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Boston
sports
soul leaves
lasting
impact

*Suffolk University's
Mail Clerk Emily
Perlmutter
remembered by
coworkers, friends*



Alexa Gagosz
Editor-in-Chief

Haley Clegg
Photo Editor



PRESIDENT KELLY'S YEAR IN REVIEW

Kelly's first act: The work to get Suffolk back on track

**By Chris DeGusto,
News Editor**

*It's been almost a year since
Marisa Kelly was named the
acting president of Suffolk
University and in the eyes
of the top office, there is still
much work to do.*

Chris DeGusto/ News Editor

Emily Perlmutter could typically be found walking into Suffolk University's mailroom each day sporting her signature Boston Red Sox baseball hat and preaching about the New England Patriots to everyone she met.

"She followed sports religiously, she knew everything about them--specifically baseball," said Mail Services Manager Anthony Voto. "She loved baseball and went to a bunch of games. She knew everything that was going on whether it was the Red Sox season or the Patriots season. That's how up on her Boston sports team she was."

Senior Sociology major Suad Diriye remembers Perlmutter's passion for the Patriots. "She would always say 'Go Pats' or 'Free Brady, free Brady.'"

Friends and coworkers alike saw Perlmutter's ambition to continuously make people laugh where her comic relief from a day of work in the Sawyer

See *EMILY* page 4

Diversity Task Force's final act

Nathan Espinal
Journal Staff

The Diversity Task Force gave their final presentation to the Suffolk community this past Friday. The presentation outlined the recommendations they have made in the final report after a two year-long joint effort of surveying and evaluating the university's climate that they will be submitting to Acting President Marisa Kelly in May. Once submitted, the Task Force will disband, having accomplished their goal, according to Chairwoman of the Task Force Micky Lee.

The Task Force has come up with a number of strategies, some of which are still debated amongst the members. However,

they are sure of making students, faculty and staff receive the proper training in matters of diversity and inclusion.

"These are solid foundations for where Suffolk currently stands. It's been a year and I think we are starting to open our eyes a little more," said Levi Smith, a junior business major and student member of the Task Force. "One thing to understand, we don't have a standing committee that does things like this. We grabbed some of the best students and staff [and faculty], put them in a room and said we need to talk about some issues here at the university."

The position they have yet to reach a consensus on is whether the university should create a position that would report to the president and tentatively titled Vice

President of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity. Along with this position, the Task Force hopes to create a Division, or Office, of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, which will oversee the Commission of Diversity Affairs (CDA). The CDA was suspended in 2015 by former President Margaret McKenna and the Task Force has recommended it be reinstated since the bylaws are already in place.

The Task Force noted the concerns of the Suffolk community regarding bias incidents and proposed the university create an pilot program for an Office of Ombuds starting in the Fall semester of 2017. This office will be independent from upper administration and hire part time staff from within the university.

"What we found [is]

"We grabbed some of the best students and staff [and faculty], put them in a room and said we need to talk about some issues here at the university."

15 colleges that were similar to Suffolk in many ways," said Director of Events Jennifer Bonardi and member of the subcommittee on ombuds for the Task Force. "The office [in the other universities] resolves conflicts, it explores options for resolving conflicts with informal steps such as services outside the appeal process and other resources if

necessary." The Office may have a possible connection to International Ombuds Administration (IOA) and follow the same principles that make the IOA successful.

"If the upper administration decides that we are in need of an ombuds person based on the climate poll and the research we present, See *FORCE* page 2

Kelly reflects on year as acting president, what's to come

Chris DeGusto
News Editor

As this academic year draws near to a close, so does the first year of Marisa Kelly's stint as Acting University President. In a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal, Kelly reflected upon her time thus far in the high office-- what has been accomplished as well as still needs to be worked on, the challenges she has faced and what her goals are going forward at Suffolk.

"I'm excited about everything we've accomplished together this year," said Kelly. "But I don't want that to suggest that I think everything is perfect. Every institution faces challenges, big and small, and we're no different in that every institutional leader acting or otherwise makes mistakes. I know I have made mine and I think in spite of all that, we've made real progress and I'm excited to be here and to have been a part of that."

Major strides have been taken this year at Suffolk, Kelly explained. Whether looking back at the improvements of communication, the extension of the university's strategic plan or the achievements on the national rankings front by The Wall Street Journal and U.S. News, Kelly said that Suffolk has been "rowing in the same direction" together as a community.

With inclusivity and diversity a forefront in Kelly's idealism, one aspect that will always be a constant work in progress

is the continuation of effective communication. The president's blog, "Momentum," hoped to have gained more feedback so that communicating with the Suffolk community was a two-way street. After the Presidential election of last year, Kelly spoke of the importance of conveying an accepting and supportive message to Suffolk was important to foster a sense of community.

One personal challenge that Kelly highlighted in her transition from Provost to Acting President was the acclimation of a new role which provided new responsibilities and expectations. In the fall, Kelly said she believed she needed to be present on campus, to focus on internal communication with the university leadership since positions were filled with people that were not stationed at that role the year prior.

"I was not new to the institution, but certainly new to this role. We were in a lot of personnel shifts [in the fall that] I think required us to really focus on being a team, and I think we did that pretty quickly," said Kelly.

Kelly also explained that she tried to not find herself at times in the transitional phase doing "two jobs at once" and instead focusing on her new role as opposed to her former. And as the spring semester came, she was able to hone her energy and efforts on matters off-campus such as outreach programs, and external affairs.

Suffolk, who has long

been a formidable law school, now has been recognized as a top-tier institution. Often however, incoming students are swayed away from Beacon Hill by state schools and other private institutions in the area. Kelly affirmed that the factors that will attract students to Suffolk as opposed to a state school are the same attractive components that Suffolk uses to compete with other universities nationwide.

"It is that combination of faculty and staff engagement, experiential learning inside the classroom and outside of it across all four years that is distinctive," said Kelly. "There are places across the country certainly that do it well or even as well, but nobody does it better, and I would say that to anybody at any time."

At Suffolk, Kelly said the focus is on outcomes; the value of the experience provided for students, that is reflective of the university's values. With the luxury of Suffolk's geographical location, students from all socioeconomic levels are able to intertwine their academic schedule with jobs, internships, club activities and engagement with industries of the city, Kelly said.

"Boston is an international city with global corporations that are shaping the future of the world in a lot of ways," said Kelly. "I think that our students have the ability to directly engage with those entities while they are students, and to take that experience and move forward with



Chris DeGusto/ News Editor

"I don't want that to suggest that I think everything is perfect. Every institution faces challenges big and small, and we're no different in that every institutional leader, acting or otherwise, makes mistakes."

it after graduation. And that is something that we have always done it's been important to who we are."

Internationalizing Suffolk is another prominent priority of Kelly. She described not only the importance of recruiting international students, but providing a global experience for all of Suffolk's students; exemplified by internships, study abroad programs, or the connectivity to the international community.

Going forward, bridging the gap between Suffolk and Boston Public Schools through dual-

enrollment programs can create a launchpad for students not only at the university but in their professional and personal lives. This summer, Kelly said she is excited for the permanent move of NESAD to the Sawyer building, and the continuation of progress on goals outlined in the strategic plan.

Over the course of the next year, Kelly hopes to implement significant elements of the pending recommendations from the diversity strategic plan, along with continued support of Suffolk's faculty and staff from a professional

development perspective. These facets, Kelly said, are important conditions vital to the university.

