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Body of Missing Man Found in Charles River

Suffolk community questions string of disappearances

Nick Viveiros
Journal Staff

The parents of Michael Kelleher, a 23-year-old resident of Southborough, Mass. who went missing from a Boston Celtics game last month, confirmed that a body recovered by state police Sunday morning was that of their son.

River the night of his disappearance,” Mike Kelleher, Sr., Kelleher’s father, wrote in a Facebook post on behalf of both he and his wife, Lori Tavella Kelleher. “This morning, the river gave him back to us.”

According to a Spokesman for Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office Jake Wark, authorities have not

“Sadly, Michael was claimed by the Charles See *MAN* page 3

Former Suffolk Law student earns jail time in lieu of degree



Suffolk Journal Archives | 2010 File

Alexa Gagosz
Editor-in-Chief

Former Suffolk Law student David Scher pleaded guilty on Tuesday afternoon in an attempt to alter court documents in order to adjust his guilty finding for stealing a laptop from a university locker to not guilty, according to the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office.

The former student and Boston real estate broker was sentenced to more than two years in jail, according to the District Attorney’s office. Scher had received a suspended sentence for the laptop theft in 2014, according to an article in the Boston Globe, and was indicted just last year of charges of tampering with a court document, forgery, perjury and uttering a false document.

According to reports last year, Scher “knew his way around a courtroom” as he had sued the City of Boston, the City of

Newton, a Brighton condo board over election improprieties where he failed to win a seat, the people who rented his condominium as well as the bank that held the mortgage for it, and even his own parents after they backed out of a promise to sell him the family boat.

Scher had been once honored by the National Association of Realtors as one of the top 30 Realtors under 30.

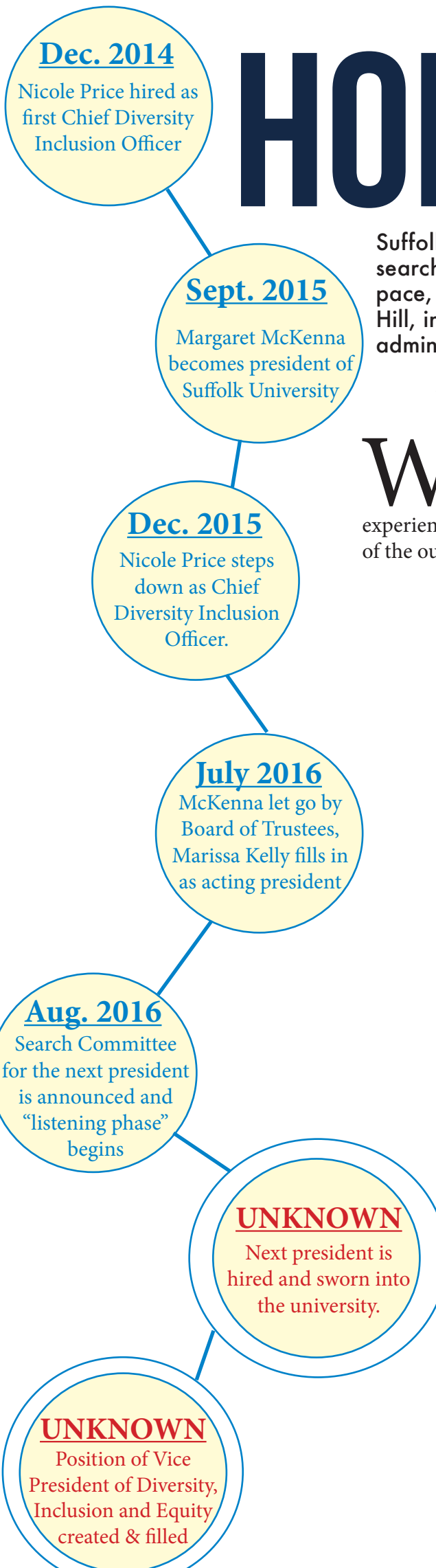
Scher’s attorney Richard M. Doyle Jr. did not respond to Journal reporters for comment as of early Wednesday morning.

Scher was expected to receive a 20-year sentence, according to multiple news reporters last year.

According to sources, Scher was in his last year at Suffolk Law when he stole the laptop computer.

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WHAT'S THE HOLD UP?



Suffolk University’s global presidential search continues on at an almost stagnant pace, holding up certain progress on Beacon Hill, including the potential birth of new administrative positions.

By Nathan Espinal, Journal Staff

With a strategic plan and a presidential search committee set in motion, Suffolk University plans to improve the collective experience of those within the community, but some of the outcomes continue to remain unclear.

The Diversity Task Force, which was created in February of 2016 to gather data from the Suffolk community as to whether the university has provided a diverse and inclusive environment for students to learn and for faculty and staff to work, has finally drafted recommendations to bring to upper administration. Having analyzed the results from the climate survey and subsequently holding discussions to gather community feedback, the Task Force said they hope to submit their final report on May 15.

After this final report submission, the Task Force will disband until further notice is given.

Some possible recommendations the Task Force will offer to upper administration is creating a Vice President of Diversity Inclusion and Equity (VPDIE) position, or an Office of Ombuds, to handle formal complaints made by those within the university, across both undergraduate and graduate levels as well as the Law School. Whether this will translate into policies adopted by upper administration is yet to be known.

Director of Events at the CAS Dean’s Office Jennifer Bonardi, also known as the subcommittee chair of the Task Force, has compiled a list of schools of similar ranking and student body size to that of Suffolk, but whom may hold Offices of Ombuds or not. The research conducted shows that amongst

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New perspectives from diverse women fill Suffolk Law School

Haley Clegg
Photo Editor

A diverse group of law students came together Tuesday evening for an end-of-year banquet for "Hearing Her Story," hosted by Suffolk's Women of Color Law School Association. The event was Reflection of Women on the Bench, "Dynamic Women Transforming Society." Tuesday's event aimed to give students an inside look at what it is like to be a woman of color in the legal profession.

SJC Justice Kimberly Budd, who received her law degree from Harvard in 1991, and Honorable Shannon Frison who received her law degree from Georgetown in 1995 served as the panelists for the event.

Clare Prober, a first-year law student who is interning with Budd this summer had been looking forward to the event. "I'm excited to see a woman's perspective on being a judge, especially since it is a largely male dominated profession. I think a lot of women can relate and see the value

in this event."

Both panelists did not foresee becoming a judge at some point in their careers.

"I had been practicing for 15 years and it never occurred to me. I took one look at the application process and I said, 'No way, I am not doing that,'" said Budd.

Budd was inspired by fellow college graduate and former United States President Barack Obama, and developed a desire to have an affect on the laws of the commonwealth. Budd said she wanted to have more of an impact on how cases are tackled.

"I sort of missed the money train and that is the only thing I regret," said Frison on her regrets. "I loved serving in the Marine Corps, I would never regret that, but it is a challenge to balance both fulfillment and financial security."

The panelists took a moment during the discussion to speak directly to the women of color in the room. Budd said that women of color must always be the most prepared person in the room, to leave no room for mistakes, and to persevere through any and all microaggressions

and implicit bias.

