Suffolk’s students tap into the vast reservoir of knowledge at Suffolk University every day, but this spring will see an outpouring of information to a wider audience through a number of campus-based conferences.

The conferences focus on a variety of topics and rely on intellectual partnerships both within the University and with external colleagues in a wide range of professional and policy-making fields. Conferences in March and April include:

• “The Transatlantic Relationship at the Dawn of the New Millennium,” an interdisciplinary conference including Suffolk faculty as well as Boston-area and European scholars.
• Suffolk’s second academic conference, “Scholarship of Application: Integration and Connections,” a two-day showcase of faculty research across the University.
• “Journalism in the Changing Media World,” a two-day conference featuring print, broadcast and Internet journalists.
• “Action for Depression Awareness, Prevention, & Treatment,” a two-day conference designed for counseling center, health center and student services professionals.
• “Conference on International Human Rights,” a two-day conference focusing on “Legislative Strategies and Responsibilities” and “Child Sex Trafficking.”

The Centennial provided some of the impetus for these conferences, and they are seen as helping the University attain some of the anniversary celebration’s goals, such as creating awareness of the University, celebrating its accomplishments and fostering pride in the institution.

“I think conferences like this are vital to bringing together academics, students, practitioners and activists to address critical legal and social problems,” said Carole Wagan, director of the Law School’s Center for Advanced Legal Studies program, who is helping to organize the Conference on International Human Rights.

“Not only are we shedding light on an important issue, we are also providing direction and encouragement for students and others who want to get involved.”

One of those students is Ani Ajemian, executive director of Suffolk’s chapter of the National Women Law Students’ Association, or NWLSA, who is working on the “Child Sex Trafficking” component of the human rights conference. “It is always important for academic institutions to take a leading role in matters affecting the public interest, and nothing could be more important than working to rescue and protect child victims of sex trafficking,” she said.

Continued on page 5
A Message to Readers

The SUN has long been a source of news for the Suffolk community, but many people on campus also are finding their way to the Web home page for day-to-day updates on news and events.

The redesign of our Web site enabled the University to focus on providing timely and important information.

Our new home page news and events listings were intended to convey the intellectual and social life of our community to prospective students and others navigating to the site. I encourage you to take a look! www.suffolk.edu.

Every day there are regularly changing news stories and events listings on the home page. News reports have included initiatives such as the Pipeline to Public Service and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s address to the “Globalization and the U.S. Law School” conference. Meanwhile, exhibits, special performances, lectures, athletic competitions and student activities can be found in the events listings.

In creating this news source, we have provided an informative tool for our internal audience. While the SUN has provided a vehicle to communicate with people on campus, we have found that, since the Web site redesign, more current information is available online. We hope you will take advantage of this added benefit by browsing the Suffolk home page every day.

Technology and education have led to changes in how people receive news. An illiterate population depended on a town crier to know what was going on. With education came newspapers, television news and now the Internet as major sources of information.

The Department of Communication and Journalism is exploring the evolution of news sources in a two-day conference, “Journalism in the Changing Media World,” with guest panelists from across the journalism spectrum. You can read about this conference and an array of others in this issue of the SUN. And you’ll find additional stories on the Suffolk Web site as these events and other important happenings occur.

Rosemarie E. Sansone
Executive Editor

Offices Shifting from One Beacon

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY’S newest location, the Rosalie Stahl Center at 73 Tremont Street, will soon be teeming with familiar faces.

By June 30, all of the Suffolk administrative offices currently at One Beacon Street will be relocated. Making the short trip across the street to 73 Tremont will be employees from the Payroll, Assistant Treasurer, Facilities Planning, Human Resources and Business offices. History, Economics and University Media Services also will be moving.

“Everyone must leave One Beacon by June 30,” said Gordon King, senior director for Facilities Planning and Management. “That’s when our lease runs out.”

The new offices entering 73 Tremont will completely fill Suffolk’s space on the fifth, twelfth and thirteenth floors.

“I would like to give special recognition to all the people, particularly on the twelfth and thirteenth floors, who will be making minor moves and living through the inconvenience of nearby construction because of this project,” said King.

The new move also will involve the first floor of 73 Tremont, where the Discover Boston store will be converted into a satellite television studio for the Communication and Journalism Department. The storefront studio will be similar to the FOX25 Boston location on Beacon Street.

Marg Dion, an adjunct professor at The New England School of Art & Design, will coordinate all work internally on the conversion, which is expected to begin in April. The architect is Sasaki Associates, and Blaire Townsend of the Casali Group is project manager.

