THREE CHORDS & THE TRUTH
Radio Legend Holly Harris
Leads A Double Life

SSSH, LISTEN
Phyllis Godwin Shares a Trade Secret

HEART OF THE CAMPUS
The New Sawyer Library
Transforms Suffolk

THE GOOD FIGHT
Iris Coloma-Gaines Advocates for Migrant Farm Workers
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THE CALL TO PUBLIC SERVICE
IS ANYBODY LISTENING?

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- **Judge E. George Zahar JD '81**
  Chair, State Ethics Commission
  After serving 24 years as Chief Justice of the state Housing Court, Judge E. George Zahar continues to serve the public as a member of the Board of Registration in Medicine.

- **Lawrence DiCara JD '76**
  Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP
  A former Boston city councilor, and an expert in real estate and public finance, Larry DiCara currently co-chairs the Commonwealth Housing Task Force.

- **Linda Dorcena Forry**
  State Representative, 12th Suffolk District
  Newly elected Boston lawmaker Linda Dorcena Forry is a recent appointee to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

- **Lewis H. (Harry) Spence**
  Commissioner, Department of Social Services (MA)
  Appointed to not for his talent for organization restructuring, Lewise H. Spence has also served as Deputy Chancellor for Operations of the New York City Public Schools.

- **Joan Venocchi JD '84**
  Columnist, The Boston Globe

**SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY will present a Public Service Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert M. Coard, President and CEO of Action for Boston Community Development. Presenter: President David J. Sargent**

**MODERATOR:**

- **Paul LaCamera**
  General Manager, The WBZ Group
  Paul LaCamera has worked both sides of the electronic media aisles for more than 35 years, first at WBZ-AM and now at WBZ-FM where he is General Manager.

**SPECIAL AWARD RECIPIENT:**

- **Robert M. Coard**
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The Loom in the Library

Upon this gifted age, in its dark hour,
Rains from the sky a meteoric shower
Of facts... they lie unquestioned, uncombined.
Wisdom enough to leech us of our ill
Is daily spun; but there exists no loom
To weave it into fabric:

—Edna St. Vincent Millay

I've been thinking a lot about libraries lately.

It started last fall with the news that my alma mater, the University of Texas, was removing 90,000 books from its undergraduate library, approximately 90 percent of the total collection. In exchange would be an espresso bar and internet café, along with banks of computers. Henceforth, the area would be called the "Information Commons." To be fair, the books are not being tossed, but moved to other UT libraries. And Texas is not the first university to make this change. Iowa, Arizona, and Southern Cal are among a long list of universities that have opened an information commons, nearly always with an accompanying press release describing them as "more student-friendly." The implication being that snacks are needed to entice students into studious endeavors. Knowledge and wisdom just ain't enough anymore.

Edna St. Vincent Millay, whose work I first stumbled upon while browsing the very Texas stacks that have now gone the way of the Edsel, raises an important point in the epigraph above. What of knowledge and wisdom? How do we manufacture more of that? For whether it is raw data or hard facts, information still needs to be woven into something—preferably knowledge, ideally wisdom—if it is to have purpose or value.

To that end, a library plays a very important role. For it is in the library that a student first puts classroom theory into actual practice. It is in the library that a student learns to locate original source material not assigned in class. It is in the library that ideas are formed, themes tested, arguments developed, and original scholarship attempted. In other words, it is in the library where you begin to build your loom.

Such was my frame of mind when someone suggested a story on the new Mildred F. Sawyer Library nearing completion at 73 Tremont Street. Libraries are yawners in the magazine business. Not exactly man bites dog stuff. Still, I did wonder if anyone at Suffolk had Starbucks in their eyes. (Not anytime soon, as it turns out.) What we found instead was as interesting as it was inspiring.

Librarian and Suffolk alum Bob Dugan MPA '82 knows how to attract students to the library—more, he knows how to keep them there. And the new Sawyer Library takes advantage of that knowledge, offering a mix of tried and true with the best of the new. Wireless technology for its obvious mobility. Group study rooms for team projects. Old world reading rooms for prolonged scholarship. And an acquisition plan built upon a time-tested strategy.

The new Sawyer Library is, in large part, the culmination of a remarkable career. The new Sawyer is Dugan's 54th library construction project. He himself calls it "the highlight of my professional career."

Our story on the new Mildred F. Sawyer Library begins on page 28 and is well worth the read.

The spring issue of SAM has a few other surprises, such as lawyers writing comedy, school counselors becoming radio legends, and septuagenarians lighting up Fenway Park. While at first glance it sounds like an eclectic lineup, the unifying theme is alumni who have tied their passion to their work—beginning with our cover story on Iris Coloma-Gaines JD '91, a public advocate who gives voice to Pennsylvania's large and growing migrant farm worker population. Her passion for public service started during her student days at Suffolk Law and continues strong more than a decade later.

A similar personality trait distinguishes alumna Phyllis Godwin MBA '81, who built her father's electrical supply shop, Granite City Electric, into a New England icon. A conversation with Phyllis Godwin is indeed a treat. One of the true pioneering women in business, Ms. Godwin was asked what advice she had for the next generation of women executives. Her answer was immediate, and it reaffirmed my thoughts about libraries: "Read. Read as much as you can."

—James Wolken
Letters to the Editor

Congratulations on a wonderful, informative and interesting Alumni Magazine. All the articles were very interesting and entertaining. I read it cover to cover, and really enjoyed the diversity of articles. Thank you for undertaking such a formidable task. I look forward to reading your next edition. We did not have anything like this in the 60s.

—Barry R. Paul
BA '64

The article "Building a Program" needs some correcting. There was no mention of the people who initiated the co-op program. The dean of the business school, Richard McDowell, was the brains behind the co-op program back in 1979. Dean McDowell hired me, an MBA candidate at that time, to attend a session at Northeastern to learn about their co-op program, and then develop a plan which would eventually result in the hiring of Mr. Gabriel. Dean McDowell and I worked together, meeting weekly for a year on the progress of developing this co-op program. I think it's sad that none of this was mentioned, as Dean McDowell's original idea and hard work contributed a great deal to what the program is today.

—Barbara George Sullivan
MBA '81

What a great alumni magazine for a dad with an interest in the history of Suffolk. Enjoyed all the articles, plus it gave my son and I some good things to talk about during our weekend visit. He is doing well at the university, concentrating on his work, and just starting a new co-op job. What else can dad and mom ask for—well, maybe doing his own laundry. Keep up the good work!

—Dave Southard
North Berwick, Maine

I noticed that in the Suffolk Alumni Magazine there was a wording mistake on page 54. Juan Sebastian Bayter (BSBA) is mentioned in the Class of 2003 notes. However, you state that he is "back home in Columbia." Columbia, with a "u," is a town in South Carolina or a university in New York. Colombia—with an "o"—is the country in South America. I think it's great that you speak of Colombia, but like many other publications you have misspelled the name. Being a native of Colombia it is sad to see this mistake happen again and again.

—Viviana Leyva
Undergraduate Admissions
Suffolk University

I commend writer David Michael Enders on the "Double Duty" article in the fall issue of SAM. It read like a screenplay for an upcoming Hollywood drama! I couldn't put it down. Mrs. Scapicchio is a remarkable woman whose story is an inspiration. How she juggles raising three children with her high pressure job and a husband serving overseas in Iraq was a true eye-opener. Though I enjoyed her career highlights, I would have loved to have learned more about how she manages family life though it all. Nonetheless, it was a memorable page-turner that I hope to see more of.

—Annunziata (Sodano) Varela
BA '94, MA '96

I enjoyed the interview with President Sargent in the fall issue of the Suffolk Alumni Magazine. Although President Sargent addresses the issue of student financial aid, he does not address the reasons for the rapid rise in tuition costs. He cites that the average cost of college tuition has risen by 110 percent over 20 years, outpacing the increase in median family income. I do not doubt these numbers, but would like some concrete reasons as to why there is such a disparity in costs versus income. Perhaps President Sargent can provide further clarification in an upcoming issue.

—Eric G. Johnson
MBA '72

The Fall 2005 issue was superior. Congratulations on a job well done. I worked in undergraduate admissions at Suffolk for 39 years, though today I am semi-retired. I remember Jim Bamford very well from my days at Suffolk. I also remember Dr. Hartmann, though I don't remember ever hearing about his "Triple F"! His "Double Fs" were legendary, so he must have saved the "triple" for those most in need of motivation. Good issue!

—Bill Coughlin
Suffolk University

My compliments to Suffolk Alumni Magazine. "Deconstructing 9/11" was an intriguing testament to the fortitude of Jim Bamford, partly instilled in him, no doubt, by his time at Suffolk. The Big Screw Award caught my curiosity early on and its elevating quality was a pleasant surprise for the uninitiated. As one related to Suffolk through the New England School of Art & Design, the article showing student work will garner the interest of former and current members of the art school to become more a part of the Suffolk community.

—Martin Demoorjian
NESADSU '66

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The Critical Measure

An interview with Suffolk Provost Patricia Maguire Meservey

SAM: Since you are the first Provost in Suffolk history, let's start with a description of your job.

PMM: The key role is as chief academic officer. I am responsible for the leadership and management of three academic units, in our case, the schools of law, business, and arts and sciences. I work closely with the deans and faculty, as well as other entities such as student affairs, advancement, management, and enrollment, to make sure that we’re delivering top-quality academic programs. Sometimes you will hear the provost referred to as the COO [chief operating officer] of a university while the CEO is the president.

SAM: Who fulfilled the responsibilities before your arrival?

PMM: President Sargent. When you go back just five years ago, we were a smaller institution. Our undergraduate and graduate programs have grown in complexity in recent years. With the increased complexity comes expanding administrative demands and therefore the need for the provostial role.

SAM: What are your impressions of the university so far?

PMM: It’s a fabulous school, one that has a very deep and rich history. The mission of 'access and opportunity' is still very strong, which is inspiring. I have found Suffolk to be very entrepreneurial and very responsive to the needs of the students. Unlike a larger institution that might be a bit more bureaucratic, Suffolk is very flexible. The academic quality is excellent. We have an extraordinary faculty in all three of our schools. We have a very strong student body in the sense of the preparation that they bring to their experience here.

SAM: What initiatives have you undertaken thus far?

PMM: My first year has been one of discovery, learning about the many strengths of the University—and they are many. I have also been fortunate to join a number of key initiatives already in progress, such as a campus-wide review of our technology, which is an important component of a college education today. We have also begun a major rebranding initiative to strengthen Suffolk’s position in the marketplace, including the upcoming launch of a new Web site for the University. Preparations for Suffolk’s Centennial Celebration, of course, have been a big focus over the past year. Another key initiative has been Suffolk’s new Center for Teaching Excellence, which brings together faculty from all three schools to examine and enrich the quality of teaching here at the University. The faculty has really enjoyed the cross-discipline collaboration of the center.

SAM: What are the pressure points that you see in academia today?

PMM: Financial aid is certainly one. President Sargent spoke elegantly about this in your last issue. What has happened and continues to happen in higher education is that students nationwide have been divided into two groups with regard to financial aid: need-based and merit-based. Nationally, the amount of aid that’s going to merit-based awards has increased significantly, while need-based has stayed relatively static. This is unfortunate because at its core, financial aid

“One of the strengths of a teaching university is you can convey the passion of the discipline and the passion of teaching.”
is about helping those who need the assistance. One of the challenges Suffolk must tackle is how do we attract strong academic students, but also stay true to the mission of access and opportunity. Our strategy has been to make great infusions of funding for both merit- and need-based assistance. This is an approach we will need to continue for many years to come. I think that except for the wealthiest institutions, financial aid has become a real challenge in higher education.

SAM: How do you handle this balancing act?
PMM: Yes, it is a balancing act and not an easy one. For instance, one of the very blunt instruments being used to determine the quality of universities today is U.S. News & World Report. Somehow, their rankings are declaring what are the best institutions. But these rankings are based primarily on inputs and process.

SAM: Explain that.
PMM: They look at the qualifications of the students as they're coming into the institution and what are the resources allocated while they are in the system. The only real output they measure is the school's graduation rate. I think looking at where the student comes in and how much they have grown by the time they exit is really the critical measure.

SAM: So how do these inputs affect financial aid?
PMM: A large part of what determines U.S. News & World Report rankings are the metrics prior to arriving at the school, such as a high school student's GPA, SAT or ACT scores, and what was their rank in class. There are similar rankings for law schools, based on college GPA and LSAT scores. So colleges feel pressure to attract that type of student to climb the rankings, and the fastest way to do that is to buy it.

"I think looking at where the student comes in and how much they have grown by the time they exit is really the critical measure."

SAM: Buy it?
PMM: You buy it with merit scholarships that you award to those types of students, regardless if there is financial need. To me, philosophically, it's wrong-minded to be doing that.

SAM: U.S. News & World Report, Newsweek, Barron's—these magazines all publish special issues ranking colleges. Now the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has announced it will also begin ranking colleges. The Bush administration recently proposed a standardized test for colleges that must be passed before graduation. Why are universities under such scrutiny?

PMM: I think the major reason is the cost of education. Tuition costs at private institutions now range between $20,000 and $35,000 a year. Even public education is around $10,000 a year for in-state students. So when someone slips through without having a simple command of the basics, it raises alarms.

SAM: But are people really graduating without simple math, reading, and writing skills?
PMM: Perhaps not to the level that the media coverage would suggest, but I think the answer is yes. There has been a slide in the overall standards in secondary and primary school levels. This is why MCAS (exams for Massachusetts public high school students) came into existence. We as a society need to invest in the primary and secondary grades. If students are not getting quality educational experiences by the end of the primary grades, it's hard to catch up after that. You end up with foundational omissions that are very difficult to fill in. I do fear it has been a downward cycle in the United States.

SAM: What are some of the other pressure points that universities must deal with today?
PMM: The focus of higher education has moved much more toward research, as federal grants tend to be awarded for research. Not every institution can be a premier research and teaching university. While Suffolk has strong scholarship, our focus is very much on education. One of the strengths of a teaching university is you can convey the passion of the discipline and the passion of teaching. So there is an opportunity for Suffolk graduates to recycle that back into educating new generations of students.

SAM: Suffolk has a long history of providing what we call "a personal education." That is, the student-faculty ratio at Suffolk is remarkably low. Can that continue given the rising education costs?
PMM: I think we'll be able to keep the ratio. It does put strain on our resources. At the undergraduate level, we tend to have 20 or 25 students per class as a maximum. Only a handful of our classes have over 50 students. But that close contact between student and professor is very important. It is one reason why the University needs to think about growing its endowment, so that we can continue to offer that type of quality education. It is also a very large part of what makes Suffolk University such a special place to go to school.
He Knows His Way Around Town
Suffolk hires former city councilor John Nucci to work with city officials and neighbors

John Nucci apologizes to a visitor who has come to talk about his new role at Suffolk University as he settles into a conference room chair. His first month on the job as vice president of government and community affairs has been so hectic that his office is still stacked high with unopened boxes, making it impossible to meet there.

When he took on the newly created position in January, a series of high profile projects and the University’s rapid growth left Nucci with no option but to hit the ground running. Fortunately, with more than 20 years of experience as an elected public official in the city of Boston, Nucci had a head start. His association with Suffolk University—where he received his masters of public administration degree in 1979 and where he has taught for 15 years—reaches even further back.

“I attended my first meeting at Suffolk with many of the top administrators on my very first day, and I didn’t have to be introduced to anybody,” said Nucci, 53. “How many people have the luxury of starting a new job and having that be the case?”

Nucci’s new job will require him to reach out to the public officials and community leaders with whom he has spent most of his career working alongside. That can range from seeking out new resources from local, state, and federal government sources to managing the public permitting process for new construction to meeting with concerned neighbors about the university’s building projects.

Nucci, who received his undergraduate degree in English from Boston College, served six years on the Boston School Committee, including four years as president. He was also an at-large member of Boston City Council for four years. For the past 11 years, he was the elected Clerk-Magistrate of the Suffolk County Criminal Superior Court.

A host of big-name Boston politicians say Suffolk President David J. Sargent could not have made a better choice in filling the job.

“John Nucci is an excellent public servant who has served Boston and the Suffolk County Courts well,” said Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, whose friendship with Nucci predates both their careers in Boston politics. “John is a good man and I wish him all the best at his new position at Suffolk University.”

“John has the right skill set and experience to be very effective in his new position,” added Senate President Robert E. Travalgini, whom Nucci has known since they were kids growing up and with whom he served on the Boston City Council. “During his many years in public service to the Boston community, he cultivated lasting friendships with his positive can-do attitude.”

For Nucci, fostering relationships with the likes of Menino and Travalgini will be the key to whether he succeeds or fails in his new job.

“One thing I’ve learned from having sat on the other side of the table in government is that institutions should not reach out only when they need something,” Nucci explained. “Institutions and universities should work to maintain steady and positive relationships, and that’s going to be my priority.”

Locally, Nucci is somewhat of an institution himself. He speaks with a noticeable Boston accent, having grown up in East Boston where he still lives. Two of his three sons—John, a junior communications major and Michael, an undeclared freshman—attend Suffolk while youngest son Daniel is following in the footsteps of his older brothers and father and is a sophomore at Boston Latin School. His wife Peggy grew up in Dorchester and is a special needs administrator at the Umana-Barnes Middle School in East Boston.

“My son Michael lives in the residence hall here (Nathan R. Miller Residence Hall) and we always joke that he can see his house from the window of his dorm room right across the harbor,” Nucci says.

With his strong ties to the University and his commitment to education—a commitment Nucci attributes to his working-class parents—it seems apparent he’ll have the necessary relationships to accomplish his goals.

“If every government leader or Suffolk neighbor can say in a year that he or she knows exactly who to call at Suffolk University when they need something, I probably will have done a good job,” Nucci said. “I have a history with Suffolk. I would’ve been far less attracted to a vice president for government and community affairs position that might have become vacant at a different university. This fit was perfect.”

—Dave Copeland
Ambulance Brings Graphic Aid
Starr delivers equipment to Katrina victims

What happens when you combine a Suffolk University-trained graphic designer, a decommissioned ambulance, and a tragedy of epic proportions in New Orleans?

You get Project M, a mobile relief mission that took computer equipment and supplies to besieged graphic designers in the flood-ravaged city last fall.

Kodiak "Kody" Starr BFA '02 came up with the idea for a rolling graphic arts lab while working with the Bielenberg Institute at the Edge of the World in Belfast, Maine. For $3,500, Starr obtained a retired ambulance perfectly suited for its new role because it already was wired to handle heavy-duty electrical equipment.

