The Emerson Network Update - June 28, 2014

The Emerson Network is a bi-weekly email for Emerson alumni to share updates and announcements with the Emerson family.

Submit your news for the next edition at: ec1880.us/n64ne

Jump to:
  Boston
  Los Angeles
  New York City
  New England
  Mid-Atlantic
  Southeast
  USA
  International
  Alumni Association Updates

Upcoming Events
  July 15 - Worcester, MA - Create the Vote Candidate's Forum
  July 27 - Los Angeles - Sunday on Sunset
  Weekly - Los Angeles - ELA Building Tours

Boston

Seven Emerson alumni working in the television news industry won Boston/New England Emmy Awards on June 7. They include Jennifer Baglio ’09, Mike Beaudet ’92, Eric J. Budney ’94, Katie Eastman ’11, Richard Feindel ’09, Lisa Simmons, MA ’02, and Gerry Wardwell ’80. Six other alumni received nominations including Marina Fueller Giordano ’93, Parker Gavigan, MA ’04, Ed Harding ’75, Abby Niezgoda ’11, Doreen Scanlon, MA ’04, and David Wade ’95.

Diane Ripstein ’72 presented Move on the Cha-Cha’s this month at the Arsenal Centre for the Arts in Watertown, MA as a preview for her performance run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland in August. Diane is working with Meghan Mueller ’13 as director and Marysa Yvonne Angelli ’14 as stage manager.

Simone Bloom Nathan ’87 published a children’s picture book, Eight Candles and a Tree. Simone writes, "I was inspired to write the book after I couldn't find a picture book for my granddaughter about a child who celebrates both Christmas and Hanukkah. I hope the book encourages parents and children to share their unique holiday traditions and cultural observances with others." More info »

Bob Pflugfelder ’89 or “Science Bob”, was featured in the Boston Globe. He launched a series of mystery books for young readers featuring Nick and Tesla, two 11-year-old engineers whose inventions are detailed in the books. He is an elementary school teacher based in Newton, Massachusetts who has made many television appearances on Jimmy Kimmel Live, Live with Kelly and Michael, The Dr. Oz Show, and other media outlets.
Caitlin McCarthy, MFA ’94, received the Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award from the MTA Human Relations Committee. The award recognized McCarthy for “demonstrating creativity in improving conditions and opportunities for particular individuals and/or groups through her DES (diethylstilbestrol) activism; her efforts to raise awareness about DES through her Wonder Drug screenplay; and her work with then US Senator John Kerry (D-MA) and then US Senator Scott Brown (R-MA) on obtaining the FDA acknowledgment of DES as a ‘tragedy.’”

Sandra Rizkallah ’94, co-founder/co-executive director of the Plugged In teen band program in Needham, Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that Plugged In has purchased a permanent location for the 12-year-old nonprofit organization that teaches kids about using music to create positive change in the world. Plugged In has more than 110 students in 40 bands from cities throughout Massachusetts.

Sarah Wolf ’05, a Boston-area writer, is working on a unique piece of fiction where she writes a section of a novel each day about “choosing your own adventure” on her blog and at the end of each post, she asks the readers to vote for what happens next. Find her blog here »

Brian Samuels ’06, local food blogger and photographer at A Thought for Food, was interviewed for Food & Wine magazine, where he calls his Emerson education "invaluable." Read the article here »

Maxwell Mozes ’12 joined Amazon as a sales executive after two years at Boston startup, LevelUp.

Los Angeles

James Siler ’97 launched his second business, James Siler Photography, in 2014. Siler launched Green Flash Production Sound in 2003 after years in local news in Massachusetts and Florida. Green Flash continues to provide location sound recording to many top production companies and national news networks but Siler felt the pull back to the photography he loved so much in the past. He focuses on the art of people and the beauty of Southern California. Check out his work here »

Seth Graeme-Smith ’98 is one of the executive producers of The Lego Movie spinoff, Ninjago, that will be released Fall 2016. Kevin Chesley ’97 and Bryan Shukoff ’97 penned the screenplay. Read more »

Michele Josue ’01 is the director of Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine, the feature documentary that tells the story of Matthew Shepard. The film, currently on the festival circuit, recently won the Cleveland International Film Festival’s top prizes—The Greg Gund Memorial Standing Up Award and The Roxanne T. Mueller Audience Choice Award for Best Film.

Catherine Day ’04 is working with Screenz, the media tech company behind ABC's Rising Star. It has been called a “game changer” because it is the first interactive live TV show in which the audience determines who will win the music competition with real-time voting through an app.

