

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

— MAGAZINE —

RAMS RESPOND TO THE PANDEMIC

See what happens when an
entire university steps up

LIFE-CHANGING GIFTS

Samia and Miller scholars excel

THE RISE OF RAM NATION

Investment in Athletics yields big wins

DEMOCRACY AFTER CORONAVIRUS

How COVID-19 is challenging our political norms

TOM O'BRIEN
Boston developer builds community first

Fall 2020
Suffolk.edu



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ON THE COVER

Jeanette Marasi, Class of 2021, is an Information Systems and Operations Management major. Engaging in her Suffolk experience, she serves as a RAM Supporter, 2020 Orientation Leader, and the Vice President of Programming for the Program Council, of which she says: "We have started our first event this year, Build-a-Ram, which has been great so far in providing first-year students with something to do on campus as well as lift up the Suffolk spirit."



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SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

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letter from the president



One of the things I love most about my job is talking with our alumni across the nation and around the globe. It's surprising how many of those wonderful conversations end in what has become a familiar refrain: We miss Suffolk's magazine.

I've missed it too. The magazine went on an extended hiatus several years ago, and I have felt we needed to bring it back. It helps to better connect us to one another and to share stories of our collective positive impact on the world. Somehow, that seems more important now than ever before.

Suffolk University is a powerful force for good. That has been true since our founding, and it continues today. At no time has that fundamental truth been more essential than at this moment in our nation's history. In the face of a coronavirus pandemic that has caused untold human suffering and tragedy, our students, faculty, staff, and alumni are addressing the implications of the pandemic

directly. Masks on, socially distanced, at times in person, and often virtually, they are leaning in and stepping up to serve others and the broader community.

The pages of the new *Suffolk University Magazine* are filled with stories of Suffolk Rams rising to the challenge of serving the public good. Faculty have used the pandemic as a teachable moment and inspired students to reflect on their own experience and that of others. Students responded by creating innovative course projects and service-learning opportunities. They developed new ways to tutor, mentor, and read with young children in neighborhood schools, delivered groceries and essential items to families in need, and created online solutions for people who could no longer access critical legal services.

We also are grappling with a simultaneous crisis exacerbated by the pandemic—the awful and relentless plague of racial injustice and inequity in this country. Like the nation, this University has work to do to combat racism and to foster equity and create a more just environment for members of our Black community. This transformative moment requires all of us to act, and our community is doing just that. Suffolk students are leading the conversation within this University, and beyond, to raise awareness of injustices and to create meaningful change.

Working alongside faculty members,

Suffolk junior Brianna Franklin is researching inequities in Connecticut through the use of incarceration data and computer mapping systems. Associate Dean of Students Shawn Newton is leading a task force to improve racial equity in his own community of Salem, Massachusetts. Law School alumna Nicole Siino has developed an app to help juvenile defendants gain access to life-altering community-based resources, and alumnus and Trustee Macey Russell is advocating for a national movement to make Black history a part of the K-12 curriculum.

If there is one common theme that runs through the pages of this magazine, it is the relentless desire among Suffolk students, employees, and alumni to serve their communities. We are inspired by the story of real estate developer Tom O'Brien, who believes building community bridges is more important than building structures. And through a journey into the world of politics in the time of a pandemic, we find hope for what could emerge in the future.

It is my pleasure to present to you the new and revived *Suffolk University Magazine*.

Marisa J. Kelly

President

The Common Good

Pandemic Pivot

Housing the homeless in Miller Hall was one of many ways Suffolk responded to the public health crisis

Stepping Up

After Boston's first COVID-19 case surfaced among the city's homeless population in March, Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced that the city had begun converting privately owned buildings into shelters, including Suffolk University's Nathan R. Miller Hall (pictured here).

Walsh had reached out to Suffolk, and University President Marisa Kelly readily agreed to make the residence hall's 172 rooms available to the city to house members of the homeless population. "Boston is our home," Kelly said at the time. "We stand ready to help in any way."

It was a compassionate step in an uncertain time, speaking volumes about the University's values.

It also was one of just many examples, as revealed on the following pages, of Suffolk stepping up to serve its communities in support of the common good.



“Suffolk students were extremely resilient in their efforts to benefit so many needy people in our community. I’m so proud to be an alumna of this amazing school.”

—Amanda Ricko, BS '19. Ricko is the assistant executive director of CEEDS4Change, a nonprofit that creates partnerships to reduce food insecurities in underserved communities. She and her family made 400 masks for the homeless in response to the pandemic.

Students Serving Beyond Suffolk

When classes moved online in the spring, students found creative ways to help those in need through remote service-learning:

- › In partnership with nonprofit CEEDS4Change, Suffolk students created the Head, Health, and Heart initiative to provide care packages of food, books, and mental health information to 200 families from four Boston public schools.
- › Students in Suffolk’s Cancer Care class continued to support families at Christopher’s Haven, an organization that provides temporary homes for families while their children receive cancer care at Boston hospitals, through fundraising, grocery runs, and morale-boosting deliveries of handmade cards and balloons.
- › **Davis Altimonte**, Class of 2022, read and uploaded short stories to the 826 Boston website, where students he had tutored in person could hear his voice as they read along with him.
- › **Julia Leone**, BA '20, developed ongoing lesson plans for the Future Leaders after-school program at the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House in Cambridge.
- › Through the Girls Who Code program, **Anas Sabir**, Class of 2022, taught students at Umana Academy how to program a Q&A computer game.



Global Call to Creatives

Spurred by the United Nations “Global Call to Creatives” campaign seeking translation of public health messages for all people, graphic design students enrolled in the Advanced Computer Applications course created animations that promoted personal hygiene, physical distancing, symptoms, and myth-busting. Their theme: Spread the word not the virus.

Calm in the Time of Coronavirus

Psychology Professors **David Langer**, who helps children manage anxiety, and **Susan Orsillo**, an expert in mindfulness, shared practical tips for self- and family care.



HELPING KIDS COPE

“Two key things that have enormous benefits for mental and physical health and well-being are physical activity and spending time outside. ... These are behaviors parents can model and encourage that will benefit everyone. In addition to physical activity and outside time, take time to do enjoyable things like playing games and pursuing hobbies.”

—David Langer



MINDFUL OF THE MOMENT

“People assume that we practice mindfulness to draw our attention away from something unpleasant—like worry. But the spirit of mindfulness involves drawing your attention toward something truly meaningful and precious—the present moment. Then we fully experience whatever it is: the scent of our favorite candle, the taste of a delicious food, or the sensation of our pet’s fur.”

—Susan Orsillo

The Common Good

Pandemic Pivot

Court Closures



Students in Suffolk Law’s 12 legal Clinics continued their efforts to close the “justice gap” during the period when Massachusetts courts were closed for all but emergency cases. Their efforts ranged from virtual lawyering via mobile phone, email, and video to working on cutting-edge digital court forms to help those representing themselves access the justice system.

Under state law, supervised student attorneys are permitted to represent clients who otherwise would not be able to afford a lawyer. Coronavirus-related challenges, from unemployment to health crises, make their work that much more critical.

During the court closures, to help avoid a stalled justice system, judges asked family law practitioners to work toward settling cases when that made sense. Toward that end, students negotiated with opposing counsel on issues like child custody, parenting time, and child support. “In the U.S., a majority of people face their civil legal emergencies without a lawyer,” says Suffolk Law Dean Andrew Perlman. “The need for solutions to help address the justice gap, including virtual lawyering and simple digital court forms is acute.”

Studies in Empathy

As faculty across the University adapted to the challenges of teaching amid the coronavirus, many shifted their syllabi to help students unpack the pandemic from their virtual classrooms.

Professor **Amy Monticello** was teaching a course called Narrative and Medicine when the pandemic hit. Her students happened to be reading *On Immunity*, Eula Biss’ reflection on vaccinating children. Suddenly students found new and immediate significance. They began capturing their own pandemic experiences through writing. “We turn to books, historical studies, philosophical frameworks, and artistic expressions to locate our own and others’ experiences and find insights that help us make sense of what’s happening,” Monticello says.

Professor **Wes Savick** witnessed a new empathy emerge as theater students shared their interpretation of the moment. He inspired students to write about their own experiences amid the pandemic, telling them: “It is up to you, the playwrights, to chronicle the feelings, the hopes, the spirit, the poetry.” Theatre students also had one-on-one digital coaching and mentoring sessions, including with award-winning actor and director Maurice Parent, and witnessed Stephanie Coyle, BA ’20, direct current students in Harold Pinter’s play *The Lover* via Zoom.

Photographs clockwise from left: Courtesy of Amanda Ricko, Michael J. Clarke (3), Courtesy of Colleen Doonan



Junayed Islam,
Class of 2021,
Entrepreneurship
major


Read more online at
Suffolk.edu.



The Case for Teaching **Black History** **Nationally**

Alumnus aims to create understanding of how America arrived at the Black Lives Matter moment

Story by Nancy Kelleher

It's time to bring Black history into the mainstream of American education, says Suffolk University Trustee E. Macey Russell, who is advocating for a national movement that would transform a tame February curriculum addendum to a strong examination of the Black experience in America since 1619.

History lessons that address America's fraught relationship with race tend to focus on slavery in the context of the Civil War and the civil rights movement. But American schools neglect to address signal events such as the post-Reconstruction massacres of Black citizens in Tulsa. Students don't hear about the African American lives lost in 1927 when Mississippi River levees were dynamited to spare New Orleans from flooding, spurring the Great Migration. Nor do the history books address how discrimination in housing, employment, and education led to a society where an average white family's net worth is nearly 10 times that of a Black family.

Russell, JD '83, seeks federal legislation—the George Floyd Education Act—establishing a commission to determine an appropriate K through 12 Black history curriculum. Schools would make courses on racism and Black history part of the core curriculum, and colleges and universities would follow suit.

In an era when the call has gone out to “do something,” Russell invites Suffolk alumni to join him in advocating for Black history education.

A need for context

Following the 2020 police killings of George Floyd and others, protesters across the nation are standing up for the rights of Black Americans. Yet many people don't understand how America came to this juncture, says Russell.

The myth of a post-racial society ushered in with the election of President Barack Obama has died, and “the kids out marching are confounded about what's happened,” says Russell.

Because young Black and Brown students are not taught their history, they often feel isolated in U.S. society, according to Russell.

“Learning this history helps Black Americans understand their heritage and how they are connected to this country,” he says. “We have been here for 400 years, and there is something wrong when folks who arrived 120 years ago feel more connected than Black Americans. Rarely do we stop and ask: Why is there a Negro National Anthem in this country, and why was the civil rights movement necessary?”



Empathy based on facts

Russell, a partner at Choate Hall & Stewart LLP, is deeply involved with encouraging diversity in the legal profession.

“I've learned from these experiences that you have to find trigger points that generate empathy in people, and that usually has to come from a baseline of facts and what can reasonably be inferred from those facts,” he says.

“Until people begin to understand our history, it may be hard for them to understand why African Americans are where they are today. It's not because we all checked a box before we were born that said: I want to be poor. I want to have the worst possible public education. I want to be fearful of police, and I want to be discriminated against in housing and education. Nobody checks those boxes. Yet there's always been an undercurrent that we don't work hard enough.”

Russell's commitment to Black history education stems in part from his learning about the historical mistreatment of indigenous people and others.

“There are a lot of things that we don't understand partly because of a lack of exposure,” says Russell, citing Germany's requirement that high school students study Nazism and the Holocaust. “We should follow Germany's lead as a way to heal.”

✓ SUFFOLK LAW GOES UNDERCOVER TO UNVEIL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

Study sparks calls for change as it reveals bias against Black and low-income renters

Story by Michael Fisch



and, according to the *Boston Globe*, proposed a new “secret shopper program,” similar to Suffolk’s research, to assess the treatment of Black people and voucher holders seeking apartment rentals. Hearings on their proposal are expected in the fall.

A few days after the study was released, *Banker & Tradesman*, an influential realty trade publication, laid out the study’s key findings and published an editorial, “Racism in Real Estate Cannot Stand.” The editorial argued that, given the study’s rigorous design, “no serious person” could argue that the findings were biased.

The publication called on the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office to convene a task force of industry representatives, housing advocates, legislators, regulators, and fair housing experts to create a plan to address housing discrimination by Labor Day.

Results of the study were picked up by media outlets across the region and beyond. On NBC 10 Boston, City Councilor Matt O’Malley referenced the study, saying “housing discrimination is real” and “abhorrent.” He called on city leaders to partner with local housing advocates and universities to set up additional testing and to report back any unfair treatment.

Seventy-three Suffolk students served among the 200 testers posing as interested renters. They contacted the advertisers of 50 randomly selected rental properties in nine cities and 11 Boston neighborhoods and meticulously recorded their experiences in reports after the interactions.

“We expected the numbers to be high based on what we see in our work every day, but this is much more pervasive evidence of discrimination than any of us thought we would find,” said Jamie Langowski, assistant director of the HDTP. ■

After the unsettling results of a Suffolk Law study showed widespread discrimination among Greater Boston real estate agents and landlords toward prospective tenants who were Black or used federal housing vouchers, the impact has been both sizable and swift.

The study, led by Suffolk Law’s Housing Discrimination Testing Program (HDTP), found that white people posing as prospective tenants were shown roughly twice as many apartments as Black people and were offered more incentives to rent. Agents often cut off communication with renters using “race-associated” names like Jermaine and Ebony as opposed to renters with names like Brad and Anne.

The testing, conducted from August 2018 to July 2019, also showed that people using federal Section 8 vouchers, regardless of race, faced huge hurdles—having to contact nine rental agents before getting the opportunity to tour one apartment.

The Suffolk Law study, co-led by the Analysis Group and funded by the Boston Foundation, was released July 1. A week later, a group of Boston city councilors came together to decry the racism it uncovered

Suffolk University Trustee E. Macey Russell

Says Russell: “If learning about Black history and racism in the U.S. becomes part of our daily dialogue in the schools, that will trickle into the minds of parents, into neighborhoods, and into communities. And I think that would be a good thing. We owe it to our kids and grandkids, so they can grow up in a very different America.” ■



Read more about the proposed George Floyd Education Act at

www.wgbh.org/news/commentary/2020/06/24/it-s-time-to-teach-black-history-to-all-students.

Around the Horn



◀ DEDICATED TO SERVICE AND LEARNING

Story by Kara Baskin

Suffolk's commitment to community and service was recognized with the Carnegie Community Engagement Reclassification, a distinction that honors noteworthy cocurricular involvement and builds upon the University's initial classification honor in 2010.

"Creating opportunity has been ingrained in the Suffolk story right from the start," says Suffolk University President Marisa Kelly, a champion of community engagement. "We strive to create experiences that benefit students and communities alike. This spirit of service is something our graduates carry with them throughout their lives."

Suffolk is one of 75 higher education institutions to receive the reclassification designation. Faculty, staff, students, and a community partner collaborated on the yearlong reapplication process to evaluate the many ways the University impacts society and learning.

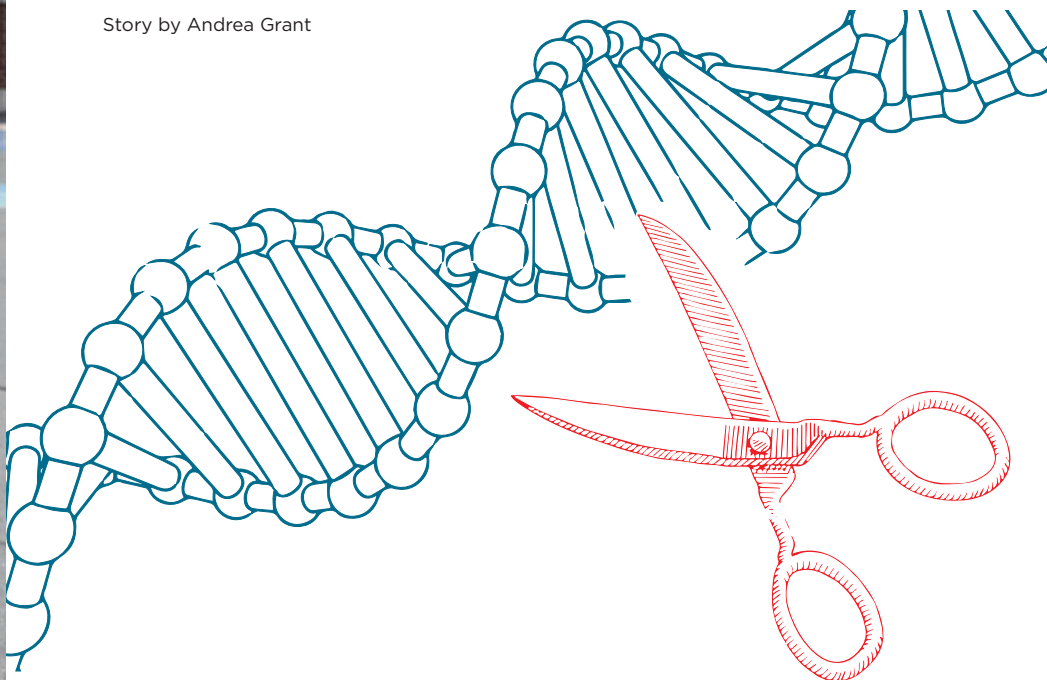
"The classification reinforces our identity as an institution dedicated to the common good," says Adam Westbrook, director of Suffolk's Center for Community Engagement. ■

Teaching social skills to schoolchildren is among Suffolk's annual Service Day activities.

A Sequence of Fortunate Events

Students unlock cutting-edge CRISPR gene-editing lab curriculum

Story by Andrea Grant



After a disappointing day in the lab, roommates Thomas Tran and Domenic Abbondanza sank into their couch and switched on the TV. They used its big screen to scan for new approaches to try in the molecular genetics project consuming all their waking hours.

Tran, BS '18, and Abbondanza, BS '19, were trying to help their biology professors Eric De Waal and Celeste Peterson distill the essence of the groundbreaking CRISPR-Cas9 genome-editing technique into a laboratory curriculum simple enough for students to complete in a single semester.

