Mixing business with purpose, Stephen Coffey builds a company in Boston and a school in Rwanda one cup at a time.
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Works in Progress

**Despite a Name** that Joe DiMaggio would have envied, Stephen Coffey '97 JD '01 is a small player in the world of big coffee. "We are really just beginning and it is a very competitive industry so it is going to take some time," the founder of Thousand Hills Coffee acknowledges.

Yet if Coffey is, in Starbucks terms, a "short," in the larger world, he stands tall. The South Boston native travels nearly 7,000 miles not only in search of what his website describes as "the world's finest coffee" but also in support of a private, tuition-free middle school for girls in Rwanda, a.k.a. "The Land of a Thousand Hills."

Sadly, this African nation is more widely known for genocide than geometry. So when he describes coffee as "a powerful product," you know this Mr. Coffey is referring to the power to transform. With a mission far beyond expanding the bottom line, it's not surprising that he has some unfinished business. Like many of the alumni whose stories are chronicled in these pages, he tends to think big, to see beyond the horizon.

As Jim departs Suffolk this spring to lead communications and development at the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, SAM remains a work in progress. There is still much work to be done.

Neither is ours. In the fall of 2005, the first letter to the editor from the premiere edition of Suffolk Alumni Magazine concluded with a confession. "SAM," Executive Editor Jim Wolken wrote, "is still a work in progress. There is still much work to be done."

Beyond staff, perhaps Jim's most lasting contribution is a simple yet revolutionary premise that remains our guiding philosophy: that the best way to tell the Suffolk story is to tell the stories of its alumni.

People like Stephen Coffey who recalls that "All the people at Suffolk were REAL and it was a community." Today, he says, "Rwanda has changed my life. I've learned so much and become friends with some of the most amazing people. I am a very lucky person."

Whether your journey takes you to Beacon Hill or a land of a thousand hills, SAM is here to chronicle your climb. ©
Suffolk opened many doors to me on a professional level. It wasn’t just an ivory tower for studying law. It was real-world legal training. Coming from a blue-collar background, my career would not have happened without my Suffolk degree. Suffolk Law introduced me to the political world, the business world, the legal world.

In return, you have to give back—you should give back—to the institution that gave you the opportunity to earn a living, to support a family, and to become a success. Suffolk is number one on my list.

I believe in the Power to Change.
I support Suffolk.

MIKE McCORMACK JD '72
Principal
The McCormack Firm
RE: CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?
Marylyn Howe MPA '04
I was very proud to read about Marylyn Howe's work at the state and national levels on behalf of people with disabilities in René Graham's article "Can You Hear Me Now?" As a fellow alum, I'm particularly proud that Suffolk University has helped shape her into the effective advocate that she is today.

Marylyn's compelling story is one of overcoming challenges and pursuing goals and is only one example of how Suffolk University has gone above and beyond expectations in order to reach out to those who really have the drive to succeed. As someone who works every day to improve the lives of people with disabilities in the trenches as an attorney, as a state policy maker, and as a parent, I felt substantiated in my work that Suffolk is preparing students to fight these important civil rights battles in the future.

—Tom Sannicandro JD '82
Massachusetts State Representative

What a delight it was to pick up the winter Suffolk Alumni Magazine and see Marylyn Howe on its cover. I've had the pleasure of knowing and working with Marylyn for many years. She has been a tireless advocate for people with disabilities but most of all she has approached her advocacy with determination and grace that has earned her the respect of all those with whom she interacts. I was thrilled when I learned she had been approached to sit as a member of the National Council on Disability and we all cheered when her nomination was finalized knowing that we would have one of Massachusetts' own on the Council.

—Myra Berloff
Director
Massachusetts Office on Disability

I congratulate the Alumni Association for acknowledging this outstanding woman and showcasing her in this most recent publication.

—Heidi L. Reed
Commissioner
MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

René Graham's candid article about Marylyn Howe represents a long tradition of Suffolk graduates who have worked hard to achieve their educational goals, and then found ways to use their education to positively impact our society. Importantly in this case, that impact has reached not only Massachusetts citizens, but now the public policies of our nation through her service on the National Council on Disability.

I'm inspired by this story as a Suffolk alumni, and as a member of the legislature's Joint Committee on Children and Families and Persons with Disabilities.

—Massachusetts State Senator Bruce Tarr '87, JD '90

René Graham's interview with Marylyn Howe recognizes that persistence, determination, spirit, and collaboration are behind the evolving civic, social, educational, and economic presence of one of the largest combined consumer populations in our country—people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or late-deafened. Suffolk University is, indeed, to be commended for boosting awareness and creating vital opportunities through its visionary program in disability studies.

—Heidi L. Reed
Commissioner
MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

RE: CAPITOL CAMPAIGNER
Bob Crowe '70, JD '73
Your recent profile of Bob Crowe speaks in detail to his political successes. As the Executive Director of the organization that Bob was instrumental in founding, I would like to add some detail to the contributions he has made to homeless men and women in Boston.

hopeFound, formerly known as the Friends of the Shattuck Shelter, was founded by Bob in 1983, and he served as the organization's first president. Here he used his considerable network of civic leaders to fund services for the growing homeless population in our city.

What Bob began over twenty-three years ago has grown into a comprehensive service agency providing emergency shelter, addiction treatment, employment services and housing support each year to 3,500 men and women. These services are a legacy to Bob's early leadership.

Bob continues to provide financial support and guidance to our organization and I wholeheartedly concur with Senator Kerry's observation that "he's never lost his sense of idealism." For this we are very grateful.

—Mary Nee
Executive Director
hopeFound

I was impressed by your thoughtful article on my friend Bob Crowe. It's true that no matter how successful he's been, Bob has never lost the idealism that launched his interest and involvement in public service so many years ago. The Democratic Party is fortunate to have the benefit
of Bob's talents and dedication, and so is Suffolk University.

—U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy

I'd like to add my voice to the chorus of praise for Bob Crowe. Your profile of Bob highlights his many successes working with the Democratic Party at large and with the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee specifically. As the Executive Director of the DSCC I can personally say that Bob's support for electing more Democrats to the Senate has been invaluable. Suffolk University should be proud to have such an esteemed alumnus; I know Democrats are proud to have this champion on our team.

—J.B. Poersch
Executive Director, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee

EDITOR'S NOTE:
In February, John Ferguson was released from his role as Toronto Maple Leafs' General Manager. In an interview with the CBC, Ferguson noted that "There has been somewhere in the neighborhood of 11 general managers [hired in the league] since I've been here" [in Toronto], adding, "I'm excited about my next challenge." In the interim, he is scouting for Team Canada in its preparation for the World Hockey Championship.

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sam@suffolk.edu

RE: BREAKAWAY
John Ferguson JD '96
I really enjoyed John Shaw's column about John Ferguson, Jr. To fully appreciate the great success at such a young age that Mr. Ferguson has attained since leaving Suffolk University Law School, one may need only look at our hometown baseball team, the Red Sox. Similarly to the Red Sox's general manager Theo Epstein, his every move is scrutinized, probably to a greater degree, by the fans and media in Boston. Within the hockey community, Mr. Ferguson is well respected by his peers. When Mr. Ferguson has returned to Suffolk to speak, he seems principled, inquisitive, and a natural leader. I believe he handles the pressures of maybe the toughest management job in all of sports with great class. It is nice to see another member of the Suffolk community at the top of his profession.

—Christopher M. Glionna '98, JD '01
Head Men's Ice Hockey Coach, Suffolk University

RE: BANKING ON A NEW WORLD ORDER
Richard M. Rosenberg '52, DCS '91
As an Asian American and a Boston elected official, I read the profile of Richard and Barbara Rosenberg and their work to establish an Institute for East Asian Studies with great interest.

The emergence of Asia as an economic and geo-political powerhouse is confirmed by daily headlines and will shape the future of our nation for generations. Suffolk University graduates will be well positioned for success in their diverse endeavors with access to a world-class institute of this kind.

I was also personally impressed by the sentiment articulated by Mr. Rosenberg that "Now that we've made it, we have an absolute responsibility to give back to the community." This will be their legacy to the Suffolk community just as much as the Institute for East Asian Studies.

—Sam Yoon
Boston City Councilor At-Large

There is an enormous gap between the growing importance of Asia and American students' lack of knowledge of Asia's geography, history, cultures and languages. Asia Society is working with states and schools around the country to promote teaching about Asia and Asian languages in K-12 schools. The Institute for East Asian Studies at Suffolk University will make a critical contribution to preparing our university students with the knowledge and skills they will need for success in the global economy and to become good citizens of an increasingly interconnected world.

—Vivien Stewart
Vice President for Education, Asia Society
BLISS

A Familiar Ring to It

MICHAEL AND MELISSA MORAN didn't need a legal brief to decide who should officiate their wedding ceremony. To them, the best man for the job was Suffolk Law School Associate Dean John Deliso.

"We decided we wanted someone who was very important in our lives," explained Michael Moran JD '06, a litigator with Bingham McCutchen in Boston, "so Dean Deliso was a natural choice."

"It made it very personal having Dean Deliso marry us," added Melissa Maguire Moran JD '05, a corporate attorney for Ropes & Gray in Boston. "We were very happy he was a big part of our wedding, and he did a wonderful job."

The couple first met in the fall of 2004 while working on the Suffolk University Law Review. As their educational and personal lives began to intersect, they also began to have regular dealings with Dean Deliso. It wasn't long before the trio formed a special bond that extended beyond the classroom.

"This was a first for me," the veteran dean said. "I was very honored they asked me."

Dyane Noonan JD '05 and Erin Gannon Apstein JD '05 read at the service. "It was Suffolk to the core," noted Dean Deliso.

RESEARCH

Global Thinking

WITH HIS GIFT of a treasured 17th-century map of Africa to Suffolk University, Gerald Rizzo is thinking globally and acting locally.

The 66-by-44-inch map was donated by Dr. Rizzo, executive director of the Afrterra Foundation. Rizzo hopes the rare document will "stimulate open and creative interpretation" by students and researchers alike. It is now located on the third floor of the Mildred F. Sawyer Library.

Created in 1689 with text written in French and Latin, the map depicts trade centers and contemporary costume. Following appraisal, it is expected to be worth between $125,000 and $200,000.

L to R: Sawyer Library Director Bob Dugan MPA '82, Dean Ken Greenberg, and map donor Dr. Gerald Rizzo
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Beacon Hill, Boston
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Former Senegalese Minister to Lead Suffolk Dakar Campus

ANDRE SONKO, a former minister of education in Senegal, has been appointed as managing director of Suffolk's Dakar campus.

Sonko, who has served as a special consultant on higher education to the Senegalese president, will direct the West African campus, which was founded in 1999 as an American-Senegalese cooperative venture. Suffolk awarded him an honorary doctor of humane letters degree in 2001.

He was instrumental in the University's efforts to establish Suffolk-Dakar, the first and only full-service American campus in West Africa.

In addition to serving as minister of education, Sonko has been director of Senegal's office of government studies; chief of staff for the prime minister; minister of labor, employment, and public affairs; and minister of internal affairs.

ADMINISTRATION

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Some want to make a suggestion. Others have a personal issue to discuss or just want the chance to say thank you.

No matter the reason, President David J. Sargent JD '54 engages students in conversation at three open house sessions each semester.

"I think it's a great opportunity to hear directly from the students," says President Sargent. "It lets them talk about issues that we may not have known about otherwise."

The sessions were suggested by Dean of Students Nancy Stoll shortly after President Sargent began his tenure 19 years ago, and they have been a fixture ever since. "Hearing directly from the students has helped us improve the Suffolk experience," Dean Stoll notes.

President Sargent reports that students offer more kudos than complaints, yet regardless of the reason for their visit, his approach is the same as when he met with students during his tenure as dean at Suffolk Law.