"I don't think it matters if you are black or a woman or whatever. What they think of you doesn't matter, you've got to tune that out. Merit is the only thing that matters; you'd be surprised how far that'll get you," said Frison.

Budd also explained to the present students that it is important to keep track of all the work they do, and why it is important to their careers. Frison advised students that one of the best skills they can acquire is learning how to be versatile in every situation.

"Be as well rounded as you can, both in law and in life. The people with the most success are the ones who are the most well rounded," said Frison. "Whatever you do, be the best you can be."

During the second half of the night, the floor was opened up for questions from audience members. Dorothy Franks, a first year law student asked the panelists about how their lives had changed since becoming judges.

"Socializing becomes the hardest because you really can't branch out as much as you would have in other professions. You



Haley Clegg/ Photo Editor

Supreme Judicial Court Justice Kimberly Budd

get to socialize with other judges and that's about it," said Frison.

Because of how isolating the profession can be, having strong connections outside of work is essential, and Budd said that it is

important to hang on to the relationships with people outside of the legal profession.

"I want to be known for taking the rights of individuals seriously" said Frison when asked about her professional legacy.

"I want to be known for upholding the rule of law," said Budd.

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Students' start-up app promotes handy solution

Kaitlin Hahn
Journal Staff

The new start-up app "InGarage," set to launch in June, was created by Suffolk University students Alexander Bennett and Marcus Jimenez, as well as three others, aims to enable project managers and garage owners. Ranging from physical projects such as needing exercise equipment or tools, to creative projects, which can require photo or film equipment are just a few examples of the possibilities this start-up seeks to enable.

A garage owner, who has experience with tools, will list their garage space on the app. The project manager, typically younger and less experienced with a specific job in mind can then browse through the different spaces and decide which garage is most beneficial for their specific needs. Once the garage is chosen, the

project manager and garage owner meet at the garage and work on the project. This plans to result in the project manager fulfilling the need of a space to work in, and the garage owner is paid for their space and service.

Bennett and Jimenez first had the idea for InGarage in November of 2015, when Bennett had to travel to Waltham, Mass. in order to obtain garage space. Bennett realized that the help he was getting could be available closer.

"The sharing economy is available to a lot of different people through the use of their phones, the idea that there would be people that have space, time and willingness to help, so we set about trying to prove that and develop the concept," said Bennett in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

The InGarage designers see the app as the best platform for

connectivity with the customer and its fluidity of communication. In a video which explained the future of InGarage, Jimenez said this marketing driven company he hopes can one day become more utilitarian as the app grows.

InGarage is based in Watertown and Lawrence, Mass. two locations which have been scheduled as test markets for the app launch in June. These test markets, being vastly different from each other in residents, will give the company comparable information on their customers.

InGarage currently has 65 garages nationwide due to personal networking, as well as 6 more in their test markets of Watertown and Lawrence, Mass. and Bangor, Maine. These garages have provided the company with information, which have coupled with surveys launched on various social

"The sharing economy is available to a lot of different people through the use of their phones, the idea that there would be people that have space, time and willingness to help, so we set about trying to prove that and develop the concept."

-Co-founder Alexander Bennett

media accounts. With this information, InGarage has been able to tell what their customers respond to, and how the app will work for customers on an individual basis.

For their social media launch, InGarage is currently focused on spreading the word of their future app, with hopes of getting as many garages as possible, from personal one-on-one interaction to connecting with hardware stores in partnerships. InGarage is searching for about

40,000 dollars worth of investment to help them get the company off the ground.

InGarage hopes to create an environment where people of the older generation will have the resources to be able to make extra money for themselves, as well as help out younger generations.

"Millennials haven't had as much opportunity to work on projects that involve workbenches and screwdrivers, and there's a lot of reasons for that," said Bennett. "We're

not making any sort of social commentary, but it is true that millennials have less of a mechanical ability and we think that is unfortunate. We are operating within what we believe to be great timing for our concept."

On April 20, InGarage is doing a demonstration along with four other start-ups at the Venture Cafe at 5:30 p.m.. InGarage will attend a TEDx event at Suffolk University on Monday, April 24 at 5:00 p.m. at 120 Tremont St.

College-aged deaths spike in recent years near Charles

From *MAN* page 1

yet publicly identified the body as Kelleher's as "a matter of policy that extends to all death investigations in which there is no evidence of foul play."

"The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has not yet made a determination as to the cause or manner of death but observed no signs of physical trauma," said Wark to a Suffolk Journal reporter in an email on Tuesday afternoon.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which manages the locks, directed a Journal reporter to contact the State Police Press Office, who in turn referred the reporter to the District Attorney's office. They did not comment further.

A Massachusetts State Police (MSP) press release from Sunday afternoon stated that a body was spotted by a passerby around 9:10 a.m. on Sunday in the vicinity of the Colonel Richard Gridley Locks, located at the mouth of the Charles River. The body was removed from the water by divers with the nearby MSP Marine Unit Headquarters, according to the press release.

Massachusetts State Police Troop H, the Suffolk County District Attorney's office and the Boston Police Department (BPD) are now handling the investigation jointly, according to Wark.

Kelleher was last seen on surveillance footage leaving TD Garden around

9 p.m. on March 29. A female coworker who was with him at the game that night told multiple news outlets that Kelleher left during the third quarter after having "a few drinks." Both Lori Kelleher and police have said that phone records show Michael tried three times unsuccessfully to call an Uber from Paul Revere Park, a short walk from the Garden. His cell phone's signal was last picked up near 138 Tremont St. by the eastern edge of the Boston Common around 11:00 p.m.

Divers previously searched the Charles near the Garden on April 3 without success, according to CBS Boston.

"We get notified about [disappearances]," said Suffolk University Police Department (SUPD) Sergeant Jameson Yee. Yee, a Suffolk alum who began his tenure as a security officer in 2008, told a Journal reporter in a recent interview that the department is ready and willing to assist local authorities in any investigation.

Kelleher's disappearance comes just a year after a similar case made some believe that there was something far more sinister occurring in the city.

Zachary Marr, a 22-year-old from Harvard, Mass., disappeared in the early morning hours of Feb. 13, 2016 after he left the Bell in Hand Tavern near Faneuil Hall without a coat. He was caught on surveillance footage outside the Boston Public Market around 1:40 a.m.

While no other footage

was released, police confirmed that they had obtained footage of Marr "entering the water" near the North Station railroad bridge - about 500 feet from the locks, according to multiple news sources. His body was found on Mar. 15, 2016, by the area where Kelleher was found.

Marr's death was later ruled accidental.

Before Kelleher, Marr's disappearance was the most recent in what some see as a troubling pattern. Since 2001, 17 men have gone missing in Boston and its suburbs. The victims, ranging in age from 18 to 65, were all found deceased in a local waterway, usually the Charles River or Boston Harbor, according to news sources.

Most of the victims - all but two - were under 36, and were young professionals or local students. Most had consumed alcohol before their disappearance, but in most cases, witnesses describe the victims as having been far from intoxicated. While some disappearances break the trend, almost all of them occurred between October and March.