CRISPR-Cas9 is a technique that allows scientists to edit a cell's DNA at precise locations by cutting the DNA and modifying it through inserting, deleting, or repairing its sequence. Researchers are just starting to explore the procedure's

potential therapeutic applications for genetic disorders and conditions like cancer and Alzheimer's disease, for which cures remain elusive.

“As is the nature of research, failures were frequent.”

—Domenic Abbondanza, BS '19

Building on a seminal paper from Harvard geneticist George Church, the pair experimented with new organisms and methods in trying to find the right sequence for the undergraduate lab setting. “As is the nature of research, failures were frequent,” says Abbondanza.

They had been working on the project for over a year, even after Tran

graduated. Now they were racing against the clock, trying to finish before Abbondanza completed the biology program and Tran headed off to graduate school.

Just one week before the 2019 commencement ceremony, an email from De Waal came with the subject line: “Early graduation present for you.” It confirmed that all of the CRISPR experiments were working.

A few months later their work was published in the journal *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education* in a Peterson-De Waal article outlining how to create a laboratory curriculum following their students' method for using CRISPR-Cas9 with a simple model organism. That fall students filled Peterson's Molecular Genetics course, breaking into pairs to get hands-on experience editing genes.

Giving undergraduates early access to “the next wave” of cutting-edge science like CRISPR will put them ahead of the curve and help them in their scientific careers, says Peterson.

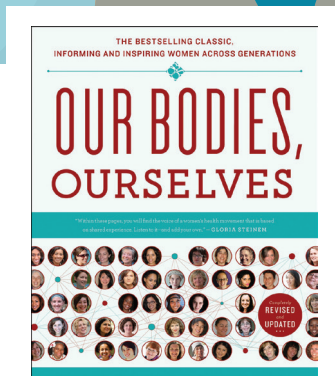
Her recent alumni are living proof. Gaining experience in the lab and publishing in a peer-reviewed journal helped Tran earn a spot in the UMass-Amherst molecular and cellular biology PhD program, while Abbondanza landed his “dream job” as a researcher at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. This spring Abbondanza and his colleagues shifted their focus to aid in the worldwide study of the coronavirus. Using a technique called spatial transcriptomics on tissue samples from patients with COVID-19, they hope to learn more about how the virus behaves and impacts different cells in the human body.

“We're in uncharted territory here, and we have to do on-the-fly troubleshooting. My science training at Suffolk prepared me to be able to adapt,” says Abbondanza. “I definitely didn't think my first year out of undergrad would look like this, but Suffolk does a great job of preparing students for real-life situations.” ■



Our Bodies, Ourselves Today

Story by Kara Baskin



In 1970, a group of Boston-area women self-published “Women and Their Bodies,” a groundbreaking booklet that addressed previously verboten topics, from reproductive health to sexuality. Soon known as *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, the book was a touchstone for generations of women. It was in print through 2011 and continues to live online today.

Thanks to Suffolk’s Center for Women’s Health & Human Rights, the pivotal text will come alive again as *Our Bodies, Ourselves Today*, updated online for modern readers at ourbodiesourselfestoday.org.

“There are so many reasons to get excited about this online platform. Women are still in dire need of information of the kind that *Our Bodies, Ourselves* provides—evidence- and reality-based information that treats women as whole beings,” says

center director Amy Agigian, who oversees the initiative.

The site initially will spotlight key topics including contraception, abortion, mental health, and heart health.

Suffolk has deep connections with *Our Bodies, Ourselves* cofounder Paula Doress-Worters, a Class of 1962 Suffolk alumna, and cofounder and Board Chair Judy Norsigian, who taught a Suffolk course called Women’s Health Advocacy for several years.

The online information—articles, videos, podcasts, first-person stories, and more—will be curated and vetted by expert panels. Panelists will include specialists ranging from policymakers to physicians to everyday women from all walks of life.

“This is extremely ambitious; we want to be the go-to for all sorts of women’s health issues,” Agigian says. ■

✓ FEEDING A START-UP

Story by Kara Baskin

Budding entrepreneurs in the Sawyer Business School’s Crowdfunding the Venture class learn creative fundraising firsthand, discovering innovative ways to generate buzz—sometimes literally—for their ideas.

Of the more than 25 business ventures launched in the course via Kickstarter or Indiegogo, one success story is GrubTerra, where founder Michael Servais, Class of 2021, makes bugs seem appealing.

His start-up repurposes restaurant waste into chicken feed using black soldier fly grubs. The insects feast, grow, and self-harvest before being washed, killed, and dehydrated into a protein-packed poultry food product. Servais estimates a pound of dried grub is equivalent to 20 pounds of food waste.

Students in the course learn how to create impactful videos that build affinity with potential investors. In his fundraising video, Servais endearingly pleaded with potential funders to help him move up and out of his Mission Hill basement greenhouse—all while sporting a yellow chicken suit. He met his \$10,000 funding goal.

“It’s the jockey, not the horse. You need a founder like Servais who’s willing to dive in and work,” says Chaim Letwin, professor of management and entrepreneurship at Suffolk.

“Crowdfunding is hard. You need credibility to back your idea, influencers to support it, friends and family to get behind it. The class was so helpful,” Servais says. ■





“One of my biggest jobs is to teach my players that they can be fierce competitors while also showing respect for their opponents, coaches, officials, and fans.”



—Jeff Juron, Men’s Basketball Head Coach, who alongside his team, received the 2019-20 Sam Schoenfeld Sportsmanship Award from the Collegiate Basketball Officials Association.



For the **third year in a row** Suffolk

University physics students received the Society of Physics

Students Chapter Research Award for their work studying neutron shielding at Massachusetts General Hospital. The award is a \$2,000 cash prize to further their research.



Suffolk is recognized as a 2020-2021 **Military Friendly School**, with systems in place to support student veterans financially, emotionally, and academically.

Photographs clockwise from top left: Adobe, Michael J. Clarke

Around the Horn

Professional Development

A Leader in Career Success

College-to-career innovator Dave Merry takes the helm at Suffolk’s Center for Career Education and Professional Development

Story by Magazine Staff

Dave Merry wants all Suffolk students and graduates to have the tools and confidence to control their own lifelong career trajectories.

“People can go through careers passively,” says Merry, an innovator in career education who recently joined the University to lead its reimagined and expanded career development efforts. “I want students to know that they have the support, resources, and skills that they need to make the next steps in their career paths and to be in control of that journey.”

That is true for Suffolk alumni as well. Building a career today is a lifelong process that requires adaptability and flexibility as well as continuous reinvestment in skills. Alumni, Merry says, may need training in a certain technology or opportunities to improve public speaking, leadership techniques, or other skills. Suffolk’s Center for Career Education and Professional Development will increasingly focus on offering opportunities for certificates, credentials, badges, and skills development. “When our current students are alumni, we want them to come back,” Merry says. “We want them to come upskill with us as well.”

Merry joined Suffolk in July as associate provost and executive director of the Center for Career Education and Professional Development. He brings experience on the cutting edge of the college-to-career arena and a vision that aligns with the career and experiential learning goals set out in the *Suffolk 2025* strategic plan, including an objective to become a national leader in career education.

The University’s emphasis on integrating career education throughout the student experience is what drew Merry to Suffolk. He sees Suffolk as becoming an institution that others will look to for best practices in building career readiness into every aspect of a university education, from the classroom to leadership involvement, service, internships, and more.

Merry’s past experience includes serving as founding director of cooperative education for Northeastern’s College of Science and a co-op education faculty member. At Suffolk, Merry sees a faculty and staff with remarkable enthusiasm for making every experience meaningful and a University community that is unified in promoting student success. ■

Around the Horn

Black Studies

A Milestone for Black Studies at Suffolk

25 years of fostering understanding among all students

Story by Andrea Grant

When Suffolk's Black Alumni Network gathered graduates, students, faculty, and friends last fall for the annual Celebration of Black Excellence dinner, the members also commemorated a special milestone in the University's history: the 25th anniversary of the Black Studies program.

"The field focuses on the perspectives and ways of knowing of Black people—thinking, acting, creating, building, and problem solving. We wanted to encourage students from any background to gain a fuller understanding of themselves and the world around them," says founder and program director Professor Robert Bellinger.

The program has enriched academic and cultural life on campus through a diverse array of courses and programming, bringing renowned poets, storytellers, musicians, writers, educators, and performers to share their viewpoints and talents. Partnerships with historical sites—including a research and internship collaboration into the history of enslaved people at the Middleton Place plantation in South Carolina—have given students hands-on opportunities to apply Black Studies perspectives to the telling of American stories.

And to inspire the next generation, Bellinger has welcomed Boston Public Schools students into the classroom to earn college credit as part of the

University's dual-enrollment program.

"One of the ideas that is central to Black Studies is that of the 'activist scholar,' which is based on the idea that knowledge is for the sake of your community," says Bellinger. "It's not just learning for the sake of learning, it's learning so you can use that knowledge to shape the communities that you're a part of locally, nationally, and globally."

The Suffolk University Black Alumni Network was launched in 2018 thanks to the vision of students and alumni, including double Ram and trustee Ernst Guerrier, BS '91, JD '94. The network celebrates and serves current and future Black alumni through events, mentoring, philanthropy, and volunteerism. ■

Professor Robert Bellinger, center, with other attendees of the 2019 Celebration of Black Excellence dinner, which honored the 25th anniversary of Black Studies at Suffolk.

SAM FAISAL, JD '20,
is named a

2020 Law School Student of the Year

by *National Jurist* magazine for his service and support for underrepresented students.

"I am so pleased to help deserving students follow their dreams ... Their stories overwhelmed me."

—Ed McDonnell, BSBA '59, HDCS, '84, whose gifts over 23 years have provided students the opportunity to travel and understand the businesses and cultures of other countries, preparing students to be global citizens.

Suffolk Polling earns an

A

One of a handful of polling centers to get that grade from Nate Silver's **FiveThirtyEight** news blog, acknowledging accuracy and methodology for polling.



Suffolk Law School is recognized with the **Outstanding Law School Diversity Outreach Award** by the Annual National Black Pre-Law Conference & Law Fair for the increasing diversity of the school's student body.

90%

of Suffolk student-athletes achieve a spot on the athletics director's spring **2020 Honor Roll**, with 232 Rams achieving a 3.0 or higher grade-point average.

Photographs clockwise from top left: Fena Fenelon; NASA/ISOFIA/E. Lopez-Rodriguez; NASA/Spitzer/J. Moustakas et al., Image processing by AliAbbasiPov; courtesy of Silvia Salazar and Hristo Stoev (2)

Around the Horn

Madrid

Out of This World

Madrid professors adapt a coveted astronomy course to distance learning

Story by Kimberly Winter Stern

The problem may have seemed like the stuff of a feverish science fiction writer's imagination: *Star Trek* meets *Contagion*, but two Suffolk Madrid professors rose to the challenge.

To accommodate the constraints of a global pandemic, Professors Maria Cruz Gálvez and Hristo Stoev virtually recreated an astronomy learning adventure that usually takes place at Mount Teide in the Canary Islands, where an observatory is perched atop the world's third-tallest volcanic structure.

Embracing the challenge to reinvent the sought-after four-night lab that includes eye-popping fieldwork and island exploration, Gálvez and Stoev choreographed a virtual solar-system-surfing rendezvous that afforded students an unusual glimpse into the starry universe.

Many students had dispersed from the Madrid campus to quarantine with their families. Instead of boarding a plane to Tenerife, they logged in from time zones around the world, connecting to a robotic telescope on the Canary Island of La Palma. Stellarium, a planetarium software that creates breathtaking 3D simulations of the night sky, enabled Gálvez and Stoev's intrepid virtual pioneers to travel where no Suffolk University student had before, planet-and moon-hopping from home.

The tool provided each student an opportunity to pursue research.

"The access to this online program allowed me to look at a black hole thousands of light years away," said Mikayla Hopkins, Class of 2022. "Whether it was the weather in the Southern Hemisphere on the day they were born or the path of an asteroid going over Poland last week, students got to use the tool to satisfy their own interests," she adds. ■

From top: NASA image of the galaxy. Students during a 2019 visit to the Izaña Observatory. Mount Teide on the island of Tenerife.



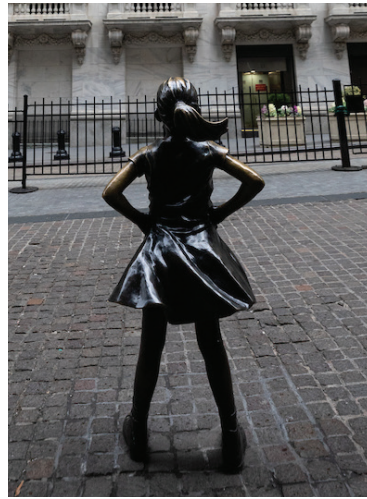


*Launch
Point Suffolk*

Keeping Up With the
Dow Joneses

Financial services alumni host finance undergraduates on a two-day tour of the banking and wealth management industry

Story by Ben Hall



Opposite page: Students capture a candid group selfie in Times Square. Above: Students and University President Marisa Kelly at the New York Stock Exchange. Fearless Girl. Sydney Watson, Class of 2021. Alumnus Bob Panessiti, MSF '98, who planned and funded the trip, joins students for the experience.

Tucked in a corner of the gilded Board Room at the New York Stock Exchange is a giant Fabergé urn emblazoned with the crest of Tsar Nicholas II. The urn and its pedestal stand 6 feet tall—about the size of a well-fed Cossack. The urn was a thank-you gift from the Tsar to the NYSE for \$1 billion in bonds (which the Russian government later defaulted on).

For nine Suffolk undergraduates in the finance program, the story of the urn was just one of many ways their major came alive during a trip to New York City. Over two days in early March, the students met with numerous industry leaders, many of whom are Suffolk alumni.

The trip was conceived and funded by Bob Panessiti, MSF '98, senior vice president of wealth management at UBS, one of the largest investment banks in the world. A dedicated Suffolk alumnus, Panessiti understands there are some things you just can't learn in a classroom.

"I wanted to show the students the various opportunities available in this industry and help them decide how they want to move forward as they begin their professional lives," he says.

At Morgan Stanley, Marek Herchel, BSBA '98, MSF '00, and Pat Langone, BSBA '99, advised the students to take early risks while building their careers.

At UBS, Panessiti and Global Head of Due Diligence Desi Narasimhan, MSF '98, introduced four younger UBS colleagues who showed just how attainable a career in finance can be.

"It was particularly empowering for myself as a Black woman to see a powerful female figure on Wall Street."

—Sydney Watson, Class of 2021

"As a senior, I found it incredibly useful to understand the different roles I might have in a long-term career path," said Jai Patel, BSBA '20, who made the networking score of the trip: When the UBS human resources person invited the students to apply for a rotational program, he handed her his resume on the spot.

The students also visited the capital markets division of RBC to meet Michelle Neal, BSBA '98, who has twice been recognized as one of *American Banker's* 25 most powerful women in finance. She and her colleagues expounded on topics as varied as how Washington should respond to the coronavirus crisis, then in its early stages in the United States, to how to approach a job interview.

With the help of David Mazza, MBA '15, the students witnessed the closing bell from the floor of the Exchange. They also visited Fearless Girl, the iconic sculpture that depicts a young female aiming a confident, almost "I dare you" expression at the New York Stock Exchange building.

"For me, Fearless Girl is a representation of women occupying a highly concentrated male space. It was particularly empowering for myself as a Black woman to see a powerful female figure on Wall Street," said Sydney Watson, Class of 2021, one of four women on the trip.

For Watson and others, another big takeaway was networking with so many Suffolk alumni who have such important and varied roles in finance.

"Hearing from people in different parts of the industry was very beneficial to all of us," says Watson. "It made me want to go figure out what else I could do with my finance degree." ■



Business on the Move



**New Sawyer
Business School
Dean Amy Zeng
brings a penchant
for partnerships and
project-based learning**

Story by Ben Hall

There's getting out into the community and there's *getting out into the community*.

As the new dean of the Sawyer Business School, Amy Zeng wants to do both, starting on the Boston Common and extending into the business community.

"I grew up in Beijing. I love big cities, and I enjoy walking," Zeng says. "I plan to have meetings with people while walking on the Boston Common, especially for one-on-one conversations."

That focus on building connections was a key component of Zeng's tenure at the University of Hartford, where she was dean of the Barney School of Business before joining Suffolk in July. She succeeded William J. O'Neill, Jr., who stepped down after elevating the Business School to new levels of excellence over almost two decades of leadership.

Zeng brings to Suffolk a passion for experience-based learning, which is central to the Sawyer educational approach. "Experiential learning is really a way to bridge the classroom with the real world. The Sawyer Business School creates that bridge, and great partners create meaningful

opportunities and long-lasting impacts for students," Zeng says.

Zeng has a history of developing industry and community ties that create learning and career opportunities for students. At Hartford, she helped establish dozens of partnerships with companies, professional organizations, and educational institutions. She says Suffolk's location creates abundant opportunities to collaborate with the business and other communities. "It's a huge advantage."

Zeng is an accomplished educator and a recognized scholar in the fields of supply chain management and global logistics. She loves working across disciplines with people from all kinds of technical and academic backgrounds and cultures. Her own educational background combines business and engineering.

Zeng also hopes to expand the Business School's focus on service-learning and social entrepreneurship. That's particularly important, she says, with the challenges small businesses, nonprofits, and others are facing because of the pandemic. "I think this is a great opportunity for the Business School to be a part of that effort to help those organizations recover and deal with challenges." ■

An Investment In the Future

Historic Ames Building becomes newest residence hall

Story by Greg Gatlin



Photographs: Michael J. Clarke

The Ames Building at One Court Street is one of the more historic buildings in all of Boston. It's also Suffolk University's newest residence hall, where students can experience all that Boston has to offer in the heart of one of the city's most vital corridors.