"As a student, it's good to get a firsthand insight about things going on at the University," says senior Jared Cain, president of the Student Government Association, who has participated in several sessions during his four years.

President Sargent notes he sees students regularly at many campus events and meetings, but he enjoys the scheduled time as one way of keeping his finger on the pulse of the University.

"Our students tell me they are getting something their peers at other schools don't get," President Sargent explains, "and that's access."

Forget the Grammys.
Suffolk has the Rammys!
The Department of Communications and Journalism will roll out the red carpet for the first Rammy Awards later this spring. Students and faculty have been invited to submit entries in multiple categories.

And The Winner Is...

HEAD OF THE CLASS: Academic Analytics LLC, a Web site that tracks faculty scholarly productivity, recently ranked Suffolk as one of the top 25 small research universities in the U.S. in business, education, and the social sciences.

FAMED FORUM FINDS FANFARE: A fixture of Northeastern University since 1986, the Ford Hall Forum has moved to Suffolk. Over its 100-year history, the "nation's oldest free public lecture series" has hosted such luminaries as Upton Sinclair, Clarence Darrow, Robert Frost, and Martin Luther King Jr.

THE COURT OF SUFFOLK OPINION: The Honorable Stephen Breyer, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, spoke about "Active Liberty" in March as part of the Distinguished Visiting Scholars series at the College of Arts and Sciences.
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Global Warning
Environmental educator and author Bill McKibben sounds the alarm at Suffolk

ENVIRONMENTALIST BILL MCKIBBEN has been leading the charge to reverse the Earth's climate change for 20 years, long before the term "global warming" entered mainstream conversation. The Lexington native, a best-selling author whose work has appeared in the New York Times Magazine, Harper's, Rolling Stone, and other publications, spoke with SAM after giving an address in Sargent Hall. His appearance was part of Focus the Nation, an initiative in which more than a thousand high schools, colleges, and universities held concurrent events to raise awareness about global warming.

SAM: How did Focus the Nation begin?
Bill McKibben: A wonderful crew of people led by a man at Lewis and Clark College in Oregon, Ivan Ditson, had this idea of what we needed was local people to think about [environmental issues]. We need people to understand just how important they are, and universities are a very good place to do that.

SAM: At last April's Step It Up event, you called on Congress to cut carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050. How did that go over?
McKibben: It went remarkably well, better than we had any right to expect. We organized what was the largest day of grassroots environmental activism since Earth Day [in 1970]. All the Democratic presidential candidates endorsed it—this 80 percent by 2050.

SAM: How hopeful are you that people will take the necessary steps, or sacrifices, like getting rid of their SUVs? Can they do it in time?
McKibben: Yes, time is of the essence. I think what we need is—and it's possible to imagine getting—is profound change in Congress and in the White House that will produce the set of conditions that will lead people to make those kinds of decisions. That they'll put a price on carbon, so that no one in their right mind will ever buy an SUV again.

SAM: You say that the U.S. needs to create a new sort of Marshall Plan for developing countries. Can you explain?
McKibben: We have to not only take care of our own emissions, we have to figure out how to help China and India develop their way out of the poverty that still grips most of their population, without burning all the coal that they have. If they burn all that coal, then we're all sunk. But they're going burn it unless we can give them an alternative.

SAM: What are three steps that everyday people can do?
McKibben: What we think is important is to become politically involved. That's one, two, and three. After that, change your light bulb, buy a Prius, but none of that is anywhere near as important as being a part of this movement, and making sure that your legislators know that this is your number one priority, and that's how you're going to judge their effectiveness.
EDUCATION

Making the Law School Classroom a Laptop-Free Zone

IT WASN'T the constant tapping of the keys, nor the blue hue emanating from the screens, that prompted Law Professor Steven Eisenstat to ban laptops from his classroom. It was something much more basic.

"There was no dialogue," he said. "Even though many of them were paying attention and taking notes, no one spoke anymore."

Eisenstat cited recent studies that indicate as many as half of students using laptops either surf or shop rather than take notes, and that can distract even more of their peers.

Law Professor Kate Day, who was on sabbatical last year, heard those complaints and instituted a ban this semester in her first-year Constitutional Law course. She said it was too early to reach a final verdict on the policy, but that she was pleased with her students' performance since the ban.

Several other Suffolk Law professors have followed suit.

Professor Eisenstat hasn't seen a dramatic rise in student grades during the two years he has experienced laptop-free classes, and he acknowledges that there are certain circumstances where laptops could be an asset in class. However, he is confident he made the correct call.

"A number of students have thanked me for doing this," he said. "This is all about a better classroom experience for both the students and the professors."

POPCULTURE

A Survivor to the Finish

COURTNEY YATES '03 is paying off her loans the hard way. To pocket the $100,000 prize for her second-place finish on the CBS reality series Survivor: China, she spent 39 days eating bugs, eels, and chicken fetuses, weathering the not-so-hospitable climate, and fighting off the mental gymnastics of her fellow contestants.

"I really didn't think I had a shot at winning because [finalists] Todd [the eventual winner] and Amanda were such great players," the New York City waitress and model said a few days after the show's December finale. "When I first got [to the island], I figured I'd get three days in the woods, get kicked off, and then travel around China for the summer and not have to wait tables. I never even considered the fact that I wouldn't be in 16th place, never mind getting to the finals."

Courtney and Todd hung around New York together for a few days after the show's end, where they were recognized by scores of viewers. "I had fun meeting my fans," she said, adding that she was "still shocked that I actually have fans!"

SOCIAL STUDIES

STREET WISE: Education a Key to Youth Crime Prevention

THE BEST PLACE to stem gang activity and youth violence in the community may be the classroom.

"Research has shown that problems in school lead to dropping out, delinquency, and poor life outcomes generally," says Sociology Professor Erika Gebo. She and colleague Carolyn Boyes-Watson secured a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to focus on youth crime in three Massachusetts cities: Fitchburg, Leominster, and Gardner.

"The goal of this initiative is to prevent school failure, and it is uniquely being taken on as a community-wide initiative," Gebo explains.

Boyes-Watson, director of the Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk, says it's possible "to keep young people positively engaged in school" by "institutionalizing restorative approaches" to discipline, conflict, and academic support.
"IU" HAS COME TO SU. Suffolk Law is now using the latest technology to serve students better while staying on the cutting edge.

In launching Apple's iTunes U, professors can now offer digital content such as podcasts on how to write a legal memorandum, while administrators can reach a larger pool of prospective students who want to receive automatic updates about Suffolk.

"It expands our audience tremendously," said Ian Menchini, associate director of law admissions. "One of iTunes U's greatest assets is its ability to act as an interactive marketing tool, as opposed to more static marketing efforts such as sending out a brochure and waiting for a candidate to react."

Future features will include webcasts of open houses and mock trial competitions.

"Lawyers in general are pretty conservative in terms of trying new things," noted Irene Good, director of academic technology. "Here we've got faculty who are actually excited about making public content."

Suffolk is one of only six universities nationwide to become early adopters of iTunes U.

LEGAL EDUCATION

New Rappaport Center Head Raises the Public Service Bar

PROMISING TO REINVIGORATE STUDENTS' appreciation for the honor and value of serving in government at the state and local level, noted attorney Susan Prosnitz recently joined the Jerome Lyle Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service as its executive director.

Prosnitz cites three initiatives that are high on her agenda: encouraging Law School graduates to enter the government and nonprofit worlds; connecting law students with alumni to work on pro bono endeavors; and creating successful partnerships with the state.

"A lot of this work has been going on at Suffolk Law in the past," noted Prosnitz, who oversaw the official opening of the center this past December, "but now we anticipate the center to be the home to these and other initiatives."

Prosnitz arrives after a successful career as general counsel for two state agencies and the Boston Police Department.

"The Rappaport Center can and will be a national model for advancing public service opportunities for law students and lawyers," she said.

Prosnitz, who expects to select the first recipient of the center's endowed chair by the start of the next academic year, will also administer the existing Rappaport Fellowship Program. In addition, she will launch a lecture series in which legal experts, policy makers, and faculty will discuss legal and public policy issues.

SPORTS

Women's Tennis: Practice Makes Perfect

THE UNDEFEATED SEASON the New England Patriots unsuccessfully sought was the goal the Suffolk women's tennis team accomplished.

The Rams compiled a perfect 14-0 to record win its first-ever Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) title. "This is just a tremendous accomplishment for our players and this program," said GNAC Coach of the Year Stephen Counihan after Suffolk came from behind to defeat three-time defending champion Simmons College for the league title.

Following last season's loss to Simmons (coached by Suffolk Associate Director of Financial Aid Robert Rauseo '84, MBA '90), Counihan and Isaac Stahl '05, assistant coach for the women's and men's tennis teams, knew what they were up against. At last year's athletic banquet, Stahl made a bold prediction.

"I guaranteed that our tennis team would bring a title home to Suffolk," said the Alumni Liaison to Athletics for Advancement and global MBA candidate '09.

Senior Captain and GNAC player of the year (2005 and 2006) Jen Nelson "stepped up, pulled it together, and carried our squad to victory." Freshman Alex Hernandez was named GNAC co-rookie of the year; sophomore Kaitlyn Cates (13-0 in singles play) and junior Kellie Sturma were named first-team all stars; and sophomore Catrina Rosa (14-0) and Hernandez made the second team.

Captain of the tennis team in his senior year, Stahl reflects, "I never really won as a player, but thanks to this team I got to experience victory as a coach."
FOR SAWYER BUSINESS School freshman Kayla O'Leary, necessity really is the mother of invention.

"My laptop and printer were in the same room, and I needed to print something, but they were having a problem connecting," O'Leary recalled.

The situation inspired her to design a Laptop and Computer Printer in One—that, and the Business School's second annual New Product Innovation Competition.

"Innovation is the key to everything we do," said Sushil Bhatia, the competition's founder and executive in residence at the Business School. "We are teaching our students to embrace change and become better business leaders."

This year, some 125 entries—a fivefold increase from last year—were submitted by undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni. A panel of entrepreneurs, intellectual property specialists, and venture capitalist professionals judged the entries.

O'Leary's laptop/computer hybrid was just one of several entries that were awarded a cash prize. The top award of $3,500 went to the team of executive MBA students Dawn Brucale, Mike Peganato, Matt Plante, John Hawkes, and Scott Ariel for NeuSpoon™, a feeding device designed for people suffering from neurodegenerative disease.

While most of the entries were theoretical, Bhatia predicted that some could go into production in the future.

For more information, go to www.suffolk.edu/business/24694.html/
He helped get Britney Spears' marriage annulled, Celine Dion's husband exonerated, and Mike Tyson sprung. What's David Chesnoff JD '79 doing in the high-stakes world of Las Vegas law? Winning, big time.

By Kate Silver | Photography by Kevin Scanlon
HE TATTOO ON DAVID CHESNOFF'S right shoulder comes as a bit of a surprise: "81 Not Guilty." Aside from the fact that he's a relatively clean-cut lawyer, dedicated to his Jewish religion, the message itself is curious. (Is it a code? A random number? Something sports-related?) That is, until Chesnoff, who makes his living defending high-profile people, defends the tattoo. First, he points out that practitioners of the Jewish religion are not supposed to have tattoos. "Although I have spoken to some experts who say Sephardic Jews have them, so it's okay," he says, casting reasonable doubt on what most people accept as fact about Judaism. But the 81? "H is the eighth letter of the alphabet, and one is A," he says. Which sounds like "Ha, not guilty," until put into context: The tattoo was done by a Hells Angel, whom Chesnoff defended after he and about 40 other Hells Angels got into a bloody brawl with the Mongols, a rival gang, at a 2002 bikefest called the Laughlin River Run. Then it begins making sense. "And then, because I had such incredible Jewish guilt, I had a Star of David put on my left arm, with my wife and my son's name on it," he adds. These certainly aren't the first mementos he's gotten from past cases, whether from gang members, drug dealers, celebrities, or all of the above. But they're the only ones he wears on his sleeve, figuratively speaking, illustrating how Chesnoff's work is truly a part of him.

