



The Hollywood Report

The Official Newsletter of Emerson College Los Angeles

Greetings from the Emerson College Los Angeles Center

The Emerson Los Angeles Program is a semester-long experience for eligible juniors, seniors, and graduate students. It has been an ongoing academic program since the 1980s and today is the premier residential program of its kind in Los Angeles. All students enroll in an internship, usually related to some facet of the entertainment industries, while taking classes taught by scholars and working professionals. Students from across the College participate in this intensive and challenging semester and many remain to pursue careers in the Los Angeles area upon graduating.

The Emerson LA staff encourages students to explore the city and county of Los Angeles during their time here. Through a demanding academic curriculum, a vital field study of an internship site, and a broader opportunity to encounter the surrounding area, the Emerson Los Angeles Center provides an impeccable residential program that weaves together many threads of the Emerson educational experience. We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Jim Lane
Executive Director
Emerson College Los Angeles

So you're heading to Los Angeles next semester and you don't quite know what to expect? Or maybe you're thinking of applying to the LA Program, but you're not sure if it's for you? Within these pages, you will find information that will shed a bit more light on the Emerson Los Angeles Center and what it has to offer.

If you're thinking about participating in the Emerson Los Angeles Program, we encourage you to take some time to review these pages. While each student helps to create his or her own unique experience on the west coast, we believe that the more information you have, the better prepared you will be in taking the next step in your education. We wish you the best of luck in making your decision and look forward to meeting many of you in LA!

Kerri McManus
Director of Internships & Student Services
Emerson College Los Angeles Center



DAY ONE: THE OPENING-NIGHT DINNER



It marks the inception of every semester at the L.A. Program. As the evening sun angles in through the windows, newly arrived students step through the double doors of the Oakwood Apartments' North Clubhouse for the traditional opening night dinner. Conversation is boisterous, and there is no shortage of high-fives and hugs, as students reunite three-thousand miles from where they last saw each other. Some are stiff from cross-country car trips, others jet-lagged, but all of them seem to have interesting stories to tell—about their long journey to Los Angeles and their first impressions of a city they've heard so much about. “We’re definitely not on the east coast anymore,” says Michael Poisson, a VMA major, and one of the fall semester’s residence assistants. “After a panic-stricken drive down the 405 [freeway], it seemed like L.A. was going to be much more difficult than I had anticipated. Reaching Oakwood [however], I realized that even if we’re on the other side of the country, with friends and family missing, we’re still at Emerson here, and that was enough to calm me down.”

“Los Angeles is a change of pace from Boston,” adds Sara Moskowitz, an incoming student looking for an internship at talent and literary agencies. “But with the help of the L.A. Program and my internship it [will be] easy to adjust and ultimately the right fit for me.”

Tomorrow, students have a full slate of activities scheduled, including an orientation, their first internship class, and an introduction to the Emerson LA faculty. But tonight the atmosphere is more relaxed, everyone just happy to have arrived after so much anticipation. Jim Lane, the Director of the L.A. Program, takes the podium to officially welcome the one-hundred-plus student body to Los Angeles, as well as introduce them to the ECLA staff with whom they’ve been communicating for the last several months.

Emerson alumnus John Murphy is the evening’s keynote guest speaker. A partner and creative director at DG Entertainment—a leading advertising and promotions company in Hollywood—John is someone still closely attached to his Boston roots. After announcing that the Red Sox have beaten the Toronto Blue Jays by a score of 5-3, he recounts his days at Emerson in the 1980s, as well as the trials and errors of starting his career in The Industry alongside other alums. His stories have a nostalgic fondness, as well as an erudite hindsight. “Take advantage of every opportunity you have,” he tells his audience. “Make as many friends

continued on Page 2...

OPENING NIGHT



GUEST SPEAKER JOHN MURPHY

...continued from Page 1...

as you can. Never underestimate the power of the relationships you forge at Emerson. [They] may very well last throughout your career.”

Kerri McManus, the L.A. Program’s Director of Internships and Students Services, would later echo this sentiment. “This internship experience is truly a springboard for students as they consider their professional pursuits beyond Emerson. The bonds they form with fellow students, as well as the professional relationships they develop at their intern sites, are the beginnings of a personal and professional support network that will serve them for years to come.”