"It's a busy world and there's lots going on, but I have felt this year like there was a commitment across all constituencies, [alumni as well], a real commitment across all constituencies to work together to move the institution forward, and to do what we've always done, which is to put the best interests of our students first," said Kelly.

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NEWS BRIEF

Suffolk student awarded for neuroscience research

Elena Molokotos, a first-year student in Suffolk's clinical psychology doctoral program was recently awarded the Cognitive Neuroscience Society Graduate Student Award. Her research primarily focused on how twins illuminate genetic influences on brain structure. Once Molokotos decided to focus on this area of study, she began examining the neuroimaging information and performing the statistical analyses. Molokotos said the main message within her award-winning research was that the brain structures involved with executive functions, such as organization and planning, are potentially more influenced by genes than other networks of brain. Molokotos was one of 10 graduate students from around the world honored by the Cognitive Neuroscience Society at their annual conference in San Francisco this past March.

Task Force hands recommendations to improve university's climate

From *FORCE* page 1

it would come down to them hiring somebody for the position," said Bonardi. "Ideally, they would start in the fall when the rest of us start the academic year, which is as complicated as it gets."

The Task Force also recommended the university create a new initiative that will develop a program for predoctoral, or postdoctoral students, to teach courses at Suffolk related to their

"These are solid foundations for where Suffolk currently stands. It's been a year and I think we are starting to open our eyes a little more."

-Junior Levi Smith

research interests. The advantages for such a program, as stated by the Task Force, is the creation of a "pipeline" that will expand research and set the university apart from its peers.

Establishing better methods for community building and professional

development are concerns raised by University staff, according to the Task Force. The Task Force recommended the university provide more workshops that revolve around bias and classroom incidents, while also continuing the effort provided by

Suffolk's Unity Events.

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Tedx Talk discusses future economies

Chris DeGusto
News Editor

A limitless future calls for endless possibilities, that of which today's society cannot predict with precise accuracy. Humans dream of what is to come, but are unable to truly see exactly what will transpire for our technological and economic sectors. Through space exploration and artificial intelligence, these dream-like ideas can start to become a reality. Speakers conveyed this exact idea at Suffolk's TEDx&Talks club inaugural TEDx Suffolk University event on Monday, "Economies of the Future."

"We meet in a university noted for knowledge. We meet in a state known for progress," said Justin Park, the co-founder & president at Intergalactic Education LLC.

Park, who is also tied to the Swiss Institute of Technology, NASA, Booz Allen Hamilton and International Space University, presented "Space World," about the benefits of continued space exploration. A paraphrased speech of former United States President John F. Kennedy was one of Park's mediums for this talk, as he said today's market can inspire the next generation of space travels.

Park said the Apollo missions of the 1960s and 70s were ahead of their time, and prompted the belief that many young people could travel to

space-- a belief he said is nonexistent now. This lack of belief is not true, according to Park, who highlighted areas where the repetition of space missions will create markets. Insurance companies, intergalactic education programs, professional sports and the use of lawyers are some examples Park gave to illustrate the number of industries that can be accessed by space exploration.

"I believe a Renaissance in manufacturing will happen that is equivalent to the original Industrial Revolution," said Park during his talk.

A pre-recorded talk from writer and blogger Tim Urban addressed an issue that many people deal with, procrastination. Urban described what he said are two types of procrastination; one who is incited, and subsequently panics, by deadlines in the short term, and another, who has no deadlines, that put off life goals and aspirations and become "spectators at time in their own lives."

With only four weeks of preparation time, Suffolk's TEDx&Talks club president Abdulla Khoory said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal that securing a venue for the talk was his biggest challenge. He explained that along with finding the right location and time, the time span proved to be problematic for another reason-- finding speakers.

"It's in making a stake as to what's going to happen, [that] we influence the future,"



Chris DeGusto/ News Editor

**"We meet in a university noted for knowledge.
We meet in a state known for progress."**

said CEO & founder of Learnivore Emily Burns.

Burns, who spoke about artificial intelligence (A.I.), said the creation and development of new technologies is essential because our lives depend on it. The advancement of technology to this form could either create species immortality or cause humans to go extinct. With this spectrum outlined by two extremes, Burns said that the human race could either be overcome by A.I. or benefit in many ways.

As many jobs and household chores could be replaced with the hands of A.I. robotics, humans would be left to replace their natural species characteristics in other areas of life. With some people concerned

that A.I. would outsource many jobs and cut close to humanity, Burns said that humans would in fact be able to utilize this time spent on work in other areas such as with friends and family. Burns said she believes that A.I. would "inspire the need for human authenticity."

Besides Burns and Park, 6 other speakers from top-tier universities, financial sector professionals and investors presented their own takes upon the future economy.

"[The goal of this event] was to build through large events [to] provide Suffolk with thought provoking content that we haven't seen yet," said club creative consultant Alex Bennett at the event in an interview with The Journal.



Pierce Giamportone/ Journal Contributor

**Daniel Dippold speaking
at the Tedx Talk.**

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Perlmutter touches hearts within university



Courtesy of Anthony Voto

From *EMILY* page 1
building, Sargent Hall or
on Temple Street would

fill hallways.

"She was definitely a
joker," said Voto.

Senior sociology major
Danica Dang who worked

alongside Perlmutter said
she will always remember
her for her charisma and
lighthearted personality.
"She'd come into work

like 'this happened today,
you would not believe
this' and she was always
so animated, it would
just make the room more
exciting and fun to work
in."

Being the first one in
the office each morning,
her coworkers said that
she was faithful in helping
her team.

"She was the type
of person that was
never shy, she loved
greeting people, talking
to people, she had the
biggest smile you could
imagine," said Assistant
Manager Johanny Mejia.
"Whenever she'd see
people walking outside
she'd just stop them
and talk to them about
life and how they were
doing."

Perlmutter was the
daughter of Law Professor
Emeritus Richard
Perlmutter. According to
a statement that was sent
to Suffolk's employees,
Perlmutter was ill in her
final days.

"She was very close
with everyone in her

family," said Voto. "She
was all about family
outside of work. When
it wasn't work-- it was
family."

Although Voto
and Perlmutter were
coworkers, he considered
her a dear friend. Voto
recalled to a Journal
reporter that when he
received an award from
the university for being
employed for thirty years,
she was "one of the
people that was standing
behind me cheering."

"She will be sorely
missed," said Acting
President Marisa Kelly in
a statement.

After being employed
at the university for
a number of years,
Perlmutter left her mark
on nearly every person
she came in contact with.

Program Manager for
the Law School's Clinical
Programs & Experiential
Learning Joan Luke
told a Journal reporter
on Tuesday night that
Perlmutter would bring
her and the Clinic's mail
each day.

"We became good
friends over time," said
Luke. "She cared about
everyone in the building.
She came by to visit us,
even when she was on
medical leave, she would
call us and keep us up-to-
date on how things were
going."

Perlmutter's
impression that she
left with those that she
effected at the university
will continue to last at
Suffolk.

"She left an imprint on
people, she definitely has
a legacy that she leaves
behind here," said Voto.

Contributions in
Perlmutter's memory can
be sent to Melanoma
Foundation of New
England or Suffolk
University's Office of
Advancement.

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Ford Hall Forum seeks truth on fake news

Kyle Crozier
Journal Staff

During the 2016
presidential campaign,
the term "fake news"
exploded in popularity.
At the start of the
election season, this term
was connected to stories
that some believed were
intended to discredit or
benefit one candidate
over the other, and had
grown to a point where it
would be difficult to find
a publication that has not
been accused of being
fake news.