Then Hurricane Katrina blasted the Gulf of Mexico coast, and Starr and his cohorts knew what they had to do. They contacted 10 chapters of the American Institute of Graphic Artists between Maine and New Orleans and picked up contributions from sympathetic members during a 17-day odyssey to the Crescent City.

"We didn't help thousands, but the people down there were excited that people across the eastern seaboard cared," Starr said. "I think we did a lot of good."

Entering a New Stage
Suffolk students join Second City

Chicago's legendary Second City comedy troupe, which cultivated the brilliant talents of John Belushi, Bill Murray, Fred Willard, John Candy and Stephen Colbert among others, has enlisted two Suffolk University products to bolster its performances.

Ryan Bernier, who graduated from Suffolk last year, and Rebecca Edwards, a senior theater major, are in the City of Big Shoulders honing their wacky art. University Performing Arts Office Assistant Director Kathy Maloney said Bernier and Edwards got their start with the campus improvisational group, Seriously Bent. The group last September won the College Improv Championships at the Boston Comedy Festival, has performed in the College Smackdown at Improv Asylum in the North End, and recently took part in the Comedy Beanpot college competition.

The Second City is one of world's most prestigious comedy workshops and has been a pipeline to NBC's Saturday Night Live. Its illustrious alumni include Gilda Radner, Dan Aykroyd, Chris Farley, Tina Fey, Steve Carell, Betty Thomas, Andrea Martin, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara, Amy Sedaris, Paul Dinello, Peter Boyle, and Robert Klein.

Perhaps two more names will be added to this list. Stay glued to your set.

Head of the Class
Suffolk trial team sweeps regionals

The Suffolk University Law School National Constitutional Moot Court Team recently won the 29th Annual J. Braxton Craven, Jr. Memorial Moot Court Competition, held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Law School.

Coached by Professor Richard Pizzano, the Suffolk Law team of Bryan Conley, Jack Gearan and Michael Forte, argued their way to victory over Boston College Law School in front of Justice Robert H. Edmunds, Jr. and Justice Paul M. Newby of the North Carolina Supreme Court, and United States Magistrate Judge Dennis M. Howell. The final round took place in the historic North Carolina Court of Appeals in Raleigh, NC.

Twenty teams from across the country participated in the 2006 competition including past winners Brooklyn Law School, Duke University School of Law, Fordham University School of Law, and seven-time winner South Texas College of Law. According to Professor Pizzano, "the three-judge panel was impressed with the team's calm and poise, as well as their intellectual ability to field difficult questions."
The Ramifications of Good Music

A capella group releases first CD

Next time someone asks in a serious tone, "What are the Ramifications?" waste no time in answering that they’re the Suffolk University a capella singing group with a hot new album. Entitled Voices in the Attic, the disc contains 13 songs written by artists such as Stevie Wonder, Sting and Phil Collins.

“It’s been nothing but exciting. We’ve been working on the project for about a year,” said Ramifications member Ryan Connolly, 20, a junior from Winthrop. The group spent about 100 hours in Attic Studios in Jamaica Plain under the sound engineering direction of John Clark. "He’s the guy you go to in Boston to record a capella," Connolly said.

Formed five years ago under the auspices of the university’s Performing Arts Office, the 14-member group has received a great deal of exposure this past winter. In February, the Ramifications sang the national anthem at a Boston Celtics game, appeared on Fox 25's Morning News to sing Valentine’s Day songs, and stampeded Beacon Hill to deliver singing Ram-O-Grams for the ridiculously low price of $3 apiece.

Voices in the Attic is available through the group’s Web site—www.suffolkrams.com—at the University Bookstore on Cambridge Street. You also can request a copy by calling the Performing Arts Office at

CPA Candidates First Among Peers in Exams, Beating Harvard and Bentley

For the second time in five years, budding certified public accountants from Suffolk proved their mettle by scoring the highest pass rate on the most recent CPA exam among all participating Massachusetts universities.

Suffolk CPA candidates rang up a 21.1 percent pass rate compared to second-best University of Massachusetts at 20.8 percent. Harvard and Bentley each weighed in with 14.3 percent pass rates. The national average is less then 10 percent.

“It’s a strong indicator of the quality of our students and the quality of our program,” said Suffolk Accounting Department Chair Ruth Ann McEwen, who noted that Suffolk CPAs also earned the state’s highest pass rate in the tests administered in 2001.
Define the Laws of Physics

Professor Walter Johnson named Massachusetts Teacher of the Year

When he started teaching physics at Suffolk University in 1971, Professor Walter Johnson's father would tell him he could understand why people wanted jobs in academia.

"He'd ask me how many courses I was teaching and how many hours each course met per week and it didn't sound like much," Johnson says. "Well, if you're teaching three courses and each course meets three hours a week, that's nine hours; he would say. 'What do you do the rest of the time?'

In Johnson's case, the short answer is "a lot."

These days, a typical week for Johnson includes teaching those three courses, running off to a video studio to record mini lectures that students can download from the Internet to get help on their homework problems, and tracking through a list of research projects he's working on with his undergraduate students. One project involved a trip to a Plympton, Massachusetts' cranberry bog on a cold Saturday morning in February to install an elaborate, wireless temperature monitoring system that will replace the failure-prone wired system that the bog's owners—and most cranberry bog owners—have been using for decades. If the bog test is successful, the technology could someday be used to monitor methane gases at landfills or toxic chemicals on a battlefield.

"It's more like a seven-day-a-week job," Johnson says. "If you come in here on a weekend you'll see faculty working with students on all sorts of research projects. We have a zillion of them going on."

Recognized for His Dedication

Johnson's students have noted his dedication for years, and they are not alone. He was recently named 2005 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and for Advancement and Support of Education. Johnson was selected from nearly 400 top professors in the U.S. and joins winners in 40 states, Guam and the District of Columbia.

The achievement is notable given that it was awarded to a physics professor at an institution often thought of as a law school. And it's even more notable considering that Johnson was initially reluctant to move forward with the application process when told he had been nominated.

"I said 'Let's not do this,'" Johnson now says. "I said it would be a massive waste of time and effort on the part of a large number of people. But they went through with it."

Johnson is a modest man who seems most comfortable in a pullover sweater and a pair of khakis. In accepting the honor, he has made an effort to thank his colleagues and students, and he speaks more about the recognition it brings to Suffolk's small but quickly expanding science departments than the personal triumph of the award. While he initially balked at it, Johnson now sees the award as a boon to the school.

"If you think about Suffolk it's a three-legged stool. There's the law school, the school of management, and the college of arts and sciences. But if you say 'Suffolk' to the man on the street, most likely he'll say 'law,'" Johnson says. "It's very nice that we can connect science, and specifically physics, to the University."

Johnson has expanded the department's offerings since joining the faculty in 1971, most notably adding programs in environmental engineering and electrical engineering. He has made a point of helping students to get real world experience on research projects, even if it means giving up his Saturday mornings to trudge through a cranberry bog or shattering his father's notion of what a career in academia entails.

"We use our undergraduate students in these research projects and it's a teaching tool. They get excited about physics and they learn stuff they absolutely would not any other way," he says. "So when my dad says 'What do you do?' I say we're in here all the time. We're in here because we like doing it and it's fun—it's not like real work."

—Dave Copeland
To the casual observer it may look like she works two jobs. But alumna Holly Harris Feman sees her legendary midnight blues radio show as a natural extension of her day job: Finding answers to life's tough questions.

When Holly Harris Feman M. Ed '74 arrives at work Monday morning as a middle school counselor in Salem, she is ready to help kids face new age problems with a balance of truth and compassion that may have some old-school roots, but is always in rhythm and never goes out of style.

Although she has been up half the night before, she is not tired. In fact, this has been her routine for the past 13 years. As Boston radio station 92.9 WBOS' “Blues on Sunday” evening host she is known as Holly Harris: broadcaster of the truth in 12-bar, iambic pentameter. Her 20-plus years in broadcasting have earned her a W.C. Handy Award for “Keeping the Blues Alive.” To be sure, her dual careers and a 12-year-old daughter keep her busy, but since they are all labors of love, they are less tiring than they sound. “I always seem to go into my show on Sunday exhausted and come out energized,” Harris says. “That is the magic of music.”

It seems Harris, a graduate in counseling psychology, has always had the magic of music in her life. Growing up in Middletown, New York, her father,
Marvin "Doc" Feman, was the founder and Chairman of the Music Department at Orange County Community College. He was an accomplished pianist and trumpeter, trained at Julliard. Her grandfather, Arthur Feman, was Al Jolson's number one trumpeter and an original transcriber of the musical Oklahoma. She remembers waking up many a morning as a child to her father giving private trumpet and piano lessons in their home. "I probably didn't realize it at the time," Harris says, "but growing up in that environment gave me a real appreciation for music of all kinds.

"When I was ten years old, my father took me to see Louis Armstrong," she continues. "He told me 'get up close because you will never see anything like him again. He is an American original.'"

Her mother was a patron of the theatre arts and an entrepreneur. As one of the founders of the Arts Council of Orange County, she helped draw many top-flight performers to Middletown. Already a bit of a performer as a young girl, Harris says her mother often worked her into music of all kinds.

After high school, Harris went through a few growing pains of her own. As she puts it, "my parents sent me to France because the moon wasn't available." She attended the American College of Paris and upon her return to the States, finished up her undergraduate degree in English Education at Ithaca College in upstate New York.

Torn between pursuing careers in music, counseling, or law, she moved to the Boston area. It had become a special place to her, thanks to many summers on Cape Cod. She had family nearby—her uncle, Herman Feshbach, was chairman of physics at MIT—and a growing blues scene was an added attraction. It was during the Nixon impeachment era, she notes, and it is often during times of disillusionment that the raw, unvarnished truth of blues music seems to make constant comebacks.

"I was working as a cocktail waitress at the Corinthian Yacht Club in Marblehead," Harris recalls. "I was beginning to enlarge my blues collection, buying from the used bins."

She attended music classes at Berklee College of Music, studied piano and bass, and took voice lessons. With a Berklee student ID card, she could get into clubs like Paul's Mall and The Jazz Workshop to see blues legends like King, Muddy Waters and Keith Jarrett. She played bass and percussion in bands such as Hot Cottage and the Night Rockers and the Street Lips Blues Band. "I tried really hard to get the music thing down, but I could tell that performance just wasn't going to be the thing for me. I found myself enjoying the music more and wanting to know more about the personalities of the musicians themselves."

She always felt she wanted a career helping people, but wasn't sure how to get there. After spending the summer touring England with rocker Lou Reed's band, Harris returned the last day of late registration and once again enrolled in graduate school at Suffolk University.

"I could work and go to school at night. It had everything I wanted and it was affordable." She turned her focus back to her studies and met Dr. Norman Hyett, her first professor of psychology at Suffolk. "He was by far the greatest educator I have ever met and really became my mentor in life. He had energy, style, charisma, and real insight into life. He really got us to think and— as with many late teen, early twenty-somethings approaching adulthood—many of us at that time had really never learned to think for ourselves. Glenn Eskedal was the chairman of the new department and he set a great tone."

"I loved my time at Suffolk University," Harris says. "I loved the counseling field and my professors plus I made some lifelong friends. Just like the blues, Suffolk seemed to connect with Harris as a way of dealing with the real world problem of "how am I going to make a living?" but in a balanced atmosphere of energy and compassion.

Smoke Stack Lightnin'

She got her first professional counseling job only three weeks after graduating. Even though professional jobs in public education were scarce at that time, she landed an interview with the school district in Salem, Massachusetts, after accidentally calling a wrong number. Harris has worked with the Salem public schools ever since. Counseling in the school system, she says, is really the "front line" in the field. "The times, issues, and caseloads have changed since I first began. The caseloads have almost doubled. With young people living in an ever more complex world, the challenges they face are greater. Their early decisions have more impact."

The Salem school system has kids representing more than 23 nationalities, and keeping the peace in spite of cultural differences is just one aspect of her job she finds rewarding. "In the end, what keeps me going are the kids. I love my students! Kids are kids at this age and they can be very endearing."

But her day job did not stop her love of the musical life. In the words of John Lee Hooker: "If it's in you... it's got to come out." She took some technical classes in radio and got her first radio gig at WMFO at Tufts University doing the Morning After Blues and stayed for the next ten years. While doing the show at Tufts she had a chance meeting with legendary blues DJ Mai Cramer who served with Harris on jury duty in Boston. Cramer was host of WGBH's Blues After Hours, and Harris was a long-time fan. The two developed a close friendship, with Cramer often asking Harris to fill in for her on her National Public Radio show. "I became her number one fill-in on the show. She really befriended me and mentored me in a way," Harris says. "Mai was brilliant, tough, fair, talented, and loyal. She became the godmother to my daughter, Brianna, and our families spent many holidays and birthdays together."

Bright Lights, Big City

Her experience at WMFO and on NPR, along with a short stint at WCGY in Lawrence hosting Rockin Blues, eventually led Harris to her dream job at WBOS where she has remained for more than 13 years.
The blues, to Harris, is simply
"the universal feelings of life and love."

“I have creative license producing and hosting the show. I love the format and being able to involve the community.” After the school bell rings on Friday, it’s time to start preparing for Sunday’s show with programming plans, selecting music, and setting up for the live interviews. “You have to be prepared if you really want the energy to flow during the show.” Weekly volunteers help out and many are now friends who have been on her staff for years. She draws her music heavily from her own CD library, and her collection of old blues vinyl LPs now numbers more than 1,000. “I just can’t give them up.”

Through her very successful program Harris has not only made the careers of many local blues artists but has also rubbed elbows with many of the greats, such as Koko Taylor and the afore-mentioned B. B. King, whom she considers a friend. “These are some of the most gracious people you will ever meet,” she says. “B.B. will always stay after an appearance until the very last autograph is signed. He gives so much of himself.”

Harris also hosts many blues community gatherings such as the annual Boston Blues Challenge and the annual Mt. Wachusett Blues Festival, as well as non-blues related charity events. During a recent event celebrating her 10th anniversary at WBOS, she was officially proclaimed “A Friend of the Arts” by the Massachusetts state Legislature. Harris founded the Boston Blues Society in 1988 to “preserve the essence and tradition of the blues and bring the community together.” Years later, she would be the first recipient of the Boston Blues Society’s Mai Cramer Award after her dearest friend lost her battle with cancer in 2004. “Her passing was a huge loss for the world,” Harris says. “I miss her every day.”

The Dance of Life
No one ever said growing was always easy, but Harris has grown into her role as an American original; the keeper of the blues flame with a mixture of real world tenacity and a vibrant, genuine personality that—like the soulful music she plays—simply cannot be faked.

Her Blues on Sunday runs from 9 p.m. to midnight and features an eclectic mix of blues artists and styles. One set might feature the slide-guitar visceral blues of Smokin’ Joe Kubek, the next the gentle gospel sounds of Mavis Staples. She always identifies the musicians after the set so listeners can check them out live. She also never stops promoting the local blues scene as a regular feature on her show. Being the first one to play the music of up-and-coming blues artists...
"In both my professions, I try and get across a hopeful, positive message about life and living. It’s about having a heart, putting oneself out a little and creating a personal balance."

like Susan Tedeschi, Harris says, can be very gratifying when you see their careers skyrocket. “I feel it’s really important to see and experience the blues performed live,” she says, “to really become one with it.”

Blues great Aretha Franklin once said the blues is like growing up. “Trying to grow up is hurting, you know? You make mistakes. You try to learn from them and when you don’t…it hurts even more.” Harris helps kids deal with the pain of growing up the only way she knows how—with truth and compassion. Though her students may laugh at the names of old blues pioneers like Blind Lemon Jefferson and Muddy Waters, she says kids today still turn to their own music for truth in troubled times. Many have come back to visit years later with a new appreciation for the blues. “It’s the same with counseling,” she says. “You plant seeds. They may not always grow right away.”

Her approach to her weekend gig is not much different. The blues, to Harris, is simply “the universal feelings of life and love. Radio is cathartic for me. It’s not only freeing, but energizing. Certainly being able to be creative in one’s own right is great, but I also feel very fortunate to be able to share my passion for this genre with others. In both my professions, I try and get across a hopeful, positive message about life and living. It’s about having a heart, putting oneself out a little and creating a personal balance.”

And she likes the balance of her Monday-through-Friday new school blues with the ageless wisdom of her Sunday old school blues. Her time at Suffolk, like her love for the blues, played no small role in shaping her values and helping her see the world from a whole new perspective. “I want to be surrounded by friends of all colors, generations, religions and nationalities. And it may sound corny, but I want to help make the world a good place to live; to help others find some joy. But mostly, I want to dance through life.”
Highlights
Friday, June 2, 2006
Half-Century Club Luncheon, 12 noon
Sargent Hall, 120 Tremont Street, Boston
Invitation only for classes 1956 and prior
Welcoming Reception
Colonnade Hotel, 6 pm
Boston Pops Concert, Symphony Hall, 8 pm

Saturday, June 3, 2006, all day
Select from a variety of walking tours, a Duck Tour through the Charles River, a Boston Harbor Luncheon Cruise

Saturday, June 3, 2006
Dinner and Awards Presentation
Prudential Skywalk, 6 pm
CAS and SSOM graduates

Cocktails and dinner for Law School graduates
Moakley Federal Courthouse, 6:30 pm

Sunday, June 4, 2006
Breakfast at Suffolk’s Newest Acquisition
73 Tremont Street, 9 am

Accommodations
Suffolk University Residence Hall
10 Somerset Street, Boston
$50 single/$75 double (twin beds), per night. Call 617.573.8456

Holiday Inn Select Government Center
5 Blossom Street, Boston
$149 per night. Call 617.742.7630 until May 1, 2006

Wyndham Boston
89 Broad Street, Boston
$169 per night. Call 617.556.0006 until May 1, 2006

Nine Zero
90 Tremont Street, Boston
$269 per night. Call 1.866.646.3937 until May 1, 2006

Mention the Suffolk Reunion for a special rate.

Complete reunion information and registration materials will be mailed in April.
For Law School information call Diane Frankel Schoenfeld at 617.305.1904.
For CAS and SSOM information, please call Jean Campbell at 617.573.8457
The hours can be long and progress is slow, but for Iris Coloma-Gaines life as a public advocate is more than a job. It’s a fight—against long odds—to bring justice and dignity to one of Pennsylvania’s most vulnerable populations: migrant farmworkers.