THE BULLDOG BITES BACK

The law office of David Chesnoff is a little more than a mile away from the glitz of the Las Vegas Strip, located in a downtown building near the Clark County Regional Justice Center.

His office screams "old Vegas," from the lush atrium leading into his wing to the brown leather and leopard print furniture within his enclave. The walls are covered with gifts and photos from past clients. There's a signed photo from Britney Spears, given to Chesnoff after he stepped in to get her 55-hour marriage to Jason Alexander annulled; a photo of Celine Dion and her husband, Rene Angelil, whom Chesnoff defended when Angelil was accused of rape; a picture of Chesnoff with Brad Gilbert and Andre Agassi at a Colorado Rockies game; a photo of Sonny Barger, one of the founders of the Hells Angels; and a painting done by Guy Castiglione, president of the San Diego chapter of the motorcycle club.

And those are just the visuals. There are also the anecdotes. Martha Stewart cooked him a meal of fresh clams and fish that he and Stewart's brother caught (he represented her appeal in 2005). And Mike Tyson is having something made for him, as we speak—a "thank you" to Chesnoff, since Tyson spent only 24 hours in jail and got three years probation for charges of possession of cocaine and driving under the influence.

And who knows what his celebrity du jour, David Copperfield, will be sending him. Despite allegations of supposed sexual misconduct, the magician has yet to be charged with a crime. This is just the beginning of his Who's Who list of clients. There's also Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx, Suge Knight, Nathaniel Hale (Nate Dogg), and on and on.

Chesnoff's client list tends to make jaws drop, some simply star-struck, others in judgment, but he's used to both reactions. As a defender of what he calls "the underdog" since day one, he's ready with his response to those who dismiss his work as simply defending criminals.

"I believe that what I do is a form of law enforcement also, in the sense that I like to think of myself, along with everybody else that does
criminal defense work, as a protector of the Constitution. And I believe that without the jury system that we have, and the constitutional system we have, we'd be in a lot of trouble. I know people say, 'How do you represent somebody like that?' I've heard that my whole life. But I'm representing everybody when I represent that person. That's how I look at it."

Chesnoff didn't just become the attorney to send that person. That's how I look at it.

Chesnoff is in the middle of a cross-examination. His brow is furrowed, his demeanor serious and determined. He's questioning Washoe County Family Court Judge Chuck Weller, whom Chesnoff's client shot, sniper-style, as the judge stood near a third-story courthouse window. This is the trial of Darren Mack, a Reno, Nevada man who made it onto the FBI's Most Wanted list after the stabbing of his wife, Charla, and his attack on Weller. The judge had been overseeing Mack's divorce and custody case for the past two years.

The case was moved to Las Vegas because it was nearly impossible to find jurors in Reno—"the Biggest Little City in the World"—who hadn't heard of the case. On this winter day, Chesnoff is peppering Weller with questions as the judge takes the stand in a courtroom of the Regional Justice Center. Though he's the inquired party (targeting the judge from a neighboring parking structure, Mack shot him in the chest), Weller's victim status begins to evaporate as he boils under Chesnoff's questioning.

Chesnoff reminds Weller of a survey conducted by the Washoe County Bar Association, in which area lawyers ranked him last among family court judges being retained, and ranked him second to last among all judges being retained. Chesnoff mocks Weller's critique of his questioning, after Weller continually dickers with his word choices and phrasing. The defense attorney then implies that the judge doesn't prepare properly for his cases in court. He asks Weller if, after being shot, he referred to Chesnoff's client as "Darrell."

Judge Weller's agitation grows. As Chesnoff continues his line of questioning, the judge alternates between combative and despondent before he finally snaps.

"I've never had my reputation attacked the way that you're attacking it, sir," he retorts. "It's unfair and it's unwarranted."

That's when Judge Herndon, who's overseeing the trial, intercedes. "I'm going to strike it. Ladies and gentlemen, you'll disregard that statement. Judge Weller, you know better than that. This isn't a forum for that."

And so the die was cast. Though Mack unexpectedly pleaded guilty a few days later (he subsequently filed a motion to withdraw that plea and was denied) the judge's meltdown colored the trial. One juror later described Weller as "a tyrant," another as "a jerk," and many agreed that the judge's "true colors" were aggravating, to say the least.

When Chesnoff recounts the moment a month later, you can hear the unmistakable pride in his voice. "The whole purpose of my cross-examination was to get the jury to have a sense of what he's like in a courtroom," he explains. "And based on what the jurors said afterwards, I feel like I accomplished my goal. It wasn't personal against him. I had a responsibility to Mack to bring that out. And it must have worked, because it got to the point where the judge had to admonish [Judge Weller] in front of the jury. That's the kind of thing you work 28 years to get to."

A REBEL'S JOURNEY

It's the kind of thing Chesnoff started to learn about at Suffolk, where he was vice president of the Student Bar Association. He credits the University for really teaching him how to think. All of his life, he'd been politically active and determined to make a difference. But Suffolk showed him how to execute his passion.

"I knew how to argue but I didn't know how to apply the historical precedent that case law provides us with. I kind of was able to articulate
There are a lot of good defense lawyers out there, but you always have to verify what they are saying. Whereas David Chesnoff, if he tells you that the sky is purple, you can just take it to the bank.

—David Roger, District Attorney

the history of law, which I think is what every good lawyer does in terms of applying the law,” he says. “I also learned how to work hard. Everybody says the first year is hard, and it is. But thank God. It carries on; if you’re going to be successful as a lawyer you have to work hard. There’s no substitute for that.”

Law school prepared him for his 16-plus hour days and taught him analytical thinking, the proper mix of drama needed for a trial lawyer, and the history of his profession. At least, it propelled him into a career in which he was equipped to handle all of the above aspects of the law. You can’t be prepared for everything.

Soon after he graduated, Chesnoff took a job in Dallas, where he heard from a fellow attorney about the opportunity for work in Las Vegas. So Chesnoff moved to Sin City in 1980, when it was still a relatively small town of 250,000. He liked that it was a 24-hour city and that, being on Pacific Time, he could reach his East Coast friends whenever he needed. It didn’t take long for Chesnoff to establish a reputation here. He began handling what he refers to as “so-called organized-crime cases and big drug cases.” Chesnoff runs through some of his proudest victories in a monotone, like he’s reciting a grocery list.

“I did the biggest seizure case in American history and hung the jury.”

“Another time was getting a not-guilty in a very heavy federal-racketeering case in Los Angeles for a guy that I represented over the years. There was just an incredible high getting not-guilty from what would have been a life in prison sentence, without question.”

As with his celebrity roster today, the list goes on and on.

The name he made for himself was not exactly well-regarded in all circles, but these days—judging from his client list alone—it has paid off. Chesnoff attributes his celebrity appeal to the constant traveling that came with the big drug cases. He made connections in most cities. So now, when someone runs into trouble in Vegas—something that comes free with the cost of admission—a call eventually makes its way to Chesnoff’s ever-ringing cell. As his colleague, San Diego attorney Michael Pancer, sees it, Chesnoff’s past has prepared him well for the present.

“When you walk in on a white-collar case, and you don’t have the baggage of the drug charges and the hundreds of kilos of cocaine and the tons of marijuana, and you start with much closer to a clean slate, there’s a lot more you can do, it’s a lot easier to defend,” says Pancer, who’s worked with Chesnoff on a variety of cases for more than 20 years. He describes him as a “superb” lawyer.

But beyond the skill, the long hours, the passion, it’s really Chesnoff’s rebellious nature that’s gotten him where he is today. That’s what drives him, as he sees it, to continue fighting the world, sticking up for that underdog, making The Man prove his case. He’s always been a rebel, always wanted to defend people—even when he was a kid growing up in New Jersey, watching Perry Mason and The Defenders.

His anti-authority side has simmered down—at least a little—over the years. “I think being a criminal lawyer in the past was much more of an act of rebellion,” he says. “I’ve never really wanted anything [more] than for people to respect what I do.”

Between the rings of his cell phone, Chesnoff takes a few minutes to look to the future. He says he’d like to play a little more poker, when he has the time. He’s actually a strong poker player: he participates in the World Series of Poker and won $75,000 in a tournament at the Bellagio Hotel-Casino a few years ago. Then his eyes get a faraway look as he talks about his ranch here in town, where he and his wife, Diana, have 11 dogs, four horses, six birds and two pigs. (No, none of them are named after any judges.) The sanctuary gives him a taste of what’s to come.

“Everybody will know I’m done as a lawyer, because I’m going to throw my phone in the Yellowstone River in Montana, where I plan on being when I’m free.”

And if you can’t catch him on his cell, just keep on the lookout for a guy with a couple of tattoos on his arms, one for his work and one for his family.
A revolutionary survey method has put Suffolk University Political Research Center and its director David Paleologos at the center of the national electoral map. 

> BY MICHAEL BLANDING
This year's New Hampshire primary will be remembered as the election the pollsters got wrong. For days before the vote, breathless pundits on cable news shows insisted Barack Obama and John McCain would run away with the election—citing polls that showed them 5, 10, even 13 percentage points ahead of their nearest rivals, Hillary Clinton and Mitt Romney. When the dust cleared after the actual vote on January 8, there was more than enough blame to go around. As it turned out, McCain did beat Romney by a modest 5 points (37 to 32 percent, respectively), but Obama actually lost the race to Clinton by 2 points (37 to 39 percent).

As the recriminations started flying on election night, David Paleologos was as depressed as anyone. The head of Suffolk University Political Research Center (SUPRC) had actually gotten both winners wrong, picking not only Obama, but also Romney. Making his way despondently downstairs from the studio on the 12th floor of the Radisson Hotel in Manchester that night, Paleologos passed a colleague heading to the hotel pub. "Congratulations on getting closest," she said. Paleologos thought she was mimicking him. Then, as he walked into the pub, two Suffolk students also congratulated him on the results.

"What the hell are they talking about?" he thought, as he studied the returns on the pub's television screen. That's when it slowly dawned on him that although he'd picked the wrong order of finishers, he only had them up by small margins, making his polls the only ones that were correct within the margin of error. That night, no less an authority than former NBC anchor Tom Brokaw gave Suffolk props.

"Well, maybe Suffolk knew something that everybody else didn't," Matthew grumbled.

Building A Mosaic

Paleologos would be the first to admit that he didn't have any secret knowledge—just the attention to detail that has won SUPRC (and Suffolk) accolades since it was founded five years ago. "We are known as a center of work on politics, and the polling center helps us build on a strength," says John Berg, chair of Suffolk's government department. "It nicely dovetails with the objective of raising the visibility of the University."

While other polling outfits raced to explain Clinton's win by citing voter sympathy when she seemed on the verge of tears at a press conference, Paleologos insisted that the accuracy of the Suffolk poll was due to clear-headed research and analysis.

"Good polling is a checklist, like when a pilot takes off. Have you done this? Check. Have you done that? Check," he says. Like any pollster, Paleologos takes comfort in the hard science of numbers—but the way those numbers are gathered is more of an art, and there are several things that the Suffolk pollsters did to improve their chances of getting it right. First, they took a two-day average, rather than a three-day average, to more accurately reflect the rapid changes of opinion. They also kept polling through the weekend, while many other polls closed on Friday.

Two other tools of the trade—screening and balancing—also proved to be crucial. Screening refers to whom a pollster excludes—for example, some use a "tight screen" to disqualify unlikely voters, asking tough questions about where their polling place is located or what ward or precinct they belong to. In New Hampshire, however, Paleologos used a "wide screen" to take into account the large numbers of independent and first-time voters likely to register on election day.

