On a recent business trip to Los Angeles, Ahmad Izham Omar, MBA ’94, attended the finale of “American Idol” and caught a sneak peek at what American television networks will air next season. It’s all in a day’s work for the CEO of TV8, Malaysia’s hippest TV network.

Izham broke into broadcasting by way of radio. “I’ve always wanted to be in the music industry,” he says. “I realized I was really excited about working in a record company; that’s when I decided to pursue an MBA. Suffolk was the only choice for me because it allowed me the flexibility of dabbling with music.”

He calls his graduate studies “a mind-breaker because I learned so much about life when I was studying for the MBA. It was the great interaction between students and also with the teachers that helped my social skills. Also the trip to Barcelona for our International Business class was really eye-opening.” Izham lists Strategic Marketing, Total Quality Management, and New Venture Creation as the three courses that “made me change the way I saw the world.”

Inspired by “a great MBA experience from Suffolk,” he headed home “determined to contribute to the music scene.” And he did, as managing director of the Positive Tone record label, which he helped found in 1994. TV8 execs eyed his talent for producing award-winning vocal artists and, in September 2003, asked him to “do to the TV industry what I did to the music industry.” As CEO of TV8, Izham works with his staff to pick which programs—often interactive, like “Malaysian Idol”—hit the airwaves and get people talking.

“I get to do what I like best: managing creativity,” he says of his career. “I am thankful that I have had a chance to do that.”

While he’s crossed paths with Malaysian superstars, rapper Warren G, and Yanni, Izham keeps his take on the entertainment industry simple. “There’s lots of glitz and glamour, but you can’t let that go to your head. Yes, I’ve met many stars. I see them as they really are: ordinary folks like you and me—okay, okay, so they might have a platinum record or two.”

To find out what other country ambassadors have been doing since graduation, turn to pages 4-5.
Dear International Graduate,

I hope you will enjoy reading the fourth issue of *The International Observer*. In these pages you will learn about the alumni services, networking opportunities, and worldwide programs the International Alumni Relations Office coordinates.

In this issue, we have profiled four alumni who are participants in the Country Ambassador Program. We have also implemented the International Mentor Program and International Alumni Board to promote communication and interaction among current students and international alumni. Through strong international alumni relations initiatives, Suffolk connects international graduates with the next generation of talented and diverse international students.

This year the International Alumni Relations Office held successful alumni events in Colombia, Mexico, and Spain. In Madrid, we hosted Suffolk University's first Spanish golf tournament and hope to make this an annual event. In the next academic year, the International Alumni Relations Office plans to host events in Colombia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Spain, and Taiwan.

If you would like more information about our activities and how you can get involved, please contact my office at dzahir@suffolk.edu or 617.305.1981. Also, please share your news with us. It is always a pleasure to hear from you, and I look forward to staying in touch.

Sincerely,

Dorothy A. Zahir
Director of International Alumni Relations

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**CIE Welcomes Former US Ambassador**

Former US Ambassador to Afghanistan Robert P. Finn visited Suffolk's campus on April 12, 2004, to present a lecture on “Afghanistan Today.” An overflow crowd of 100 trustees, faculty members, administrators, and students attended the event, organized by the Center for International Education, at Sargent Hall. US ambassador to Afghanistan from March 2002 to August 2003 and ambassador to Tajikistan from 1998 to 2001, Ambassador Finn has also served in Turkey, Pakistan, and Croatia.

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**Suffolk Team Places Second Runner-Up in SIFE Regional Competition**

A team of finance majors representing Suffolk University won second runner-up honors at the 2004 Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) New England regional competition.

Ndeye Fatou Sy, BSBA ’04, Fatoumata Ndiaye, BSBA ’04, and current seniors Ramatoulaye Sane and Mame Fall, all from Senegal, researched Boston’s disadvantaged populations for two months before they submitted “The 3 ‘H’ Project—Assisting Boston’s Less Fortunate—Getting Them Help, Getting Them Hired, Getting Them a Home.”

Sponsored by more than 200 of the world’s premier corporations, SIFE is an international organization devoted to philanthropy and community development. Each year it hosts regional, national, and international competitions for 1,500 university students in 37 countries. Those who compete develop essential leadership, teamwork, and communication skills.

