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The Heritage Series: a Social History

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Suffolk University
A Social History

David L. Robbins
Introduction

Gleason L. Archer insisted throughout his life that the University he founded was "dedicated to the cause of the working classes, from whose ranks he himself had sprung." His first students were painters, dyers, printers, cashiers, laborers, and salesmen; by 1908, over twenty-five occupations were represented at Suffolk. Beginning in the 1920s, however, Archer acknowledged that "bankers, brokers, businessmen, federal, state, and municipal officials" were also "numbered in every class." As white collar workers supplemented the artisan base at Archer's school, a mixture was created that characterized the University's student body for decades; in most academic divisions, it remained the formula for success in 1981.

The "controlling motive" of Archer's school was "to give every student his chance." Those whom Archer expected Suffolk University to serve were a projection of his self-image: honest, diligent working people who sought education in order to enhance their social status and the contribution they could make to society. To their ambition and hard work, Archer aimed to add what George Frost had added to his — the good fortune of having a patron concerned with making affordable the education so earnestly sought. This combination of "pluck and luck" was Horatio Alger's prescription for his heroes' success; it was also the one which had carried Gleason Archer out of the working class. For those who possessed the integrity and determination to follow the founder's path, Suffolk University presented an "open door of opportunity."

What follows is an attempt to understand the people who have taken part, as students, faculty, administrators, or alumni, in seventy-five years of the Suffolk University experience. Who were they? Why did they come? How did they interact with one another? What were the forces at work on them? Most important, how did this combination of personalities and circumstances contribute to making Suffolk University what it had become by 1981?

This pamphlet is the seventh in the Suffolk University Historical Pamphlet Series, and the sixth to be published as part of the Suffolk University Heritage Project. Our primary focus here is on the social history of the University; the academic development of its constituent academic units is discussed in the Heritage Series pamphlets reserved for that subject.

4. Suffolk Law School, 1931 catalogue, p. 14; "but by a natural process of elimination to sift the wheat from the chaff" (p. 14).
5. Luck and Pluck was probably Alger's best-known book.
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Marian Archer MacDonaul, the founder's daughter and the first woman to graduate from Suffolk Law School, 1937.

Thomas Vreeland Jones, first black graduate of Suffolk Law School, 1915.
When Suffolk University was founded in 1906, unquestioned and unrestricted immigration had been the central fact of American life for forty years. By the first decade of the twentieth century, many Americans were being forced to confront the implications. Thousands of new immigrants arrived each day. Even more disturbing, an American-born second generation increased every year in numbers and maturity, demanding full rights of participation in the society to which their mothers and fathers had come in search of opportunity.

Traditional leadership groups in American society took steps to safeguard their predominance. High school diplomas, then college degrees, took on unprecedented importance, as newly-founded professional associations strove to secure state regulations requiring such credentials for access to professions. Poorer immigrant groups were thereby excluded.

This emphasis on degrees, however, also created intense pressure for expanded educational facilities and opportunities. Institutions of higher learning were few, exclusive, and costly. Many new schools, therefore, were founded. Often they catered to poorer “native” Americans who sought degrees that would distinguish them from their immigrant competitors. Some, even more odious in the view of traditional leadership groups, also aimed at the immigrants. Only through education, their founders argued, could the new arrivals by “Americanized,” and thus immunized against left- or right-wing political demagoguery. A few educators also saw their institutions as instruments of economic self-help for immigrant groups.

From the foundation of Suffolk University, Gleason L. Archer assigned it the “real pioneer work” of making lighter and surer the path of aspiring young men born in poverty, denied educational advantages in

7. Twenty million people — a number equal to the entire American population in 1850 — arrived in the United States from Europe between the Civil War and 1906; half of these entered the country after 1890. In 1870, Boston’s population was 25% foreign-born; the country’s, 9%. By 1906, the figures were 36% and 14%, respectively.
boyhood, and obliged to educate themselves at odd moments while doing a man’s work in the world.⁸

The founder insisted that Suffolk’s “chief mission” was and probably always would be “to minister to the evening student — the employed student.”⁹ These “earnest souls who toil in the evening schools,” he asserted, would be found “in the front ranks of our civilization of tomorrow”;¹⁰ the “honesty and diligence” of the new University’s students would help make Horatio Alger’s rags-to-riches stories come to life.

In Archer’s view, his school provided a “haven of opportunity” for “the leaders of the working classes throughout Greater Boston.”¹¹ As a Progressive — and Progressivism was as distinctly a product of early twentieth-century conditions as was Suffolk University — he believed it to be part of his school’s vital mission to maintain equality of opportunity in education against conspiratorial efforts on the part of the “sinister rich” to close the channels of social mobility in America.¹² If social and educational opportunity were significantly eroded, Archer insisted, immigrants and native-born workingmen alike would quickly lose faith in the gospel of self-help preached by Horatio Alger and those like him. Suffolk’s founder was convinced that, faced with a contradiction between theory and practice, many of these ambitious workmen might turn “dangerous,”¹³ attracted by a socialist movement previously foreign to American soil. It


⁹. “Status of Suffolk University,” p. 23. Day students constituted 14.6% of Suffolk Law School’s student body in 1924, and 25% of the Liberal Arts College’s enrollment in 1938. By 1980, day students made up 68.1% of Liberal Arts attendance. The School of Management, the figure was 40%; and in the Law School, 57.7%. Scholarships specifically designed for Evening Division students were introduced briefly at the Colleges in 1948, then revived in 1966.


¹¹. Suffolk University Law School, 1939 catalogue, p. 6; Suffolk Law School, 1923 catalogue, p. 17. “Bankers, brokers, and businessmen” (1923 catalogue, p. 17), with no interest in obtaining a law degree, also took individual courses at Suffolk to provide themselves with a background in certain legal areas. Their presence added variety to the student body, but their departure after taking only one or two courses lowered the proportion of students registered at Suffolk Law School between 1906 and 1937 who eventually graduated to a misleading 27.2%. By 1980, 38% of the undergraduates who entered Suffolk University as Freshmen graduated in four years (compared to a national median of 35-40%), and 46% within six years.

¹². Archer himself had risen from poverty through the providential philanthropic aid given him by Boston businessman George A. Frost; for details, see David L. Robbins, Gleason L. Archer (Boston: Suffolk University, 1980; second pamphlet in the Heritage Series), pp. 6-8.

prominently advertised the school’s “cosmopolitanism,” his code word for ethnic diversity. Over twenty national groups were represented at Suffolk. Protestants, Catholics, and Jews, whites, blacks, orientals and Amerindians all attended, but, Archer asserted:

race and creed are forgotten in the common tasks of the library and the classroom. A spirit of comradeship develops in all classes that makes for true Americanism.

That this “true Americanism” was the Americanism preferred by “true American” Progressives like Archer did not seem to disturb Archer-era students at Suffolk. They, and their successors for decades, looked to the University’s faculty and administration for guidance, leadership, and opinions.

At any given time before World War II, half of Suffolk Law School’s students were Irish in background — of immigrant stock, but second or (more commonly) third generation Americans. Another quarter was composed of more recent immigrants, mainly East European Jews and Italians; some of these students were newly arrived in this country, but the second generation predominated. Poor Yankees (from English or Scottish families long resident in New England) constituted the final quarter.

Although the flood of immigrants to the United States had been stemmed after 1920 by immigration quotas, the ambitious second generation produced an enormous impact

18. Suffolk Law School, 1923 catalogue, pp. 17-18. In 1925, 81.5% of the students at Suffolk Law School had been born in the U.S.; 71% of the total student body were Massachusetts-born (Suffolk Law School, 1925 catalogue, pp. 21-22). In 1938, 93.6% of Suffolk’s Liberal Arts students were American-born, and 80% were natives of Massachusetts.


