

## Staff Profile

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### Heather Kurtz

Heather Kurtz joined the College as the director of corporate and foundation relations in February 2013.

Her department, which is housed in Development and Alumni Relations, is responsible for the planning, organization, and implementation of a program to build financial support for the College from local, regional, and national corporations and foundations. The department raises support to meet pressing program needs, capital projects, and College initiatives.

Kurtz works closely with her counterparts in the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship, who are responsible for the funding of academic initiatives and sponsored research projects. They have been working on improving grant application processes and workflow.

Another source of funding is direct sponsorship from corporations. This type of relationship benefits sponsors through positive public relations, marketing opportunities, professional development training, and access to potential employees through internship programs.



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## Staff Profile cont.

Kurtz hopes to expand this type of funding at the College.

When prioritizing funding opportunities, Kurtz keeps in mind President Pelton's strategic plan. She focuses on affinity groups within the alumni base and nurtures relationships to build stronger connections with industry contacts. Current projects that Kurtz's office is working on include an Enrollment initiative called emersonPathways, which provides mentoring and scholarship opportunities to underprivileged youth. She is also excited about finding support for a rooftop garden

and a public art gallery, both of which would benefit not only the College, but also the surrounding community.

Kurtz brings to Emerson an extensive knowledge of fundraising for collaborative nonprofits. Prior to Emerson, she served as the executive director of a nonprofit called CultureLEAP. The organization secured outside support from area, state, and federal sources to connect 20 cultural institutions and 10 higher education institutions with students and teachers in the Worcester public schools to positively impact the K-12 curriculum.

Kurtz was attracted to Emerson because of the "excitement and potential" she saw at the College. She loves the creative atmosphere that both the students and her colleagues contribute to.

Kurtz has a BA in English literature from Hamilton College and an MA in museum nonprofit administration from Harvard. She and her husband, Devon, live in Worcester, Massachusetts, with their four sons, Andrew, Harry, Colin, and Charlie.

# Staff Profile cont.

## Corporate and Foundation Relations Department Profile

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### How many people work in your department?

Director Heather Kurtz and Assistant Director Diana Potter

### Where is your department located?

99 Summer Street, Suite 910

### What are your department's major functions?

The Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations is responsible for the planning, organization, and implementation of a program to build financial support for the College from local, regional, and national corporations and foundations.

### What population does your department work with?

We work with all areas of the College to coordinate capital initiatives for the institution as well as external supporters from corporate charitable, private, and public foundation staff and corporate donors to secure outside support.

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

The Emerson community has amazing contacts within the communication, media, and entertainment industries. We have vast potential to harness these connections and leverage them for greater support and opportunities for our students, faculty, and the institution. The Emerson network is truly impressive.

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

Over the past two years, external funding support from corporate, foundation, and research funding grew from an annual contribution of \$750,000 to \$4.2 million. Such exponential growth is not usually maintained year-to-year, but it speaks to the potential Emerson is beginning to tap in this area of funding support.

# Staff Notes

## Awards and Accomplishments

The Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Health, has recognized Emerson for its efforts to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest, and for meeting the criteria necessary to designate Emerson College a HEARTSafe Community.

Emerson is one of only four colleges/universities in the state to achieve the HEARTSafe Community designation. The efforts to become a HEARTSafe Community were led by Emerson College Police Department (ECPD) Officer Erik Tebeau.

ECPD remains available to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training to College community members at no cost. There is a nominal fee associated with the training needed for certification with the AHA. Anyone interested in CPR training should contact Officer Tebeau at 617-824-8555 or [erik\\_tebeau@emerson.edu](mailto:erik_tebeau@emerson.edu).



*Front, from left: Katie McLaughlin, Lauren Feeney, Nancy Howell, Laurie Smith, Mary Higgins; back from left: Nicole Leete, Beth Joress, Maureen Tripp, Liliana Ballesteros, Chuck Dunham. Not pictured: Caroline Lacy*

The offices of Government and Community Relations and Communications and Marketing co-sponsored a volunteer outing to Boston Harbor Islands National Park on July 31. Mary Higgins (Government and Community Relations); Chuck Dunham, Liliana Ballesteros, Nancy Howell, and Nicole Leete (Communications and

Marketing); Maureen Tripp and Beth Joress (Iwasaki Library); Laurie Smith (IT); Katie McLaughlin (General Counsel); and students Caroline Lacy and Lauren Feeney spent the day clearing invasive species on Lovells Island.