Last Wednesday night,
three journalists spoke
at Suffolk University's
Ford Hall Forum on their
continuing careers in
organizations that have
been labeled by some
as "fake news," as well
as what role journalism
should play in a
democratic society. These
journalists, Joe Mathieu
of WBZ NewsRadio, Matt
Viser of the Boston Globe
and Evan Engel, formally
a Vocative senior
producer, all have spent
time having been accused
of false reporting by the

public, or by the current
executive administration.

Matt Viser told his
story of having been the
subject of false reporting
after controversy arose
when he spoke on "The
Lead" with Jake Tapper.
While on the show, CNN
ran a headline under
Viser's name that read,
"Alt-Right Founder
Questions if Jews Are
People," referencing an
inflammatory statement
by known white-
supremacist Richard
Spencer.

A screenshot of this
CNN segment that showed
the headline directly
below an image of Viser
immediately went viral
on Twitter, and created a
false association between
Viser and the quote that
incited intense anger
focused directly at Viser
for what people believed
he had said.

"Everybody's instinct
was sort of to quickly
react to what they
thought that they were
seeing," said Viser.

The speakers
discussed how this had
been the perfect-storm
combination of a poorly
written headline, bad
reporting and an overly
quick viral response to

comment on it by the
general public.

In January, Engel found
himself facing nearly 10
years in prison after he
and five other journalists
who were charged with
felony rioting while
reporting on violent
protests outside of the
inauguration of Donald
Trump. The charges were
dropped after a week, but
for some, the accusation
had changed their image
of Engel.

Engel said that at the
Trump inauguration he,
"witnessed police abuse
that is not the most
alarming police abuse
you've ever heard about,
but is still the sort of
thing that as a journalist
you want to report. But
when I brought it back
to Vocative, they were
adamant that I not report
it and that I not speak
about it in front of any
forum, including this
one."

After being asked to
not report on the event,
Engel decided to leave
the publication and began
to speak more about
his experience. He said
that to him it was more
of a joke, but the public
immediately became
highly polarized on the



Kyle Crozier/Journal Staff

subject, he noted that
"there are people who
reflexively justify any
action a police officer
takes, and so in their eyes
I was instantly at fault,
without question at fault.
But there are also people
that get mad at any
journalist for challenging
power, so there were
accusations of fake news.
Someone said I was an
Israeli spy."

Engel said that the
public was quick to label
any speaking out he did
on the situation as fake
news if it disagreed with
the point of view of the
law enforcement.

Joe Mathieu said he
believed 2008 began a new
era of people who began
to use social media as a
primary source of news.
He said that, "the internet
was really for the first
time a mainstream news
dissemination tool for all
ages, now everybody was
reading online."

Mathieu explained
that it was at this point
the public began to
become more exposed
to the ultra right and
left groups that had
attempted to broadcast
messages for years, but
were just beginning to
gain an influential voice.

Viser instructed that if
people wanted to become
immune to the biases in
news, they should

"Be skeptical," Sean
Spicer said in one of his
first briefings about how,
'We're going to call you
guys out,' to the media,"
said Viser. "I'm fine with
that, call us out, if people
think that we're not being
fair or open. I think [you
should] read everything,
expose yourself."

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ISA promotes international community on campus

Amy Koczera
Journal Staff

Suffolk's International Student Association (ISA) strives to promote community and togetherness among both international and domestic Suffolk students. They do this through weekly meetings and co-sponsoring events with other cultural clubs on campus. The university itself capitalizes on its great international presence. According to the Suffolk website, there are nearly 1,700 international students from at least 110 different countries.

ISA aims to bring all international students together to create a community where students can work and collaborate in unity. The diversity within ISA provides numerous unique perspectives and allows the group to have deep, intellectual and thought-provoking conversations about important global issues.

Most of the students in ISA are involved in other organizations on campus, allowing them to gain more perspectives on American culture in college. ISA is looking to increase the number



By Facebook user Suffolk University International Student Association

"Don't be afraid to get to know someone from a different part of the world, you can learn so much."

- ISA secretary Rhema Rondina

of members in their organization so they can learn more about different students' domestic and international lifestyles and experiences. ISA holds events, such as the Indian Diwali Festival of Lights, to bring people of all different cultures together to appreciate celebrations from across the globe.

"We want to make international students feel welcome," said freshman Entrepreneurship major and incoming ISA Treasurer Junayed Islam.

According to Islam, international students tend to develop their expectations of college life prior to coming to the U.S. based on what they see in movies.

Since Suffolk doesn't provide that "traditional" college experience, according to Islam, sometimes international students have trouble transitioning. Because Suffolk is embedded into Boston, some international students experience difficulty adapting to the new

lifestyle when they first arrive. College itself is a brand new experience.

International students, while adapting to college life, also have to figure out how to navigate their way through a new city and country. ISA provides a safe zone where students can talk to others facing the same struggles and then provide support for one another.

"We want to make sure students are having fun and enjoying the city in a responsible way," said Islam. Because they are so far away from home, international students often feel a new, great deal of freedom when they come to the U.S.

"When we're all together, we want to make sure everyone is on track," said Islam. ISA provides support and advice to any all international students regardless of what they are going through.

ISA wants to have a greater presence on campus next year, through co-sponsoring events with other international clubs such as the Venezuelan Student Union, the Chinese Student Association, the Caribbean Student Network, as well as all other clubs who are interested.

"The unique thing

about [ISA] is that we want to collaborate with students from other cultures as much as possible," said sophomore Business major and ISA Vice President Charles Tang. "We'd enjoy if other international groups came to us more to collaborate for events."

Most other cultural clubs serve as somewhat of a "home away from home" for international students by providing them with events to experience their own culture. ISA seeks to work with students from all different cultural backgrounds to give people a well-rounded cultural experience in a social setting.

"We want to get to know more about everyone's culture, not just one in particular," said senior biochemistry major and ISA President Kubra Umit.

Suffolk's international presence allows students to interact with other students from all different backgrounds. ISA allows students to take advantage of going to school alongside international students by allowing them to get to know each other on a deeper level while getting a taste of other cultures.

"We want to introduce

new cultural events to others," said Umit. The more students that come to ISA meetings, the more cultures they get to explore.

"This is a great club for American students to join to experience different cultures," said Tang. The club's executive board alone consists of members from China, Turkey, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. ISA emphasizes that students that join the club don't have to be international.

"We're living alongside so many international students," said junior advertising major and ISA secretary Rhema Rondina, "Don't be afraid to get to know someone from a different part of the world, you can learn so much."

For next year, ISA hopes to hold at least two events each month to draw more members in and promote their club. "Everyone is always welcome to come," said Umit who explained ISA feels that being cultured and well-educated about different ethnicities will allow Suffolk to become a closer community.

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Activists struggling to aid undocumented immigrants under Trump

Elvira Mora
Journal Staff

Eighteen feet of steel with a cement base and slats secured six feet under make up the southern border between the United States and Mexico which passes through in Brownsville, Texas.

Texas native Rodrigo Juarez, 27, is one of many activists who work everyday to aid undocumented immigrants as they navigate the way toward citizenship.

Juarez is currently an accredited representative as he was approved by the Board of Immigration Appeals to represent the undocumented before the Immigration Courts.

"Both of my parents are from Mexico. And I'm actually the only one

in my family born in the States," said Juarez. He attended Texas A&M University and carried out a year of service through the AmeriCorps program in Rio Grande Valley.

Shortly after actively working with undocumented students, Juarez decided to focus on immigration and attended Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, OR.