“This latest move will represent Suffolk’s full use of its space at 73 Tremont Street at this time,” said King.

“Further options for expansion, including student residences and a student center, are being explored in a planning process with the city of Boston and surrounding neighborhoods.”

Surge in Early Action Applications

EARLY ACTION APPLICATIONS have increased by 40 percent since last year, with 1,240 prospective freshmen having applied by the Nov. 20, 2006, early deadline, compared to 885 last year and 191 in November 2003.

“Typically the better students will apply earlier,” said John Hamel, director of Undergraduate Admission. “This gives us more time to work with them.”

The Admission Office has encouraged students to apply earlier rather than later, and the elimination of rolling admissions has had an effect on the numbers.

While Suffolk’s early action program is nonbinding, students are attracted to the program in part because, if accepted, they can get a foot in the door for Suffolk’s limited student housing, and they have the reassurance of receiving an admission decision by Dec. 20.

The 698 students accepted through early action hail from throughout the United States. There are 14 international students among them, and nine commuters.

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Committee Named to Advise Renamed IT Department

The former Management Information Systems, or MIS, department has a new name: Information Technical Services, with the emphasis on the customer and services. “We’re organizing around delivering the types of services that members of the University need to support our mission and objectives,” said Chief Information Officer Michael Pearce. “Our focus is being customer-centric to our students, faculty, and staff.”

To that end, Pearce has created what he refers to as the Committee on Information Services. This group, which he chairs, will act as the advisory board to the Administrative Council, providing them with recommendations for projects, policies and prioritizations.

The 13-member committee has representatives from across the University.

“The committee, which will meet monthly, will discuss requirements and what needs to be achieved to meet the institutional mission, and how best we can accomplish that. On key projects, like course management systems, multimedia/classroom requirements, etc, the committee will develop subcommittees to report back findings, enabling the committee to make an informed proposal to the Administrative Council,” said Pearce.

As the committee begins to move forward, members of the University will be encouraged to make requests about what they deem to be needed to the committee members.

The following are members of the Committee on Information Services: Christopher Giordano, associate dean of students; Eric Lee, assistant to the president; Gordon King, Facilities Planning and Management; Jack Rotondi, Advancement; John Deliso, associate dean, Law School; John Pagliarulo, chief, University Police and Security; Lauren Thorman, Center for International Education; Mike Dwyer, assistant treasurer; Ruth McEwen, professor of Accounting; Rosemarie Sansone, director of Public Affairs; Sebastián Royo, associate dean, CAS and director of Madrid Campus; Walter Caffey, dean of Enrollment.

Food for Thoughtfulness

Suffolk and Sodexho have teamed up to provide an added incentive to recycle as part of the University’s participation in Recycle Mania, a national 10-week waste reduction and recycling competition running through April 7.

Coupons good for $1 off a purchase at the Sodexho cafés in the Donahue and Sawyer buildings and Sargent Hall were being distributed at random to recyclers throughout February and March. Anyone seen recycling has a chance of being spotted and rewarded.

“Not only does the coupon provide positive reinforcement to those who already are recycling, we hope it will encourage others to choose to recycle their paper, glass, metal and plastic materials,” said Recycling Coordinator Erica Mattison. “This is one of several methods we are using to raise awareness about recycling.”

This is Suffolk’s first year participating in Recycle Mania. After the third week, Recycle Mania had Suffolk in the top 45 percent of the 165 schools participating in the Per Capita Classic.

Recycling guidelines may be found on the Facilities Planning and Management Web site.

Facilities Planning and Management also has established a Sustainability Task Force to serve as an advisory group on research, education and outreach in the area of sustainability. Sustainability refers to using resources without depleting them, so that they are available to future generations.

As part of its work, the task force will explore best management practices for design and construction, facilities operations and procurement.

Centennial & Suffolk on Stage

Theatre Department Coordinator Nora Long and Professor Wesley Savick attend a pre-show reception of Centennial: about a hundred years, an imaginative tribute to Suffolk University and the mystery of the number 100. This original performance, held earlier this month at the C. Walsh Theatre, was written and directed by Savick. (Photo by John Gillooly)
ADAPT: Battling Student Depression

The Counseling Center has successfully brought together members of the Suffolk community to address the stresses that lead to student depression through the five-year-old Action for Depression Awareness, Prevention, & Treatment—or ADAPT—program.

To share its successful strategies, the Counseling Center is offering the 2007 ADAPT Conference on April 13-14.