## New Faces

- Christopher Brunelle, Assistant Dean of Students, Emerson College Los Angeles
- Janet Nadeau, Administrative Assistant, Communication Studies

# Staff Notes cont.

## Announcements

### Research at Emerson Is Growing!

A collaboration between four CSD faculty, Ruth Grossman, Daniel Kempler, Joanne Lasker, and Rhiannon Luyster, has established a new web-based Family Registry for Research at Emerson. The registry's goal is to establish a connection with local families and individuals who are interested in participating in studies exploring language and communication. Everyone is welcome: young children and adults, and those with a range of language and communication impairments or disorders (e.g., aphasia, autism spectrum disorder) or no communication difficulties at all. After you register on the secure and

confidential website, a researcher will contact you if and when you or your child are eligible to participate in a study at Emerson.

If you sign up, there is no obligation to participate, and you may withdraw your name from the Registry at any time. Please visit [research.emerson.edu](http://research.emerson.edu) for more details, contact information, and to register yourself and your family for research at Emerson!



### Engagement Game Emerson UnCommon Launches Sept. 22

Emerson College is home to the Engagement Lab, an applied research lab devoted to playful approaches to serious issues. For the first time, the Lab will run its flagship game, Community PlanIt, here at the College.

Emerson UnCommon will bring together voices from all over the Emerson community to discuss the College's place in our lives, the community, and the world. Players will be able to make their voices heard, connect with others across the College, and win \$3,000 in funding for Emerson community causes (including player-created causes). You can register now at [communityplanit.org/emersonuncommon](http://communityplanit.org/emersonuncommon).

# Staff Notes cont.

## New Faces Spotlight

Angela Carlson-Bancroft is the new assistant director in the Office of Institutional Research. She is a doctoral student at George Washington University as well and is working on her dissertation.

In her role at Emerson, she supports Emerson's evaluation and assessment efforts and generates data and information for the Emerson community and external stakeholders in order to enhance institutional effectiveness. She also assists in generating the Emerson Factbook, which contains statistics for the most recent and historic reporting periods in areas such as admission, enrollment, retention rates, degrees conferred, and faculty and staff statistics.

Carlson-Bancroft said that she was attracted to the job at Emerson because of her manager Michael Duggan's interest in collaborating with the entire College community to engage in meaningful institutional research.

Prior to arriving at Emerson, Carlson-Bancroft worked in an institutional research office at SUNY Plattsburgh. She also has been an independent researcher for the George Washington Online High School in northern Virginia.

Her educational background demonstrates her strong interest in the field of educational research. She graduated with a bachelor's in psychology and anthropology from the University of Connecticut and then attended Teachers College at Columbia to obtain a master's in the psychology of education. Her doctoral study is in curriculum and instruction, with a focus on faculty and student engagement.

She has published case studies in academic journals and is finalizing her first chapter in a textbook, which chronicles the planning and classroom management practices of the first-year implementation of a 1:1 iPad



initiative. Another forthcoming publication in the journal *Computers in the Schools* is titled "Examining Differentiation and Utilization of iPads Across Content Areas in an Independent, PreK–Fourth Grade Elementary School."

Before moving to Arlington, Massachusetts, with her husband, Peter, and three-year-old son, Duncan, Carlson-Bancroft lived in Manhattan; Plattsburgh, New York; Washington, DC; and Los Angeles.

Her favorite hobby, aside from spending time with her family and working on her dissertation, is being active outdoors. She enjoys canoeing and hiking and has been an outdoor facilitator. She is not a skier, however, so she is looking forward to spending time at a local indoor rock gym this winter.



# Staff News

## New Student Orientation 101

New Student Orientation is one of the most exciting times on campus. During the week-long program, new students spend time with fellow students, staff, and faculty and also learn about the myriad campus services available to them.