He became a co-founder of an immigration student group and volunteering program that sent student volunteers down to work at a family detention center in Dilley, Texas.

Throughout the 2016 presidential campaign and within his first 100 days in office, President Donald Trump has accelerated efforts for the wall to be constructed. As

an individual working for a non-profit immigration organization, Juarez experiences first-hand the hostile environment working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

"There had been a change in the attitudes and practices of Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/ICE. Like before, if you had a favorable case, ICE would work with you. They would consider letting your client go on bond or on their own recognizance or parole," said Juarez. He said that the rules have become much more rigid.

"They'll fight you on anything and everything. They'll oppose anything in court even if the proposed action legally doesn't make any sense. They'll refuse to issue or even consider bond if

your client has any sort of criminal history."

ICE's aggression toward undocumented individuals has rapidly increased. According to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in 2016 ICE conducted 240,255 removals compared to 235,413 removals in 2015.

"There are reports of ICE agents raiding courthouses and hospitals and picking up people who are going to interviews with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). They are not only detaining people with these raids and breaking up families but they're having a massive chilling effect on the entire system," said Juarez.

The American Bar Association offers pro bono programs such as

the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR), which Juarez is currently a part of.

Suffolk University Law School encourages faculty and staff, who are attorneys, to cooperate with pro bono programs that are spread throughout the nation.

The law school also has an immigration clinic that offers weekly seminars to prepare students for immigrant representation.

According to the American Bar Association's directory, the program regarding Suffolk University Law School stated "Through its voluntary Pro Bono Program, Suffolk University Law School seeks to foster in every member of the law school community a moral and

professional obligation to ensure access to justice for all citizens. To obtain this goal, Suffolk Law School challenges all incoming law students to complete at least 50 hours of law-related volunteer work before they graduate."

Juarez fears undocumented individuals will not progress their immigration status because of the overwhelming threat of being detained.

He hopes undocumented individuals remain hopeful and encourages them to advance in the United States despite the current administration's actions.

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Commentary

French populism finds its face in Le Pen

Nick Viveiros
Journal Staff

Independent candidate Emmanuel Macron and former National Front leader Marine Le Pen will face off in a historic presidential election in France after their victories in Sunday's first round of voting.

"We have changed the face of French political life in one year," Macron told a jubilant crowd of supporters in a victory speech Sunday night. Macron was propelled to victory by supporters of his political movement, "En Marche!," translating to a single English word: "forward".

Macron, a left-leaning centrist, won with 23.75 percent of the vote, while Le Pen, a nationalist often compared to Donald Trump, came in second with 21.53 percent, according to the French Interior Ministry. The winner of the final round of voting on May 7 will succeed outgoing President François

Hollande of the Socialist Party. Hollande declined to run for reelection in December, and recently endorsed Macron.

The election marks a historic break from French political norms, as socialists and the center-right have battled for the past 70 years for control of the nation. This is the first election in which neither faction fielded a second round candidate since the formation of the Fifth French Republic under a revised constitution in 1958, according to multiple news sources.

The Socialist Party and Republicans have rallied around Macron. Jean-Christophe Cambadélis, first secretary of the Socialist Party, told Euronews that the party will engage in a massive get-out-the-vote effort on behalf of Macron, noting that "it is out of the question that [the people] let France lose its soul."

Macron, 39, would be France's youngest president if he wins, and has never served in

any elected capacity. He left investment banking for a position in the government of Socialist President François Hollande before becoming economic minister in 2014, a post he held until resigning last April to run for president. Macron's platform is described as true centrism, incorporating liberal and conservative policy on an issue-by-issue basis.

At her own headquarters, Le Pen celebrated her historic victory as well. Long considered an underdog by commentators and analyst, she sharply rebuked mainstream political order in her own speech.

"The system has sought all means to stifle the great political debate that this election should have been," Le Pen said following her victory, reported the Financial Times.

The right-wing brand of politics Le Pen offers ignores traditional conservative and liberal dogma in favor of

populism, a brand of politics which focuses on popular, immediate concerns instead of ideological purity. It argues voters have been cheated by the 'political elite.'

A centerpiece of Le Pen's campaign has been the restoration of what she calls an "independent France." According to her campaign website, Le Pen plans to "achieve a European project respectful of the independence of France" through a referendum on the "European experiment," offering a real possibility of a "Brexit" repeat should Le Pen win the presidency.

"The EU world is ultra-liberalism, savage globalisation, artificially created across nations," Le Pen told BBC radio in November. "I believe that this world is dead."

Le Pen's France also includes a "simplification" of the French government, leaving behind the traditional system of a layered administrative state in favor of a more

streamlined approach.

On social issues, Le Pen and the National Front offer a mixed bag. While Le Pen has come out in favor of unconditional abortion access and gay marriage, her campaign website states she also wishes to "restore real equality and meritocracy by rejecting the principle of 'affirmative action.'"

It is on the issue of immigration, however, that Le Pen fully and unapologetically adopts the far-right's canon. According to BBC, the 2017 National Front's party platform promises a "massive reduction in legal immigration."

"If you come to our country, don't expect that you will be taken care of," Le Pen said of government assistance for immigrants in a December 2016 speech in Paris. "That's finished now, it's the end of playtime."

The election overseas has had an impact on the Suffolk community, where nearly a quarter of students hail from outside the United States.

"I heard a lot of people here in the U.S. saying that Trump is sexist, homophobic and racist; in France, the public opinion is the same regarding Le Pen," said sophomore communications and marketing major Celia Del-Rey.

A native of France currently studying abroad at the International University of Monaco, Del-Rey noted the polarization is as extreme overseas as it is in the United States.

The connections many make between Le Pen and President Donald Trump are not lost on Del-Rey.

"I would say that [Le Pen] and her policies are associated with Trump by both her supporters and opponents. Those who [do not support her] see her the same as those who did not support Trump. Either she is adulated, or she is hated," said Del-Rey.

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Nick Viveiros / Journal Staff

Nick Viveiros
Journal Staff

The third floor of Sawyer was alive with the sounds of the silver screen on Saturday night as performers took to the stage for the Suffolk University show choir's annual Cabaret.

Members of Rampage, performed a variety of musical numbers taken from Hollywood blockbusters, as the theme this year was "Lights, Camera, Rampage."

The show began with a rendition of OneRepublic's "Love Runs Out," which featured all of Rampage's 16 members. The performance was a well-received opener for what turned out to be a stellar production. The choreography for Rampage's group numbers was arranged by sophomore dance captains theatre major Kelsey Whipple and fine arts major Julianna Fielding, and complemented the musical arrangements quite nicely.

As one of the standout

independent acts of the evening, sophomore Rebecca McAuliffe belted out a soulful rendition of Etta James' 1962 hit "Something's Gotta Hold On Me." As she sang, junior broadcast journalism major Felicity Otterbein and sophomore business major Charles Tang added some background vocals.

Saturday's cabaret was the last curtain call for Rampage's seniors; they really stole the show, both in group performances and individual acts. Rampage president and senior public relations major Victoria Laroque and senior marketing major Casey O'Leary took on the roles of Simba and Zazu for a duet of "I Just Can't Wait to be King" from the 1994 animated hit "The Lion King." Laroque returned in the second act with McAuliffe to perform "The Cup Song" of "Pitch Perfect."

"I started show choir in high school," Laroque told The Suffolk Journal during the post-show reception. Her passion for the arts began long before she became a Ram.

