community on April 27, and staff will have the opportunity to discuss the results at the staff forum on June 3. The report summarizes some of the game's key findings and the feedback provided by

students, staff, faculty, academic administrators, and alumni about the priority areas addressed by the College's strategic plan.

The game was an "incredible experiment" said Donna Heiland, vice president and special assistant to the president, whose office sponsored the game. Heiland said that not only did the game provide insight about the College, but also about the process of game creation, game playing, and follow-up. "This knowledge is really something that we can export to other colleges," Heiland said. In fact, the College has received the clearance from the Institutional Review Board that is required for studies that aim to obtain information about students or employees and plan to share that information (for example, through publications or presentations).

The post-game resource data provided by the Engagement Lab, which is available on



the [game's website](#), is an extremely valuable resource with which Heiland hopes that academic departments and offices can engage and begin to use for their own internal planning. Heiland encourages interested staff members to reach out to the Engagement Lab staff for help with data analysis.

Update on Cause Winners

During the game, questions could be answered to win virtual coins, which players were able to pledge to campus

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Staff News cont.

causes. The three causes that earned the most coins received \$1,000 from the College. An initiative to bring therapy dogs to campus around final exam time to reduce student stress won the most votes. The other winning initiatives were a student movement on immigration and an interactive online history of the College.

Therapy Dogs for Finals

Last December, during the week of final exams, the Iwasaki Library brought two certified therapy dogs to the library, during a day-long Cirque de De-stress, which

included other relaxing events, such as yoga and arts and crafts. Therapy dogs returned to campus during this spring's Cirque de De-stress on April 24. The Iwasaki Library hopes to continue Cirque de De-stress as a bi-annual event.

Student Immigration Movement

Last November, the Elma Lewis Center presented the Student Immigration Movement (SIM) with a check for \$1,000. SIM, an undocumented youth-led immigrants' rights movement focused on education, has partnered with other institutions such as MIT and Harvard. SIM is a fiscally sponsored project of the Center for Labor Education and Research, Inc.

Interactive Online History of Emerson College

This project involves producing an interactive online history of Emerson with collaboration from faculty and students. It is currently under development by staff in the Iwasaki Library. The library is pursuing grant funding for this project as well.

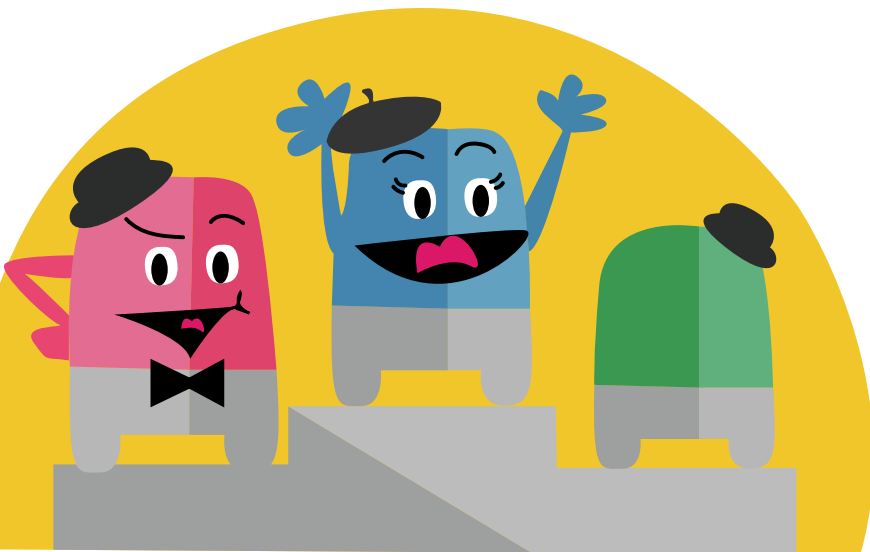
Learn More

Engagement Lab at Emerson College:
elab.emerson.edu

Emerson UnCommon Game, Including Post-Game Resources:
communityplanit.org/emersonuncommon

Emerson College Strategic Plan:
emerson.edu/about-emerson/strategic-plan/five-strategies

By Diana Potter, Development and Alumni Relations



Sustainable Emerson

News

Green Office Competition Winner

Thanks to all who entered the Green Office Competition. The Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing is the lucky winner of the pizza party!

The department has stopped purchasing disposable cups, so staff and faculty use reusable mugs and water bottles in the office. But the department has made its biggest stride in reducing paper usage. The faculty guide and student handbooks are distributed electronically with few copies being printed. Syllabi are now stored electronically and committee meeting notes are stored on Cabinet.

Instead of printing and posting flyers to announce events and internship opportunities, faculty are encouraged to share this information on a Canvas site. And starting this semester, theses will be submitted electronically and sent directly to Archives. Thanks for the great work, WLP!

Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Membership

Did you know that the College is an institutional member of [Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#) (AASHE)? This means that all staff, faculty, and students can create an account on the site and access the organization's resources. [Register to learn more](#) about sustainability best practices.

Tech Spot

Temporary Storage Update

Starting this summer, 8 Day Public will no longer be available for temporary storage space in the labs and kiosks. In its place, we recommend using one of the many other secure and accessible storage solutions for file sharing and backup, such as: [Pages](#); [Google Drive](#); [Cabinet](#); [Bin](#); and [Box.com](#), a new cloud storage solution (akin to Dropbox) that we're hoping to roll out this summer. Check out our [blog](#) for more information!

Upcoming Events

May 29–31

Alumni Weekend

Staff and faculty are invited to attend Alumni Weekend! Register online at emerson.edu/alumniweekend.

Upcoming Staff Forum

June 3
2:00–4:00 pm

people@Emerson

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