Campus personnel across the country are seeing increasing numbers of students at risk for depression and suicide, according to Professor and Counseling Center Staff Psychologist Paul Korn.

“ADAPT focuses on getting the entire community involved in prevention,” said Korn, who is co-director of the ADAPT Project.

The ADAPT program reaches out to the community so that all professionals in the system—not only counselors, but also faculty and administrators—can understand what depression is and avoid putting pressure on students, he said.

“Students have been responsive; professors have invited us into their classes; and the Samaritan Awards have raised awareness,” said Korn.

An article about the ADAPT program, “A Successful Community-Based Intervention for Addressing College Student Depression” was published in the Journal of College Student Development in January 2006.

The first session of the ADAPT Conference, "Innovative Community-based Approaches to Addressing College Student Depression and Suicide Prevention: A Working Conference," on Friday, April 13, is free and open to all on a first-come, first served basis. Participants will share information on how to be involved as a community in addressing depression and potential suicide.

On Saturday, April 14, 2007, the Counseling Center, in collaboration with the Suicide Prevention Resource Center and the American Association of Suicidology, will present “Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk: Core Competencies for University and College Counseling Center Staffs.” There is a fee for this workshop.

The conference is attracting an audience from across the region, from Maine to New York City and beyond.

Journalism in the Changing Media World

The Department of Communication and Journalism will sponsor a two-day conference, “Journalism in the Changing Media World,” as part of the Centennial Partnership Series.

More than 20 noted journalists from print, broadcast and the Internet will come together on March 26-27, 2007, in the C. Walsh Theatre to discuss challenges and opportunities presented by major changes in today’s news media.

“This is going to be a significant event that offers something for everyone,” said Robert E. Rosenthal, chair of the Communication and Journalism Department. “We are providing a forum on the future of journalism and the impact that it has in the ever-changing world we live in.”

Five panel discussions are scheduled, covering the future of newspapers, Internet/online news, investigative reporting, broadcast news and opinion journalism.

- Newspaper panel—Boston Globe Editor Marty Baron; Denver Post Editor Greg Moore; Bob Giles, curator of Harvard’s Nieman Foundation for Journalism; and Ellen Soeteber, a visiting fellow at the Poynter Institute.
- Internet/online panel: Christopher Lydon, publisher of Radio Open Source; David Warsh, online publisher of Economic Principles; and Margo Howard, a national columnist with Yahoo, formerly with Slate.com.
- Investigative reporting: Walter Robinson, former head of The Boston Globe’s Spotlight Team; Jim Taricani, WJAR-TV in Providence, who recently served a six-month federal sentence for refusing to reveal a source; and Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Golden.
- Broadcast news: WCVB-TV, Channel 5 anchor Natalie Jacobson; New England Cable News anchor R.D. Sahl; and Emily Rooney, host and executive editor of WGBH’s Greater Boston.
- Opinion journalism: Boston Globe columnists Joan Vennochi and Derrick Jackson; Boston Herald columnist Peter Gelzinis; and syndicated columnist Froma Harrop of the Providence Journal.

Faculty member Bruce Butterfield, formerly of The Boston Globe coordinated the conference, which is open to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the Beacon Hill community.

Academic Conference Highlights Intellectual Achievement

The University’s second Academic Conference, “Scholarship of Application: Integration and Connections,” presented panel discussions, posters and lectures by faculty from all three schools.

The conference celebrated the intellectual diversity of the University for an audience that also spanned the entire community, from students to staff.

The wide variety of topics addressed fell into various categories, such as education and teaching, careers and business strategy, the arts, and global issues.

A reception following the first day of panel discussions demonstrated the importance of the themes of integration and connection, as it brought together the University’s six distinguished visiting scholars and scholars in residence. The honorees were:

- Tahir Al-Bakaa, a specialist in Iranian and Middle Eastern history and former president of Iraq’s Al-Mustansiriya University, Iraqi Minister of Higher Education, and member of the Iraqi National Assembly
- Sushil Bhatia, inventor and entrepreneur
- Robert Brustein, founder and artistic director of the American Repertory Theatre
- James Carroll, Boston Globe columnist and winner of the National Book Award
- Martha Chamallas, Robert J. Lynn Chair in Law at the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University
- Novelist Maxine Hong Kingston, winner of the National Book Award
The Transatlantic Relationship

Suffolk’s Government Department celebrated the Centennial in March with a conference that highlighted the University’s commitment to international education.