Students, and their parents, attend programs specifically tailored to their status as first-years, transfers, or grad students. There are also special pre-orientation programs for international students.

The Student Life Office oversees the Undergraduate Orientation program, but as Associate Dean of Students Sharon Duffy said, "We can't run the program without the support of every campus department."

Duffy and her Student Life colleagues serve as advisors to the group of eight students known as "Core staff," who do the actual planning of the Undergraduate Orientation program. A new Core staff

begins in November of each year, receiving guidance from the previous year's Core staff to plan the Winter Orientation for students starting in the spring semester.

They then get to work on the Fall Orientation, developing the program's theme, arranging schedules, booking event spaces, securing speakers, and working with the Orientation Leaders, a group of students 178 strong this year.

Each Orientation Leader is assigned to six to eight new students and act as their guides throughout the week. Retention for Orientation Leaders is high; many return year after year, and those who seek to gain additional leadership experience apply to join the Core staff.

*continued on next page*

**Student Life staff and this year's Orientation Core staff**



## Staff News cont.

More than 70 events were planned for new students this year. In addition to attending daily social events, students have plenty of time to explore campus during department open houses. They also participate in academic advising sessions and departmental meetings to learn more about their major.

New international undergraduate students and their parents arrive on campus earlier than new domestic students for “Pre-Orientation.” A Core staff member takes on the role of International Pre-Orientation chair and works with Virga Mohsini and Susannah Marcucci (International Student Affairs) to plan and execute the three-day program, which includes special campus and department tours, meetings about visas, and social activities.

Duffy and Steven Martin (Off-Campus Student Services) advise the one-day Transfer Orientation for those students who have a September 1 lease date. A Core staff member acts as chair and there are eight dedicated Orientation Leaders. During the day, students connect with each other and learn about campus services and life in Boston through department open houses, campus tours, and a welcome lunch.

Undergraduate Parent Orientation is a day-long program at the beginning of the week and is a “great comfort to parents,” Duffy noted. Parents are welcomed by staff and attend two information sessions before attending a reception.

Maria Figueora (Graduate Studies) and Eric Matthews (Academic Affairs) plan the Orientation program for graduate

students. International graduate students arrive a day earlier than domestic graduate students to complete special paperwork and take language assessments. The next day, all incoming graduate students attend a one-day program during which they obtain IDs, meet with their department’s faculty, hear presentations about campus-related issues, and attend a welcome reception.

Duffy encourages all staff and faculty to attend Orientation events. She said, “It’s a great way for staff and faculty to learn more about the student experience at Emerson.” It is also a time for students, faculty, and staff to feel proud to be a part of such a dynamic community!



# Staff News cont.

## Open Campus Day Recap

On August 8, 10 departments opened their doors and invited their colleagues to learn more about their mission and services. Human Resources co-sponsored the event with the host departments. The pilot program was launched due to a number of staff expressing interest in learning more about the work of other campus departments.

Engagement Lab staff  
Becky Michelson,  
Wade Kimbrough, and  
Jordan Pailthorpe

At the Engagement Lab, staff were on hand to talk about the different engagement games they are working on



for partners around the world. Every visitor who registered to play the upcoming Emerson engagement game received a cupcake.

The Iwasaki Library staff invited visitors to take a quiz about the library as they snacked on pastries. Archives and Special Collections displayed a selection of artifacts, including a signed copy of a book by founder Charles Wesley Emerson and a 1970s hat donated by actress Sylvie Lewis.

Student Life staff gave tours of the Campus Center and offered information about their department's services. Every visitor was entered into a raffle for Student Life-related prizes, such as tickets to the EVVYs.

Visitors to HR were treated to an ice cream sundae bar and Emerson swag and also learned about hiring trends in recent years.

IT welcomed visitors to its offices in the Ansin Building. Visitors were introduced to the new phone system, a large-format org

From left: Crystina Hammond,  
Kimberly Marcella, and Mary  
Dowdell (HR)



chart, new HD projectors and panels, and were given tours of the IT Data Center. View a brief recap video [here](#).