The second tool, balancing, controls whom a pollster allows to participate by setting quotas for different demographic groups—race, age, gender, political party—to mirror the makeup of likely voters. Paleologos painstakingly set different quotas for each county in each election. Crucially, he didn't fall into the same trap as some polling organizations, which set high quotas for young voters based on the large number who turned out the previous week to vote for Obama in the Iowa caucuses. While some outfits set quotas for youth as high as 30 percent, Paleologos kept his down to a more conservative 18 percent—which, as it turned out, more closely matched the actual percentage.

"In many ways, a poll is like building a mosaic," says Paleologos. "You have this color here and that color there, but at the end of the day, you want to have a picture that makes sense."

Secret Weapon

If there is a secret weapon Paleologos uses to improve polling accuracy, it's a technique—unique among pollsters—that he calls "bellwether tracking." For many of his polls, Paleologos picks several particular towns or counties that have been shown in the past to reflect the outcomes of the state as a whole. For the New Hampshire primary, he scoured hard copies of voter lists to identify two towns, Kingston and Sandown, with an uncanny record of picking the exact order of finishers in 1988 and 2000—the last two times in which no incumbent was running in the race—and getting each winner within 10 percent of the statewide results.
So on election night, when Paleologos seemed so out of sync with all of the other pollsters in the race, he wasn't just relying on two polls, but six (one statewide and two bellwethers for each of the two primaries). If anything, the bellwethers were more accurate than the statewide polls. Both had Clinton leading in the Democratic primary, matching the actual results; and for the Republican primary, one had McCain ahead while the other favored Romney. Paleologos sees the bellwethers as a way of adding another layer of confidence to the statewide results—akin to a doctor running three tests instead of just one.

Paleologos explains that it's rare that bellwethers and statewide polls conflict, attributing the Romney win in Sandown, one of the bellwethers, to the fact that it was located right across the border from Massachusetts, where Romney served as governor—a fact he failed to adjust for. "This is still a learning process for me," he says. "My drive to break ground is causing me to sharpen these additional tools I put on the table."

While the use of bellwethers may be a new trend nationally, for Paleologos it's a return to his early career, when he used to pick bellwether precincts in polls for local candidates. Growing up in a tight-knit, Greek-American family in Woburn, outside of Boston, Paleologos first entered politics when his older brother Nick won a seat on the Somerville School Committee as a Tufts University student in 1972. Once elected, Nick's push for progressive reforms alienated some more conservative voters, causing him to lose re-election. "I was devastated," says Paleologos, then 17. "I remember looking at the election results for months after he lost. I used to take the information to the bathroom and everywhere with me, trying to figure out how to change it."

When Nick ran for state representative from Woburn in 1976, he enlisted his kid brother to help. David theorized that they'd need 2,000 votes to beat the incumbent. Then, identifying districts more likely to support a liberal candidate, they enlisted their supporters to knock on doors to target the right voters. Nick topped 2,000 votes and won the election.

It's that same out-of-the-box thinking that Nick admires in his brother's work today. "He doesn't always go with the traditional assumption from the previous year or the previous month," says the elder Paleologos. "He really has a facility for translating emotions into numbers." That analytical mindset can be crucial in elections, he says. "If you are the candidate, you are flying off the handle every second. Having someone in the campaign who is able to keep your eyes on the prize is incredibly valuable."

As more campaigns began using polling, Nick Paleologos kept referring his colleagues in the State House to his brother. After graduating from Tufts with an economics degree, David started polling full time, working successfully to help then-Democratic Majority Leader George Keverian unseat fellow Democrat Tom McGee as Speaker of the House in 1984.

For the next decade, Paleologos conducted polls for state reps, state senate candidates, local races, and mayoral races on both sides of the aisle. "I am definitely not as left as my brother Nick," he explains—even though he's worked with mostly Democrats because "I live in Massachusetts and the statistical odds favor that."

Paleologos' career came full circle in 1992, when he worked on his brother's failed run for the seat of lieutenant governor. (Nick Paleologos is now head of the Massachusetts Film Office.) While he was busy with campaigns in the fall, Paleologos began teaching an adjunct course at Suffolk in the spring called "The Art of Polling." The class, which he has been teaching for 15 years now, takes students throughout the process of creating a poll from start to finish: picking a political issue, writing questions, setting up screens and quotas, making the calls, and sending out press releases. "By the time students are done, they can go out and
conduct a political poll," says Berg. Even for those who will never go into politics, the class provides a valuable learning experience, he says. "You learn how to understand polls and know how accurate they are—and what they can and can't be used for."

Students in Paleologos' class don't participate directly in the polls of the research center. Indirectly, however, Paleologos has a student to thank for the creation of the center itself. In 2002, when the class decided to conduct a poll on the governor's race, the presumptive Republican nominee was Acting Governor Jane Swift. Mitt Romney's name had surfaced before but it wasn't at all clear he would seriously consider challenging a sitting governor from his own party. Yet one of Paleologos' students suggested including Romney—who had then just completed a successful run overseeing the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City—as a candidate in their poll. The results showed Romney beating Swift by a large margin, earning coverage of the poll in the Boston Globe and the Worcester Telegram on a Friday. The Boston Herald released its own poll that Sunday showing Romney beating Swift by a similar margin. On the heels of these back-to-back polls, Swift held a news conference on Tuesday to announce she would not seek the governor's office. "I remember saying to the students, 'Look at the impact you had,'" says Paleologos.

"Not as a result of your survey, but from a sequence of surveys and some other press, the world just changed."

A few months later, Paleologos' world changed, too. The class' prescience was noted by WHDH-TV, Boston's Channel 7, which at that point did not have a polling partner (WBZ-TV, Channel 4 works with the Globe and WCBS-TV, Channel 5 with the Herald). In a meeting with political editor Andy Hiller and his news director, Paleologos offered his services. Right out of the box, the new Suffolk University/Channel 7 News collaboration proved itself a contender in the media coverage of the general election for the governor's race—again thanks to Romney. Suffolk predicted Romney would win by 4 points while the Globe favored then-State Treasurer Shannon O'Brien by 1 point, and the Herald predicted a tie. Romney "ended up winning by 5," say Paleologos triumphantly. "And from that moment on, we have been doing polling."

For the last five years, Paleologos and Hiller have been a Laurel and Hardy act on the five o'clock news, with the analytical pollster and the fiery political reporter trading barbs and predictions on political issues. "If David weren't a pollster, he would be a great reporter," says Hiller. "His questionnaires are not only timely, but they try to detect trends that will become themes in the campaign, which helps our coverage to stay ahead."

The partnership between the television station and the University has been good for both sides, says Hiller, helping raise Suffolk's profile while giving Channel 7 the credibility that comes with an academic analysis. The two outfits share other traits in common. "Channel 7 has always been pretty scrappy and aggressive; we've always had to work a little harder because we were in the shadow of bigger news organizations," he says. "And Suffolk has been scrappy, and I think that's one of the reasons we work together well."

**BUILDING THE SUFFOLK MODEL**

Originally, SUPRC was only scheduled to conduct polls this year for the New Hampshire and Massachusetts primaries and the election in November. After the success of the New Hampshire poll, however, the University decided to conduct polls in other state primaries as well. Two weeks after New Hampshire, Paleologos was frantically preparing for the Republican primary in Florida, scouring 20 years of past election results in his cramped office on Ashburton Place. Paleologos identified two counties that had passed their tests as bellwethers and included a sample of them in addition to the statewide poll.

This time, Suffolk successfully called McCain's victory over Romney in both the statewide poll and the bellwethers, predicting a 3-percent win, when the actual margin was 5 percent. The bellwethers proved even more useful in contests in Massachusetts and California, where Suffolk's statewide polls showed a dead heat between Clinton and Obama, while Suffolk's bellwethers showed Clinton ahead—exactly what happened in the actual vote.

Despite the success of the bellwether concept for Suffolk, however, it has been slow to catch on elsewhere. Though Paleologos was on the phone for the entire day after New Hampshire, not one media outlet reported on the approach. "No one else is doing it, so they have nothing to compare it to," he says. He hopes that if he continues to show success, other media outlets will start using the technique as a way to improve their accuracy. "I'm certainly going to write about this afterwards. I don't know if I'm going to call it the 'Suffolk model' or what, but I certainly don't want this whole thing to go by the board."

It's that attention to perfecting the process that distinguishes Paleologos's career. Even though he was closest to the actual results in New Hampshire, Paleologos openly admits he was disappointed that he got the order of finishers wrong. That impressed Hiller. "Other pollsters I know would sit there with a sniffl, self-satisfied look and written it off," he says. "David was frustrated because the headline wasn't right."

We are providing drugs and there is an addictive media, and we're all hooked on it. The larger issue is who to blame—is it the pollster for not getting the information, or is it a reporting issue, or is it the public?"

— DAVID PALEOLOGOS
Representative Sample
Advice from her former "polling professor" helped turn Kathi-Anne Reinstein '93 into a state house powerhouse

Kathi-Anne Reinstein '93 swore she'd never seek political office. Having witnessed too many ugly political attacks on her father, Revere Mayor and State Representative William Reinstein, she turned her attention to studying public relations at Suffolk, with an eye to working behind the scenes as a political lobbyist. Then, in the midst of a reelection campaign in 1998, her father passed away suddenly, and Reinstein got a call from her former professor, David Paleologos, with whom she took a class on polling. Over nachos at the Suffolk hangout The Red Hat, he slapped a copy of an obscure Massachusetts law on the table, stating that in the event a candidate dies before the election, his or her replacement would be chosen by the city's party committee—to which Reinstein and several of her family members belonged. Before she knew it, she had replaced her father on the ballot and won his old seat. "I knew I had to look after the things he was working on," she recalls.

Ten years later, Reinstein has advanced her father's legacy and established one of her own. This spring, she was appointed chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, part of the House leadership, by Speaker Salvatore DiMasi JD '71. Over the years, she's amassed an impressive list of accomplishments, stopping a trash transfer station and a power plant from adding to her district's urban sprawl and helping to win sorely-needed additional staff and funds for area beaches. "My father had a saying: 'I don't like politics, I like people,'" she says. "What is really important is not the campaign; it's the people who are affected by what you do."

Many of the skills she learned in college, like how to write a press release, she uses daily. While Reinstein has yet to use polling in her own campaigns (following her appointment, she has run unopposed), she often relies on the principles she learned from Paleologos. Even now, whenever she sees a poll, she looks at the margin of error to see if it's valid.

While Reinstein has been guided by her training, she could hardly be called poll-driven. Most of her efforts have jibed with her predominantly working-class, socially conservative district, yet she encountered her own share of criticism for her outspoken support of gay marriage two years ago. At the time, she was engaged to be married to her boyfriend, and the issue struck her emotionally. "Imagine I'm going to spend the rest of my life with this person, and then someone told me I couldn't. I mean, devastating isn't the word." She calls the matter an "old lady issue," meaning it will be one of the things she thinks about in her rocking chair. "I changed thousands of people's lives that I'll never meet. I mean, devastating isn't the word." She calls the matter an "old lady issue," meaning it will be one of the things she thinks about in her rocking chair. "I changed thousands of people's lives that I'll never meet."

On another issue, her personal passions and the interests of her district are in perfect alignment: "I am a freedom fighter for Fluff!" she exclaims, not entirely facetiously, about Marshmallow Fluff, the sugary spread produced in Lynn. The sticky controversy arose in 2006 when then-State Senator Jarrett Barrios proposed a bill to ban Fluff from school lunches, pointing to the sweet snack as an enemy in the war on childhood obesity. Reinstein fired back with favorable facts (Fluff has only 90 calories per serving) and a bill to make the Fluffernutter (a peanut butter and fluff combination) the official state sandwich. The issue was picked up by the national media. "Had I ever thought we would get this attention, I never would have done it," she claims. Still, she seems to relish the incident, as do her colleagues. Shortly after her recent appointment to the House leadership former Boston City Councilor Paul Scapicchio stopped into Reinstein's office with a present to congratulate her: a jar of Fluff.

