

# THE SUFFOLK JOURNAL

VOLUME 81, NUMBER 2 | [thesuffolkjournal.com](http://thesuffolkjournal.com) | @SuffolkJournal

September 20, 2017

## In the news

**Remembering Nicholas Williams** the editor, leader, Law student, fighter for the rights of all, writer, friend and Ram. **Page 3.**

**Suffolk men's basketball star** rocks Armenian team this summer. **Page 11.**

**Boston's Freedom Rally** acts as adult playground for those in support of Question 4. **Page 7.**

**A new population of international students** enter campus, begin transition to American culture. **Page 5.**

**Stay tuned:** Art & Design School transition from "NESAD" and move off 75 Arlington St. Are students satisfied with new area despite space loss?

## PERSPECTIVE

BY STIV MUCOLLARI

"Making it economically and socially unfeasible to attend "alt-right" rallies without consequences is more effective in combating the them than engaging in violence against them."

**Page 9.**

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**How Trump's cabinet may be shaping college campuses and the reporting of sexual misconduct on them**



## Suffolk reacts to impending Title IX changes

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos's future decisions may call the procedure of handling sexual assault on campuses into examination

**Chris DeGusto**  
News Editor  
**Kyle Crozier**  
Journal Staff

Sexual assault has moved to the forefront of discussion this month after Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos alluded to possible changes in the way universities deal with misconduct cases regarding Title IX.

Said DeVos at George

Mason University during a September speech, "Here is what I've learned: the truth is that the system established by the prior administration has failed too many students. Survivors, victims of a lack of due process, and campus administrators have all told me that the current approach does a disservice to everyone involved."

As part of the United States Education Amendments of 1972 Title IX was enacted

under the Department of Education [DOE] with the parameters so that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

On April 4, 2011 the Office for Civil Rights under President Obama's

See *TITLE* page 2

## INTO to begin 15-year contract for Suffolk's global reach

**Jacob Geanous**  
World News Editor

Suffolk University announced its plan to strengthen international recruitment efforts by joining forces with INTO University Partnerships, a private global education company that focuses on enlisting and preparing new students to study in America, this past August.

The collaboration resulted in the formation of INTO Suffolk, LLC, which is a jointly owned company that aims to

bolster the university's longstanding status as a hub for international students.

Last week, more than 100 members of INTO Suffolk's global network of recruiters in Boston came to the University for a familiarization visit and to celebrate the new partnership. INTO recruitment officers scouted the location and got acquainted with the university's metropolitan campus.

"The new venture is designed to help Suffolk

See *INTO* page 6



Courtesy of Dear World

Photos can tell the world exactly what others are thinking. See "Dear World" on page 3.

## Suffolk places in national ranking system, twice

*Suffolk places on 'Best National Universities' list for second year, however hits lower bar for 'Most International Students'*

**Alexa Gagosz**  
Editor-in-Chief

For the second year in a row, Suffolk University had clinched seventh place as an institution focused on global experience and education, according to the 2018 U.S. News & World Report's Best National Universities list.

Suffolk, which rose seven spots in the category from the 2017 list for its considerable international student

population, classroom sizes and academic excellence.

The university sealed the 181st spot on the list for the top level institutions to offer expansive choices of majors, master's and doctoral degrees.

Suffolk fell two spots from the previous year in the Most International Students list. U.S. News and World Report relies on reported data from the previous academic year,

See *RANK* page 4

## Budget slashes spark protests



Hannah Arroyo/ Asst. Sports Editor

The group ACT-UP Boston held a rally in front of the Massachusetts State House Tuesday that fought against several human service programs that Governor Charlie Baker vetoed. See more photos at [thesuffolkjournal.com](http://thesuffolkjournal.com).

# Guiding students through undergrad

How upper administration adopted an evolving mindset to communicate with students

## Nathan Espinal Journal Staff

A recently wide-released mobile app, Guide, was dispersed to Suffolk University's undergraduate population this fall so students can stay updated on important tasks and milestones on-the-go.

With a simple user interface, students are encouraged to explore the tools given through the app and allows a student to discover a new major or view a class schedule. The app currently provides freshmen and transfer students the opportunity to succeed at Suffolk through the "Journeys" tab. This tab provides several core "checklists" that familiarize students with financial aid, getting involved on campus and other important aspects of the Suffolk experience.

"The concept around Guide is the nudge theory. You're putting information in front of students around the time that they need it and getting their attention, the "nudge," to hopefully follow through with that," said Assistant Provost Katherine Sparaco, who has overseen the Division of Student Success, in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal. "It's in the mobile space

where students are, getting their attention for any number of things us administrators are challenged with."

Suffolk faculty and administration were already familiar with the Student Success Collaborative (SSC), which is an advising platform designed by Education Advisory Board (EAB) for those in advisory positions to be a greater resource for students. The SSC came through Suffolk's membership with the EAB, an organization that conducts and provides research on colleges and universities on what the best practices are for student success and academic processes. Guide was offered to Suffolk, along with fifty other schools, to become a resource that students can use.

"We wanted to start off with: What is it all around the classroom that we want students to be aware of what they should do, so they can maximize their time in the classroom," asked Senior Consultant for the Guide app Madeline Pongor, in a recent interview with The Journal. "We found that college students are used to getting information tailored to them through apps. So we thought why not have the college

experience through that as well."

Suffolk has a leadership team consisting of representatives from various Suffolk departments working in conjunction with Pongor to make sure the app is as tailored to Suffolk students as possible. With all the feedback from students and the team working on the app, the EAB and Suffolk administration hope to provide a more beneficial resource to students. Some of the long-term plans, this team is working on involve making the app more inclusive for upperclassmen and international students, as well as other resources that could not fit into the time frame of developing the app before it launched.

This decision, while having a positive reception, has been met with some slight pushback by students. Some have expressed how this is another app on this list of apps that Suffolk has provided to students.

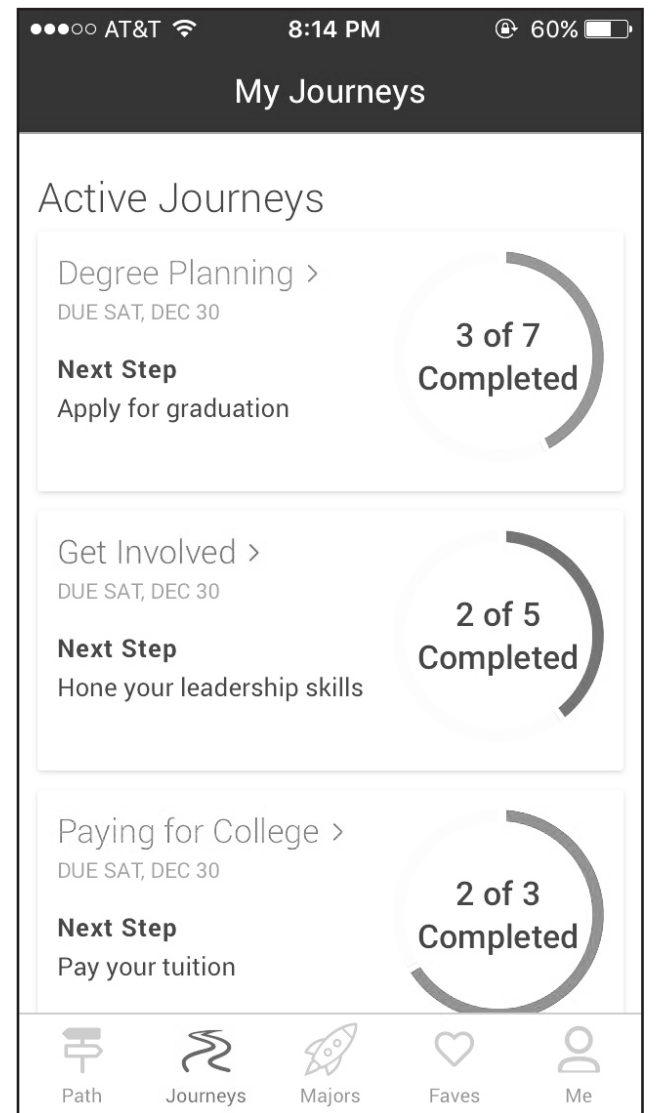
"Guide is an invaluable resource for incoming students because it acts like an advisor telling them what you need to get done. But there is a need, I think from talking with Suffolk students, for an app that acts like a one-stop-shop for

Suffolk University at an institutional level," said Student Government Association Vice President Yasir Batalvi in a recent interview with The Journal. "I can't overstate the importance of an app like that. Blackboard Mobile, Guide, Get Mobile, Livesafe; these serve invaluable purposes, and I don't mean to diminish any of that by saying we need a one-stop-shop solution to some of Suffolk's connectivity problems."