"I loved show choir in

high school, and knew I wanted to continue with it or something like it, and Suffolk was the only school near me that had a show choir," she said. Laroque, a marketing major from Lowell, Mass., said that as she researched more about the school, it "all fell into place."

One of the most well-received acts of the night featured junior marketing major Kevin Landers and junior theatre major Victoria Isotti as Ryan and Sharpay Evans of "High School Musical" performing a rendition of "Bop to the Top." With an audience comprised of those who grew up listening to and appreciating the franchise, this particular number was received with rounds of applause and a brief trip down memory lane.

It was with the second to last act - the senior number - when it became apparent that the seniors realized what was already known: this is it. The cohort of four took to the stage to perform "Come So Far (Got So Far to Go)" from "Hairspray." While the quartet was all smiles

as they maneuvered around the stage singing the classic show tune, even the audience could tell that there was something very different about the final curtain call. Based on the facial expressions of the small group, it was clear that they realized that this would be one of their last performances with the group.

As a whole, Rampage delivered what is quickly becoming their standard performance: well-executed without the sort of phony "put-togetherness" of other show choirs. There was a certain charm that the group displayed that doesn't really exist amongst other performance groups. And, with an increasingly competent group of underclassmen taking the stage, Rampage is in good hands for years to come.

Arts and Culture Editor Felicity Otterbein is a member of Rampage Show Choir

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(Top) Junior Kevin Landers,
(Bottom) Charles Tang

“Fractured Inferno” poses question for life

Felicity Otterbein
Arts Editor

It takes an incredible amount of creativity and imagination to be able to create an original play. It's easy to succumb to performing yet another rendition of a Shakespeare tragedy or explore Henrik Ibsen's realism. On it's own, writing and directing in the theater is a feat in and of itself, but it is a completely separate ordeal when you try to make said play interesting and entertaining to audiences. Linnea Rose and Suffolk University's own senior theatre major Andrew Bourque, managed to do both in their recent production of “Fractured Inferno.” Brought to life within the walls of the Sullivan Theater, the hour-long play was an intellectual mashup that combined both the storylines from the literary classic, “Dante's Inferno,” and warped tales from the Brothers Grimm.

Portrayed as one man's very long and confused journey, the storyline follows Michael, played by freshman theatre major Liam Grimaldi who is guided by a mysterious ally named Gabriel, played by sophomore theatre major Michael Greene. Those who are invested in Christianity and understand biblical references will be able to appreciate the subtle, and at times not-so-subtle jabs at what happens in the afterlife.

Gabriel, in Abrahamic religions, is an angel who acts as God's messenger. In various biblical texts, he is depicted as someone who interprets dreams and reveals information to those seeking guidance. In this instance, Gabriel acts as Michael's guide through the nine circles of hell: limbo, lust, gluttony, greed, anger, heresy, violence, fraud and treachery. Gabriel is known to stand in the presence of God, and therefore knows all about his power and routinely

cites psalms and passages from the bible during the performance in order to provide insight to the activity occurring within each circle.

The performance begins with a few rows of people standing in what appears to be organized lines similar to that of a military regiment. They are all dressed in army green and appear to be staring off into the distance. There is no sound, no movement, no kind of indication as to what is happening until a man, Michael, appears to snap out of this trance and voices his confusion and questions the whereabouts of his son, effectively breaking the silence.

This circle is undoubtedly the first circle of hell, limbo. Argued across spiritual belief systems, this space has been referred to as an area of nothingness, purgatory, the Department of Motor Vehicles. In religious belief systems, purgatory is a space for those who

have not been assigned to Heaven or hell. It is here where Michael and Gabriel first meet, and Gabriel calmly tells Michael that he must start a journey across the remaining circles in order to locate his son.

The play itself toted numerous biblical references and is suited for those who keep up with popular culture and classic fairy tales. The allusions to stories like Cinderella and Hansel and Gretel, paralleled with psalms and readings from the Book of Timothy proved to be not only educational but also entertaining.

Gabriel cited Luke 12:15 during the scene revolving around the circle of hell identified as greed, “Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.’” In this particular scene, Princess Cinderella has taken over the kingdom and seems to answer that lingering question at the end of the

classic Disney movie, “but what happens to Lady Tremaine and the wicked step-sisters?” Shown through body language and insinuating dialogue, it becomes clear that the trio has been enslaved by Cinderella out of spite and pettiness.

When the pair stumble upon this situation, they are faced with one of many depictions of greed. In this case, greed is personified by taking on the image of what was once a kind and sweet figment of Walt Disney's imagination. It shows the true power of the emotion, and how greed and selfishness can go hand in hand.

For Cinderella, a girl who had nothing and then was immediately given everything, it's easy to see how such power went to her head. Perhaps acting as a metaphor for remaining humble and kind no matter your social status, this powerful scene resonated within the four walls of the black box theater.

Across the nine circles

of hell, the audience comes to learn more about Michael and the reason for this journey. It comes to light that his wife and son have lived complete lives without him due to his infidelity within his marriage. After cheating on his wife and leaving his family due to shame, the play acts as his reflection on his life and the decisions that led him to this point.

Perhaps this play acts as a reminder not to cheat on your significant other. Perhaps it acts as a reminder to make purposeful decisions that will benefit all of those in which that decision will potentially affect. The beauty of creating original content is that the interpretation is left to the viewers, it's open-ended and fresh and has limitless potential to become something that will be analyzed and deciphered for years to come.

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Film critic discusses impact of politics on cinema

Kyle Crozier
Journal Staff

American television and film has been thought to mirror the political climate of the time it was originally produced. To analyze this, and predict how this may play out in the future, Pulitzer Prize winning critic for the The New York Times, Wesley Morris, spoke at Suffolk University's Modern Theatre.

In an event sponsored by the Suffolk Cinema Series, Morris acknowledged the controversy that exists in politics, and posed the question, “what responsibility does the culture have in terms of responding to [politics]?”

He explained that although he does not have a simple answer to this, he does think it is always interesting to see how artists will respond to shifts in politics.

Morris went on to show a clip from the 1974 movie, “The Parallax View.” This movie, directed by

Alan J. Pakula and starring Warren Beatty, showcased an example of a plot based around presidential assassination and suspicion. Morris offered that these themes were direct results of the common general feeling of the time after the Kennedy assassination, with an array of political suspicions centered around illegal activities by the Nixon administration during the Watergate scandal.

Where the Nixon administration created distrust of the government, Morris summarizes the main character of the movie as constantly threatened and followed, creating a total lack of privacy.

As this was a time of heightened suspicion and when it seemed threats loomed behind every corner, Morris explained that this movie exemplified a widespread feeling Americans were experiencing.

Morris demonstrated that during the '70s, the antagonist was often mysterious and unknown

in nature, while the '80s began to have a hero that fought against a singular villain with clear motives. As Morris explained, the Rocky movies are often considered to have been a direct commentary of the debate between the white boxer vs. the black boxer. But in

in a pretty good mood, during a period where there weren't a lot of popular movies that did that.”

In a “Rocky IV” clip presented during the talk, Morris showed a clear separation between the training sequences of the two boxers. The

movies about this fear that the Soviets would be able to enter the country somehow and beat us without our being ready for it,” said Morris.

This theme of separation between the America and the Soviet Union was presented in other movies during this

He showed a scene from the 1998 thriller starring Denzel Washington, “The Siege,” where thousands of Arab-Americans had been placed in internment camps in order to find a suspect. He said that, “Islam is part of how we understand terrorism in this movie.”