For his part, Paleologos applies those same high standards to others, criticizing the media frenzy that has seemingly made some national pollsters more interested in getting on television than getting their poll numbers right. "These news organizations spend so much money on these pollsters and there's so much pressure," he says. "They go in expecting to be praised if they get it right, and they have five or six excuses why if they get it wrong."

Putting too much weight on polling holds inherent dangers for both the profession and the political process, says Paleologos—determining the amount of attention or money a candidate receives before the public has had a chance to make up its mind.

In the worst case, it can even affect the outcome of the election. Paleologos chalks up part of Clinton's victory in New Hampshire to independent voters who saw Obama so far ahead in the Democratic primary polls they decided to vote in the Republican primary instead, thus decreasing Obama's totals and making Clinton the winner. "I am appalled by that," says Paleologos. More than a decade ago, Paleologos wrote an article for the academic journal American Behavioral Scientist in which he warned against the dangers of an "over-polled society." He now says "we are a part of a monster in the works. We are providing drugs and there is an addictive media, and we're all hooked on it. The larger issue is who to blame—is it the pollster, or is it a reporting issue, or is it the public?"

If there is an antidote to the disease, says Paleologos, it's recognizing that polls are just one part of a complicated political picture, but that it's ultimately the voters who decide. After all, while his polls were the most accurate in New Hampshire, he too got caught up in the Obama-mania, calling the race for Obama just like everyone else, even though both of his bellwethers showed Clinton ahead. "It's a good lesson to me, that I need to keep bringing this back to the science," he says. "There's comfort in knowing that the years and years of mathematical computations have been made successfully. I won't make the same mistake again. If those bellwethers and that poll all show the same thing, I'm prepared to go off the cliff with it."
On the ride of a lifetime with JAY WEAVER JD '99

She begged for her life.

Stricken with terminal cancer, the 12-year-old girl looked at Jay Weaver as he loaded her into an ambulance and gasped, "Please don't let me die."

Then, she stopped breathing.

A Boston paramedic for more than 20 years, Weaver faced both a legal and medical dilemma. Everything he knew about his profession, everything he believed about aiding bodies broken, burned, or eroded by disease, told him to help the ailing child. Yet he also understood that, in attempting to save her life, he would have to break the law. The girl, who became a ward of the state when her mother was murdered, had recently agreed to a court-mandated do-not-resuscitate order.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATHLEEN DOOHER
His partner agreed, and together they attempted to resuscitate the girl, who later died at the hospital. "Our consciences were clear," Weaver says, "But we did, in fact, violate the law."

Neither Weaver nor his partner suffered any repercussions or reprimands for their actions, although Weaver quickly adds, "In theory, we could have, but my legal training was beneficial because at least I knew what we were getting into."

For Weaver, violating the law is not something he regards lightly.

"We were in a situation where we could do what was morally right—to do what the little girl had asked, which was to keep her alive—or we could obey the law, follow the judge's order and let her die without attempting to bring her back," says Weaver, whose calm voice belies the urgency of that difficult decision. "I knew the legalities. My partner wouldn't have known the legalities because it's such a bizarre, unusual situation, but you don't have time to debate this. This is something you need to decide right then and there. I told my partner, 'It's illegal for us to do this, but I think we have to do it anyway.'"

Marathon Man

Weaver's knowledge of the law has proven indispensable for his job as a paramedic for Boston's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on the city's sometimes unruly streets. Now, he's applying and broadening what he learned at Suffolk Law as a member of the U.S. Army Reserve. In February, he began active duty and training in Fort Lee, VA, during which he will also attend the army's law school to study military law. Upon his return, he'll be assigned to a reserve unit in South Boston, providing legal services to soldiers, such as drawing up wills, powers of attorney, and health proxies before they deploy. This same unit also works with...
wounded returning soldiers at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC.

"A lot of them have been deprived of benefits, to which they are entitled, and a lot of them have issues pertaining to either staying in or leaving the service that's related to their physical capabilities," says Weaver, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate Corps (JAG), the army's legal department. "This unit provides a lot of services to them, and I saw that as a very noble cause."

It will mark Weaver's first opportunity to work as a lawyer, though he graduated from Suffolk in 1999. Unlike his classmates, Weaver had difficulty finding ways to turn his classroom education into real-life experience. When he graduated, Weaver was a 39-year-old father of two with a full-time job as a paramedic, leaving no opportunity for the internships and clerkships that are so important in launching a legal career.

Then again, he had little interest in practicing law in the conventional way. "It may sound strange for a lawyer to say," Weaver says with a laugh, "but I just don’t like arguing."

Still, he wanted to use his law school education. For months, Weaver called around to the various armed services, but they weren't interested because he was over the age limit of 35. Years later, he received a large package, requested by his wife, inviting him to apply to become a JAG officer.

“She knew I was feeling stagnant and frustrated, not having any place to use this education I had worked so hard to get, so she requested the information on my behalf," Weaver says.

At 47, Weaver will endure the rigors of army training alongside men and women half his age, a prospect that he admits makes him "a little nervous."

Nonetheless,
These students earned their degrees at night, after work, and most commuted from around Boston. By many measures, Suffolk is a different place today. We draw students from all 50 states and 95 countries. We offer on-campus housing. And while our night programs still flourish, most of our undergraduates today are day students.

What hasn’t changed? Suffolk’s gift for helping hardworking people find their passion and exercise their power. Even today, a third of our students are the first in their family to go to college, and more than three-quarters require some form of financial aid. Unfortunately, the surging need for financial assistance is badly outstripping our resources—and threatening Suffolk’s commitment to serving students outside the circle of affluence.

Our challenge now: to make a dramatic new investment in our financial aid endowment and in the quality of the student experience, to ensure that Suffolk can offer tomorrow’s students the same access to excellence we provided to so many in the past.

"For decades, many Suffolk students never saw the school in daylight until graduation."
I've been punched, I've been kicked," he says in a matter-of-fact tone. "We've been involved in some real wrestling matches, always in the worst possible places—on the highway, with cars whizzing by, as we're trying to get someone who is drunk onto a stretcher just to get him to safety."

even sitting in his Somerville home while recovering from surgery to correct an old skiing injury, Weaver looks like he may give his younger counterparts a run for their money. He's lean and sinewy, with the kind of enviable physique one would expect from a man who has competed in triathlons as well as 19 half and full marathons, including those in New York, London, and Boston.

Challenging himself has long fueled Weaver, and that same drive prompted him to think about law school.

"I started looking for part-time programs, and discovered that not only did Suffolk have a reputa-

tion as a very good part-time school, but a very good reputation as a law school. I had no idea that it was among the biggest law schools in the country in terms of student body size. I began to discover that Suffolk Law graduates are everywhere. Everywhere I go, I seem to run into someone who says, 'Oh yeah, I went to Suffolk Law.' It makes for a great community, and I'm glad to be a part of that."

Growing up in Shrewsbury, a town 40 miles west of Boston, Weaver wanted to be a police officer or a firefighter. He was lured by the unpredictability of those professions, as well as the prospect of helping people. Becoming a paramedic (he took an emergency medical technician course at Bunker Hill Community College and a yearlong course at Northeastern University) promised enough excitement to satiate even the most ardent adrenaline junkie.

There's a difference between an EMT and a paramedic. EMTs, Weaver explains, are "trained to provide a high level of first aid," while paramedics have more medical training, and can "do virtually everything an emergency room can do initially," including starting IVs, administering controlled substances, and some invasive procedures such as creating surgical airways.

To be a paramedic is to negotiate a minefield of potential hazards. In his two decades on the job, Weaver has been jabbed with dirty needles and threatened with guns and knives. Sometimes, while he's working, onlookers try to intimidate him. Weaver, who for years worked the overnight shift, does his best to go about his work, while wondering if the cutting looks and ominous words will escalate into violence.

"I've been punched, I've been kicked," he says in a matter-of-fact tone. "We've been involved in some real wrestling matches, always in the worst possible places—on the highway, with cars whizzing by, as we're trying to get someone who is drunk onto a stretcher just to get him to safety."

Drunks are the worst. Emboldened by alcohol, they can be combative and cantankerous. At times, they are dangerous to themselves and others. On more occasions than he can recall, Weaver has found himself trying to convince an injured person to accept the medical attention they so clearly require. Sometimes, that also means being confronted by their equally-inebriated family, friends, and not-so-innocent bystanders. And when a patient refuses treatment, Weaver's legal background is an advantage once again.

"If we leave someone who clearly needs help and that patient's condition worsens, that will come back to haunt us legally," Weaver says. "Not a day goes by when we don't hear from someone—inevitably someone who is intoxicated—'I know my rights and you can't take me to the hospital against my will.' They're wrong about that; we can take them to the hospital against their will, and we frequently take people to the hospital against their will. I can do that having absolute confidence in my legal standing on the matter because it's a subject I studied in detail in law school."

'Other People's Emergencies'

Richard Serino, Boston's EMS chief, has known Weaver since the latter was a rookie paramedic. In addition to his legal background, Weaver has something that is just as important to his job, Serino says.
"Jay brings humanity to his position. His utmost concern has been, and always will be, doing what's best for the patient," he contends. "He's always been a very caring paramedic, and also very talented in both the technical and professional aspects of the job. His compassion, as well as his knowledge, is the unique quality he brings to the patient."

Of course, sometimes compassion and knowledge aren't enough to save a life. One incident from 2006, which began with a call about a possible train fire at Boston's South Station, continues to haunt Weaver, who arrived at the scene first with his partner.

"It turns out that a [young man] had climbed onto the roof of the train and had come into contact with a 25,000-volt wire. He had burst into flames. When we arrived he was still alive, he was still awake, and looking down at me in flames," Weaver says. "At that point the fire department arrived, and we took him down from the train, and we had to treat him knowing he was aware of being on fire."

Here, Weaver pauses, as if he is reliving that horrific moment and trying to sift some greater meaning from such a senseless act.

"That call bothered me in a way that I'm not usually bothered. You do this work for any length of time, and eventually you reach a point where things that would bother anyone else don't bother you, because if they do, you can't do the job," he says. "That was only the second time in 20 years that a call really bothered me enough to stay with me over a period of time, for it to enter my thoughts repeatedly for days on end."

The young man, who received third-degree burns to 85 percent of his body, succumbed to his injuries a few days later. That same year, Weaver began a blog called Other People's Emergencies: Random Thoughts of an Urban Paramedic (www.urbanparamedic.blogspot.com). It's both humorous and poignant, understated and urgent. Just as important, it allows Weaver to process some of the horrors he witnesses, as well as the small, potent miracles inherent in a job where saving lives can be a daily occurrence.

At first, Weaver didn't tell his co-workers about his blog, fearing they would believe it was "a stupid idea." Yet once they discovered it—and realized Weaver was its author—some became fans of the website.

"I think he's able to capture a lot of what EMTs and paramedics do on a daily basis, and he's been able to do it in such a way that he hasn't violated any patient's rights or privacy," Serino says. "He gives a sense of what it's like to work on the streets."

"My only goal [for the blog] is to give the public a look at what we do," Weaver says. "I think the public has traditionally understood the work of police officers and the work of firefighters. But the public doesn't have any idea what we do, the challenges we face, and how difficult the work can be sometimes. I hope people who read it take away some sense of what our job is really like. We're not just ambulance drivers. We provide sophisticated treatment in a very difficult environment."

Weaver, who is also raising two children from his wife's previous relationship, will be out of that environment for six months while he completes basic training. But his job as a paramedic will be waiting for him when he returns. "When he's done serving the nation, he'll come back and serve the citizens of this city," Serino says.