The Government Department chose “The Transatlantic Relationship at the Dawn of the New Millennium” as the conference theme due to its currency and pertinence to the department’s academic work.

“Since we have a campus in Madrid, this topic fits into Suffolk’s goal to build bridges between the two continents,” said Sebastián Royo, associate dean of the College and director of the Madrid campus. “We aimed to get a better understanding of the transatlantic differences and discuss ways to address them and move forward.”

The conference brought together scholars and policymakers addressing political and economic issues, security and the future.

“At the dawn of the new century, the future of the transatlantic relationship is very much in flux,” Royo told conference participants in his opening remarks. “Economic problems, political issues and the war in Iraq have strained the relationship and created tensions not only across the Atlantic but also within Europe. Many observers have argued that the war in Iraq, in particular, has crystallized the most fundamental change in the nature of the transatlantic alliance since the end of the cold war. Some have pointed out that while the existing divide is much more in mutual perceptions than it is in reality, the risk is that perceptions will become reality.”

Royo said that only by better understanding the kinds and roots of Anti-Americanism will we be able to address them, and the conference was a step toward creating that understanding.

Conferences Showcase Intellectual Spirit

Continued from page 1

“The Transatlantic Relationship at the Dawn of the New Millennium” conference brought leading scholars and policy makers from other institutions and countries to Suffolk, offering learning and networking opportunities to the campus community, according to Sebastián Royo, associate dean of the College and director of the Madrid campus. “The conference also allowed Suffolk faculty and students to share their knowledge, research and questions on this subject, while giving visibility to our faculty and international relations programs,” said Royo. “And because it was open to the public, it helped us to connect and provide a service to the wider community.”

Conference on International Human Rights

The two-day Centennial Conference on International Human Rights was planned by faculty and students across the University. It focuses on two distinct but related areas, “Implementing Human Rights in Massachusetts: Legislative Strategies & Responsibilities” and “Hidden Epidemic: Child Sex Trafficking.”

The April 26 implementation section of the conference, “the first in the nation to focus on the human rights responsibilities of state and municipal officials, is garnering a lot of positive attention within the NGO (non-governmental organization) universe,” said Laura H. Roskos, activist in residence with Suffolk’s Center for Women’s Health and Human Rights, which has planned the day.

“The nation to focus on the human rights responsibilities of state and municipal officials, is garnering a lot of positive attention within the NGO (non-governmental organization) universe,” said Laura H. Roskos, activist in residence with Suffolk’s Center for Women’s Health and Human Rights, which has planned the day.

“On the other hand, by offering programming specifically geared to the needs of public officials, we are building on Suffolk Law School’s existing reputation as the place to go if you have aspirations of entering state politics,” she said.

Two-pronged approach

While the first day focuses on implementation, the April 27 session concentrates on a particular problem, child sex trafficking.

Associate Professor Sara Dillon said she was amazed when she learned of the millions of children around the world who are caught up by the sex slave trade.

“This is completely off the public radar screen,” she said. “It’s the kind of stuff that really challenges our notion of humanity. We want to believe it’s somewhere else, that it’s a niche problem, but it’s everywhere, and it’s huge.

“Many countries have laws, but what’s missing is the widespread mobilization that comes with recognition of human rights,” said Dillon. She said...
New Faces at Suffolk

Please welcome our newest employees:

Elizabeth Bassett, Financial Aid, Colleges
Justina Chu, Law School Budget Office
Rebecca Coyne, Alumni Relations, Sawyer Business School
Julie Crowley, Law Dean's Office
Madelyne Cuddeback, Advancement
Leslie Cummings, Sociology
Edwin Dillaby, Human Resources
Sue Downing, Enrollment
Eric Hatch, Registrar, Colleges

James Janda, Peer Mentor Program
Nancy Kelleher, Public Affairs
Elizabeth Leary, Office of Government & Community Affairs
Michael Mello, Information Technical Services
Erin Palmer, Alumni Programs, CAS
Kinga Pastuszak, Counseling Center
Andrea Pokladowski, Advancement
Jonathan Talley, Facilities Management
Patricia Thalley, Law Financial Aid

Potpourri

Get well wishes to Andrew Wark, MIS, who is recuperating from open-heart surgery. He and wife Maureen Wark, Residence Life & Summer Programs, thank everyone for their good wishes, thoughts, prayers and cards during this time. The couple said they are “overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness of so many people.” Andy expects to return to work in March.

Robert Allison, History, has been named to the newly formed Heritage Committee of the South Boston Citizens’ Association.

