The Emerson Network Update - June/July 2015

The Emerson Network is a monthly email for all College alumni to share updates and announcements with your Emerson family.

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

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Upcoming Events
July 31 - Seattle - Seattle Potluck Picnic
August 8 - Los Angeles - LA GOLD Summer Barbecue
August 20 - Boston - Third Thursdays with GOLD
August 23 - Los Angeles - Mary Burrell Scholarship Fundraiser
October 9–10 - Los Angeles - Emerson LA Film Festival

Boston

Cynthia Ross Gruber '69 is the executive producer for Aside from That, a film project exploring the various coping mechanisms people employ to deal with their mortality. In the film, fellow alumnus and comedian Steven Wright '78 shares his unique perspective with his friend, the film's director, Richard Tilkin. This film has been selected into the 19th Annual Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival and will premiere at the festival on August 7. More information and to buy tickets »

Sandi Goldfarb '78, Emerson Board of Overseers member, is the recipient of two silver awards from the leading communication industry journal Bulldog Reporter. These awards recognize media relations programs developed and implemented on behalf of her clients: The Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center and UMass Amherst. The campaigns were judged by a panel of journalists who assessed their ability to achieve “extraordinary visibility and influence opinion,” as well as on creativity and command of media and technology. A senior vice president at Boston-based Rasky Baerlein Strategic Communications, Sandi directs the firm’s nonprofit, education, and consumer practices.

Caitlin McCarthy, MFA '94, has been named one of 2015’s 40 Women to Watch over 40 and received a “glowing review” from The Black List for her TV pilot, Free Skate. Read more »

Lauren Blanda '03, general merchandising manager for the Boston-based specialty sporting goods retailer City Sports, was recently named one of the top young executives in the sporting goods and active lifestyle industry by SportsOneSource in its annual SGB 40 under 40 Awards.

Iris Amelia Febres, MA '12, spoke at PePcon: The Print + ePublishing Conference in June 2015. She discussed working with offshore digital production vendors and how to navigate vendor partnerships. More than 500 designers and professionals were in attendance.

Anum Hussain '13 has been selected as one of the winners of the BetaBoston 25 Most Innovative People under 25.

Nina Corcoran '14 is the new music editor of DigBoston, Boston's only alternative weekly newspaper.
Jackie Pauley ’15 is spending a year as a volunteer English teacher in Colombia with WorldTeach.

Los Angeles

Sarah Randall Hunt ’06 starred, alongside Sirena Irwin (Spongebob), in a stage production of Imagining Brad, directed by Clare Carey (Aquarius, Coach) this July. She has also appeared in Unfinished Business with Vince Vaughn and Chronic with Tim Roth. Another indie she shot, ToY, is currently in post-production.

Aaron McLane ’06 was nominated for an International Academy of Web Television (IAWTV) award for Best Directing on an Original Series (Non-fiction) for BLITZED.

Keto Shimizu ’07 is a producer and writer for the fourth season of the DC Comics-inspired Arrow on the CW. This is her third year as a writer on the show.

Dean Smollar ’09 has become a member of the International Cinematographers Guild (IATSE 600) as a steadicam/camera operator. He has also become a member of the Society of Operating Cameramen, receiving the title Dean Smollar, SOC.

John Bickerstaff ’14 has placed as a quarterfinalist in the Nicholl Fellowship 2015 competition for his first screenplay, Dangerous People.

New York City

Anthony Stirpe, MA ’00, is a high school teacher in the New York City area. This year, his school expanded its film program by replacing cameras with iPads to teach kids how to use tablets for the entire filming process—from pre-planning to shooting to editing. Due to his time as an English language arts teacher, the entire program has a strong connection to literature and poetry. Anthony recently won a pioneer award from New York State BOCES for this innovative program.

Ballard C. Boyd ’04 is now a digital producer at The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, directing segments for web and broadcast. The late night talk show begins September 8 on CBS and at ColbertLateShow.com.

New England

West Haven, CT

Dennis Blader ’75, MSSP ’79, teaches an “experiential education” class at the University of New Haven, where students serve as crew and perform the complete field production set-up, webcast, and breakdown of home football games. The webcast includes live game coverage, pre- and post-game segments, and complete live half-time activities. His students were honored with the 2015 Student Award for Excellence in the category of College/University - Sports - Live Event at the 38th Emmy Awards Ceremony Boston/New England.

Mechanic Falls, ME

Micah C. Brown ’99 had his short story, It Came to Dinner, published in the horror anthology Haunted ME. The story is about a woman whose husband comes home one evening—only it's not her husband anymore.

Providence, RI
Samantha Sugerman '14 was recently hired as an associate producer at WPRI/Fox 12 Providence.

Scituate, RI
Jamie Dufresne '10, director of marketing for The Children's Workshop, has been named executive director of the North Central Chamber of Commerce, which is based in Johnston, Rhode Island, and serves the communities of Johnston, North Providence, Smithfield, Scituate, Foster, and Glocester.

San Francisco

Andrew Maiorana '03 and wife Jennifer were trekking in Tsum valley in northern Nepal during the April 25 7.8m earthquake and have channeled this experience into a fundraiser to help rural villages of Nepal called "Save Rural Nepal." They have already made one delivery to provide aid to 475 people. Read more about their story and campaign »

Max Stein '14 is producing a documentary film with some friends that will profile human interests movements in seven countries around the world. More information »

USA

Boca Raton, FL
Paul Dobrin, G '81, owner of Palm Bay Insurance, Inc., has moved his agency to 1507 N. State Road 7, Suite #E in Margate, Florida.

Princeton, NJ
Sara McDermott Jain, MA '06, has founded the Princeton Independent Film Festival, along with two filmmaking friends. The first annual festival will take place September 17–20. To submit a film or to volunteer, visit www.prindiefest.com.

Philadelphia, PA
Melissa Kaplan '04 is taking her original one-woman knife-juggling musical, Daggers MacKenzie, to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. Learn more »

Richmond, VA
Dana Taylor '11 joined Studio Center Total Production as a production coordinator. Specializing in audio, video, digital, and voice talent, Studio Center has made a long-standing name for itself with major campaigns nationwide and has won numerous awards including Tellys, Grammys, Silver Microphones, and more.

Alumni Community Updates

Alumni, it's your time to shine! We are now accepting submissions for the Emerson Los Angeles Film Festival (ELAFF). This festival, held on October 9–10, will feature short films, moderated panel discussions, provocative Q&A sessions, cutting-edge tech demonstrations—and will culminate with a reception and a "Best of" awards presentation. Submit your short to the Emerson LA Film Festival today »

Serve as a mentor for students or fellow alumni seeking career advice through our Emerson Connections Program. Learn more »
Alumni are welcome to visit the Emerson College Iwasaki Library and take advantage of its print, non-print, and electronic resources. To receive your library card, please visit the Office of Development and Alumni Relations (99 Summer Street, Boston) to fill out an application.

Please note: No access is granted to the Walker Building or the library without this card.

Liberty Mutual has partnered with the Emerson College Alumni Association to offer alumni quality auto and home insurance with personalized, discounted coverage to meet all needs. This partnership is especially beneficial as Liberty Mutual helps fund Emerson College scholarships. Learn more »

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