Otherwise, Guide has proven to be a successful wide release for this team. As of Tuesday, despite some minor bugs that affected class schedules that have since been fixed, no negative feedback has reached the team working on the app. "So far, from face to face interaction with students we've had great feedback," said Linda Bisconti, Director of Academic Enhancement, in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

As of Friday, Bisconti said that of the 4,000 undergraduate students who received the email to download the app, over 20 percent have downloaded the app.

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Screenshot of Guide's "Journeys" page where students can track their statuses within multiple different departments including Academic Advising and the Office of the Busar.

## Divisions of Suffolk stand by Title IX, despite Washington's loose stance

From *TITLE* page 1 administration released "Dear Colleague Letter." This memo from the DOE cemented the precedent that Title IX set, codified the protections of students from sexual harassment in all forms, free from discrimination and affirmly criminalized acts of sexual violence on campuses across the nation.

While DeVos said that "acts of sexual misconduct are reprehensible, disgusting, and unacceptable," her insinuation that Title IX's current structure disallows or prevents universities and colleges from adequately handling instances where Title IX cases apply has prompted multifarious reaction at Suffolk University.

Director of Title IX at Suffolk, Sheila Calkins,

who previously served as Deputy Attorney General and as the Attorney General's Chief of Staff, responded to DeVos's recent comments and speculation that revision of the amendment could potentially come to fruition.

"The university is always going to want to make sure that they help students, and when a student has experienced something as traumatic as a sexual assault or a domestic assault, the university is going to be there to assist that student in any way they can," said Calkins in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Calkins assured that Suffolk will continue to provide resources to any students who may need them.

The Interfaith Center, directed by University

Chaplain Amy Fischer, is one of two confidential offices at Suffolk. Fischer works closely with Counseling Health and Wellness, the other confidential office on campus to ensure both the privacy and well-being of students on campus. The Chaplain, in a recent interview with The Journal solidified the Interfaith Center's place as a dependable outlet for students' concerns.

"In my mind, whatever changes are made in the Title IX requirements, if any, my role of confidentiality and a place for students to receive pastoral counseling is still applicable," said Fischer.

The Center of Counseling Health and Wellness at Suffolk has stood as an office at the university, where it has provided both medical and psychological health

treatment for students. Options for those who visit the Center are numerous, and for students, having these options allows choice. Dr. Jean Joyce-Brady, the Director of Counseling, Health and Wellness, said the focus of the Center's staff is to direct students to the resources that conform best with each individual's needs and comfortability.

In the event of a federal revamping of Title IX, Suffolk would be provoked to revisit the policies and procedures listed under this amendment. Calkins said students would still be provided all resources and assistance at the university, which includes interim-measures in order to ensure students can continue without hurting their education. These interim-measures

include actions such as a no-contact order, housing reassignments, additional education assistance, and may also include making sure they have access to the counseling and medical attention they need.

Calkins outlined the various ways in which students can address issues of sexual misconduct, including the Suffolk website tools, the Title IX office email, or by direct contact with Calkins herself among other methods that are listed in Title IX Student Handbooks as well as online.

"Our goal is strictly to support students and provide advocacy and support for student-victim-survivors of sexual misconduct, but we also have another responsibility and that's to make sure that other

kinds of complaints are resolved fair and equitably and I think that's one of the things that Betsy DeVos is concerned about," said Dean of Students Dr. Ann Coyne in a recent interview with The Journal.

On the University's Title IX page, Suffolk labeled sexual misconduct as "antithetical to the mission of the University" and that it will be responded to with diligence.

Acting University President Marisa Kelly has not released a statement regarding Suffolk's response to DeVos's comments.

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# Remembering Nicholas Williams

## Suffolk Law School reflects on tragic death of Dicta Editor-in-Chief

**Haley Clegg**  
Photo Editor

Time and time again we are told to appreciate every moment and to live each day as if it may be our last. For most of us, this is a simple reminder to appreciate life, but for Suffolk Law student Nicholas Williams, this was an everyday reality.

Williams suffered from sarcoidosis, an inflammatory disease that took his hearing and later affected his sight and lungs and ultimately, his young life. Despite the pain his illness caused him, Williams never let it affect him. He was thrilled to be entering his third and final year of law school at Suffolk with hopes of being a prosecutor after graduation.

His absence this semester has been

felt by students and administration alike. In a statement sent to the law school community, Dean Andrew Perlman spoke of the spirit Williams embodied.

“Nick was a constant presence in the Law School, always eager to participate in student groups and events. He greeted people with a smile and made everyone around him feel welcome and included,” he wrote. “Nick also was courageous and tenacious. He thrived in law school, despite some challenges posed by deafness, and in doing so, he showed everyone the meaning of grit and determination.”

Williams was an officer in the Student Bar Association, a member of the Black Law Students Association, and was going to be in the law schools’ Suffolk Prosecutors legal clinic this fall.

Despite the adversity

Williams faced throughout his life, he was always eager to take on new challenges, such as resurrecting the Suffolk Law’s newspaper. Alison Farquhar, the current Editor-in-Chief of the Dicta credits Williams with bringing the law paper back to life.

“Honest to god, Dicta would not still exist if it weren’t for Nick. He rescued Dicta from the brink at the end of our 1L, assuming the Editor-in-Chief role without even being a staff writer during his first year,” said Farquhar.

Nick was passionate about this project and took the paper from a budget deficit to a surplus, and had the paper publishing in print within two semesters. “His contributions to Dicta cannot be understated,” said Farquhar.

David Feldman, the Director of PR for the

Dicta worked closely with Williams and considers him to be one of his best friends. On Tuesday, he spoke to The Suffolk Journal about Williams’s dream for Dicta. “Nick’s mission was to resurrect the law newspaper. And he did! We made our own website, doubled our staff, got sponsors, and had a big breakfast to celebrate,” said Feldman. “I want to keep it going in his memory.”

Clinical Professor of Law Diane Juliar was supposed to have Williams as a student this year. She spoke about how determined he was in life, despite the daily challenges he faced. “He didn’t let anything limit his potential, and what he contributed to the world,” said Juliar, “He wanted to overcome every challenge so he could pursue his goals and his desire to do public service work.”

Associate Dean of

Students, Ann Santos worked closely with Williams as he went through Suffolk Law.

“It was heartbreaking that he had overcome so much, and was here, he was in his third year of law school, he had made it. Now his legacy is going to be that utter sweetness, his sincerity and caring for other people that law students sometimes lose sight of” said Santos.

Santos hopes that Williams’s life will inspire others to go after their dreams, no matter what situation they may be in.

“He should be a model for anyone who thinks law school might be too difficult because of what they’ve struggled with in the past or currently going through. They should try it if that’s what they really want because that’s what Nick did.” said Santos.

Williams inspired fellow classmates to be the best

versions of themselves, even as they faced their own challenges.

“In my first two weeks at Suffolk Law, I was beat up in Boston, a gang initiation. They broke my jaw and it was wired shut for weeks. I couldn’t talk, and Nick couldn’t hear, so communication was tough for us” said Feldman. “I learned some sign language, we passed notes, but it was hard. His strength and his perseverance, that is what got me through it.”

“He was one of the few people I’ve ever met who believed in me as a person and told me so seemingly at every opportunity. Over the past year he was an unrelenting positive force in my life. He will be deeply and truly missed by the Suffolk community” said Farquhar.

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# ‘Dear World:’ Our personal stories matter

**Haley Clegg**  
Photo Editor

The concept for Dear World began in 2009 in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Residents of the city wrote ‘love letters’ to their city.

At the beginning of the project, one man changed it all. He asked if he could do something different for the project. He came back with tears in his eyes and his wife exposed his bare chest with the words “Cancer free” written in black ink. This changed the project

in a way nobody could have expected.

Since then the project has globalized, inviting people to take portraits as a way to start conversations and tell personal stories.

Since its start in 2009, Dear World has photographed more than 50,000 people from all over the world.

“We have stories of love and loss and joy and grief but it’s all beautiful because it’s part of the human experience,” said Katie Greenman, a Dear World storyteller and photographer.

Sophomore business

economics major Justin Agyemang came to the event with an open mind. “I had no idea what to expect,” he told the Journal. By the end of the program, he felt passionate about the message he chose to share with the world. He wrote, “I never took it seriously” across both arms for his portrait. “This is a message I need to let out” said Agyemang.

On Tuesday, the Dear World team held an event for Suffolk students in the Tremont Temple. They shared portraits and stories of the people they have met since beginning

their project as well as how far the project has reached. Dear World has photographed survivors of the Boston Marathon bombing, Syrian refugees, and survivors of the Pulse nightclub shooting.