"The concern isn't that this could happen to our students specifically, but that it could happen to anyone. A lot of these disappearances have involved alcohol - usually the person has been out drinking, partying with friends. They end up leaving on their own," said Yee.

Yee advised students to be attentive to their surroundings, and added that distracted



Nick Viveiros/ Journal Staff

"The concern isn't that this could happen to our students specifically, but that it could happen to anyone."

**-Suffolk University Police Department
Sergeant Jameson Yee.**

pedestrians are often easy targets for would-be opportunist criminals.

There are plenty of other ways to stay safe on campus as well, Yee explained. Suffolk's LiveSafe app, which allows students to request police escorts and report tips to SUPD, is available for free on both iOS and Android devices. Even with Yee's reassurance, students differ in their feelings about the disappearances.

"We have a strong relationship with our campus agencies, partners, as well as local and state authorities which allows us to better help both our students and the community," Yee said. All sworn SUPD officers, he explained, are deputized as Suffolk County officials,

giving them the same enforcement powers as the sheriff's office. They've also received the same training as the Massachusetts State Police, and work closely with BPD in both regular patrol of city and ongoing investigations.

Yee stressed that he doesn't see any reason for "escalated concern," but added that all students should heed the advice he gives to freshmen at orientation every summer: stay in groups, stay alert, and stay in control.

"I'm inclined to believe it's coincidental, but it's intriguing that they were all ruled accidental," said August Tucker, a sophomore from Portsmouth, N.H. majoring in government.

Tucker, who resides in East Boston near where the body of 24-year-old David Mark was discovered in 2011, understands why some are concerned and said that he believes that college-aged students are the "most vulnerable" to attacks in the city.

"It's sad for their families, but I don't see anything that strange about it," said Matt Calise, a freshman Politics major from Johnston, R.I., who has lived on campus this year. He echoed a reality that many in Boston are just starting to face. "People disappear all the time."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Design stars recognized for innovative work



Courtesy of Suffolk University

Two of Suffolk's interior architecture master of arts students were recognized for their innovative design concepts at this spring's International Interior Design Association New England Chapter's Design Awards. Minakshi Rothawan was awarded Best Graduate Design honors for "Mode Couture Design School." "My thesis addresses the lack of American-made, handcrafted, custom-fitted clothing available to clients in the United States because the couture industry is based in Europe," said Rothawan. Alicia Kosasih was awarded Best in Show, Student Design for her design of a multipurpose, high tech workspace for a digital branding agency. Her concept was inspired by the trend toward adaptable office spaces. Alina Daragan was also recognized as a runner-up in the design awards.

Gender diversity hits national ranking at SBS

Suffolk University's Sawyer Business School is ranked fourth for having the highest proportion of women enrolled in fall 2016. Of the 130 schools that provided gender-ratio statistics to U.S. News for this survey, female students were in the minority at 122 of them. 52.9 percent of full time students enrolled at Suffolk are female.

CORRECTION

Last week's article "Professor takes hard look at Israeli journalism," incorrectly reported that Professor Shoshana Madmoni-Gerber recalled one memory from her childhood when she saw an ambulance driver take aunt's daughter. It was instead Madmoni-Gerber's father who witnessed an ambulance driver take his sister's daughter and then later told Madmoni-Gerber about the incident.

VP position put on hold

From *FORCE* page 1
the universities that do have such an office, the average amount of staff members sits at two. Whether there would be a significant financial difference in creating this office, or a singular VPDIE position, with a six figure salary, has yet to be researched by the Task Force.

Boston University, Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst each have Offices of Ombuds, according to the research conducted by Bonardi on Greater Boston schools.

Junior Business major and student member of the Task Force Levi Smith spoke of the responsibilities that would be entrusted to a possible VPDIE.

"It will be someone who instead works in Human Resources, Student Affairs or Diversity Services," said Smith in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday afternoon. "It'll be under the president and will have more of a universal role strategizing diversity and promote and develop a culture

committed to achieving inclusive excellence and cultural proficiency."

Sophomore Computer Science major Sheikh Nasher spoke of the cautious excitement he has for such a position opening up in the university.

"I'm eager to see this come to reality, but if this doesn't work then [our work] isn't worth it. We have been talking about this for a year now, having someone that works with everyone," said Nasher in an interview with The Journal late Tuesday night. "Because it wasn't my division, I don't know the mechanics of how it would work, but when I looked at the description I thought this was something that could work."

Associate Professor Micky Lee, who was appointed Chairwoman of the Task Force after Frank Cooper took time off from teaching at the Law School, has suggested the President's Commission on Diversity Affairs, which was put on hold by former President Margaret McKenna, may be an option to consider.

"We have not talked

"I'm eager to see this come to reality, but if this doesn't work then [our work] isn't worth it."

about that. I did ask the subcommittee to think about after the Task Force ends, 'What would happen if we reenact that?' It just seems to make sense, we already have bylaws, but we have not talked about that," said Lee.

It has been suggested by Lee and Smith that having a sitting president that could make lasting decisions would make these policies are implemented efficiently.

"Some of the changes can be implemented by [Acting] President [Marisa] Kelly, and some of the changes are bigger like the Office of Ombuds or the VPDIE, those are things that wouldn't necessarily be fair to force it upon her, it would be the next president's decision," said Smith.

Presidential Search Committee Chair and university Trustee member John Brooks III was unable to comment on the status of the ongoing search. University spokesperson Greg Gatlin

said to a Journal reporter in a recent interview that there has been no further developments, and that the search process is still unfolding.

With the search for the next president at a standstill, the policies and positions that the University can fill have also been put on hold. As for what the Task Force will do in their final weeks before they disband, they plan to gather data on faculty and staff that provides insight as to whether departments reflect the diverse student population at Suffolk University.

The presentation of the final report of the Task Force will be done on Friday, April 21. Lee said the recommendations and concerns brought up during the community forums will be presented to whoever attends.

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Sea of dormitory flooding finally been parted

Chris DeGusto
News Editor

Kyle Crozier
Journal Staff

With repairs finally completed, all Suffolk University students that were affected by dormitory floodings last month have been cleared to return to their rooms according to university spokesperson Greg Gatlin on Tuesday.

Suffolk University Assistant Vice President of Campus Services Jim Wallace has not returned communications from Suffolk Journal reporters in regards to the residence hall floodings.

While students have returned, Boston Common Coffee Company, located just below the residence halls, is still suffering

from the flood.

A sign in the window of Boston Common Coffee on March 23 said the coffee shop would be closed "today and maybe tomorrow." In an interview on March 28 with The Journal, Tony Massari, Co-owner of Boston Common Coffee said business would be returning within a "week or two." Now, over three weeks later, a new sign posted in the window of the coffee shop explains that they will be out of business for an additional amount of time.

"After a few weeks of demo, drying and working with our insurance co. we are FINALLY ready to put the cafe back together again," the sign said. "We are estimating a couple of weeks to patch all the walls, paint and replace some damaged fixtures."