“What the students achieved in this competition is remarkable,” says the team’s advisor, Professor Charles J. Mambula. “I’m extremely proud of our students because they worked so hard, showed a lot of patience, and cooperated with one another.”
Alumni Celebrate Suffolk in Spain

Twenty-four alumni and friends of Suffolk University teed off at the First Annual Golf Tournament in Spain on June 17, 2004. Held at the prestigious La Herreria Club de Golf in El Escorial, the friendly competition featured 18 holes and magnificent views of the nearby monastery built by King Philip II in the sixteenth century. Gonzalo de Sebastian, BSBA '04, and Daniel San José, BSBA '05, generously helped organize this event.

Tournament winners Juan Trevijano (Longest Drive), Jose Gonzalez Blanco (Closest to Pin), Gonzalo de Sebastian (First Place Winner-Sleeve One, Handicap 0-18.4), Fernandez Troyano Carlos (Second Place Winner-Sleeve One, Handicap 0-18.4), Carlos Sanchez (First Place Winner-Sleeve Two, Handicap 18.5-36), Jose Maria Perez Gomez (Second Place Winner-Sleeve Two, Handicap 18.5-36), Cristina Cortes Breton (First Place Winner-Ladies Division), and Patricia Gimenez-Arnau (Second Place Winner-Ladies Division) received awards from Leslie Croxford, director of the Suffolk University Madrid Campus; Marguerite J. Dennis, vice president of enrollment and international programs; and William O’Neill, dean of the Sawyer School of Management.

The previous evening, participants mingled at a reception for Spanish alumni on the terrace of Suffolk University’s Madrid Campus. Dr. Croxford welcomed administrators from the Boston campus, and Vice President Dennis addressed the crowd. Dean O’Neill spoke on globalization and the important role alumni play in the Suffolk community. After savoring the fine food and weather, alumni and their guests took home gift bags filled with goodies from Suffolk, including t-shirts and bumper stickers.

For up-to-date information on Suffolk University, visit us online at WWW.SUFFOLK.EDU

Suffolk Sips in Style at International Tea Party

A home-brewed intercultural revolution took place at Suffolk’s Second Annual International Tea Party on March 23, 2004. International students served teas from their home countries to more than 100 student, staff, and faculty guests. Visitors to the Center for International Education sipped teas from China, India, Japan, Senegal, Thailand, and Turkey. International students sponsored the event, with support from the Offices of International Student Programming and International Alumni Relations.

The International Tea Party was held with the help of volunteer committee members Mari Yoshida and Mitsutoshi Toda, Japan; Adi Utama, Indonesia; Kulthida Leungniyomkul, Thailand; an unidentified student; and Masatada Abe, Japan.

Winners of English Speaking Contest Named in China

Wang Yu, of Chongqing Foreign Language School, and Wang Li Hyan, of Number Three Middle School, won an English speaking contest held in January 2004 in Chongqing, China.

Marguerite J. Dennis, vice president of enrollment and international programs, and Jim Sintro, an international consultant with Suffolk’s Center for International Education, traveled to Chongqing to judge the contest alongside local teachers and representatives from Briggs & Stratton Corporation. Of the 40,000 high school students who participated, 22 finalists were selected before Yu and Hyan won top honors.

Currently seniors at their respective high schools, the winners plan to begin their studies at Suffolk in fall 2005.

Suffolk University sponsored the contest along with Briggs & Stratton, Asia.

International Alumni and Students Ski Vermont

Ascutney Mountain in Brownsville, Vermont, was the setting for an alumni and student ski trip in late winter. International Suffolk alumni and current students joined Dorothy Zahir, director of international alumni relations, to hit the slopes March 12–14. The Suffolk crowd relaxed in resort condominiums over the weekend and enjoyed two-day ski lift tickets and ski rentals. The Center for International Education and the International Alumni Board sponsored the trip.
ACT TWO

Many people would like to retire when they turn 60. Kazuo Sakiyama dreamed of completing his MBA by that age. Kazuo spent 34 years at IBM Japan, where he specialized in engineering and sales. Eager to learn more and to study in America, he chose Suffolk for its faculty, small size, diverse student population, and location. “Studying at this university is preparation for how I’ll spend my second new life,” he says.

Understanding conversational English and writing papers in a foreign language were challenging, but Kazuo knew where to look for help. “At Suffolk, there is a tutoring service, and I asked for help with my English for every paper,” he says. Spending eight hours at the library every day improved his reading speed. Chats with his classmates helped hone his speaking skills, even as he gave them fatherly advice. “They knew where I was sitting in the library,” he says with a smile. “If they had questions or trouble, they came to my seat and we talked.”