“The Earth was destroyed [in film] more times during Obama's presidency than in any other period,” said Morris. He associated this with the end-of-the-world style fears that developed in some groups after President Obama took office, as well as fears of global war and world disaster as a result of climate change.

Despite all of these parallels between film and current political climate in the past, Morris said he was not sure he would see the same correlation between the Trump administration and film.

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Kyle Crozier / Journal Staff

“Rocky IV” from 1985, the conflict changes, and we see a fight between an American boxer and a Russian boxer.

Compared to other movies made in this time, Morris said, “Rocky was one out of all of those movies that put everyone

American who uses what Morris described as, “God's own workout equipment,” things like rocks and pieces of wood, and the Russian, that uses steroids and complicated technological exercise machines.

“There are a lot of

time.

“You have basically one man, versus an entire state,” said Morris.

As time passed, Morris said that the new “boogeyman” in American movies started to become Arab people committing some acts of terrorism.



Closing statements:

Suffolk seniors offer their last sentiments before they leave The Journal, solidifying their time at the university.

By Sam Humphrey,
Newsroom Manager

I'll be graduating from Suffolk University soon, and as I think about the school I'm leaving, I wonder how I'll feel when I think about Suffolk after I'm long gone.

The answer is not much. I've grown and come to see the world differently than I did four years ago, but most of those experiences didn't come from my education, in terms of college classes.

I chose Suffolk because it advertised itself as a stable institution that would challenge me to learn and grow as a person. But in my experience, the opposite has been true.

I've had four presidents come and go during my time here, and not one got a chance to be the face, the leader of this school. Along with the Board of Trustees, many of them promoted a plan to "put Suffolk on the map" and improve our school. But if there is a guiding vision or a plan for the community to line up for and support, they've done a poor job of communicating it to us.

The campus I arrived at is mostly gone or significantly changed. That's not all bad, but the places most memorable to me, like the Donahue building, where I first joined The Journal -- my only experience at Suffolk I truly enjoyed -- have been erased from the school's story. What's left is an awkward hodgepodge of spaces spread across markedly dissimilar buildings. Our campus is Boston, but it is indistinguishable from the city, too.

Then there's my education. I made Dean's list in the past, but I was recognized for two semesters in which I felt as though my professors rewarded me for such minimal effort.

In other semesters, I worked harder to do well and earned grades I deserved, but I only got recognized for the semesters I slacked off. I've had perhaps four or five truly great, challenging, and rewarding classes. But many of my courses, particularly sophomore and junior year, weren't even average. They filled in my schedule, they met my degree requirements, but they didn't provide me with much of anything to carry into my career. My internships and various jobs have filled in the areas Suffolk lacked in teaching.

While I hope other graduates had a better experience, this is how I leave Suffolk -- an average graduate with some skills and life experience to help me, but no loyalty or love for the school I've spent four years of my life attending.

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By Katie Dugan,
Asst. Opinion Editor

When I was a senior in high school, I thought college was going to be a magical, life-affirming experience that would be absolutely perfect. Now, four years later, I realize how naive I was. The most valuable lesson that I have learned at Suffolk University is that nothing in life will be perfect. College is not all aesthetically pleasing Instagram posts and partying. Life happens, things go wrong and things will happen to you that will completely knock you off your feet and change how you think about everything. We can't always choose the cards we are dealt, but we can learn how to play them.

When I think of my time at Suffolk, one of my favorite quotes comes to mind that reads, "bloom where you are planted." My encounters at Suffolk have taught me to make the most of a bad situation. Suffolk is not without its faults, due to the inconsistencies with the administration and the constant changes that have many students exasperated with the university, and understandably so. Even with the aspects of how this university is operated that are incredibly frustrating-- I do not resent Suffolk.

I have made peace with my time at Suffolk. I obtained what I needed out of my experiences for my own personal growth and happiness. It was not perfect and there are plenty of mistakes I have made over the past four years that I wish I could undo. Instead of being miserable and accepting not ideal conditions that I could not change, I decided to change my attitude.

I became more involved at this university. I participated heavily in The Journey Leadership Program, a Teaching Assistant for two years, Alternative Spring Break and The Suffolk Journal. Looking back, I have accomplished so much more than I give myself credit for. I have dozens of articles published in The Suffolk Journal over four years, I was asked to join the editorial staff as the Assistant Opinion Editor my senior year.

These priceless experiences will stay with me for the rest of my life. If I had not been more proactive about my college experience, I never would have made so many connections with my professors, classmates and coworkers, who have turned out to be some of the most incredible people.

Almost every single person I have met at Suffolk has greeted me with nothing but kindness and respect. Maybe it's the turbulent climate that has ultimately bonded everyone, or maybe everyone here is simply genuine. Regardless, I have been exceptionally fortunate with the friend groups I fell into even with the instability at the university.

Every piece of my Suffolk experience, while at times seemed small and meaningless, has prepared me for the next step. Overall, I am happy with the person I am today and I owe much of that to the positive experiences I've had at Suffolk, including the highs and the lows. Suffolk University surely was not a traditional college experience for me, but it was the experience I needed.

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By Skylar To,
Sports Editor

I was just another freshman four years ago with a cliché dream of going to school in the city and making it "big" someday as an aspiring journalist.

I was hoping to get the college experience at Suffolk and started to think that I would leave here as just another number two years in.

I got a late start, but fast-forward to the end of my junior year and I could finally justify being at Suffolk, because of The Suffolk Journal.

I woke up at 4 a.m. on a Thursday morning in early November last year and acted on a strong urge to start getting involved and writing for the school newspaper.

I went to my first meeting that following week and took my first pitch, which of course, was a game recap of the Boston Bruins and Colorado Avalanche.

Since then, even though I never followed sports besides the Bruins growing up, I rolled with sports. Because of The Journal, I learned to step out of my comfort zone and worked on building my writing portfolio.

I realized that I could actually envision myself as a sports journalist.

My absolute favorite part of writing for sports is the community aspect of it.

Whether it is going to games, sporting events or listening to people boast about their favorite team or their love for the game, it is so incredibly awesome to see and hear the passion that unravels for the love many people have for sports-- both Suffolk and Boston especially.

Boston sticks together through the highs and lows and being a part of the "best sports city in the world" exemplifies that.

Even though I will no longer be eating pizza on production nights or walk into the office and look forward to seeing my best friends every day, it was an absolute honor and pleasure to work with this year's Journal staff, especially to produce some of our best work yet.

I will always be a storyteller and share the stories of others through my writing. But, in the few times like this, I get to share my story-- print wise.

Even though it was for a little more than a year, I will finally get to say that I lived the college experience at Suffolk, because of The Journal.

Signing off,
Skylar To

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“
The
campus I
arrived at
is mostly
gone or
significant-
ly
changed.”

“
Boston sticks
together
through the
highs and
lows and
being a part
of the 'best
sports city
in the world'
exemplifies
that.”

EDITOR'S WORD

We all had no idea how hard it would be to watch three seniors leave at the end of the year to embark on their own unique journeys. To Sky, who instilled the confidence within us to write for this publication and become apart of an everlasting bond at The Journal, we thank you. To Katie, who's creative and bubbly personality emanated the office, we will never forget your joyful and infectious presence around here. And to Sam, who became not only a confidant and father-figure mopping up all of our lives, but a true friend, from the bottom of our hearts, we'll miss you all.

We'll miss all of the work you put into this newspaper week in and week out producing top notch content, but that isn't what we'll miss the most. What we'll miss the most is the laughs, the heart-to-hearts, the good times and even the bad. We'll miss the times we spent together growing, not as writers, but as people. You've all become a part of our lives, and although we will forever be connected in life, it doesn't make it any easier knowing now it's time for you all to start a new adventure.