“There are so many important things in this world and community is one of them. After the Pulse nightclub shooting, the Orlando community came out and love poured in” said Katie Greenman with The Journal.

After the initial presentation, four Suffolk students were invited to take to the stage and speak about the message

they wrote on their skin and the story behind it. Charlotte Cole, a senior psychology major was one of these speakers. The message written across her skin read, “Willy Wonka never showed up, but my hair grew back.”

Cole explained the story of how she had gone into surgery for a routine procedure to remove a bump on her eye that persisted despite treatment. When she awoke from the anesthesia, she was devastated that Willy Wonka was not there to visit her.

“As I cried over Mr.

Wonka’s absence, my parents cried in the room next door as they learned that I had cancer.”

When Cole was first asked to speak at the event, she was hesitant.

“I was so surprised, I thought I would be too scared to get up there and share my story, but then I realized that everyone in here has one that we can learn from. It would be a disservice for me not to share mine and to expect others to share theirs,” said Cole.

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# Joyya Smith named new vice president:

## After less than a year at Suffolk, Smith takes promotion



Haley Clegg/ Photo Editor

### Joyya Smith

**Chris DeGusto**  
News Editor

Dr. Joyya Smith has found a place to both “teach and learn” here in Boston- namely at Suffolk University.

Highered as the Director for the Center for Academic Access and Opportunity roughly 11 months ago, Smith has

recently been promoted to a new administrative role as the Vice President of Diversity, Access and Inclusion this month. Smith, who previously worked at Georgia Southern University was struck by a phrase in Suffolk’s alma mater during fall convocation that referenced teaching and learning as a symbiotic relationship.

“It just kind of stuck

with me. That’s so nice, we learn and we teach,” said Smith. “And I’m thinking, well if we’re singing this song then how are we making sure that we are [doing both].”

As someone who has been selected to teach CAS 101 and 201 this semester, Smith said she has enjoyed being in the classroom in order to have an opportunity to hear the voices of

students first hand.

“In a teaching situation you really learn more than you teach,” said Smith. “I’m grateful for an opportunity to be up close and personal with the students. Sometimes when you’re in administration, you’re not as close to students because you’re helping to make sure that the other pieces of the puzzle are in place, but I’m excited to be able to serve in both capacities.”

Initially, Smith worked with Suffolk’s Diversity Task Force, where she said she was able to learn how the university has committed to ensure an inclusive community and championing diversity.

“I think it happens in pockets and I think part of my responsibility is to bring all those pockets together,” said Smith.

The Diversity Task Force compiled a list of recommendations for the university, and Smith said she is working alongside Acting President Marisa Kelly in order to determine which policies and procedures to alter or enact.

“It starts with awareness,” said Smith. “Sometimes we are not aware that maybe we

aren’t being as inclusive and it’s more than just race and sexual orientation.”

She said awareness is vital because oftentimes the notion that inclusivity is missing is not always recognized. Smith said it is more than just race and sexual orientation. Ability, college preparedness or lack thereof as well as first generation college student status are all important as well.

“There’s a lot of keys that really make us think of about diversity from a number of perspectives,” said Smith. “Being visible versus invisible diversity, of being sure that everyone that’s here feels like they have a place that they can exercise their voice. And if they can be comfortable enough to learn something, that they can go out into the world and teach.”

While at Georgia Southern, Smith’s activity was closely tied with the TRiO Programs that have worked with first-generation and underrepresented students.

These organizations, both at Georgia Southern as well as Suffolk Smith said, will “forever hold a place in my heart.”

Since 2000, Smith had been assisting to plan Black History Month and Hispanic awareness events where she said in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal she helped to develop a group of students that served as diversity ambassadors. Smith also said she was involved in the programming of diversity training and multicultural awareness while at Georgia Southern.

The transition from Georgia to Massachusetts has gone smoothly, according to Smith, who said she hit the ground running. With her family in Georgia, Smith said she has visited typically once every other month, but has planned to take time back home in the spring to dodge the New England climate-- her most devious challenge.

Joked Smith of her northern move, “That first winter I was a little Frozen Peach.”

Weather aside, Smith said she hopes to work closely with leadership development programs, so that she may teach the next wave of those who will enter the world and educate others on the subjects of diversity and inclusion.

## Suffolk clinches top spots on national ranking list for second year

From RANK page 1 according to a university spokesperson. For the 2017 list, Suffolk topped the region with 22 percent international students among undergraduate enrollment. For the 2018 list, Suffolk fell one percent in the number of international students, which dropped the university to seventh place.

Boston University ranked fifth in this same category and Northeastern University ranked behind Suffolk in tenth place. Emerson College did not rank on the “Best National Universities” list nor the “Most International Students” list, according to the magazine’s website. Emerson, however, did place on the Northeastern regional list, a list that Suffolk used to rank on before being considered

for the “Best National Universities” list.

“It’s our incredible diversity that sets Suffolk apart, and it’s great to see so many international students choosing Suffolk as a place to share their amazing experiences and learn from those around them,” said junior Vice President of the International Student Association, Charles Tang, an international student from Guangzhou, China to a Journal reporter on Sunday night.

Alongside a large international student population and offering undergraduate and advanced degree programs in more than 60 areas of study, Suffolk is said to have ranked due to smaller class sizes compared to other schools. Forty-eight percent of classes that were offered last year had fewer than 20

students and .2 percent of classes offered had less than 50 students per class, according to a press release by Suffolk’s Office of Public Affairs.

“The latest U.S. News rankings recognize the excellence of a Suffolk education and the strength of our academic programs,” said Acting President Marisa Kelly in a press release.

Suffolk recently partnered with INTO University Partnerships, an independent organization that recruits and expands higher education opportunities to students across the globe. Acting Provost Sebastian Royo, who has been a key player in bringing INTO onto Suffolk’s campus, hopes that INTO’s efforts will eventually enhance the university’s rankings that are based on international student populations and creating a diverse

Year*	Percentage of Enrollment*	Ranking*
2018	22	7
2017	23	5

\*Year listed from the U.S. News and World Report

\*According to the Institutional Research & Assessment Office

\*In the magazine’s “Most International Students” list

Alexa Gagosz/ Editor-in-Chief

campus.

“The numbers have been going down for the last couple years which is consistent with the national trend,” said Royo in an interview on Monday. “Some of it has to do with what is happening in their

countries of origin. It’s harder for families to fund the immigration of students abroad. The hope is that with the partnership with into, we can not only stabilize the numbers, but grow.”

“They have an outreach that we don’t

have,” said Royo.

Suffolk also ranked in the High School Counselor and Business Programs list by the magazine for 2018.

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## New pathway opens for international students

From *INTO* page 1

respond to vast and growing international demand for global higher education," University Spokesman Greg Gatlin stated in a press release.

A six-person board of directors will preside over the newly formed limited liability company. The board is made up of three representatives chosen by INTO and three representatives from Suffolk chosen by Acting President Marisa Kelly. Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration and Treasurer Laura Sander, Acting Provost Sebastian Royo and Chief Marketing Officer Dan Esdale were chosen by Kelly to govern INTO Suffolk, LLC, on the university's behalf.

Members of the Board will oversee decisions made by the company, but in the case of a stalemate

between board members, an agreement was made that all academic and admissions decisions will ultimately be decided by Suffolk's board members, while marketing and recruitment decisions will be decided by INTO if the governing board cannot reach a consensus on pertaining issues.

The University signed a 15-year contract with INTO with the option to extend the agreement for an

additional 15 years, Acting President Marisa Kelly said during an interview in August.

"I think that the goal is to meet the target and make sure not only that it benefits us for 15 years, but to extend it another 15 years," said Acting Provost Sebastian Royo, who will be overseeing the academic aspects of the INTO partnership.

"It's hard to imagine, the record that they have

so far has been quite spectacular," said Royo. "[INTO is] really excited about the fact that they are in Boston. They really think they can bring students to Suffolk and Boston.

"I see us building on our already strong commitment to international education," said Kelly. "The fact that students from Chelsea, Braintree and California sit in class with students from around the world is one of the ways in which we can ensure they are ready for the diversity in the world they live in. Fifteen years from now, we will build on that and have an even richer international institution."

According to the release, INTO Suffolk, LLC, will extend Suffolk's global recruitment potential by giving the university access to INTO's network of recruitment staff in

more than 75 countries worldwide.

The new entity's expenses will be covered completely by the inaugural class of INTO Suffolk, LLC, students, the first of which will arrive on Suffolk's campus this spring. After the expenses of the new venture are covered, the financial profits of the third entity company will be equally shared by the university and INTO, according to Kelly.

"Rather than seeing this as a relationship with a vendor, this is really about a not-for-profit entity, Suffolk University, coming together with a separate corporate entity, INTO, and creating a third organization that will support the educational needs of international students who need additional educational training around the English language," Kelly said.