The 10th floor of Walker (Diversity and Inclusion, Violence Prevention and Response, Elma Lewis Center, and Service Learning) offered a number of activities focused on diversity and inclusion, such as a planting of "seeds of inclusion": Guests planted seeds of various herbs to take back to their offices.

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## Staff News cont.

The Office of Student Success put on a Vegas-themed open house to emphasize its mission of not wanting students to “gamble” with their success. Staff introduced the Money Matters program, and visitors were encouraged to take “bills” featuring departmental information from a reverse tip jar.

Emerson Stage displayed costumes, photographs, and scenic renderings from recent productions, and shared information

*From left: Ashley Tarbet DeStefano, Alayne Fiore, Robert Amelio, and Melanie Matson (Diversity and Inclusion)*



about next season’s productions while chatting with visitors over chips and salsa.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders created a treasure hunt for visitors that led them to a number of facilities, including an observation room, the audiology booth, and the control room where speech and language treatment sessions are videotaped.

The Office of the Arts opened the Paramount Center theaters for staff to explore. A microphone was set up onstage and visitors searched for candy representing the four areas served by OA. Visitors also entered a raffle to win a membership and two tickets to *Traces*.

The six winners of the trivia quiz that was sponsored by HR are: Richelle Devereaux-Murray, Mindy Hinkel, Nate Magnuski, Zyanya Dickey, Kellie Fuller, and Chris Daly.

HR has created a survey about Open Campus Day and encourages all staff to take it, whether or not they participated in the event. Find the survey at [surveymonkey.com/s/Open\\_Campus\\_Day](https://surveymonkey.com/s/Open_Campus_Day).

**Student Success’s reverse tip jar**



# Sustainable Emerson

## Updates and News

### By the Numbers

Staff unloaded A LOT of paper and recyclable items during the recent Clean Out Your Office days sponsored by Sustainability and Archives and Records Management:

- 3,750 lbs. of paper shredded
- ~500 lbs. of non-shredded paper
- 2 hampers of cardboard
- 1 hamper of glass/metal/plastic
- 1/2 hamper of e-waste
- 1 box of media
- 1 box of toner/ink cartridges

And four hampers full of supplies were donated to Urban College.

### The Garden Grows...

Thanks to all who have volunteered to host garden boxes in their offices this fall. We welcome more volunteers! Contact [Eric Van Vlandren](#) to learn more.

### Keurig K-Cup Recycling

Did you know that you can recycle your Keurig K-Cups? You can! We encourage you to learn more about Keurig's Grounds to Grow On recycling program at [groundstogrowon.com/keurig/home.html](http://groundstogrowon.com/keurig/home.html).

# Tech Spot

## New Projects for the New Academic Year

IT has several new and exciting projects in the works. To highlight a few, it is rolling out the new IP phone system and improving the password reset process. The department also just launched a new feature on the IT website called the Project Center, where you can read about current projects and submit new project proposals. Check out IT's blog at [it.emerson.edu](http://it.emerson.edu) for more details.

# Upcoming Events

## September 11

7:00 pm

*American Arab*

Bright Lights Screening

## September 12

7:00 pm

*What a World*

ArtsEmerson Film Screening

## September 15

7:30 pm

*WORD/PLAY: Xingu*

ArtsEmerson Production

## September 16

7:00 pm

*The Act of Killing*

Bright Lights Screening

## September 17

4:30 pm

"Hands Up: The Police, the Media, and the Shooting of Michael Brown"

Sponsored by the Elma Lewis Center with the Journalism Department, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, Institute, and VMA Department

## September 18

7:00 pm

Balagan Presents "Outré Montréal"

Bright Lights Screening

## September 19–21

Times vary

*Two Gentlemen of Verona*

ArtsEmerson Film Screening

## September 23

7:00 pm

Boston Creative Pro User Group

Bright Lights Event

## September 25

7:00 pm

Cycles and Voids: Artist Talk and Screening

Bright Lights Event

## September 30

7:00 pm

*Documented*

Bright Lights Screening

## people@Emerson

Published monthly by the  
Office of Communications and  
Marketing

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