Weaver is humbled by yet another opportunity to serve his community—and excited about the prospect of his newest mission.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge, and I'm looking forward to being challenged," he says. "At the moment I said those words [the oath to be sworn into the U.S. Army], it struck home that this isn't something I would like to do, this is something I am now doing. Now, I'm looking forward to serving in a way I never thought I would have the opportunity to do."
Curtis Mayfield’s reedy tenor floats above the empty burlap coffee sacks, framed photos, and jutting stacks of books in Stephen Coffey’s cluttered office. With impassioned horns and congas ablaze, the late R&B great is wailing his uplifting ’60s classic “Move on Up,” a song meant to move the heart as well as the hips with its direct and inspiring lyrics:

Just move on up and keep on wishing
Remember your dreams are your only schemes
So keep on pushing

It seems a perfect anthem for this unassuming place, the Paraclete Center, which houses a popular afterschool program, as well as Coffey’s burgeoning business, Thousand

Mixing business with purpose, Stephen Coffey ’97, JD ’01 builds a company in Boston and a school in Rwanda one cup at a time.

By Renée Graham
Photo-illustrations by Fredrik Broden
Hills Coffee Company. From this inconspicuous former convent tucked away on a quiet South Boston street, Coffey is using both his business and legal savvy to help those a half-world away in Rwanda, the East African nation wracked for decades by poverty and genocide.

Launched in 2005, Thousand Hills Coffee seeks to introduce American java junkies to the greatest resource from the country known as the land of a thousand hills: coffee. With its high altitude, ample rainfall, and volcanic soil, Rwanda enjoys some of the world’s most favorable coffee-growing conditions. At the same time, proceeds from coffee sales are helping to subsidize the Maranyundo School, a secondary educational institution for girls in Rwanda’s Nyamata region that is sponsored by the Paraclete Center.

“We’re selling great-tasting coffee and we’re working to help the people of Rwanda,” Coffey says. “It’s a great combination.”

Coffey recently returned to Rwanda to attend the school’s opening and visit various coffee farmers “to see what’s going on, what problems they may be having,” he says. Still, looking around the South Boston native’s tiny office—it’s so crammed with stuff it could double as a flea market—it seems Africa is never far away.

His sister Kathleen Heger’s elegant oil paintings of dancing Rwandan women, swaddled in white like angels, adorn the walls. A fearsome Maasai spear leans in a nearby corner. Photographs, such as those of multicolored “cherries,” which are made into coffee beans, and another with a majestic lion in repose on a plain accent the room.

Sipping a cup of freshly-made Rwandan tea, Coffey recalls his first trip to the African nation in 2005, during which he visited a farmers’ cooperative.

“On the way and at that site was the most moving, amazing experience,” he says, pointing to a photograph in his office showing Coffey standing among throngs of Rwandan coffee farmers and their families.

“We were driving to Musasa Cooperative, and I was in a truckload of these really cool Kenyans [who specialize in processing coffee], and one of them said, ‘Look at what’s going on here at the bottom of the hill and look when we get to the top,’” Coffey says. “As we were going up the hill, you could just see the development because of the coffee farms where all these people were now working.

“It was a big festivity, and people were celebrating these two guys from Chicago and California, big companies, who had just signed a deal with this coffee company, and people were singing and dancing,” he adds. “And I thought, ‘Wow, this could be me making a big impact. It all just hit me that day, and right from the beginning I was like, ‘Wow, this is what I want to do.’”

At this point, Coffey’s company is still a fledgling business. He’s not making a lot of money either as a profit-generating venture or a philanthropic endeavor. Coffey looks to Ben & Jerry’s—the hugely successful Vermont-based ice cream company as much recognized for its social activism as for its trademark flavors, such as Cherry Garcia and Chunky Monkey—as a model for Thousand Hills Coffee Company.

“I think there are a lot of good people out there who understand what I’m trying to do, and want to be part of this. I just need to get to them,” Coffey says resolutely. “It’s not going to be easy. I’m trying to make a living, and it’s not the easiest thing to do. I’m trying to make this profitable so we can continue to do this.”

Coffey’s efforts received a potential boost recently when the Boston Beer Company, makers of Samuel Adams beer, selected Thousand Hills Coffee for its first coffee-flavored brew which the company will be promoting and taste-testing nationwide this summer.

Coffey had a chance to meet company officials last year when the locally-based company, which he had always admired, moved its headquarters to South Boston.

“The flavor is great. It’s really well balanced,” says Coffey who calls the beer a stout with “fantastic Rwandan coffee flavor.”

“This is a great opportunity. This is a local beverage company that I really look up to, and really cares about the quality of the ingredients that go into their beverage,” he adds. “I think this has so much potential with two great beverages – beer and coffee together. No one has really done something like this, so it’s a big thing. This is a connoisseur thing for real coffee lovers and real beer lovers.”

Whatever happens, Coffey has inspiration to keep him going. In the more trying moments, Coffey looks to one of his favorite photographs, in which he was wearing a dark, double-breasted suit and a broad smile on his face, standing next to Boston Rwandan activist Jean Nganji and Rwanda President Paul Kagame.

“When the president of a country calls you,” Coffey says, “you have to think you’re doing the right thing.”

Haunted by ‘Ghosts’

For Coffey, 32, the right thing began with a call from an old friend, Sister Ann Fox, director and cofounder of the Paraclete Center, in 2003. Coffey has known Fox since he was a kid playing ball at the South Boston Neighborhood House, which Fox headed. (Coffey now volunteers there a few times a week, mentoring and counseling kids.) A few years ago, Fox, who founded the Maranyundo Initiative, approached Coffey to help with a fundraiser she was hosting to raise money for a girls’ school in Rwanda.

At the time, Coffey knew what most Americans knew about that east-central African country. In 1994, the country suffered through a genocide that pitted Hutus against Tutsis, neighbor against neighbor, leading to the slaughter of more than 800,000 people. During his Suffolk years, Coffey was peppered with updates on the strife in Rwanda from a friend and fellow student.

“I just didn’t get it,” Coffey admits. “You think, ‘Wow, that’s bad; then you just walk into Filene’s Basement or whatever. You think, ‘That’s terrible, but what am I supposed to do about it?’”

A decade after the massacre, Coffey watched Ghosts of Rwanda, a shattering 2004 documentary about the genocide, and was outraged that no nation, including the United States, stepped in to stop the massacre.

“That’s when it started kicking me in the butt to learn more,” he explained. “I was older, more intelligent, and loved to read. I attacked learning about Rwanda like an exam.”

The timing couldn’t have been better. Coffey was a few years out of law school, shadowing attorneys at a local law firm. He was less than enthused, although his trips to criminal court led to some interesting encounters.

“Growing up here, I ended up knowing some of the criminals, so it was kind of funny,” says Coffey, whose father was a probation officer. “In terms of being a lawyer I felt I could do all right, but I wouldn’t have been happy, and it wouldn’t have been fulfilling.”

Robert Allison, chair of Suffolk’s history department, met Coffey more than a decade ago when the budding entrepreneur was tak-
"I thought, 'Wow, this could be me making a big impact.' It all just hit me that day, and right from the beginning I was like, 'Wow, this is what I want to do.'"
of the massacre to the masses, for some, it also created the indelible image of that nation of 8.5 million as perpetually in the bloody throes of civil unrest.

It’s not uncommon for Coffey, while hosting a fundraising event, to have someone approach him and ask, “Isn’t [Rwanda] where they kill each other?” Remarkably, even Philip Gourevitch, who wrote a harrowing, award-winning 1998 book about the genocide, We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families: Stories from Rwanda, didn’t know about Rwanda’s rich coffee resources.

“When I met him and told him about trying to export Rwandan coffee, [Gourevitch] said, ‘They have good coffee there?’” Coffey recalls. “That shows how much things have changed since he was there when he wrote his book. You never want to forget what happened, but you also want to make sure the country is moving forward.”

Bent, but unbroken

Coffey believes his love of Africa was first stoked by his love of music. Sitting in his office, Coffey’s comments are accompanied by a steady stream of songs from an iPod. He can talk for hours about his father’s love of Nat King Cole; going to an Al Martino concert with his dad; his mother’s singing; or the varied musical tastes of his four sisters and two brothers, which ranged from AC/DC and the Clash to the Isley Brothers and golden-age hip-hop.

“It was a great mix, but I liked to find my own thing,” says Coffey, whose thing was reggae. His sister first played Bob Marley for Coffey when he was about 12, and for the youth, it was like finding a new place to call home.

“I’d listen to him singing about the promised land, Ethiopia, and [former Ethiopian emperor] Haile Selassie, and I’d think, ‘I want to go to Ethiopia,’” Coffey remembers. “He influenced me though I was only 12, and I was really interested in the whole African side of things.”

Coffey was especially moved by Marley’s song “War,” whose lyrics are based in part on a pro-Africa speech Selassie delivered before the United Nations General Assembly in 1963:

Until there are no longer first-class citizens and second-class citizens of any nation
Until the color of a man’s skin
Is of no more significance than the color of his eyes
Me say war

“I was so influenced by his love of Africa,” Coffey says. “It was pivotal. I don’t think I would be as interested in Africa if it wasn’t for Bob Marley.”

At first, Coffey’s family and friends weren’t sure what to make of a love of Africa that eventually blossomed into the Thousand Hills Coffee Company. More than a few dismissed it as experimentation or a phase.

“I think there was a time when people were like, ‘You’re really doing this, huh?’ And I’d say, ‘Yeah,’” Coffey says. “My mother would be really worried, asking me, ‘Why don’t you just go work for the UN?’”

That’s not the only professional advice Coffey has received. In starting his business, Coffey has accumulated more than his share of debt. Thousand Hills Coffee Company is slowly building its brand, but the product is still primarily available through the company’s Website (thousandhillscoffee.com) and a handful of small Boston stores and cafes.

“I had a meeting with a food broker [an agent who negotiates sales for producers and manufacturers of food and food products],” Coffey says.

“He’s a good guy and he wants to help me, but he said, ‘You’re so small, but if you can just get into five, 10, 20 groceries stores...then maybe you can grow it out. Right now, you have to concentrate on taking those baby steps.”

Coffey ships in 40-foot containers, each holding 300 132-pound sacks of coffee beans. Currently, Coffey buys a fraction of that, about 50-60 sacks a year.

“When you talk to people who’ve started coffee companies they say, ‘That’s how I started,’” he sighs. “There’s only so much I can do. It’s like until you get more gas in the car and a better engine, you ain’t gonna be putting out anything. When we get that injection, I’ll be able to do more hiring, create more of a marketing plan, a budget. Right now, it’s just spreading the word and trying to make ends meet.”

In five years, Coffey hopes his product will be available in high-end supermarkets like Whole Foods Market, but for now, he has his hands full keeping the business afloat. With a law degree, Coffey would seem just a high-powered corporate job away from solving his financial woes, but he refuses to see things that way.

What he sees is Rwanda, a place he calls “amazing” and “an addiction,” where its greatest resource may not be coffee, but rather the indefatigable spirit of a people bent, but unbroken, by past hardships.

“I have an entrepreneurial side to me that just doesn’t give up when I want to do something,” Coffey says. “We’re not changing the country yet, but I’d like to do that. There’s more to business than just making a buck.”
The best way to stand out in career circles?

Know your number.

When you tap into the power of the Suffolk Career Advisory Network, you access expert guidance from fellow alumni who are top professionals in your industry.

The network is free and easy to join. To activate your membership in the online community, use your unique ID number located above your name on the mailing label.

Join the Suffolk Alumni Online Community today!

We've taken the "work" out of networking.
A Letter from Ellen

ment-er [men-tawr, -ter]
noun
1. A wise and trusted counselor or teacher

When I looked up "mentor" on Dictionary.com, the definition appeared to be a synonym for alumni volunteer extraordinaire Roger Wellington MPA '01. For Roger, being a mentor is an ideal way to make students' experience at Suffolk all the more meaningful. Yet as you'll see in John Shaw's volunteer profile (pg. 50), mentoring is just one aspect of his volunteer work on behalf of Suffolk.