Pathway courses will be taught by Suffolk faculty to students brought to the University by INTO Suffolk, LLC, to help them better their English language skills and prepare them for university-level study. An academic English pathway course will be taught to students that need to ready their language skills for Suffolk's degree programs, while Undergraduate and Graduate Pathway programs will develop student's English skills while they work toward their respective degrees.

"INTO shares our deep commitment to strong academic programs — Pathway programs that prepare international students for the rigors of a Suffolk education and increase the prospect of educational success as students move through them," Kelly stated in the release.

Suffolk University is the tenth American university to partner with INTO and the first in New England-area school to do so. Other universities that have partnerships with INTO include George Mason, Oregon State, Washington State, Colorado State University and Saint Louis University.

"They are going to help us diversify the international students so we have more from different countries," Royo said. "But at the same time, the students will be better prepared. Through the pathway programs, not only will they improve their English skills, but they will be better prepared for regular classes."

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## Students flock to Suffolk from all corners of the globe

**Ryan Arel**  
Journal Contributor

Every year, a new class of students flock to Boston from around the globe to take their first steps in college; for some students, their first steps ever on U.S. soil.

Approximately 153 international freshman and 58 international transfer students will start at Suffolk University this year, according to current Director of International Admission Rafael Muroy in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Last year 1,431 international students attended Suffolk according to Suffolk University's website; 23 percent of all undergraduate students on Boston and Madrid Suffolk campuses were international students. The top countries where international students came from this year are Vietnam, China, Venezuela and Saudi Arabia, according to Muroy.

Suffolk's international student population usually lies between 18 and 24 percent in the

past two years, while the national average is around 9 to 12 percent, according to Muroy. Suffolk's international student percentage ranked No. 7 in the nation last year, and ranked No. 5 the year before. Suffolk always thrives for a diverse community.

"I think it's part of our mission, I mean, we've always been a school that considers itself an international university. We strongly believe that we want to bring in a diverse perspective," said Muroy. "We can't rely on just recruiting students from Massachusetts or just the surrounding area."

Suffolk's student body consists of many nationalities in and of itself; in 2016, there were 71 countries represented in Suffolk's student population.

There are a lot of challenges that international students must face upon their arrival, such as distinctions in cultural norms, language barriers and navigating a brand new place, although, some international students arrive speaking

more than one language.

"Some of them come with good English language abilities, but they haven't been used to doing everything in English," said Muroy. "Getting probably used to the American style of teaching is something they have to adjust to."

Homesickness is also a problem international

**"We've always been a school that considers itself an international university. We strongly believe that we want to bring in a diverse perspective."**

**- Director of International Admission Rafael Muroy**

students face, being much further away from home than American students are.

"You're talking a homesickness factor that is tough to encounter because home is not even like an hour plane ride away," said Muroy.

American students grow up interacting with one another differently than international students do in their

respective countries. Some international students say the social dynamic of America is entirely different from what they are used to.

"Some things I felt that were normal is not here," said Ruya Caglar, a freshman who grew up in Turkey. She has visited the U.S. before coming to Suffolk and she has

in jail last year because he had the smallest comment about the [Erdo an] regime."

Other students feel as Boston, and its people, speak more freely. "People are very blunt; they're very open, and very expressive about what they think," said Jeremiah Fernandes, a sophomore Media and Film major studying abroad from the U.K. He has never lived in the United States before attending Suffolk. Prior to coming to the U.S., Fernandes studied at the University of Westminster in the U.K., where he found the people he encountered were "very reserved."

Students who come from vastly different living situations often have a more intense adjustment to city life and the different types of people in America, in addition to the social culture of the United States. The switch from living in other countries, and moving to the United States, can instill culture shock.

Mario Lombardi is from Peru, but lived in Miami before moving to Boston. He is a freshman

studying Business at Suffolk.

"The US is much more diverse in culture, whereas Peru is majority Peruvians," said Lombardi in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Though Suffolk is open to students on an international scale, prejudice is still an issue. "The school is very open and understanding, but they can't control everyone else's ideas," said Caglar.

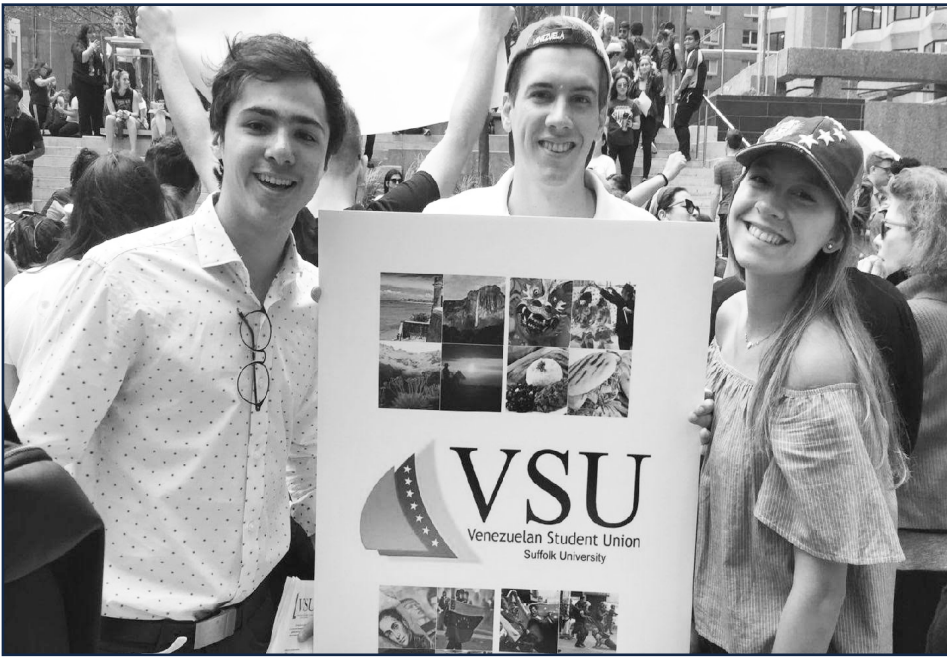
International students, along with many other freshman undergraduates, could agree that making the move to Suffolk introduces the struggles of living on their own for the first time. Whether it's in dorms or off-campus living, the adjustment for international students, and domestic students alike, helps them become more independent as people as well as students.

"I have more freedom, responsibilities, and challenges to face by myself," said Lombardi.

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# Students send aid home

## VSU hopes to continue charity drive for their home country



Courtesy of Daniel Gazzani

### Elvira Mora Journal Staff

The hopeful cries and yells for peace have subsided in the wake of an offer for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to engage in a dialogue with those who oppose him. The Maduro regime has denied the Venezuelan people their most fundamental rights by restricting food and medicine.

A project launched last semester by the Venezuelan Student Union (VSU) partnered with "Acción x Causa" donated more than 320 pounds of over-the-counter medication and medical supplies. The supplies donated by the VSU have been distributed to more than eighty-two religious organizations in Venezuela.

Student Government Association President Daniel Gazzani is also an active member of the VSU. Gazzani has helped connect the VSU to representatives that have raised awareness of the events unfolding in Venezuela.

Ricardo Hausmann is a professor of the Practice of Economic Development at Harvard University and the current Director of the Center for International Development.

According to Gazzani, Professor Hausmann will be speaking on awareness and what is happening currently in Venezuela.

"His wife, Ana Julia Jatar, a human rights activist, will be speaking about how she is fighting for her brother who was unjustly imprisoned," said Gazzani in an interview in The Suffolk Journal.

Gazzani spoke in praise of the VSU's and hopes the club can continue its charitable actions

Alexandra Aparicio, vice president of VSU and advertising major, said she has enjoyed being part of the EBoard and hopes she can continue helping the VSU, which has represented Venezuelan pride and has given her country a voice from abroad.

"The VSU also stands for being a glimpse of hope and to provide help toward the people suffering the current humanitarian crisis," said Aparicio. "The VSU is well represented in the university even though we just started last semester. Anyone who is interested in our message is more than welcome to join."

According to a Venezuelan newspaper, "El Universal," President Maduro said there have been at least a hundred meetings with both pro and anti government groups, which began in 2016. Maduro agreed to meet with the opposition on Sept. 27 when six countries: Chile, Mexico, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic

will become a part of the discussion to form an agreement.

"Acción x Causa" has partnered with numerous universities around Boston such as Suffolk University, Boston University, Northeastern University, Bentley University, Emerson College, and Wentworth University, according to the official website.

"We sent it to an organization (Ayuda Humanitaria para Venezuela) who is in charge of distributing it to the provinces that need it the most in the Venezuelan territory. We know that our supplies have been successfully given to families and organizations throughout the territory," said Aparicio.