Calling this a "tough time," Boston Common

Coffee also commented in their most recent sign on the frustrations they had with the vandalization of post-it notes left on their front door by fans of the shop. The notes had been encouraging in nature, but those that had been vandalized had to be removed.

During this period of disaster for a local business still feeling the effects of water damage, once displaced students are more than excited to be back in their own rooms again.

"I am so happy to be back with my roommates again, [and] everything is back to the way it was," said 10 West resident Jillian Hanson.

A point of contact for concerned residents, Assistant Dean of Students Elizabeth Ching-Bush has not responded over the last few weeks to queries from The Journal.

Following a roughly three-week period of detachment, all four of the residents of room 313 have returned to their rooms. Now all of the 46 students that had been divorced from their rooms will be able to complete the remainder of the semester, with the added comfort of their own beds.

As relieved students return to a familiar atmosphere, in the interim of construction, anxious fans of Boston Common Coffee will have to visit one of their other two locations in an attempt to return to a sense of normalcy.

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SUMUN recognized in New York

Suffolk honored with Distinguished Delegation award at U.N. conference



By Facebook user @SUMUNteam

SUMUN members earn the Distinguished Delegation award last week in New York City.

Haley Clegg
Photo Editor

Suffolk University's Model United Nations (SUMUN) club competed at the National Model U.N. Conference in New York City this past week where they took home the Distinguished Delegation award, the conference's second-highest award category.

This year the group represented Kazakhstan at the conference in which they performed mock exercises of the United Nations such as debating with other nations, and drafting and passing resolutions.

To determine the winner of the awards, committee chairs and moderators would take note of the countries they felt were best represented.

After thorough discussion by the committee chairs and moderators, the

winning teams would be chosen, and awards presented during the closing ceremony. Last year Suffolk's team represented Montenegro when they took home an Honorable Mention, or the third place award.

Nineteen Suffolk students traveled to the city to compete against 3,500 other students from colleges and universities across the United States.

Yazeed Abu-Ghazaleh, the soon-to-be-inaugurated president-elect of SUMUN enjoyed working alongside these students.

"It was very cool to meet such a diverse group of students, these were some of the hardest students to compete against, that I've ever met. It was quite a challenge to compete with them," said Abu-Ghazaleh.

Suffolk students were constantly busy running between mock committee sessions, debriefings and team activities.

"New York was a long, exhausting, extremely tedious, but completely

gratifying week," said Abu-Ghazaleh.

Myra Lerman, the club's advisor and former Assistant Dean of the Undergraduate Program and Director of the Honors Program at the

said Lerman in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday.

Their hard work and dedication paid off at the end of the week when the team was named the distinguished delegation.

"I realized that everything we work for, all the hard work, the long nights, all of the extra studying that goes unseen because we don't get a grade, it wasn't for nothing. It was completely worth it."

- SUMUN President Omar Hernandez

Sawyer Business School witnessed the hard work the team put in throughout the week.

"It always is a grueling schedule, with little time for eating and sleeping, but everyone loved it, they always do. They always learn an enormous amount. It was quite an expansive opportunity,"

Omar Hernandez, SUMUN's current president, felt this award made all of the hard work done in preparation for this conference worth it.

"At that moment when they said 'Suffolk University,' and we got to stand up and be awarded, it was an incredibly special moment for me.

I realized that everything we work for, all the hard work, the long nights, all of the extra studying that goes unseen because we don't get a grade, it wasn't for nothing. It was completely worth it," said Hernandez in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday.

On top of the award, SUMUN experienced some exclusive opportunities. The team met with Stephane Dujarric, the spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Suffolk's team exclusively attended a press briefing and had a private question and answer session with Dujarric.

"It was entertaining, insightful and an experience we'll never forget," said Hernandez. The conference's closing ceremony was held at the U.N. General Assembly Hall.

"It's always refreshing, and there's always strong energy when you walk into that room because that's where history has happened and where it

continues to happen. Some of my favorite political figures have stood at the podium there and have addressed that hall," said Abu-Ghazaleh.

In today's political climate, Lerman said she found the whole experience gave her a new hope for the future.

"What these students do gives me hope. They make me optimistic for a better future," said Lerman. "I see these students behave respectfully with the countries they conflict with. They build relationships with them in order to solve issues. They create solutions to global problems in a conscientious manner. That is true diplomacy."

Despite having only just returned, the team is already preparing for their next conferences, and look to place on top next year.

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Suffolk Venezuelan Student Union seeks to aid troubled home country

Felicity Otterbein
Arts Editor

Chris DeGusto
News Editor

Nearly every seat was taken in the basement classroom of the Somerset building last Thursday to hear the words spoken by current Director of the Center of International Development, Professor Ricardo Hausmann.

Giving an hour-long lecture about the current economic crisis in Venezuela, Hausmann, also a professor of the practice of economic development at Harvard University, explained in graphic detail how basic economics contributed to the country's ultimate downfall.

Organized by Suffolk University's Venezuelan Student Union (VSU), the evening was intended to educate those in attendance about the current economic situation in Venezuela.

The talk also aimed to raise awareness of the VSU's charity efforts dedicated to sending medical supplies to those in Venezuela who cannot otherwise access them.

How the country worked itself into such a state is a long, twisted story filled with corruption and poor decision-making. Traced back to 1999 and the leadership of President Hugo Chavez, Venezuelans fell victim to the populist policies put in place during his campaign and leadership.

Chavez was able to divide the population into lower and higher-class sections fueling the hatred and animosity between the two factions.

Convinced the country's constitution was irrelevant and corrupt, Chavez dissolved the chambers of congress and created a nationalist movement that segued into the economy.

The changes effectively ruined any potential system of checks and balances and created a nationalization policy over oil and removed any foreign countries that were privy to such natural resources.

"We got loans from the Russians at undisclosed rates and undisclosed conditions with undisclosed collateral," said Hausmann. "So we have been borrowing money we don't have at rates we won't be able to pay because we haven't wanted to restructure our debt we are paying."

According to Hausmann, the ideal solution for the Venezuelan economy is to not go back to the market and that the country should instead try to find funding within the international community. He said it may take three or four years to stabilize the economy, and then Venezuela can look to borrow money to pay off loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Hausmann doesn't see Venezuela emerging from its current economic hole

There's no way of recovering people's livelihoods unless we put the economy back to work, production back up, employment back up."

- Professor Ricardo Hausman

without restructuring its debt, and said he believes the loan markets have no faith in current Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to solve the problem.

Due to Chavez's aggressive nationalist tactics, capable professionals within the oil industry had been ousted or left voluntarily to ensure their families' safety.

This resulted in an almost immediate economic collapse, which plunged some Venezuelans into poverty. "I would say my family is among the privileged group of people that can still afford to buy food. But of course it has affected me, it has affected every everyone that lives down there,"

said Student Government Association President-Elect and current Vice President Daniel Gazzani in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

He explained how it has affected parts of life that are often taken for granted.

"You know, before you had the option if you wanted to buy wheat bread or white bread. But not anymore, you settle for what you can find, not what you want," said Gazzani.

