

Staff Profile

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Nicole Martignetti

Nicole Martignetti is the program coordinator in the Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing. She is starting her fourth academic year at the College.

She wears quite a number of “hats” in this position, but one of her main responsibilities is to work closely with the department’s chair and associate chair to plan the course schedule for each semester. This entails finding out what courses faculty members are interested in teaching, when they are available to teach, and what class times will work with

students’ schedules. Once that is decided, she confirms room assignments and mediation needs for the rooms.

She also reviews the course enrollment each semester and determines if any courses need to be added or dropped from the schedule.

During the registration period, she fields questions from the department’s students, of which there are roughly 800. She provides information about prerequisites, course offerings, and degree



requirements, and grants special permission overrides in the Banner registration system.

Martignetti also updates the department’s web pages and faculty profiles and manages the

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Staff Profile cont.

department's LinkedIn and Facebook groups. She publishes the department's biannual newsletter and updates the department's undergrad and grad student handbooks and catalogues annually.

Approximately 20 students are hired as teaching and research assistants each year, and Martignetti oversees the hiring process and manages the student employment budget.

Event planning is yet another part of Martignetti's job. She oversees the promotion and execution of the department's participation in the annual Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) conference and the Boston Book Festival. She also promotes the annual WLP Reading Series on campus with the help of a student employee.

One of Martignetti's favorite things about being at Emerson is its friendly and supportive environment. She noted that the WLP faculty and students' "passion and investment in the program" make her job highly enjoyable.

Looking at her work history, it is apparent that she is a good fit at Emerson. She came to Emerson from Newton Public Schools. She split her time between administrative and teaching duties, as a student services administrator and a teaching assistant in a pre-school classroom.

Prior to Newton Public Schools, she worked in the production department at MetroBoston, acting as a liaison between the sales department and graphic artists and assisting with the newspaper layout. As an editorial assistant at the Massachusetts Municipal Association, she helped produce a monthly newsletter,

quarterly magazine, and annual town official directory. She also assisted in the planning of an annual trade show.

When not at work, Martignetti can very often be found outdoors. She likes to camp and hike and enjoys visiting Maine. She also has a number of creative hobbies, including drawing, painting, crocheting, and sewing. Her favorite new hobby, though, is spending time outdoors with her eight-month-old son!

Martignetti is a Massachusetts native. She grew up in Wakefield, Massachusetts, and graduated from UMass Amherst with a degree in communications and sociology. She lived in Melrose, Massachusetts, for years, but recently moved back to her hometown with her husband, Chris, and son, Colton.

Staff Profile cont.

WLP Department Profile

How many people work in your department?

Two staff members, approximately 45 full-time faculty, and 100 part-time faculty. Each year, we usually have about 20 students working in various positions throughout the department, but most are research assistants or teaching assistants.

Where is your department located?

Most of the department is located on the 10th floor of Ansin. There are also faculty offices on the 11th, 12th, and 13th floors of Ansin.

What are your department's major functions?

We offer two undergraduate degrees: the Bachelor of Fine Arts and the Bachelor of Arts in Writing, Literature and Publishing, and two graduate degrees: the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and the Master of Arts in Publishing and Writing.

What population does your department work with?

Besides working with students, WLP works with other staff in Academic Affairs, Admission, Advising, School of the Arts, Registrar's Office, the Lacerte Family WARC, Communications and Marketing, Finance, Graduate Studies, and Career Services. We also collaborate with faculty in other departments within the School of the Arts and in the Institute for Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies.

Please share an interesting contribution that your department makes to the Emerson community.

Our contribution lies in the unique combination of the three areas of expertise—writing, literature, and publishing—that is reflected in our faculty of accomplished authors, publishing professionals, and scholars and that is represented in the degree programs the department offers to students.

Also, many of our graduate alumni stay or return to Emerson as part-time faculty. They teach college composition, creative writing, literature, and publishing classes to matriculated students.

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

We're starting to think about online programming and what the WLP Department might be able to offer to the online community.

Staff Notes

New Faces

- Benjamin Albert, Senior Manager, Audience Services, ArtsEmerson
- Joel Dickerson, Strategic Sourcing Specialist, Procurement
- Ralph Fiore, Police Officer, Police Department
- Paula Mangiaratti, Senior Administrative Associate, Student Life
- Daniel Morse, Sergeant, Police Department
- Gerrit Petersen, Associate Director, Major Gifts, Northeast, Development and Alumni Relations
- Katherine Tanner, Employee Relations Coordinator, Career Services
- Terry Wojtkunski, Database System Administrator, Information Technology

Awards and Accomplishments

- Chris Grant (Undergraduate Admission) was honored with an IDEAL (Inclusion, Diversity, Education, Access, and Leadership) Award from the New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) on June 5.
- Sylvia Spears and Robert Amelio (Diversity and Inclusion) presented at Bridgewater State University's Leading for Change Conference on June 11. The College has joined with Bridgewater and four other local schools to form a Diversity Consortium to identify student and employee best practices related to diversity work, and benchmarks of transparent data.