20. There was this manipulative element in the Progressive approach itself; Archer was not unique among Progressivism’s adherents in desiring to teach to immigrants the “true American” values held by himself and his fellow Progressives, in an effort to rally those immigrants to the side of the Progressive campaign to protect “equality of opportunity” against well-to-do “monopolists.” For more details, see Robbins, Gleason L. Archer, pp. 8-10, and Setting the Scene (Boston: Suffolk University, 1979; first pamphlet in the Heritage Series), pp. 20-21.

21. Because of Suffolk Law School’s location and its provision of opportunities for West End residents, local ward boss Martin Lomasney long evinced a paternal solicitude for the institution’s well-being. In a ward run by Irish politicians, who depended on a population of Jewish and Italian immigrants for election, Suffolk Law School constituted an almost universal source of hope. The school’s sociology mirrored that of the ward, and West End Democratic leaders worked diligently to protect such an institution from outside “quality control” which might destroy it or alter its symbiosis with the West End community. The large Irish representation at Suffolk guaranteed Irish domination of class elections at the school, it also insured the continuing loyalty of Lomasney’s Irish colleagues in the Democratic leadership at the city and state level.
on American society in the years that followed. Even when members of that second generation did not enter schools themselves, their competition drove many other Americans to seek degrees that would maintain or improve their own competitive position. High school attendance, for example, rose from 10% of the high school age group in 1910 to 50% in 1930.23

The Suffolk Colleges, established in the 1930s, were designed in part to serve the same competitive degree-seeking that had created the boom in high school education. Both “native” working people and those of immigrant stock were attracted to the new undergraduate institutions. Interestingly, low-income Yankee students in the Colleges outnumbered students from Irish backgrounds until after the Second World War — forty percent to thirty percent. The remaining quarter of the student body was composed, as in the Law School, primarily of students from Italian and Jewish backgrounds.

Before World War II, Boston proper was home for more Suffolk students, Law and College, than any other locality; contiguous communities like Roxbury, Dorchester, Somerville, Cambridge, and South Boston provided the next-largest delegations. Then came cities on the North Shore or north of Boston — Lynn, Lowell, Lawrence, Medford, Revere — which were linked to the Hub by an effective rail network. South Shore communities were generally under-represented, at least partially due to inadequacies in public transportation. Archer’s school served primarily an urban-based, lower middle or working class constituency — hard-working men and women seeking to realize the American dream.

Despite the dislocations of the Second World War and the immediate post-war period, GI. Bill funds enabled the University to retain a substantial portion of all its traditional constituencies. Although male veterans became the predominant element in both the law and undergraduate student bodies for almost a decade after 1945, the distribution

22. Immigration quotas were imposed in 1920; as a result, the foreign-born proportion of the American population dropped from 14% in 1910 to 12% in 1930. However, 70% of Boston’s population in 1930 was either foreign-born or belonged to the first generation born in this country.

23. In Europe, the comparable figure remained at 10% throughout the 1930s.
of ethnic backgrounds remained almost identical to that of the 1930s. At Suffolk Law, Irish students still predominated, followed by Yankees, Jews, and Italians; in the Colleges, Yankee and Irish students each constituted a third of the registration, while Italians and Jews again made up the balance. Nor did the towns from which the University drew its enrollment change substantially after the war. At a time when more and more people were moving to the suburbs, it was Boston and the inner ring of contiguous urban communities that continued to provide the bulk of Suffolk's law and undergraduate students.

Within two decades, however, the geographic and socio-economic origins of Suffolk students had begun to change. At the Law School, the traditional preponderance of working-class students from Dorchester, Roxbury, Somerville, and Cambridge gave way after 1970 to a numerical ascendancy of students from middle-class suburbs like Newton, Brookline, Quincy, Arlington, and Framingham. By 1980, forty-three states were represented; nearly 40% of Suffolk Law students came from outside Massachusetts, compared to 25% in 1972, 4% in 1956, and 1% or less before 1950. The Colleges, meanwhile, continued to draw many students from traditional working-class centers like Boston, Dorchester, Cambridge, and Medford; four-fifths of Suffolk's undergraduates lived with their parents, half financed their own education, and 80% worked at least part-time. In 1980, however, the Liberal Arts College and the School of Management were also attracting students in substantial numbers from such middle-class communities as Quincy, West Roxbury, Arlington, and Newton. Only a

24. Between 1930 and 1950, the foreign-born proportion of the American population fell from 12% to 7%.

25. In the late 1940s, three times more Suffolk Law School entrants came from the Suffolk Colleges than from any other undergraduate institution; and, despite a two-year college requirement for admission, only 25% of all entering law students had completed a bachelor's degree. By 1956, that figure had risen to 87%; but it was not until the early 1960s (by which time it had reached 97%) that Boston College, Boston University, and Northeastern surpassed Suffolk's Colleges as suppliers of entering Suffolk Law School students. By that time, even Harvard sent several students each year. The University of Massachusetts had, by the early 1970s, joined B.C., B.U., and Northeastern in sending more students each to Suffolk Law than did the Suffolk Colleges.

26. Students from Massachusetts towns west of Worcester formed 3% of the Law School's student population after 1970; in no previous era did they constitute more than a trace. By 1980, Suffolk Law School was enrolling students from Brown, Tufts, Smith, Mount Holyoke, and Harvard, as well as from its traditional reservoirs: B.C., B.U., the University of Massachusetts (Boston), Holy Cross, Providence, and the Suffolk Colleges.
few College students came from west of Worcester, 5% from outside Massachusetts, and 2% from abroad.  

Ethnically, there continued to be more law students of Irish descent than from any other background. They no longer constituted a majority, however; only about 35% of Suffolk Law School students after 1970 were identifiably Irish. Another quarter was composed of Yankees, who thus approached the Irish proportion more closely than ever before. By 1980, the percentage of students from Italian backgrounds equalled the Jewish figure, while both groups (at 15% each) formed larger proportions of the Law School’s student body than ever before. As traditional residence patterns had done, older ethnic patterns persisted longer in the Colleges than in the Law School. After 1966, the proportion of College students from Irish backgrounds did surpass that of Yankee students for the first time (33% to 28%); but those two groups continued to constitute, as they had since the 1930s, two-thirds of the Colleges’ enrollment. The remaining third, as well, retained its historic composition of Italian and Jewish students — though by 1980 the proportion of Italian students (16%) had outgrown the Jewish figure (10%).  

Although the Law School diverged more sharply in 1981 from the attendance patterns typical of the University’s first six decades, significant — if less apparent — changes had also taken place in the College population. In the

27. Of Suffolk undergraduates between 1976 and 1980, 26.2% were Boston residents; 51.1% lived in the greater Boston area; 9.1%, between Routes 128 and 495; and 2.2%, in Massachusetts communities outside Route 495. In all, 95.4% came from Massachusetts; 3.2%, from other states; and 1.4%, from abroad. Thirty percent of undergraduates entered Suffolk from Catholic high schools. By 1980, the Liberal Arts and School of Management graduate student bodies had a third of their membership composed of students from Irish backgrounds, and a quarter of Yankee students. In the School of Management, however, graduate students from Italian backgrounds out numbered Jewish graduate students by 16% to 12%; while in Liberal Arts those two ethnic groups composed equal proportions (11% each) of the graduate enrollment. In addition, 5% of the Liberal Arts graduate population was composed of students from Portuguese backgrounds — twice the proportion they constituted in the School of Management. Although suburban representation was growing, more Liberal Arts graduate students still came to Suffolk in 1980 from traditional recruiting centers (like Medford, Boston, Lawrence, Cambridge, and Winthrop) than from any other communities. In the School of Management, more graduate students came from Boston than from any other city; but the size of graduate student delegations from suburban communities like Andover, Brookline, and Newton followed closely behind that of Boston — displacing a number of the School’s traditional urban recruiting areas.  