Something special happened this year, which is why saying goodbye is so much harder. This isn't just saying goodbye to a friend or a classmate, it's saying goodbye to family.

Urban crime is on the decline*Trump tweets inaccuracies and it's time to fact check him*

Patrick Holmes
Opinion Editor

It should be mandatory to fact check both what President Donald Trump says and his tweets. It seems that many Americans will believe whatever he chooses to say or write and by doing so, have shielded themselves from the facts.

During his campaign, Trump sent out a tweet stating that inner-city crime is reaching record levels. This tweet, which is extremely inaccurate, is based solely on opinion with no statistics taken into account. In fact, violent crime has been declining for more than five years, according to the Pew Research Center. They even go as far as to say that United States citizens view of violent crime doesn't often align with the data, saying that citizens believe the rates of crime are higher than the reality.

It is unacceptable that our now current president is not paying attention to simple facts that a sophomore in college can easily find from reputable sources. It is even shocking that many people believe him and do not try to search for the factual data.

In 2015, the violent crime rate increased by 3.1 percent when compared to 2014 statistics, according to FBI crime data. However, this percentage is insignificant compared to the thirteen years before where the crime rate consistently declined.

There are statistics that show the rise and fall of crime rates and it seems that Trump has not taken a glance at any real information that could possibly help him win over liberal voters. It is said that the violent crime decline has been happening for decades and that small increases in few cities have exaggerated the rates, according to the Washington Post.

From 1993-2015, the

57 percent of registered voters believed that crime had risen since 2008 even though FBI numbers show that it declined, according to the Pew Research Center.

“

It seems clear that many people believe that violent crime in urban areas is increasing but the statistics say otherwise.

Criminologists try not to generalize crime rates when they happen during short periods of time so that they can gain more accurate data, according to the Washington Post.

violent crime rate fell 50 percent, according to the Pew Research Center.

So, what does one do with this information?

It seems clear that many people believe that violent crime in urban areas is increasing but the statistics say otherwise. There may be a few spikes in cities such as Chicago, but that doesn't contribute to all city crime. There are speculations to why the crime rate has gone up but there is not enough information to say for sure. And even though Trump said he would "bring in the feds" in Chicago, the feds are already working with the police force there, according to the Washington Post.

Personally, it seems

clear that Trump's statements should be taken with a grain of salt and if Americans want the real information, they should take it upon themselves to fact check what our current president says and tweets.

Law enforcement officials were at a loss of how to explain the different decreases and increases of violent crimes rates in major cities in 2016, according to the New York Times. It appears that murders and most other times of crime are at an all time low since their record high in the 1990s.

If we are at record lows, doesn't it make sense that the numbers would go up? Especially in highly populated urban areas, it seems that

crime would be common. But a small increase or increases in few cities does not mean that there is an epidemic nor is it related to one group of people.

Overall, there is no definitive answer to what has caused spikes in major cities across the U.S. but it could be that there are many different areas that these urban landscapes must do better on such as the quality of policing, gang-violence and socioeconomic status.

Not only with urban crime, but other issues concerning Americans, it should be clear to not trust everything that Trump states.

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Caps off to Suffolk seniors final at bat

Hannah Arroyo
Asst. Sports Editor

With seven games left in their season, senior second baseman BJ Neil said that his team's focus is to prove that his class was the "most successful in the history of Suffolk Athletics."

The past two seasons Suffolk has been back-to-back conference champions with wins over St. Joseph's College and Johnson & Wales University.

This season, the Suffolk seniors look to take the diamond for the last time, they will work toward a third Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Championship.

"My favorite part about playing baseball [has been] being able to compete with my teammates," said Neil in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Monday. "The

relationship and bond teammates have with one another is unique to sports and cannot be created anywhere else."

Neil said that his time playing for Suffolk was filled with many memories of winning championships and forming bonds with his teammates that will "last a lifetime."

Even after he finishes his collegiate career at Suffolk as a student-athlete, Neil said that he hopes for baseball to remain a constant part of his life.

Left-hand pitcher Tim Conroy, who will also graduate this year, hopes for his team to end on a positive note this season.

He said in an interview with The Journal on Monday that his favorite part about playing baseball is that there is no time restraint on the game.

"Being a pitcher and having the ability to dictate the pace of the

game at all times entitles you with a sense of power that you can't really find in other sports," said Conroy.

Conroy said that one of his most memorable experiences with the team was losing the conference championship in Maine against St. Joseph's College his freshman year. He explained that the loss helped his class develop as players moving forward.

"That alone I believe is one of the reasons why we have been so successful since. It's funny how the failures sometimes stick out more than the successes," said Conroy. "I guess that's just how you know you're a competitor."

As he plays his last games this season, Conroy said that he will miss his team and wishes them the best of luck in the future.

"I've never been closer with a group of guys my whole life and going to war with these guys over

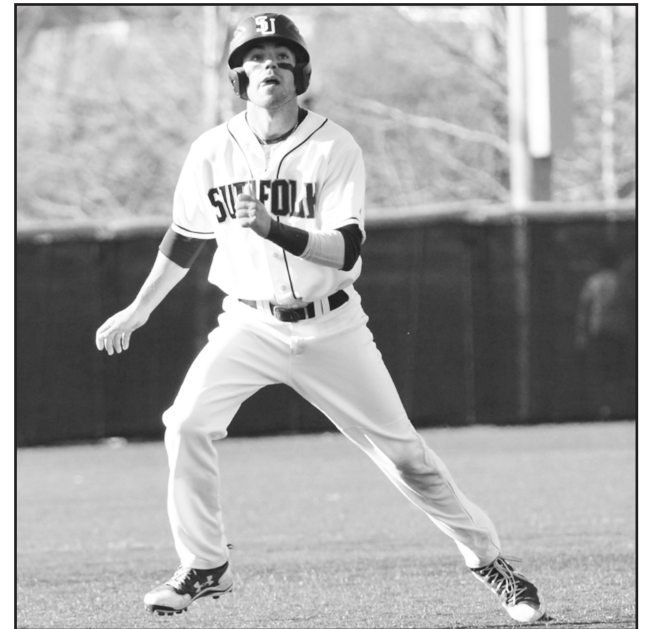
the past four years helped me develop some of the most lasting relationships that I can ask for," said Conroy.

Win or lose, Conroy said that he has enjoyed every high and low that the team has faced. He also hopes to help bring home one last championship for Suffolk seniors.

"[Moving forward] we're going to stick together, simplify the game and out compete whoever the opponent may be," said Conroy.

Throughout this season, both Neil and Conroy had contributed to their team's GNAC chances. Neil has acquired a batting average of .268, scored 15 runs and stolen three bases. Conroy had recorded of 2-1, 16 strikeouts and has pitched 24.2 innings

The Rams currently stand at the top of the GNAC with a record of 11-1. In total, the team has scored 245 runs, had a



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

Top: Tim Conroy
Bottom: BJ Neil

.316 batting average and .418 on base percentage.

"In order to win the championship this season, we have to play together as a team all moving in

the same direction," said Neil.

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Seniors serve up final tennis season

Brooke Patterson
Asst. Sports Editor

As a solo four-year tennis program senior, second-year captain Francesco Saia had a slight heartbreak heading into this season knowing it would be his final one with the Rams.

Suffolk University's tennis team currently holds a losing record of 2-7, but look toward the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Semifinal game at Centre Court against Johnson & Wales University on April 29.