Like Roger, you'll find that there are many ways to share your time and talent with your alma mater. If you're looking for a way to maximize your impact, consider shaping a program as a volunteer leader. Or, help build the on-line community, an invaluable tool which enables students and graduates to connect directly to alumni and one another. As an advisor to the Career Network, you can have an indelible impact on the development of this outstanding resource.

Volunteering is all about helping your Alumni Association keep Suffolk's 60,000-plus graduates connected. No event is more emblematic of this goal than Alumni Weekend, an annual tradition designed to bring you and your classmates together with Boston as your backdrop, from Symphony Hall and Fenway Park to the brand-new Institute of Contemporary Art. For information about Alumni Weekend 2008 (June 12-15), visit Suffolk.edu/alumni.

With so many ways to get involved, volunteering—and staying connected—has never been easier. Join Roger and your classmates who are helping to define "volunteer" at Suffolk.

Warmest Regards,

ELLEN S. SOLOMITA
Executive Director, Alumni Association

So please save the weekend of September 19-21 for The Alumni Association's 5th Annual Leadership Conference.

For more information, please contact the alumni office 617-573-8443 or email SuffAlum@Suffolk.edu
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All these benefits—and more—are just one click away! The best part? It's free to all Suffolk alumni and only takes a moment to register. Whether you've just graduated or are celebrating your 25th reunion, the Suffolk Online Community works for you.

Share in Suffolk's strength by registering for your free account today via the Alumni Association website: www.suffolk.edu/alumni
SAM@work

You're building the home of your dreams—or perhaps you’re just fixing up the one you have. There was a time when your only choices were to either hire a professional interior designer or go it alone. These days, however, there’s a middle-ground: the consultants whose services are available free or for a nominal charge directly from the retailer.

As an interior designer with the firm McDougal Architects, NESAD Master Lecturer in Art and Design Jane Hassan ’00 is in the independent professional camp, yet she sees situations where each kind of service is useful. The main caveat she makes is that while both are useful, they are not interchangeable. When you invest in a design professional, you are hiring an advocate for you, who is free to suggest a full range of products and prices. The recommendations provided by a store consultant are generally dictated by the merchandise they sell and the prices they charge.

A professional interior designer will provide a letter of agreement outlining the services they will provide and rates (including commission) they will charge. Be sure to check credentials and references before hiring. For showroom consultants, clarify any charges for design services.

Here are some suggestions from Jane for making the best use of both types of services:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Work with a showroom:</th>
<th>Hire a professional designer:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• To get advice on and purchase window treatments. Most shops can assist with style options, fabric selections, measurement, and installation.</td>
<td>• To collaborate with in planning and budgeting for the interiors spaces of a home you are building or with renovation of any scope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• When purchasing furnishings for your home. Many retailers provide assistance with measurements and layout of a room.</td>
<td>• To create the interior details of your project and assist in communicating those ideas to your builder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To get expertise in kitchen and bathroom planning and design which many showrooms offer.</td>
<td>• To develop an overall scheme and then select, purchase, and oversee the installation of finishes, furnishings, window treatments and accessories within your approved budget.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Information: jmjdesign@comcast.net

WHAT'S Ours IS Yours

Your City > Use our dynamic downtown location as your base to explore Boston.

Your University > If you haven’t been back in a while, you’ll be surprised to see how we’ve grown!

Your Weekend > Join fellow alumni for fun events, catch up with friends, and make new connections. This is your time to come home to Suffolk.

SUFFOLK ALUMNI WEEKEND
June 12–15, 2008

www.suffolk.edu/alumni
In order to get their degrees, 86% of Suffolk Law School’s 2007 class borrowed an average of $95,000. Director of Financial Aid Kristi Jovell points to this kind of debt as the catalyst for an innovative program called Get $mart. Jovell first developed the idea in 2004, partnering with Suffolk Law School Director of Alumni Relations Diane Schoenfeld to come up with financial information that would be relevant to both students and recent graduates. Get $mart begins each fall during new student orientation with programs focusing on credit and identity theft, followed by such topics as investment, home buying, budgeting, and loan repayment options throughout the year. Schoenfeld describes the current roster as “interactive presentations related to all things financial.”

The “Get $mart” concept has gained national attention as a “best-practice model.” For Suffolk, Jovell sees it as a success on numerous levels. She notes, for example, that “Some of our most popular topics are those presented by Suffolk Law alumni.” Beyond the student/alumni connection, Get $mart addresses a realization that we have yet to reach the stage where grants and scholarships preclude the need for sound money management.

“Until then,” Jovell concludes, “we’ll focus on educating students to live frugally, borrow less, and manage their finances.”

Life Lessons

Alumni Association’s Seminars for Young Suffolk Graduates offer a valuable guide for post-college life

You may recall that angst-ridden, post-college period when all-nighters and pizza delivery gave way to thoughts of careers, mortgages, and fine dining. It’s this time that was the focus for a new series of seminars called “Life 101.” These monthly workshops and programs are filled with practical information, from a February Food and Wine Pairing in Boston’s North End to an April seminar in estate planning.

The series kicked off with a “One Stop Career Workshop” at the Sawyer Library in January. This inaugural program included everything from resume and cover letter strategies to interviewing and networking skills. Associate Director for Career Services and Cooperative Education Michele A. Rapp described the evening as “an interactive session with lots of questions from the audience and time for networking.”

One of the most helpful elements of the workshop, according to Rapp, was mock interviews conducted by alumni. Based on demand and feedback, she could envision a series of spin-off sessions focusing on specific career-oriented topics.

First, however, there were those other big “life issues” on the agenda, including “Homebuying and Refinancing 101” and “Estate Planning,” the latter geared to a young audience. “Suffolk plus ten,” you might call them—a group of undergraduates who have completed their studies at Suffolk within the past ten years and are taking the step to that next class called “Life 101.”
February in Florida, April in Atlanta

Graduates and family members greeted a new dean, hobnobbed at the Harvard (Suffolk) Club, shared an afternoon of symphony, and cheered on the Boston Celtics (at home and on the road) for a full season of events.

> A warm Florida welcome to Law School Dean Alfred C. Aman, Jr. from the Alumni Chapter of Florida at events in Palm Beach, Sarasota, and Naples.

> Green with Envy With the Celtics the hot ticket this season, graduates snapped up every seat for victories in Boston (v. Knicks, 111-103) and Atlanta (v. Hawks, 99-89).
a. Brian Doherty JD ’77, Lenore O’Brien EMBA ’88, Donna Bonomo ’72, JD ’77 inset: George Regan ’72, Betty Gaudreau, Ed Masterman JD ’50, LLD ’90, and Bob Crowe ’70, JD ’73.
b. Susan Kalman JD ’92 and John Pankauski JD ’92.
c. Alvan Walcott and Natalie Revalion-Walcott, EMBA ’95.
d. Miriam McAvoy ’03, MED ’05, Jeff McAvoy MBA ’06.
e. Geoff Parker MBA ’68 and Patrea Pabst JD ’85.
f. Andrea Collins ’91, Penny Clarke ’95, JD ’01, and Sheila Bates ’00.
g. Jessica Greenwood MPA ’05 and daughter Rebecca.
h. Graham Russo and dad, Steve Russo ’90, MSF ’94.
i. Jessica Massey JD ’03.
j. Melissa Haydon McCormack, JD ’05, Patricia Christello ’01, JD ’07, Lauren Marshall JD ’06, Elizabeth Crowley JD ’05.
Live from 73 Tremont

The Department of Communications and Journalism opened a new street level HD television studio in February. The state-of-the-art facility at the Rosalie K. Stahl Center will be used for instruction and to produce newscasts, a sports show, and other programming.

Window on the World: A view of the new TV studio from Tremont Street.

Grand Opening | l to r Vice-President John Nucci, lab instructor Jason Carter, Dean Kenneth Greenberg, and Journalism Chair Robert Rosenthal preside over ribbon-cutting.

Behind the scenes: The new, 660-square-foot studio (above) includes three high-def digital cameras.

Control room (top). Elizabeth Lorenth BA'06 helps inaugurate the studio on behalf of alumni.
Would you give up your vacation to dig ditches and mix concrete?

That's what a dozen Suffolk students did this winter. Instead of relaxing at the beach, they headed to El Salvador and donated their time and labor to a construction project in a poor, rural community. That's the hallmark of a Suffolk education: classroom learning combined with real-world experience, scholarship blended with service. And it's the essence of your gift to the Annual Fund: critical support that keeps Suffolk different because it helps Suffolk make a difference, here and around the globe.

At Suffolk, we don't just study the world. We change it.

Support the Annual Fund: Every student, every day.

www.suffolk.edu/giving
Offering the counsel he sought as a student has provided Roger Wellington with the chance to give back to Suffolk

BY JOHN SHAW

All Roger Wellington MPA '01 wanted was to talk to someone who had been there before. It was his first year in the Masters in Public Administration program, and he arrived at Suffolk University knowing few people other than Professor Sandy Matava. While he developed a special bond with the director of the University's Center for Public Management, Wellington still longed for the counsel of a graduate.

"When I came to Suffolk I really didn't know anyone that had graduated from the program or anyone who was in the program," Wellington says, "and there were times when I wanted to talk to someone who had gone through it."

So after he graduated, started a career, and joined the Alumni Board of the Sawyer Business School, Wellington decided to create the program he had been seeking as a student.

"My original plan was to just contact some of my peers that I had gone to school with here at Suffolk, and then contact some students, and pretty much get those folks together," Wellington recalls of his initial efforts to create an informal mentorship network.

As Wellington began to work with fellow alumni and Business School faculty to pair students with graduates, Dean William J. O'Neill, Jr. took an active interest. The idea was put on the front burner after Dean O'Neill identified several administrators to help move things along.

"I have to give him a lot of credit for pushing this," Wellington says.

The mentoring program was officially launched last fall with 25 MPA students and another 10 from the Masters of Health Administration program.

Wellington, who combines personal meetings with e-mails and phone calls as his way of mentoring, is paired with Diane Ivey, an MPA student concentrating in nonprofit management. He has counselled her on areas such as time management and prioritization, career paths, travel, networking, stress, and resume preparation.

"His professional background offers me a great opportunity to communicate ideas that I have about my future plans," says Ivey, "and he is able to put those ideas into perspective and offer me direction."

There are plenty of demands on Wellington in his role as director of operations and social enterprise at the Pine Street Inn homeless shelter in Boston. Yet he sees mentoring as a very practical way for him and other graduates to get involved.

"Not everyone wants to sit on a board, not everyone wants to write another check," he observes, "but maybe they want to give of themselves 20 hours a year to a student."

Wellington says the Law School and College of Arts and Sciences are looking at this pilot program. He views mentoring as a way for Suffolk to extend the personal connection it has been known for since its inception—and a way to stand out in the competitive higher-education marketplace today.

"This could be a lifetime commitment," Wellington explains. "So that's the goal—that you get involved while you're a student and you become a mentee. Once you leave the University, you align yourself with a current student, and you give back to the University."
1937

All in the Family
Suffolk University founder Gleason Archer presents a law degree to his daughter, Marian Archer MacDonald, the first female Suffolk Law School graduate.
In a tough economic climate, it is tempting to stick to the needs of today. Yet institutions and individuals benefit from working toward a future, defined by both concrete goals and the ability to respond nimbly to any challenge. That is why we at Suffolk University are so grateful for the response we have seen to the Power to Change campaign. With $52.7 million raised so far, we are at 70 percent of our $75 million campaign goal.

We thank you for the outpouring of private philanthropic support that is essential to our healthy growth. These funds allow Suffolk to implement its vision, as laid out in the four cornerstones of the campaign: a consistent focus on academic excellence, an expansion of opportunities within student life and learning, needed enhancements to our evolving campus, and the Annual Fund, which affects every aspect of life at Suffolk.