Talk about the hub of the universe. Place a pin on a map of Boston's most-central downtown location and there is One Court Street, an architectural gem at the nexus of State, Court, and Washington streets. The iconic building most recently operated as a boutique hotel before Suffolk bought it in September 2019. Suffolk President Marisa Kelly calls the new residence hall "an investment in the future of our students and the University and a signal of our enduring commitment to this city."

One Court Street looks out at the Old State House and is steps from City Hall, Faneuil Hall, the Financial District, all of the city's subway lines, and key University buildings. It has instantly become a centerpiece of Suffolk's urban campus.

Completed in 1893, the Ames Building lays claim to being Boston's first skyscraper. The 14-story Romanesque structure was at the time the tallest masonry building constructed in the United States. To walk into One Court Street is to walk into history.

"You instantly feel the historic character," says Shigeo Iwamiya, Suffolk's director of Residence Life and Housing. "It feels like you are walking into something very significant—a historical landmark, quite literally. Even the staircases feel like they are full of Boston history."

That historic character blends with the modern flair of a former boutique hotel, renovated in 2017.



Exterior and interior views of One Court Street, a former hotel turned Suffolk's newest residence hall.

Lending itself to coronavirus planning, each of the 112 residential rooms, which in time will accommodate up to 300 students, has its own bathroom. They also have high ceilings and jaw-dropping views through cathedral windows that look out onto the city. A new, publicly accessible restaurant and café with outdoor patio will enliven the streetscape, and the building provides a multipurpose student lounge and conference room space.

The building, which started as the headquarters for the Ames family agricultural tool business, has long been a part of the city's commercial history. State Street was once the only road that connected the Shawmut Peninsula with the mainland and the only route to move goods to and from Boston Harbor. As today's students walk out of One Court Street's front door they will walk into all that history and commercial vibrancy, in the center of one of the world's greatest learning capitals. ■

Imagination at Work

First-year creativity courses give students a competitive edge

Story by Nancy Kelleher

Artificial intelligence and automation have been injecting uncertainty into employment projections for years.

But Suffolk students are building the skills that will continue to be in demand as the job market evolves.

A first-year Creativity & Innovation course, required of all Suffolk undergraduates, helps lay the foundation by challenging students to take intellectual risks and seize intriguing learning experiences. Suffolk offers Creativity & Innovation classes in 20 disciplines, all aimed at instilling flexibility in thinking so that students will explore new ideas without the fear of failure.

These courses allow students to take a deep dive into areas closely aligned with their personal

interests. Students in the highly immersive, hands-on courses “solve problems on their feet,” says Marilyn Plotkins, chair of the Theatre Department and cochair of the Creativity & Innovation Steering Committee. “What’s so great about their not being lecture-based is that they require solving problems in teams.”

Indira Ortiz Santana was enthused about her Creative Writing and Literacy class right from the start: “I thought: I can be creative and have fun and just be myself.”

Her project-based creative writing course with Professor Wyatt Bonikowski incorporated service-learning through a tutoring program with 826 Boston, a nonprofit that helps youths write and publish work.

With the advent of remote learning during the spring semester, the Suffolk students replaced a planned in-person project with the 826 Boston youngsters, instead meeting through Zoom for a storytelling session with the prompt: What would it be like to bring home an animal from the nearby Franklin Park Zoo?

Immersion in creative projects gave Ortiz Santana confidence.

“Professor Bonikowski really helped us be better writers and thinkers,” she says. “Coming up with something to write in a journal was hard for me. Now I’m more expressive. I’m writing poems and drawing. I actually kept going with my journal this summer. I open the window and write about what I see outside.”

The Creativity & Innovation course Chemistry is Everywhere engages students through educational games such as Pollution Monopoly. Gaming taps into the part of the brain where students retain information. Opposite page: Professor Stephan Thieringer visits with a student.

Preparing for jobs of the future

Business owners know that unpredictable events in the environment, medicine, society, politics, and the economy will occur with greater frequency in the coming decade, according to Dave Merry, associate provost and executive director of Suffolk’s Center for Career Education and Professional Development.

“They are looking to bring people into their organizations who can develop and implement creative solutions that will help companies to survive, and perhaps to thrive, through those unexpected challenges,” he says. “In fact, LinkedIn has listed ‘creativity’ as its top soft skill in both 2019 and 2020.”

In the Entrepreneur’s Cocktail course, Shirley Dang, Class of 2023, and her team created a virtual company and launched products, discovering in the process “that it’s OK to ask for help and that nobody needs to be perfect and do everything themselves.”

Stephan Thieringer, a Sawyer Business School professor and creator of the course, taps into principles inherent to entrepreneurship through his lessons. “My course is really an invitation to think about who you are and what’s aligned between your gut, your heart, and your brain,” he says.

The Creativity & Innovation courses provide inspiration for students and instructors, says George Moker, the Carol Sawyer Parks Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies and cochair of the Creativity & Innovation Steering Committee.

“Faculty love it because they can present challenges to their students and serve as coaches,” Moker says. “Students love it because

they choose a topic that interests them, and they’re aware that there’s something different about the course—a playfulness about it, but with high expectations.”

As the coronavirus has battered the world economy, leading to dire unemployment reports, organizations that have navigated the pandemic successfully were able to quickly adapt to this novel situation with innovative solutions, says Merry. So while machines could sort coronavirus data, and AI could be used to run assembly lines producing protective clothing, human intelligence was required to adapt automobile plants for manufacture of respirator parts and convert fashion house couture lines for surgical mask production.

“We are differentiating the human from the machine,” Moker says. “AI is based on probability, while the human brain is based on survival. We become most creative and innovative when we are trying to survive.” ■

“LinkedIn has listed ‘creativity’ as its top soft skill in both 2019 and 2020.”

—Dave Merry, Associate Provost and Executive Director of Suffolk’s Center for Career Education and Professional Development



Creative Course Catalog

Creativity & Innovation courses teach skills including adaptability, resilience, thinking outside the box, problem-solving, and the ability to communicate effectively in a team.

A sample of these skill-building courses are:

The Open-Hearted Historian
Students put themselves in the shoes of earlier peoples to understand their lives from their perspectives.

Think Small: Change the World
Students design nanostructures and nanomachines using in-house computational and experimental tools.

The Design of Everything
By exploring a selection of genius personalities—from Newton to Warhol—students discover the process of design and follow through with hands-on group creative projects.

Creating the Dream Team
Students learn the value of collaboration for meeting business challenges.

Sustainability, Energy, and Technology at Suffolk University
Students in the project- and team-based course spend the semester developing proposals to address a sustainability issue on campus.

Photographs: Michael J. Clarke (2)

Creating Access

Mapping Inequality

A promising young researcher collaborates with faculty to map risk factors for incarceration

Story by Andrea Grant

To what degree does where you're from determine who you'll become? Suffolk University junior Brianna Franklin is collaborating with faculty on an ambitious research project that will combine incarceration data, potential risk factors, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping to try to determine any relationship.

"In my family a lot of people have been in trouble with the law," says Franklin, Class of 2022, a sociology and psychology double major from Leominster, Massachusetts. "My father was so smart and had so much potential, but housing was a challenge, and he was in and out of shelters. I feel like that kind of lack of opportunity is one of the main things that drives people to crime."

As a first-year student, she wrote about her developing interest in research and her desire to make a difference. Her professor read it and recommended Franklin to Sociology Department Chair Erika Gebo, who saw a perfect opportunity to connect a promising student with an incoming faculty member.

Mentor in the making

Lucius Couloute was an undergraduate studying economics when the killing of Trayvon Martin shook the nation and catalyzed the Black Lives Matter movement.

"Trying to make sense of that, I read *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and learned more about society's inequalities. I could see those disparities at work in the Hartford, Connecticut, area where I grew up," says Couloute, assistant professor of sociology.

He turned to sociology as a way to understand—and, he hoped, help lessen—racism and economic inequality. His research on the complex relationships among race, poverty, and incarceration is yielding data that he hopes will help change the way society looks at crime, focusing less on punishment and more on prevention through social interventions.


When Couloute joined the Suffolk faculty in 2019, Gebo recommended Franklin as his research assistant. Franklin read up on Couloute's work.

"He has written papers for the Prison Policy Initiative," she says, referring to the Massachusetts-based criminal justice policy think tank. "I thought that was really cool because I didn't even know there was an organization that tries to promote preventive policies."

Franklin began by compiling and summarizing articles for Couloute. Now she's helping him sift through dozens of qualitative interviews conducted with formerly incarcerated men. She is fascinated by some of the responses, particularly when subjects talk about what they believe led them into trouble.

"Some people think the flawed system is the main reason they ended up in prison, but others believe they are solely responsible for their own bad decisions," she says.

Couloute and Franklin's next project will use quantitative data to explore which camp is (more) correct.



Brianna Franklin, Class of 2022, serves as a research assistant on a project that shows the relationships among race, poverty, and incarceration in Connecticut.

Mapping a complex problem

Franklin is helping parse data from the Connecticut Department of Correction, the U.S. Census Bureau, and other government repositories to break down incarceration rates and potential correlated factors—such as education level and poverty rate—by municipality.

Combining the data with GIS mapping will help show "which factors are actually the most critical to crime in Connecticut," says Michael Acheampong, a professor in Suffolk's Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability, who is applying his expertise in data and mapping to the research.

"We have an overlap in our goal to ultimately inform policy," says Couloute. "We are excited to see where the data takes us."

Franklin says that the way Couloute and Acheampong are presenting their data will help visual learners grasp the correlations immediately.

"Even though I don't really know any areas of Connecticut, I can look at the map and understand right away where the problem areas are. I don't need to sort through the numbers to understand really what's going on," she says.

Acheampong agrees.



Meeting of the Minds



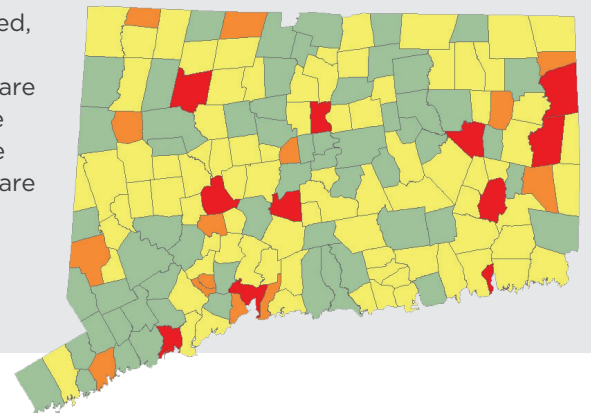
When Lucius Couloute and Michael Acheampong met last summer at a new-faculty mixer, they realized they could build a bridge between their disciplines and decided to combine their strengths.

While Couloute's upbringing near Hartford sparked his interest in the sociology of crime and incarceration, Acheampong embraced technology as a way to help his fellow Ghanaians protect their natural resources.

Acheampong was a collegian when oil was discovered in Ghana in 2007, bringing great wealth to parts of the country. Now his research examines the true cost of that development to traditional livelihoods and lifestyles—and to the environment.

Using GIS mapping, Acheampong tracks land use changes to show how oil drilling competes with existing agricultural activity and affects water resources that support rural Ghanaians. His work also shines a light on the environmental impacts of turning forests and farmlands into concrete jungles, such as increased flooding and groundwater contamination. He overlays data onto detailed digital maps, then digs deeper through a process called “ground truthing” by venturing into remote areas to speak with rural farmers and chiefs. The end result is a compelling data-driven narrative that helps give average citizens a voice as the country considers further development.

This map below, which combines Couloute's data using Acheampong's GIS mapping approach, illustrates differing levels of incarceration rates across Connecticut; cities with higher incarceration rates are in orange and red, those with average incarceration rates are in yellow, and those with below-average incarceration rates are in green.



“By the end of this project, we will have a visual that tells the story.”

Making her way

Working with Couloute and Acheampong has given Franklin a new plan for her future, one where she can envision continuing the meaningful research she loves.

“I knew that lab scientists get grants to do projects. But before I worked with Professor Couloute I didn't know there was a viable path for sociologists, too. This project has opened my mind to new possibilities for me,” she says.

For Couloute, mentoring Franklin is an opportunity to pay forward all the advice and encouragement he received during his own academic career.

“Our students are smart; they're dynamic, curious, and they're excited to learn. Brianna is a brilliant young scholar who has helped us move forward with our project while she gains hands-on experience working with data and building a research project from the ground up.

“Michael, Brianna, and myself were strangers before the fall of 2019. Today we are a small but awesome team working on important social research with direct policy implications,” says Couloute. ■

Shawn Newton Sows Seeds of Change



Associate dean of students addresses inequality in his own community

Interview conducted by Andrea Grant

The killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers this spring ignited protests across the country and spurred many Americans to acknowledge and confront the structural racism and inequality embedded within their communities.

Associate Dean of Students Shawn Newton discusses how he is helping people in his own city—Salem, Massachusetts—address this complex issue.

Q: You've recently been appointed chair of the Race Equity Task Force in Salem, with the goal of improving racial equity in all aspects of Salem life, from policies to services to the police force. How do you begin to address such complex issues?

A: If race equity was something that was easy to achieve, it would have been done a long time ago. It took real leadership for our mayor to call this group together to acknowledge there are problems and commit to addressing them.

My job is to harness the expertise of the community and not necessarily to give all the answers. I believe I have some. But the task belongs to all of us, so my responsibility is to make sure everyone has a voice and that people who are in a position to make change can exercise their voices to do just that. Then we can jump into the weeds and really try to make Salem a better community for everyone living, visiting, or going to school here.

Q: Salem is infamous in history for the intolerance of its witch trials in 1692. Can you talk about the challenges of addressing centuries of exclusionary systems?

A: I think Salem is probably no different from anywhere else. We're known for the witch trials, but a lot of other cities and towns have been equally involved in creating systems that may not have been equitable to everyone. The challenge is really trying to reimagine the institutions that impact people.

Q: Can you give an example of the kinds of structural inequity that need to be addressed?

A: There's an old story about a young child fishing with his parent. The child notices a dead fish in the water. A couple of hours go by, and they start to see another one, and another one, and another one. The parent says, "I wonder what's wrong with all the fish?" But in the child's infinite wisdom, he says, "I wonder what's wrong with the water?"

Trying to address an issue like racism, often we're looking at the individual rather than looking at a much larger system.

For example, the educational system was not created for the rich diversity of learners that we have in higher education today.

When you have a system that hasn't been tweaked and fully adjusted to meet the needs of the new students that are coming in, you're going to have problems. If you look at data and see that a particular group hasn't had the same graduation rate as their peers for 30 years, at that point it's clear that the issue isn't an individual student or a handful of students. There's a structural and institutional problem that we need to fix.

Q: Why is it so important to get involved in your own community? What are some ways others can contribute to this work?

A: We're all interconnected. We don't have real boundaries around our communities. Suffolk students, for example, build bonds in Boston and then stretch them out across the world. We want to live in places where we're respectful to one another and can have healthy conversations about making our cities and towns better. There is no overnight quick fix for institutional racism. You really have to plant seeds to make cultural change, then nurture them and do the weeding. Addressing issues like this is going to be messy, but if we stick with it we can make lasting positive changes. ■



In her third year, Siino was taking classes in the Law School's Legal Innovation and Technology, or LIT, concentration and serving as an innovation fellow in the Juvenile Defender Clinic. That meant she needed to marry her interest in juvenile defense with some kind of practical tech, data, or process improvement to help the clinic work better.

She turned to David Colarusso, clinical fellow and director of the LIT Lab. With Colarusso's guidance, she built a rough version of the app that she shared with students, attorneys, and social workers. They offered tweaks and applause.

Siino's experience is one shared by many other tech and innovation students at the Law School. Like her, they faced their fear of coding and turned to Suffolk faculty and staff for guidance. They, too, built apps to walk people step-by-step through practical needs such as writing and printing a consumer protection letter or creating a parenting plan for divorcing couples.

Asking the state to help

"One of the biggest challenges for law students' tech projects is how you keep the project running after you finish school," Siino says. As an American Bar Association Center for Innovation NextGen Fellow, Siino was able to attend many conferences at Suffolk following graduation, allowing her to continue to work on and upgrade her app.

In 2019, Siino presented her app at Suffolk's LITCon—a gathering for socially minded techies, government employees, academics, and legal tech entrepreneurs who want to increase access to justice. After hearing Siino's talk, a leader at the state's public defender office showed interest in joining forces and increasing the app's reach beyond Boston. The public defenders office is working with the Law School on a formal agreement. Meanwhile, Project Tubman, an organization working on an artificial intelligence public defender tool, is providing ongoing technical support.

"If you think about the impact of avoiding a criminal record, it's monumental," says Colarusso. "Nicole was willing to take a creative approach, learn a new skill, and never gave up along the way." ■

Justice Code



Juvenile defenders access sentencing alternatives through app alumna developed as a student

Story By Michael Fisch

Defense attorneys, especially when they're handling low-level offenses like small-quantity drug possession and petty theft, often ask judges to divert their clients into social programs—from treatment for drug use disorders to group therapy—so they avoid the scarlet letter of a criminal record.

They do that in part because the effects of a criminal record can be so far-reaching: ineligibility for college scholarships or financial aid, lost opportunities for employment, and denials for private and public housing.

While working in Suffolk's Juvenile Defender Clinic, Nicole Siino, JD '18, saw how difficult it was to quickly find her clients a spot in treatment or job programs before they were arraigned—and her student colleagues and public defenders shared the same concern.

"I sat in court and listened to judges, attorneys, and probation officers talk about dozens of programs designed to help juveniles succeed and discovered that

there was no master list of community-based resources. No place to go to do a comprehensive search where you could learn about programs and determine if they had openings," she says.

The idea that young people would lose an opportunity for professional help and a shot at redemption largely because lawyers and social workers didn't have a basic web resource seemed wrong.

So she built one.

Today, Massachusetts attorneys (and anyone else, for that matter) can check the app on their phones from a courtroom.

A thousand excuses

There could have been a thousand excuses why Siino might never have undertaken such an effort: the academic grind of law school, potential bureaucratic hurdles among service providers, lack of money and technical resources to maintain a web app after her graduation, and—one small hiccup—she didn't know how to build a web app.