Following John’s enthusiastic Q&A session, dessert is served to close out the evening. In pairs and in groups, students start back to their apartments to enjoy their first night in Los Angeles (for many this will consist of falling unconscious the moment their heads hit the pillow). The sun is down now, the day over, but the journey of a new batch of Emersonians in Los Angeles has only just begun.

?DID YOU KNOW?

Attention Emersonians preparing to move west: The city of Los Angeles is moving too.

Through the use of complex satellite surveys, leading scientists have determined that Los Angeles is shifting eastward approximately one-fifth of an inch every year. At such a rate, how long would it take a displaced Bostonian to get from Pink’s Hot Dogs to the Bull & Finch Pub???

HINT: IT WOULD BE SOME TIME IN THE 1 MILLIONTH CENTURY.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Abigail Lapham is a VMA major with a concentration in TV/Video Production. She spent the Spring 2007 semester interning in the production offices of The Ellen Degeneres Show. As the semester drew to a close, we caught up with Abby to spotlight her experience.

Abby, tell us a bit about your internship search process. How did you end up at *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*?

I was initially overwhelmed by where to begin. I was excited with the possibility of interning for so many companies and knew I wanted to be in a production office (in either television or film). After going on a bunch of interviews, I decided to intern with *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* because it offered a rotating schedule. [That meant] I would be getting exposure to all facets of their Emmy Award-winning show. It also helped to make note of how I felt when I went in for the interview, because walking into a very relaxed environment was an added bonus. I knew I’d be able to get along with the people there right away.

What is the most interesting thing that’s happened at your internship so far?

Seeing Ellen on almost a daily basis is a nice bonus! But the most interesting thing that’s happened probably would have to be when I was asked to hold the door for Oprah and her dogs. Because the show tapes daily, there are always interesting things going on, from last-minute props being made to popping popcorn for the entire audience!

Has your internship changed your opinion about the TV industry or reinforced it?

It’s reinforced my opinion. The staff at *Ellen DeGeneres* fit what I was looking for exactly (teamwork, laid back atmosphere, passion for their show) so it’s made for a great experience. A lot of the things I learned in production classes at Emerson [were put] into action at the office.

What advice would you give to a student getting ready to attend the L.A. Program?

Don’t stress. It’s not as difficult as it may seem. There are plenty of amazing companies to work for in this industry, and they all want your help! While you’re here, make sure to take advantage of the surrounding beaches and cities. Travel and explore! Most of all, enjoy your time while you’re here. It will go by fast!



LEARNING THE THREE P'S

AN INTERVIEW WITH FACULTY MEMBER JEFFREY OMARI

Jeffrey Omari received his J.D. from the University of Illinois, where he landed an internship that would soon ignite his passion for the music business. He is currently a legal consultant in the Music department of MGM.

Omari, tell us about your own internship experience in the music industry. How did it help you get your start?

During law school, I landed an internship in the legal department of LaFace Records. It was a great start for several reasons: (1) it confirmed my desire to work in the music business; (2) I met great people that became friends and opened industry doors; and (3) I met several of the label's artists (OutKast, Usher, TLC, etc.) and went to some really cool parties.

If you could go back to your 22-year-old self and give him one piece of advice, what would it be?

Choose a profession that makes you happy. I have plenty of friends making six figures, but they're miserable because they work long hours, don't like their colleagues, or simply aren't passionate about their jobs. I always stress the importance of doing what you enjoy. If your job is fun, you don't consider it work.

What should a student expect from an internship in the music industry?

It depends on the department you intern for. But the one thing that's universal with industry internships is that the student should be willing to do whatever is asked. If that means going to Starbucks to get coffee for your boss, you go with a smile. No questions asked. The important thing to remember is that internships are an opportunity to meet [influential] people, and networking is the most important part of that game.

From your experience, what characteristics separate successful careers from not so successful ones? What does it take to make it in this town?