The VSU hopes to launch the same project again this semester, as well as introduce new objectives and deliver different goods, such as starting a toy drive during the holiday season, according to Aparicio.

"I would like for the VSU to partner with Accion x Causa again. The organization is growing in the greater Boston area, therefore, people can relate our club at Suffolk to what Acción x Causa does on a greater scale," said Aparicio.

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# Professors respond to the marginalization of Myanmar Rohingya

## Katherine Yearwood Journal Staff

Desperate to escape, more than 410,000 Rohingyas have fled violence from Myanmar security forces in Rakhine. Of the extraordinary amount of refugees, 60 percent are children, according to the United Nations.

As a minority, the Rohingyas have become marginalized, so they do not have the access to the overall opportunities that the majority has, according to Suffolk University History Professor and Director of the Rosenberg Institute of East Asian Studies, Ronald Suleski.

Human rights groups have reported instances of Myanmar security forces, as well as Buddhist vigilante mobs, shooting Rohingya non-combatants as they fled their villages. More than 1000 Rohingyas have been reportedly torched during the conflict.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas have been displaced and many others have been killed either by natural elements or by members of Myanmar's military while fleeing the systematic assault. Many of those who were lucky enough to escape are currently camping in refugee camps in India or Bangladesh.

"In the case of the Muslims, the Rohingyas, were always discriminated against," said Suleski.

The vast majority of Rohingyas, a stateless Indo-Aryan people, reside in Rakhine, one of the country's poorest states, according to Al Jazeera.

"Because of that, they became a poor community, so they don't have the people who run the big businesses, the big schools, have the big money, or the big influence," said Suleski.

The Rohingyas are a stateless minority living in a Buddhist majority country. The Rohingyas account for approximately five percent of the roughly 60,000,000 Myanmar population, according to the Middle East Institute.

The Myanmar government has reported

that "176 out of 471, or 37.4 percent of all Rohingya villages are now empty of people," according to CNN.

"The other big problem with this particular situation is that [State Counselor] Aung San Suu Kyi is running the government, but the military has the real power, it has the military and the police power," said Suleski.

In 1989, Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest, for "trying to divide the military." Subsequently, in 1991 she became the receiver of the Nobel Peace Prize for her passivist approach to instilling democracy and civil rights into Myanmar. Suu Kyi later became Myanmar's state counsellor in 2016, according to CNN.

"So, she's in a very bad position of probably personally not liking this at all, but is afraid to speak out because she was under house arrest for so many years," said Suleski.

disproportionate and has involved the burning of villages, according to Suffolk University adjunct Philosophy Professor Brian Kiniry.

"So [the violence is] completely illegal from an international legal perspective and even by local burmese law," said Kiniry in an interview with a Journal reporter.

The attacks the Myanmar military have brought on the entire Rohingya community and not just the militants is utterly unlawful, according to Kiniry.

While the violence against the Rohingyas has become inflamed, these events are hardly random, for there is a long history of violence against the Rohingya community. Despite having lived there for centuries, the Myanmar government hardly acknowledges the Rohingyas. Myanmar does not identify the Rohingyas as citizens, but rather as immigrants from Bangladesh. Furthermore,

**"So [the violence is] completely illegal from an international legal perspective and even by local Burmese law,"**

**- Professor Brian Kiniry**

"If she starts coming out and pushing against the military they'll find a reason to arrest her or who knows what they'll do."

The recent catastrophic events were in response to a "clearance operation" by the Burmese army in late August, according to The Guardian. This particular act of targeted violence had been issued as retaliation against the Muslim group after, "an insurgent Rohingya group attacked police outposts in Burma's Rakhine state, and killed 12 security personnel," according to The Independent.

While the Burmese military have a right to respond to the attacks that they have received, their response has been overwhelmingly

in 2014 the country's census did not recognize the Rohingyas and forced them to identify as Bengali, according to the New York Times.

From 1842 until 1948, Britain ruled over today's India and Bangladesh and Myanmar was considered a providence of India. However, when England's control came to an end, Myanmar, India, and Bangladesh each formed their own government. The Rohingyas are considered illegal immigrants because many people traveled to today's Myanmar during British rule, according to Al Jazeera.

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Katie Hehl / Journal Contributor

Tapestries blew in the wind on the north side of Boston Common, staples of the Freedom Rally due to their vibrancy and variance in color. Thousands gathered on the greens of the open space, served as appreciative and dedicated patrons of the art and talent displayed by the vendors at this year's "Hempfest."

# HEMPFEST 2017

Vendors, performers and speakers alike congregated once again at the Freedom Rally to discuss the legalization and recreational use of marijuana.



Haley Clegg / Photo Editor

**Kaitlin Hahn**  
Copy Editor

**Nick Viveiros**  
Journal Staff

Thousands flocked to the grassy knolls of the Boston Common this past weekend for the 38th annual Boston Freedom Rally, the second largest gathering of cannabis enthusiasts and activists in the world, behind Seattle's Hempfest. Patrons of the Rally came prepared for a weekend full of art and celebration, one in particular went so

far as to dress as a fully fledged bud of marijuana. The yearly event has been organized by the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition (MassCANN), a state affiliate of the national marijuana activism group, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). Colloquially known as Hempfest, the rally began in Northampton in 1989, before it moved to the Commons in 1992, where it has been held every third weekend in September since. While inexperienced

participants likely did not notice the difference, this year's Hempfest certainly arrived with an extra air of hype; it was the first rally following the legalization of recreational marijuana use in the Commonwealth last November.

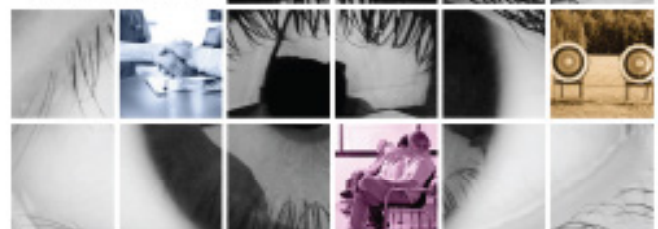
This year's Rally featured two stages, both of which were nearly always crowded with people watching speakers, live acts and live DJs. Those who congregated by the Charles Street Stage on Saturday were treated to such acts as Mendo Dope, a Californian hip-hop group with electronic influences and Over the Bridge, an upbeat reggae band from Gloucester, Mass.

Over the Bridge, hailing from the North Shore, represented themselves well on their home turf, playing songs that matched the festival's easy-going and relaxed mood. Songs such as, "Wash" and "Something in the Water" proved to match the feeling of the crowd with their upbeat attitude

See *HEMPFEST* page 8



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# Boston Freedom rally returns after the 2016 legalization of marijuana

From *HEMPFEST* page 7

and overall positive vibe. Over the Bridges' songs are representative of the feeling of summer, and with the season's ending quickly approaching and Fall upon us, the crowd and the band seemed to display a similar feeling of disappointment when the end of the set neared.

Compared to Mendo Dope, with a sound similar to that of two high school boys attempting to freestyle in the basement of a house party, with the parents patiently waiting upstairs for everyone's grownups to pick them up at 10 p.m., gave a seemingly never-ending 45-minute set that can only be described as an absolute disgrace. With tracks like "Now I'm High," and "Down to the Roach," the band



Haley Clegg / Photo Editor

should probably stick to a "weed-to-know" basis and perhaps consider switching to parodic performances.

For those who came with money on hand,

a surreal bazaar was constructed with vendors and perhaps consider selling a cornucopia of products. Boston Smoke Shop, a local favorite, advertised alluring deals to potential customers

from their pop-up shop by the baseball fields. Just north of the Parkman Band Stand on Flag Staff Hill, a row of psychedelic tapestries fluttered in the wind.

Hempfest can also serve as a reminder that archaic stereotypes about smokers are just that. Much of what attendees consider typical would have many questioning whether or not they'd gotten a contact high. Businessmen in suits paused to inspect video-game themed bong; parents could be seen entering the park with a child in tow; families looked on curiously as they took a stroll through the Common, some oblivious to the nature of the event altogether.

Not everyone was riding the high this weekend, however. Question 4, the ballot measure that legalized recreational marijuana use was opposed by many local politicians, including Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. Walsh came under fire from organizers of the Freedom Rally last

year after attempting to revoke an already-granted permit, claiming vendors approved by rally organizers were unlicensed, according to the Boston Herald. A Massachusetts Superior Court judge sided with organizers in issuing an emergency order allowing the 2016 rally to go on as planned.

As the weekend drew to a close, the haze dissipated from between the trees, the crowd thinned and the Commons returned to its normal traffic state, patiently awaiting the return of another gathering of celebration and art.