So, how did she pull it off?



Scholarships Open Doors

Samia and Miller scholars share how donor generosity makes college journey possible

Interviews conducted by Jennifer Becker



Two scholarship programs established through remarkable acts of generosity have transformed the lives of hundreds of Suffolk University students. The Bert J. Samia and Nathan R. Miller scholars programs support and empower motivated students showing academic promise and financial need who might not otherwise be able to attend Suffolk.

Leonard J. Samia, BSBA '69, established the Bert J. Samia Memorial Centennial Scholarship Fund in his father's honor. This scholarship for students is funded by his historic \$10 million gift to the University. Samia Scholars enjoy the opportunity to meet with their benefactor each semester.

Suffolk University Magazine spoke with a few of the students whose educations and lives have been indelibly changed by these scholarships.

“Being a Samia Scholar has pushed me to commit to a whole new level of academic success, which has, in turn, helped me to better all other aspects of my life.”

—Cheryl Aikins, Class of 2023 and a Bert J. Samia Memorial Scholarship recipient

Above and at left, Suffolk University celebrates Leonard J. Samia and family at the naming celebration and dedication ceremony for the Leonard J. Samia Academic Center.



➤ **Jocelyn De Paz**
Biology Major, Health Careers Concentration/Women’s & Gender Studies Minor,
Class of 2022

I honestly cried when I found out I was a Samia Scholar. During my junior year in high school, my younger brother was diagnosed with cancer. He was in treatment for about a year, so my parents no longer had the funds for my schooling. The entire financial burden fell into my hands ... Mr. Samia helped me step foot onto campus as a first-generation student.

I want to get as much education as possible to be a women’s health advocate. [She wants to become an obstetrician/gynecologist or practice family medicine.] It would be amazing if I could utilize my knowledge to help women in my community and all around the world. This is the reason I declared my minor in women and gender studies. I find it important to not just focus on being a doctor but also becoming a voice for social justice. For me, it is truly about helping as many people as possible.



▼ **David Fernandez**
Global Business Major,
Class of 2023

I am from Leon, Nicaragua. I finished my last semester of high school online after I moved to Woburn due to social-political problems in Nicaragua. Since I was a kid, one of my dreams has been to study in the United States. ... I am very interested in learning how business works around the world, and I would like to work at Walmart headquarters. After all, it’s the biggest international company, and I could have the opportunity to work in different countries.

Living in the center of Boston is the most incredible thing that has ever happened to me ... with my Samia Scholarship, I was able to live in Smith Hall—where I met most of my close friends—and live the college life.



▲ **Trevor Rafferty**
Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Major, Class of 2022

I have always dreamed of being in a career where I could help people. ... I thought that being a public defender, or another type of lawyer, would be a really great career for me, and Suffolk has such a great history of developing politically conscious students.

Mr. Samia’s continued generosity has made it possible for me to come here in the first place, and to stay enrolled.

It has been a rewarding experience for me to be an RA here; I have met a lot of people and refined my skill as a leader, and I learned how to interact with people better. Also being here for the Red Sox World Series parade was unbelievable!



▲ **Cheryl Aikins**
Finance Major/Business Law Minor,
Class of 2023

I wanted to attend Suffolk but was worried about how my family and I would cover the costs. The Samia Scholarship eased my troubles and financial restrictions. I cannot thank the Samia family enough for that.

In my eyes, I was blessed with an incredible opportunity to attend Suffolk. I love Suffolk because it is an institution that promotes diversity and inclusion at all levels. I would like to become a civil rights attorney in the near future. I believe my degree in finance will also aid me greatly if I ever decide to open up my own law firm or business.

The only way to pay it forward is to do my best academically.

Continued on page 26

Photographs clockwise: Michael J Clarke, courtesy of students, Michael J Clarke (2)

The Miller Scholars program, named for the late philanthropist Nathan R. Miller, HDCS '03, is focused on graduates of Boston Public and public charter high schools. Recipients attend monthly seminars in their first year that increase their awareness of University resources promoting student success and commit to a semester of community service.

Nathan Miller's philanthropic support of educational values at Suffolk University continues today through his daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Peter Sidel.



^ **Dahlia Elamin**
Biology Major, Class of 2022

My Miller scholarship was the best news of my life! I am the oldest sibling and the first to go through the American college process in my family, so it was very exciting.

The Miller Scholarship program helped me connect with other Boston Public Schools students [at Suffolk], which helped me fit in better. That is one thing I was worried about. I want to become a pediatrician. I even completed my community service at MGH in the radiation therapy center.



^ **Nicole Oliveira**
Psychology Major/Law Minor,
Class of 2021

The fact that I received the Nathan R. Miller Scholarship allowed me to further my education at Suffolk.

I have been very interested in law since about sixth grade. There are so many paths and so many different types of careers you can have within it—so many different opportunities to help people. I had planned to go to law school immediately after graduating from Suffolk. I have now decided that I would like to take at least a year off and work as a paralegal. In fact, I am currently taking courses to earn Suffolk's paralegal certificate and am on track to complete it at the same time as my degree.



^ **Diana Pena**
Management Major/Public
Relations Minor, Class of 2022

The Miller Scholars Program made me feel more welcome.

I bonded really well with one of the advising coaches, Lani Varga. She helped me plan out the rest of my years and helped me choose a major.

At first, I was super nervous, and didn't want to participate in anything right away.

But I pushed myself and joined four clubs—the Commuter Student Council, Caribbean Students Network, Black Student Union, and Pasi3n Latina. I even ended up on the e-board for Pasi3n Latina, which made me feel super accomplished.



^ **Andrea Taylor**
Public Relations Major,
Class of 2021

I was born and raised in Pordenone, a small town in Italy. As an international student whose first language isn't English, it's hard sometimes to share your opinion because you're a little afraid others will judge you. Being with my fellow scholars has made me feel much more confident. The Nathan R. Miller Scholarship has helped me find my voice at Suffolk and shown me that my opinions and thoughts do matter.

Being part of the Nathan R. Miller Scholars program has made me believe more in myself and made me feel that other people believe in me. Because of that, I don't want to let them down. So, I push myself every day as hard as I can.

Suffolk Impact

Testing, Testing, COVID-19



A lab at the Broad Institute, similar to the one where Thomas O'Connor, below, BS '20, is currently working on test samples of COVID-19

Recent alumnus using lab skills to detect coronavirus

Story by Andrea Grant



Every four days a clinician carefully observes Thomas O'Connor as he tests himself for the coronavirus.

Then O'Connor changes gloves. He puts on a disposable gown, slips booties over his shoes. Next comes a mask, protective eyewear, and one final layer of gloves. Even his phone gets a special covering. He'll wear this PPE for up to 12 hours a shift as he tests hundreds, sometimes thousands, of samples for COVID-19—painstaking and critical work in the fight against the pandemic.

Just a few months ago O'Connor, BS '20, was finishing up his biology program at Suffolk and preparing to move to Dublin for a graduate program in molecular medicine. The global health crisis put those plans on hold.

Now he is part of a growing team using a technique called reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) to test samples for COVID-19 at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. It's a process he first learned in Suffolk Professor Celeste Peterson's Molecular Genetics course and then honed over two years while working in her research lab.

"This is so gratifying," he says. "I can use the skills I learned at Suffolk and contribute to the pandemic efforts in a positive way."

As O'Connor copes with the uncertainty of pandemic life, his work in the lab gives him both purpose and perspective.

"Every day when I come in there may be new automated machines, a new room replacing a room that was torn down the week before, or even new people joining the team to help us expand and reach our full potential," says O'Connor.

"Seeing all these changes makes me excited to come into work the next day and makes me think, 'All right, I'm ready for the next thing that's going to be thrown at me.'" ■



Conscious Couture

Lauren Nouchi builds an international brand through fashion risk-taking

Story by Kara Baskin and Greg Gatlin

Lauren Nouchi was selling her faux fur coats with a Parisian flair out of a Brooklyn, New York, pop-up shop in early 2018 when a Bloomingdale's fashion director got word of the brand.

Nouchi, BSBA '13, and her business partner tried to play it cool. "We didn't want to look

like we were fans," says the French-born designer and fashion entrepreneur.

The Bloomingdale's exec bought two pieces of Nouchi's Apparisi brand of vegan affordable outerwear. And then she decided she might like to buy more—as in 5,000 pieces. Nouchi recalls the fashion director's reaching out via

Instagram and writing: "Oh, I love your coats. Where can I find them? And are we going to be able to see your collections for next fall?"

The only problem, says Nouchi: "We didn't have a full line. We just had two styles in a few different colors."

Nouchi quickly jumped into design mode. Meanwhile, the

Bloomingdale's inquiry brought a boost of confidence at just the right time and served as a turning point for Apparisi. Nouchi and business partner Amelie Brick launched a covert operation to reach every fashion buyer they could think of from their tiny office.

"It was really a snowball effect," Nouchi says. Buyers began to call, and never-ending lines formed at Apparisi' tiny, pink-wallpapered booth at COTERIE, an industry-driving fashion trade show in New York.

Today, Apparisi is an international brand sold in more than 500 stores. If you've browsed Bloomingdale's in the past year, bright faux fur coats or jaunty faux leather trenches from Apparisi might have caught your eye. At 29, Lauren Nouchi, a Suffolk alumni 10 Under 10 honoree for 2020-2021, has collaborated with fashion icons such as Diane von Furstenberg. *Harper's Bazaar* has called Apparisi "the brand to watch." And *Forbes* magazine this year named Nouchi to its 30 Under 30: Art & Style list, noting that "she's challenging the fur industry with her vegan label."

Apparisi's mission is to change the way people consume fashion. The company's clothing exchanges what Nouchi describes as toxic, unethical animal farming for more conscious and sustainable practices. From its design process to the factories where materials are sourced to the dyeing of fabrics, Apparisi is 100% vegan and cruelty free.

"When we really thought of the business, we felt that we needed to do something that would align with society and the way we are evolving," Nouchi says. "I just felt this would be more meaningful than just launching another fashion brand."

Apparisi is experimenting with fabrics that feel like cashmere and wool but are plant-based. She hopes to innovate with alternative materials, such as mushroom and pineapple leather, as well.

Apparisi's target consumers—young, well-educated, trend-conscious—generally try to shop ethically. Nouchi says the brand's



Apparis, a vegan fashion line created by alumna Lauren Nouchi, includes colorful faux fur coats, seen in the Fall/Winter 2020 collection.



customers identify with the idea that vegan fashion, style, quality, and affordability can coexist. “The younger generation, they’re very opinionated,” she says. “They really know what they want, and they want to be more and more involved with brands.”

Nouchi grew up in Marseilles, France, the daughter of boutique owners who sold affordable women’s clothing. She loved attending buying meetings and fashion shows, but she also was intrigued by the logistical side of her parents’ stores. Hoping to study business, she longed to perfect her English and go to college in the United States. She moved across the Atlantic at 17 and eventually made her way to Bunker Hill Community College before transferring to Suffolk, where she majored in global business and marketing at the Sawyer Business School.

As an international student, independent in a new city, her eyes were opened to new people, cultures, and opportunities—all playing a big part in personal growth. “I learned a lot about global business, but it’s really the human experience that I feel really made me more mature and independent and fearless.”

As it turns out, risk-taking is in Nouchi’s DNA.

She recalls Sawyer Business School Executive-in-Residence David Hartstein, cofounder of KaBloom floral stores, asking students: “Who thinks they would be a good entrepreneur?”

“I raised my hand, and he asked me ‘Why?’ And I told him, ‘I like to take risks.’ And I do,” Nouchi says.

While working at Boston’s Louis Vuitton store, Nouchi got a taste for what clicked and what didn’t in U.S. fashion. “Clothing is either overpriced for the quality or very affordable fast

fashion,” she says. She saw a missing niche: affordable, high-quality apparel like her parents mailed to her from home (which she’d often resell for a fair price to friends who coveted her wardrobe).

Following graduation she believed she had landed her dream job as a merchandiser at luxury brand Yves Saint Laurent in Paris. Yet, she longed for something more meaningful, where she could express herself.

She vented her frustration over wine with Brick. A few glasses in, they decided to launch Apparis.

“Most times, over wine, those ideas don’t come to fruition,” she says, laughing. “This one did.”

Nouchi’s business risks are paying off. The company recently completed its first round of seed funding, raising \$3 million in an effort to refocus strategy on direct-to-consumer sales.

Nouchi says her Suffolk education gave her structure and a sense of deadlines, prioritization, teamwork, and how to best organize her work.

“All the team projects we had at Suffolk, especially in the Business School, also helped me a lot with what I’m doing in my career.

If I didn’t go to school as

an international student at Suffolk, I honestly don’t think I would be able to do what I am doing right now, which is leading a team of 15 people, running my own [international] business, and taking risks,” she says.

Taking those risks is what made Apparis work.

“For anyone who’s really eager to succeed or to actually build something,” she says, “you have to go through things that don’t work to make it work. And that’s at least my story.” ■

“We felt that we needed to do something that would align with society and the way we are evolving.”

—Lauren Nouchi, BSBA '13



Breaking News



Breana Pitts anchors national CBS streaming news service during the coronavirus crisis

Story by Ben Hall

Half past 2 in the morning is a wretched time to wake up for work.

But Breana Pitts, BA '12, is used to starting her day when other people her age—at least prior to the pandemic—are just coming back from karaoke night at the Wild Rover.

That's because for almost four years Pitts has been the traffic and news reporter for the morning news broadcast on Boston's WBZ-TV. Getting into the office by 3:30 a.m. has become almost routine. Drive to the studios from the South Shore. Do hair and makeup. Keep an eye on how messed up the Expressway is getting. Report 14 traffic updates throughout the morning until 7 a.m.

But on March 11, 2020, that whole routine changed.

Like an understudy on opening night when the star breaks a leg, Pitts got the call ... or in this case an email. It was from her producer, saying that CBS headquarters in New York had been shuttered overnight after two employees tested positive for the coronavirus. That left the network unable to broadcast anything from on site.

Pitts' producer told her that, after finishing her local broadcast, she'd start anchoring CBSN, the network's 24-hour worldwide streaming news service. Not just for Boston but for the whole country. All morning long. Indefinitely.

Pitts was already familiar with CBSN. She's been anchoring the 7-8 a.m. Boston feed since its launch in the fall of 2019. But like William Hurt's character Tom Grunick in *Broadcast News*, she was going national during a major crisis.

Instead of anchoring stories about Tom Brady's impending free agency and breakdowns on the T, she would be on the air interacting with White House correspondents, doing talkbacks with financial experts on Wall Street, and juggling

At a moment's notice, Breana Pitts stepped onto the CBSN anchor desk to cover national news as the coronavirus was breaking in March.

pressers from Governor Cuomo and President Trump.

“My whole workflow completely changed,” says Pitts of her time anchoring the national desk. “It’s definitely been a positive experience even though it flipped my life upside down.”

Pitts didn’t come to Suffolk yearning to be the next Christiane Amanpour. In fact, the only reason she ended up in the University’s TV studio in the first place was because it had an open work-study position and Pitts needed a job to maintain her financial aid. But she quickly got interested in what was happening in the studio and started taking classes to learn how cameras work and what journalists do.

“I fell in love with something I just stumbled on,” recalls Pitts.

She started doing reports for “Suffolk in the City,” a weekly segment on New England Cable News. Broadcasting from Suffolk’s Studio 73—the camera gets set up right on Tremont Street—“Suffolk in the City” has for 10 years given Suffolk students on-air reporting experience. Pitts still recalls getting “wicked nervous, deer in the headlights” during her first live segment for the show.

“I froze for a second, thinking, ‘I can’t believe they’re letting me do this.’” says Pitts. “I’m 21 and I have no idea what I’m doing!”

Despite the rocky first outing, Pitts quickly caught the bug and ended up majoring in broadcast journalism. After graduation, she worked at a Boston TV station and then landed a job at KTSM-TV in El Paso, Texas, where she was a multimedia journalist and on-air anchor. Being in the “anything can happen” environment of local TV newsrooms was essential preparation for her new role with CBSN.

“Once you do more and more live shots and become more confident in yourself as a journalist and how you write and how you present, it becomes easier every time,” says Pitts. “When they said I was doing the national broadcast for CBSN, it’s kind of like, ‘Let me throw on my hair curlers and put in my eyelash extensions and let’s do the damn thing.’ You don’t have time to think about it too much. You can’t be a planner,” Pitts laughs.

Pitts’ stepping up to handle the CBSN national news was unexpected. But it isn’t surprising, according to Jerry Glendye, Suffolk TV Studio Manager, who advised Pitts when she was a student, helping her hone her skills and develop her on-air talents.

“She’s made herself a jack-of-all-trades, and that’s why CBS trusts her,” says Glendye. “She has the chops and experience to do it.”

Back at the WBZ studios, Pitts has a few minutes to check her email, grab a sip of coffee, and chat with her producer. Then it’s back on the air. Governor Cuomo has a press conference in three minutes. ■

“Once you do more and more live shots and become more confident in yourself as a journalist and how you write and how you present, it becomes easier every time.”

—Breana Pitts, BA '12





I

t hits in waves without warning.

As I go about my “new normal” of Zoom check-ins with colleagues and socially distanced rambles with my toddler, out of nowhere come sudden bursts of crippling anxiety for the future of our country. And I know I’m not alone.

David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center, has been conducting national

and state polls to measure fear about voter safety, confidence in the government response to the coronavirus pandemic, and the overall direction of the country. He says just looking at the data gives him a “jolt.”

“You can almost feel the anxiety of the respondents in the numbers because people are so concerned about not only their health but also the political future,” says Paleologos.

When you see how the pandemic is impacting politics as usual, it’s clear that America has some preexisting conditions. Hyper-polarization. Gridlock. Disenfranchisement, disinformation, and distrust. These comorbidities seem to have worsened over the years, weakening our civic unity to a critical degree even before the public health and economic devastation of the coronavirus threatened to wreak havoc on our body politic.