28. Until the late 1960s, less than one percent of students in the Suffolk Colleges came from abroad.  

29. The respective proportions of undergraduate students from Italian and Jewish backgrounds had remained virtually equal until 1970.
Liberal Arts and Management student bodies, the proportion of students from recently-immigrated families had declined steadily, along with the foreign-born segment of the American population. During the 1960s and 1970s, the proportion of suburban students grew — while that of working-class and recently-immigrated students shrank — more in the Law School than in Liberal Arts or Management. Both trends, however, characterized all three of the University’s academic units. The greater self-confidence of suburban students, and the student body’s broadened familiarity with democratic institutions and the American way of life, combined to undermine long-standing habits of deference and to produce steadily escalating demands for student and alumni participation in University governance.

There was black representation in Archer’s law school early in its history; the first black graduate, Thomas Vreeland Jones, received his degree in 1915. Until after World War II, blacks at Suffolk totaled approximately 2% of the student body, a percentage equal to the black proportion of Boston’s population. Such black percentage equivalence was very rare at institutions of higher learning during this period. Other racial minorities were also represented, though in proportions far below even those for black students. Suffolk’s first oriental graduate received his degree in 1922, and three years later Nelson D. Simons, “chief” of the Pequot tribe, became the school’s first American Indian alumnus. The first black to receive a degree from the Colleges was awarded his BSBA in 1948; the recipient, Herbert L. Lyken, also became in 1970 the first black to serve on the Business School faculty.

After 1946, however, the proportion of minority students at Suffolk no longer kept pace with the increasing non-white proportion of Boston’s population. As at most institutions of higher learning, it was only during the racial difficulties of the 1960s that this was recognized as a problem.

30. It is difficult to assess the impact of demography on these figures; only 4.7% of the U.S. population was foreign-born in 1970, compared to 5.4% in 1960 and 6.9% in 1950. Equally hard to assess is the impact of social and geographic mobility, as is that of Suffolk’s improved academic standards and changing reputation.

31. Jones is the earliest graduate thus far confirmed as having been black. There were, however, a number of other black students (clearly shown in a 1911 photograph) during the Law School’s first decade of existence. They remain unidentified; but one or more of them could have graduated before 1915.

32. Shichiro Hayashi
Once it was, a wide-ranging program to increase minority representation was undertaken — after 1968 in the Colleges, and after 1972 in the Law School. Special scholarships for disadvantaged students were instituted in 1968 in the Colleges and extended to the Law School five years later. William Hannah became in 1970 Suffolk’s first full-time black teacher; and within the next two years the work of Professor Edward Clark brought an affiliation between the University and the Museum of Afro-American History. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity officer joined Suffolk’s professional administrative staff in 1972; that same year, Professor Hannah was appointed Suffolk’s first Minority Student Advisor (a part-time post), and a Committee on Minority Student Affairs was created to assist and advise him. Despite these efforts, the undergraduate minority population at Suffolk remained small; it hovered around five percent (four-fifths black) for the remainder of the decade, while that in the Law School reached only 2% (half black) by 1980. In that year, 3% of the full-time Liberal Arts faculty was composed of blacks, but there were no full-time black teachers in either the Law School or the School of Management.

Nearly a third of Suffolk’s black student community was drawn from abroad — especially from the West Indies and various African states. The number of these and other foreign students in the Colleges began to grow significantly during the late 1960s, after Suffolk’s name was added to a United States Information Service list of schools which accepted overseas students. In 1960, twenty-six students came to the University from sixteen countries; by the mid-1970s, that figure had grown to 150 students from thirty-eight countries.

33. Law student participation was also authorized (and funded) in the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) minority student program. Undergraduate courses in black and third world history and literature were established, as was a special Law School minority admissions program. A Suffolk University Afro-American Club was founded in 1969; BALSA (the Black American Law Students’ Association), in 1973; and HALSA (the Hispanic American Law Students’ Association), two years afterward. In 1976, the Suffolk Student Coalition against Racism was organized. The first minority members joined the School of Management Advisory Council in 1974, and five years later Thomas J. Brown became Suffolk University’s first black Trustee. That same year (1979), the Law School engaged the services of a Consultant on Minority Admission.

34. One provision of the affiliation was that the College Library would hold the Museum’s 2500-volume collection of Afro-American literature, which was designed to serve as the nucleus for a permanent center in Boston for the study of Afro-American literature.

35. The remaining one-fifth was composed predominantly of orientals.
At the school's first closing exercises on May 18, 1908, Dean Archer had announced that although women (none of whom had yet been admitted) might be the intellectual equals of men, he would not have any of them in his classrooms, because of the flirtation that would inevitably arise. Women were formally barred from Suffolk Law School until 1937; and from 1925 until that date, the Dean’s catalogue prominently billed Suffolk Law as “A Man's School.”

Gleason Archer’s daughter Marian was the first woman to attend Suffolk Law School; she entered in the fall of 1933. Her performance was impressive, and this convinced Archer to make the College of Liberal Arts that he founded in September 1934 coeducational from the start. Even so, Archer’s College catalogue clearly stated throughout the pre-war period that the administration reserved the right “to limit the number of young women who may enter in any one year.” Both the College of Journalism and the College of Business Administration were founded on a coeducational basis, and, after Marian Archer MacDonald’s graduation in 1937, the Law School was opened to women from outside the founder’s family.

By 1940, women composed a quarter of the University’s undergraduate population, although they constituted less

36. The number of foreign students grew so fast that in the fall of 1971 the University’s first Foreign Student Advisor, Professor Vahé Sarafian, was appointed. Establishment of an International Students Club followed in the fall of 1976, preceded slightly by the founding of a Latin American Club (1975). In 1980, students representing twenty-six countries were enrolled at Suffolk.

37. Boston Journal, May 20, 1908. Several other newspapers also picked up the story, which outraged Boston feminists and women’s suffragists. A battle in the letters columns of the local press ensued which dragged the then-obscure name of Suffolk repeatedly into the popular consciousness, as Archer knew it would. Attendance increased, and, not incidentally, the way was paved for the founding — in the fall of 1908 — of Portia Law School. Portia was open only to female students, and was run by Archer’s law partner, Arthur W. McLean. Many years later, Portia — by then co-educational — was to become the New England School of Law.

38. Catharine Caraher, Dean Archer’s secretary and right hand, attended Suffolk Law School classes briefly in 1927, but soon abandoned the undertaking.

39. Combined with the fact that Portia Law School had broken the “gentlemen’s agreement” between the two schools by admitting men.

40. Suffolk College of Liberal Arts, 1934 catalogue, pp. 7, 10. This stipulation appeared in Suffolk’s undergraduate catalogues from 1934 through 1941.

41. In 1939, Harriet M. Kandler and Agnes S. Blyth became the first women to receive Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees from the Liberal Arts College, and a year later Theresa M. Bodwell became the first of her sex to be awarded a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree. The first female graduates of the Journalism and the Business Colleges received their degrees in 1948, and Mary F. McLaughlin in 1954 was the first woman to receive a Master of Science in Business Administration (MSBA) from Suffolk.
than one percent of Law School enrollment. As veterans filled all divisions of the school after 1946, however, the population of female students in the collegiate departments declined to that of the Law School. Both stood at around 3% in 1946. During the next fifteen years, the proportion of women in the Colleges grew steadily, if slowly, to 11% by 1960; while the Law School figure remained virtually unchanged. Within the collegiate departments, the center of the expansion in women’s enrollments was the Liberal Arts College; the College of Business Administration remained at or below Law School levels.

By 1965, the proportion of women in the Liberal Arts College had reached nearly 30%, although both the Law School and the Business School still hovered around the 4% mark. Five years later, the College of Business Administration and the Law School had reached 6%; during the same period, the College of Liberal Arts increased the female proportion of its enrollment to nearly 40%. It was the 1970s, however, that brought University-wide changes in

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42. In 1955, 24% of Liberal Arts graduate students were women, compared to only 4% in Business. Five years later, the figure among Liberal Arts graduate students was 26%; while there was not one female graduate Business student. Beginning in 1948, Suffolk attempted to use scholarships to attract female students (especially undergraduates) to a University where 97% of those enrolled were men.