According to Hausmann, people are wasting their time lining up to buy goods as opposed to working to manufacture those goods as a result of the tumultuous economy that has left many Venezuelan's struggling to survive on a day-to-day basis.

"We have to stop wasting people's time and put their time [toward making] things. There's no way of recovering people's livelihoods unless we put the economy back to work, production back up, employment back up."

As part of the relief effort, Suffolk's Venezuelan Student Union has been collecting medical supplies around campus to contribute to the 180 tons of medical and food supplies from 85 other institutions that have already been collected.

Pasquale Palmisano, a junior at Suffolk and President of the Venezuelan Student Union, said in a recent interview with The Journal that part of the problem stemmed from people's lack of awareness about the turmoil in Venezuela.

The supplies collected at Suffolk will be shipped to Miami on May 15 through Red Cross, and subsequently to Venezuela, which Palmisano said he expects to take about a week.

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Commentary:

Spicer's speeches scream incompetence



Claire Schneider/ Journal Staff

Amy Koczera
Journal Staff

Just last week during Tuesday's White House press briefing, Press Secretary Sean Spicer compared Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad to Adolf Hitler. Ultimately, Spicer's blundering remark branded him an incompetent, undeserving excuse for a press secretary and an embarrassment to the American people.

In response to al-Assad's chemical attack on innocent Syrian civilians, Spicer claimed even Hitler was not "evil enough" to use chemical weapons against his "own people." Seeing as Hitler's regime exterminated millions of innocent Jews in gas chambers, many were confused and uncomfortable with Spicer's statement.

According to The Washington Post, Spicer stated, "We didn't use chemical weapons in World War II. You know, you had a — someone as despicable as Hitler who didn't even sink to using chemical weapons." Regardless of Spicer's feelings toward al-Assad's actions, it is rarely a wise choice to bring Hitler into a briefing meeting -- especially as the press secretary.

When questioned about his statement, Spicer ignorantly defended himself by clarifying that he was referring to battlefield uses of chemical weapons. However, to say Hitler did not use chemical weapons is far too serious of a statement to be considered a slip of the tongue on Spicer's part.

Bringing Hitler into any public speech enters a dangerous area of discussion. Chemical weapons are chemical weapons, and they cause mass destruction. In this case, it seemed Spicer was trying to identify the lesser of two evils in an inappropriate environment and ended up making a false statement that spun him into a position of harsh criticism.

The Holocaust was an horrific crisis that shaped our world into what it is today. Those who hold position in the White House must have a thorough understanding of World history -- specifically history related to mass genocide.

When Spicer gets in front of the camera, he always seems to make a fool of himself in one way or another. Whether it's his word choice or historical references, his speeches almost always leave his audience members feeling uncomfortable.

His word choice in particular is often his demise. According to The Washington Post, while responding to the press during Tuesday's briefing, Spicer said, "I'm not looking to quantify this in any way." Presumably, Spicer was searching for the word qualify and said quantify instead.

Perhaps he was trying to quantify the amount times he has made errors in historical and political references on camera.

Nonetheless, if he is going to speak in front of a crowd, Spicer should consider sharpening up his public mass communication skills. No

one is asking Spicer to reach a groundbreaking acclamation about genocide or chemical weapons.

All he needs to do is perform his duties as press secretary by acting as a spokesperson to the executive branch of the U.S. government. Spicer should not say anything the U.S. government administration would not say themselves. He is merely a vessel of communication.

In just a few months as press secretary, Spicer has already acquired a humiliating reputation that will stick with him for the next several years. He made an unforgivable mistake by dragging Hitler into a briefing, and he continuously makes himself look foolish by assaulting the English language on a daily basis.

Asking Spicer to communicate clearly and effectively is merely asking him to do his job properly. For U.S. citizens to get the right messages from the administration, Spicer needs to be hyper-aware of everything he says and does, and how it can be interpreted. If there is any kind of glitch in the system, it fosters distraction from his main point and can deliver the wrong message.

Unless Spicer drastically improves his public speaking skills, he will only serve as an obstacle in communication between the government and the people for the next four years.

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Kink about it; working against oppression

Kyle Crozier
Journal Staff

Contributors:

Elvira Mora, Journal Staff

To Ignacio Rivera, a prominent LGBTQ+ artist and activist, the dictionary describes a kink as, "a colloquial term used to describe unconventional sexual concepts and practices." To Rivera, this definition focuses on a kink as something that is inherently different or strange. This is a common feature of criticism people face with kink, Rivera explained they believe that instead, "kink is everywhere, it connects to a wider sexuality."

Suffolk University's Rainbow Alliance invited Rivera to discuss what their experiences have been with oppression in kink. The workshop

**"Kink is everywhere, it connects to a wider sexuality."
-Ignacio Rivera
LGBTQ+ Activist**

had explained how navigating some primary obstacles of acceptance that members of this community face. Rivera explained that providing people with information was the best thing they could do, that, "if you have proper information you can therefore choose to or choose not to [participate]." These are issues close to Rivera, who identifies as two-spirit, Black-Boricua Taíno, queer, activist who prefers the gender pronoun 'they.' Rivera has traveled

See *KINK* page 8



Kyle Crozier / Journal Staff

LGBTQ+ artist Ignacio Rivera during their speech at Suffolk University's Rainbow Alliance discussion on kink oppression.

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LGBTQ activist, artist attempts to dispell kink stigma

From *KINK* page 7

across the country to groups providing guidance in areas such as sexual education, ending child abuse, sober sex, polyamorous relationships, sexual liberation and understanding desires.

The workshop highlighted the many facets of oppression in kink by working in groups to define them. The factors discussed were heterocentrism, the gender binary, white supremacy, the patriarchy, adult privilege, body normativity and capitalism. Together, these issues were explained as creating discrimination in some kink groups.

Rivera has been involved with the



Kyle Crozier / Journal Staff

community for a long time, both as an organizer of events to create the spaces people need to explore and practice their kink, and as a member wanting to connect with others.

As Rivera explained in

a post-workshop interview with The Suffolk Journal, their initial passion for the subject came from their past

“All of this is very much connected to my survivorship, I am a survivor of child sexual

abuse and rape, and I really took a long time to get comfortable with my body,” they said.

Rivera went on to discuss the journey they took to become comfortable with sex, their body and their

sexuality after the abuse in their childhood, and that the journey, “opened up a new world to me, it fascinated me, so I wanted to delve into that world.”

Partly in order to better understand how they should move forward from their experiences in the past, they entered into the world of kink, as Rivera described, a world that, “demands negotiation, consent and boundary setting” and that, “especially as a survivor that really makes a lot of sense to me. I know who I am in that configuration.”

Rivera said they have worries that without proper sexual education, many people will never begin to learn more about sexuality as a whole. Regarding the lack of education, Rivera said that “it is a disservice” not to hear a broad spectrum

of ideas.

According to Rivera, “information is a tool of knowledge, knowledge is power.”