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## Rap artist Chico Williams staking his claim in the Boston rap community

**John Irizarry**  
Journal Staff

Considering that the rap genre originated on the East Coast, songs from cities like New York and Boston can be considered as some of the purest forms of rap music. Rapping began as a way to entertain at block parties in the Bronx because urban youth had very few outlets to express creativity. Since then, the rap genre has evolved overtime and has taken on many forms in many areas.

However, there has been a sudden emergence of hype in the Boston rap community. Most notable artists like Cousin Stizz and Rosewood Bape have put the city on the map with their own brand of clean spitting and gritty street style. Rappers like Stizz and Joyner Lucas focus on tough subjects like poverty, drugs and crime. They express their relationship to such dark topics in their unapologetic and sometimes violent lyrics. These vulgar, yet popular themes are further explored through their accompanying music videos.

Cousin Stizz's "Bonds" follows a series of drug deals; some that go well and some that do not. Joyner Lucas's "Keep it 100" actually follows a

\$100 bill as it circulates through a seedy maze of drug dealers, strippers and the like. But along comes a lyrically aggressive, yet phlegmatic rapper by the name of Chico Williams. Williams' style consists of brazen self-confidence that's perpetually unfazed, and tells the story of an urban musician who will not settle for mediocrity. This attitude is best seen in the hard hitting "King without a crown" or in the funky, head bumper "Finer Things." Aside from his confident disposition, Williams' consistently fluctuating flow, well-fitting use of distorted ad-libs and occasional nostalgic samples are what makes his music so unique.

**When a rapper can travel between styles, it's a promising sign of versatility.**

When all tied together with those qualities, you have masterpieces like "Daisy in Disguise" and "Capt. Plan-IT." While "Daisy in Disguise" focuses on a relationship

and "Capt. Plan-IT" outlines Williams' "make-it or break-it" mentality, both songs reflect the rapper's admirable level of self-awareness.

Williams' musical diversity is evident in his ability to cross the line between new and old school with ease. Many rappers today either try to bring back old school vibes or go for a new school style that makes use of video-game-sounding beats and smooth, direct vocals. When a rapper can travel between styles, it's a promising sign of versatility. The best rappers experiment with different styles and attempt to grow from beyond their original material.

Judging by his music, Williams does not have a problem with change, especially in terms of sound and content.

"Music in my opinion is ever changing," said Williams in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal. "It's like a river, it goes in many directions, as does life I believe the biggest change in my music is how methodically I've become with everything...the content is always going to change based on what's going on in your life."

Williams echoes a sound similar to his Boston rap brethren in terms of flow, instrumental and overall lyrical approach in songs



By Facebook user Chico Williams

like "Stadium Status" and "Voodoo." However, "Distance" combines a 90's boom-bap sound reminiscent of Talib Kweli, while retaining a fairly modern chorus. "Distance" also makes use of the rapper's ability to switch between flows from moderate to fast without warning. While one measure of a rapper's talent is the speed of their flow, it is refreshing it to hear an artist exercise some lyrical rebellion and switch it up.

Williams acknowledged that he drew on other Boston rappers for inspiration, "I support all Boston rappers. I may sound like some of them but

I'm not trying to sound like them." Originality is certainly not lacking in Williams but, although he does not actively go for the same style as Cousin Stizz and Joyner Lucas, having a particular sound and identity to match a geographical area reflects the very essence of rap music.

East coast rap harnesses the power of jazz beats bouncing to the rhythm of Timberland boots stomping around a concrete jungle. West coast rap can be described as a high pitched synthesizer whistling through palm trees and Doc Martin's as they hang from power lines by a tattered shoelace.

However, Williams' defiance of traditional east coast rap customs provides a glimmer of hope in the world of rap. Artists making decisions for themselves to keep them as artists and not puppets for a label. And while repetition is nice because the consumer knows what they are getting, it does not give the genre a chance to grow.

Williams' musical method also incorporates his uplifting, singing voice that compliments every hook it comes in contact with. In many of his tracks, Williams makes use of his vocal abilities to cool down the song after his lyrics heat it up. "King without a castle" makes use of hard bars and uncompromisingly relentless lyrics. But when Williams sings "what's a king without a castle / what's a king without a crown / what's a king without a throne / just another man whose down," it signals the release of pressure the his lyrics built up through content and sound. Each one of Williams raps share a common message: it's either now or never. For the sake of the potential legacy Boston can leave behind in the world of rap, let's pray for now.

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# Extremists on the political spectrum

## Supporting Antifa emboldens the alt-right

**Stiv Mucollari**  
Journal Contributor

The recognition gained from the "Unite the Right" rally has seen the left-leaning political group, Antifa, gain increasing support from the mainstream left. However, the implied approval of Antifa by the left is harmful towards the greater cause of fighting white nationalism. The group styles itself after various Anti-fascist Action groups that sprung up in the 1930s. These groups were a failed attempt to unite the left.

Due to the confrontational approach of Antifa toward members of the white nationalist movement, self-described as the "alt-right," the

left is tacitly embracing Antifa.

The primary issue with supporting Antifa is that the confrontational approach of the group has gone beyond peaceful means. It relies on violence to shut down rallies and opposes views that are the opposite of their ideological leaning. In Berkeley, Calif., a city long known for stifling the free speech right of conservatives, Antifa had turned a peaceful counter demonstration into a violent encounter.

The Los Angeles Times covered an encounter where anti-fascist protesters beat Trump supporters and organizers. While some of the organizers of the anti-Marxist rally had views that would classify them as being members of the

"alt-right," not all of them espoused views of hate. One of the attendees who was heckled during the Berkeley protest was a Latino man holding a pro-Trump sign, according to an Aug. 27 report by CBS. Members of Antifa heckled the man, who was born in Mexico.

Most importantly, the violent actions of Antifa in Berkeley changed the narrative of the counter-protesters from groups dedicated to drowning out hate, into an event focused on the actions of the vigilantes. In turn, this allows the "alt-right" to use the event as a recruitment tool. Instead of having the violent actions of the "alt-right" appear out of the norm, the violent response to them by Antifa legitimizes political violence as

a tactic to be used by groups against other groups who do not share the same political beliefs. The U.S. had its history of political violence before, such as the Civil Rights Movement or during the Vietnam War, but American history shows that there are other ways to combat hateful views in American society.

Think of it this way: how successful would Martin Luther King and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP] had been if they had relied on violence, instead using the judicial system of the U.S., and non-violent actions of civil disobedience, to dismantle the system of segregation in the American South? Instead of succeeding, the political

culture in the U.S. would not have shifted in the 1960s toward supporting measures such as the Civil Rights Act or the Voting Rights Act.

There are countless means to oppose the "alt-right" while also condemning the actions of Antifa. Organizations that fight hate groups, such as the Southern Poverty Law Center, are the types of groups that should be supported by individuals. While respecting the right to assemble, no matter how hateful the groups can be, individuals can make it harder for the "alt-right" to organize a rally. For example, Airbnb deleted the accounts of members who the company believed were looking for lodgings in order to attend the "Unite the Right" rally.

Following the "Unite the Right" rally, attendees of the event were exposed on social media, which led to some of them being fired from their jobs. If members of the "alt-right" injure counter demonstrators, they should retaliate not with violence, but through the civil justice system.

Making it economically and socially unfeasible to attend "alt-right" rallies without consequences is more effective in combating them than engaging in violence. Backlash to the "alt-right" should not be met with violence from groups on the left. Hate should be met with reason.

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# Athletics has the opportunity to increase pride

**Halaina Leblanc**  
Journal Staff

Suffolk University is seated within the spirited city of Boston, but even surrounded by the city's morale, it seems that the Suffolk's pride has been lost.

The dearth of pride within the general population of Suffolk can be in its lack of a defined campus. Students do not feel like they are on a college campus, they see themselves as being a part of the city of Boston. This causes students to pick city events over Suffolk events like ice-skating on the Frog Pond, instead of going to a Student Affairs event.

Since Suffolk has an unbound campus, the sports team's facilities are scattered across the

city. This can explain why many students choose not to attend the different sporting events barring those that take place in Ridgeway.

Even new students who want to rally and attend a sports event may not feel comfortable yet using the T, or the silver line to reach these different fields.

If Suffolk were to set up group meet-ups in the dorms or academic buildings, students who don't know where they are going, or are uncomfortable going by themselves could get to the games more readily. It could even be as easy as making the locations and directions to get to the sports games more accessible to students.

This accessibility could also be helped if the University set up a shuttle system to get students to

and from the games.

A shuttle system could also be used as a way for Suffolk to start a transportation system for surrounding areas if students do not want to take the T.

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**"The dearth of pride within the general population of Suffolk can be in its lack of a defined campus."**

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If the university offered the shuttle service for free, students could start commuting with other students and a community can be established, all while creating a low cost for students.