43. Marian Archer served as Advisor to Women in the Liberal Arts College from 1934 until 1937. After World War II, there was a suggestion that a Dean of Women be appointed (Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Minutes, May 8, 1947); instead, the post of Advisor to Women was revived — and filled successively by Ruth C. Widmayer (1947-48), Catherine Fehrer (1948-50, 1953-56, 1957-58), Edith Marken (1950-53), Renee Hubert (1956-57), Florence Petherick (1958-72), and Elizabeth Williams (1972-77, after which the position was abolished). One of the principal organizations through which the Women’s Advisor operated was the Women’s Association of Suffolk University (WASU), founded in 1947 as the school’s first women’s organization. WASU became Gamma Sigma Upsilon service sorority in 1959, and affiliated with the national service sorority Gamma Sigma Sigma in 1966. In addition to its service functions, the organization ran a “Miss Suffolk” contest from 1947 through 1969, and sponsored a series of mother-daughter luncheons (beginning in 1959) and dinners (after 1965). Despite their relatively small numbers at Suffolk before 1960, women clearly came into their own as University student leaders in the 1950s. The first woman had been elected to student government in 1940, but it was not until 1958 that Jeanne McCarthy was elected the first female SGA president. During that same year, Kuni Kreutel served as the Suffolk Journal’s first female editor-in-chief, while three years earlier Jeanne Hession had become the first woman ever elected class president in the Law School.
the number of women in attendance, the quality of their lives as students, and the support facilities available to them. By 1980, more than half of Liberal Arts students were women. Meanwhile, the proportion of female students in the Business School had trebled, from 6% in 1970 to 18% a decade later. Most dramatically, the proportion of women in the Law School jumped over the same period from 6% to 35%.

Senior citizens have found a place in the Suffolk University tradition throughout the school’s history. As early as

44. In 1965, women constituted 45% of Liberal Arts graduate students and 17% of graduate Business students, compared to 26% and zero percent respectively in 1960.

45. The proportion of Liberal Arts graduate students who were females grew from 40% in 1970 to 70% in 1980; in the School of Management, the figure decreased over the same period from 21% to 19%. For the 775 women who had graduated in the Law School’s history (as of 1981), the median year of graduation was 1978.

46. As the proportion of female students grew, so did the proportion of female faculty members. Mary Frances Pray, who taught part-time in the Law School from 1942 until 1952, was the University’s first female faculty member. Two part-time Liberal Arts instructors, one of whom was Ruth Widmayer, were hired in 1947, and the University’s first female full-time teachers — Elia Murphy, Catherine Fehrer, and Edith Marken — joined the Liberal Arts faculty in 1948. Eleven years later, Murphy became the first woman at Suffolk to be appointed a full professor; she was followed one year afterward by Catherine Fehrer. Edith Marken served from 1948 until 1953 as Suffolk’s first female department chairperson; in 1963, Fehrer became the second. The Law School’s first full-time woman teacher (1967), and its first female full professor (1972), was Catherine Judge. The proportion of women on the Law faculty, which stood at 5% in 1970 compared to 25% on the Liberal Arts faculty, rose during the next decade to 11% (compared to 29% in Liberal Arts). The first woman to join the full-time Business faculty (Jo Ann Fenfrew) did so only in 1970; Emma Auer became its first female department chairperson in 1976, and it was 1979 before Frances Burke was appointed the School of Management’s first female full professor. By 1980, Burke was the only woman on the Management faculty, constituting 3% of the full-time teaching staff in the School of Management. Women composed 47.1% of the University’s professional administrative staff in 1937; the proportion in 1980 was 48.1%. The number of organizations focused on women’s lives and concerns also multiplied as female enrollment expanded. Suffolk’s first social sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma, was established in 1969 — the same year in which the “Miss Suffolk” contest was discontinued. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action officer Judy Minardi was hired in 1972, and in the same year a President’s Committee on the Status of Women was formed. Under the leadership of Professor Maria Bonaventura, the committee produced during its eight years of existence a “Report on the Status of Women at Suffolk” (1975) and a later addendum, “Sexism in the University Curriculum” (1978); both called attention to various areas of sex discrimination at the institution. In 1973, Jeanne Hession was elected the University’s first woman Trustee, followed a year later by Dorothy Antonelli. The Business School Advisory Council’s first female member was also named in 1974. A Women’s Program Committee was set up that same year, to assume the responsibilities for obtaining speakers, monitoring library acquisitions, and the like, which had originally been envisioned for the Committee on the Status of Women (but which the Committee on the Status of Women had left unaddressed while preparing its report); three years later, the Program Committee created — and merged into — the Women’s Program Center. In 1973, a branch of Women in Communications, a national professional organization, had also been established for Journalism and Communications students; and two years later a Committee for the Continuing Education of Women was set up, primarily to serve those women who were returning to college after an extended interval — of which there were about 400 at Suffolk at that time. (The next year, it became the Continuing Education Committee, serving the needs of returning men as well as women.) By 1975, Ann Guilbert had been added to the Athletic Department staff to introduce a program of women’s athletics. As female enrollment grew in the Law School and the Business School after 1970, feminist activity spread there from its early center in the College of Liberal Arts. The Suffolk Women’s Law Caucus, for example, was founded in 1973, and a business professional sorority, Phi Chi Theta, two years later.
the 1920s, students at Suffolk Law School ranged in age from seventeen to sixty; Gleason Archer did not concentrate solely on those of traditional “student age,” but encouraged people of all ages to come to his institution.\footnote{Many faculty members, in both the Law School and the Colleges, continued during the 1950s and 1960s to teach into their seventies — and, in several cases, even into their eighties.} In 1973, the University established a program whereby senior citizens could attend Suffolk classes tuition-free — on a space-available basis — with full academic privileges; upon successful completion of a course, semester-hour credit toward a degree was awarded. The Senior Citizens’ Program gained Suffolk nation-wide attention, especially through the media interest manifested in degree recipients like octogenarian Charles L. Niles (BS ’77, Ed.M. ’79) and Rosalie L. Warren, who was seventy-nine when she received her BS degree in 1980 magna cum laude.\footnote{As participation in the program grew, Niles was appointed Senior Citizen Advisor in 1978; two years later, Warren succeeded him in the position.} Partly as a result of the program’s appeal, the age range among Suffolk students was even greater in 1980 than it had been during the Archer era; students from sixteen to eighty were to be found on the University’s busy campus.

Student activities have played an important role, over the years, in helping to shape Suffolk’s diverse student body into a community. As prosperity came to Suffolk Law School after 1914, optimistic attempts were made to add extra-curricular activities typical of more traditional institutions. Some flourished briefly, but they soon died or became dormant; at a workingman’s school, few had extra time to donate.\footnote{A Debating Society, originally founded in 1907, was refounded in 1916; it survived less than a year. In 1910, the school’s first newspaper, the Suffolk Law Student, published only three issues before dissolving. The Suffolk Law School Register, a student magazine, was the most successful; it first appeared in October 1915 and continued publication until 1921. Like the others, however, it was finally killed by lack of student time. Even ambitious men in search of opportunity had physical limits.}

A College of Journalism was founded in 1936, and a College of Business Administration in 1937; like the College of Liberal Arts, they were dwarfed in student population by the Law School. As part of an attempt to create a “collegiate” atmosphere, a program of extra-curricular activities was established. To compensate for the meager number of participants available from the Colleges, law students were
actively encouraged to join the program. Their numbers rapidly became preponderant, and, throughout the pre-war period, law students dominated the extra-curricular program.\(^5\) In 1939, a Student Council was established — the first suggestion of student government at Suffolk. It was an elected body; each of the three Colleges chose three representatives, while the much larger Law School designated twelve. The Council’s first president was law student Samuel P. Hyland. President Archer had some misgivings about the impact on his institution of extensive student participation; he stipulated that the activities a student might engage in could “at any time [be] limited” by the administration to “safeguard student health and scholarship.”\(^5\) Nevertheless, the student organizations founded in the late 1930s proved very durable; each of the five