Photo Contest

Identify the Campus Photo

What is this a photograph of and where is it found on campus?

Send your guess to people@emerson.edu by July 12. The names of those who submit the correct response will be entered into a raffle for a \$5 Starbucks gift card.



Staff Notes cont.

New Faces Spotlight

Gerrit Petersen has recently joined the Development and Alumni Relations Office as an associate director of major gifts for the Northeast region. His portfolio includes 170 donor prospects in the New England and New York City areas, comprising alumni, parents, and friends of the College, as well as ArtsEmerson and WERS supporters.

Petersen supports donors' philanthropic aspirations by "hearing their stories," building authentic relationships with them, and connecting them with opportunities to fulfill their charitable goals. He has also been meeting with faculty to understand their vision for the school's curriculum and their priorities, in order to develop compelling ways to share their vision with prospects, and to begin collaborating with faculty in the process of cultivating donors.

He initially was attracted to Emerson by its history of bold vision and risk-taking, and by all that the College has done to

reshape Boston's urban landscape. "I'm also impressed with the quality of leadership here—Lee Pelton's vision in particular. It's clear that the College is at an inflection point, ready to take off, and it's exciting to be a part of that," he said.

Petersen worked for a number of years in investment banking, but has a long history of nonprofit work. He spent 10 years at the Boston Symphony Orchestra as the director of foundation and government support, where, in addition to institutional fundraising, his portfolio included government and community relations. As development director at the Bostonian Society, he built a comprehensive fundraising program from the ground up and launched a capital campaign to keep the Old State House standing.

A native of Milwaukee, Petersen has been a resident of Boston for 25 years. He started his college education at the University of Wisconsin and later transferred to the



New England Conservatory, where he received a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance.

Petersen lives in Brookline, Massachusetts, and is actively engaged in the community, serving on the boards of the Terezín Music Foundation and the Brookline Library Music Association. He is also currently training to mentor a child in foster care through a local organization called Adoption and Foster Care Mentoring. In his free time, he enjoys playing the piano, cooking, and reading, and also likes spending time outdoors, especially on his bicycle. His favorite role in life is uncle and godfather. "My nieces and nephews have dubbed me 'the silly uncle,' a title I wear with pride and affection," he noted.

Staff News

Staff Forum Recap

The final staff forum of the semester was held on June 5. Robert Amelio (Diversity and Inclusion) started the program by giving an overview of the past year's inclusive excellence educational programs. A total of 730 faculty, staff, and students participated in 25 programs between September 2013 and May 2014. Amelio also reminded staff of the department's "Summer Learning Series" in June and July (see [Upcoming Events](#) section).

Allegra Sandak (HR) gave a brief overview of the performance management cycle. End-of-year evaluations are due by July 30, and performance plans for next year are due by August 22. She also noted that [professional values and competencies](#) will be part of next year's evaluation process.

A group from ArtsEmerson spoke about the 2014–2015 season. Akiba Abaka talked about the membership program

for faculty and staff, which is \$30 per year. Members not only receive discounted ticket prices but also receive dining and parking discounts. Julia Propp mentioned new opportunities for staff and faculty this coming season: invitations to "Brown Bag Lunches" with visiting companies and "Page One Conversations," which are Skype calls with artists before their arrival on campus. Rob Orchard narrated a slideshow of the upcoming season and showed a few video clips. He noted that over the past three years, ArtsEmerson has hosted artists from 16 countries and 81 cities.

Donna Heiland (President's Office) announced that the Emerson community will be invited to play a civic engagement game in the fall, which is being developed by Emerson's [Engagement Lab](#) this summer. The goals of the game are to find out how the community acts on the College's strategic priorities and to gather feedback

to inform ongoing planning across campus. Stephen Walter (Engagement Lab) then demonstrated the game interface by showing a game that was recently played by a Philadelphia neighborhood.

