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The day of Suffolk’s Centennial Celebration began with brilliant sunshine, crisp fall temperatures and an air of festive expectation.

Centennial planners and volunteers began to drift in shortly after dawn to make sure everything was in place for the Centennial Convocation and birthday party.

The morning’s preparations centered on the Law School, where more than 400 faculty and invited dignitaries donned academic robes in preparation for the convocation.

Members of the Suffolk family gathered along Tremont Street, the Boston Common paths, and windows in the Law School and 73 Tremont Street to get a glimpse of the procession. Pealing bells and applause filled the air as the procession crossed the Common.

Passers-by asked: Is there a parade today? The enthusiastic explanations of Suffolk guides and the blue-and-gold banners along Tremont Street and in the Common helped them understand the day’s significance.

The more than 2,500 people gathered under an enormous tent on the Boston Common for the Centennial Academic Convocation heard greetings from ambassadors, elected officials and other dignitaries.

The keynote speaker was former President George H.W. Bush, who told the crowd:

“I want to salute the professors and faculty members who are with us, those who dedicate their lives to teaching, and in so doing, help build a better, more hopeful future, one life, one mind at a time. …

“Seeing everything Suffolk has accomplished in your first glorious 100 years, and just as importantly, seeing your ongoing commitment to providing access to a world-class education, and encouraging public service, and practicing the Gleason Archer gospel of hard work and self-help—all of this and more explains why I’m an optimist about the future of this great country.”

The ceremony included a rousing performance of Suffolk’s new alma mater, conducted by Emilio Aragón, a Suffolk alumnus and celebrity in Spain, who composed the music. Professor Fred Marchant and his wife, Stefi Rubin, wrote the lyrics.
It took several years of planning by more than 100 people across campus and the efforts of about 300 volunteers to present Suffolk University in all its majesty on its 100th anniversary.

The community spirit was already apparent during the Heritage Medallion Ceremony on Sept. 19, during which the University demonstrated its appreciation for the endeavors of President David J. Sargent, John E. Fenton, Jr., Francis X Flannery, Jeanne M. Hession, and the late Thomas J. Boynton.

The pride and enthusiasm reached new heights as more than 5,000 people participated in the official kickoff of our Centennial Celebration. Already we have met many of the goals and objectives set out by the Centennial Celebration Committee in its blueprint project.

After gathering the views of faculty, administrators, staff, alumni and students, the committee had set out the following goals and objectives in its blueprint:

- Create general awareness of the University
- Foster pride in Suffolk
- Celebrate Suffolk’s accomplishments
- Create national presence
- Create awareness of Suffolk’s specific offerings and programs
- Provide an opportunity to refocus attention on Suffolk’s mission
- Enhance Suffolk’s fund-raising capabilities.

While we are still savoring the success of the September 21 commencement of our Centennial Celebration, planning already is under way for the Centennial’s grand finale next September.

Again, we welcome your participation in the planning process, and a new survey is being prepared, which will be accessible from the Centennial Celebration Web site. We will let you know by e-mail when it is available. Your input was invaluable in setting the tone for a wonderful kickoff to our yearlong celebration, and we hope you will share more ideas in this new survey.

Rosemarie E. Sansone
Executive Editor

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The culminiation of the day’s festivities was a birthday cake cutting and concert in Pemberton Square. Suffolk’s Ramifications a cappella group made its second appearance of the day, having wowed the Convocation assemblage. The crowd started dancing when Bob Dignoard’s band, One Moe Time, hit the stage, followed by Averi and The Temptations Review featuring Dennis Edwards.

More than 5,000 people attended some portion of the September 21 Centennial kick-off, but not all had the staying power to parade in the morning and dance into the night.

“I was tired after the long day and couldn’t make the birthday party on the plaza,” said Vice President and Treasurer Francis X. Flannery. “When we’re doing the 200th, let’s do it over a two-day period. … We’ll have all these medical breakthroughs before then, so we’ll still be around.”