\(^5\) Thus, some activities — which Archer had for years tried, unsuccessfully, to cultivate in the Law School — flourished, temporarily, when hijacked from the Colleges. Debate was the oldest extra-curricular activity at Suffolk, and perhaps the closest to Gleason Archer’s heart. Even when his successive attempts to found forensics programs faltered in the school’s early decades, the Dean made certain that there was always a course in public speaking available to his students; when the College of Liberal Arts was founded, Archer insisted that a speech course be among the earliest offered at the new institution. The third attempt at establishing a Law School Debating Society took place in January 1936; the first president of the new organization was Paul Smith, and after 1939 the society was coached by the ubiquitous John F.X. O’Brien. In 1937, a College Debating Society was set up. The two clubs regularly debated one another, and those identified as the best speakers in these confrontations were pooled into a “Suffolk University Debating Team,” which engaged after 1938 in intercollegiate competition. The second-oldest extra-curricular activity was journalism, as indicated by the short-lived *Suffolk Law Student* (1910) and the *Register* (1915-21). With the establishment of a College of Journalism, Archer helped to arrange the foundation of a new student newspaper, the *Suffolk Journal*, in September 1936. Student dramatics, an activity previously unrepresented at Suffolk, was begun in November 1936 by establishment of the Suffolk Players. The moving force behind the Players was Esther Newsome, Archer’s new Librarian, whom he also appointed to be his first Director of Student Activities. Edith R. Doane succeeded Newsome as head of Student Activities in 1938, and served in that capacity until the virtual suspension of the extra-curricular program four years later because of the war. During Doane’s tenure, Professor Frank Pizzuto founded in 1938 the University’s first foreign language club, the *Circolo Italiano*; in 1938, as well, a Recreation Room (designated Hall 6) was opened in the University Building.

\(^5\) Suffolk University College of Liberal Arts, 1937 catalogue, p. 20.
organizations that existed at Suffolk in 1940 was the progenitor of an equivalent association at the University in 1981.\textsuperscript{52}

After 1946, returning veterans increased enrollment in the college departments to six times the pre-war size — and to three times the Law School's diminished enrollment. The revitalized Colleges were thus enabled to reclaim, and to bar law students from participating in, most student activities programs.\textsuperscript{53} A Student Government for the Colleges (later renamed the Student Government Association, or SGA) was set up; its first elections were held in February 1946, and Laurence V. Rand was chosen its first president.\textsuperscript{54} By 1949, there were over twenty-five student organizations, five times the number that had existed ten years earlier.\textsuperscript{55}

Edgar DeForest presided over the post-war prosperity as Director of Student Activities between 1948 and 1953. When he resigned, however, prosperity had given way to hard times. The Korean War sent enrollments plummeting, and

\textsuperscript{52} The same period also saw a foundation laid for an athletics program. John Griffin was appointed first Athletics Advisor for the Colleges in 1937, and an Athletics Committee was set up the following year. A men's tennis team was established in the spring of 1938; it practiced on the roof of the reconstructed University (20 Derne Street) Building — Archer's so-called "sky campus" (Suffolk University College of Liberal Arts, 1937 catalogue, p. 16) — until leaks caused by pounding feet, combined with the clear and present danger posed to passers-by five stories below by misdirected lobs, forced alteration of the arrangements. A golf program was begun the following autumn, and in the fall of 1939 practice began for men's — and women's — basketball. The men's team, coached by law student John Sexton, practiced two nights a week at the English High School gymnasium; while the women's team, under Sargent College senior Mary Pratt, was allowed on Saturday mornings to use the gym at the Bulfinch Memorial Chapel near the University. In the spring of 1940, a baseball program was also launched. Most of these initial athletic efforts were modest, but, like the other extra-curricular activities begun during the same era, they stood the test of time; forty years later, they were still part of the University's student activities program.

\textsuperscript{53} Extra-curricular options for law students narrowed considerably; in an attempt to fill the void, Suffolk's first law fraternity — Wig and Robe — was founded in 1948. It survived until the early 1970s.

\textsuperscript{54} Rand also served as first editor of the \textit{Beacon} yearbook, the first issue of which was published in 1948. Student dramatics was revitalized, as was the Suffolk University Debating Society — known as SUDS until 1950, when it was renamed to honor the contributions made to the forensics program by President Walter M. Burse. After World War II, a basement Recreation Room (located in the space today occupied by the Bookstore) replaced Hall 6. Publication of the \textit{Journal} recommenced in November 1946, and three sister societies (Spanish, German, and French) were added to the \textit{Circolo Italiano}. All of the foreign language organizations eventually merged, in 1964, into the Modern Language Club. A number of other organizations were founded to bring together students in particular disciplines — among them a Psychology Club (founded in 1948) and a Science Club (1952), both of which were still active in 1981. A Business Club, founded in 1950 and affiliated with the American Marketing Association a year later, quickly became one of the largest organizations on campus; its vitality remained intact three decades later. The election of Suffolk students active in extra-curricular activities to \textit{Who's Who in Colleges and Universities} began in 1948, while the Colleges' first academic honorary society, Phi Beta Chi (for science) was chartered in 1952.
retrenchment across the board in the extra-curricular program was one result. The SGA President noted a “low ebb” of student spirit in 1951, and University President Walter M. Burse observed that students were probably “worn out” by the crowded extra-curricular schedule of previous years. By 1954, the twenty-five active student organizations of 1949 had been cut to under a dozen.

The man who became Student Activities Director at this critical juncture was Professor John Colburn. He served in that position for fifteen years, from 1953 until 1968. Like his predecessors, he served as only a part-time director, but the contributions which his energy and enthusiasm made to the recovery and subsequent vigor of the activities program can never be accurately calculated.

55. College athletics underwent a similar boom. Tennis, golf, basketball, and baseball were revived after the war, with Charles Law taking over as coach of the latter two. Law soon became head of the Physical Education department and Director of Athletics, as well. Under Law, the basketball team played first at the Charlestown Army and Navy YMCA, then — after 1947 — at the West End House on Blossom Street, which remained the squad’s home until 1962. Soccer (coached at one time by Harvard star Malcolm Donahue) and hockey were both introduced, while the first women’s varsity letter (for women’s sailing) was awarded in 1950. Twenty full-tuition athletic scholarships were made available by the Trustees; a cheerleading squad and a Varsity Club were organized in 1948. In April 1950, a contest run by the Varsity Club and the Journal dubbed Suffolk athletic teams (previously known as the “Royals” or the “Judges”) the “Rams.” To celebrate the change, a University mascot — Hiram the Ram — was acquired; and for an entire year the Suffolk Journal was renamed the Rambler. In 1953, Law’s program received its “athletic accreditation”: membership in the New England College Athletic Conference. National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) membership followed within a year.

56. Hockey, soccer, and sailing were eliminated as varsity sports, and athletic scholarships were cut to a bare minimum.

57. Suffolk Journal, November 9, 1951; December 12, 1951. The student activities fee, which had been introduced in 1936, was discontinued in the early 1950s for both the Law School and the collegiate departments; also, fraternities were formally barred from the Colleges.