It’s 6:30 on a rainy autumn night, and Iris Coloma-Gaines JD ’91 would love to take a rest, now that she’s pregnant. Instead, she tosses a frozen Thai dinner in the microwave and pores over a pile of Map Quest directions, still warm from the office printer. As supervising attorney for the Pennsylvania Farmworker Project (PFP), she is about to begin the second half of her workday: visiting migrant farmworkers and explaining the free legal services her Philadelphia-based program offers. But targeting a population of roughly 49,500 that shadows the harvest seasons from state to state is complicated. With just one assistant, she seeks out a disenfranchised community that views both strangers and the law with a healthy dose of suspicion.

They have good reasons to be wary. The hardships these farmworkers endure are unimaginable to most Americans. They clock in long hours and risk exposure to pesticides and other dangers. Their living quarters are primitive. Many earn below the minimum wage, and some are cheated by growers. Language barriers, fear of retaliation by employers, and, for about half, immigration status dissuade them from seeking help.
None of that discourages Coloma-Gaines, 39. If anything, it spurs her on, despite the sometimes frustrating work. For her, advocacy is second nature. As a young adult, she helped Peruvian family members in the U.S. with the language and cultural hurdles that come with living in a new country.

Now, her role is similar. “My job is giving the workers what should rightfully be theirs,” she says. “These people don’t get attention unless an advocate is involved. I’m glad I can be that voice. Eventually we hope the grower will get the message that they will have to deal with these workers on a fair playing field.”

Tonight she’s going to Kennett Square, a suburb 40 miles southwest of Philadelphia, looking for camps where farmworkers live while working for a grower. Nestled in the dazzling Brandywine River Valley, the area was immortalized by painter Andrew Wyeth and was a major route of the Underground Railroad. Once graced with sprawling farms, today the area hosts a clutch of tony museums, wineries, strip malls, and upscale housing developments.

Kennett Square is also home to a multi-million dollar mushroom growing industry, where some of the wealthiest and most disenfranchised residents are literally neighbors. “It’s ironic,” says Coloma-Gaines. “Some of these brand new half-million dollar homes are right across the street from the camps.”

She drives toward the processing plants and migrant labor camps that reek of the compost and irrigation cocktail necessary to cultivate the mushrooms. Since most laborers work during the day—sometimes starting at 4 a.m.—evening is the best time to find them home. Pennsylvania law allows Coloma-Gaines to visit camps and give educational presentations, and that’s her goal tonight. But first she must locate a camp, despite outdated addresses and unlit roads. Then, she’ll have to try to earn the workers’ trust.

**Dismal Conditions**

There are about 2.5 million farmworkers in the United States and they remain the poorest of the working poor, according to Bruce Goldstein, executive director of Farmworker Justice Fund, Inc., in Washington, DC. Of those laborers, about 1.6 million specialize in seasonal crop work, which means they follow the harvest seasons of fruit and vegetables from state to state.

Federal data shows that average earnings for these seasonal crop workers fall between $10,000 and $12,500 annually. “We’ve met workers who have been working for growers for 18 years just making minimum wage,” says Coloma-Gaines. “It’s legal, but frankly it’s awful that they’ve had this much loyalty and this is how they’re treated. People are not making a living wage.”

Jon Weirether, state monitor advocate of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, believes legal status and lack of English language skills are the greatest obstacles farmworkers face. About 53 percent of workers don’t have authorized immigration status, according to Goldstein. These undocumented workers are especially vulnerable to exploitation because they fear being deported. Most of the laborers Coloma-Gaines meets are Mexicans and speak only Spanish. Other groups include Haitians, Jamaicans, and Central Americans, as well as a handful of Vietnamese and Cambodians.

“Eventually we hope the grower will get the message that they will have to deal with these workers on a fair playing field.”
Partly because of a lack of federal labor law enforcement, there are rampant violations of workers’ rights. Common abuses include not being paid the wages they were promised, or even minimum wages, and enduring desolate living conditions. Housing frequently lacks plumbing and working appliances, and is often next to pesticide treated fields, says Melissa Moore, program coordinator for Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy in Oakland, California.

Conditions in the fields are dreary, too. Twenty percent of workers have no access to drinking water and seven percent have no access to toilets, says Goldstein. According to Moore, agricultural work is among the most dangerous occupations, with injuries and illness disabling farmworkers at three times the rate of the general population.

To add insult to injury, growers have little incentive to improve conditions. The profit motive reigns supreme. “It’s tragic that growers try to minimize their costs in places where they shouldn’t—with human beings,” says Coloma-Gaines.

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people who were disenfranchised,” she says. When she was in college and law school, she used her English and Spanish speaking ability to aid relatives struggling with language and cultural barriers. At Suffolk, she participated in the Battered Women’s Advocacy Project, with Professor Christine Butler, which influenced her decision to do public interest work. “When you do a clinical it’s the real deal. And it’s gratifying to speak to clients in their own language, letting them know what laws are there to protect them,” she says.

She started out practicing family law with the South­eastern Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, but was soon disillusioned by the ugly custody battles. Coloma­Gaines transferred to a position within the housing unit, defending indigent tenants in evictions. In 1996 her husband, Michael Gaines, was offered a job in the pharmaceutical indus­try in Pennsylvania, so the couple left Boston. Within a year, Coloma­Gaines found her new calling: working at PFP, a unit of Philadelphia Legal Assistance.

FACING THE ODDS
As with any job, there are downsides to poverty law, both personal and professional. Sometimes, being a working mother is overwhelming. She has been working part time since her first child, Cristian Martin, was born. But during PFP’s busiest seasons—tax season and outreach season—she may clock in as many as 50 to 60 hours per week. Even on her scheduled afternoon home with her son, the lines between work and family are sometimes blurred: that same afternoon may be the only time a client can talk to Coloma­Gaines on the phone.

The work can be frustrating, too. There are the garden variety inconveniences, like getting lost on dirt roads, or trudging through muddy fields on camp visits. But those pale in comparison to more serious obstacles, like earning the trust of workers, or the sheer odds of success. With just two PFP staffers, plus a handful of FOF employees, trying to criss-cross the state and reach about 49,500 workers is a Herculean task.

It’s hard for her to turn away cases for undocumented workers. Referring them to FOF is not a panacea. “They’re inundated too, and can’t help everyone,” says Coloma­Gaines. “I wish the restrictions were different because we need to help the people that are undocumented. Very few legal services agencies are set up to help them.”

When she does find a meritorious case for a documented farmworker, the person may not want to go forward, due to fear of reprisal. “Even though I try to explain to the workers that retaliation is in violation of the law, they need to put food on the table back in Mexico,” Coloma­Gaines says.

In the years she has worked for PFP, her greatest frustration is seeing that living and working conditions for farmworkers have remained relatively static. Many of the workers she meets live such a transitory existence, moving from job to job, that real change is hard to measure. Still, Coloma­Gaines has won jobs back for clients and helped them get wages they were owed. For example, there’s the case of three people who worked on a farm picking apples, nectarines, and peaches and were paid about 50 percent less than the wages they were promised. The grower also made illegal deductions, which brought their pay below minimum wage, and never disclosed these deductions to the workers. Coloma­Gaines represented them and won a settlement for the lost wages.

“Lawyers and advocates like Iris who work with farmworkers are absolutely vital to ending injustice in our food system,” says Moore. Her greatest impact, according to Goldstein, is that she has remained on the front lines for nearly ten years. “Many employers have been sued for violating labor laws and those cases have sent a message,” he says. “She has stayed with it and developed significant skills that make it more of a credible threat to employers.”

She wishes she could do more, but over time Coloma­Gaines has made peace with what she can and cannot change. “I can’t have the naïve goal of saving the world,” she says. “You quickly learn that you’re not going to help every person every single time. The ones you can help give you the drive to go on.”

And on those really tough days, she finds inspiration in her clients— “the real heroes,” as Coloma­Gaines calls them— and her colleagues, who are as fervently devoted to their work as she is, “I’ve been blessed with the honor of working with people who believe in empowering the poor and helping them through every day struggles to improve their lives,” she says. “That’s an incredible feeling.”

With just two PFP staffers, plus a handful of FOF employees, trying to criss-cross the state and reach about 49,500 workers is a Herculean task.
Meet me at

The New Library

By Elizabeth Durant
Photography by Justin Knight

The new Mildred F. Sawyer Library has it all: a prime location, leading-edge technology, a student-centered design, windows galore, and even (gasp!) vending machines.
OB DUGAN MPA ’82 discovered the gremlins shortly after becoming director of the Sawyer Library back in 1998. And while he never actually saw them, he did find evidence of their existence—tables and chairs moved into different configurations at night, carrels pulled closer to outlets or windows, and in some instances, furniture migrated between floors. For months, Dugan dutifully put the furniture back in place every morning. Finally, he stopped and began observing.

Left to their own devices, the gremlins—Dugan’s affectionate moniker for these unseen students—found an arrangement that met their studying and socializing needs. He took careful note of their preferences and began to lay the groundwork for an eventual new library.

Fast forward to 2006, and with considerable student input, via surveys and conversations, as well as Dugan’s own innovative ideas, a new and vastly improved Mildred F. Sawyer Library will occupy the second through fourth floors of 73 Tremont Street.

Slated to open May 15—just in time for summer session—this $12.5 million project took just nine months to complete. The new library features large windows, beautifully appointed reading areas, a wireless network, and plenty of group study rooms.

The stunning new space will significantly enhance student life and learning at the University as a whole. “I think it’s going to have a fabulous impact,” says Provost Patricia Meservey. “A library is such an important resource for students and faculty. Having one with a comfortable setting where students can meet together in groups to do their classroom projects, where it’s comfortable for faculty to go and pull their resource material together, and where library staff have an upscale space, one that is state of the art, just sends the message to each group that they are vital members of our community.”

The original Sawyer Library has been housed in the lower levels of Suffolk’s Frank Sawyer Building since 1981. Dugan calls it the “townhouse,” since it has such a small footprint and occupies six floors. Its space limitations have meant that the stacks are housed...
on four levels and are not in any logical order. Students often describe the library as having a “depressive atmosphere.” Its current interior is dark, with harsh fluorescent lighting and only a handful of group study rooms. The overall atmosphere is reminiscent of a ‘70s finished basement with drab orange and brown carpet, offset by canary yellow and bright orange walls.

Given that the majority of Suffolk’s students come to the Library primarily to study, the ambiance was clearly a problem. Dugan’s student surveys determined what his primary audience wanted and needed from their library. Topping the list were requests for natural light, a mix of comfortable seating, more electrical plugs and network jacks, and additional group study rooms.

With three decades of experience building and renovating libraries, he knew careful planning was key, so he and his staff outlined a set of objectives and he hired a space planning consultant to develop a building program. When a location materialized, they’d be ready.

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

The opportunity arose in 2005, when space on three floors of 73 Tremont Street became available. The location alone, at the intersection of two of Boston’s most prominent streets, was a dream come true. “It’s like being on 5th Avenue!” Dugan says excitedly.

Students of literature, religion, or American history—or anyone, for that matter—need only look out the new Library’s windows for inspiration. The entire south side of the building overlooks the Granary Burying Ground, where John Hancock, Sam Adams, and Paul Revere are interred. The Omni Parker House, across Tremont, was home to the “Saturday Club,” where literary and intellectual icons like Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Ralph Waldo Emerson met monthly. The Tremont Temple Baptist Church, a few doors down, was the first church in America to welcome people regardless of race, creed or class and became a key meeting place in the great debate to end slavery. Finally, King’s Chapel, founded in 1686, stands sentinel at the corner of Tremont and Beacon, reminding onlookers of the nation’s Anglican roots.

And that’s just the view. Inside, architects Tsoi/Kobus Associates (who also designed David J. Sargent Hall) have created a contemporary space with clean lines and wood trim, illuminated by recessed and drop lighting. Architectural highlights include a handsome grand staircase and an oculus, an 8-foot circular opening between the second and third floors, rimmed by a balcony.

Students of literature, religion, or American history—or anyone, for that matter—need only look out the new Library’s windows for inspiration.

All of the interior design work, from tables and chairs to fabrics and colors, was done by Megan Baratka BFA ’99. “To me,” Dugan says, “she is one of the most critical treasures of this project. She is connecting her past as a student with her present as a professional interior designer. And the new Library will be better because of that connection.”

Architecture and interior design aside, the sheer sense of space is impressive. At 37,000 square feet, the new library has nearly doubled in size and has 173 windows, so its interior is awash in natural light. More than half of the library’s 442 seats are situated at or near a window.

Students using the new Library will have a variety of options from which to work and study. There are 20 group study rooms all with DVD and VHS screening capability. Five of the reading areas—two overlooking King’s Chapel and three overlooking the Granary Burying Ground—offer a cozier place to gather. Each Granary reading area has a working fireplace with comfortable sofas, lounge chairs, and ottomans. The new library will also house the Zieman Poetry Center and is ideal for creative writing classes; as they search for their muse, students can look out at the gnarled trees and crooked slate tombstones of the burial ground for inspiration. “Everything we do in libraries tends to be providing access to information content. I want that room to help create it,” Dugan says.

BRAVE NEW WORLD

In a marked improvement from the old location, the general collection stacks are all housed on one floor so students don’t have to tramp all over the library in search of a book. The icing on the cake is undoubtedly the vending area on the fourth floor, where students can grab a snack to eat while they work.

If allowing food in a library seems blasphemous, it’s small potatoes to Dugan. He knows firsthand that if food is prohibited, students will sneak...
Bob Dugan MPA '82 Sawyer

Library director, has spent much of his career fixing up libraries, from bricks and mortar to technological infrastructure. In fact, the Mildred F. Sawyer Library is his 54th project. Of all those projects, this one is the most personal.

“This University has had a huge influence on me,” says Dugan. His introduction to Suffolk began via a chance meeting with a Suffolk professor, who suggested Dugan pursue an MPA there. He enrolled in 1975, taking classes part time, and finished the degree in 1982. “It was a great place because the people that were here were actually people who work for a living. It wasn’t theoretical, it was practical, and that was a real difference here,” he says.

Moreover, Dugan is a firm believer in Suffolk’s mission. “It’s a grand mission... It’s a kind of niche that is really hard to do. How do you do quality and keep things as affordable as possible? It’s a conflict. Well that kind of stuff is just great—I love that,” he says.

This project is also meaningful to Dugan because of all the projects he has worked on over the years, this particular renovation will remove what he views as serious impediments to knowledge. “We’re actually holding back learning,” he says in reference to the close quarters of the existing Sawyer Library. “This is the one that counts.”

Dugan began his career as a librarian at the Lowell City Library after graduating from Lowell State College in 1974. It was here that he tackled his first renovation project, minor in scale but memorable. “I was totally involved, because I was one of the few [library staff] that actually liked that kind of stuff,” he remembers fondly.

He joined the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners in 1980, where he was responsible for public library construction and for setting up networks like the Minuteman online catalog. He has worked at the National Commission on Library and Information Science (NCLIS) in Washington, DC, and served as Delaware’s state librarian. Prior to coming to Suffolk in 1998, Dugan was an associate university librarian at Georgetown and director of Wesley College Library in Delaware.

“There’s only one Bob Dugan in this world,” quips Susan Martin, Dugan’s former boss at NCLIS and Georgetown, now director of the Marston Mills (MA) Library and a consultant. “He’s an extremely talented guy.” She especially admires his skill in information technologies and his creative mind. During the renovation at Georgetown, he found ways to manage logistics “that I absolutely would not have thought of,” says Martin.

Dugan has spent a career building library systems and supporting infrastructure and while he may not wield a hammer, he is indeed a craftsman. He has enjoyed every aspect of the Sawyer Library renovation, and though he’s excited by the fast approaching May opening, he will miss his trusty hard hat. He has a strong regard for the construction team that has worked so hard on this project and deeply admires their many talents. “I’ve always wanted to do that kind of stuff, but I don’t have the skills. So those who can become carpenters do, those who can’t become librarians,” he says with a laugh. “And here I am.”

It in anyway, and he’s far too pragmatic to waste time being a food cop. Besides, he doesn’t mind going against the grain. He has strong convictions about fulfilling the mission of the library, even if it means being perceived as a heretic in wider library or academic circles.

To this end, Dugan is committed to ensuring that the new library remains a student-centered learning space. His professional colleagues at The American Library Association would not subscribe to that view, Dugan says; they would prioritize the collection over students’ needs. “A library is not just a collection of books,” Dugan insists. “Our mission statement is very clear on this. The library is a place to gather and deliberate, and that’s what we do. It doesn’t say in there we’re going to beat them about the head with books... we are a place, not just a warehouse.” (continued on p. 33)
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Have you ever wondered where your Annual Fund gift goes? Just stop in any Suffolk classroom and you'll find your gift hard at work. From financial aid to library acquisitions to getting new academic programs up and running (even something as simple as a worktable for study groups), the Annual Fund plays an important role in keeping Suffolk strong.

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A DIFFERENT DRUMMER
Another unorthodox decision Dugan made in designing the new space was to forgo an “information commons,” the current trend in academic libraries. Both the University of Texas and Simmons College are implementing the concept, which calls for a very large dedicated space with scores of networked computer workstations, and an assortment of library personnel to provide onsite support. And while many see this as a great way to provide one-stop shopping for students, Dugan doesn’t buy into that concept for several reasons.

According to Dugan, an information commons takes up too much space, and the machines are fixed. He is convinced that students want mobility. “If it wasn’t mobility, then why do we have iPods? It’s all about the ability to do whatever you want, wherever you want,” he says. He’d rather let the students choose where they want to work, which they can do thanks to the wireless network in the library. There are 17 computer stations, plus 32 laptops available on loan, but he expects many students will bring their own laptops or other electronic devices.

In addition to the mobility issue, Dugan says that since the technology is changing so quickly, he’s reluctant to tie himself down to computers that will likely become outdated or need repair. “I’m projecting things out to 2015, where most people are just trying to address current issues. I’ve got to do that, but at the same time I can’t open a dinosaur,” he says.

Provost Meservey has no qualms about Dugan’s judgment. In fact, she already pictures the library as an “open air” information commons. “We have all of the amenities of an info commons without the restriction on students,” says Meservey. “I think this is a progressive step beyond the typical info commons.”

It’s also a progressive step in the life of Suffolk University. A new, state-of-the-art academic library speaks volumes about a university’s commitment to the intellectual promise of its students and faculty, and the vital role a library plays in the broader community in terms of its utility to alumni and visiting scholars.