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“I can’t say how many times I cried today; I was so proud.”
—Mary Lally, assistant dean/registrar, Enrollment and Retention Management

“A Suffolk University Alma Mater

F. Marchant & S. Rubin

Andante

(Musical Introduction) Over the cobble

city’s lamp lit streets — Over the

did we

Emilio Aragón

“The procession was just a beautiful sight.”

—Sylvia Lewis, Public Management Department
Suffolk University’s Centennial Celebration has begun, and we would like to thank former president George H. W. Bush, the keynote speaker at our Centennial Academic Convocation, and all the faculty, administrators, staff, alumni, students, friends and distinguished guests who helped make the opening of our yearlong celebration such a memorable occasion. When Suffolk was founded in 1906, education was reserved for the elite in America. The university set out to change that 100 years ago by giving every capable man and woman Access to Excellence in higher education. Today our university has campuses in Madrid, Spain,
and Dakar, Senegal. But we’ve never forgotten our roots. Our warm atmosphere and deep commitment to the success of each individual continue to help our students thrive. Our superb faculty and the wide range of substantial professional experiences available right outside our doors give our students a definite edge in launching their careers. The university is proud of the achievements of the many members of its community and grateful to the mentors, role models and scholars who add so much to the Suffolk experience. We look forward to another century of providing students a chance to learn and to realize their goals. Learn more at www.suffolk.edu.
“The Centennial was a great time to start working here at Suffolk. I’ve met a lot of people and learned about the University’s history. The buzz around campus is exciting, and there’s a great sense of community today.”

—Nicole DeAngelo, assistant archivist

“I’m so excited. Driving down the streets of Boston, you could see the banners. Driving by the residence hall brought home how things have changed… in ’83 when I started, this was a blue-collar commuter school.”

—Annette Gentile, alumna, former Business Office employee, at reception for former employees

“It was a wonderful day, in the spirit of Suffolk, and we should feel proud of our illustrious history, which was so eloquently communicated today. … The lyrics and arrangement and performance of the Alma Mater were all stellar.”

—Lauri Umansky, associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences

“The Centennial was a great time to start working here at Suffolk. I’ve met a lot of people and learned about the University’s history. The buzz around campus is exciting, and there’s a great sense of community today.”

—Nicole DeAngelo, assistant archivist
“I was proud and honored to be part of the celebration after being here more than 30 years.”
—Bob Diguardia, MIS, Suffolk alumnus, One Moe Time

“Overall, there’s definitely an air of excitement. I’ve been able to listen to all the radio chatter. You could tell it was a well-planned event that went off very well. It’s been a long day, but the party still goes on.”
—Dennis Bryson, Mail Services, alumnus, who spent the day in the Command Center

“I loved seeing all the people together from different schools having a great time.”
—Christina DiRico, Office of the Provost
The Centennial Partnership Series will present exciting concerts, lectures and panel discussions, open to the public, throughout the year.

Distinguished Visiting Scholar in Residence James Carroll, speaking on his recent book “House of War.” Book signing to follow. 4 p.m.–6 p.m., Oct. 19, 2006, C. Walsh Theatre


Reception to be held on Monday, Oct. 23

“European Travelers and the Ottomans: A concert dedicated to W. A. Mozart in the 250th year of his birth.” DÜNYA Turkish music ensemble, in collaboration with the Boston Camerata. Produced by DÜNYA organization. 8 p.m. Oct. 27, 2006, C. Walsh Theatre


Presentation by the Boston Architectural College about changing landscape of Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods. Featuring Peter Vanderwarker and Robert Campbell. February 2007, C. Walsh Theatre

Richard Wendorf, Director of Boston Athenaeum, on the history of the library on its 200th anniversary. Book signing and reception to follow. 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m. March 8, 2007, C. Walsh Theatre

Event to honor the memory of the late Congressman John Joseph “Joe” Moakley. April 2007, C. Walsh Theatre

African Map performance at the African Meeting House and Collage New Music concert with composer Alvin Singleton. Exhibit and panel discussion related to Afriterra Map Collection. September 2007