Commuter students struggle in a different way to make a connection with Suffolk. An extremely

large part of the Suffolk community commutes from home, and this means they are only on campus certain days or hours throughout the week, so they are limited in what they can take part

in and join, especially if they commute from more than an hour away. These students may want to go to games, and attend performing arts shows, and even want to join clubs on campus, but they are not available when these events happen.

There are ways to take part in Suffolk events

from afar by watching the Snapchat story, seeing Instagram posts and even emailing the groups about being interested in joining. The problem is, these substitutions don't create the connection face-to-face meetings can establish. To form a sense of community at Suffolk, a student needs to spend time at the university and for commuter students, through no fault of their own, don't spend this time on campus.

Suffolk could improve this by live streaming events on their social media accounts so students who cannot make it can gain an insight of what it's like to be involved. By doing this, Suffolk would also be increasing its social media presence, which is beneficial for the university's message and students alike.

The university could also improve commuter students experience by building more dorms in the area that are at a lower price.

In this way, Suffolk could see an influx of students wanting to spend the extra money to live on campus when they otherwise would live from home. The discounted price would only be available for commuter students that live within an hour of the campus.

Again, this would be a good way for Suffolk to create a sense of community.

The only way Suffolk pride in the student population is going to rise is if Suffolk starts putting more effort in establish it.

---

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## EDITOR'S WORD

*Hello to all new and returning Suffolk students. While we are all as unique and special as our mothers told us we were, we all have one thing in common. We chose to come to Suffolk University: one of the best universities in one of the most educated cities in America. This was a conscious choice that we all made. Now it's time to own it.*

*By choosing to come here we all decided to make ourselves better through education. This is a two-way street, meaning we have an obligation to take it upon ourselves to improve upon the people we were when we arrived. It isn't just the responsibility of the professors to learn for us. They can't pipe steaming, hot knowledge right into our heads-- although most would if they could. We must take advantage of the resources and city around us to mold ourselves into the future agents of change this country needs.*

*Sure, it's easy to zone out to Netflix once our basic classroom responsibilities are fulfilled, instead of learning something new. Sure, it's easy to ask mom or dad for money instead of taking a low-paying internship. But, that's not the point.*

*There are millions of students stuck in colleges in the middle of nowhere without the opportunities we have. Take advantage of them or resign yourself to mediocrity.*

*The choice is your's, but it won't be a choice forever.*

*-The Journal's Editorial Staff*

# Student safety abroad should raise concerns

**Patrick Holmes**  
Opinion Editor

It's time to start rethinking how we view Europe as a trendy travel destination. Due to the many terrorist attacks and acts of terror, it's imperative to be wary when planning vacations, especially for students studying abroad.

On Sunday, four Boston College students were subject to hydrochloric acid being sprayed in their faces at a train station in France., according to BBC. Although not categorized as a terrorist act, it was committed by a local woman with the intent to harm others. Due to the victims status as students at another Boston school, this hits close to home and allows the mind to wander about how this could happen to anyone, any student studying abroad from any university.

The United States' Department of State has issued a travel alert that will be in effect until Nov. 30.

From the multiple attacks in London to the most recent in France, it is obvious that travellers should be more alert in foreign continents.

Many students studying abroad travel on the weekends to multiple destinations across Europe, leaving them vulnerable to random terror attacks, which can happen in known tourist destinations, major transportation hubs and shopping malls.

Suffolk University prides itself on having a second campus in Madrid.

Can Suffolk do more to ensure their safety, even off campus?

It is easy to be distracted by the cultural differences and the curiosity that accompanies travelling abroad, but this is no excuse to let one's guard down when someone is in an unfamiliar place, especially a different country. More often than not, people who appear to be tourists are targeted.

Suffolk has policies in place to keep its Madrid Campus students safe, but that can only go so far if students decide to travel often across Europe.

These policies can

protect students in Madrid, leaving the students to their own discretion on how to protect themselves in other cities and countries.

It's imperative that our university continues to keep its students safe and also teaches them to cautiously travel abroad. Moreover, it's important that students take into consideration their mortality when experiencing these other cultures they so desperately want to be a part of.

The effected Boston College students were at a train station when a random act of terror reared its evil head in their direction, meaning that at any moment, acts such as these can happen to anyone.

Now more than ever, it is mandatory to be aware of one's surroundings.

There are limited resources to control these terror attacks, so one needs to be attentive and alert.

London has been subject to too many terror attacks in the last few months, and is a popular destination for students to go abroad and study.

Students should pick and choose where they should travel to based on the safeness of the destination.

Can cities across Europe create safer environments to prevent these kinds of attacks? Many areas in London have begun putting up cement barricades but those can only do so much. It seems that there is no right way to stop or end these acts, laeving the public to take action to protect themselves.

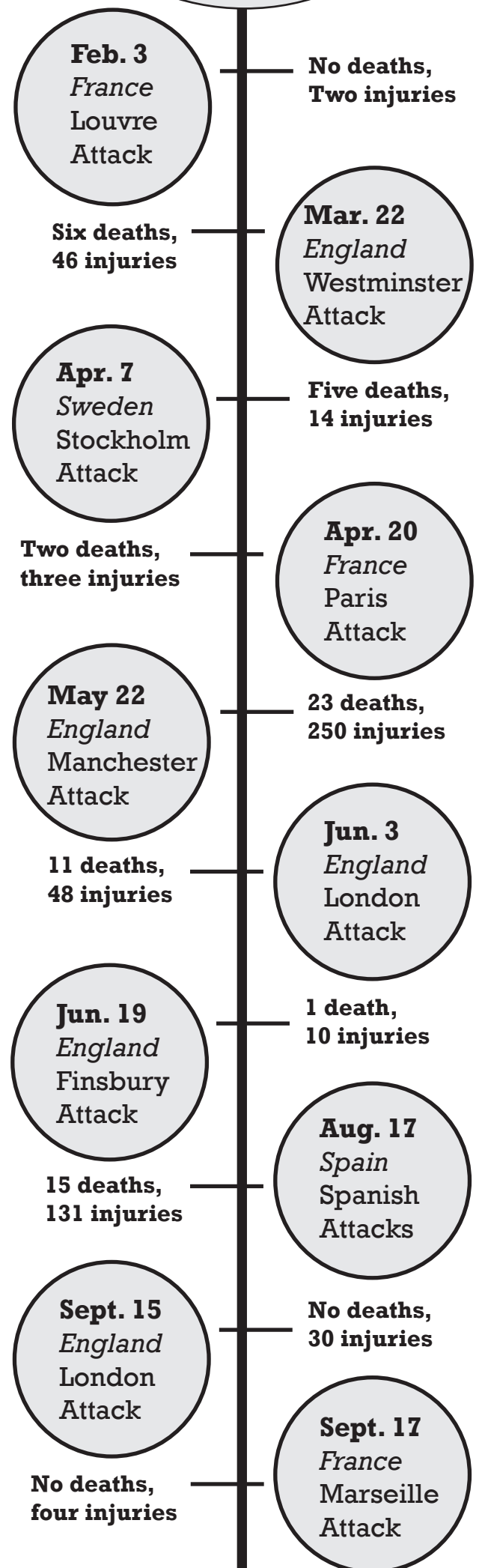
Unfortunately, it seems that Europe is becoming increasingly unsafe and no matter how hard they try to prevent these attacks, there is only so much they can do. It is now up to the general public to take care of themselves more and to attempt to stop these attacks.

So, for students at all universities, it is wise to think twice before one chooses study abroad.

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## Year in Review:

Below are all the terrorist attacks and acts of terror that have occurred in Europe this year so far. Half of these acts have occurred in England, with others spreading throughout Eastern Europe.





Courtesy of International Basketball Federation

# Hagopian defends for Armenia

**Clevis Murray**  
Journal Staff

Offseason for athletes is about practicing more, playing more and becoming more talented in their respective sport. As for Michael Hagopian, a guard for Suffolk University Men's basketball, he spent part of his summer as a member of the Under-20 Armenian National Team in Greece throughout July.

This rare opportunity had been in the works since his freshman year, said Hagopian, as the Basketball Federation of Armenia kept tabs on him throughout his college career.

An invite was sent to him in the middle of his sophomore year, as he ended the season for the Rams, averaging 22.5 points in their final eight games.

"I got a lot of experience from playing overseas," said Hagopian in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal. "I learned a lot about my game and how to improve my weaknesses. I was able to start every game

for Armenia so I really had a good experience."

The 6-foot-1, 170-pound Hagopian had a breakout sophomore season for the Rams in the 2016-17 season, with career-highs in points at 14.3, 12.2 shot-attempts, a free-throw percentage of 84.7 and field-goal percentage of 42.3. Additionally, he became the first Ram to record back-to-back 30-point games in over a decade.