In addition to its academic value, Meservey says, the Library will enhance the student life aspect of the college experience because it offers another gathering spot for students.

The new location doesn’t hurt, either. Since it is near the center of campus, the new library “provides a nice anchor point for the University,”
Construction workers put together what will become the Monumental Staircase, which connects the second and third floors of the new Sawyer Library.

A huge oculus transmits natural light between the first two floors.

Says Meservey. This key location will help bridge the distance between the College of Arts and Sciences and Business School side of campus with the Law School, further strengthening Suffolk’s image as a cohesive urban campus.

As moving day draws near, Bob Dugan is busy going over his punch list to prepare the new space for occupancy. He has loved every minute of the construction process and will miss it, but there will be more ahead. The library’s next big acquisition will be an additional 3,000 square feet of space at 73 Tremont Street in 2010.

In the near term, Dugan is looking forward to simply observing, talking to students, and troubleshooting. “It’s going to be exciting for a long time to see how this facility responds to the needs of the student, and how the student responds to the facility,” he says.

Dugan is confident that the transition from the old library to the new facility will go smoothly. But he has color-coded each of the chairs on each floor, just in case the gremlins return and decide to shuffle things around.
Is 
LISTENING 
a Trade Secret?

By Jim Wolken
Photos by Justin Knight

Inheriting your father’s electrical supply shop is not exactly every daughter’s dream, but for Phyllis Godwin it became the romance of a lifetime. Today, Granite City Electric is a New England icon, among the largest woman-owned businesses in the region, and perhaps—just maybe—the real reason the Red Sox won the World Series.

Talk about breaking a glass ceiling. In 33 years as CEO of Granite City Electric, Phyllis Godwin MBA ’81 has seen just one woman electrician walk into her store. “What can I say, it’s a male dominated industry,” quips Godwin with a casual shrug that suggests she knows her market. That reality-based approach is what separates Godwin from many
chief executives. It’s also the approach that has allowed her to dominate in what was previously an all-male game.

“I suppose my being a woman has been an issue a few times,” says Godwin, “but like any chief executive, you must prove yourself whether male or female.” Godwin has provided plenty of proof over the years, growing Granite City from one store in downtown Quincy to 20 locations across New England, increasing sales from $2 million to more than $92 million annually—no easy feat when you consider Granite City thrives in an era when national behemoths like Home Depot have wiped locally owned businesses off the map.

Ask Godwin the secret to her success and you won’t get a lot of new-age business-speak. “We listen,” she says, holding up her hands in mock irony. “Who knew?” she adds with a laugh.

Beneath the humor is a serious strategy, honed with an enterprise-wide approach that would turn even Jack Welsh green with envy.

“Wire and pipe are commodities,” continues Godwin. “So the differentiator in a commodity-supply business is called service. The way to improve service is to listen to your customer. It’s really not that complicated.”

Don’t let the aw-shucks attitude mislead you. At Granite City listening isn’t merely chatting at the check-out counter. It’s a carefully crafted system integrated throughout the company and designed to make sure that customer expectations are not merely met, but surpassed.

For instance, the company hosts regular service roundtables, rotating new customers into these events approximately every six months. “It’s an interesting process,” says Godwin. “At first, customers point out problems, after a while they begin to suggest solutions. Eventually, you’re getting lots of compliments.”

Most companies would stop there, with a hearty dose of self-congratulations. Not Granite City. “Once the compliments start to dominate,” Godwin says with a knowing smile, “we disband the group and start the process over again with a new set of customers.”

Then there are the customer trips, where buyer and seller take time out to scrutinize the relationship in a relaxed setting. In 2005 it was a cruise liner heading toward an exotic location. “We have taken trips to Rome, Hawaii, Spain. Each time the relationships formed on those trips have paid tremendous dividends,” says Godwin. “We come back with valuable customer information on how to improve.” Improvements like a 24/7 contractor phone lines, a sophisticated inventory management system, and 365-days-a-year access to the supplies have made Granite City Electric a household name in the trade.

“Price has never rank at the top of our customer’s list,” confesses Godwin. “It’s important, but our customers tell us clearly that their most precious commodity is time, meaning breaks in their supply chain aren’t tolerated for long.” When supply headaches disappear, contractors notice. As Godwin puts it, “Customer service is talked about so much that it has become a cliché. But my father [Nicholas Papani] taught me never to overlook service. He founded Granite City back in 1923 and recognized early on how important service was to his busy customers. More importantly, he taught me that service is a strategic initiative.”

Career Strategy

Godwin’s business education started as a young girl watching her father in action, though following his footsteps never once crossed her mind. After high school she enrolled in Brown University, majoring in psychology. After Brown, Godwin looked for an MBA program for women but found nothing available. She enrolled in a one-year program at Radcliffe College. Though Radcliffe used Harvard Business School professors, the emphasis was on training women for personnel work. After graduating, Godwin did the “ladylike” thing and joined the personnel department at a growing company.

“Personnel was considered the only place for women in business back then,” Godwin says with a bit of disbelief still in her voice. “Most women I knew at the time didn’t work, and they certainly didn’t pursue careers in business management—which was my real interest.” Her short stint in personnel motivated her to answer an ad for a research assistant at MIT—which is where the business strategy bug bit.

“I worked for Professor Wroe Alderson and enjoyed it immensely. We studied consumer buying behavior and its rela-
tion to business operations,” says Godwin. “While I didn’t realize it at the time, it was valuable background for my career at Granite City.”

By then the pull toward her father’s legacy was just too great. “He had built something pretty special, I had realized,” says Godwin. “And I became fascinated with his approach. He was all about service and integrity. They were the two ingredients that separated his company from the competitors.” And there were a lot of competitors back then. Godwin says the industry has contracted five-fold during her career.

To hone her skills and to give her confidence, Godwin enrolled in Suffolk’s MBA program in 1976. “Back then not a lot of women were being admitted to that MBA program across the river,” recalls Godwin. “Suffolk’s egalitarian approach to qualified candidates was very appealing. Plus, the program was filled with mid-career professionals, so there was this wonderful mix of real-world experience and cutting-edge theory. The energy was contagious.”

So was the energy back at the company. Market pressures forced Godwin to leave Suffolk just one course shy of her masters in 1978 (she would later finish up in 1981) as Granite City was facing a serious downturn in sales.

“In the 1970s, the Boston market was quite sluggish,” says Godwin. “We saw the building boom on Cape Cod and decided to pursue it.” Granite City opened a store in South Yarmouth in 1973, another on Martha’s Vineyard a decade later in 1983, and then Plymouth in 1988. It would be the start of two decades of growth for the company, though Godwin is the first to tell you it was anything but a straight line.

Like many New England companies, Granite City rode the Massachusetts Miracle of the 1980s to record numbers. But by the end of the decade, the miracle evaporated and a recession hit the region hard, particularly the contracting trades. Big national chains were moving into the region, making market conditions even more volatile. Many locally-owned supply companies did not weather the storm, and those that did suffered significant layoffs. Godwin recognized survival would require a team effort. She rallied the troops, boldly announced that there would be no layoffs, implemented tight fiscal controls, and then invited employees to share their thoughts on how to weather the downturn.

“I don’t think I was ever prouder of Granite City,” says Godwin. “The employees pointed toward a renewed focus on service, which everyone agreed was still the decisive factor. It taught me the value of building company-wide strategy initiatives.”

Brand Strategy
Not surprisingly, someone who puts a premium on listening knows how to encourage feedback. When Godwin decided just a few years ago that market consolidation required a renewed branding effort, she once again tapped into the wisdom of the whole team. First, she hired Steve Helle in 1999 to serve as Granite City’s new president, freeing her up to focus on what she loves most, marketing and strategy.

“Steve has been a great addition,” says Godwin. “His values matched the company’s, which was important, but he also has a real reverence for the past. Like a good historian, he recognized where Granite City had come from and how that would shape our future. That’s a trait too rare in executives today.”

The company rallied around the branding project, with everyone in the organization contributing. With Helle, Godwin set up employee roundtables, implemented customer surveys, and held countless plain old conversations with staff and customers alike. Even Godwin’s 10-year-old grandson, William, got involved by submitting design concepts for the Granite City delivery trucks. “Some of his designs were quite good,” Godwin says with just a hint of family pride at the budding marketing talent in the pipeline.

“It was an amazing experience,” Godwin says of the branding project, pointing out contributions from nearly every unit in the company. The mission was revalidated, the
Women in Business: The Next Generation

Phyllis Godwin jokes that flunking “Husband 101” led to her career in business. But underneath the self-deprecating humor is a clear understanding of the serious challenges facing women in business.

“Women have made great strides since I started,” says Godwin, “but we must recognize there are still significant societal pressures that discourage women from pursuing top executive positions. It needs to be addressed and I think we women have got to lead that discussion.”

Godwin points to how women are encouraged to enter the “helping” professions, such as teaching and nursing. But where are the programs that encourage women toward leadership careers? “There are not enough of them,” Godwin says with some concern. “Look, the entrepreneurial mindset is that of a creator. Women excel in that role. Yet, society pushes women toward support roles. We’re overlooking a huge wealth of talent.”

Talking with Godwin about women in business is a fascinating conversation. She’s quick to parse a woman’s issue from a business one. Asked whether Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina was unfairly treated, Godwin says only an HP insider could make that judgment. “But whether male or female, a CEO has got to be careful not to overreach,” she says. Bring up Harvard’s Larry Summers and his controversial questioning of whether women have the innate abilities to succeed in science, Godwin quips, “Perhaps he should have asked the president of MIT [Susan Hockfield, a neuroscientist] since she works just down the street. His comments certainly speak to how far we’ve come and how far we still have to go.”

Though she didn’t plan it this way, she recognizes that her life experiences have put her in a mentoring role. During a busy stretch in Granite City’s growth, she was asked to chair the South Shore Chamber of Commerce—the first woman to earn the honor in the organization’s 95-year-history.

“The timing wasn’t ideal,” says Godwin. “But I realized my answer would affect who would be asked in the years ahead.” Godwin accepted and during her tenure created the Women’s Business Connection to provide support to other women executives. “The world has plenty of the ‘old boys club.’ It was time for an ‘old girls club.’”

At 79, Godwin has no plans to retire. “Why? I love what I do?” Asked what she plans to accomplish next, she says with a laugh, “I don’t know, maybe petition the Girl Scouts to add a CEO badge to their merit patches. Our local troop, the Patriots Trail Girl Scouts, just implemented a CEO badge, which is wonderful. Maybe we’ll see if we can get that idea to the national level.”

company’s core values composed and distributed, and a strategy clearly delineated.

Next came a new logo, new delivery trucks, new goals, new energy, and—the most visible part of the branding strategy—a new partner. In January of 2004, Granite City signed a sponsorship deal with the most venerable of New England brands: The Boston Red Sox.

“Our partnership with the Red Sox has proven to be a strong strategic decision,” says Godwin. “It has also been a lot of fun.” Godwin points to her son-in-law, Leo Meehan, president of W.B. Mason and a long-time sponsor of the Red Sox, as the driving force behind the concept. “He had been recommending a Red Sox sponsorship for a couple of years,” says Godwin, who points out that should you visit Fenway Park you’ll see that “Leo’s company has found an interesting location to display their signage,” a playful reference to the W. B. Mason logo prominently displayed on Fenway’s historic Green Monster. This upcoming season, Granite City Electric will join both W.B. Mason and the Jimmy Fund with their logos up on the fabled wall.

Given Phyllis Godwin’s track record of success, it should come as no surprise that some of it would rub off on the Red Sox. For instance, when Granite City signed their agreement with the Sox in January of 2004, Godwin boldly announced that 2004 would indeed be the year the Sox would win it all. (Her prediction was duly documented in the Patriot-Ledger newspaper at the time.) As part of the Red Sox sponsorship, Granite City supplies all the lights for the venerable ballpark—and here is where history may need to add a footnote to the record books. Did Granite City lights become the deciding factor in the Sox championship run?

“Don’t be silly,” Godwin says laughing at the notion. Yet, the evidence warrants some consideration: After decades of big name signings, new coaches, new owners, free-agent pitchers, flashy fielders, mojo witchdoctors, MIT scientists—what was the one thing the Sox did differently in 2004 than in previous seasons? They turned to Granite City Electric for new lights. Maybe, just maybe, they could finally see the ball better?

“Nonsense,” laughs Godwin, dismissing the notion with a wave of her hand. After the laughter dies down, she adds drolly, “Although I did notice that the uniforms look much brighter under our lights.”
University Preparations for Centennial Celebration
Move Forward

Provost Patricia Meservey, Management Professor Magid Mazen, his daughter Yasmine, and his wife Shelly join in the festivities at the University's New Year's Eve celebration that featured an ice sculpture honoring Suffolk's first 100 years.

Luminaries of Academia, Law, and the Arts to Headline Year-Long Celebration

Suffolk University’s Centennial Celebration officially begins September 21, 2006, so mark your calendar right now and prepare for a series of events that will touch both your heart and mind.

Centennial activities will be geared to the entire Suffolk community and will include a birthday celebration, exhibits, performances, distinguished visitors, lectures, concerts, and networking opportunities.

The Centennial festivities will commence on Thursday, September 21 with a morning convocation featuring dignitaries from here and afar. Later in the day, a series of events and an outdoor birthday celebration will showcase the many talents of the University community and its wonderful international feel. There will be campus tours, highlighted by a visit to the new Sawyer Library at 73 Tremont Street. Programs taking place across campus will range from topical panel discussions to a CD release party for Suffolk’s a cappella group, the Ramifications, which recently finished recording 13 songs. The Theatre Department and Student Performing Arts Program will offer continuous performances, and an art installation will feature Suffolk talent. There will be food and fun for all interests, all leading up to a headline concert.

Later that evening, a celebratory laser show will light the sky and top off a day of both pomp and high spirits.

Leading luminaries of academia, law, and the arts will visit Suffolk during the Centennial year, including Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Suffolk students plan to publish a photo book, “Special Faces and Places of Suffolk,” in honor of the Centennial. This is in addition to the Arcadia Press illustrated history of the University, which will include more than 200 images and be available in Boston-area bookstores.

“Planning the Centennial Celebration has been a process of great discov-
ery," said Centennial Celebration Chair Rosemarie Sansone. “As we revisit our past we are discovering the many ways that Suffolk is unique. But the one common theme that comes through in talking with everyone involved—students, faculty, staff and alumni—is that what makes Suffolk so special is its people. Over and over, especially with alumni, talk turns to that one special person who took the time for them and made all the difference in the world.”

As the planning continues, alumni have become more closely involved, with several alumni board members participating in biweekly Centennial planning meetings through conference calls.

**SETTING THE STAGE**

Although the celebration will be concurrent with the 2006-07 academic year, the University welcomed in the current year with a preview of coming attractions. An ice sculpture of the Centennial logo graced the portico of the Law School on First Night, drawing applause from New Year's Eve revelers.

“So many of the people walking by stopped to say that they had a relative or friend who went to Suffolk, and quite a few posed for pictures,” said George Comeau, BS ’88, MPA ‘93, JD ’99, who was instrumental in setting up and lighting the ice sculpture. Passersby showed great enthusiasm for Suffolk’s upcoming milestone, he said.

Meanwhile, alumni, staff, and friends stopped into the Law School to enjoy a hot beverage and a bit of Auld Lang Syne with long-time friends. The Suffolk First Night celebration was so successful that it is expected to become a yearly tradition.

In March, the University and the Center for Teaching Excellence presented an interdisciplinary academic conference, “Discovery: Boundaries & Connections.” The conference featured presentations by faculty members from Suffolk’s three schools. It was the forerunner of an academic conference to be presented during the Centennial which will include researchers from Suffolk and other institutions exploring a contemporary theme.

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FINDS HOME ON THE WEB**

Suffolk has begun building a Centennial Web site to keep members of the University’s extended family up to date on next year’s Centennial Celebration, the ongoing planning process and why the Centennial means so much to so many people.

A highlight of the site will be a flash video timeline of important dates for the University. A collection of 65 important photographs and close to 80 facts make up this fascinating study of Suffolk’s history. A historical photo album also will be added over the next few months, according to University Archivist Beth Bower.

Details of Centennial activities will be posted on the University Web site, which will continue to grow as the September kick-off for the celebration approaches.

For a look at the Centennial Web site, click on the Suffolk Home page link, or go to: http://www.suffolk.edu/centennial. You may also email comments, ideas, or questions regarding the Centennial to celebration2006@suffolk.edu

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Suffolk’s Centennial will celebrate the past 100 years, but the University’s prominence derives from its flair for anticipating the educational needs of the future. Therefore, a celebratory video focusing on the current state of the University and its promise for the future is in production.

In contrast, the video prepared for the 90th anniversary celebration focused primarily on Suffolk’s history and traditions. Now, given the growth of the University in the intervening years, that video appears surprisingly outdated, according to Midge Wilcke, director of University Media Services.

New traditions, such as the annual academic convocation, have been added. And while the 1996 video introduced a new residence hall on Tremont Street, the University has since constructed an additional building to house students, built a spectacular Law School building on Tremont Street, and become the master tenant of another Tremont Street building. Suffolk, which has an international campus in Madrid 10 years ago, added another in Dakar, Senegal in 1999.

**100-YEAR HISTORY CAPTURED ON FILM**

The University Archives staff, students, and volunteers are sifting through thousands of photographs, glass-plate negatives and slides that capture Suffolk’s history from 1906 to the present.

“For a look at the Centennial Web site, click on the Suffolk Home page link, or go to: http://www.suffolk.edu/centennial. You may also email comments, ideas, or questions regarding the Centennial to celebration2006@suffolk.edu”

“Suffolk is lucky to have such a rich photographic documentary record of its history,” said University Archivist
Beth Bower. "We have photographs from every decade, each school and college, and most buildings. We have candid photographs of students, pictures of many commencements, cheerleaders, fraternities and sororities, faculty mug shots, alumni events, and theater productions."

The photographs tell the story of Suffolk and its relationship with its neighborhood, the city of Boston and the larger world. There are prints of demonstrations, international programs, moot court competitions, and politicians from Calvin Coolidge to Shirley Chisholm to Ralph Nader.