58. Colburn, like his predecessors and all his successors, served the Colleges, not the Law School.
As enrollments in the collegiate departments and the Law School began slowly to rise after 1956, the extracurricular programs in both were resuscitated. By 1961, combined action by Colburn and the SGA had won reinstatement of a student activities fee and introduction of a student activities period for the Colleges. An elected student government for the Law School (the Student Bar Association) was established in 1959.\(^{59}\) Four years later, the Evening Division Student Association (EDSA) was organized to represent evening and part-time students in the collegiate departments; by 1971, it had transformed itself into an elective, genuinely representative organ of student government.\(^{60}\) By the time John Colburn resigned as Director of Student Activities in 1968 to assume full-time teaching duties, there were again twenty-five student organizations on campus; this was more than double the number when he took office, and equal to the number of student clubs at the height of the post-war boom. His perseverance had restored health to the student activities program and had extended it—as it had been extended in 1949—to the limits imposed by the Director's part-time status and by the University's restrictive physical facilities.\(^{61}\)

59. In 1948, a Law School Student Relations Committee was set up; it was composed of law students nominated by the Dean and elected by faculty members. Three years later, it was replaced by a Law School Student Council appointed by the Dean. By 1967, Evening Division student members of the Student Bar Association were represented by an Evening Division Board of Governors, headed by a Chairman. Day Division members were represented by a separate slate of Day Division officers, headed by a President. In 1969, the SBA began publication of its own newspaper: the Suffolk Law Reporter was born (and died) in the spring of that year. In March 1962, it was succeeded by the SBA Briefcase, which survived until December 1967. Dicta, which began publication in 1972, was still in existence nine years later.

60. Before 1971, membership in EDSA was limited to twelve; it was completely reorganized in 1971, and opened to all evening and part-time students in Liberal Arts and Business. EDSA's first elections were held in the spring of 1972. The Evening Shadow, first published in 1970, provided the constituencies served by EDSA with a newspaper of their own. Renamed the Evening Press in 1975, and the Evening Voice in 1976, it was by 1981 the only evening student newspaper in Massachusetts. An active and long-lived Humanities Club was founded in 1958, while the similarly durable Political Science Association began operation the following year. In the College of Business Administration, the American Marketing Association ceased to be the only student organization in 1959 with the foundation of the Society for the Advancement of Management (SAM) and the chartering of Delta Sigma Pi, the first non-honorary fraternity permitted in the collegiate departments. Within eight years, the business professional fraternity was joined by two others: Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity, in 1963; and Phi Alpha Tau, for communications, arts, and journalism, in 1967. Five academic honorary societies had also been established by 1967.

61. Colburn's tenure also witnessed several significant developments in athletics. As enrollments rose after 1956, athletic scholarship funds were restored to—and eventually surpassed—the levels of the late 1940s. This made Law's job slightly easier, but it was almost immediately complicated by another problem. When the West End was leveled to make way for Charles River Park, the basketball team lost its gymnasium at the West End House; Coach Law was forced to find new quarters for his team. He finally settled on the Cambridge YMCA, where Suffolk basketball teams practiced and played their home games for the next twenty years. Finally, in 1966, Director Law was permitted to have his first full-time assistant: James Nelson, the man who eventually succeeded Law as basketball coach (1976) and Athletic Director (1978).
In 1966, the opening of the Donahue Building, and the appointment of D. Bradley Sullivan as the University’s first Dean of Students, opened a new phase in the development of student activities at Suffolk.\textsuperscript{62} The new building alleviated the space problem, allowing student organizations to multiply and the complexity of their involvements to increase; the new Dean assumed the expanded (and complicated) administrative responsibilities thus created.

Sullivan inherited a situation in which an apparently optimistic outlook for the development of student activities contrasted sharply with the mood of the student body. Student leaders and the administration had been severely at odds since the early 1960s, as students challenged the traditional “paternal oversight” exercised by administrators over student affairs. In its place, the students demanded increased autonomy and a participatory role in managing those areas of University life that directly affected their lives. Student organization and agitation had played a significant part in propelling the Trustees out of their long-maintained fiscal conservatism and into a building program necessary to supplement the increasingly inadequate facilities of the old University Building.\textsuperscript{63} Even as the Donahue Building opened in 1966, the administration and Trustees only with difficulty acknowledged the influence — or even the legitimacy — of student activism in shaping the University’s evolution. For their part, student leaders had difficulty believing that the Board’s — and the administration’s — new direction could be self-motivated, the result of internal changes in membership. Pressure, the student leaders felt, had been necessary to win all past concessions, and continued agitation would be required to defend what had been granted and to obtain a continued hearing for student grievances. The danger was that in the resulting confrontation the opportunities for development offered by the school’s new facilities would be overlooked or neglected, to the detriment of all concerned.

\textsuperscript{62} Sullivan had served as Director of Admissions since 1960. From that position, he worked hard to win creation of a Dean of Students post. He resigned as Admissions Director in 1966 to assume the new Deanship, and fifteen years later was still Dean of Students.

\textsuperscript{63} Student agitation during the 1960s and early 1970s also helped expedite Trustee approval for a strengthened Public Relations office, an expanded Placement office, a full-time Alumni Secretary, cooperation with the General Alumni Association, a new firm for the Cafeteria, Sunday Library hours during exams, and restoration of an Activities Period shortly after the Board had abolished it.
Sullivan’s job, then, was to mediate between the students and the administration in an attempt to resolve the crisis of conflicting views. At his suggestion, a Joint Council on Student Affairs — composed of student, faculty, and administrative representatives — was set up in 1967. Within two years, that body had produced a Code of Justice to regulate disciplinary proceedings against students; some called it a “student bill of rights.” It was then incorporated into a much more comprehensive Joint Statement on the Rights and Responsibilities of Students, which received final approval from the Board of Trustees in 1977. The Joint Statement superseded previous guidelines drawn up by University administrators alone; it thus marked an important commitment by the administration to share at least some responsibilities with student leaders. Although he could make no headway on SGA demands for a student Trustee, Sullivan did help students secure representation on a number of faculty committees. He also helped them to win accreditation for student representatives to relevant Trustee committees — for Liberal Arts students to the College Committee in 1969, and for business students to the Business School Committee two years later. In the fall of 1969, long-standing student demands for a “student union” were also addressed (if not perfectly satisfied) by opening of the Ridgeway Building for use as a student activities center. By the early 1970s, Sullivan had built the bridges and laid the organizational groundwork necessary for constructive interaction between students and the administration.

Dean Sullivan thus helped make available a great deal of energy for the development of student activities and organizations that might otherwise have been expended in contention. In addition, he won authorization to convert the part-time Director of Student Activities position into a full-time post. When John Colburn resigned in 1968, he was succeeded by the first full-time Director of Student Activities: alumnus William J. Lewis. During the ensuing thirteen years, Lewis and his successors witnessed an

65. In 1970, law student representatives were accredited to the Law School Committee of the Trustees.
unparalleled expansion in extra-curricular programs throughout the University. By 1980, there were eleven student organizations functioning in the Law School (not counting the moot courts or the clinical programs) compared to only one fifteen years before. In the collegiate departments, meanwhile, the twenty-five organizations of 1968 had by 1980 grown to forty-six, including thirty-eight in the Liberal Arts College and eight in the School of Management.

67. Lewis's successors were James O. Peterson (1971-75), Kenneth E. Kelly (1975-77), Bonita Betters-Reed (1977-79), and Duane R. Anderson (1979-present).