Walker Dieckmann ’09 is the LA city manager for Instacart, a grocery delivery startup. He is supervising the service’s launch and expansion throughout greater LA. Dieckmann writes, "Since Lions love free food, all Emersonians get free delivery and $10 off their first order." Click here »
Michelle Macedo ’10 is the writer and performer of the original show, *Dirty Talk*, which was selected as the feature performance for the INK Fest Festival for Female Playwrights. The show is based on interviews conducted with real women and men about their experience with street harassment and sexual assault.

Lili Kaytmaz ’11 is the make-up artist in a new Buzzfeed video about the process celebrities go through to get that contoured and defined make-up look. The video also features Ella Mielniczenko ’13 as one of the models. Check it out here »

Thomas Pettinelli ’13 is working as a director and developer at Branded Pictures Entertainment. He was previously a development assistant at Universal Studies.

**New York City**


Michael Creighton ’01 won the 2013 Writers Guild of America Award for Outstanding Achievement in Writing Original New Media for his work on *Jack in a Box*, a web series.

Anthony Fisher ’01 is proud to announce that his first feature film, *Sidewalk Traffic*, had its US premiere at the [Lower East Side Film Festival](#) on June 18 at the Sunshine Cinemas. View the trailer »

Maryalice Aymong ’11 is a writer and producer for *Good Morning America* on ABC.

**New England**

Stamford, CT
Mia Schipani ’88 has been appointed as the business development director for the Palace Theatre, a regional performing arts center in Stamford, in an effort to enrich and develop more meaningful relationships with local businesses and the not-for-profit community.

North Providence, RI
Adriana I. Dawson, MA ’00, has been named director of employer outreach and engagement at Roger Williams University. In the newly created role, Dawson will lead strategic employer and industry relationships to help drive new engagements and sustainable partnerships.

West Hartford, CT

**Mid-Atlantic**

Chatham, NJ
Joel Schwartzberg ’90, a nationally published writer and author, had his new collection of essays, *Small*
*Things Considered: Moments from Manhood to Manilow*, published by Wyatt MacKenzie. He also accepted a position as senior director of strategic & executive communications for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in New York City, where he functions as chief speechwriter.

**Albany, NY**  
**Cara-Aimee Long ’03** published her first collection of short stories, *Partly Gone*, through Unsolicited Press. A Greek translation will be released in Greece in July through Strange Days Books.

**Medford, NJ**  
**Maria Taibi Santory ’03** started a publishing business and recently published *Carved the Art of the Bass Guitar*, a worldwide coffee table magazine that covers the life and work of custom bass guitar builders. It is sold in 20 bass shops worldwide.

**Southeast**

**Raleigh, NC**  
**Kiersten Williams ’91** of Williams Consulting P.R., a public relations and strategic communications practice, is the recipient of a Silver Bulldog Award for Excellence in Media Relations and Publicity for “Best Green Campaign.” Williams works with financial, environmental, professional services, and technology clients.

**Atlanta, GA**  
**Jon Allen ’14** created the world’s first all-natural, organic Shirley Temple as part of a yearlong entrepreneurial studies class at Emerson College. After winning a $10,000 cash prize for winning the E3 Expo (Emerson Entrepreneurial Experience) in 2013, Allen began the Temple Twist soda brand, now bottled by Flavorman, the same beverage company behind Jones Soda. [Read more »](#)

**USA**

**Denver, CO**  
**Jessica Moore ’00** started a line of greeting cards and posters. [View them here »](#)

**Austin, TX**  
**Ashley Blom ’10** is the marketing coordinator for TabbedOut, an Austin startup app that allows you to pay your bar or restaurant tab from your phone. TabbedOut will be in 10,000 locations by the end of the year across the United States, and is currently in most major cities.

**International**

**Amsterdam**  
**Jennifer Niejadlik ’95** showcased her feature length documentary, *The Ultimate Wedding Planner*, at the Cannes Film Festival in May. The film is about a Japanese man, Yoshi Nojiri, who founded one of the world's largest wedding and event companies, producing 22,000 weddings per year. [View the trailer »](#)
Menno Swart, MA ’96, started his own production company, based in Amsterdam. De MediaMakerij produces sponsored TV programs and corporate videos. His first assignment was a corporate video for T-Mobile. [Check it out »](#)

**Toronto, Canada**

Melissa Hore '02 is working on finishing her first feature length documentary film that is independently funded. They recently launched a crowd sourcing campaign to raise the funds for the finishing costs of the film. [More information »](#)

---

**Alumni Association Updates**

Serve as a mentor for students or fellow alumni seeking career advice through our Emerson Connections Program. [Learn more »](#)

*Missed one of our webinars?* We hosted sessions on crowdfunding, voice over, personal finance, entrepreneurship and many more! [Check out our webinar archive to view them now »](#)

**Join the alumni online community »**

**Find Emerson Alumni:**
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

---

Emerson College
120 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

If you wish to be removed from this group's mailing list, [click here](http://connection.emerson.edu/controls/email_marketing/admin... #)