While some photographs are labeled with dates and information on who or what is pictured, the majority of the photographs have little identifying information. To address this situation, an enthusiastic group of self-described "Suffolk Old-Timers" met in January to help the archives staff identify the people, places, and events captured in its thousands of photographs. The volunteers spent several hours poring through 18 boxes of historical photographs of Suffolk. Stories were told of events and folks departed, and many saw their younger selves emerge from an acid-free folder.

"The Archives is happy to report that we have 66 photo boxes still to organize and identify, so there is ample opportunity to participate in a future photo party," said Bower. "We will be calling for alumni volunteers soon."

If you'd like to get involved in the photo project, please get in touch with Becky Rudolph at (617) 305-6293, or email: brudolph@suffolk.edu.

And please contact us at Celebration2006@suffolk.edu regarding any aspect of Suffolk's year-long Centennial festivities.

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In 1906, Gleason Archer founded Suffolk Law School, promising wider opportunities and a higher standard of living for working-class students. His admissions policy proved the fact that a college degree leads to greater career opportunities and a better life for generations to come.

It's a fact that cultures that value higher education and invest in their schools and students are healthier, more productive, wealthier, and safer than those with less-educated populaces. Yet, while the traditional barriers to a college education in the US have faded into history, one has grown: Rising tuition costs, coupled with changes in federal student-aid programs, have made the dream of college unattainable for many of our best and brightest.

At Suffolk University, we pride ourselves on continuing Gleason Archer's original promise to make an education accessible to anyone who is prepared to study. To honor Suffolk's Centennial, we've established the Suffolk University Centennial Scholarship Program, offering one hundred donors the opportunity to honor the vision of Gleason Archer. By making a commitment of $50,000 or more, you are in a position to help those who stand the most to gain from a college education.

When you "make an investment in human life," as Gleason Archer so eloquently stated more than one hundred years ago, "we all benefit."

Call the Office of Advancement to inquire about becoming One of One Hundred—a unique opportunity to continue the tradition of success.

Suffolk University Centennial Scholarship Program
Suffolk University – Office of Advancement
Courtney Barth
617-573-8029
Soaring to New Heights

by David Weber
photography by Justin Knight
With Alex Pollock on stage and Marilyn Plotkins behind the curtain, Suffolk’s theatre program is winning awards and acclaim.

In late summer 2001, a slightly built young man with wispy light brown hair walked onto the Suffolk University campus with vague plans of studying film.

Raised in tiny East Montpelier, Vermont, 18-year-old Alex Pollock wasn’t really sure why he had come to college on Beacon Hill.

“I think I went to Suffolk because I didn’t get into any other schools,” he says candidly. “I hadn’t thought a lot about colleges.”

Within days of registering for freshman classes, Pollock saw a flier posted in the C. Walsh Theater seeking people to audition for a play. Pollock took the bait and quickly realized he wanted to be on stage. He immersed himself in Suffolk’s theatre program, spending countless hours in classes and acting in plays such as Othello, Rhinoceros, Assassins, You Can’t Take It With You, and The Suicide.

Four years after entering the program, he answered his cell phone in a pizza parlor and learned he was the winner of one of the most prestigious scholarships in the college theatre world. The Princess Grace Foundation Award—named for actress and princess of Monaco Grace Kelly—carried a $10,000 prize and brought immense honor to Pollock and the Suffolk theatre program that cultivated his talents.

“It’s a huge stroke of luck that I got involved in this tiny little theatre department here, and it turned out to be this amazing program,” Pollock said recently as he began his final semester at Suffolk.

Now 21, Pollock has an intense manner and chooses his words carefully. He started acting in plays in high school. He won his first role when he was in ninth grade, playing a bit part in Dog’s Hamlet by Tom Stoppard.
The oldest of three sons, Pollock said his parents never pushed him toward the arts. His father is a pilot for US Airways, and his mother works on the clerical staff at his high school in Vermont. But the theatre held an allure for him even from an early age. "I was drawn to the type of people involved. I liked hanging out with them," he said.

Still, acting essentially was a pleasant extra-curricular activity until he came to Suffolk. He credits the university and professors such as Wes Savick with igniting his creative fires.

"In my first year, Wes directed The Conference of the Birds [by Peter Brook and Jean-Claude Carriere]. I got a part I really could explore, which I never got a chance to do in high school because I was always in the supporting ensemble," he said.

Pollock became a protégé of Savick, who is not just a professor to his students but also is an active writer, director, and performer in experimental theatre in greater Boston who inspires by example.

Pollock said his most fulfilling work as an actor came when he performed in a play written and directed by Savick for the Boston Playwrights’ Theater. Called Shouting Theatre in a Crowded Fire, it was an adaptation of the writings of Boston University history professor and social activist Howard Zinn.

The play's thrust was a variation on the old axiom that ignorance of history spawns needless repetition of costly mistakes. "It felt like I was doing something really worthwhile," Pollock said.

Theatre Department Chair Marilyn Plotkins said the Suffolk faculty quickly recognized Pollock's extraordinary artistic maturity. "We have many exceptional students. But what's unusual about Alex is that at a very early stage in his time here, he not only demonstrated interest and talent in every area of theatre—writing, acting, directing, design—but for a kid that young, his standards were unusually high," Plotkins said.

"He's very hard on himself. He expects a lot of himself," she continued. "That's a quality you expect when someone is 30, but not when they're 19. He's quite an astonishing young man."

Pollock acknowledges a restless quality in himself. "I'm never really satisfied with whatever I do," he said. "I can always see what's wrong with it."

Pollock's winning entry in the Princess Grace scholarship contest comprised a videotape of a monologue from Shakespeare's Othello and scenes of his acting in two plays, In Arabia, We'd All Be Kings and The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat. He accepted his award in October at a Manhattan reception hosted by CNN's Larry King.

Pollock said he has no plans to head off to the Broadway stage or Hollywood after he graduates from Suffolk. "I think I'm going to take some time off to try to figure [the future] out. I want to keep trying to write. I don't want to lose momentum. I would love to form a theater group with my friends and with Wes," he said.
He cited a quality that sets theatre apart from just about every other discipline of college study: the closeness, almost a feeling of family, that results from baring one's thoughts and emotions to faculty and fellow actors during the course of learning. "You can't help but be really close to these people," he said.

A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC

The Suffolk University Theatre Department that helped Pollock grow into a talented actor and budding writer and director did not exist 20 years ago. It evolved under the energetic leadership of department chair Marilyn Plotkins and the no-holds-barred creativity of professors such as Savick and Richard Chambers, who specializes in set design.

"Every once in a while, you find yourself in a place where a lot of creative people come together. There's a little bit of magic in it," department General Manager Jim Kaufman said about the current climate in the program.

Plotkins was just out of graduate school herself when she came to Suffolk to run the theatre program in 1980. She was a staff of one under the direction of the journalism-communication department in the College of Arts and Sciences, which had just created the theatre major that year.

"What really appealed to me about this job was this 500-seat theater (the C. Walsh Theater)," Plotkins said. "It was built in 1927 and was a lecture hall for the law school by day and showed movies at night. It even had a pipe organ. It was painted this awful turquoise and mustard. Someone at the school at the time said, 'You'll never get a dime for [renovation of] this theater, so just forget it," she recalled.

But Plotkins didn't forget it. She realized she had a significant asset on her hands and began renting the theater to drama and music groups who were desperate for performance space. "We hosted just about every choreographer of significance in Boston," she noted.

Eventually, she formed an alliance with the esteemed American Repertory Theatre, which needed a place to stage some of its smaller productions. The C. Walsh Theater was the site of the American premiere of playwright David Mamet's The Cryptogram, which moved on to New York and won an Obie for best off-Broadway play in 1995.

"I was running a one-person show: no technicians, No staff. No nothing," Plotkins said. So she used the revenue from the theater to hire a business manager, technical director and a few other staffers. "Gradually, the University took responsibility and began to pay for these positions," she said.

But Plotkins began to realize that Suffolk theatre students weren't getting to use the C. Walsh facility enough because the in-residence groups were renting it. "It dawned on me that the students didn't have access to the very thing they were paying for," she said. "Let the programming come from the students," she decided.

A key step in the growth of the theatre program came in 1999, when the university separated it from the journalism-communications department to be its own department, authorizing the hiring of additional faculty members.

"I hired the most amazing person, Wes Savick," Plotkins said. Savick's cache in the Boston theatre community attracted Chambers and other talented instructors as ad-
We went from a handful of majors to the current number of about 70. And from about five or six classes a year to the 14 to 16 we have now,” said Plotkins.

Kate Snodgrass, artistic director of the Boston Playwrights’ Theatre (BPT) at Boston University, has guest-lectured at Suffolk and come away impressed. Referring to Savick and Chambers, with whom she has collaborated at BPT, Snodgrass said, “They’re some of the best artists I’ve worked with. Wes is a gifted, gifted director. He’s also a playwright. He knows structure and character and plot and theme. His passion is really what draws people to him.” She noted that Chambers has won two Elliot Norton Awards, the Oscars of the Boston theatre scene.

Snodgrass lauded Plotkins as the driving force behind Suffolk’s success. “She’s a wonderful chairman of that department and has had so much to do with bringing Wes and Richard in,” Snodgrass said. “I think those [students] are really getting a great education at Suffolk. Those kids are thrilled to be doing what they’re doing.”

Another boon to the program was the University’s decision to move the Law School out of the Archer building and into its new state-of-the-art home at David J. Sargent Hall on Tremont Street. The move freed up space for the theatre department, which built a studio theater surrounded by faculty offices on the sixth floor of Archer in what had been the old Pallot Law Library.

“Now it’s too small. We desperately need a third space. We need another studio theater,” Plotkins said.

The reputation and visibility of Suffolk’s theatre program was enhanced by Plotkins’ decision seven years ago to enter Suffolk in the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival (KC/ACTF). It was a decision Plotkins grappled with because of her ambivalence about spending students’ and staff’s time and energy on competition at the expense of pure learning.

Ultimately, she decided, “I’ve got to change the perception of us. I’ve got to find a way of proclaiming to the world our standards and our ambitions. I felt the larger goal was worth it,” she said.

The result is five student acting awards and invitations to stage four productions at KC/ACTF sites. Plotkins believes Suffolk’s involvement with the KC/ACTF has served its purpose. For now, Suffolk will forego further competition to concentrate on productions to commemorate the University’s centennial this fall.

The growth of the University’s theatre program had been accompanied by an evolving curriculum that includes an increasing number of student-written and student-directed productions.

“As last year, we had seven proposals for student-directed work,” Plotkins said. “After a faculty meeting, we realized that all seven deserved to be supported. We completely changed how we do things in order to make this possible.”

“All of this has laid the ground work for lots of marvelous stuff. One of the things I’m proud of,” she said, “is that the [faculty] are here because they love their jobs. People have gravitated to this place because they’re not interested in complacency. They’re always thinking, ‘How can we make the experience as rich as possible?’”

Alex Pollock (left) with Nala Nather in A Country Doctor by Franz Kafka
How many lawyers
does it take to write
a baseball book?

By Greg Bergman
Photography by Justin Knight

No, this is not one of those hackneyed lawyer jokes. Meet Suffolk alumnus Howard Bloom, co-author of The Uncyclopedia of Baseball. He’ll make you laugh out loud in this seriously funny take on the stories and statistics from America’s favorite pastime.

Howard Bloom JD ’77 is a labor lawyer. He loves his job and he loves the law. At least, that’s his story and he’s sticking to it. Nonetheless, if Bloom had to choose between Perry Mason and Jackie Mason, he’d choose the latter.

And although lawyers are seldom associated with comedy (hackneyed lawyer jokes aside), there is a long tradition of lawyers turned authors—and good ones at that (think John Grisham, David Kelly, Scott Turow, etc.). Heck, every television show is about law and order (including, of course, Law and Order). Naturally, many of those shows were created by lawyers, and oftentimes written by them. Perhaps it’s the very wordy nature of the law; whatever the case, the field attracts many great writers. Enter Howard Bloom.

“I knew I could write something interesting and humorous but I needed that final push from someone,” says the 48
year-old Bloom. “I knew I had it in me, but it took Mike to get me to finally agree to write this book.” Fellow lawyer and baseball fan Michael Kun helped Bloom take the plunge.

“When I began, I could no more write 2,500 words in a sitting than I could hit a ball blindfolded out of Fenway Park,” quips Bloom. “Actually, I don’t think I could do that now, come to think of it.” But, despite his modesty, Bloom had actually published one book before The Baseball Uncyclopedia. “I wrote The Employers Guide to Employment Law,” chuckles Bloom. “But it wasn’t exactly a laugh a minute.”

And what about The Baseball Uncyclopedia? According to reviewers, it is one of the funniest books in bookstores right now, on any subject. It’s also one of the most informative sports books you’ll find. Its nearly 300 pages are packed to the brim with hysterical footnotes (perhaps the first time in literary history), the Uncyclopedia is exactly what it claims to be: “A highly opinionated myth-busting guide to the great American game.”

“We wanted to set the record straight on baseball trivia once and for all,” says Bloom. “There are so many myths in baseball. It’s pretty incredible how many false opinions about the game and its players that fans have embraced for so long.” Ambiguity being a lawyer’s worse nightmare, Bloom and co-author Kun went to work tackling this case myth by myth, and game by game.

The Baseball Uncyclopedia, published by Emmis Books, teaches that even basic rules that are taken as gospel—such as “An inning always ends after three outs,” or “A tie always goes to the runner”—are actually untrue. How about the fact those legendary baseball nicknames such as Joe Jackson’s “Shoeless Joe” or Joe DiMaggio’s “the greatest living baseball player” have no basis in reality. As it turns out, “Shoeless Joe” wore shoes and as for Joe DiMaggio, well, he came up with that nickname himself and demanded reporters use it (Say it ain’t so Joe, say it ain’t so!)

And then there’s the saga of Babe Ruth going to the Yankees. As much as the “Curse of the Bambino” sounded like a plausible reason for the Red Sox’s 86-year World Series drought, the answer to the question of whether Red Sox owner Harry Frazee sold the Babe to finance a Broadway musical is a resounding “No (No Nanette).” The show didn’t even open until five years after Ruth was sold prior to the 1920 season. As the Uncyclopedia points out, Ruth was jettisoned because he had become too much of a distraction, he abandoned the team twice that season, refused to pitch, and his drinking affected his play.

Yet, the most amusing parts of this book are when we get to see these two attorneys debate the finer points of baseball, as if they were arguing before the Supreme Court. This is more than evident in the Nolan Ryan debate, when Bloom calls Kun a “moron” for believing that he was overrated. Also unleashing an ad hominem argument, Kun replies, “I’m a moron? I’m not the one with the 1980s mustache, am I?”

Perhaps the biggest difference between the two baseball fans, however, is how sentimental they are when it comes to baseball. “I’m much more of a romantic when it comes to baseball than he is,” says Bloom. “He’s a much better cynic than me.”

Now living in Needham, Massachusetts, with his wife and daughter, Bloom grew up in nearby Medford. A former little leaguer, he characterizes his playing ability as a second baseman simply as “good field, no hit.” A Red Sox fan since birth, Bloom fell in love with the game from going to Fenway Park with his father. “I know it sounds sappy,” Bloom confesses, “but when I go to games I still think of going to games with my dad.”

Bloom’s father was a school teacher and chairman of his school’s grievance committee. Upon word of his son taking a typing course, he made him type up some grievances. Initially unmoved, Bloom says that during this little typing project he became fascinated with labor law and he was hooked. “Many people don’t know what they want to do,” says Bloom. “I knew that I wanted to practice law and exactly what kind of law I wanted to practice.”

A precocious kid and a good writer who argued his case no matter what the subject, Bloom was encouraged by friends and family to live out his dream. That dream led to Suffolk Law School. “Suffolk gave me a terrific and practical education,” says Bloom. “It helped me pass the Bar the first time out. It prepared me well. More than anything, it gave me the confidence to go out there and excel at what I do. I have been very successful. I don’t have that without Suffolk.” Not only did Suffolk make Bloom a better lawyer, it planted the seeds of comedy as well.

With a successful career and one Uncyclopedia under his belt (he’s currently working on The Football Uncyclopedia), it looks like this “good field, no hit” second baseman finally hit the home run he’s been waiting for.
A Letter from Mark Haddad, Alumni Association President

If you haven't been in touch with Suffolk recently, there has never been a better time to reconnect with our alma mater. I can tell you from personal experience that the Suffolk alumni network is here for all of us. In fact, I think of my Suffolk affiliation as a lifelong passport to higher education. It offers me countless opportunities to explore new ideas, to meet leading experts in all fields, to network, and equally important, to make lasting friendships that bridge class years and school affiliations.

This September marks the 100th anniversary of Suffolk's founding and the University will mark this incredible milestone with a series of events leading up to a University-wide celebration on September 21, 2006. I invite you to join us at one of these upcoming events or at the next alumni chapter event in your region. And if this happens to be your reunion year—for those having graduated in a year ending in 6 or 1—make your travel plans today for June 2-4 in Boston. Reunions are a relatively new practice at Suffolk but fast becoming a much-loved University tradition.

As you peruse the pages of our Suffolk Alumni Magazine (SAM), you can't help noticing the vast reach and strength of our alumni network. Given the growing excitement surrounding our Centennial, and the interest it will generate in Suffolk (both locally and nationally), our collective Suffolk pride—like our University's outstanding reputation—will only grow in the months ahead.

So take advantage of your Suffolk heritage. Join us at one of our Alumni Association gatherings here in Boston or at a regional alumni chapter as we celebrate this special time. Your alumni connection also offers countless opportunities to network—both socially and professionally in addition to an array of volunteer opportunities—from admissions counseling, to student mentoring, to planning alumni events. Volunteering on behalf of Suffolk is both rewarding and a terrific way to augment one's own skills and strengths. It's also fun—check out the pictures from our recent volunteer Leadership Day on the following page and judge for yourself. Why else would over 70 alumni volunteers give up a precious Saturday?

Don't miss out on what it truly means to be a member of this extraordinary community—take advantage of your Suffolk connection today. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming alumni events this spring and encourage you to contact our alumni relations staff at (617) 573-8443 if there is any way we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Haddad
President, University Alumni Council
Leading the Way...

Suffolk’s second annual Alumni Leadership Conference brought more than 70 alumni volunteer leaders to Suffolk’s Beacon Hill campus in September. This special alumni summit offers volunteers from across the country an opportunity to meet, network, and catch up on the most recent news of the University. Attendees received a University briefing from Provost Patricia Maguire Meservey, while Vice President for Advancement Kathryn Battillo shared her perspectives on the key role volunteers play in advancing the University’s reputation for excellence.