An MBA Association was founded in 1969 in the Business School to give its graduate students a measure of the representation and self-government that had been established among Suffolk's other student constituencies. An Accounting-Finance Club was organized in 1974, and, to accommodate students interested in the Business School's newest program, a Public Administration Society was set up in 1976. Student-run organizations multiplied and diversified in the Law School, particularly under the Deanship of alumnus (and first SBA advisor) David J. Sargent. A Law Review had been founded in 1967, and the Advocate — a student-run legal magazine and journal — the following year. An Environmental Law Society, established in 1970, was also in existence when Sargent took office three years later. By 1980, Law School student activities had expanded to include BALSA, HALSA, the Suffolk Women's Law Caucus, Dicta (the new SBA newspaper, founded in 1972), the Suffolk Lawyers Guild (1975), the Suffolk Law Forum (1976), the International Law Society and its Transnational Law Journal (both founded in 1976), as well as three law fraternities to replace the long-lived but finally defunct Wig and Robe. In the Liberal Arts College, Venture — an undergraduate literary magazine founded by Professor Stanley Vogel — was first published in 1968. New Directions, a center to help students resolve their problems, opened its doors two years later, while student TV station WSUB and radio station WSFR began broadcasting in 1974 and 1976 respectively. In the spring of 1975, a History Society was founded, and the era's interest in ethnic roots manifested itself in foundation of Afro-American, Latin American, International Students, Hellenic, Irish, and Italian-American undergraduate organizations. A twenty-year ban on social fraternities was ended in 1969 when Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) was permitted to establish a chapter at Suffolk; later the same year, Phi Sigma Sigma, the University's first social sorority, was founded. The first Springfest, which with the support of Mrs. Thomas Fulham and the leadership of Professor Ilse Fang soon became an annual all-University end-of-classes festival, was held in 1971. Two years later, Gold Key — an undergraduate service society which owed its name to the gold keys that had been given to SGA members since the late 1940s — was established to honor (as did Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities) those students who distinguished themselves by their contributions to extra-curricular activities. Academic recognition was also available from a growing number of honorary societies; by 1980, there were nineteen at Suffolk, including Alpha Sigma Lambda (chartered in 1975 for evening undergraduates) and four School of Management honoraries. During the 1970s, Suffolk's intercollegiate athletic teams scored a number of signal successes. The golf team, for example, three times won the Little Four Golf Tournament, while the basketball team participated in the NCAA Division 3 regional tournament from 1975 through 1978 — reaching the regional finals in 1975. When compulsory Physical Education classes for undergraduates were discontinued in 1972, the University offered students in their stead an expanded and strengthened program of voluntary intramural competition, including basketball, flag football, and coed softball. Arrangements were concluded with the Boston Young Men's Christian (BYMC) Union gymnasium to provide facilities for the indoor portions of the intramural program. Suffolk's commitment to intercollegiate athletics was also expanded, as ice hockey was reintroduced as a varsity sport in 1980, and varsity competition was begun in cross country (1972), women's tennis (1977), and women's basketball (1977). The regeneration of the women's sports program at Suffolk was the work of Ann Guilbert, who joined Director Law's staff in 1975 as an Assistant Director of Athletics for women. By 1978, Suffolk University had joined the Massachusetts Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and the Metropolitan Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Council.

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69. So complex, in fact, had the job of student government become that the SGA was forced to create two new bodies under its jurisdiction to handle specialized functions: the Council of Presidents, in 1973, to deal with the coordination and funding of the rapidly-increasing assortment of undergraduate clubs and societies; and the Program Board and Council, in 1980, to concentrate on the planning of social events.
By 1981, the relationship between the University’s administration (including the Trustees) and the student body had altered substantially from what it had been in Gleason Archer’s day. Unfettered paternalism had been renounced; far from discouraging student participation in extra-curricular activities and University decision-making, the administration actually cultivated it. As early as 1974, the Board of Trustees officially decreed that “student input is welcomed and encouraged at all levels of University governance, including the Board level,” and to facilitate interaction with student leaders a Trustee Student Affairs Committee was set up in 1979. One of the first acts of the new committee was to pass a resolution, which was then endorsed by the full Board of Trustees, that reflected the new spirit infusing the administration’s relationship with the students and with the school’s other constituencies. That resolution pledged that the Board

will support efforts to improve the communications between the Suffolk University Board of Trustees and the Suffolk University community, and will welcome proposals which integrate the feelings and philosophies of the various segments of the Suffolk University community.

This new spirit not only helped to encourage participation by students during their sojourn at the University; it (and the habits of concern and involvement that it helped to develop in students) also went far to build the enthusiasm and vitality of the University’s alumni. Their non-involvement during student days had built neither durable student institutions nor a strong sense of alumni identifica-

70. Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Minutes, November 13, 1974. Publication of the Suffolk University Newsletter (SUN) began in 1971, to provide better communication between the administration (including the Trustees) and the rest of the University; the SUN's editor was University Public Relations Director Louis Connelly. Faculty participation in University governance also increased. The Law School had had a Faculty Administrative Committee (composed of all full-time faculty members) since 1952. Ten years later, the Liberal Arts College and the Business School obtained Trustee approval for a similar body, a joint Liberal Arts-Business Faculty Assembly. Three elective faculty governance committees were established to report to the Faculty Assembly: an Educational Policy Committee (EPC) in 1962; a Promotion, Tenure, and Review Committee (PTR) in 1968; and a Faculty Life Committee, which was set up in 1971 and made elective in 1972. Separately elected Business School governance committees were established in 1974 (EPC and PTR) and 1975 (Faculty Life), to serve a newly autonomous Business School Faculty Assembly. In 1972, a Joint Council on University Affairs was founded; it included Trustees, administrators, and elected faculty representatives from the Law School, the Liberal Arts College, and the Business School. Four years later, Liberal Arts faculty representatives were accredited to the Trustees’ College Committee.

71. Trustee Student Affairs Committee reports for meetings of April 2, 1979 (in Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Minutes, April 11, 1979) and March 27, 1980 (in Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Minutes, April 9, 1980).
A Law Alumni Association was founded in 1913, then again in 1920, 1925, and 1927. The 1927 effort even included purchase by Dean Archer of an Alumni Clubhouse at 73 Hancock Street, appointment of Archer's close friend and associate Alden Cleveland as part-time Alumni Secretary, and publication of the *Suffolk Alumni News*. By the mid-1930s, however, the *Alumni News* had vanished; and in September 1939 the Alumni Clubhouse (where Alden Cleveland had been resident caretaker since 1927) was vacated.

After the Second World War, the Trustees who had wrested control from the founder undertook a new initiative to mobilize the school's alumni. University Treasurer and Trustee Frank J. Donahue led reorganization and revitalization of the Law Alumni Association after the war; by the early 1950s, the Association was regularly sponsoring fall, winter, and spring dinners at the Parker House, and providing funds for a number of Alumni Association scholarships at the Law School. Donahue's group even published (if somewhat sporadically) an *Alumni Bulletin*. College alumni, much less numerous in the late 1940s than their Law School counterparts, received proportionately less attention. After part-time Alumni Secretary Joseph Strain (who had been appointed by the Trustees in 1948) departed for service in the Korean War, they were left without leadership or support from the University.

Their number, however, grew rapidly during the early 1950s, as the large post-war classes graduated from the Colleges of Liberal Arts, Business, and Journalism. The opportunities offered to members of those classes for participation in an expanded program of undergraduate activities had also engendered in them a group dynamic and a continuing engagement in University affairs. Despite — in fact, because of — the University's neglect of them, a group of College alumni took the initiative into their own hands. They approached the Trustees in 1953 with a plan to

72. Gleason Archer resigned as President of Suffolk University in 1948. That same year, Hiram Archer was appointed the University's first Director of Alumni Relations, and Joseph Strain was assigned to assist him as Alumni Secretary. Early on, a division of labor emerged: Archer took primary responsibility for Law School alumni affairs, while Strain (himself a College of Liberal Arts graduate) assumed administrative responsibility for alumni of the collegiate departments. Despite the Trustees' repeated professions of support, however, neither man was permitted to devote his full time to alumni work.
reorganize the small and decentralized College alumni clubs (like the Accounting Club and the Suffolk University Club of Lowell) into a single College alumni association. The group’s leaders, however, began almost immediately to raise complaints that the Trustees were treating College alumni and students as second-class citizens, and that concern for the welfare of both groups was being subordinated to the Board’s solicitude for the Law School and its graduates. The Trustees, for their part, became dismayed at the group’s stridency, and suspicious of its motives; in 1954, the administration’s paternalism was not reserved solely for students. As a result, the Board of Trustees withdrew its support from the new College alumni organization.