For the public, Rivera said being able to have unstigmatized conversations in the public is a goal of theirs. They said that “the media always boils it down to whips, chains, and dungeons. That something is really wrong with someone if they’re engaging in this, that something must have happened to [them].”

“We don’t want to take over the world, we just want to show that we want to break out of the very strict framework that has been given to us,” Rivera said.

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Rainbow Alliance encourages safe expression with “Drageoke”

Halaina Carol
Journal Staff

Suffolk University’s Rainbow Alliance has made strides in the LGBTQ+ community by opening up conversation to help educate those who may have misconceptions about drag culture. Last week, the group held a drag workshop to perform tutorials for people interested in learning more about drag makeup and culture. This week, the group put those tutorials to the test at their annual “Drageoke,” a mash up of drag and karaoke, as an appreciation of drag as an art form.

This occasion creates a safe environment for people to express themselves freely without fear of retribution. All the performers, especially those who were wearing make-up opposite their gender’s typical external portrayal, made sure to take off their makeup before leaving because the blurring of gender lines can make people uncomfortable and react in unknown ways, so the performer’s safety could be at risk if they remained in full make-up.

“It [drag] opens the LGBTQ+ community to discussions on not

conforming to gender roles and cis-normativity,” said Rainbow Alliance Treasurer-elect Michaela Hallion in an interview after the show. “As well as being a base where we can break traditional gender roles and have a light-hearted, fun space for LGBTQ+ people.”

When it came to performing, in drag or not, people were encouraged to choose a Drag Queen or King stage name to perform under. This ranged from Tequila Mockingbird to Hot Poodle Lover to Charisma Valentin. Everyone who got on stage took on a sense of their name, and sang and danced through the tables of the Somerset Cafe to their hearts content. All received cheers and applause from the audience who were excited to take on these new personae. Pink, glittery eyebrows, beards, dresses, high heels, and wigs galore enhanced these personae and put the performances over the top as the performers jammed out to their favorite songs. Although, it was the interaction with the crowd that elevated the night. All who did not want to perform still got to participate as the microphone was passed around during performances; singing was encouraged, the

correct lyrics were optional.

Attendees who chose to dress in drag could choose to be either a Drag Queen or a Drag King. Drag Queen makeup and dress are used to accentuate feminine features. This would include contouring that creates the illusion of higher cheekbones, a thinner nose and a more prominent arch in the performers eyebrows. They can also make their voice sound higher to further take on this femininity, and change the way they walk.

Drag King makeup does the opposite, it accentuates more masculine features. This can include darkening and thickening eyebrows, contouring to create the illusion of a wider nose, and adding more facial hair to the chin region. These participants can also speak in a deeper voice to take on a more heightened masculinity as well as take on a different walking posture.

“I’ve always had fun watching other people take on different sides of themselves,” said senior environmental studies major, Sophie Kaufman. Kaufman has attended Drageoke every year she has been at Suffolk and performed “Faith” as George Michael two years ago.

The stand out performance of the night was by the glamorous Tequila Mockingbird. In a faux fur sweater and near floor length skirt, Tequila Mockingbird strutted on to the scene in five inch

heels, ready to woo the crowd with a rendition of “Your Makeup is Terrible” by RuPaul’s Drag Race contestant, “Alaska Thunderfuck.”

“I like to walk the line of the glamorous and

the uncomfortable,” said Rainbow Alliance Vice President Ben Shopper. “Anyone can do pretty.”

See photos online at thesuffolkjournal.com

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San Bernardino:

An act of violence sheds light on greater idea

Patrick Holmes
Opinion Editor

Gun violence has voraciously spread across the country and in the past few years, has been the center of media attention yet, it seems that very little has been done to prevent it.

Although school shootings are not new, they have grown in frequency, with the latest occurrence in a San Bernardino, CA elementary school.

The "domestic" attack littered media sources for multiple hours.

Earlier this month, two adults and two children were shot in a special education classroom where only one child survived the domestic attack, according to multiple media sources.

At first, the coverage of the incident was immediate and omnipresent until the

intrusion was categorized as an act of domestic violence.

Then, the broadcast coverage of the tragedy largely disappeared.

Behind closed doors, this type of violence can happen frequently. However, once brought into the spotlight, broadcast media barely reported the fact that the incident was domestic violence. If it were a "terror attack," it would have gained more attention, possibly given a remembrance day and other countries may have shown their respects.

The ex-husband of the teacher entered the classroom with the intent of murdering her, a motive that was unknown at the beginning of the incident.

Once the situation was confirmed, the act of misconduct was swept out of the spotlight and into the subconscious of citizens who have been conditioned to normalize

domestic violence.

Two innocent people were murdered and another harmed, yet very few will recognize the severity of the loss of life, including the politicians backing extreme pro-gun rights.

But the shooting itself holds more power lost

“
A shooting is allowed
coverage while a
women's suffering is
hidden.”

in the subconscious: it was an act of domestic violence against a woman.

Politicians and citizens who are pro-gun rights will argue that if everyone carried a gun, they would be able to defend themselves.

But guns should never

be involved with violence because it will just exacerbate the situation, including domestic violence.

Now, arguably, an intrinsic part of the United States culture, gun violence has reared it's ugly head into the lives of many but is rarely

correlated with domestic violence even though gun violence and domestic violence often intersect.

There could be similar incidents that did not happen in an elementary school, which have succumbed to the gatekeeping

decisions by major media organizations.

This allows us to sweep these circumstances under the rug and pretend they don't exist.

Domestic violence hides behind black and blue arms, "I fell," and a subtle cry for help in the hollowness of eyes filled with sorrow. But often as a society, we hold a gun to the victim's head and say "shush," because we're too afraid to encounter issues that are difficult to control.

Just like that, the aftermath of a major attack is hidden because we don't want to talk about the reality.

Karen Smith was murdered in an act of domestic violence that disappeared once it was labeled as such. A shooting is allowed coverage while a women's suffering is hidden.

So, where do we go from here?

We must talk about the issues that make our

skin crawl, that make us want to shut out the rest of the world and hide.

Discussions are inherent to stop the acts of domestic violence and other internal incidents that affect many people across this country and others.

It is necessary to hold the media accountable for its decisions on the amount of coverage certain acts of violence receive.

Although, the media is not solely responsible. As citizens of this country, it is imperative that we continue the conversation against violence, including domestic violence.

We cannot let it be hidden among the everyday acts of misconduct by others.

Domestic violence cannot hide if you do not let it.

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Misguided messages leave some wanting more

Mainstream media portrays mental illness inaccurately

Katie Dugan
Asst. Opinion Editor

Mental illness is not often taken seriously, even by those who have the power to influence change. Filmmakers, celebrities and power figures alike could do a better job at advocating for those suffering.

Last month, Netflix released its much-anticipated series, an adaptation of Jay Asher's young adult novel, "Thirteen Reasons Why." The overarching message of the show, how words and actions can deeply impact someone's mental health, is portrayed through a teenage boy, Clay Jensen, who finds a box of mysterious cassette

tapes left at his doorstep. The tapes were left behind by his classmate and crush, Hannah Baker, who committed suicide a few weeks earlier. On the tapes, Hannah recorded the thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life.