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED...

A call for nominations

All alumni are eligible to apply for a position on the Board of Directors of the University’s alumni association. The three boards include Law School, College of Arts & Sciences, and the Business School. There are several positions open on each board, each carrying a three-year term of office. Alumni holding multiple degrees from Suffolk may run for only one divisional directorship at a time. The alumni association is active in planning career, educational, networking, and social programming for alumni and students.

If you wish to place yourself in nomination, please send your name, class year and degree, and contact information to

Suffolk University
Office of Alumni Relations,
8 Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
NYC Chapter Spotlight

In a city often thought of as the capital of the world, New York holds a powerful attraction for its eight million-plus inhabitants, as well as tourists the world over. Its charm is certainly not lost on Bill Popeleski, MBA '87, and Priti Doshi, JD '03. But for Popeleski and Doshi, the one thing their vibrant city lacked was a Suffolk alumni chapter.

Doshi, who moved to New York after receiving her Suffolk Law degree, felt that a sense of community was of vital importance. “I wanted and needed a place to network, get involved, meet people,” she says. A strong believer in alumni organizations, Popeleski recalls meeting Doshi for the first time at an informal meeting of New York City alumni. When the University’s alumni relations team asked for volunteers for a chapter leader, he and Doshi were the first to raise their hands.

According to Popeleski, they're a great team. “It's great to have two co-chairs. We complement each other and have real diversity in representing the University given our different views.” Both agree that the best thing about their chapter events is the incredible networking that takes place. “When we have events,” says Popeleski, “everybody is interacting, everybody is mingling. It’s just great networking and it's just been great for me to be involved.”

Popeleski and Doshi attribute the success of the New York City Chapter to its diversified events—cultural, educational, and informal venues that foster friendships and a wonderful exchange of information. According to Doshi, the New York Chapter is all about sharing. “Our chapter brings a wide range of alumni together to share all kinds of things, career advice, tips on getting around the city, people share their personal experiences and goals.”

The co-chairs work with a small group of dedicated volunteers and the University’s alumni relations staff to plan events throughout the year. They are delighted that event attendance continues to grow and this year sponsored the first joint event between the Boston and New York Chapters that included a brunch at the Blue Fin Restaurant followed by the smash hit musical—Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.

Popeleski and Doshi will soon begin planning events for next year and clearly relish their volunteer commitment to Suffolk. “This is a great thing to be a part of,” says Doshi, “and if I can help bring this chapter to prominence in the city, it can only further benefit Suffolk and our alumni.”

“We have great people, a good model and what makes it really terrific is that the alumni relations staff at Suffolk are really committed to making us and the University successful,” says Popeleski. “I’m amazed to see how the University has evolved from 1987 to 2006. It's mind boggling and it's very exciting, and who doesn't want to be a part of a good story?”
Stay Connected

Whether you live on the East Coast or West Coast or somewhere in between, Suffolk has a growing network of alumni chapters. Current chapters exist in California (Los Angeles), Florida, Massachusetts (Boston, Cape Cod, Metro West, Merrimack Valley, North Shore, and South Shore), the D.C. area, and New York City. New chapters are underway in Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Chicago. If you would like to form an alumni chapter in your community, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (617) 573-8443.

Orville Walker BSBA '48 and Vera Walker enjoy an evening and reception in Pasadena.

Bernie McGee and Suffolk Trustee Jeanne Hession JD '56 at the Cape Cod Alumni Chapter’s visit to the Sandwich Glass Museum in October.

David Murray JD '02, Dana Casali JD '99, and Bridget Murray, JD '98 at the Boston Chapter’s group tour of the newly renovated Adams Courthouse in September.

South Florida’s alumni enjoyed a private reception with Jorge Mester, Music Director and Conductor, Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, following a concert performance in February.
Executive Speak

The Alumni Speaker Series presents leading executives who share their perspectives on topics ranging from career, lifestyle and learning with all members of the Suffolk community. This dynamic series takes place throughout the academic year in the form of breakfast, lunch or dinner presentations. If you would like more information on this series, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at (617) 573-8443.

Suffolk on the Move

The Suffolk community turned out in full force for the 7th annual Family Walk and Road Race at Boston’s Hatch Memorial Shell in September. Over 100 participants enjoyed the sunshine and spectacular river views during this annual five mile walk/run along the banks of the Charles. This special Suffolk event benefits the Alumni Leadership Scholarship Fund and draws participants from throughout the Suffolk community and Greater Boston. Cindy Campbell BSJ ’88, morning traffic reporter for WCVB-TV, presided over the official start of the race. Planning is already well underway for the 8th Annual Family Walk and Road Race, so save the date for September 17, 2006.

Jeanette Clough MHA ’96, President and Chief Executive Officer of Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, MA, articulates the history of modern medicine and the healthcare industry’s most formidable challenges, such as the cost of Medicare.

Richard Valentine BA ’69, CEO of the MBA Group, (including F1 Boston), and Formula One race car driver, discusses the importance of building lasting relationships in the business world, connections that carry over from one business to another.

Sushil Bhatia MBA ’79, CEO of JMD Manufacturing, Framingham, MA, and Sawyer Executive-in-Residence, shares the latest tools and methods that virtual global teams are using to design and develop patentable products.

Racers await the starting signal.

Cindy Campbell starts the race.

And they’re off!
Suffolk Wins Bid on MDC Building
31-story residence hall and student center to transform campus

Suffolk University saw a unique opportunity when the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) building located at 20 Somerset Street went on the market last year. As part of its master plan, the University has long promised to keep expansion away from the residential areas of Beacon Hill, which can limit opportunities for growth. However, the vacant MDC building at 20 Somerset, located well away from the Hill's residential area, but right in the middle of the Suffolk campus, provided a very unique opportunity.

"The location is ideally suited for the University," says Suffolk President David J. Sargent. "We have long recognized that expanding our campus can be very difficult given the tight confines of Beacon Hill and our commitment to our neighbors. So a property like 20 Somerset is a unique opportunity for us."

The administration's interest was rewarded late last year when the agency managing the sale, the Massachusetts Division of Capital and Asset Management, announced that Suffolk was the lead contender for the property and was working closely with developers to put the finishing touches on the deal—a deal that promises to transform the campus.

The Evolving Campus

According to the proposal submitted by the University, Suffolk would construct a 31-story building at 20 Somerset—26 floors of which would be dedicated to student housing. The plan also includes a four-floor student center within the building and a street level retail location. Suffolk's winning proposal also calls for renovations to Roemer Plaza, which sits adjacent to the building, creating an active outdoor area where students, state workers, business executives, and residents of Beacon Hill could intermingle.

"The location is ideal in many ways," says Provost Patricia Maguire Meservey, who was involved in the negotiations. "We envision 20 Somerset becoming a major focal point of the campus."

The MDC building is located just a few hundred feet from both the Sawyer Business School and Suffolk's most recent campus addition, the Nathan R. Miller residence hall, which opened in 2003.

Next Steps

The proposed building still has a few hurdles to clear before any ground is broken. "We've completed our due diligence," says Meservey. "And it's a piece of property we feel good about. But there are issues that still need to be addressed."

One such issue is the historical status of the current structure. The MDC building, erected in 1930 during the height of the depression, is from an architectural era the Boston Landmark Commission recently added to its protection list. However, according to a story in the Beacon Hill Times, the current structure suffers from a number of problems, including major code violations such as a sprinkler system, asbestos, and structural problems—making a renovation very difficult. State employees were moved out of the building in 2003 shortly after Governor Mitt Romney merged the MDC with the Department of Environmental Management.

A Strategic Fit

Thus far the new building looks like a win-win for all involved, not the least being the housing market in Boston. Urban universities play a valuable role in cities, but at the same time they can wreak havoc with local housing markets. Given the number of colleges and universities within Boston's city limits, perhaps no city experiences that housing crunch more than Boston.

"Our new residence hall would be very consistent with the city's desire to have colleges and universities do their part to alleviate a housing shortage in the city," says John Nucci, Suffolk's Vice President of Government and Community Affairs. "The new building would accommodate nearly 800 students, which should provide relief to the area's tight housing market."

The new building offers additional value, according to Suffolk's Dean of Students, Nancy Stoll. "The plans call for a dedicated student center on the first four floors of the building, which will give our students a much needed place to gather and organize student activities." Stoll also says the building's location is ideal. "Its location is halfway between the upper and lower campuses, so I think it will become a major focal point for Suffolk students in the years ahead."

If all goes well, the University envisions breaking ground in 2007 with construction completed by September 2009.
The Centennial Scholarship has raised over $7 million to date in new scholarship support for Suffolk. Centennial Scholarships begin at $50,000, with payment terms available over a five-year period if desirable. To find out more information, contact Courtney Barth at the Suffolk Advancement Office at (617) 573-8029.

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Hortense K. Seybolt
The Honorable Paul J. Fitzpatrick, BA '56, JD '57
The Honorable Salvatore J. Basile, JD '39, LLM '42 and
Jennie B. Basile
John M. Hughes
Professor Laurie W. Pant
Dean Michael R. Romayne, Jr. Memorial Fund
Sidney J. Rosenthal, AA '35, JD '56
Nathan R. Miller, DCS '91
Jeanne M. Hessien, LLB '96, DJS '74 and Marguerite E. Hessien
Paul F. Zerola, JD '01
Quincy Charitable Foundation
Robert E. Anders, BSBA '50
The Honorable Lawrence L. Cameron, JD '51, DJUR '67
James A. Lack, JD '96
Kathleen A. Meyer, JD '78 and Andrew C. Meyer, Jr. JD '74, LLD '99
Professor H. Edward Clark
Michael G. George, BS '83
Professor Catherine T. Judge, JD '57, LLM '60
Dennis M. Duggan, Jr., JD '78
Deborah Marson, JD '78
(List arranged by date of commitment)

EARLY IN 2002, Kathryn Battillo had the good fortune to meet with newly appointed trustee Irwin Chafetz DCS '04. He immediately wished Battillo well, and told her he wanted to start his association with a President's Council-level Leadership gift of $250,000.

"I believe in Suffolk. It's my kind of school," Battillo, Suffolk's vice president of advancement, recalled his saying at that meeting. "I know what you need to do, and you can count on me.

And count on him the school has. Since that initial meeting, Chafetz has been a consistent leadership donor who also generously gives to the Annual Fund, supports special projects at the Sawyer Business School, and now is a major contributor to the University's Capital Campaign with his recent unrestricted lead gift of $250,000.

"He's very thoughtful about his philanthropy," noted Suffolk President David J. Sargent. "It's the core of who he is.

But for such a consistent and generous donor, the Boston native is the definition of modesty. "I just do my best," said Chafetz, who is one of the founders of GWV International, New England's largest charter tour operator.

Although he did not attend Suffolk as a student, Chafetz's own involvement with the University started four years ago when his lifelong friend and fellow Suffolk trustee, Leonard Florence DCS '98, recruited him to join the board of trustees.

"The more I got to understand what they were doing, I saw they were doing great things for young people," Chafetz recalled. "These are students who may have not been able to get into those other universities we all know about, but I see this student body as one that is more dedicated than most—they work hard. I think hard work is an indicator of someone's success in life."

Chafetz, who received an honorary degree from Suffolk in May 2004, has stepped up at a time when Suffolk is undergoing unprecedented growth and expansion.

"What they've done and what they're doing made me think it was a worthwhile institution," Chafetz said. "They've expanded very rapidly. It's not the local institution we once thought it was. Now they have people coming from all over the country and all over the world."

Suffolk isn't the only Boston-area institution benefiting from the generosity of Chafetz and Florence. The two men graduated from Boston University, where the Hillel House is named after them, and they also have made gifts to Boston Medical Center and the Cardinal Cushing School and Training Center for All Faiths in Hanover. The men have also given naming gifts for the Florence and Chafetz Home for
Philanthropist Irwin Chafetz

Specialized Care, an Alzheimer’s facility that opened in 2002 in Chelsea.

In addition to his work at Suffolk, where he chairs the Trustee Committee for the Sawyer School, he also is an advisory council member at his undergraduate alma mater’s school of management. In addition, Chafetz serves on the boards of the Wellness Community of Greater Boston, Hebrew College, Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly, and the Hebrew SeniorLife. He and his wife Roberta have two sons and four grandchildren.

Chafetz, who was born in Boston in 1936, attended Syracuse University after graduating from B.U. in 1958. He began working in the travel industry as a field representative while still a student and quickly rose to prominence in the field over the years. He became president of Interface-Group Massachusetts, GWV’s parent company, as well as president of Five Star Airlines, a charter company that operated aircraft for GWV. He also was a vice president and director of Interface Group—Nevada, which owned and operated Comdex, the largest American trade show company.

“He’s the quintessential entrepreneur and he doesn’t forget where he came from,” President Sargent said, referring to Chafetz’s support of institutions throughout Boston.

Trustee Conference Room Named in Honor of Benefactor Leonard Florence

When the Suffolk University Board of Trustees met in its new meeting room for the first time this April, they paid tribute to a special friend.

“He’s a wonderful man,” Trustee Irwin Chafetz said when asked about his friend, Leonard Florence, a tireless supporter of Suffolk for whom the room was named. “He’s one of the finest people I ever met in my life.”

The oval-shaped conference room is on the twelfth floor of the University’s newest building at 73 Tremont Street in Boston. The window-lined room, which overlooks the Granary Burial ground, offers a panoramic view of Back Bay and the Charles River.

“The room is just exquisite,” noted Suffolk President David J. Sargent. “It’s an epicenter view of Boston from the heart of the historical, financial and government district.”

Florence is one of eight children born to Russian-Jewish immigrants and grew up in Chelsea. He began shining shoes at eight years old; by 29, he was a multimillionaire. He has served as chairman and chief executive of Syratech Corp., an East Boston-based company that makes silverware, giftware, and seasonal products.

But beyond his business acumen, Florence is recognized first and foremost as a philanthropist. He is among Suffolk’s biggest benefactors, and has assisted countless other non-profits throughout Massachusetts. Those who have had the pleasure to call “Lenny” a friend are truly blessed.
UNDERGRADUATE

1947
Vera (Lenz) Cross (FI) called to say she is the subject of the photograph at the end of the school’s 60th anniversary program, the one that depicts a fashion illustrator seated at her worktable with an array of fashion sketches laid out before her. Here’s what she has done since graduation: she worked for Vincent Edwards advertising agency for six years before leaving to have children. Later she did freelance work, first for Mammoth Mart, then for various agencies. She was also associated, in its earliest years, with the anniversary program, the one that depicts a fashioning to have children. Later she did freelance work, Art as a volunteer, and then spent 11 years as the instructor at NESA (Ernest L. Majors in charge). The Crosses live in Sharon, MA. After graduating from NESA, she worked for Kennedy’s before marrying and moving to Schenectady, NY, and then to Antrim, NH. After being appointed to a six-year term in 2000, she won another term last November by garnering 71 percent of the vote.

1948
Frank Cross (AD) married Vera Lenz in 1948 upon his graduation from NESA. Frank, who worked in several advertising/art service agencies after graduation, then worked as a technical illustrator for various firms. He ended his career with eight years at MIT’s Draper Labs. Frank had Hal Barry as an instructor in advertising and Ernest L. Majors for life drawing, among others. The Crosses live in Sharon, MA. Christine (Young) Sorenson (FI) started her career at Vincent Edwards advertising agency and art school before moving there for three years after graduating from NESA. She then worked for Kennedy’s before marrying and moving to Schenectady, NY, where she worked for several years as an illustrator and art director for several firms, and as a freelance designer. She is still involved in the fine arts from her home in Quincy, MA. Christine remembers NESA fondly: “We had a great time there!”

1949
Albert A. Ross (BA) wrote in to tell about his career during his Suffolk days and beyond: “I was vice president of my senior class, co-captain of the hockey team. I spent 10 years with General Motors, moved to New York to be a national sales representative for a major paper company, moved to Hampton, N.H. in 1963 and founded a real estate and development company. I was elected to every position in New Hampshire Association of Realtors, including president and then national director. I am a charter member of Hampton Rotary Club, and was elected a Paul Harris fellow. After retirement I became a consultant for Omni Dunfey Hotels in the real estate division. I have been married for 55 years to the former Ruth Keen, and we raised two children.”

1951
After coaching track and field for 52 years, Dr. King B. O’Dell (BA) was awarded the Frank Manning Award for selfless commitment to athletics by Words Unlimited. He retired last June from Moses Brown School in Providence, RI as senior master and teacher of world languages.

1959
Charlotte (Glyncor) Sorsen (AD) is the principal of Charlotte Jewelry/Apparel in Amesbury, MA. She makes and sells wearable art, including jackets for women and girls, skirts, handbags, and accessories, as well as handmade jewelry. Irene Lambert (AD), who now lives in Bennington, VT, worked for 26 years after graduation as a graphic design director for various electronics companies. She is now retired, but chairs an annual art show each August at Sea-Vu Park in Wells, ME.

1963
The Hon. David A. Wissman (BSA, JD ’68) is serving as a judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court, which is located in the United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Micronesia. After being appointed to a six-year term in 1997, he won another term last November by garnering 71 percent of the vote.

1968
Carl J. Schneider (BA, MBA ’72): “I am enjoying life and work. Come the end of March, my wife and I are going to vacation in Washington DC. We are looking forward to exploring the art museums and seeing the cherry blossom festival activities.” He is a self-employed psychotherapist.

1969
“After 36 years of teaching in Revere, I have retired,” writes Richard J. Valentine (BA). In addition to being a supervisor of student teachers at Boston University, and teaching at Bunker Hill Community College and Salem State College, he claimed a career-best second place at the 2006 Boston 24 in Daytona, FL. Also, he recently formed FI Air as a companion to the popular FI Boston and FI Outdoors racing companies he owns. Robert L. Carlet (BA, DHL ’96) became the 12th president of Towson University in 2001, won an election for former faculty member, dean, executive vice president, and provost of Towson University, Carlet served at the school for 21 years before assuming the presidency of University of Southern California-San Jose in 1995. Carlet received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of New Hampshire in 1974 and his bachelor’s degree in chemistry and mathematics from Suffolk in 1969. He received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from San Jose University in 2004 and the National Hispanic University in 1997. He also received an honorary doctor of science degree from Suffolk in 1996.