The organization’s leaders then proceeded to petition the legislature for a charter independent of the University. There was adamant opposition by the Trustees before a legislative committee; but, ultimately, a charter was granted in July 1956 to the General Alumni Association of Suffolk University (GAASU). The school was then treated to the spectacle of its Trustees and a group of its alumni warily circling each other for the next eight years. Throughout this unpleasant interlude, student leaders in the Suffolk Colleges manifested steadfast support for GAASU and its demands, which included equal support from the University for College and Law alumni activities, the election of alumni Trustees, and the appointment of a full-time alumni secretary. Only when the Board’s membership began to change and diversify in the early 1960s, however, was the way opened to a gradual rapprochement. By that time, the number of alumni from the Liberal Arts, Business, and Journalism Colleges had grown to a significant figure. As businessmen slowly gained parity on the Board with lawyers and judges, they expressed amazement at the long neglect of such a resource. The commitment made by the reconstituted Board to physical expansion of the University’s facilities necessitated a growing reliance on alumni support and contributions. A reconciliation with the school’s graduates — all of them — was imperative.

73. The leaders of the group were George Karavasiles ’49, Michael Linquata ’49, John L. (Jack) McCarthy ’49, and Arthur West ’51. Dorothy McNamara, under the watchful eye of Judge Donahue, was authorized to work with the organizers; the Alumni News was revived, and arrangements were made to have the Suffolk Journal — in which a regular alumni news page was instituted — sent to all graduates of the collegiate departments.
The first step was taken in 1964, when Dorothy McNamara, a long-time supporter of GAASU within the University administration, was appointed full-time Alumni Secretary. Three years later, a University Development office was established. The real breakthrough, however, came under the Presidency of former business executive Thomas A. Fulham. One of Fulham’s first acts after assuming office in 1970 was to engineer establishment of a Trustee Committee on Alumni Relations. Within three months after the new committee’s creation, the Board had voted to encourage alumni participation in the affairs of the University, agreed in principle to the election of some Trustees by the alumni, and pledged to fund and coordinate all alumni activities through the Development office. The intractable College alumni, for their part, agreed to disband GAASU and to merge its members and resources into the new Suffolk University General Alumni Association (SUGAA). This new entity was to contain within it the alumni of the Liberal Arts College, the Business School, and the Law School. It was a “department of the University” in that it was funded from the University’s budget, but it was administered by its own elected officers. Thus, the adversarial relation between Suffolk University and a segment of its alumni was to be ended, while regular consultation and coordination between alumni leaders and the University Development office were institutionalized. By the spring of 1972, SUGAA was functioning; to mark its debut, the new alumni organization launched yet another short-lived series of the Alumni News.

Within three years, however, both the News and SUGAA’s original constitution had proved inadequate to their tasks. The Alumni Association was reorganized from a unitary body in which all University graduates were members — and with whose activities no individual academic unit’s alumni were satisfied — into a much more flexible umbrella organization. Under the new constitution, SUGAA was restructured into three semi-autonomous divisions, each with its own elected governing body: the General Alumni Association, for holders of undergraduate or graduate degrees from the Liberal Arts College, and for

74. Including Journalism.
75. Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Minutes, April 14, 1971.
holders of undergraduate Business School degrees; the MBA/MPA Alumni Association, for those who had received School of Management graduate degrees; and a Law School Alumni Association. Student representation was also included for the first time, on each of the three divisional governing bodies. The three divisions were linked, in turn, through an elected University Alumni Council. University funding for alumni activities continued, and the Development office’s alumni relations staff was expanded (in part, to produce the new *Alumni Bulletin*). By 1976, the entire apparatus was in operation.76

Meanwhile, steady prodding from SUGAA and from student leaders helped impel the Board to apply the principle it had endorsed in 1971: election of some Trustees by the University’s alumni. The first Trustee so designated was James Linnehan, who was elected to a three-year term on the Board in November 1976. Two other elected “Alumni Trustees” then joined the Board during the next year, fulfilling the Trustees’ stipulation that three such representatives should serve on the Board at any given time.

By 1981, the Trustees’ renunciation of paternalism, and their attempts to “integrate the feelings and philosophies of the various segments of the Suffolk University community,” had yielded fruitful results. Channels of communication had been opened, and bases established for cooperation, among alumni, students, faculty, and the University administration.

The University’s alumni, however, have contributed more to their *alma mater* than advice and cooperation. The record they have made in many spheres of endeavor provides, and has since 1906 provided, the best testimony to the institution’s quality.77 In 1981, there were over 8500 living Law School graduates. By that time, the number of alumni from the collegiate departments had surpassed that for the Law School; the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Management counted over ten thousand living

76. A number of Alumni Fellow Awards were presented in 1974; and beginning in 1976, several Outstanding Alumni Awards were given annually. The first Annual Fund drives, one for the Law School and the other for the Colleges, were held in 1975. Four years later, a School of Management Development Committee, chaired by Peter Volpe, undertook that school’s first separate fund-raising effort.
graduates.\(^7^8\) General Alumni Association membership was evenly divided between Liberal Arts and School of Management alumni, while the MBA/MPA Alumni Association was growing at a rate of over three hundred members per year.

By 1981, the Law School had evolved to a point where its top administrators were trying to shed the University’s traditional image as a path of upward mobility for ambitious poor people; Suffolk University Law School now presented itself primarily as a path of further mobility for qualified members of the middle class. On the other hand, the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Management (at least in its undergraduate division) still concentrated on offering to enthusiastic consumers the same commodity that Gleason Archer had purveyed seventy-five years before: a sound and practical education, independent of the state, that every working person could afford. Excellence was not overlooked; but the heritage of the University’s social history was perhaps not so accurately preserved in the Law School as in the undergraduate departments. There, the dreams dreamed and the deeds done by Horatio Alger’s heroes were not forgotten.

\(^{77}\) There were already twenty-nine Law School alumni in the Massachusetts legislature when, in 1929, F. Leslie Viccaro became the first Suffolk graduate appointed to the bench. Three years later, Frank J. Donahue retired as Democratic State Chairman and received an appointment to the Superior Court of the Commonwealth; he was the first alumnus to serve in either capacity. Suffolk Law graduates numbered fourteen judges by 1937 (including Viccaro, Donahue, John E. Fenton, C. Edward Rowe, Daniel J. Gillen, Frankland W.L. Miles, David G. Nagle, and Edward T. Simoneau), as well as thirty Massachusetts legislators, twenty-two state government members, and nine clerks of court. Twenty years later, the Law alumni boasted three Superior Court justices (Donahue, Nagle, and Eugene A. Hudson), sixty other judges, Massachusetts Attorney-General George Fingold, and the Mayor of Boston John B. Hynes. John F. Collins ’41 replaced Hynes as Mayor. In 1972, sixteen percent of the Massachusetts judiciary, including Superior Court Chief Justice Walter H. McLaughlin, had graduated from Suffolk, as had ten percent of the state’s legislators. Charlotte Anne Perretta was named in 1978 to the Massachusetts Appeals Court; her designation constituted the highest Massachusetts state judicial appointment yet granted a Suffolk graduate. Two years later, alumna Linda S. Dalianis received designation as the New Hampshire Superior Court’s first woman justice. Finally, in March 1979, Martin F. Loughlin became the first Suffolk Law alumnus to sit on the federal bench when he was appointed to the Federal District Court, First Circuit (New Hampshire). Congressman John J. Moakley and long-time Suffolk County District Attorney Garrett H. Byrne were Suffolk Law graduates, as were respected Massachusetts legislators John A. Brennan, Jr., and W. Paul White.

\(^{78}\) Among them were college presidents, doctors, scientists, eminent scholars like Harry Zohn and Nicholas Perrella, banking executives like Irene Grzybinska and John R. McDonald, business leaders, mayors, journalists, and professional athletes like Raymond “Sugar Bear” Hamilton. Hollywood comedy writer Mike Marmer and actor Paul Benedict graduated from the Suffolk Colleges, as did Coast Guard Captain Eleanor L. Ecuyer and novelist Nancy Pierce Zaroulis. In 1980, Suffolk alumni constituted 59% of the University’s Board of Trustees and 14% of its total full-time faculty (25% in the Law School, 7% in Liberal Arts, and 24% in the School of Management).
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