I believe success is a relative term. In my opinion, a person could move to Los Angeles to pursue a Hollywood career, stay for a while, decide they don't like "the industry" and move back to wherever they came from to pursue their passion. Does this mean the person wasn't a success because they didn't make it in Hollywood? Not in my eyes. Not everyone is cut out for an industry career. Sometimes you have to experience something before you realize it's not for you. The successful people are those that make a living doing what they enjoy.

Conversely, my answer is different if you ask "what does it take to make it in this town?" Making it in L.A. is all about the three Ps: (1) patience, (2) persistence, and (3) perseverance. My experience is that most people can make a decent living here (or anywhere for that matter) if they use patience, persistence, and perseverance to accomplish their objectives.

THE EMERSON FESTIVAL OF FILM & VIDEO TURNS 7!

HOLLYWOOD--On March 29, 2007, Emerson College held its seventh annual festival of film and video at the Harmony Gold Theatre on Sunset Boulevard. The event was copiously attended by members of the Emerson faculty and administration, as well as students and alumni. Bob Gersh, the co-president of The Gersh Agency, hosted the evening, and Introductory remarks were made by President Jacqueline Liebergott, Dean Grafton Nunes, and Mark Stewart, president of the college's Southern California Alumni Chapter. As had been evident in years past, the full scope of Emerson's creative and technically sound filmmakers was once again on abundant display. A lone cowboy seeking revenge. An animated heart plotting to escape a hospital ward. A daughter probing the depths of a troubled family history. Two brothers with opposite opinions of a controversial American war. These were just a few of the subjects explored in the eight engaging films. Jim Lane, Executive Director of the LA Center, moderated a Q&A session after the screenings and a reception followed to close out the evening.

This year's showcased films were RAZOR MAN, directed by Keto Shimizu; RIDE TO DANGER, directed by Silas Lesnick; SEVEN YEAR SCRATCH, directed by Stephen Ruberto; MATTERS OF THE HEART, directed by Rosa Jurjevics; ELEVATOR GIRL, director Danny Madden; A JOURNEY OF 8MM, directed by Abigail Bahret; DREAMING, directed by Yu-Ching Li; and BROTHER SOLDIERS, directed by Sean Lagrange. Congratulations to all who participated!