Politics in a Pandemic

Suffolk experts reflect on the crisis' impact and what the future holds for our political process.

Story by Andrea Grant

Photograph: Jason Redmond/Getty Images

Although there is a widespread perception that American democracy is resilient, what if everything changed in an instant? Could almost 250 years of electoral and legislative processes be upended by a global health crisis and then rebuilt in a matter of months?

At Suffolk I regularly talk with faculty, students, and alumni who study and work in politics. I usually meet them during moments of triumph and write about their accomplishments. Now we discuss the sheer

weight and volume of the monumental tasks they face as they adapt to, predict, and shape our political future. Already, politics in the pandemic have undergone massive upheaval. The crisis is altering how campaigns and elections are conducted, how we engage in the political process, how we share information, and even how we vote.

As the pandemic continues in the coming months and as we emerge later, what will our democracy look like?

CAMPAIGNS

As many people become accustomed to conducting their lives from the confines of their own homes, political campaign and media strategist Roger Fisk, BA '94, MSP '00, wonders if they will return to the town square when the pandemic is over.

Fisk is widely credited with campaign strategies that led President Barack Obama to electoral victories in 2008 and 2012. He understands the power of social and digital

media and used it masterfully to help Obama connect with a wider, younger, and more diverse audience. But even Fisk sees online and mobile tools as mere enhancements to a campaign—the core comes from those “person-to-person, door-to-door interactions” that provide opportunities to share perspectives, change minds, and build community bonds.

The pandemic, he says, is changing our relationships with our neighbors and with our communities. “There are fewer opportunities for respectful disagreement and possibly even persuasion,” he says. “Maybe the person that you would have bumped into on the way out of that town meeting could have explained something to you in a way that you wouldn’t have stumbled on just online, and you could have walked out of there significantly different than you walked in.”

When I first met Clara Sandrin, BS/MS ’18, two years ago she had just helped a classmate win a Brockton, Massachusetts,

“Virtual rallies are like sporting events without fans in the seats—it’s better than nothing, but it’s not the same experience.”

—Ken Cosgrove, Suffolk Political Science & Legal Studies Professor

City Council seat using grassroots tactics they’d learned in Suffolk’s Campaign Lab program and through a course called Ready, Set, Run. They went door to door canvassing,

held meet-and-greets, and talked to voters at countless community events. Those personal interactions earned and energized supporters and ultimately helped her classmate win the race.

By late spring of this year Sandrin was stationary in South Carolina, a campaign manager for a congressional challenger cut off from any face-to-face contact with the public. She had a trunk full of printed campaign literature but no in-person events or battalion of volunteers to distribute it.

All candidates are contending with the limitations of the pandemic, but they’re hitting newcomers especially hard, says Setti Warren JD ’07, the former mayor of Newton, Massachusetts, who now serves as the executive director of Harvard University’s Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy.

“When I ran for mayor the first time, my campaign and I knocked on 10,000 doors and met people,” Warren said at a Ford Hall Forum as part of a Suffolk University spring virtual event. “People still come up to me today and say, ‘I voted for you because you came to my door.’ And I won my election by 469 votes. I don’t know that I would have been able to win that race if I couldn’t have gone physically out to campaign at the local level.”

Incumbents typically have greater name recognition, fundraising leverage, and access to constituents—advantages in any election year, but potentially insurmountable for challengers now.

In response to the physical limitations precluding traditional campaign events and canvassing, candidates have upped their use of digital communications, connecting with their audiences through platforms like Facebook Live or Zoom town halls. But Sandrin points out that those online communications and conversations may exclude segments of the population, including some people with low incomes and others who may be less digitally connected.

Before the pandemic, President Donald Trump used large in-person rallies to welcome all kinds of supporters and then mined their information to build powerful databases used in digital campaigning.

This year his campaign has struggled to hold large-scale events, hampered by pandemic fears, local public health regulations, and fake registrations that make data collection less useful. But the Trump campaign has lost more than data that fed the campaign machine, says Suffolk Political Science & Legal Studies Professor Ken Cosgrove.

“Rallies provide ‘solidarity benefits’ by energizing supporters. Attendees have a positive experience; they feel like part of a group; and they buy merchandise, which increases viral marketing,” said Cosgrove, who studies media use and marketing in politics. “Virtual rallies are like sporting events without fans in the seats—it’s better than nothing, but it’s not the same experience.”

For candidates across the country this fall, in-person interactions, or the lack thereof, could make all the difference.

VOTING ACCESS

As comedian George Carlin wisely said, “If you don’t vote, you lose your right to complain.”

If you’re not satisfied by the government response to the pandemic—and a national Suffolk poll released in May found that 50% of people think the federal government is not doing enough to help—or with the way your state or local elected officials are representing you on other issues, you have a chance to have your say on Tuesday, November 3.

But will it be safe?

If the spring’s primaries were a dress rehearsal for the nation’s pandemic electoral process, a fiasco could be in store for opening night.

Wisconsin was the first act.

The state’s chaotic primary in April took place at the height of nationwide “safer at home” initiatives and after an 11th-hour legal battle and Supreme Court ruling overturned the governor’s attempts to postpone the election or extend absentee voting.

Crowds of voters in face masks waited in long lines outside Wisconsin polling stations. Warren of the Shorenstein Center calls the Wisconsin precedent “really, really troubling” for both voter participation and safety, though studies are mixed as to whether there was a meaningful increase in COVID-19 cases.

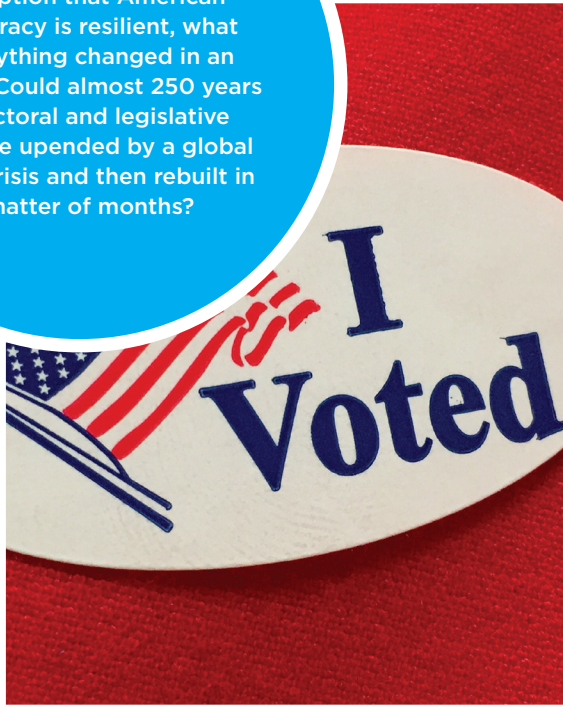
“They didn’t have enough volunteers and staff, so they had to eliminate locations for voting, which meant they had huge numbers

Photographs clockwise from top left: Adobe, REUTERS/Andrew Kelly, REUTERS/Rachel Wisniewski, Adobe, REUTERS/POOL New, REUTERS/REBECCA COOK, REUTERS/DANIEL ACKER, Adobe, REUTERS/ERIN SCOTT - stock.adobe.com





Although there is a widespread perception that American democracy is resilient, what if everything changed in an instant? Could almost 250 years of electoral and legislative norms be upended by a global health crisis and then rebuilt in a matter of months?



Silver Linings



Brendan Burke
Professor, Institute
for Public Service

“The pandemic got us to slow down, and that gave us time to think about the value of family, community, the environment. Since then we’ve been immersed in an urgent conversation and deep soul-searching on racism in America. Time will tell if this moment of reckoning on both issues will lead to lasting change, but I think there’s going to be a shift.”



Sonia Alleyne, MPA '01
Executive in Residence,
Institute for Public Service

“The pandemic has uncovered that we have a vast system of inequity in this country. We were able to mobilize quickly to provide laptops to kids, food to families, but why couldn’t we do that absent the pandemic? We need to strengthen our communities because you never know when another storm is approaching.”



Christina Kulich-Vamvakas
Instructor, Political Science
& Legal Studies

“The realization that many jobs can be done remotely should open paths to better employment for people with disabilities who need accommodations. Remote, project-based internship programs could also be a game changer for students who don’t have the ability to do a traditional internship for a variety of reasons: geographic location, time/work constraints, and the lack of resources to take an unpaid internship.”



Jessica Finocchiaro,
MS/MPA '13
City Councilor, Methuen,
Massachusetts

“The best way to effect change is to be a part of it. That’s why I got involved in government. I hope people get involved, stay involved, and assert their opinions using the new tools and platforms that have been adopted during the pandemic.”



of people waiting in line for hours,” says Warren. “Talk about voter disenfranchisement. And the communities where there were long lines are underserved communities.”

The Wisconsin primary debacle, like the pandemic itself, exposed the underlying conditions that threaten to tear our country apart, including partisan bickering, confusion, fear, misinformation, and inequality. The latter is particularly unsettling.

Voter disenfranchisement is as grave a threat to our country as the pandemic. Every person deterred from casting a ballot is a partner lost in our shared democracy and the rebuilding of our damaged institutions.

The Wisconsin primary was not an isolated event. A similar scene played out across Georgia in June, leaving election officials there calling for investigations into long lines and delays.

To keep polling places open we need, among other things, a new generation of well-trained helpers.

“What we’re up against right now is a poll worker base that is dramatically older than the rest of the population, and those people are not going to want to work on Election Day,” says Suffolk Professor Rachael Cobb, Political Science and Legal Studies chair, who is racing against the clock to make sure polling places are ready.

Building on the efforts of the University Pollworkers Project she started in 2006 to recruit and train students to serve at polls, Cobb is designing an academic course to prepare student poll workers and working with municipal election officials to design new poll worker training materials that address social distancing and disinfection practices.

Vote-by-mail seems like another obvious solution. It isn’t a panacea—some voters need assistance or simply prefer to vote in person, and there are costs for printing and postage to consider—but Cobb believes it might be the best way to ensure a free and fair 2020 election.

Red, blue, and purple states, including Colorado, Utah, Washington, and Hawaii, conduct statewide elections by mail. Others are looking to expand vote-by-mail capacity during the pandemic.

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker recently signed into law a voting reform package that expands vote-by-mail and lengthens

Left: Setti Warren JD '07, former mayor of Newton, Massachusetts, serves as the executive director of Harvard University's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy. Right: Rachael Cobb, Suffolk professor and political science and legal studies chair, created the University Pollworkers Project.



Politics Beyond the Classroom

This summer, more than 140 Suffolk University students got a jumpstart on their academic year by diving into the COVID-19 pandemic's enormous implications on democracy and politics through an innovative and free online course. The nine-week Politics in the Time of Global Pandemic virtual series connected students—many of them just starting their Suffolk careers—not only with each other but with experts, scholars, and public policy leaders from around the country. They shared explorations of the humanitarian crisis caused by the pandemic, its impacts on social justice, political partisanship, governing, elections, information wars, and more.

The University's Political Science and Legal Studies Department teamed up with Suffolk's Ford Hall Forum and the WGBH Forum Network to bring the online lecture series to the outside world. WGBH produced the moderated conversations, where students posed questions to experts in immigration law, national security, and voter protection. They heard from legislative and political leaders, scholars, and journalists, including Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins; political scientist Sarah Binder, a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution; and Dara Lind, who covers immigration policy for ProPublica.

Political Science Department Chair Rachael Cobb describes the course as “super dynamic,” in that it brought the discussion beyond the classroom and to the broader public through a shared experience. Hundreds logged in to view the discussions.

“Because we were talking about things happening right at that very moment with people working on those things right at that very moment, we were all feeling the urgency of now,” Cobb says. New students immediately got ideas about possible courses of study or internships before their first semester had officially even begun. “I think we have proven that in an online setting you can build community, engage ideas, and make people feel something that is bigger than themselves, even when we are all in our living and dining rooms,” Cobb says. —Greg Gatlin

early in-person voting periods. The new law reflects widespread support in Massachusetts—74% of state residents said they would favor conducting the September primary and the November general election by mail according to a spring Suffolk poll.

While opponents raise the possibility of voter fraud as a downside, evidence from states that have conducted vote-by-mail elections does not support those fears, says Cobb. “There have been a statistically insignificant number of instances of fraud to date, and safeguards in place mean when they do happen, they are caught.”

The potential benefits, however, are real, according to Cobb and others. Instead of seeing an increase in voter disenfranchisement due to the pandemic, vote-by-mail could be an opportunity to engage more voters. A Suffolk University poll shows 65% of Americans are in favor of this approach.

Mail-in voting supports access to the democratic process for older members of the population who may be particularly vulnerable right now because of the pandemic. And an expansion of mail-in balloting could help bring more “low-propensity” voters like millennials into the process, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Voter turnout data from states such as Utah show higher rates of participation among younger people and people of color in counties with mail-in voting.

Warren adds that Americans need to radically rethink the way we do

elections, noting that both parties have won with vote-by-mail in states that have used the method for years.

“As romantic as it is to get your cup of coffee and go down to a polling place on a cold Tuesday in November, it's not the best way to run elections, and we can do better,” he says.

STATE AND LOCAL

As Americans grapple with the logistics of the pandemic, state and local politics never have seemed more critical.

Governors have been the ones coordinating closures, testing, and tracing, and creating other pandemic management programs. Public health guidance and enforcement often are delegated to individual municipalities.

Suffolk Public Administration Professor Brendan Burke says he's encouraged by the way many governors have stepped up and in some cases banded together across party lines to negotiate contracts for essential supplies and align reopening strategies in the absence of a more-coordinated federal response.

Many state legislators and municipal leaders have maintained a vitally important role—connecting constituents to accurate scientific and policy information as well as resources to combat housing, food, and economic insecurity.

Massachusetts State Senator Brendan Crighton, MPA '09, knows that some view Lynn, Massachusetts, the largest city in his district, as an “underdog”



contending with economic and social challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. Now more than ever, Lynn residents, many of whom are essential workers, need public servants who can work together to protect their interests as the country moves into post-pandemic life.

“In unprecedented times people come together. We’ve been able to find compromise on pretty complicated issues so far,” he says. Crighton and colleagues on both sides of the aisle worked together alongside community advocates to expand housing protections and unemployment assistance during the pandemic. They streamlined debates and processes that normally take years into targeted actions and reached consensus in weeks.

When temperatures are running high, it’s often local officials who have the power to break the fever.

Orange County, California, a historically conservative pocket in a liberal state, became a political battleground in early May when Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom singled out its beaches for closure after images of crowds seemingly disregarding social distancing restrictions exploded in the media.

Megan Dutra, BS ’13, is a policy adviser to Republican Orange County Supervisor Lisa Bartlett. Dutra says that when the beach closure threatened to turn a public safety issue into a political one, Bartlett worked with the governor’s office on a compromise solution—lowering the rhetorical temperature and opening the beaches again for activities like surfing and running that don’t encourage stationary groups.

It’s up to our elected officials to have these tough conversations and make concessions, to risk their ideological “purity” in pursuit of solutions. It’s a concept Suffolk Public Administration Professor Marc Holzer calls a “public service orientation.”

At a time when some in power seem to care more about protecting their careers than serving their constituents, we can still find examples of dedication to the common good all around us. Holzer points to a shift in attitudes toward and from essential workers: “Health care workers,

but also people in the private sector like delivery drivers and grocery store workers, are redefining themselves in terms of a broader purpose.”

Perhaps this new sense of purpose is exactly what we need to reignite interest in civic participation.

THE REBIRTH

What if the pandemic is not an isolating force, but an opportunity for increased civic engagement?

As rumors of an impending state shutdown swirled mid-March, Jessica Finocchiaro, MS/MPA ’13, a Methuen, Massachusetts, city councilor, drafted emergency resolutions to allow the council to continue its work remotely and to provide more opportunities for residents to be involved via videoconferencing, email, and telephone as public meetings moved online.

“We want to make sure we’re getting the public feedback that we need during this difficult time and being as transparent as possible,” she says, noting that creating more options for remote public participation actually has made local government more accessible for some residents.

In South Carolina, Sandrin and her candidate paused fundraising and campaigning in March and focused on getting people the information they need to be safe. Since volunteers cannot knock on doors to raise awareness, they started a phone bank to check in on seniors instead. What might have been policy conversations a few months ago are now personal as they make sure residents have groceries, services, and in some cases just simple human contact.

“Now when we talk to residents, the conversation is less, ‘Hey, who are you voting for in November?’ and more, ‘This is a weird time. Are you doing OK?’” says Sandrin.

The future, at least for a while, almost certainly holds fewer chaotic in-person spectacles like the Iowa caucuses. Maybe it looks more like small groups of friends sipping cocktails on Zoom while watching a town hall meeting or neighbors debating local zoning ordinances on NextDoor. Perhaps in some ways we’ll never go back.

Safeguarding the election and mending our civic life will take bipartisan cooperation, but maybe that’s not as impossible as it might seem to those of us who have been spending more time on Twitter than in the town square.

Fisk says that “ultimately, for all the noise that’s made by the extremes, American civic life is largely determined by folks between the 40-yard lines that are either center left or center right.”

Right now, it is literally the folks between the 40-yard lines who are giving us hope.

Public Administration Professor Burke says his town once held a public forum on its high school football field to accommodate all the residents who wanted to weigh in on a particularly important issue. Recently, we’ve seen examples of cities and towns across the country using the same strategy. The images of neighbors in lawn chairs, waving to each other from their 6-foot chalk circles as they come together in common cause, show the best of what a participatory democracy can be, even in the most challenging times.

“In unprecedented times people come together. We’ve been able to find compromise on pretty complicated issues so far.”

—Brendan Crighton, MPA ’09, Massachusetts State Senator

It’s comforting to remember that at its most basic level our democracy is made up of our neighbors. They deliver our mail, teach our children, and care for our loved ones in hospitals and nursing homes. They give their time to serve on local committees and volunteer at food pantries. Many are struggling, and many more are stepping up to help. Each one deserves to have their voice heard and their vote cast—safely.

