

*You asked for it . . . here you go! More about Emily than you'd ever need or want to know . . .*

For nearly a decade, Emily served as the Associate Director of [DREAMS of Wilmington](#), a nationally award-winning nonprofit dedicated to building creative, committed citizens by providing youth in need with high-quality, free-of-charge arts programming. Along with DREAMS' co-founder, Tracy Wilkes, she created a toolkit to help others start successful community arts programs of their own.



A 2001-2003 [William C. Friday Human Relations Fellow](#), Emily's background includes many years as a classical violinist. She has written and edited articles for a range of publications, including *Wrightsville Beach Magazine*, *Ideal Living* and *Duke Magazine*. Along with Lynn P. Roundtree, she co-edited *The Changing Face of Justice: A Look at the First 100 Women Licensed to Practice Law in North Carolina* (NC Bar Association, 2004). She is a 2017 Pitch Wars mentor as well as the 2017 recipient of the North Carolina Sorosis Award for Excellence in Creative Writing and the 2018 recipient of the North Carolina Greater Foundation of Women's Clubs Lucy Bramlett Patterson Award for Excellence in Creative Writing.

In her callow youth, Emily interned for several literary magazines and presses, including Duke University Press, *DoubleTake Magazine*, and *Brightleaf: A Southern Review*. She later became a freelance manuscript reader for *DoubleTake*, and will never forget the joy of discovering the voices of new, talented writers in the "slush" pile.

Way back in 1997 (*see callow youth, above*), Emily worked closely with the multitalented [Julie Tetel Andresen](#) to launch a small publishing company with two imprints, Madeira Books (fiction) and Generation Books (fiction). She later served as Editor-in-Chief of the now-defunct Coastal Carolina Press, a nonprofit publishing company dedicated to preserving the history, culture and activities of the North Carolina coast. Emily was also the co-founder of Carolina Women's Partnership, an imprint of Coastal Carolina Press through which she published two books featuring women leaders throughout the state of North Carolina.

Through Carolina Women's Partnership, Emily helped to organize a writing workshop for pregnant and parenting teens that resulted in the publication of a chapbook of their work. This transformative experience led her to enter the field of community arts education for underprivileged youth.

Emily holds a BA in Psychology, with a second major in Literature/Media Studies, from Duke University, and an MS in Family Studies and Human Services, with a specialization in Youth Development, from Kansas State University. She served as a board member of [Girls' Leadership Academy of Wilmington \(GLOW\)](#), the first all-girls' North Carolina charter school and an affiliate of the [Young Women's Leadership Network](#). Other causes that light a fire in her belly include advocating for youth with special needs and learning differences—an issue that hits [close to home](#).

Her passion for chocolate cannot be overemphasized.