"I started to play really well, the best basketball I've played, and they thought I could really help the team," said Hagopian.

He explained that this was a possibility he just could not turn down as he would be able to visit his home country, have everything paid for and play that sport that he loves.

In the six-game period with Armenia, in which they went 3-3 in the nine-day period, Hagopian averaged 8.5 points, 3.8 rebounds and 2.3 assists in 29.2 minutes per game. He said that as he played against competition from outside of the United States and saw playstyles from other parts of the world, his knowledge of the sport expanded.

Hagopian's Under-20 head coach, Vicken Eskidjian, saw the potential and talent in Hagopian, which led Eskidjian to trust Hagopian as the point guard position for the team. The two only had a brief time to prepare for the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Under-20 European Championships.

"He has the scoring mentality, and he defends too," said Eskidjian in an interview with The Journal. "Even when he wasn't on the floor, I knew he would make the right decision. For me, it's not just about the scoring. He reads the game and I gave him the green light to make more attempts."

Eskidjian was a big proponent of Hagopian's athleticism, defensive ability, physicality and shot-making ability. He explained what stood out from the guard and Watertown, Mass. native, in comparison to other guards on the national team, was "him being wiser."

Eskidjian said that Hagopian showed tremendous temperament and a positive attitude that stood out as he faced the other European

players.

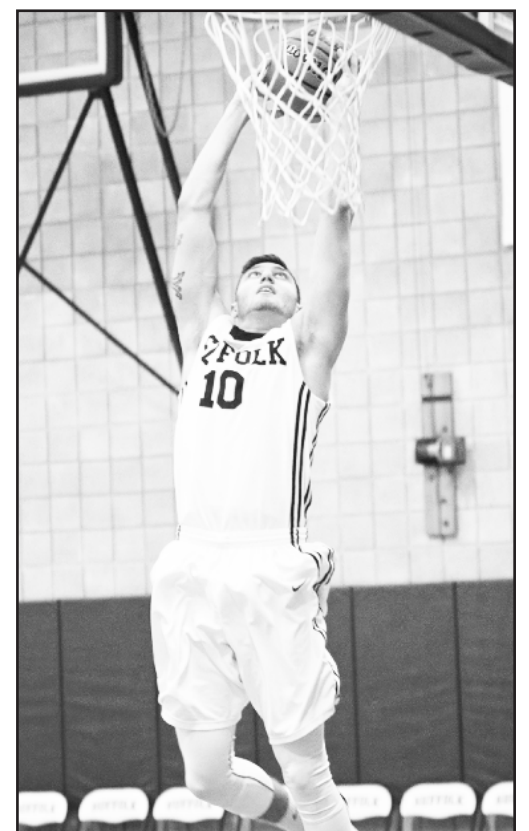
If the opportunity presented itself, the idea of playing international basketball at the professional level had entered the head of Hagopian.

"I feel like I learned a lot about international basketball," said Hagopian. "If I ever have the opportunity to play professionally overseas, I feel like I got a little taste of that playing for the national team. The style of play is different."

With two years left of wearing jersey number 10, Hagopian said he is zoned in on improving as a player and helping the Suffolk basketball program evolve, with its plethora of underclassman. Also, he is 463 points away from reaching the 1,000 point plateau, a milestone last reached at Suffolk by Caleb Unni '16 in 2016.

"I hope to bring the same mentality as representing my country to Suffolk, and wanting to make a name for Suffolk basketball," said Hagopian.

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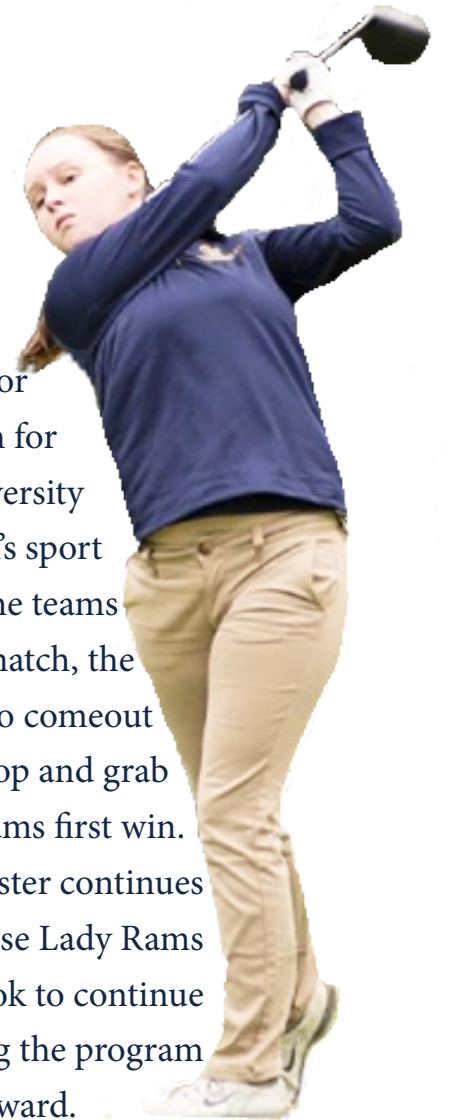
Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

**"I learned a lot  
about my game  
and how to improve  
my weaknesses."**

**- Michael Hagopian, #10**

## Lady Rams on par for season success

The second season women's golf team had a major break through for the first time in Suffolk University women's sport history. In the teams first-ever home match, the blue-and-gold were able to come out on top and grab the programs first win. As the roster continues to grow, these Lady Rams look to continue driving the program forward.



**Joe Rice**  
Journal Staff

With a complete roster of six girls, five being underclassmen, Suffolk University Women's golf team started out their fall season strong, with many accomplishments already in the books. The Lady Rams have succeeded in many program "firsts" so far in their 2017 season.

Recently, the Lady Rams won their first competition of the fall season and also collected the first win for the program with a 371-354 victory over Rhode Island College (RIC) at the Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton, Mass.

The women's golf team competed in its first two-day competition at the William Smith Invitational hosted by William & Smith at

Clifton Springs Country Club on Saturday, where the Lady Rams managed to place seventh overall out of 11 teams.

Although the Lady Rams have accomplished many wins for the team this season, it was not easy.

"The moment we found out that we won, it was a great feeling and one that will drive us toward success for the rest of the season," said junior, sports marketing major, Mackenzie McGrath in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal. "To achieve the first win of a program is a great feat and I'm definitely looking forward to the rest of the season."

Aine Dillon, a sophomore legal studies major and long-time golfer, explained to The Journal that the path to their first victory required a lot of time and patience as a result of not

having enough golfers to compete for triumph.

"Last year, we only had one other girl and myself, so it was physically impossible to win given the sheer number of people," said Dillon.

The team started off small, however after a year of gathering personnel, the team has gained enough Lady Rams to compete for a chance to win tournaments.

Dillon also explained to The Journal that the competition Suffolk sees is certainly different from what she saw as a competitor in high school.

"In college golf, [everyone] is very passionate about it," said Dillon. "Some people are trying to go professional even in Division III."

With the competition as tough as it is, and taking into account the journey the team took to get to where they are today, Dillon said the

feeling of being victorious in their first match was "amazing."

"It was really special for us, being able to compete [as a team] for the first time and win," said Dillon. "All of our girls played really well that day."

First-year Head Coach Jay Parker agreed with what Dillon said, adding that the recent win was, "very gratifying considering all the hard work we put in."

Parker stepped into an unknown role; originally coaching the Suffolk Baseball team as an assistant for the past twenty years. When asked about the transition from baseball to women's golf, Parker explained that it was very different given the difference in personalities that the two teams have.

In regards to if baseball or golf would be more difficult to coach, Parker

discussed how he had coached many different sports throughout his career including softball and lacrosse in addition to baseball and golf. Parker said that he as a coach must "put in time with research" in order to be the best he can possibly be as an instructor.

McGrath later went on to discuss just how this first victory of the season could help this team throughout the rest of the season.

"When we beat RIC for our first win of the season, it felt awesome. For any sport, to start off a season with a victory, it already puts your team on a good track for the rest of the season," said McGrath. "To start on a high note like this definitely has given us all more confidence individually and as a whole that we will take into this weekend when we play in New York."

McGrath also explained that the players are shooting high in regards to the team's expectations.

"Looking at how we performed last Sunday, I think we have a good outlook for the rest of the season," said McGrath. "Our end goal is to win the championship, and I do think it's possible for us to get it. There's always things we can work on to better ourselves individually, so I think if we can keep working hard and continue to put the work in, then that is an obtainable goal."

The women's golf team looks to compete and continue their winning ways on Saturday at the Mt. Holyoke Invitational at the Orchards Golf Club in South Hadley, Mass.

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