President Pelton gave some updates at the end of the forum. He and a few other local college presidents met with Mayor Walsh recently about off-campus student housing. He updated staff on the two sexual assault studies being done at the College: the internal study has been completed, and the external study by Margolis Healy will be completed in the coming weeks. Pelton also mentioned that Tony Pinder (Internationalization and Global Engagement) is working with the American Council of Education's Internationalization Laboratory to create the College's internationalization strategy.

Staff News cont.

Maintenance Staff Thrive in On-Campus English Class

A group of dedicated maintenance staff in Facilities Management who has been taking English classes on campus has been invited to present their work at four national and international academic conferences in writing and composition studies and immigration studies.

Four years ago, a representative from Emerson's Office of Diversity and Inclusion asked the College's maintenance staff to identify one change they would like to see in their daily professional life at Emerson. They responded by asking for an English language class. The request evolved into the translingual course now held every week during the academic year, which the staff attend on their lunch break.

All of the participants are immigrants from Latin America who came to Boston in search of a better life. Many left their home countries due to poverty and war,

said Dr. Tamera Marko, who teaches the class. Marko is the director of the First-Year Writing Program in the Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing. There is a core group of seven employees who have attended every weekly class session over the last four years, including Ramiro Soto and Mario Osorio. Soto moved from Guatemala to Boston in 1985 and has worked at Emerson since 1989. Osorio, from El Salvador, has lived in the States for 19 years and has worked at Emerson for 13 years.

The class has grown and now also includes a core group of seven students from Marko's translingual research writing courses. The class is co-taught by Eric Sepenoski, a fellow faculty member teaching in the First-Year Writing Program and an Emerson MFA graduate in poetry. The class brings staff and students together to write as a means of overcoming obstructions to rhetorical mobility.



Proyecto Carrito members before they embark on a road trip to a conference in Indianapolis

Sponsoring departments include the First-Year Writing Program, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the Office of Service Learning and Community Action. Marko credits President Pelton and Sylvia Spears (Diversity and Inclusion) with securing space and resources.

In March, Marko, Sepenoski, Osorio and Soto, and a few other classmates piled into Soto's '97 Nissan Quest minivan and took a 1,800-mile road trip to attend the National

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Staff News cont.

Conference on College Composition and Communication in Indianapolis, as part of Proyecto Carrito (“Rhetorical Mobility”), an endeavor to share the story of Emerson’s translingual class. The van’s exterior was wrapped with sticker sheets of 500 pages worth of writing in Spanish and English produced in the class regarding the students’ perspectives on immigration and a more inclusive twenty-first-century education in the Americas.

Osorio presented his writing at the conference, addressing an audience in English for the first time. His speech was about immigrating to the United States to support his family, learning English, and the relationship between education and immigration. For this achievement, he was one of only two Emersonians to win the 2014 Inclusive Excellence Award.

Marko noted how the class has improved over the years. Participants were shy and afraid to talk at first, but the class has

developed into a comfortable learning environment. Marko also said that participants feel more connected with the campus community because they are able to greet each other in the hallways. They can confidently speak in English, Spanish, or Spanglish.

Osorio enjoys speaking with his coworkers and emphasized the importance of communication in the workplace. “We are all part of the Emerson community,” he said. As the staff develop as writers in English and Spanish, they see themselves in different roles: as writers, researchers, and students.



Mario Osorio and Ramiro Soto

This year, the translingual class’s work was accepted at four academic writing conferences and at an Emerson showcase. In addition to the Indianapolis conference in March and Emerson’s Fourth Annual First-Year Writing Program Showcase on April 24, the class was represented by a video of Osorio’s speech at the 16th Annual Biennial Rhetoric Society of America conference in San Antonio May 24–26, and at Duke University’s writing conference on May 6. The video will also be shown at a conference in Medellín, Colombia, on July 15.

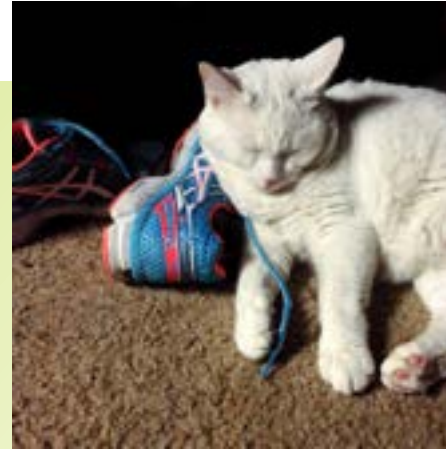
By Jill Davidson, Academic Affairs

Pet Quiz

Emersonians are animal lovers! Match the pet with his/her owner. Answers are on [page 11](#).