"You just have take a deep breath and say this is my final season, give everything I have got and do everything the best I can," said Saia in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Monday.

Senior co-captain Jacob Duggan, a finance major, is also in his last season with the men's tennis team. Duggan joined the men's tennis team his sophomore year, after being convinced by Saia, and has been a player on the court for



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

the Rams for the past three years. Duggan has a two match win streak this season with an overall personal record of 3-4.

"This being my last season, I am sad that I won't get to play tennis for Suffolk anymore, but am glad that I get to spend my last season with such a great group of guys," said Duggan in an interview with The Journal on Tuesday night. "As a team, we've come a long way this season, and I'm really proud of how much we have improved." Saia, a finance major

who has been playing tennis since he was seven years old, went 7-1 his sophomore year in singles at the three-fourth position and currently holds an overall personal record of 2-6. Every year since Saia has been a Ram, he has been awarded by the GNAC for second team doubles.

The senior duo contributed to the Rams 9-0 sweep over Lesley University on April 20 when they were teamed up in a doubles match against Lesley athletes, Niko Marcolini and

Beowulf Urban. Saia and Duggan defeated Marcolini and Urban 8-0.

"I, 100 percent have developed over the past four years," said Saia. "You can't just play your own style anymore, you have to learn how adapt to the other players and open the court to all different types of players."

Saia had the opportunity at Suffolk to try different playing styles from European players to Asian players and even some South American players, which differs from tennis in the United

States. For instance, other types of people in other countries the surfaces of courts vary compared to the U.S, where tennis is played on a hard-surfaced court.

Upon graduation, "They taught me all different types of styles of tennis from the way they were brought up how to play tennis and incorporated it into my game, making me not only a better player with new various skills, but also making the whole team better with new techniques and skills that we were never fully familiar with," said Saia. Although when Saia was younger he did not like to play tennis, he eventually grew to love it. His favorite part about playing tennis at Suffolk has been hanging out with his team and "sharing laughs and good times together."

Being an active member on the team, Saia has made a lot of memories with his new teammates each year. He enjoyed experiencing the diversity the tennis team has brought him.

"My freshman year I was the only American kid on the team," said Saia. "So just learning from

other types of people from different countries, how they play tennis and learning how to speak Spanish was fun."

Upon graduation, Saia looks for a future in finance and hopes to further his career in New York City. Although he will not be pursuing tennis any further, he will always play in order to prevent himself from becoming "washed up."

"Tennis will always be incorporated in my life no matter what," said Saia.

Saia wants his team to be remembered as the ones that kept striving for better, no matter how difficult things were. At the end of the day, Saia wants the outcome of the season to be more than the team could have imagined.

"All of my experiences I have learned from my past three years, this fourth one I just want to put it out on the court and let everybody know what I have learned and hopefully the team can carry it on," said Saia.

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Feldman paces back to Suffolk

Strides for track & field

Skylar To
Sports Editor

It felt like the “ultimate homecoming” for Will Feldman when he crossed the finish line at this year’s 121st Boston Marathon.

Even though his visit to Boston was brief for his seventh-career marathon, Feldman will officially return to a “special place” he has always called home to take on his new position as Suffolk University’s first-ever head coach of track & field. Feldman was also named head coach for cross country. He will officially begin both roles on May 15.

“[Being named head coach for track & field/cross country feels amazing to be honest, it’s a dream come true,” said Feldman in a phone interview with The Suffolk Journal on Thursday. “It’s hard to believe that everything is coming together and [I can] start building this program.”

Feldman, who was announced as head coach on April 14 by Director of Athletics Cary McConnell, said he found out about the available coaching position from a press release through The Boston Globe, which he had to refresh the page a few times

before it “finally hit in.”

Toward the end of serving his second season as the cross country and track & field assistant coach at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Greensboro, Feldman contacted McConnell and expressed his interest in the job. Whether it was coaching or supporting track & field as a supportive alumnus, Feldman wanted make sure that the program would do well.

“When I saw the job post, I was kind of in shock,” said Feldman. “I would never in a million years dream that Suffolk would have track & field. I knew I had to reach out and do what I could to be a part of it.”

Feldman said he is “excited and blown away” by McConnell’s vision for track & field and already thinks the program is heading in the right direction. He traveled to Boston for an interview in January and said that he hunched over with “great excitement for the first time in five years” as he had a “really great experience” visiting and reconnecting with the Suffolk community since he graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in European History.

He was named most valuable player and served as team captain for three out of the four years as a student-athlete for the men’s cross country program. He

even began his coaching career while he was still an undergraduate student at Suffolk in 2008 at Suffolk’s Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) rival, Emmanuel College. Feldman said he and his teammates always talked about “how cool” it would be if the athletics department offered track & field after cross country practice.

“I knew how much

Since 2015-16, he has been the assistant coach of track & field at UNC at Greensboro.

From his understanding with McConnell, Feldman expects to carry the same position from North Carolina to Suffolk, except working with a smaller budget and complying to a stricter rules guideline by the National Collegiate Athletic Association

participating in track & field and he plans to build a competitive program.

Feldman said he will communicate to current and interested students for the four varsity programs. He plans to partner with Suffolk’s Undergraduate Admission to recruit members of the incoming class of 2021, as local as Boston Public Schools and across the nation like California.



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

“I would never in a million years dream that Suffolk would have track & field.”

-Will Feldman

[track & field] meant to me and other students cared a lot,” said Feldman. “I felt like it needed to be me.”

After he left Suffolk, Feldman stayed in the Boston area and continued serving as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Emmanuel College before he made the move to work with the coaching staff at Massachusetts Institute of Technology for two years for their cross country and track & field programs.

In August 2013, he moved to North Carolina and joined the cross country and track & field coaching staff at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina for two seasons.

toward recruiting methods at the DIII level. For instance, Feldman is able to recruit student-athletes year round to UNC at Greensboro and communicate to prospects via email as early as September of their junior year and over the phone heading into their senior year by July whereas at Suffolk, coaches can start communicating with prospective student-athletes the summer after their junior year.

However, the switch from DI to DIII is minor for Feldman and he said he is really excited to have the ability to recruit as a first-time head coach nationally. Through McConnell, Feldman has an “extensive list” of students, who have expressed interest in

“I’m looking for students who can definitely contribute to the team,” said Feldman. “I want to work hard to explain to them what it means to be a student-athlete.”

“I’m excited to really get the word about Suffolk in general and build the program. “Suffolk’s really committed to this program.”

Even though the athletics department anticipated for track & field to begin for the 2016-17 academic year since its addition to the varsity line up last summer, track & field will officially begin this fall after men’s and women’s cross country concludes its season in mid-November. Outdoor track & field will start at the end of next March to beginning of April or even May as Feldman

already anticipates a GNAC Championship run. Practice will start up in the fall and the majority of both indoor and outdoor track & field will practice together.

“My expectations [for the programs] are high,” said Feldman. “What I think we’ll accomplish in a few years is: laying the foundation, establishing [team] culture and building success of student-athletes. We’re going to be hard to beat in the conference once we get going.”

He thinks it may appear to others that he is leaving UNC, a Division I (D1) institution for a coaching position at a Division III (DIII) school, but he said his decision was “a no brainer and you can’t put a price tag to go back to your home.”

“It’ll be bittersweet to say goodbye to the [UNC at Greensboro track & field] team, but I’ve always had the dream of coaching track & field at Suffolk,” said Feldman. And he only had to wait seven years for it, which felt more like a decade for Feldman.

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