As I’ve talked with more than a dozen Suffolk alumni, students, and faculty experts one phrase has come up in every single conversation: “We’re all in this together.”

I hope that resolve is what remains to drive us forward after this moment of crisis (that seems like decades) finally passes. ■

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Suffolk University is driven to enable every one of our students to harness their potential, seize meaningful opportunities, and take actions that make a difference. It's a purpose rooted in our founding mission and one that doesn't pause in times of crisis.

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While our day-to-day efforts evolve, our obligation to shape a brighter future remains, unwavering. What comes next is ours for the making.

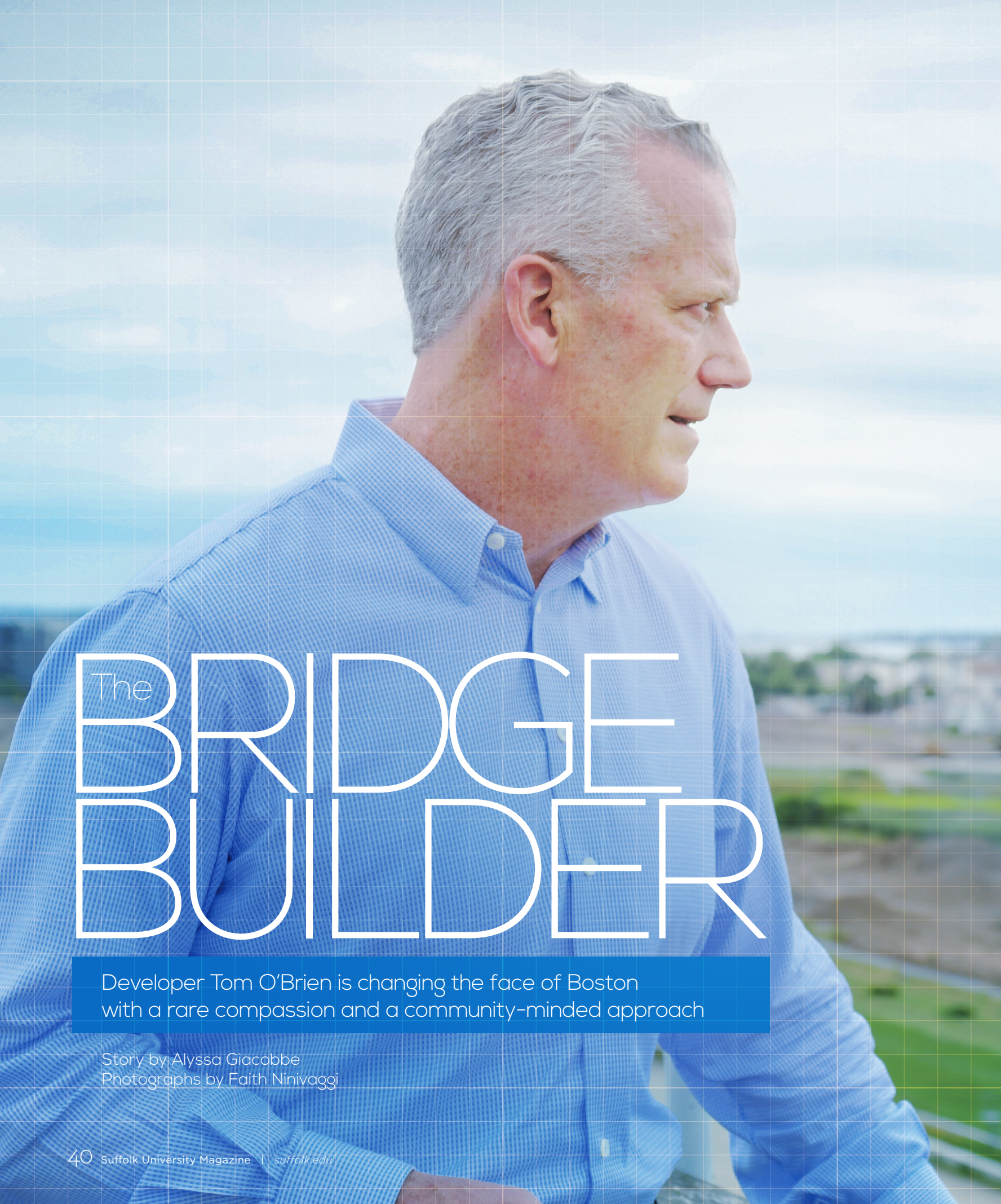
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The BRIDGE BUILDER

Developer Tom O'Brien is changing the face of Boston with a rare compassion and a community-minded approach

Story by Alyssa Giacobbe
Photographs by Faith Ninivaggi

There are few things developer Tom O'Brien loves more than a community meeting, even the ones where people disagree with him, which are most of them.

O'Brien, JD '93, attended almost 450 meetings, ranging from one-on-one discussions in people's kitchens to large public presentations, in laying the groundwork for the redevelopment of Suffolk Downs. The former horse-racing site where East Boston meets Revere is, under O'Brien's lead, one of the largest redevelopment projects in Boston's history.

"They stand up to ask a question. They're angry, they're frustrated, sometimes they have bad information, or they haven't really thought it through," he says. Those are the people he wants to talk with most of all.

O'Brien, has been a meetings enthusiast ever since he served as director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA)—the city's urban planning division since renamed the Boston Planning & Development Agency—where once or twice a week he'd meet with residents in neighborhoods throughout

Boston and stay for as long as it took to answer every question. "I can't say it's always fun, because there are tense moments," he says. "But getting to know people, listening to them, it's what I enjoy most about my career, I suppose."

O'Brien is one of Boston's most prominent developers, with a portfolio that includes a hand in building, essentially from scratch, some of the city's most thriving neighborhoods, including parts of East Cambridge, Brighton, and the South Boston waterfront. His development firm is elevating Boston's skyline with a major redevelopment of the Government Center Garage. And the upcoming redevelopment of Suffolk Downs is set to transform 161 acres of East Boston and Revere into a commercial and residential complex that will include 5.2 million square feet of new office space and hotels, two new retail squares, 10,000 apartments, including a significant amount of affordable housing, and 40 acres of new parkland. O'Brien's team anticipates the project will contribute to the creation of some 14,000 new jobs. As of early September,

the project was moving toward a Boston Planning & Development Agency board vote at a planned Sept. 24 special hearing.

It is ambitious, complex, transformative and represents everything O'Brien loves about being a real estate developer.

"I would say if it's big and complicated and other people are shying away from it, then it's probably right for us," he says of his HYM Investment Group's ideal endeavor, and Suffolk Downs certainly qualifies.

Among urban developers, O'Brien is the anti-bulldozer. He's a bridge builder in a field known for being competitive and cutthroat, where victories are often earned by some measure of force. He has earned a reputation for his compassion and community-mindedness and has managed to succeed without straying from the strong moral sense instilled in him by his parents and reinforced by his role as husband and father.

"Tom is a family-first person," says Doug Manz, HYM's director of development. "That's funny to say when you're talking about a business perspective, but, fundamentally, family informs everything he does."

Boston's Government Center Garage was built in the 1960s and is the largest parking structure in the city. It is also, in O'Brien's view, the most unsightly—an alienating, Brutalist-style concrete divider between the city's North and West ends and Downtown Crossing that casts a figurative and literal shadow on Boston. "The garage was a terrible idea when it was built," says O'Brien. "And it's been a burden to the downtown ever since."

For decades, ever since he served as director of the BRA, and perhaps even before that, O'Brien has dreamed of making better use of the space. As he walks through the build site on the corner of Congress and Sudbury streets, he reminisces about taking the Orange Line to the Haymarket MBTA station as a kid to watch hockey games at the old Boston Garden. "As far back as I can remember, nobody thought about wanting to live here, go out to eat here, that sort of thing," he says. "It was come for work or a game and get out." Some 10 years ago, O'Brien got his chance when his firm won the bid to redevelop the garage as part of the creation of Bulfinch Crossing, a mixed-use development that will, in O'Brien's words, bring daylight to that part of the city for the first time in half a century.

Like Suffolk Downs, it is a long, slow haul with many moving parts and many problems to be solved. O'Brien organized and attended more than 50 meetings with community leaders and neighborhood groups for Bulfinch Crossing's pre-build process, leading to the winning bid 10 years ago. When completed in 2022, the development will include six new high- and mid-rise buildings, with more than 1 million square feet of office space, some 800 residential units, a retail corridor, and a public square. A planned 50-story glass office tower designed by Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects is slated to rise about 600 feet with a stunningly graceful facade that, together with the already built Sudbury residence tower, will enhance the city skyline.



Suffolk Downs will transform 161 acres of East Boston and Revere into a commercial and residential destination, with office space, hotels, two new retail squares, 10,000 apartments, affordable housing, and 40 acres of new parkland.

O'Brien grew up in Scituate, Massachusetts, the middle son of Anne and John O'Brien, MBA '81, who raised their children to value education, family, and faith. There were two basic house rules growing up, says O'Brien: To love God, and to do that by loving other people. "The basic idea, and it really is very basic, was to try to listen and to be kind and to do what you can to positively affect people's lives," he says.

O'Brien and his brothers spent many weekend afternoons knocking on doors with their father, a local political devotee who would canvass for one candidate or another. "My parents were really inspired by people in the church who were active in trying to create social change," says O'Brien. "There was the sense that government, and politics, can make a difference in people's lives."

After graduating from Brown University, where he played football (along with his younger brother, Bill, who is now head coach of the NFL's Houston Texans), O'Brien went to work for AIG in New York City. Finance, he quickly realized, was not the right path. He returned home to work for the Michael Dukakis presidential campaign, which set him in a different direction, eventually landing him at the Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA), where he worked with manufacturers seeking to expand their facilities and learned the ins and outs of government financing.

He felt at home working in government and politics—he liked people, and they liked him, and he had a patience for navigating systems. Figuring a law degree would help support a career either on the front lines or behind the scenes, he attended Suffolk Law at night while working at MIFA during the day.

"Going to law school at night is definitely a badge of honor," says O'Brien, who fondly recalls the impact of camaraderie with his law school peers and the relationships he built with professors such as the late Honorable John E. Fenton, Jr. and the late Victoria Dodd.

The grueling schedule and challenging coursework gave O'Brien a new sense of professionalism. "It really helped me become a different person," he says. "It honed my skills to be able to write well, it made me a person who could formulate and make an argument."

O'Brien wasted no time applying those skills when in 1992, his third year in law school, he served as the campaign manager to his older brother who was seeking a seat in the Massachusetts State Senate; John D. O'Brien, Jr., JD '85, won that year and served a total of four terms representing Merrimack Valley.

O'Brien credits his law degree with significant career milestones. After passing the Massachusetts bar in 1993, MIFA named him general counsel, which O'Brien believes put him on the radar of Tom Menino, then the city's new mayor, who was looking for a chief of staff at the BRA.

O'Brien was only 29 years old but quickly rose through the ranks to become the agency's director in less than a year. He was a star from the start, which worked both in his favor and against; he quickly understood that the key to success in politics is knowing how to toe the line, a job he, a consummate middle child, did well. He learned how to be good but not too good; to shine without outshining; to build bridges.

"At the BRA we had the planning side and the economic development side," remembers Kanna Kunchala, a senior vice president at City Year, who served as O'Brien's assistant at the BRA. "Sometimes, the sides didn't agree, but Tom was really good at helping them find common ground. And getting people to compromise. He just figured out a way to get everybody to agree."

He particularly excelled at sharing credit, often an uncommon trait in government.

Kunchala remembers when O'Brien landed on the cover of the *Boston Globe* magazine as part of a story about his work with the BRA and its impact on the city—the headline: Where is Tom O'Brien Taking Boston? "I thought he wasn't going to come to work for a week, like, he just hated it," Kunchala laughs. Not much has changed since: Kunchala recalls his former boss' discomfort at a more recent United Way ceremony honoring O'Brien's professional and philanthropic contributions toward racial and income equality, including his work as cofounder



The soaring, 600-foot-tall One Congress glass office tower, designed by Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, will enliven Boston's skyline.

POST PANDEMIC

Beyond the fact that COVID-19 has made Tom O'Brien's job logistically much more difficult—his construction sites are required to follow safety protocols that limit the number of workers at one time and include mandatory daily temperature testing—the pandemic also has raised larger questions about the future viability of cities. The virus has disrupted city and work life and left many wondering to what degree those disruptions might become permanent. Those are big questions for a developer of some of the biggest office and residential sites in Boston.

O'Brien isn't worried. It's something he's thought about every day for years—he's spent his career making cities more livable for all sorts of people under all sorts of conditions, and he doesn't buy that cities are doomed. O'Brien has just started selling luxury condominiums in the newly constructed Sudbury residential tower in Bulfinch Crossing. He expects the number of international buyers may drop but says there are still plenty of people who want to live in a downtown Boston building with a pool deck, sky lounge, fitness center, pet spa, and a 48th-floor private rooftop garden. "Generally, we feel like the market has stabilized and people are still out there looking to try to buy new homes," O'Brien says.

He says the One Congress office tower project that will anchor the Bulfinch project is in an early enough phase to make changes, such as elevators being controlled by a phone app "so you don't have to touch anything."

"For pretty much all of humankind, people have wanted to work together," O'Brien says. "Just before COVID-19, what was really driving the real estate business is the concept of people working collaboratively. I think the idea that we would give all that up doesn't seem like a natural progression in terms of human history. So I have faith: We'll get back on that path." —Greg Gatlin

"TOM'S
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—Doug Manz, HYM's
Director of Development

of the Massachusetts Business Immigration Coalition. "Everyone was talking about how great he is, and I said to him, 'You just want to crawl under the table right now, don't you?'"

O'Brien spent seven years at the BRA. He is perhaps best known for having overseen the development of the Seaport, though he is personally proudest of bringing grocery stores to neighborhoods that had long gone without. He would hold weekly community meetings across Boston to find out what people wanted. As Kunchala recalls, O'Brien was patient.

"He was able to win people over by sheer perseverance. He just stood there and just took every question," he says. "It just meant a lot to everybody in the neighborhood, because they were like, 'Whatever happens, this guy definitely cares.'"



O'Brien describes his wife, Patricia, MBA '87, as his mentor—the most professionally influential person in his life. "She's always been the person pushing me to live up to the ideals that we talk about," he says.

"She'll say, 'if you care about creating more affordable housing, what are you doing about it? if you care about being an anti-racist, what are you doing about it?'"

O'Brien was working at the BRA when he and Patricia began to start a family, adopting their

first child, Lucas, from Colombia. Their second, Nina, was born the following year in Guatemala, and after that Tomas, from Ecuador. "Lucas was an amazing gift to us, and we realized that no matter how this child came to earth, he was meant for us and we were meant for him," says O'Brien. "And we recognized there are a lot of families who are built in ways that are perhaps not as predictable. So we went through the process quickly."

Around that time, rumors began to swirl that Menino felt threatened by O'Brien, who was talented, driven, and perhaps worst of all, universally well liked, and in 1999 O'Brien was ousted from the BRA.

It proved to be less a setback than an opportunity. O'Brien went to work for Tishman Speyer, a New York-based real estate investment firm, where over six years he learned how to finance real estate and raise capital. Then he worked two years at JPI Companies, a national developer, where he met Manz and Paul Crisalli. Eventually, the three began to discuss forming their own company to create transformational, transit-oriented urban projects.

"Tom's focus has always been on building the community around any given project," says Manz. "He wants the company to be more than just a business."

In 2010 they launched HYM, an acronym inspired by O'Brien's fourth child, Marisol, who had come to O'Brien and Patricia from Guatemala in 2000 and died in 2008 following a long illness with a rare genetic disease called leukodystrophy.

"When Marisol was younger, before she lost her voice, she would put her arms up and say, 'Hold you me,'" says O'Brien. "Her words would get mixed up. The best part about the name is being in big presentations and seeing it up on a slideshow, and I smile and think of her. As we've grown, people think HYM is some big national real estate conglomerate or something when, you know, it just stands for 'hold you me.'"





A SUFFOLK FAMILY AFFAIR

Tom O'Brien and his wife, Patricia, MBA '87, met on a blind date that got off to a rough start.

O'Brien, in his penultimate year as a Suffolk Law evening student at the time, was literally running late because he had to turn in a course paper. He made a full sprint for the Donahue building on Temple Street, where the Law School was located at the time, dropped off the paper, then ran to a Faneuil Hall bar to meet his date, about 10 minutes late. "She was not happy with me for being late to a first date," he recalls.

Things seem to have worked out. Within a year and a half, as O'Brien was getting ready to graduate in 1993, they were married. Theirs is a family filled with Suffolk connections.

Patricia earned a Suffolk MBA, prior to meeting Tom in 1991, and went on to have a successful career as an executive at Verizon. His brother, John D. O'Brien, Jr., preceded him at Suffolk Law, earning his juris doctorate in 1985, before going on to serve four terms in the Massachusetts State Senate. O'Brien's father, John, completed Suffolk's Executive MBA program, graduating in 1981.

Their shared Suffolk experience has become a point of pride for the O'Brien family.

"Suffolk for us has really been a wonderful place in which you can pursue an advanced degree while continuing to work or continuing to find your way in the world," says O'Brien, now one of Boston's leading real estate developers. "Suffolk is a school that's both located in the heart of Boston, but also, in many respects, it is the heart of Boston. When you look around through the ranks of business and the ranks of government, the most senior positions, and the most respected positions in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ... they are often held by Suffolk graduates."

O'Brien and Patricia had always been active in their parish, but when Marisol became sick they began to wonder what, exactly, the purpose of her life had been. They joined a group for grieving parents at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston and began to call on prayer to help cope with the loss.

"The tragedy of losing a child brings you to a variety of different places, but we believe that Marisol's purpose in our life was for us to become closer as a family, hopefully become closer to our faith, and to be kinder and better listeners to people," he says. "We feel her presence frequently. Typically, when I'm going into a big meeting or something important, I'll whisper her name and say, 'Daddy needs your help a little bit.' It just brings me a sense of peace."