1. Gertie



2. Anna



3. Milo and Mr. Bean



4. Isabelle



5. Lily



6. Sparky

- a. Jonathan Miller
(Office of the Arts)
- b. Rhea Becker
(Communications and Marketing)
- c. Bonnie Baggesen
(Office of the Arts)
- d. Nicole Leete
(Web Services)
- e. Ashley Tarbet
(Elma Lewis Center and Government and Community Relations)
- f. Laurie Arnone
(Center for Health and Wellness)

HR and You

Upcoming Events

Our 403(b) providers will be on campus in July for individual consulting sessions. Please be sure to book your appointment early as the time slots fill up quickly! Invitation emails are coming your way soon.

July 16, 11:00 am–4:00 pm:

VALIC

July 17, 9:00 am–4:00 pm:

Fidelity

July 31, 9:00 am–5:00 pm:

TIAA-CREF

The HR Advisory Council meets monthly to discuss initiatives. We encourage you to visit the [Council's website](#) to stay up to date on our discussions and to submit feedback.

HR Spotlight

As you know, we recently implemented two new modules as part of our talent management system, PeopleAdmin. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of you for helping us make the rollout a resounding success! We appreciate the time you have taken to review your job descriptions and reporting structures and for helping us make the system as accurate as possible. As with all new technology, there have been some small glitches and new aspects that will take getting used to, so we cannot thank you all enough for your patience. Please don't hesitate to contact anyone on the HR team with questions or feedback on the new system.

If you have questions about the performance management process or need additional assistance, visit emerson.edu/about-emerson/offices-departments/human-resources/current-employees/performance-evaluations or contact [Allegra Sandak](#).

Upcoming Events

Henry IV Pt. II

July 18–20

ArtsEmerson film screening

"Understanding Privilege, Power, and Difference"

July 31, 11:00 am–12:00 pm

Skybox, Piano Row

Diversity and Inclusion's Summer Learning Series

"Sticks and Stones:

Words Do Hurt"

July 23, 11:00 am–12:00 pm

Skybox, Piano Row

RSVP to diversity_inclusion@emerson.edu.

Summer Friday Fun Around Town

[Boston Harbor Hotel](#)

[Movie Fridays](#)

July 11, 18, 25

Sunset

[Highland Street Foundation](#)

[Free Fun Fridays](#)

July 11

New England Historic

Genealogical Society

[Boston Public Library](#)

[Concerts in the Courtyard](#)

July 11, 18, 25

12:00–1:30 pm

July 18

MFA

July 25

Freedom Trail Foundation

Sustainable Emerson

Summer Freecycle/Clean Out Your Office Event

Records Management and Sustainability are hosting a "Freecycle/Clean Out Your Office" event July 29–30, 11:00 am–3:00 pm, in the Bordy Theater.

Bring your old paper files and Records Management staff will answer questions about what documents you should keep for historical or legal purposes. Bins for the shredding of confidential or sensitive paper files will be provided.

Bring your unused office supplies, books, and knick-knacks and/or come and peruse the items that people have dropped off for "freecycling." Your extra table lamp could be another colleague's treasure!

If you would like to request a bin for the transportation of a substantial amount of materials, contact [Nancy Howell](#).

Tech Spot

Summer Workshops

IT is holding eight workshops for staff and faculty in July. Offerings include InDesign, Photoshop, and Excel pivot tables.

Learn more and RSVP for sessions at it.emerson.edu/workshops.

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

Pet Quiz Answers

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

Work Smarter

Web Content Tips

Did You Know...

...Breaking up text on web pages improves its readability?

This is called "chunking." Website visitors typically [scan pages](#) for specific information, and they want to find what they need quickly. Chunking your text and using headers with vital keywords makes this easy, as does deleting any unnecessary or wordy text!

...You can submit events to the campus calendar through eCampus?

Simply log into eCampus to submit your event or announcement. If you would like to see your event featured on the homepage, please email [Sarah Teczar](#) and she will be happy to feature the event.

Note: Please remember to italicize titles of books, magazines, newspapers, plays, movies, and TV and radio series; do not use ALL CAPS or quotation marks.

It is important to be consistent. Please see the [editorial style guide](#) if you have any additional questions.

If you would like to make changes to your section of the website, create new pages, or create a new section, content developer [Sarah Teczar](#) can help you. Please prepare a concrete outline and/or content before setting up a meeting or making requests for any changes.

If you plan on updating pages yourself on a regular basis, email web@emerson.edu to request a Drupal training or refresher.

people@Emerson

Published monthly by the
Office of Communications and
Marketing

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