He also communicated with fellow students by gathering information about Japanese current events and emailing biweekly news summaries. He wanted to explore other nations as well. “I didn’t know about European or South American or Middle Eastern or African countries,” Kazuo says. After befriending his classmates, he “learned much from them about their cultures and ways of thinking.”

Now that he’s achieved his educational goal, his “second new life” will begin. He plans to enjoy time with his wife and two daughters and do development work for Asian countries.

Kazuo says he will miss Symphony Hall, the Museum of Fine Arts, and, of course, his favorite seat in the library. Most of all, he cherishes the special bond he formed with his classmates. “I have many daughters and sons in Boston,” he says, “not only Japanese students, but students from other countries, too.”

Japanese Community Dinners

Suffolk’s Japanese students and alumni enjoyed three dinners in 2003–2004. At these lively gatherings, held at Wings Kitchen in Boston’s Chinatown, current students and alumni living in the Boston area welcomed incoming Japanese students to the Suffolk campus and discussed future activities in both Boston and Tokyo. Their goals include fostering a sense of community among current Japanese students and planning alumni events in Japan. Now that former organizer Kazuo Sakiyama has earned his MBA (see related story above), Yuki Kuroiwa has taken over his leadership role.
Since graduating from Suffolk in 2002 with a BA in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication, Alessandra Gambarotta has put her degree into action. She first worked as an account executive for public relations powerhouse Weber Shandwick in Rome, Italy, where she prepared government updates and media files for clients. After almost a year there, she moved to Milan to work for ENI Oil Company. She now organizes press conferences, writes press releases, and tracks news coverage of ENI.

Alessandra calls her time at Suffolk “fantastic from beginning to end. I was very lucky from the moment I got to Boston; I met very nice people where I lived, the International Guest House. I got along well with all the international students and I was lucky again: I met some people from Boston and we had fun.”

She especially enjoyed studying Spanish with Professor Celeste Kostopulos-Cooperman. “Professor Cooperman is full of energy,” Alessandra says, “always trying to help people achieve their goals in her class.”

Now Alessandra’s goals include entering a graduate marketing program in Milan. Always looking for “new experiences and challenges,” she hopes to use her communications savvy to plan events for Suffolk’s Italian community.

Would you like to be profiled?
It’s a great way to network and share your accomplishments with your Suffolk classmates. For more information, email: dzahir@suffolk.edu

Derek W. F. Coward Lecture Focuses on China
Two global business executives discussed the art of doing business in modern China at the Fifth Annual Derek W. F. Coward Lecture on October 29, 2003. Frederick P. Stratton, Jr., chairman emeritus of Briggs & Stratton Corporation, and Michael D. Hamilton, former president of Briggs & Stratton, Asia, visited the campus to present the lecture “American Born, Internationally Made; Milwaukee to Chongqing: The China Experience.”

The Suffolk community gathered in Sargent Hall’s McLaughlin Moot Courtroom to learn how Communist China’s budding capitalism is fostering new business opportunities. Briggs & Stratton, an American manufacturer of engines for outdoor power equipment, has a joint venture with Puling Machinery Works and Yimin Machinery Plant to produce engines in China.
International Graduates Champagne Reception

Immediately following the 2004 Commencement ceremony, the Office of the President and the Center for International Education hosted a champagne reception for international students graduating in February, May, and September. More than two hundred and twenty-five graduates and their families from around the world attended the event at the World Trade Center International Pavilion to toast the Class of 2004. Vice President Marguerite J. Dennis gave the welcoming remarks, and Edward Bradley, BSBA '57, clerk of the General Alumni Association, inducted Suffolk's newest graduates into the association.
Abdelmagid Mazen prepares his classes for the wider world.

“I once had a very early breakfast in Damascus, Syria, at 2am; tea in Cairo, Egypt, three hours later; lunch in Amsterdam—then boarded a plane that afternoon, and taught a class in Boston that evening. You can imagine a day like that,” Professor Abdelmagid Mazen says with a laugh. The jet lag from his many business trips is worth it. “The beautiful fruit of all this,” he says, “is that it comes back to the students, fresh as the flowers of Quincy Market, only a few hours later.”

