Inauguration Opens New Chapter

THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY GATHERED in offices and meeting rooms on campus to watch the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama, as History and Government faculty members shared their views in media interviews.

“There is a new chapter opening,” said Associate Professor of History Robert Bellinger, director of the Black Studies program, in an interview with Fox 25. Bellinger said he always believed there would someday be an African-American president, but he didn’t expect it this soon. “You see young children—African-American children—who are aspiring to be president, and that’s exciting.”

Assistant Professor of Government Brian Conley, in Washington with students for a Presidential Inauguration Seminar, recapped Obama’s speech in an interview with New England Cable News. Paraphrasing the president, he noted that “this tradeoff between liberty and security is essentially a false one. You don’t necessarily need to sacrifice liberty to achieve security. I thought these were interesting comments on what has been the prevailing paradigm for the past eight years.”

Discussing inauguration addresses since the birth of the nation, History Chair Robert Allison told Fox 25: “Presidential inaugurations really are special events. Every four years we do this and it is, as President Kennedy said, ‘not a victory of party, but a celebration of freedom.’ And it’s a humbling thing to realize that since 1789 every four years we have met to inaugurate a president, sometimes a new one, sometimes one who had been reelected. ... It is part of the continuity of American democracy. ... a reassuring thing.”

“This is a very important day in the lives of many people,” said Habiba El-Derini, a management and marketing major from Egypt. “Outside of America, we’re all excited to see a president who can make a change for our side of the world instead of America alone.”

Creating the Dream: Lori Cawthorne

Jacinda Felix and President David J. Sargent honor Lori Cawthorne of Human Resources with the Creating the Dream Award at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Luncheon. Cawthorne generously of her time as an administrator, instructor, club adviser and mentor to students. She has served on the President’s Commission on the Status of AHANA Faculty, Staff, and Students; has planned yearly events for AHANA faculty and staff; and welcomes new AHANA students and their families to the University. (Photo by John Gillooly)

Provost Rises to New Challenges

BARRY BROWN IS AN EDUCATOR ABOVE AND BEYOND EVERYTHING ELSE.

Yet he likes new challenges, which is one reason he accepted the position of University provost six months ago, eagerly seeking the opportunity to have a positive impact at his “home away from home.”

“I have such a high regard for this University and the people who are part of our community,” said Brown, who has been associated with Suffolk for more than three decades. “My challenge is to make sure that we continue to have the physical and monetary resources available to provide a quality education to people of all ages and from all walks to life.”

One of Brown’s priorities is to recognize the importance of Suffolk’s more than 60,000 alumni worldwide.

“I’m working on helping them become more involved in the University and knowledgeable about the extraordinary progress that our schools have made in recent years,” he said. “I would like to create an effective and involved alumni organization and base for the entire University.”

Brown supports the efforts to develop the downtown campus with a new student center, athletic facilities, science laboratories and student housing.

“I very much would like to see these facilities become a reality over the next few years,” he said. “To meet this goal we will require increased alumni and private-sector support; it is essential for our growth.”

Continued on page 2
The exhibit ON EQUAL TERMS: WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION 30 YEARS & STILL ORGANIZING, at the Adams Gallery through March 17, celebrates 30 years of women in construction.

On Equal Terms grew out of an effort by artist, poet and educator Susan Eisenberg to learn from tradeswoman pioneers about the struggle to bring women into the construction trades. The personal testimonies of the many women she has interviewed inform her work.

Federal policy changes in 1978 opened construction jobs and apprenticeship programs to women, with projections that women would make up 25 percent of the construction workforce by now. Yet today women hold only about 2 percent of jobs in the building trades.

Assistant Professor Patricia Reeve of the History Department, whose research interests include labor history and the histories of gender and women, made the connection with Eisenberg to bring the exhibit to the University.

“This mixed-media exhibit brings to light the experiences of women in occupations with a long history of discrimination and exclusion,” said Reeve. “Typically their voices are absent from statistical analyses of and policy debates about affirmative action in the workplace.”

Programming related to the exhibit includes a poetry reading by Susan Eisenberg and a panel discussion on Boston tradeswomen’s history and their current campaign for enforcement of local and state compliance laws.

Eisenberg was one of the first women in the country to achieve journey-level status as a union electrician, and she worked on construction sites for 15 years. She is the author of We’ll Call You If We Need You: Experiences of Women Working Construction, a New York Times Notable Book.

Her installation employs soft sculpture, found objects, poetry, story, photography and audio to explore issues of power and social policy.
Coach Demands Excellence on Court & in Classroom

Ed Leyden

Heads or Tails.
That’s what it came down to when Ed Leyden was given the choice to become the coach of the Revere High School girls varsity basketball team or the boys jayvee squad 25 years ago.

“I flipped a coin to make my decision,” said Leyden. “Whatever came up, that’s where I was going.”

From that humble beginning, Leyden made quite a name for himself in the coaching profession, even before he joined the University as women’s basketball coach.

At Revere High, where Leyden taught math for 37 years, his girls teams were 84–36, a .700 winning percentage. Revere won the Greater Boston League title his last three seasons, going 44–1 during that time. Leyden was twice selected the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year and was named Boston Globe Coach of the Year. Ten of his players went on to become captains of their college teams.