1972
Leonard Bibeau (GD) is in his 13th year with the Pratt Corporation in Indianapolis, IN. Ben began his professional career as a graphic designer and illustrator, then helped start a design studio before moving into screen-printing with a major Midwest retailer. That led to his association with Pratt, where he first headed the pre-press department and is now director of operations. In his spare time, Len paints and photographs, at the same time developing a line of creative products which I hope to market as I enter those quiet years of my life,” he says. He adds he has been married for 19 years and has five girls. Ed “Mitch” Mitchell (GD) has relocated to Russia last July to work at orphanages for severely handicapped and mentally retarded children in St. Petersburg and work with street kids in Moscow. “We benefitted from the experience as much as the children,” he says. “It was a very rewarding and emotional experience especially for my daughter,” Beth writes. “She remarked that growing up in America she had indeed taken too many things for granted and hoped that she would not in the future.” Her 22-year-old son, who also was adopted from Russia, recently joined the US Army.

1979
Richard Krawiec (BS) is the editor of a recently released anthology, Taiko Haiku, which features haiku’s on forbidden themes written by many of the finest contemporary international haiku poets. Beth S. Mittner (BS) and her 13-year-old daughter went on a short-term mission trip to Russia last July to work at orphanages for severely handicapped and mentally retarded children in St. Petersburg and work with street kids in Moscow. “We benefitted from the experience as much as the children,” he says. “It was a very rewarding and emotional experience especially for my daughter,” Beth writes. “She remarked that growing up in America she had indeed taken too many things for granted and hoped that she would not in the future.” Her 22-year-old son, who also was adopted from Russia, recently joined the US Army.

1981
Denise L. Pent (BS) has hit the lottery. Literally. She won $1 million in the Massachusetts State Lottery last January. “It couldn’t come at a better time because my job position is being eliminated and I’ll take some of the stress out the situation,” she writes. She stayed active prior to her winnings, sailing through the sky in a blimp. “We flew over Boston’s Fenway Park (no game happening) and out toward Framingham where we did a rendezvous with the Hood blimp. That was cool! When I was out in Oregon a couple of years ago, I saw a rainbow start from...
fast as a streak of lightning. I got out of my car and actually walked back and forth through the rainbow.

lege, to NESADSU recently to tour the school. Maria me think there was some link."

who is interested in pursuing interior design in col­

drew. She has worked as a book designer for 15 years

school.

Thomas J. Simpson (BSBA)

in the local elementary school, and also runs an af­

Winebow, a major importer of wines into the

ans-Correia (BSJ)

Christopher P. Lynch

Inexcusable,

for newspapers and trade publications for

has been named senior director of

co-authored a chapter on Afri­

and means no snow activities for me

co-authored a chapter on Afri­

LLC.

SUFFOLK ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Spring 2006

Jennifer Roberts (BS)

Urszula Krzyzwicka (BSBA) is on track to receive her MBA from Bentley College in 2007. Currently she is working at the Massachusetts Association of Reali­

marketing & communication coordinator. Paul Luongo (BS) recently received the John Dexter Unsung Hero Award from North End Against Drugs

writes that she is now vice president for school rela­

for Boston College and is now a cover designer in the licensing depart­

co-authored a chapter on Afri­

was to be married

reports that he works
2001
Justin C. Maaia (BA) is teaching Hebrew Scriptures and Jewish Central High School in Pittsfield, MA. "My daughter Julia is 26 months old and she just said her first complete sentence: 'I want that book, Dada.' A little hoyse, but at least it was about something useful," says he. He and his wife, Nicole, will be celebrating their five year wedding anniversary in August. "She wants me to say that Suffolk was like home to her - even though she went to Salem State," he concludes, Lauren Brown (GD) is working on her masters degree in elementary education at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA.

Michael J. Johnson (BS), a senior financial analyst for Raytheon Company, writes that he has invented a business tool the company has filed for a patent that will make it the first non-technical patent in the company's history that is not technical/Engineering in nature. He and his wife have been married for 10 years and have a son, Logan, and a daughter, Ava. Brandy M. Barney (BA) has been involved with the Palm Springs International Film Society for almost two years. "When I am not reviewing films or working, I enjoy the warm Southern California weather with my boyfriend and our two cats," she reports.

Katherine Kangas (GD) was married last September to Jeffrey Cohen at the Shaker Hills Golf Club in Harvard, MA. The couple met at Soft Shoe Company in Nashua, NH where they both worked at the time. "I am still there as marketing director. After a honeymoon in Italy ("I loved it and want to go back!"") she exclaims), they have settled in Quincy, MA. Carolyn M. Comperchio (BS, MSCJ '04) is now the administratrative officer for the Brookline County sheriff's department, as unit manager for substance abuse, medical and women's services. She plans to return to Italy and explore the ancient ancestral Medieval Hillside villages of Tuscany.

2002
Danielle (Davis) Morse (BS, MSCJ '04) writes that in she was recently married and had a baby girl. Michael J. Kelly (BA) has received his masters in world history in 2004, with a major focus on Northern Ireland, and has now begun a Ph.D. program in medieval history at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He hopes his specialization in early medieval legal history will lead to a professorship in England and a place at Oxford Law. In the meantime, he says, "I am still not married or engaged, still rent a place and have no kids, but I do have a smashbook collection and am having fun at the top ranked party school in the nation." Jennifer R. McKenzie (BA) will be graduating from Southern New England Law School this May and taking the July 2006 Massachusetts bar exam.

By the time you read this, Joan M. Perreault (BA) will have left her marketing job to backpack in South America for three months after which time she plans to join the Peace Corps. "My semester abroad in London through Suffolk really got me ball rolling in my love for travel," she says.

2003
Cindy Leigh Russo (BS) Since graduating in 2003 with a BS in biology and psychology major, Cindy attended Boston University School of Medicine where she finished her master of arts in medical sciences last May. She plans to pursue a doctor of osteopathy at New England College of Osteopathy in Boston starting this fall. Laurie Buchholz (GD) was married in February, 2005 to Charles Despotopulos, and the two are currently living in Lancaster, MA in a house they bought last August. Laurie is with Newbury Comics as an administrative web assistant. Kevin W. Bradley (BS) is a financial advisor for John Hancock Financial Network in Wellesley Hills. Kristy A. O'Brien (BA) recently accepted a new position at Suffolk University.

2004
Kate McLean (GD) and her husband, Mick, have moved to Paris. After several months living out of suitcases, they are now entrenched in their new apartment on Rue Gourmont, not too far from the Arc de Triomphe. Kate is currently handling the Paris office of Brookline, MA firm Daly & Daly and doing freelance graphic design work as well. Michele A. Colaneta (BS '03) is in the process of getting her masters in elementary education at Salem State College and is working in the public school system developing her skills in elementary and special education. "I worked in Boston for two years for a professional marketing firm and after those two years I decided that teaching was what I was meant to do," she reports. "I am looking forward to continuing to further my education in the field." She adds, "I loved my experiences at Suffolk and take pride in what I accomplished while studying there." Anita Hamalainen (MAID) and her husband, Scott, recently returned from a year in Spain. They are now living in the Cleveland area, where Anita is the sole interior designer for 30 architects at City Architecture. Elissa M. Hahn (BSBA) is a staff auditor at the Investors Bank and Trust internal audit department. This position involves travel to Ireland, Canada, and Canada to conduct audits. "I look forward to this challenge and will take with me the accounting/finance background I obtained at Suffolk," she writes. Victoria Masters (GD) returned at the end of January from 10 weeks in Nepal and south Asia. She volunteered for work in an orphanage, spending six weeks living with a host family in a small village called Bistachaap. "The people of Nepal are beautiful and kind-hearted," she writes. "I was doing treks in the Himalayas on my off time—and what an amazing time that was." From Nepal, Victoria traveled through South India to Cambodia and Vietnam. She traveled with camera in hand. "After all, I did have a great teacher in Ken Martin! I have taken thousands as I am trying to get a photography portfolio going," she notes.

2005
"I have been able to use plenty of my Suffolk education during the past four months and am grateful for it," writes Marc M. Prettenhofer (BSBA), who is a compliance officer at Quest Diagnostics in Cambridge, MA. "Ireland is always beckoning to me, so I have recently returned from my cottage in County Kerry. Unlike my house in Boston, all renovations are complete there, so it was a true rest indeed!" Vatsala Krishna (MAID) has joined the interior design firm of GMT Design in Baltimore, MD, co-owned by Katherine (Behrens) Crosby (MAID '02). Viviana Leyva (BS) writes that she was married last July to her high school sweetheart. Jennifer L. Rancourt (BS) is community relations manager for the New Haven County Cutters professional baseball team in West Haven, CT. "I am absolutely loving it! It is truly my dream job," she says. Lisa Bruzik (MAID) is an interior designer at Elkus-Manfredi Architects in Boston. Talia Galasso (BEAGD) has landed a job as a designer at Raytheon Technical Services Company in Burlington, MA. "I am very proud to say that they have not hired in the media solutions department for five years and the position I am taking requires eight years experience. I feel this speaks very highly of not only the quality of education but also the dedication of faculty and staff alike that I received from NESADSU."

2006
Robert G. Balsotn (MBA) writes that he has "loved every minute of the two months he was in Panama. 'There's a great diversity of architecture, exotic flowers and some of the most beautiful birds on the planet!' he says. "There are beaches, mountains and a lot more to offer than Florida. This is not a third world country! Some of the best food ever. And besides, it beats 17 degrees."

2007
Stephen M. Rolla (MS) recently joined startup software company Healthcare Systems and Technologies, based in Lafayette CA. He is director of product design and a founding member of the company's management team. Michael L. Backer (EMBA) and his wife, Anita, are the proud grandparents of their second grandson, Eli Brooks Backer. Mike is secretary of the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association and serves as a member of its executive board. He is a member of the first graduating class of the Executive MBA program, he writes he would enjoy hearing from members of his class and others who enjoyed and/or experienced the "Matter era."

2008
Kim E. Davis (MBA) writes that she recently was hired as a senior advisor by the Research Council of Norway focusing on working with strategy and marketing for the dual role of research organizations concerning research policy. Additionally, she is the national contact point in Norway for the European Commission funding program for ICT research and she is also working on an EU funded project to develop common research policy and funding for e-government. "In all cases I use the many things I learned so long ago at Suffolk. Michael Levin was one professor still around I remember as being particularly fine," she writes. Anita P. Turner (EMBA) has reinvented herself from being a college administrator to artist. She specializes in watercolor works focusing in flowers and crafts. Last summer she worked for the Boston Parks. She was inducted into the Frost Society this past year.

2009
Congratulations to Patricia Bray Gehr (MBA), who runs the Academic Support Center at Fairfield Dickinson University's Florham campus. She recently was awarded the Pillar Award for making "extraordinary contributions" to the school.

1973
Karen N. Nelson (MBA), who is director of purchasing at Salem State College, Salem, MA, recently was honored and recognized by her peers with the Jake Bishop Award for Meritorious Service for a lifetime of leadership, service to the higher education community, and dedication to the field of educational procurement.
Class Notes

1994
Seann Fennerty (MBA) reports that he is vice president at Competitive Power Ventures, a power generation development and management company. Seann oversees CPV's renewable energy program which includes a number of wind power development projects across the United States and Canada. He lives in North Easton, MA. Jennifer L. Tonnessen (MSE, CAG '04) lives in Stoughton, MA, and works as vice president of finance, administration and student services for Cambridge College. She writes, "A big hello and well, sleepy smoothie to all my classmates from the MfP program and CAGS - miss you guys!"

Margaret A. Wood (MBA) says she passed the enrolled agents exam in September 2005.

1997
"My husband and I climbed Mt. Kiliman­jaro in January 2005 and did a safari after the trek," writes Heather A. Hodgson-Duplau (EMBA). "I am still working in the adventure vein, she adds a trip to Alaska and Denali National Park is in the works for the entire time we are there, except for tons of caribou, wolves, bears and an assortment of birds and small mammals."

1998
Paul L. Tienman (MBA) must have tired feet, as he just completed his 11th marathon last December in West Palm Beach, FL after finishing the Big Sur marathon in Monterey, CA last April. In between races he got married last October in Boston. He works as a sales director for Guardian Insurance in South Boston. He and his wife live in Brookline, MA. Amy E. Cheng (MS) writes in to say she has joined the ranks of ho­meowners—and more. "I will also be getting married this fall. In addition, we just recently ad­opted the world's best little five pound chihuahua from a shelter. We named him Squirt! Life has been very good to us so far. I just want to say one thing for the entire time we are there, except for tons of caribou, wolves, bears and an assortment of birds and small mammals."

2000
"My husband and I are still living in Berkeley, CA," reports Kathryn Moriarty-Baldwin (MFA), who is director of development and public information for the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley. The couple has one daughter, Ellie. "We often miss Boston and the East Coast, but have no immediate plans to move back. California living is great - especially in February!"

2001
jagdip (Jay) R. Trivedi (MBA) writes in that he and his wife, Heena (who is currently enrolled in her first year at Suffolk Law), live in Stoughton, MA. For the past two years he has been operations manager and part of the senior management team at Upham's Elder Service Plan in Dorchester, MA.

Kimberly Gilden (MFA) is an assis­tant medical technician at the Helen Woodward Animal Center in Ran­cho Santa Fe, CA. She also works as an intern for the San Diego Planning Department's Multiple Species Conservation Program. And she is currently pursuing a full-time planning position in the near future. "It is beautiful here but I sure miss hankerin' for some good fried clams, a real Maine 'lobstah' and a game at Fenway Park. Johnny D. - how would you?" she lamented.

2002
E. Joseph O'Keefe (EMBA) was appointed last September as assistant secretary and chief of staff for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. John E. Anderson (MFA) writes that he has been employed since June, 2004 at the Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary as the grant manager in the glau­coma service. "I got a late start with my degree as I am now a cancer survivor (three years), which hit me two weeks after graduation from Suffolk (good timing!)," he says. Tanya E. Morris (MBA) writes from overseas that she is working in the south of Spain where he is going to build a house right on the Strait of Gibraltar. He and his wife had a baby girl, Sofia, last year while their son is going to be four this June. He remains a sales manager for Euro­platformas, a regional company that rents aerial working platforms, while for pleasure he says, "This year, one of my dreams came true — I got a Harley Davidson!"

2003
"My husband and I are still living in Berkeley, CA," reports Kathryn Moriarty-Baldwin (MFA), who is director of development and public information for the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley. The couple has one daughter, Ellie. "We often miss Boston and the East Coast, but have no immediate plans to move back. California living is great - especially in February!"

2004
Susanne M. Morrone (MSC '04) reports that she is getting married this June on Long Island, New York, to go along with a promotion last November to principal training & development specialist with Boston Scientific Corp. Want to be a bit jealous? Read on: "I just wanted to mention that I am currently traveling all around the world for I attended the launch of H. Rey (MBA/GDPA). "I am currently in Jordan and tomorrow I head to Israel." Anne L. McKinnon (MSC) plans to be leading the 18th annual "Boston By Bike...At Night!" bicycle tour of Boston and environs this August. Anne is the co-founder of this midnight-to-dawn tour of architectural and historic sites. The tour has been featured in the book Secret Boston and in the Boston Globe. Julisa Vaca (MBA) recently started a new job with BBN Technologies in Cambridge, MA, as senior product marketing manager of the firm's podcast search engine. And his wife, Marisol Goncalves, are the proud new par­ents of Michael David Goncalves Vaca. Kristen M. Meehan (MBA) reports she just started as the head of regulatory operations at Vertex Pharmaceutica ls. Mark H. Porter (MBA) writes: "I completed a M.S. in global supply chain management from Indiana University, obtained the Project Management Pro­fessional certification from the Project Management Institute, and recently returned from a week of im­structing Macedonian Military Police as a member of the Vermont Air National Guard." Nicole Reineke (MBA) last summer opened a marketing and prod­uct management consulting firm, Reinecke Associ­ates. She says it has grown from a small sole pro­prietorship to having two full time and several part time employees. This year, the company landed large long-term contracts with several high-tech customers.

2005
John Oustyntidy (MBA) was appointed registrar for Westfield State College this past February; Debbie M. Gulley (MS) started as a human resources hiring coordinator at the VMA of Boston on Valentine's Day. "The job is exciting and very rewarding," she says. Helen M. Kennedy (MS) reports her job shar­ing position for the town of Swampscott will soon become full time. "I am considering an Edlehostel Service week in Montana in June. If all the stars align," she writes. Janna S. Lyon (MBA) reports that she and her husband, E. Barry Lyon (JD) are living in Norwood, MA and are expecting their first child in July. E. Barry Lyon (JD) reports that he is working in ClubCorp's corporate and investment bank in Montrey, Mexico, where he is a financial analyst in the risk analytics unit. He plans to apply to an MBA program within the next year. Linda M. Hetue (MHA) reports she just started as the head of regulatory operations at Vertex Pharmaceutica ls. Mark H. Porter (MBA) writes: "I completed a M.S. in global supply chain management from Indiana University, obtained the Project Management Pro­fessional certification from the Project Management Institute, and recently returned from a week of im­structing Macedonian Military Police as a member of the Vermont Air National Guard." Nicole Reineke (MBA) last summer opened a marketing and prod­uct management consulting firm, Reinecke Associ­ates. She says it has grown from a small sole pro­prietorship to having two full time and several part time employees. This year, the company landed large long-term contracts with several high-tech customers.
**LAW SCHOOL**

**1969**

James Sokolove (JD) recently visited Suffolk, Boston University, and Harvard University to address students on issues surrounding ethics and responsibility in particular lawyer advertising. He’s also a frequent lecturer at legal seminars and conferences throughout the country. Recently, he was on the telephone with a LexisNexis - Medley’s Teleconference on lawyer advertising and was scheduled to speak in Chicago this spring at the American Bar Association’s Client Development Conference. After practicing law for nearly 25 years, Lawrence Schachtman (JD) decided to pursue another love, to wit: a culinary degree. He reports he had been cooking since he was a teenager and often could be found in the North End in between and after classes, getting tips and recipes from the Italian ladies who frequented the markets. He earned an AS in Culinary Science from the School of Culinary Arts Institute of Ft. Lauderdale, and is now a certified chef serving as a personal chef doing private dinner parties and in-home cooking lessons.

**1970**

Allegre E. Munson (JD) became the first woman public defender in Rhode Island upon graduating from Suffolk. She tried major felony cases, including homicides, for 10 years. After getting her master’s in taxation from Bryant College and working in private practice for four years, she moved to Massachusetts in 1983. Three years later, she writes, she joined the legal staff at the state's Department of Mental Retardation and has been there ever since. She bought a condo on the beach in Florida four years ago and vacations thereseveral times a year.