Carter Bishop and Charles Kindregan, Law School, are the co-editors of the new electronic Suffolk University Law School SSRN Journal Research Paper Series. Legal Reference Librarian Rick Buckingham is the contact person for the series. The electronic publication will list five or six articles by law faculty that have been accepted for publication or are working papers. Distribution will be available without charge to all college and Law School faculty and senior administrators, Law School alumni and educators throughout the world who use the SSRN electronic research network.

Ken Cosgrove, Government, attended the American Political Science Association Annual Teaching and Learning Conference in Charlotte, N.C., where he participated in a working group that examined ways to include civic education activities as part of regular course activities.

Trish McLaughlin, Law School, is proud of her daughters, Hillary and Melissa McLaughlin, for their work on the renovated indoor gorilla exhibit at the Franklin Park Zoo. Hillary was one of the main sculptors who created the gorillas’ habitat. She crafted a root cage to act as a playpen for the baby gorillas. Melissa mixed thousands of pounds of cement every day for months to complete the project.


Jim Nelson, Athletics, was recognized by the Panagia Soumela of Boston Society in appreciation of his contributions to athletics and the Greek community as a Philhellene at a ceremony at St. Nectarios Greek Community Center in Roslindale. In attendance was Suffolk men’s soccer coach Nick Papadopoulos and men’s basketball alumnus Nick Tsistos.

John O’Callaghan, Government, served as chair of a panel, “Policy Discourses and the Art of the Possible,” at the Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting at the Omni Parker House in Boston.

Irene Piryatinsky, Psychology doctoral student, presented her research, “Cultural Narratives of Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Mother-Child Storytelling in Israel,” at a symposium at the Society for Cross-Cultural Research in San Antonio, Texas.

Good luck to Eulvid Rocque, Business Office, who is leaving the University for a position in the Budget Office at Georgetown University. He can be contacted at erocque@yahoo.com.

Congratulations to CAS Associate Dean and Director of the Madrid Campus Sebastián Royo and his wife, Cristina, on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Elizabeth Royo on Jan. 3.


Steven Spitzer, Sociology, and Carolyn Boyes Watson, Sociology and director of the Center for Restorative Justice, were panelists at the winter training, “Transitions: Rebuilding,” sponsored by the Changing Lives Through Literature Program held at Northeastern University’s Henderson House.

Welcome to Tu Thanh Nguyen, who has joined the Law School as a visiting scholar until mid-June. A lecturer in commercial law from Ho Chi Minh City University of Law in Vietnam, Nguyen has a master’s in law from Lund University, Sweden, and is a Ph.D. candidate at Lund. His thesis is entitled “Technology Transfer and Competition Law under the TRIPS Agreement and Its Implications for Vietnam,” and his research project here at Suffolk will focus on the U.S. perspective on trade with Vietnam.
Faculty Publications

Barbara Abrams, Humanities and Modern Languages. Her article, “Rousseau’s Courageous Confessions: Lessons on Domestic Violence in 18th Century France,” has been accepted for publication in the spring 2007 edition of the International Journal of the Humanities.


Bernadette Feeley, Law School. Her article, “Exploring the Use of For-Profit Placements in Law School Externship Programs,” was listed on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) Top Ten Download list for February.

Sue Orsillo, Psychology, has co-authored “Mindfulness and acceptance-based treatments for anxiety disorders” for the Handbook of Anxiety Disorders (New York: Oxford University Press). In addition, she has co-authored three articles for publication: “The case for mindfulness-based approaches in the cultivation of empathy: Does nonjudgmental, present-moment awareness increase capacity for perspective-taking and empathic concern?” (Journal of Marital and Family Therapy); “An open trial of acceptance-based behavior therapy for generalized anxiety disorder” (Behavior Therapy); and “Cognitive-Behavioral therapy for posttraumatic stress disorder in women: A randomized controlled trial. (Journal of the American Medical Association).


Thomas Trott, Biology. He has published two articles in Challenges in Environmental Management in the Bay of Fundy-Gulf of Maine: “Zoogeography and changes in macroinvertebrate community diversity of rocky intertidal habitats on the Maine coast,” pp. 54–73; and “Can biodiversity be measured independent of sampling effort?” pp. 263–266.

Unity Week 2007: Many Perspectives, One Vision

Unity Week, Suffolk’s annual celebration of diversity and community, is a collaborative effort by students, faculty and administrators. It kicked off Monday, March 19, and runs through Thursday, March 29, when the Unity Week Showcase and Reception will take place at 7 p.m. in the Regan Gymnasium, Ridgeway Building.