Although the creators tried to stay true to the original novel and message, the show lacks any realistic depiction of the young woman's downward spiral resulting in suicide.

The way the show addressed mental illness reflects the stigmas toward the subject. Not once is depression or anxiety mentioned throughout the Netflix series, while in a few scenes hinted at it, the show never delved into

the topic of mental health, but danced around it.

Within the series, Baker hardly conveyed symptoms of depression. People with suicidal ideation and severe depressive disorder often cannot get out of bed and experience drastic changes in their sleeping patterns, appetite and hygiene habits; Baker showed none of these symptoms.

A few episodes hint at a possible mental illness for Jensen, but again, it is easily forgotten and not addressed again in the series. The only sign of mental illness in Baker was one episode in which her grades were beginning to slip.

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EDITOR'S WORD

Now in the early stages of a new executive administration, the United States of America has found herself falling rather short of the once great-promises and principles championed by admired leaders and patriotic citizens. This nation is not as formidable and credible as it used to be, and that has critical impact across the globe.

America has stood as the backbone for freedom and democracy, but lately has developed into an international laughing stock as we grapple with political strife amongst our citizens and representatives, as well as sit back idly while this country's leaders condone irresponsible actions.

Instead of a model, we are a target, an example of a regime in decline. Can America truly become great again? Of course she can-- but it starts on the forefront of our core values systems, and in the offices of the figures that govern this land. We are supposed to be one nation indivisible, but in our quest for justice, have lost sight of what it means to epitomize liberty, let alone for all.

Trump's retaliation against Syrian chemical attacks could be justified

Patrick Holmes
Opinion Editor

Timi Ogunabjo
Journal Contributor

On Apr. 6, President Donald Trump launched a seemingly justified military attack on the Shayrat aircraft base in Syria. This airstrike was a response to the chemical weapons used by the Syrian government that killed 80 innocent civilians, including women and children, but was meant to deter the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS). The response from Trump attacked the same airbase where the alleged chemical weapons were launched.

This would not be the first time chemical weapons were allegedly used on Syrian civilians by their President Bashar al-Assad. Al-Assad used these attacks as a fear tactic to keep the population from supporting opposing parties, according to the New York Times. By being able to strike fear in the eyes of Syrians, al-Assad portrayed how the other nations cannot keep them safe from him.

Trump has criticized former President Barack Obama for intervening in foreign combat and had warned him via Twitter to not be involved in Syria. But it now seems that Trump has had a change of heart and better understood his duties

as president. Hopefully Trump had made the order for the airstrike to advocate for the Syrian people and to denounce al-Assad.

It could be possible that al-Assad's use of

“

By being able to strike fear in the eyes of Syrians, he portrays how the other parties cannot keep them safe from him.

chemical weapons against ISIS could be justified but the continuous killing and injury of innocent civilians is unacceptable and contradictory to the purpose of the chemical weapons and whom they are meant to harm.

The evidence points to al-Assad being the initiator of the attack but his allies and supporters have spoken out to deny the accusations, once again, even though al-Assad's regime maybe the only source powerful

Degrade the North Korean economy

Letter to the Editor

President Trump has pointed out the strong linkage between China and North Korea, and he correctly assumes China can influence North Korea's weapons development program. We must work with China on resolving this situation, and also on the Chinese encroachment in the South China Sea and the trade deficit imbalance.

At this juncture, the North Korean nuclear missile program is of primary concern. China can bring pressure on North Korea to stop its development of these weapons systems by reducing its trade with North Korea.

One area of trade that is the large quantity

of coal China imports from North Korea. It is estimated this amounts to 22 million tons per year, which is 40 percent of North Korea's coal exports.

A reduction in the importation of North Korean coal would significantly impact the North Korean economy, and could force change of position on arms development.

The United States has large quantities of coal available for mining, which could be sold to China, if cost effective, to fill its coal importation needs. This would help our trade imbalance with China, boost our coal mining industry and put our coal miners back to work.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

enough to accomplish such an attack in the country.

Even with the denial, Trump ordered tomahawks to target the Syrian aircraft base.

This is the first military action the U.S. has taken in a foreign country since Trump was inaugurated and, according to the U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, it may not be the last form of action by the U.S., since the U.S. government is beginning to realize the severity of al-Assad's rule, according to the New York Times.

Due to Trump's close relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin,

it would seem that he wouldn't have conducted any retaliation toward al-Assad due to the alliance between Syria and Russia.

The U.S. must take stronger action against al-Assad if any Western powers of democracy have any hope that the chemical weapon attack will cease or that ISIS will be defeated. So far, Trump has taken the first step in the right direction toward these hopes and other nations should follow suit.

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Representation matters and Netflix fell short

From *REASONS* page 9

Instead of characterizing Baker's mental decline, she was constantly berated by her classmates as being too emotional, dramatic and asking for attention. While that is certainly a stereotype for people with depression, the show focused solely on and could have spent more time focusing on Baker when she was alone.

In the very last

episode, the guidance counselor, Mr. Porter, said, "We don't know what was in her mind or in her heart." Perhaps this was the writer's way of showing the audience that a mental disability is not something you can physically see, and there is shame associated with it.

We mostly saw Baker when she was interacting with her classmates and family, however, throughout the series, she was incredibly secretive

about her emotions. So what about when she was alone? Was she taking care of herself? Was she eating? Was she sleeping at night?

Many of the side effects of depression happen when no one is around.

Baker's suicide became a blame game of whose tape was worse, for example, "Have you heard YOUR tape yet?" was a line spit out by just about every character.

This way of giving

reason as to why Baker killed herself is a repulsive simplification of a complex mental illness. I think "Thirteen Reasons Why" phenomenally depicted controversial topics into scenes such as rape and homophobia, but for its main priority of encapsulating mental illness for all that it is, fell short.

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Rams rally through season

Hannah Arroyo
Asst. Sports Editor

The Rams are more than halfway into their season and they have been taking care of business so far. Suffolk University's baseball team fell short in just two of their last 13 games to Eastern Connecticut State University and Western New England University.

On March 29, the team had a 7-5 win against Salem State University, which was the start of a seven-game win streak. The streak was broken on April 12 after an 11-5 defeat to Eastern Connecticut State University.

Head Coach Anthony Del Prete said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday that in order to keep winning games, he expects his team to give quality starts on the mound and offensively earn at least seven runs.

Suffolk currently has a record of 16-8 and a perfect Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) record of 8-0. This conference record is the second best that Head Coach Anthony Del Prete has accomplished since his first season with the Rams when his team achieved a 9-0 GNAC record.

"I think it's really just we've done a better job of focusing and our attention to detail has

been better the last thirteen games compared to the first ten," said Del Prete. "Each day it's a different challenge and guys have to be ready to answer those challenges and compete at a high level."

So far in the month of April, the Rams have scored a total of 163 runs and have won three games in which they have notched more than 20 runs.

In a double header versus Anna Maria College on April 15, the Rams finished the first of their two-game series with a score of 30-8. Suffolk had a total of 27 hits and junior outfielder Seth Coiley went 3-for-3 with a triple and a homerun.