**1971**

Brian E. Mccanns (JD) is working for Westwood Management, a mutual fund and trust company firm in Dallas. “On the personal side, I serve on several boards, play tennis and golf regularly, and do a lot of reading,” he reports.

**1972**

“At the close of 2004 I retired as president and CEO of Autumn Pie Company after it was acquired by Baker’s Perfection,” writes Daniel B. Weitzman (JD). “I am now semi-retired working as a mediator and arbitrator for both private counsel, the Superior Court, New Jersey, and private mediation and arbitration services. I still maintain my Cherry Hill, New Jersey office.”

**1973**

Benjamin Isenberg (JD) says he sold his business, Welcome Wagon, in 1995 and is enjoying retirement with his wife Janice in Portland, OR. He says “very active with my volunteer work for a variety of non-profit organizations.” The couple has two sons, Cliff and Craig.

**1975**

Robert J. Flevell (JD) is the new vice chairman of the Hingham, MA firm Stant Group Consulting Group. He has been with the land-use zoning political consulting company since 1988, and most recently served as chief of the firm’s Boston office. The firm’s president, Richard J. Sullivan (JD), writes in, “My husband Bob and I are now living in New Smyrna Beach, FL. He is still working and I am semi-retired. I work one week per month (not January or February—too cold) in Boston. We travel a great deal and have been to France, Italy and Canada in the past year.” She also is a hearing officer for the state Department of Mental Retardation, and is a mentor for a high school students and volunteer in her town’s high school.

**1982**

James A. Gibbons (JD) served as an appointed delegate from Massachusetts to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. This event, held once every ten years, it held by the White House Office of Aging Policy, to the president and Congress to help guide national aging policy for the next decade. Lisa A. Grant (JD) was appointed last December by the Supreme Judicial Court to sit on the Board of Bar Overseers, a four year appointment. Donald J. Coughlin (JD) writes in, “I just booked a trip for the family to the South West, to take a month ride into the Grand Canyon at the North Rim. Also hitting Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks all in June this year. We’re going to have a blast!}

**1983**

Linda I. Argenti (JD) has been practicing law in New Hampshire and Massachusetts for over 20 years, the last twelve as a sole practitioner in Nashua, NH. Last summer, she took the “bold” step of buying a building for my law firm. “It’s bold because I had no idea what I was getting into,” she reports. “The house was built in 1900 and was previously used as a private residence. I bought it as an investment because I was tired of paying rent. Little did I know of all the hidden costs such as changing the zoning from residential to commercial, wiring for DSL, and computer hookups—programming, cleaning and furnishing this place. Nonetheless it is now a lovely office and time will tell if it was a wise business decision.”

**1984**

Frank DePena (JD) received invitation to apply for admission to the prestigious American Board of Trial Advocates. He has been in private practice since 1986, specializing in personal injury litigation, and has been board certified by the Florida Bar in civil trial law in 2001. He is the proud father of Barbara, age 15. “She wants to become a lawyer and looks forward to attending Suffolk Law School,” he writes. Anne W. Hulecki (JD) has established a law practice in the field of business law, focusing on intellectual property. Previously, she worked as in-house counsel to a software company and with Koffin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP.

**1985**

Amy E. Holmes-Hen (JD) has worked for the Multnomah County District Attorney’s office in Portland, OR since 1987. She was the senior deputy supervising the juvenile unit for ten years, and recently transferred to supervision of the domestic violence unit. She and her husband, Paul, have been married 24 years and have two daughters, Claire and Iris. Frank J. Riccio (JD) was recently selected as a Super Lawyer 2005 by Boston Magazine in the area of “plaintiff medical malpractice.” Also, he was re-certified by the NBTA as a board certified civil trial Specialist. Martin J. Alperen (JD) is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in homeland security from the Naval Postgraduate School’s Center for Homeland Defense and Security. “I have left the warm Virginia Islands temporarily and am house-sitting in cold Michigan Springs, working full time on my thesis,” he reports.

**1987**

Maxine Susichelski (JD) received a Master of Arts degree in clinical mental health counseling from Lesley College, and presently is working as a psychotherapist at an outpatient clinic in Lowell, MA. She also is working towards licensure as a licensed mental health counselor. In addition, she is still practic-
1988

"I hate to tout my own horn, but here it goes anyway...I need the camera!" writes Denisa L. Murphy (JD). "I will be presenting the Massachusetts Bar Association's annual update on employment law at the MBA's Annual Conference (held last month)." She is partner at Rubin and Rudman, LLP and is serving for the second year as the MBA's chair of the Labor and Employment section. Duncan R. Mackay (JD) is assistant general counsel for Northeast Utilities, where he is responsible for the areas of labor, litigation, employment, environmental, and bankruptcies. He is married to Julie (Grey) Mackay (JD), who is counsel for the Hartford, CT based law firm of Murtha Cullina. "I have three children: Sarah, Mary, and Luke. I am the co-founder of a vintage baseball team called the Simsbury Taverners that travels throughout New England and New York playing vintage baseball teams," he adds.

1990

"I have been blessed with the opportunity to spend this winter in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands," reports Elizabeth M. Tobin (JD). She retired from practicing law and is now a certified holographic replicating practitioner. She has been using this empowering process for personal transformation for herself and others since 1997. Elizabeth says she is enjoying her time in the Caribbean and will be back at her home base in Boston at the end of April..."just in time for yard work." Margaret Strong (JD) is a partner at Jackson Lewis in Hartford, CT and lives with her husband Richard Groce and son, Gordin.

1991

Karen M. Scarretta (JD) practiced estate planning in Florida for 10 years after graduating from Suffolk. "My husband and I have recently relocated to Los Angeles," she writes, adding that she has retired from the law and is a full-time mother to the couple's son, Roman. Edward & Indira Mulligan (JD) live in Colorado. "We have two boys and a girl, and own two businesses: Franklintown Career & Technology Center, LLC, a vocational/technical school, and CPA, LLC, a transportation company for people in wheelchairs.

1993

"I'll take the bribe (to try to get the camera)" writes Virginia M. King (JD). "It's the first time I've written to classmates in 15 years." She has this empowering practice in Milton, MA, is involved in town politics, and sits on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Her husband, John, returned home after being in Iraq for nearly 15 months with his Army Reserve unit. "It was a life changing experience for both of us," she explains. "His work sent him into hostile areas of the country, so my first act everyday was to check email to make sure he was still alive and kicking. I don't know how soldiers and their families coped in previous wars without the capabilities of our current technologies," Joanne L. Belasco (JD) worked at the Boston Police Department as a staff attorney for five years and then for two years as the editor-in-chief of law enforcement publication in Boston. She then left the legal profession to work with a non-profit called Tapestry Institute in Nebraska, where she is the director of the Horse-Human Relationship Program that conducts research about the bond between horses and humans. John S. "Chip" Kesting (JD) is presently splitting his time between his home in Marshfield, MA and Las Vegas, and is an executive at Omega Investment in New York City. Chip reports he represents plaintiffs in class action litigation, primarily securities cases, and says he has racked up $35,000,000 in billings since 1997 and getting into a heated argument/ borderline scuffle with two drunk, obsessive Yankee fans while watching Game 4 of the 2004 ALCS in an Irish bar in midtown Manhattan. Owing at least in part to the generous tip I had given the bartender earlier in the evening, it resulted in the Yankee fan's explosion from said tavern deep in the bowels of the Evil Empire." The Boston Bar Association has named Joan E. Evans (JD) co-chair of the Energy and Telecommunications Law Committee of the business law section of the BBA. She has been with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy since 1993, and currently serves as senior counsel in the legal division. Prior to joining the department, Joan held various positions at Northern Telecom (now Nortel). She lives in Needham, MA with her husband and three children.

1994

"In October of last year, my wife, Heidi, and I had our third child, Margaret Nancy Borenstein," writes Donald E. Borenstein (JD). "They're both well, as are our two older sons, Ethan and Aaron. And this year I became a member of the partnership and it has been reorganized as Johnson & Borenstein, LLC." His Andover office is just three blocks from his home, he adds. This winter he was admitted to the New Hampshire Bar to go along with being admitted in Massachusetts, Maine and the federal bars. Michele M. Jalbert (JD) is now legislative director in Congressman William Delahunt's (D-MA) Washington, DC office. "Cable News has this to say: 'New England Cable News asked me to do a weekly legal segment every Thursday during the 4:00 p.m. newscast and repeats at 4:30.'" Daniel J. Dwyer (JD) has joined the Advisory Board of Catholic Schools Foundation, Inc., which through its Inner-City Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to underprivileged children attending schools in the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston. Dan's wife Anne, and their sons Matthew and Timmy have welcomed the arrival of a third son, John Daniel. Dan is a litigator with the firm of Hanify & King, Inc., in Boston. "I was recently elected to my second term as the Ward 4 City Councilor in the city of Quincy," reports James H. Davis (JD), who also said he is managing partner of Graeber, Davis and Cantwell, a 25-person general practice law firm in Quincy. Matthew A. Krausell (JD) has been appointed chair of staff to the new mayor of Mastic, MA. He is a former Mastic city councilor and has served as an attorney for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the past five years.

1995

Abimbola Kolawole (JD) and his wife, Elizabeth Ridley, welcomed a daughter, Lola Theresa Kolawole, last August. On the career front, he reports he joined Northwestern Mutual as a securities lawyer three years ago and currently is a captain in the US Army Judge Advocate General's office. David S. Rotman (JD) recently was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor of law at the University of Memphis School of Law. "Things are going very well," writes Philip Joel Gordon (JD). "I am still active in local charities and now managing a firm focused on employee side employment litigation.

1996

Rachel Hyman (JD) had a son, Sam Auster, in August and joins Sadie Anna. Rachel is married to attorney Neil Hyman. She is an attorney with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington, DC, and the family lives in Silver Spring, MD. Susan J. (Wolf) Herstein (JD) writes that she delivered twin girls in February.

1997

Donna L. Valanzola (JD) says she recently bought a new house. James D. Corbo (JD) and his wife, Josephine, are expecting a baby in June to join four-year-old daughter Olivia. James recently opened Redmond & Corbo, LLP; a small firm concentrating on criminal defense and appellate advocacy, located in Braintree and Dorchester. Lisa Cooney (JD) last May joined Manchel & Brennan, PC, in Newton, which specializes in employment law and non-compensation litigation. Lisa lives in Needham with her husband, Jack, and their son, Dillon.

1998

Brian L. Kinney (JD) writes to say he relocated to Washington, D.C. in 2002 and is a civil litigator at the D.C. office of Ashcroft & Geral, LLP. He and his wife, Melissa, were expecting their second child in March to accompany their daughter, Bridget. "We are very excited to be traveling to the Olympics for opening ceremony and the first week of the games!" he wrote prior to the start of the festivities. Janet B. Pezzulich (JD) recently was promoted to partner in the insurance and tort litigation group at Donovan, Hatem, and Finnegan, PLLC. and joins Sadie Anna. Rachel is married to attorney Neil Hyman. She is an attorney with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington, DC, and the family lives in Silver Spring, MD. Susan J. (Wolf) Herstein (JD) writes that she delivered twin girls in February.

1999

"I moved from Boston to Warren, NH where I have successfully integrated with the local, rural community, enjoying daily hikes, snow shoeing and skiing in the White Mountains with my Chocolate Lab and Siberian Husky," writes Julie M. Sforza (JD). "I continue to work for Black Financial Corporation of Cambridge, MA on their tax products as a tax developer. I also have been serving as the Clerk of District of Illinois by a former acquaintance for a sexual assault that allegedly occurred in 1988, and she achieved a dismissal of the district court action." As far as adventure goes, I rang in the New Year on the Orient Express traveling from Bangkok, Thailand to Singapore," she adds.

Class Notes
beautiful, small wedding with our families and a few close friends in attendance," she writes, adding the couple spent their honeymoon in Belize. They are living in Northampton where she practices domestic relations law at Morsein, Morsein & MacConnell in Amherst, MA. Cathleen & Albert Tylis (JD) had their third child, Olivia, last November. "We are really enjoying parenthood!" reports Cathleen. Al is the vice president and corporate counsel of NorthStar Realty Finance Corp, while Cathleen is in the litigation department at Anderson Kill & Olitski. Arthur C. Kalos (JD) lives in Cornelius, NC with his wife, Chrispy, and their son, George. After spending two years with NASCAR in its Charlotte office as a licensing and sponsorship attorney, he has spent the past three years as the chief in-house corporate counsel for Dale Earnhardt, Inc. "Motorsports is an exciting business to be in," he writes. Harriet M. Strimpel (JD) joined New England Biolabs in 2002 after 11 years at Boehringer &Kunstein, which included three years as special counsel. She became chief patent counsel in 2003. Her husband, Oliver Strimpel, is a student at Suffolk and will graduate in 2006. George A. Ramirez (JD) was elected last November to the Lowell City Council. He is the first Hispanic ever elected to any office in Lowell’s 200-year history.

2000
Mark A. Hoffman (JD) married Karen M. Hoffman in June 2003 and have two children, Cella Rae and Joshua Dominic. She works as a sales representative for Electronic Evidence Discovery and lives in Methuen, MA. Jennifer Gugliotti (JD) writes to say she joined John Hancock in 2005 as the special manager for Electronic Evidence Discovery and lives in North Reading, MA after nearly four years in Boston. She has purchased a house in Wilmington and had a baby boy, Alexander. He has been an associate at a big law firm since October 2006. "My biggest personal accomplishment has been passing the bar nine months pregnant with a one year old at home, while working full time and moving to Massachusetts from San Antonio," writes Jomarie E.A. O’Mahony (JD). "I still don’t know how I did it!" She has been doing real estate work at Coororan Brokerage for the past year. Martha Chicoski (JD) is an associate with the Albuquerque firm of Robles, Raen & Anaya, P.C., where her practice focuses primarily on civil defense. She invites her SULS classmates who find themselves in the Albuquerque/Santa Fe area to look her up. John M. Rathbun (JD) also headed west. He relocated to Phoenix, AZ after graduation, where he is a prosecutor for the Maricopa County Attorney’s office in Phoenix. "My wife Amy and I have a five year old and are enjoying the sunshine out west," he reports. Nicole Marie Trembly (JD) married Alfred Adovasio in Montelongo, Italy last September. They were joined by Heather Mehyk (JD), Richard Mellibon (JD ’93) and Rachel Schloss (JD ’93) for their “six day wedding extravaganza” on the Adriatic Sea in southern Italy. Nicole continues her role as chief compliance officer and vice president of Western Financial Group in Wellesley, MA. 2003
"I was recently accepted to be a member of the group study exchange through Rotary International," writes Jessica Reilly (JD). She described it as a vocational program where professionals travel to host countries for 4-6 weeks, during which time participants observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, study the culture of the host country and experience another way of life. She will be doing her work in Brazil. Alissa Riba (JD) is the new assistant director of career services at New England School of Law. She is also a volunteer team leader/sponsor for the Boston Violence Institute at Boston Medical Center, providing abuse prevention legal advocacy services to victims of violence. Nicole C. Armstrong (JD) is a domestic relations practitioner working for Davis & Davis, P.C. in North Reading, MA. She recently became engaged to Mark Ramos and the couple plan to wed this October in Newport, RI. Renee (Caggiano) Berman (JD) and her husband, David, celebrated the birth of their son, Ethan, last December. Renee practices law in Bridgport, CT. Patricia A. Morissette (JD) and her husband, Barney Morissette, had their first baby, Wesley Benjamin Morissette, last May. Katerina S. Callahan (JD) reports on her travels: "We went to Hawaii and, on Maui, drove up to a 10,000-foot volcano called Haleakala to watch the sunrise, and then hiked into the crater. We also ziplined on the slopes of Haleakala. On the Big Island of Hawaii we hiked out to the flowing lava and watched it in the dark, rode horses in Waipio Valley and snorkelled at Captain Cook monument. A week and a half ago, we went to Calgary to ski some of the mountains used for the Olympics, specifically Canmore and Nakiska, and also visited the outdoor hot sulphur springs/baths at Bear’s National Park." Paul T. Tetrault (JD) recently joined the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies as state affairs manager for the Northeast. Jason W. Valencia (JD) joined Arruda & Beaudoin in Braintree, MA as an associate after passing the bar, and spent more than a year traveling around the country conducting social security disability hearings. Last March he became associate general counsel for the United States Social Security Administration. This past fall he was asked by Professor Julie Baker to help coach Suffolk University’s National Mock Court Team. "Having been on the team while at Suffolk, I welcomed the opportunity and look forward to assisting Professor Baker next year," writes the Pembroke, MA resident. Rachel M. Wassel (JD) married Matt Wassel last July. "We spent all the places—at the Bourbon Pub during my first year at Suffolk," she recalls. The couple skied the Andes in Argentina in August for their honeymoon, and she returned to her own one-year-old practice in Walpole, MA.

2004
Glenn Schley (JD) and Bridget Fleming (JD) were married last October in Boston. Scott F. Katz (JD) writes that his on their travels: "I was doing work when I graduated from Suffolk as an attorney," she writes. "But the opportunity, the challenge, and the stress of being a combat lawyer is like nothing I could ever experience in a civilian career. I love every minute of my job!" E. Barry Lyon (JD) and his wife, Jenna S. Lyon (MHA ’03), are living in Norwood, MA. They are expecting their first child in July. Michael B. Hawkins (JD) works at the Full River District Court as an ADA for
“It’s a good feeling to know that I’ll be helping African-American students in future generations.”

Professor Emeritus Edward Clark’s 24-year career as a professor of English in the College of Arts and Sciences put him in close contact with thousands of students—or as he’s fond of saying, “my Suffolk children.”

In honor of his many Suffolk children, Professor Clark has established the Edward Clark Scholarship for African-American Students through a bequest provision in his will. “The central purpose of my years of teaching African literature, the reason I founded Suffolk’s Collection of African-American Literature and the reason for this scholarship—is to promote racial harmony through education.”

“I believe in the mission of Suffolk University—to provide access and opportunity to students of all backgrounds. I want to see African-American students not just have access, but also have every opportunity to succeed academically.”

Find out how you can help future generations of Suffolk alumni. Contact Charlotte Sobe, Director of Planned Giving at 617-573-8441 or email: csobe@suffolk.edu.
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