Unity Week’s entertainment, speakers, dialogues, open classes, food and music not only recognize the diversity within the University, but affirm the value and vitality that this pluralism brings to the individual and collective experience here at Suffolk.

For more information, visit http://www.suffolk.edu/campuslife/17554.html.

Job Shadow Day at the Beacon Hill Institute

The Beacon Hill Institute participates in the annual Job Shadow Day sponsored by the Boston Private Industry Council and the Boston Public Schools to provide an opportunity for high school students who are considering career choices to learn about professional life.

“The last time that very famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, saw his shadow and called for an early spring was 1999. That was also the year the Beacon Hill Institute began participating in the Boston Private Industry Council’s Job Shadow Day,” said Frank Conte, director of communications and information systems for BHI.

This year, a junior from the Josiah Quincy Upper School, Shixin Su, shadowed Conte for the day and helped update the institute’s archives.

“BHI has been an enthusiastic participant in Job Shadow Day,” said Conte. “Very few things are more satisfying than helping a student learn about professional goals. I love the opportunity to connect with students from the inner city and to introduce them to the public policy ideas behind our work. Moreover, Job Shadow Day is a chance to showcase the academic offerings here at Suffolk University.”
S.O.U.L.S. Seeks Care Items for Troops

The S.O.U.L.S. Community Service & Service Learning Center is collecting items for a University-wide Troop Drive running through April 13, Suffolk Service Day.

Morale-boosting items gathered through the Troop Drive will be assembled into care packages by volunteers on Suffolk Service Day and sent to military personnel stationed overseas.

S.O.U.L.S. is collecting recommended items from a Soldier’s Wish List—www.asoldierswishlist.org—in partnership with New England Caring for our Military, Inc.

Members of the University community are welcome to supplement these items with anything else they might consider useful, fun or tasty. As of early March, there were donations of beef jerky, disposable razors, and a big box of shampoo from Athletics Director Jim Nelson.

The morale-boosting items may be deposited in designated locations marked “Troop Drive” throughout the University.

Pipeline to Public Service

Suffolk’s Government Department is part of an initiative to prepare leaders of color for positions in public service in the Greater Boston area. Participating in the kickoff event for the Initiative for Diversity in Civic Leadership are Angel Bermudez, senior director of Grantmaking and Special Projects at the Boston Foundation; Government Department Chair John Berg; Assistant Professor of Government Teri Fair; Avi Green, executive director of MassVOTE; and Giovanna Negretti, executive director of ¿Oíste? (Photo by John Gillooly)

Conference on International Human Rights

Continued from page 5

that, since the United States enacted child-sex-trafficking laws about six years ago, it has paid more attention to the human rights records of other countries as it relates to this area. Especially under former Secretary of State Colin Powell, the other countries and held them accountable for the human rights of these children.

The idea of a conference focusing on child sex trafficking came from students who had seen the film The Day My God Died in Professor Kate Nace Day’s Gender and the Law class. The film profiles Maiti Nepal, an organization that helps the victims of sex trafficking.

Day’s class includes an empowerment component, and students Abby Rothberg and Meghan Grummer changed their project after they saw the film.

“We were so disgusted about the issue of sex trafficking and impressed with the work of Maiti Nepal that we wanted to do a fundraiser and raise awareness as part of our final project,” said Rothberg, president of the Suffolk Public Interest Law Group.

“This conference shows how much is possible when women act on behalf of other women,” said Day, who approached Advanced Legal Studies Director Carole Wagan about a conference that would demonstrate what women can do from the bottom up.

The National Women Law Students’ Association, or NWLSA, also got involved to raise interest, raise awareness and raise money to take care of the women and children who are the subject of the film.

“The sex-trafficking industry has been overlooked for much too long and is a growing problem within the United States,” said NWLSA Executive Director Ani Ajemian. “When we talk about children’s issues, especially those involving sex crimes, we must discuss how they relate to women’s issues and the family, making it all the more appropriate for NWLSA to get involved.”

The Massachusetts model

“It is really only possible to mount this seminar here in Massachusetts, close to the State House, because of the commonwealth’s very positive human rights record,” said Roskos. “The commonwealth has been a national leader in employing human rights standards to guide its financial development and investment strategies.”

She pointed out that the state’s human rights record is superior to that of the United States as a whole, even though the Massachusetts Code makes no explicit mention of international human rights standards.