Dr. Mazen, who has twice won the Sawyer School of Management’s Best Teacher Award, has taught at Suffolk’s satellite campuses, including Dakar, Senegal. He has also taught in the Semester at Sea program, teaching on a ship around the globe. He has consulted for clients ranging from Egypt’s Ritz-Carlton to London-based Citymax, and has pursued training, research, and speaking engagements from Morocco and Dubai to India. While he notes that the Internet has brought diverse cultures into closer contact, he personally hopes the world can “maintain the richness and dynamism of its cultural diversity.” And his experiences enhance his classes on organizational behavior and learning, conflict and negotiation, and quality management.

So do the international students he teaches, and Dr. Mazen appreciates their contributions and perspectives. International students made up one-third of a graduate course he taught this summer. “They provide such rich experiences from their own cultures,” he says, “and on-the-spot validation of how Western management theories apply in transcultural environments.”

A native of Egypt, he graduated from Tanta University before moving to the United States to earn an MBA at Central Michigan University and a PhD at Purdue University. Dr. Mazen enjoys working with his fellow faculty members at Sawyer, as many of them hail from different countries as well. “The cultural accent at Suffolk is unmistakable,” he says. “We value students who are culturally diverse. It’s a very comfortable community.”

When he’s not teaching, Dr. Mazen is a soccer fan who plays with both feet as center forward and defensive wing on a community team. He is also a former playwright who once penned scripts for the Egyptian theater, radio, and television authority. Now he gets his “creative outlet in the classroom. I used to write social comedies, so my classes are spiced with a distinctive sense of humor—even unintentionally,” he says. His good cheer is yet another “beautiful fruit” he gives to his students.

SUFFOLK INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI EVENTS
Fall 2004 and Spring 2005

September 2004—Asia Alumni Events
Alumni Event, September 21, 7pm, Regent’s Hotel, Taipei, Taiwan
Alumni Event, September 18, 5pm, New Otani Hotel, Tokyo, Japan

November 2004—Europe and Asia Visits
Suffolk University Dakar, Senegal, and Madrid, Spain, Campuses
Alumni Receptions in Chongqing

January 2005—Asia Visit
Alumni Events in Hong Kong and Korea

February 2005—South America Visit
Alumni Receptions in Bogotá, Colombia, and Mexico City, Mexico

June 2005—Madrid, Spain
Alumni Reception, Suffolk University Madrid Campus
For updated schedule information, please check our Web site at www.suffolk.edu or email dzahir@suffolk.edu.

International Career Networking Events Prepare Students for the Real World

The Center for International Education presented two career networking nights for international students in 2003-2004. Both aimed to boost the confidence of job-seeking Suffolk students and to connect them with successful international alumni working in the Boston area.

The newly formed International Alumni Board worked hard to create enthusiasm about the first event, held on October 29, 2003. Thirty alumni and more than 50 undergraduate and graduate students gathered in Sargent Hall to learn about the job search process. After Director of International Alumni Relations Dorothy Zahir’s welcoming remarks, the new International Alumni Board introduced themselves to the crowd. Alumni and students then spent the evening mingling and establishing new professional contacts.

The second career networking event took place April 2, 2004. Twenty international alumni and more than 50 international students were in attendance. The night’s highlight was Shinlei Pan-Rhee, MA ’03, whose PowerPoint presentation on “The Me Inc.” showed students how to market their unique talents.

Suffolk Student Named Miss Senegal 2004

Aminata Dieye was crowned Miss Senegal 2004 on July 3. A business student at Suffolk University’s Dakar Campus, Dieye will represent Senegal around the world for the next year. Along with her title, she won prizes including airline tickets to take her to her global appearances, a television, a car, and a check for one million Senegalese francs.
KEEP US INFORMED!

We Want to Hear from You!
If you recently began a new job, earned a degree, married or celebrated the birth of a child, or have any news to share with your fellow alumni, please email Dorothy Zahir, director of international alumni relations, at dzahir@suffolk.edu. Please include your name, phone number, or fax so we can confirm the news with you.

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SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

NAFSA – Association of International Educators’ Internationalizing the Campus: Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities – 2004
Princeton Review’s The Best 357 Colleges – 2005
Princeton Review’s The Best Business Schools – 2005
Princeton Review’s The Best Northeastern Colleges: 135 Great Schools to Consider – 2003
Barron’s Best Buys in College Education – 2002
Octameron’s The Best 201 Colleges for the Real World – 2002