Leyden joined the University’s women’s basketball program in 1994, facing a real challenge: The Lady Rams had had an overall record of 85 wins and 201 losses in the previous 14 seasons.

“Almost every weekend from April through August is spent on the recruiting trail. Leyden looks at both PPG (points per game) and GPA in searching for that perfect player.”

Almost every weekend from April through August is spent on the recruiting trail. Leyden looks at both PPG (points per game) and GPA in searching for that perfect player.

In addition to his coaching duties, Leyden is now an assistant to the director of Athletics. While it has been a long time since that coin flip and his coaching debut, he continues to be passionate about the game he loves.

Potpourri


Jerry Gianakis, Public Management, received a $20,000 award from IBM’s Center for the Business of Government to produce a monograph highlighting innovative practices in public sector supply chain management systems.

Jagadeesh Moodera, Physics, was awarded the 2009 Oliver Buckley Prize from the American Physical Society.

David Yamada, Law School, has started a blog for the New Workplace Institute at http://newworkplace.wordpress.com/. It includes commentary about work and employment relations. His scholarship and advocacy about workplace bullying was recognized in an AsianWeek magazine feature commemorating the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The article can be found at www.asianweek.com/2008/12/10/human-rights-at-60/.

Counseling Center Reaccredited

The University Counseling Center has been reaccredited by the International Association of Counseling Services, IACS, through 2013, at which time it will undergo a site visit by the association.

In a letter to Counseling Center Director Ken Garni, IACS President Theresa DiNuzzo wrote: “In addition to your high-caliber counseling services, the Board in its review was very complimentary of your University’s commitment to student mental health as reflected in the size of your staff, your Center’s budget and staff compensation, and the variety of outreach programs provided to your students. You have met the criteria for full reaccreditation by the Board of the International Association of Counseling Services. Congratulations to you and your staff for a Center which maintains a high standard of services to students at Suffolk University.”
**Guide to Working with a Potentially Troubled Student**

When a student called a college faculty member and left a garbled message, stopped attending classes and could not be reached by telephone because his voice mail was full, it raised a red flag. A call was made to the Division of Student Affairs, and concerned members of the team called the police where he lived and asked them to check on him. They discovered that he was seriously ill, and the student ended up going to the hospital.

The Division of Student Affairs has been reaching out to faculty, staff and students to raise awareness about supporting students who may be troubled or dealing with difficult issues, according to Dean of Students Ann Coyne. As part of this effort, brochures are available to the University community offering information on how to recognize potential problems and seek help when there is concern about a student. “If a student on campus is troubled or has issues he or she is dealing with, we want to offer support,” said Coyne, who said awareness of such need has grown in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy.

“We also try to let faculty and staff know they’re not alone,” she said. “If they think there’s something going on with a student, there probably is. Faculty and staff aren’t expected to know how to deal with some of these issues, nor should they tackle these problems alone. We can give them tools to talk to the student about issues or refer them for help.”

Concerned faculty, staff or students can call, e-mail or fill out an online form to begin the process of helping a student who may be in distress.

“We get a good number of calls each semester,” said Coyne, who follows up by discussing the situation with the person reporting it and devising an appropriate response strategy.

However, she needs tangible evidence of a problem before she will contact a student. Sometimes a faculty member will report that a student is “off,” and she must draw the hard facts out of them. Signals that a student may be experiencing problems include:

- poor class attendance
- sporadic attendance at work-study jobs
- difficulties with roommates
- disturbing writings in homework assignments
- changes in behavior and personal habits

“We haven’t come across anyone we think is violent or threatening,” said Coyne. “Some students are just eccentric, but people are more aware of this after Virginia Tech. ‘There’s nothing wrong with being odd; we have to accept everyone’s idiosyncrasies. But at the same time, there’s nothing wrong with checking to make sure the behavior is merely eccentric.’

If further action is indicated, Coyne meets with the student and, depending on the situation, may tell him or her how she learned about the problem. She will first discuss this with the person who made the report.

“Usually students appreciate that we are concerned about them,” said Coyne, who after the discussion might refer the student to an appropriate resource, such as the Counseling Center, Ballotti Learning Center, Disability Services or Diversity Services.

The brochure will be distributed again in the fall and is available online at www.Suffolk.edu/campuslife/22769.html.

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**Bar Pass Rate Exceeds 94%**

Law school graduates taking the Massachusetts bar exam in July 2008 were quite successful, with those taking the exam for the first time achieving a 94.3 percent pass rate. The average for all those taking the bar exam for the first time was 92.1 percent.

“Bar exam passage rates fluctuate from year-to-year, but it is clear from this year’s rate that our bar preparation and academic programming, combined with hard work and participation from our students, can lead to a high probability of success on the bar exam,” said Dean Alfred C. Aman, Jr.

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**Happy New Year!**

Ashley Gordon of Public Affairs hands out glow-light necklaces at the annual First Night ice sculpture event. A light show complemented the ice sculpture in the shape of the new University icon, and visitors were plentiful despite the stormy weather. (Photo by John Gillooly)