The role O'Brien's children play in his work can't be underplayed; their fifth child, Dureti, came to them from Ethiopia. O'Brien has received numerous awards recognizing his efforts at improving relations among racial, religious, and ethnic groups, including the Abraham Joshua Heschel Interfaith Relations Award by the Anti-Defamation League, and he frequently testifies on behalf of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA).

"I've run out of words to thank Tom for the work he's done," says Eva Millona, MIRA's CEO. "The fact that he adopted five children and made a home and provided for people who came from a most vulnerable place—that decision alone I think speaks volumes to who Tom is."

He serves on the boards of organizations committed to the development of underprivileged youth, like the Ron Burton Training Village and the East Boston Social Centers, and has been a strong proponent of workplace diversity since HYM's start. The company is comprised of 50% women and 30% minority team members, which in the real estate development world is unusual. "I think he's really trying to do work to lift up the whole city as much as he can," says Justin Pasquariello, East Boston Social Centers' executive director.

Someone in O'Brien's position and with his abilities could easily be caught up in his ego, points out Father Tom Conway, the executive director of St. Anthony Shrine. "But he's just always looking out for other people," he says.

O'Brien collaborated with Conway to propose an open-air plaza at Winthrop Square, with a new St. Anthony Shrine church, a new friary and ministry center, and a new downtown Boston school in addition to the requisite high-rise residential and office tower. Another developer ultimately won the bid, but Conway was struck by O'Brien's care for the community in developing his bid.

"He uses his connections for the benefit of other people—and obviously for the benefit of his own business, too—but, you know, other people aren't left behind," says Conway. "I'm seen as a religious leader in Boston, and I'm taken aback by how good *he* is." ■



THE WORLD *is their* GALLERY

STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND ALUMNI TAKE THEIR ART INTO THE PUBLIC REALM

STORY BY NANCY KELLEHER

Public art is hardly a new concept. Monuments to civic leaders, athletes, and religious figures date back to antiquity, with much surviving statuary now moved from the public square into museum collections worldwide. Yet more than statues survive.

While graffiti may seem like a modern approach to public art, there is ancient gang tagging on Egyptian pyramids, erotica in Greece, and political inscriptions in China. And for centuries people have marveled at sites like Stonehenge, which is fascinating to behold while offering clues to the history of a place and time.

In a similar fashion Suffolk faculty, students, and alumni are leaving their own imprints on the world around them by creating and analyzing public art in Boston and beyond.



Suffolk professors and students collaborate with the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District to create Unique to Boston Living Images along Washington Street storefronts.

STUDENT WORK ENLIVENS STREETScape

How to bring artwork out of the gallery and into the community is something many artists think about, according to Art Professor Linda Brown, who collaborated with the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District to bring larger-than-life portraits to an empty storefront near Suffolk's downtown campus. "Suffolk students are learning this concept from day one."

Art Professors Susan Nichter and Ilona Anderson joined Brown's effort through a skills-based assignment that had students photographing and interviewing owners and employees of the small businesses lining Bromfield Street, where the photos later appeared.

"I love that the real-world experience is tied to thinking about visual literacy," says Nichter, who has another student public art project on the drawing board based on the theme Unique to Boston,

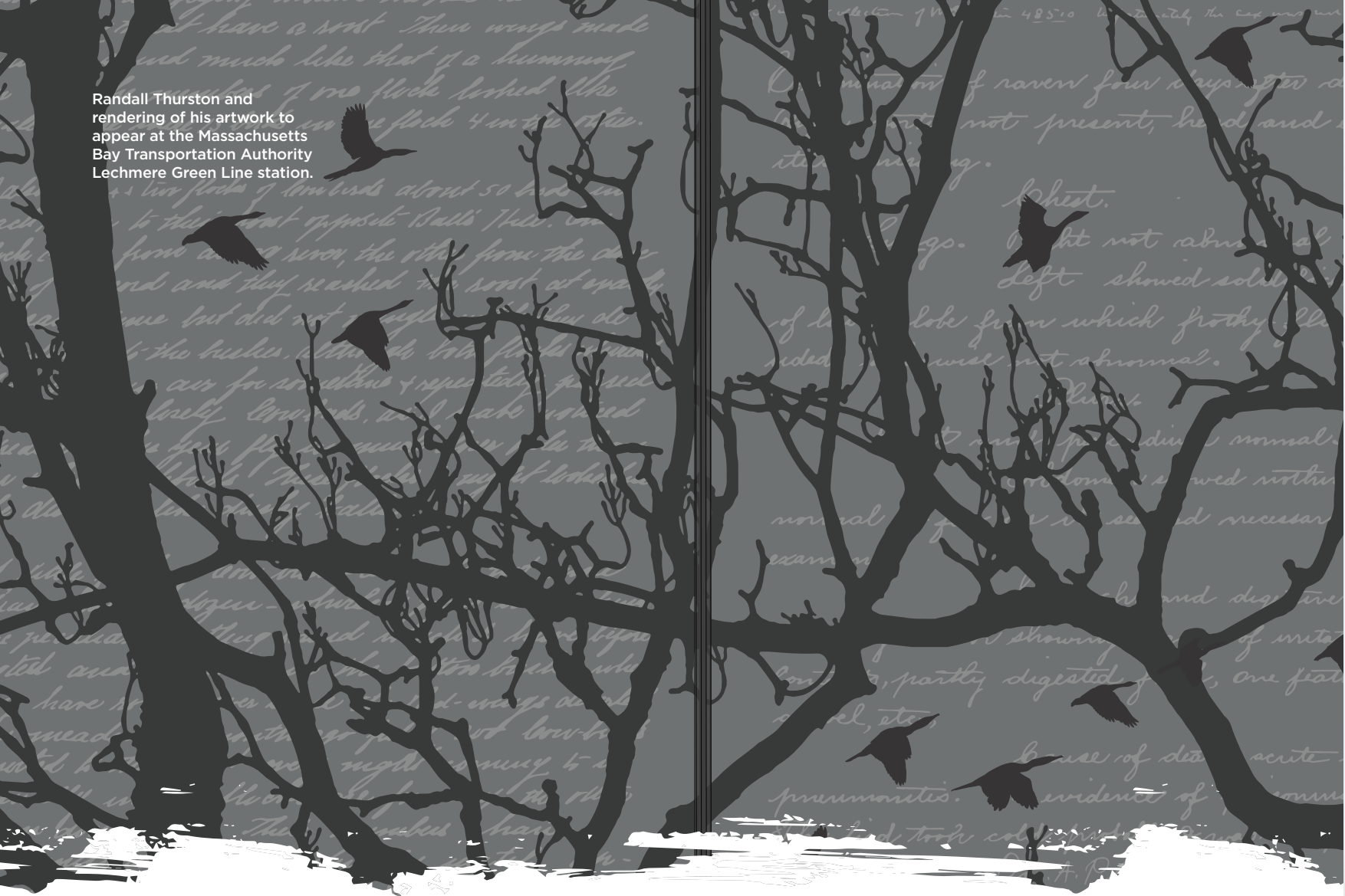
Living Images. It will feature moving images in four bays of a Washington Street storefront.

"To have something out in the world, to see it be accepted and used—loved, even—provides some of the best joy available," says Caio Cassarino, Class of 2021, whose black-and-white portrait of Farid Goljamali is part of the photo collage opposite the businessman's King Frame shop.

In addition to the thrill of having his work in the public realm, Cassarino, a first-year student when he took part in the photo project, says it was helpful for him to muster up the courage to approach his subjects.

"Those interactions in a way helped me learn how to better be part of my immediate world; a stepping-stone to improving my social interaction," says Cassarino, a graphic design major and arts management minor.

Randall Thurston and rendering of his artwork to appear at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Lechmere Green Line station.



ELEVATING THE MUNDANE

An urban transit station might be the last place a commuter would expect to find reminders of the natural world, but images of soaring birds and plant life will greet them when they enter the new Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Lechmere Green Line station opening in 2021.

Silhouettes of birds in flight are embedded in the glass housing the station's elevators, and wayfinding signs include images inspired by the grasses and other life that once thrived on a site now given over to a railbed and trolley cars.

"Public art, when done well, can be uplifting," says Art Professor Randal Thurston, who took into account a commuter's experience and the site's natural history in creating the station's artwork. Thurston's design is inspired by the greenery of a river that once flowed through the area, the tides, and the birds that migrate through in patterns as predictable as the daily commute.

"I know what it's like to spend 20 minutes looking at the station surroundings, so I wanted to create something that people can come back to over and over again," says Thurston, who often commutes to Suffolk University through Lechmere.

For Thurston, creating art for a public space involves comprehensive research and observation, the consideration of how people will interact with the artwork, computer models, drawings—and flexibility. After his concept was chosen from among 100 artists' bids, reconsideration of the transit project's budget threatened the public art, though eventually it was restored on a smaller scale.

"I learned the importance of adaptability in creativity," he says in light of the T's decision to scale back from an enclosed glass-and-metal station to the open-air platform approaches and signage of today.



INSPIRATION FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

It was a slideshow of Thurston's public artworks that helped steer Elle DioGuardi, BFA '15, to creating work in public spaces.

"It was an 'Aha, you can do that' moment for me," says DioGuardi. "Public art is my favorite kind of art and the kind I want to look at. Seeing his work and listening to the thought process of a person I know and trust and can ask questions of provided inspiration."

Having grown up in Chicago, DioGuardi has seen the power of public art and her preferred medium—reflective material—through the throngs that gather around *Cloud Gate* by Anish Kapoor, nicknamed "The Bean," a monumental metallic sculpture in busy Millennium Park.

"I love the way people are drawn to it," she says. "I always like to think of art in terms of the viewer. That's a huge part of why I use a lot of reflective material."

DioGuardi, who has furthered her artistic vision through artist residencies in Iceland, Spain, and Virginia, uses text and, often, reflections "to interrupt the day-to-day and how we see a mirror, building, or landscape."

Sometimes it takes subterfuge to put her work into the public sphere.

"I like to do text on bathroom mirrors in public places," particularly in museums, which have well-designed restrooms, says DioGuardi, who chuckles and adds: "Then I can say I have work in a museum."

ADDRESSING PROBLEMS VISUALLY

"I'm not an artist but enjoy and appreciate art," says Ruth Prakasam, whose first-year writing courses in fall 2019 focused on identifying Boston problems and finding solutions based in public art.

To get more children interested in visiting Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, a group of students in Prakasam's Mass. Art for the Public writing class created a graphic novel with artist John Singer Sargent as a character.

Other students who had played youth sports wrote a grant for a series of artworks celebrating neighborhood sports teams to "be made by artists, but designed and imagined by the children on the team," according to their proposal. And yet another created a website showing where to discover art in Boston—from dance to sculpture and more.

The class visited the Suffolk art gallery and discussed the purpose of the University's exhibition space; they agreed that colleges and universities should show support for art by maintaining an art gallery or museum. Smaller writing assignments sent students into Boston neighborhoods to view artwork,

and readings and discussions centered on aspects of public art.

When Prakasam posed the question "What is art?" her students suggested the definition of art should be broad, without borders or boundaries.

"Art doesn't have to be a Monet painting," she says. "It doesn't have to be what I or their individual classmates think is art; it's what the group thinks is art."

And, increasingly, the artworks that are capturing the public imagination in Greater Boston and beyond originated within the Suffolk community. ■



Photographs from left: Courtesy of Randall Thurston, Michael J. Clarke, Elle DioGuardi. (2)



While in residency at Fish Factory Creative Center in Stöðvarfjörður, Iceland, a remote fishing village on the east side of the island, Elle DioGuardi collaborated with another resident to create this polished aluminum display with a familiar Magic 8 Ball saying. Above DioGuardi is pictured with an installation which she later displayed over a waterfall.



THE RISE OF RAM NATION

**AN ONGOING INVESTMENT IN ATHLETICS
RESULTS IN BIG WINS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES**

STORY BY NAT PANEK

If one word can accurately sum up an indoor track meet, it's "distracting." An announcer's voice booms from the public address system. Athletes hurl heavy weights in the throwing events—and themselves in the jumping events—on the infield. The rising and falling cheers of spectators echo throughout a cavernous arena. All contribute to a sense of tumult, and all present a challenge to an athlete attempting to focus on performance.

This sort of commotion enveloped Emily Manfra, BS '20, during the 2019 NCAA Division III national indoor track championships at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood. Manfra was competing in the mile event against nine other runners. Her family was in the stands, somewhere, urging her on.

But Manfra was focused. Her coach Will Feldman, BS '12, stood beside the track each time she passed, calling out splits. And he was in her head—she repeated his mantra to herself over and over as she pounded down the track: Stay on the outside. Don't get boxed in.

"By the last lap, everyone was full-out sprinting," Manfra recalls. "I could see the girls in front, but I didn't know who was behind me, I really didn't think about it until I crossed. And then I was like, 'Oh my god, I really did get fifth.'"

The significance of Manfra's fifth-place finish was that the first eight runners to cross the line that day would be granted All-America status. The further significance was that she would become the first student-athlete named an All-American in women's indoor track and field at Suffolk University, a program that was added in the 2016-17 season.



"When you see a student-athlete like Emily who has been afforded the opportunity to compete and excel in one of the newly added programs, there is a certain level of pride in knowing all the people who helped make this happen," says Athletics Director Cary McConnell. And there are many.

The past five years have seen some of the most momentous changes in the history of Suffolk University's Athletics Department. Chief among them is the addition of six new varsity sports: men's and women's track and field, both indoor and outdoor; women's ice hockey; and women's golf. The University also has invested heavily in its sports and fitness facilities, both renovating old ones and constructing or acquiring new ones.

Suffolk secured home-field advantage for its baseball, softball, and soccer teams at East Boston Memorial Stadium. Rams athletics staffed up, hiring coaches for men's and women's soccer and basketball, as well as for the new track and field teams and women's ice hockey squad. Two full-time assistant athletics trainers joined the staff as well, to help care for student-athletes, whose numbers have jumped from 168 to almost 300 in 2019.

That near-doubling of student-athletes points to another dividend earned through investment in athletics—students are being drawn to attend Suffolk University who might not have considered it previously. And they're coming from farther afield than has been the case in years past. "It's really increased our footprint in terms of recruiting," McConnell observes.

In the last five years, Suffolk's Athletics Department has seen momentous changes, including the addition of six varsity sports, such as women's indoor track and field in which Emily Manfra, left, was named an All-American. Investments were also made in new and renovated facilities, supported by brothers Larry, above, and Michael Smith.

“YES, ATHLETICS IS ABOUT COMPETITION. IT’S ABOUT LOVE OF THE GAME, BUT IT IS ALSO ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE, TEAM BUILDING, AND SKILLS OF COLLABORATION.”

—President Marisa Kelly

His observation is illustrated by the experience of Taylor Wasyk, head coach of women’s ice hockey. As she worked to put together her inaugural squad in 2017, she noted a geographic draw from well beyond Suffolk’s traditional New England domain.

“Cary asked me, ‘How many kids do we have from Massachusetts?’” she recalls. “And I told him, ‘Zero.’ He said, ‘Do we have a team?’ And I’m like, ‘Cary, yeah, we’ve got 24 kids!’” Wasyk’s new team was enrolling from hometowns in Michigan, Wisconsin, Oregon, even Canada. “His brain almost exploded,” Wasyk laughs.

There’s no doubt that a growing athletics program is broadening the University’s recruitment reach, says Suffolk President Marisa Kelly. But Kelly says there’s something even more fundamental at play. “This is one essential way that we are delivering on our mission,” she says. “As a University we are committed to creating transformational opportunities for our students. Yes, athletics is about competition. It’s about love of the game, but it is also about the development of leadership skills and confidence, team building, and skills of collaboration.”

Student-athletes also gain a greater sense of community in the center of Suffolk’s urban campus, Kelly says. “That’s important to the overall social experience we provide to our students.”

The belief in the transformational and community-building power of athletics is shared by two of the University’s most generous alumni, Michael Smith, BSBA ’61 and Larry Smith, BSBA ’65, brothers who in their own words, “bleed blue and gold.” Along with supporting the wider University, including through scholarships, they have become steadily more involved in boosting Rams athletics, starting with basketball—Larry’s sport when he was a Suffolk undergraduate. The brothers donated funds for travel costs as well as new uniforms—a change that, while modest at first glance, helped to cultivate a sense of pride on the team.

Their support for Suffolk athletics only grew from there. In 2016, the Michael and Larry Smith Fitness Center opened in the Ridgeway Building. Serving the greater Suffolk community, the new center was



an instant success, as it filled with students, staff, and faculty eager to take advantage of top-of-the-line spin bikes, elliptical machines, free weights, and circuit training equipment.

In November 2017, the University announced a \$3 million gift from the Smith brothers, one of the largest alumni gifts in the University's history and one that brought their total giving to more than \$5 million. That support funded an interior renovation of the Ridgeway building that created a new training room and offices, new locker rooms, a varsity weight room, and a team film room. Giant decals now cover the walls of the hallways, and plush chairs in a lounge area are embroidered with the Rams logo.

Blase Cormier, Class of 2021 has spent three years as a Rams first baseman, long enough to note a significant change brought about by the renovations. "Now, you walk in on the (Ridgeway) second floor and you see people from multiple teams there just hanging out, doing homework, talking to each other, eating lunch. It's created more community within the Athletics Department. That's been a huge contribution."

When Emily Manfra enrolled at Suffolk, track and field was not an offer—she initially ran on the cross-country team. "I never thought I'd be running track and field during my time here," she says. By the time she qualified for the NCAA indoor track and field nationals in 2019 she was among the top runners in the nation and had amassed a series of records and honors that former coach Feldman calls "staggering."

The team expansions enabled by the University's investment and the Smiths' support opened new opportunities for her to develop her individual talent, she says, including a sub-5-minute mile. Newly graduated, Manfra is now embarking on a PhD program in nursing at Boston College.