The second match resulted in Suffolk recording 36 runs, the most the team has ever tallied under Del Prete. Sophomore pitcher Kevin Sinatra went seven innings, allowing only two runs in six hits.

"I just went out on the mound and competed," said Sinatra in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday. "It's a team sport and my team produced."

The Rams set a program record for 12 doubles in one game and at least one hit was recorded from 12 out of the 16 players. Suffolk also finished the game with 36 hits, the most for a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III team this



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

The Rams currently hold a winning record of 16-8 and are first place in the GNAC.

season in one game.

"It definitely helps to have a little confidence booster day where everyone has success at the dish," said senior infielder Sean Cameron in an interview with The Journal on Tuesday. "It was just business as usual."

In this game, sophomore infielder Kevin Higgins became the first player to hit a grand slam at the Rams home field in East Boston Memorial Park.

"Anytime you have the opportunity to contribute to the team, whether it be hitting or fielding it is always a good feeling," said Higgins in an interview with The Journal on Tuesday. "I am just happy that I was able to do it for the team."

Suffolk pitchers have also had an impressive season so far and stand at the top of the league with a combined earned run average (ERA) of 4.09.

Junior right hand pitcher Mark Fusco has recorded one of the best stats in the conference with a number one ERA of 0.78.

"I've got a bunch of good defensive players behind me so it's kudos to them for helping me keep [my ERA] where it's at," said Fusco in an interview with The Journal on Tuesday.

In the month of April the Rams have a total of 11 games left, six of those being conference matches.

"The goal every year is to win the conference championship," said Del Prete. "I think with the leadership and experience that we have on roster there's no reason why we shouldn't win it. It's just a matter of going out on the field and taking care of business."

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Boston paced 121st marathon

From MARATHON Page 12

prepare - this is the hardest part. Do these things, and you'll be successful."

Not only was this year's race a memorable feat for McGrath, but was a historic milestone for one of the Marathon's most notable figure, Kathrine Switzer.

Switzer was the first female to enter and complete the Boston Marathon in 1967, before women could officially enter in 1972, who had entered the race under the name "K.V. Switzer." Switzer ran it again this year, marking a 50-year anniversary of her heralded accomplishment, having ran the marathon at 70-years of age.

Switzer completed the 2017 marathon at a



Amanda McGrath

time of 4:44:31, her first Boston race since 1976, just over twenty minutes slower than her original time.

"In 1967, few would have believed that

marathon running would someday attract millions of women, become a glamour event in the Olympics and on the streets of major cities, help transform views

of women's physical ability and help redefine their economic roles in traditional cultures," Switzer wrote according to The New York Times.

This year, McGrath was one of the many women to run the marathon, as 13,698 females officially entered according to the official website of the Boston Athletic Association. From 1972 to current day, Switzer's perseverance helped to provide all women an equal opportunity to participate in marathons.

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Softball duo carries high school success to the diamond

Brooke Patterson
Asst. Sports Editor

From what was known as "some of the best years of [their] lives" to a college experience in the city, two softball players from Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Mass. have continued their diamond skills together at Suffolk University.

Juniors Devlin Frost and Dylan Parsons started their softball careers at a young age, and eventually found themselves as teammates in high school. The two played four years on the various teams that offer such as freshman, junior varsity and varsity.

The center fielder and first baseman were not always by each other's side when they transitioned from playing in high school to college. With a friendship that started in their teen years, the adjustment to a college atmosphere was not perfectly smooth explained Parsons.

Parsons, although a junior at Suffolk, has been a part of the softball program for two years. The Methuen, Mass. native transferred from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth her sophomore year.

"It was difficult adjusting to a new environment with an old friend," said Parsons. "I was a transfer, so I was adjusting to a new school and place while she was

"Our roles on the team don't overlap that often, but when I'm playing I can always hear [Frost] cheering for me and know that she's one of my biggest supporters."

- Junior Dylan Parsons

"I met some of my greatest friends playing for Central Catholic and some of my greatest memories are from then," said center fielder Frost in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

The duo has contributed to the success of the Lady Ram's winning record of 14-12. Frost has an overall batting average this season of .348 where Parsons holds a current average of .250.

Parsons has a goal during games to move runners around the bases while forcing the opposing team to make a play, she said. Frost said she sees herself as a consistent player for the team and strives to have a positive attitude on and off the field. Regardless of the statistics and numerical values of the game, the Central Catholic alumni continue to support one another.

"Our roles on the team don't overlap that often, but when I'm playing I can always hear her cheering for me and know that she's one of my biggest supporters," said Parsons in a recent interview with The Journal.

already settled here. It took some adjustment, but we have a strong friendship, and it's one I would never want to lose."

Frost, a Tewksbury, Mass. native, has been involved with the Lady Ram's for the past three years and said when Parsons joined the team, things felt a lot better.

"Knowing there was someone else on the team who really understood me and had my back was a great feeling," said Frost.

As the Lady Ram's continue their season, Frost and Parsons hope to remain successful in their last 14 season games, as well as the remainder of their softball careers with one another.

"This season I believe my team has the heart, the drive and the skills to come together in the postseason and finally get this program a [Great Northeast Athletic Conference] Championship that we deserve," said Frost.

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FINISHED WICKED STRONG

Skylar To
Sports Editor

Chris DeGusto
News Editor

Crossing the finish line at the 121st annual Boston Marathon was like no other feeling for Amanda McGrath-- it was emotional.

McGrath, an Assistant to the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs at Suffolk University, had just completed her first marathon on Monday and said it was the "best feeling in the world."

"Marathon Monday has always been one of my favorite days of the year," said McGrath in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday afternoon.

McGrath began the race at her alma mater, Lasell College in Newton, Mass., at mile marker 17 and ran toward the finish line at Copley Square in Boston at 26.2 miles.

She was granted a bib by John Hancock to help raise money for the Lasell College Scholarship Fund and in Memory of her fellow alumnus, Dennis "DJ" Simmonds, making her number 30,364-- an honorary runner to the 30,074, who officially participated.

"My experience was amazing," said McGrath. "I didn't finish as fast as I wanted, but I finished, and that was the best part. I was able to cross the finish line with my best friend and husband."

Simmonds graduated in 2008 at Lasell, and lost his life in April 2014 due to the injuries he sustained in the April 2013 Watertown shooting with the two marathon bombers. The shooting happened just

four days after the two bombing attacks occurred at the 2013 117th Boston Marathon. The marathon bombers placed two handmade bombs near the finish line that killed three people and injured several hundreds of others. He was the Boston bombing's fifth victim. Simmonds was only 28-years-old and had worked for the Boston Police Department for six years.

Besides long runs and various shorter jaunts throughout the weeks during the year, McGrath said that she practiced running the route in her head and read "everything" she could to prepare for her first marathon.

F o r f i r s t -

time runners looking to participate in their first marathon, McGrath recommends to runners to try to relax the morning of the race.

"There's a lot of emotion, but just let it happen," said McGrath. "Mentally

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