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

FALL 2007 STUDENTS & THEIR INTERNSHIPS

Joe Acchione, *Kopelson Entertainment*

David Altobelli, *Working Title Films*

Charles Andres, *The Jim Henson Company*

Charles Antosca, *Pretty Pictures*

Nick Arouca, *Mad Dog Studios*

Danielle Bemis, *Dreamworks Animation*

Jannette Bloom, *Marc Platt Productions*

Adam Burnett, *MTV Networks*

Meghan Cassidy, *Miramax Films*

Peter Chisick, *Oil Factory Inc.*

Jee Won Choi, *CJ Entertainment*

Kathleen Clifford, *Radiant Productions*

Daniel Cohen, *The Mark Gordon Company*

Amy Coombs, *The Disney Channel*

Kara Costello, *Traction Media*

Caitlin Dinoski, *MPH Entertainment*

Amanda DiPiazza, *The Disney Channel*

Leah Dolan-Kelley, *Playtone Company*

Joshua Fallon, *The Young & the Restless*

Elisha Feitlinger, *The Ellen Degeneres Show*

Alex Fischer, *Partizan Entertainment*

Ben Fisher, *Aimee Entertainment*

Elizabeth Fleming, *Playtone Company*

Joseph Collin Florence, *Studio City Sound*

Francis Frain, *20th Century Fox*

Mallory Frers, *M.E.L.*

Kat Frumm, *Draw Pictures*

Rafael Garrido, *Nala Films*

Stephanie Gee, *Sony Pictures Television*

Shelley Gerelik, *Comedy Central*

Frances Gonzalez, *Nickelodeon Animation*

Sarah Grady, *Bold and the Beautiful*

Trevor Hall, *Atlantic Records*

Jonathan Hanka, *Swift River Productions*

George Hrico, *The Weinstein Company*

Nicole Jacobs, *CBS/Paramount*

Sarah Jorgenson, *The Jim Henson Company*

Alyse Joseph, *Sony Pictures Imageworks*

Sarah Kaiser, *General Hospital*

Linda Kang, *The Core*

Lucinda Kavazanjian, *FMW Casting*

Caitlin Kehoe, *Fox Searchlight Pictures*

Takara Ketton, *Playtone Company*

Kurt Kroeber, *HBO Films*

Eric Kuhr, *Allied Post Audio*

Amy Lang, *North Six*

Rebecca Lear, *Red Wagon Entertainment*

Stephanie Lebow, *Indie 103.1*

Mark LePatner, *Weed Road Pictures*

Silas Lesnick, *Dark Horse Entertainment*

Eric Levin-Hatz, *Wolf Films*

Adam Mack, *Seismic Productions*

Ian MacLeod, *The Mix Room*

Peter Gray Malin, *Paramount Vantage*

Mary Oliver Masi, *Sony Pictures Television*

Samantha Mavropoulos, *Universal International*

Dmitry Milkin, *Roserock Films*

Ben Miller, *Sony Pictures Imageworks*

Joshua Milowe, *Swindle Magazine*

Melissa Miron, *Mark Burnett Productions*

Sara Moskowitz, *International Creative Management*

Adam Murphy, *Fox Searchlight Pictures*

Brandon Mykytyn, *Natural 9 Entertainment*

Harrison Nalevansky, *Ugly Betty*

Lila Nawrocki, *Fox 2000 Pictures*

Josh Newey, *Dark Horse Entertainment*

Michael Norton, *Mark Saks Casting*

Nathan Ochiltree, *IMG Media*

Conor Olmstead, *Imagecraft Productions*

Corinna Pieloch, *Fox Searchlight Pictures*

Joaquin Poblete, *Draw Pictures*

Michael Poisson, *Reveille, LLC*

Jaclyn Poko, "Chuck" and "Gossip Girl"

Michael Potter, *Actual Reality Pictures*

Janice Reinhold, *Comedy Central*

Mark Riling, *North Six*

Tara Robinson, *Universal MPG*

Christopher Rucinski, *Milan Records*

Elliot Rudmann, *Filmworks FX*

Sabrina Rufo, *The Search for the Next Great Band*

Christopher Sacco, *Renegade Animation*

Rafael Santos, Jr., *Aerodrome Pictures*

Merrissa Saunders, *Samuel Goldwyn Films*

Sa'iyda Shabazz, *Atlantic Records*

Lauren Shapiro, *Gray Martin Studios*

David Shawl, *Clairmont Camera*

Keto Shimizu, *Odd Lot Entertainment*

Adam Shonkoff, *Comedy Central*

Allene Slating, *DB Photo*

Justin Slez, *Days of Our Lives*

Dan Stangl, *Samuel Goldwyn Films*

Eleanor Tetreau, *Nala Films*

Amy Tintera, *Underground Films*

Jennifer Troy, *Fox 2000 Pictures*

Christopher Ultimo, *Bravo Media*

Jeronimo Villar, *Weed Road Pictures*

Samuel Wachs, *Illumination Entertainment*

Courtney Walden, *The Daily 10*

Anya Warburg, *20th Century Fox*

James Williams, *The Core*

Daniel Zack, *Dr. Phil*

Jasmine Zeppa, *Sekretagent Productions*

NOTES ON THE FACULTY & STAFF

Residence Director **Alicyn Packard** is currently voicing three characters in the upcoming animated television series *The Mr. Men Show*. Alicyn will be providing the voices for Miss Sunshine, Miss Naughty, and Miss Whoops. The show debuts on Cartoon Network in January 2008. Fellow Emerson alumnus Kate Boutilier is the show's co-creator.

This past summer, ECLA literature professor **Paul Mandelbaum** received a month-long fellowship from the Djerassi Artists' Residency. The program accepts, at any given time, eight artists in various disciplines from around the world, providing a month's peace and quiet in the Santa Cruz mountains of northern California. Professor Mandelbaum used the time to work on his third novel, *The Art Lovers*.

Executive Director **Jim Lane** has published an article entitled, "Drifting in Time: Ross McElwee's Time Indefinite" in the forthcoming *Three Documentary Filmmakers: Errol Morris, Ross McElwee and Jean Rouch*, edited by William Rothman, for SUNY Press.