As the Rams look ahead, events like the coronavirus outbreak stand as vivid reminders that some things can't always be planned for. But the community spirit rising from the University's investment in athletics makes a very real difference in the resiliency of an institution when that institution is tested by extraordinary events. And they illustrate a compelling truth: The rise of Ram Nation is the rise of the entire University.

Suffolk baseball players, from left, Zach Aresty, Class of 2021; Rich Gilbride, Class of 2021; Bradley Logan Heckman, BS '20; and Tim Brigham, Class of 2021, after a March 13 matchup against Ursinus College.

Photograph: Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

IN UNSETTLING TIMES, RAMS' RESOLVE ONLY STRENGTHENS

The end of competition came swiftly for Suffolk's women's softball team last spring.

The Rams were training and playing games in Florida in March when, boom, the season was over in the face of a growing coronavirus pandemic. "We got back to Boston, and everybody was already gone," says Head Coach Jaclyn Davis. "It was very quick. It was like, 'Let's clean this up and then pack your dorms up.'"

But that was not the end of spring athletic engagement at Suffolk. After giving players about two weeks to breathe, the coaches stepped back in. Knowing players were craving structure, athletics staff began to put programs together to engage them. They connected with student-athletes on fitness and conditioning, but also on their personal transitions and academics. "We did team meetings. We did individual meetings," Davis says. "We talked about school. We talked about life and what's next."

Coaches collaborated across sports. They got creative and tried to keep it fun. They organized a virtual trivia night where teams of athletes and coaches competed. They put training programs together with enough variety to keep it interesting—conditioning and strength training athletes could do in their driveways, their basements, their garages. They incorporated elements of competition because, well, athletes are competitive. "I guess it's just the nature of the beast, right?" Davis says. "That's what we ask of them—to be competitive people."

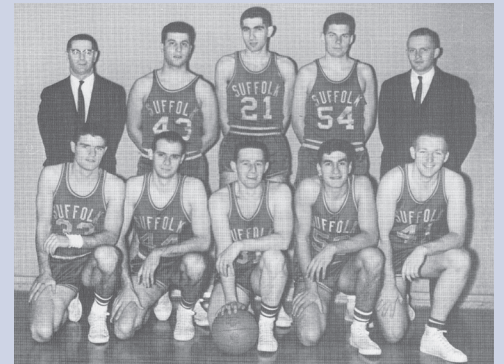
In the end, athletics at Suffolk did not stop with the coronavirus pandemic. In some ways, they became more important than ever before. Earlier this summer, the Rams' new athletic conference, the Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC), joined many other leagues in suspending intercollegiate athletic competition for the fall. Despite that, Suffolk's coaches will still be working with student-athletes. Low contact sports, as defined by the NCAA, such as golf, tennis and cross country, still expect to compete. Training and appropriately adjusted practices are still planned for students that choose to participate. And the support will be there, as well.

"It will be a different experience for student-athletes, but it will still be a very valuable experience," says Suffolk President Marisa Kelly.

In unsettling times, Kelly says the pivot to engaging athletes in practice pods and virtual trainings, and the efforts to help them stay fit, connected, and supporting each other are as important as anything that could have happened on the field of play. —Greg Gatlin and Katy Ibsen



A REMARKABLE LEGACY OF SUPPORT



Left: Brothers Michael Smith, BSBA '61, left, and Larry Smith, BSBA '65, at the reveal of the Ridgeway building that was renovated with their support.
Above: A vintage photograph of Larry, No. 21, with the Suffolk basketball team.

For Michael Smith, BSBA '61, and Larry Smith, BSBA '65, brothers who grew up without means in Chelsea, Massachusetts, in the early 1960s, the opportunity to attend Suffolk University changed their lives.

A basketball star at Chelsea High School, Larry Smith met Charles Law, Suffolk's first athletics director, who saw potential in the lanky, tenacious defender and rebounder with a matching work ethic off the court. Larry would get up at 5:30 a.m. and go to work as a window and floor washer in Boston, then change into his school clothes for classes at Chelsea High, and then again for basketball practice. Law was impressed and gave Larry a full scholarship to attend the University and play on the Suffolk team.

The cost of tuition back then: \$600. "It could have been \$6 million," Larry says. "It wouldn't have mattered. I just didn't have the money."

For Larry, that scholarship was a life-changing gesture of faith. Indeed, both Larry and Michael say Suffolk gave them an education and a grounding in aspects of business that prepared them for professional success. It helped them grow. And most of all, they credit Suffolk for taking a chance on two kids from Chelsea, Massachusetts.

"I love this university," Michael, overwhelmed with emotion, said at a 2018 ceremony naming the Michael S. Smith and Larry E. Smith Residence Hall in the brothers' honor.

The Smiths' story is in every way the Suffolk story. Gleason Archer, the University's founder, had someone take a chance on him, too. As the story goes, in 1903 a Boston businessman, George Frost, took an interest in helping Archer, who aspired to become a lawyer. Frost loaned Archer money to complete his legal education. When Archer later tried to repay the loan, Frost wouldn't allow it, asking only that Archer do the same for others if he ever had the chance. In 1906, Archer started the Suffolk School of Law to provide the opportunity of education to all capable students—paying it forward before the term was even coined.

Over the years, the Smith brothers have paid back Frost's largesse and then some. They've endowed scholarships for students, including one in memory of their Chelsea friend, Pvt. Sheldon R. Cohen, who was killed in action in Vietnam. The brothers subsidized uniform and travel costs for Ram Nation teams, funded a dining hall in the Samia Academic Building, a new basketball court, and the flagship Smith Fitness Center.

They have made some of the largest Suffolk alumni contributions ever, with more than \$5 million in total giving. That philanthropy has supported major renovations of Suffolk's athletics facilities and improvements in student life. Both brothers have been inducted into the Suffolk University Athletics Hall of Fame and Larry serves as a University trustee. Inspired by legendary Suffolk Men's Basketball Coach and Athletics Director Emeritus Jim Nelson, the Smiths founded the new Athletics giving society, the Coach Nelson Club, which honors Nelson by enhancing competitive opportunities and ensuring an excellent experience for current and future student-athletes. Their generosity is serving to elevate Suffolk athletics, and it is building community among students. Even the Suffolk Rams-branded team bus was inspired by Michael's vision.

"We were raised to believe that if you made it, you had an obligation to give back," the brothers have said.

Giving back. Paying it forward. Larry and Michael Smith are proudly keeping that tradition going strong.

Gleason Archer would be proud. ■
-Ben Hall



SAVE THE DATE

for a week of online events for alumni, families, students, faculty, and staff.

Highlights include:

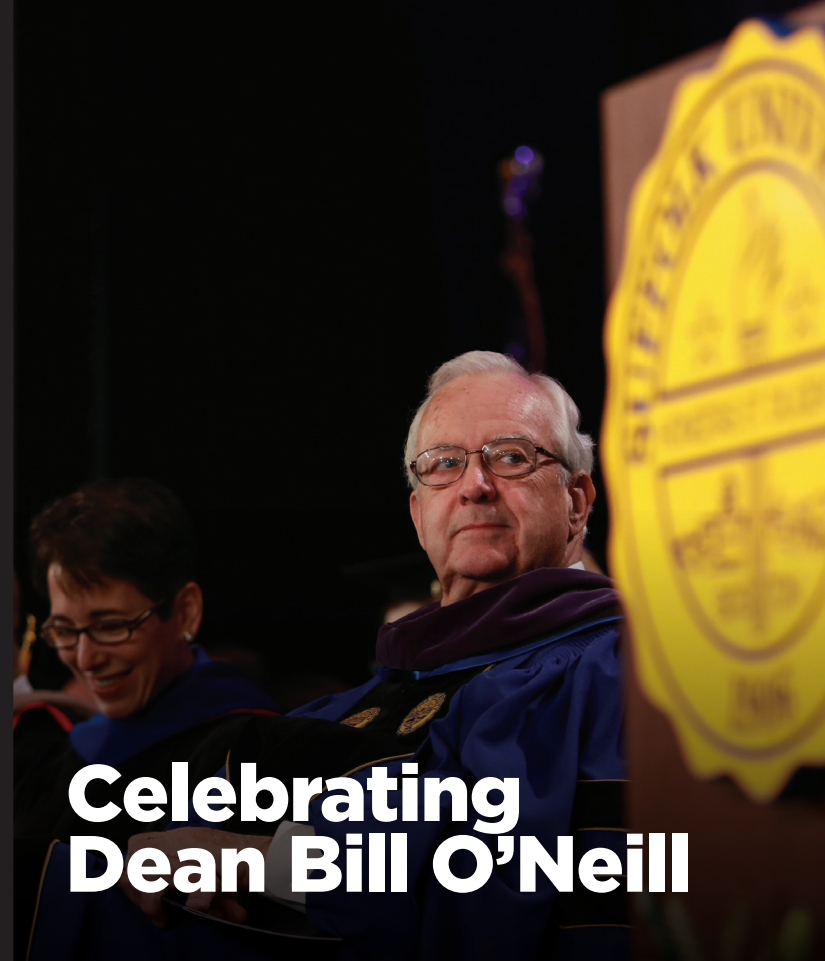
- An evening with President Marisa Kelly
- A special event honoring retired Sawyer Business School Dean William O'Neill, Jr., JD '74
- The 3rd Annual Celebration of Black Excellence

Plus: Rammy's Virtual 5K, a Boston-themed Trivia Night, Coffee & Conversation with Suffolk leaders, virtual tours, and more!

Details to follow via email and social media.

To ensure that you receive our updates, send your preferred email address to alumni@suffolk.edu.

Follow the Suffolk Alumni Association
[facebook.com/suffolkalumni/](https://www.facebook.com/suffolkalumni/)



Celebrating Dean Bill O'Neill

Over nearly two decades of leadership as dean, William J. O'Neill, Jr. transformed the Sawyer Business School by incorporating a global perspective into its mission, giving students and graduates a greater understanding of international business practices, perspectives, and cultures. O'Neill came from industry and knew firsthand the importance of preparing graduates to compete in a global environment. Under his leadership, the school focused on blending theory and practice, so that academic insights could be used to solve real business problems.

O'Neill stepped down as dean at the end of the 2019-20 academic year, leaving a legacy of excellence. Under his leadership, the school established new majors and specialty programs, including business analytics and business economics programs, a Center for Entrepreneurship, an undergraduate degree in Global Business Management, global travel seminars, and international internships that have broadened students' horizons and enhanced their career prospects. Today, the Sawyer Business School, under the new leadership of Dean Amy Zeng, continues to deliver relevant, experienced-based, and global business education that is successfully preparing the leaders of tomorrow.

As dean, O'Neill loved engaging with students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and in October they will get a chance to return the favor. The University will honor O'Neill and his many contributions in a virtual celebration on the evening of Oct. 21. That event will include an "open mic" opportunity for members of the Suffolk community, including alumni, to share their appreciation. Please save the date. ■

Well Wishes

To the Class of 2020

Fall 2020

Welcoming the Class of 2020 to the Alumni Community

Suffolk alumni reached out to congratulate the Class of 2020, welcome its members into their proud community, and offer inspiration as they embark on new journeys. Here is a sampling of their messages of encouragement.

YOU DID IT.

While facing one of the toughest global crises of our times, you managed to complete your degree. YOU. DID. THAT. Congratulations! Here's to you, cheers!

—Lina Canon, BA '13

CONGRATULATIONS!

Throughout your time at Suffolk, you have all shown a level of perseverance and commitment to excellence required to navigate a host of unexpected challenges, both locally and globally, culturally and economically. Keep pushing boundaries and leading through change!

—Joe Krause, EMBA '13,
President of the SBS Board

Congratulations!

Your resiliency this past year should always be something you remember and appreciate as you move forward. Never forget to continue to keep your Suffolk connections strong! The people you met during your time here will always continue to support you no matter where you go or what you do.

—Sydney Fonseca, BSBA '17, MBA '19

DO WORK
THAT YOU
LOVE & STAY
TRUE TO YOUR
PASSION!

—Brittany Sullivan, BSBA '12

GO OUT
& MAKE
THE
WORLD A
BETTER
PLACE.

—Benjamin Linares, BSBA '16

The world may seem in chaos, but you are equipped with the tools you need to not only see through the challenges, you will surpass them!

I look forward to the Class of 2020 fulfilling their purpose and potential!

—Jenny Joseph-Hayle, MPA '13,
Chair, Suffolk University Black Alumni Network

As president of the Law Alumni Board, I would like to congratulate you and formally welcome you to the Suffolk alumni community! We are a proud and tight-knit group of fellow graduates. I encourage you to seek out Suffolk alumni and lean on them for mentorship, networking and employment opportunities. Good luck and again congratulations to you!

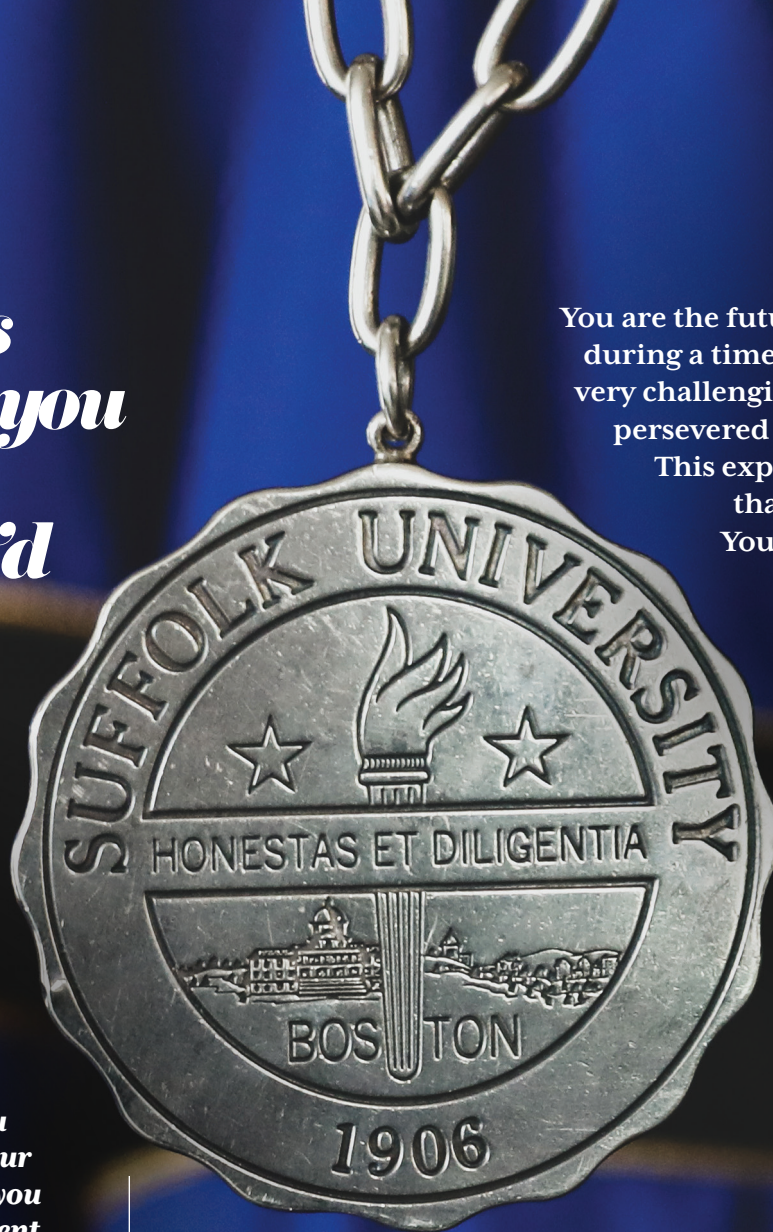
—Tim Wilkerson, JD '03, President of Law Board

***Kindness
will take you
farther
than you'd
imagine.***

—Morgan Williams,
BSBA '16, MBA '18

You and your classmates have certainly been through more than your fair share of frustration and uncertainty this past year. I congratulate you on the completion of your studies and encourage you to be patient yet persistent in the pursuit of your career, whatever it may be. Opportunities will arise. Work hard, strive to learn as much as you can, and you will undoubtedly achieve success. Best of luck!

—Bob Pace, JD '85



You are the future leaders. You are graduating during a time of uncertainty and uncharted, very challenging circumstances. Yet you have persevered and overcome the unexpected. This experience has shaped you in ways that most cannot fully appreciate. You've graduated despite the odds, and there is absolutely nothing you are unable to achieve.

—Tamela Bailey, JD '04

**KEEP GOING—
YOU HAVE
PLENTY LEFT
TO ACCOMPLISH!**

—Sean Higgins, JD '03

THIS YEAR HAS HAD ITS CHALLENGES ... BUT YOU ARE GRADUATING FROM SUFFOLK EQUIPPED TO TAKE ON THOSE CHALLENGES. We need new leaders and better leaders, and I am so excited to see the work your classmates continue to do outside of the Suffolk walls. The Class of 2020 will be remembered forever. Welcome to the alumni of Suffolk!

—Sorcha Rochford, MSPS '14

**CLASS OF 2020
WILL FOREVER
BE A BADGE
HONOR!**

—Jim Dever, BSBA '93

Congratulations graduates.

You worked hard for the past few years, and you should be proud of your accomplishments. Please know that you are well prepared and ready to start your career. Be proud of your alma mater and be sure to stay in touch with other alumni in your practice area and students coming up behind you. Celebrate!

—Ken Gear, BSBA '89, JD '95



**WHAT WILL YOUR
LEGACY INSPIRE?**

THE FROST SOCIETY HONORS AND THANKS THOSE WHO RECOGNIZE SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY IN THEIR WILLS AND TRUSTS, MAKE LIFE-INCOME AGREEMENTS, OR NAME SUFFOLK AS AN IRREVOCABLE BENEFICIARY OF LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES OR RETIREMENT-PLAN ASSETS.



To learn more about planned giving opportunities and benefits, please contact Corian M. Branyan, BSBA '11, Associate Director of Planned Giving, at 617-573-8456 or cbranyan@suffolk.edu.