With this comprehensive fundraising effort, we have the opportunity not only to keep pace but to lead. We have raised money for more than 85 Centennial Scholarships, thus bolstering our commitment to keeping Suffolk affordable. We have also built within our community a greater appreciation for what it means to support Suffolk — in particular, our wonderful faculty — in perpetuity through named funds. And, crucially, the Annual Fund continues to grow. These contributions make it possible for us to confidently address institutional needs as they arise. Participation by alumni also increases our visibility to a broader public, making the Annual Fund a wonderful way to show your support.

As the Suffolk experience makes clear, philanthropy changes lives. Your generosity will inspire and enable an even more vibrant future for Suffolk, and I hope you will share in our pride as we forge ahead with this plan for our second century.

All the best,

KATHRYN BATTILLO
Vice President for Advancement

CAMPAIGN FUNDING RESULTS > $52.7 million (70%)
Based on the four cornerstones of The Power to Change Campaign

A GOAL IN SIGHT

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Pappalardo, the Founder and CEO of the Massachusetts-based software company Meditech, is an MIT graduate. Yet he has been a devoted supporter of Suffolk since recognizing that a number of his employees were graduates of the university.

His donations benefit Suffolk's Annual Fund which allows the university to satisfy both daily operations and yearly initiatives, ensuring students a world-class academic experience and education. From lab equipment to team uniforms, the Annual Fund permits university officials to direct discretionary funds where they are most needed. For more than 30 years, the Annual Fund has been a vital aid for the university in making yearly investments in student activities and academic programs.

"I've chosen not to in any way guide, direct, or influence," university officials in how best to allocate his donations, Pappalardo says.

"I was clear with [university President] David [Sargent] when I started giving for him to feel
free to channel it in whatever direction he wanted," he adds. "Unrestricted funds give the institution or the powers-that-be far more flexibility when deciding whether to put it in this direction or that direction."

**Appreciation for the Constitution-and Academic Excellence-sparks Edward Masterman’s generosity**

Along with good health, Edward Masterman JD ’50, LLD ’90 steadfastly believes nothing is more important than education. A World War II veteran, Masterman was able to attend Suffolk courtesy of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the GI Bill of Rights, which gave thousands of returning servicemen access to higher education. “It was one of the greatest programs created in the history of our country,” says Masterman, who graduated from Suffolk Law. “I believe in strong education very early in life. Without education, nothing else can really happen, and I’ve participated in programs which are committed to that.”

Along with his wife Sydell, Masterman has concentrated on the Academic Excellence cornerstone through the establishment of the Masterman Institute on the First Amendment in the Fourth Estate. They have also been generous supporters of state-of-the-art classrooms and student scholarships.

“I believe those who are educated can understand, or try to understand, what our country is all about, what our Constitution is about, and what the First Amendment is about. That’s why I’ve funded the Masterman Institute,” he explains. “You can’t separate education from the other aspects of what makes our country great. This modest thing I have done is to set up a foundation that, I think, can be important if it helps develop an understanding of the First Amendment and helps the press understand some of their responsibilities.”

**Ann and Armen DerMarderosian put a priority on Student Life and Learning**

For Ann DerMarderosian ’60, DHL ’06 giving to Suffolk is an act of both gratitude and common sense.

“We want to make the gifts we received in life available to others, and to help Suffolk continue to do the wonderful work it’s been doing,” says DerMarderosian, who with her husband Armen ’58, JD ’60, DHL ’06 has been a generous supporter of the University for more than 30 years.

In support of Student Life and Learning, the DerMarderosians are establishing a scholarship to benefit the College of Arts and Sciences and the Law School. While the fine details are still being discussed, Mrs. DerMarderosian would like the recipients to be "not only students who are academically motivated, but are also focused on giving back to the community and contributing to the greater good."

"Such well-rounded students are a boon to Suffolk and society, and the scholarship can both support and celebrate their achievements," she says.

“We’ve chosen [the scholarship] as the way we think we can best give something back for all Suffolk has allowed us to achieve in our lives,” Mrs. DerMarderosian says. "We’ve been delighted to watch the growth of its reputation from when we began – from a one-building schoolhouse to a worldwide campus. Most impressively, it remains true to its original mission. To help it continue along those lines, it takes money to provide for the working-class population. We’d like to continue to see it provide for those who are in greater need than others.”

**The Lynch Foundation is dedicated to Suffolk’s Evolving Campus**

While Suffolk’s urban campus has expanded dramatically in recent years to accommodate the need for more living and working space, investment in its physical plant remains a vital part of the University’s continued success. Evolving Campus is devoted to enhancing Suffolk’s educational opportunities with state-of-the-art facilities for both students and faculty. A gift from the Lynch Foundation will upgrade one of the Suffolk biology department’s most important labs.

Slated for renovation, the Anatomy & Physiology lab has shared space with Comparative Physiology, Scientific writing, and an evening lecture. This has meant that Anatomy & Physiology students have been able to work in the lab only during class time. The proposed addition of “Lab A561” will permit these students greater access for research and independent study as well as increasing efficiencies for faculty preparing coursework. The new lab will increase the department’s lab capacity by 14 percent.

“The Trustees of the Lynch Foundation are proud to facilitate the addition of a teaching laboratory in the department of biology at Suffolk University,” said Katie Everett, the foundation’s executive director. “It is an honor to be a part of a growing, strong, experiential learning environment, and encouraging science participation at such an accomplished university.”

Founded in 1994 by Carolyn and Peter Lynch, the Lynch Foundation has given Suffolk two major gifts. The first was a scholarship, established in 1997, for a graduate of one of the eight inner-city high schools of the Archdiocese of Boston.
Celebrating a Center of Leadership in Public Service

The December 11th opening of The Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service at David J. Sargent Hall underscored the commitment of Suffolk University to promote "research in public policy" and support the work of "emerging and innovative leaders in government and public service." The reception, attended by members of the Suffolk community and a Who's Who of civic leaders, was anchored by keynote speaker and Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley.

Dean Alfred C. Aman Jr. characterized the Center's agenda in three themes: the formation of partnerships with various individuals and organizations; the link between law and public policy (the role lawyers can play on issues such as health care and juvenile justice); and the identification of role models and mentors to contribute to leadership development. He also acknowledged benefactors Jerry and Phyllis Rappaport, whose generous financial support, "leadership and vision, through their shared passion for the law and public policy," made the Center a reality.
Stretch and Lift

By digging deeper, Dennis M. Duggan Jr. JD '78, elevates his alma mater

BY SHARRON KAHN LUTTRELL

LIKE SO MANY Suffolk University students before and after him, Dennis M. Duggan Jr. went to school at night so he could work full time to support his growing family. But the Quincy native hopes it's what he did after earning his JD that will resonate with his fellow alumni.

Duggan and his wife, Mary, have made a $100,000 gift to Suffolk University. Half of the donation has been set aside to establish the Dennis and Mary Duggan Centennial Scholarship. The balance has been directed to the Annual Fund, which supports a range of priorities, including financial aid, campus libraries, technology, curriculum support, and student activities. Donations to the Annual Fund give the University the flexibility to respond to needs as they arise.

"This is very much a stretch gift for my wife and myself—no question about it," says Duggan, who now lives in Milton. "But it would be hard for me to solicit others if I had not stretched and dug deep financially."

Duggan, a partner with the law firm Nixon Peabody LLP, says the gift is an enduring expression of both his gratitude to the University and his commitment to helping shepherd it toward its goals. In his role as chair of the Trustee Development Committee, Duggan works closely with Vice President of Advancement Kathryn Battillo to oversee the direction of alumni relations and fundraising. Along with University President David J. Sargent '54, Duggan has been a key promoter of the $75 million capital campaign—the largest in the University's history.

"Dennis is the ideal partner to be working alongside me and the advancement team to create an award-winning advancement program for our current and future alumni," says Battillo.

Deborah Marson JD '78, former general counsel for Gillette Co., serves on the Trustee Development Committee with Duggan. She says he works tirelessly for the Law School because he believes so passionately in its mission. "Dennis runs that committee almost like a battleship. He has an objective and he guides us to get to that objective," she says.

Jessica Graf JD '97, an associate at Nixon Peabody LLC, says Duggan inspired her to become a Summa level donor. "We've talked about what Suffolk had done for us in our careers. And we've talked about the importance of helping the Law School give other students the opportunities that it gave to us," Graf says.

Duggan's relationship with Suffolk began in 1972, when he was accepted into the Law School's evening division. With a baby at home and another on the way, Duggan drove a furniture delivery truck to make ends meet. Some days he was so rushed there wasn't time to change clothes before class, and he'd show up still wearing his blue delivery uniform. Later he worked in the federal court clerk's office in Boston, where he remained for the rest of his law school career.

Duggan was absorbed with his family and career in the years after earning his degree, but he always felt deeply loyal to Suffolk. So when he was approached to run for the Law School's Alumni Board of Directors, he eagerly accepted. At the time, Duggan was a partner with the Boston firm Hale and Dorr (now WilmerHale). It seemed fitting to offer his experience and leadership skills to the very institution that first opened the law profession to him. Duggan is currently serving his third five-year term as a member of the University's Board of Trustees.

"I realized how fortunate I was to be where I was," Duggan reflects, "and how much it meant to give back to the University and to the Law School that provided me with such opportunities."
It's been a long road since I first entered Suffolk in 1965 as a 21-year-old freshman. Thanks, Suffolk.

Susan (Drevitch) Kelly (BS), president of S.D. Kelly & Associates, Inc., announces "that we have moved to our new office located in Quincy. Please feel free to drop in and say hello! S.D. Kelly & Associates is a global retained search firm, founded in 1987 and servicing the technology sector. Let us know if we can help you in some way."

Samuel Pizzi, Ph.D (BA) lives in Florida with his wife, Alberta. He has been teaching graduate students at Argosy University and maintains a private practice in Venice, Florida and Springfield, MA, where he returns every other month to see patients and friends.

"I just did something completely unique that I thought might interest or inspire someone else in the Suffolk community," Alan Kitty (BS) writes. "At age 59, I rowed the entire length of the Erie Canal in a double scull racing shell for charity. I scull and sweep row in Princeton, New Jersey with the Carnegie Lake Rowing Association. About two years ago, a fellow rower and I were having casual conversation over a beer when suggested we have something of an adventure while doing some community service. He proposed rowing 300 miles in a double scull across the state of New York to raise money for a worthy cause. The timing seemed right as did the cause - supporting organizations that focus on after-care services for survivors of breast cancer and heart disease. So I agreed. Two years later, we launched in the pouring rain at the mouth of the canal in Buffalo, raising $15,000 for the Boston-based Cotting Companies (breast cancer) and The American Heart Association. As important, the event was covered by the television and print media across the entire state. Our triple goals were realized: we had actually rowed the entire length of the canal. Thanks to the media attention, we made people across an entire state aware that survivors of these diseases need more help returning to an excellent quality of life than is offered by many healthcare workers. And, we raised money to help the situation. Now we are looking into continuing the effort. Next year, we hope to launch a relay across the state that will pit rowers against one another for more than just medals. We are challenging them to "Row4Life" in a relay where the grand prize will be awarded for the most money raised by a team and individuals."

NESAD > William Bradbury (DIP) works at the Lowell Sun newspaper and is teaching a graphic design class at Middlesex Community College. He and his wife, Lois, have a studio in Lowell, a fourth-floor space they share with 150 other artists, one of whom is Gary Destramp (DIP '82).

Claudia (Trepanier) Combs (BSJ) writes "after a very active 20-year career in journalism working as a correspondent for The Sun newspaper of Lowell, copy editor for Tidings published by the Diocese of Manchester, NH; and producing a myriad of freelance writing assignments for a variety of commercial and organizational publications, I am now embarking on a new professional career – Music Education. Since childhood, I have been involved in music (studying piano, French horn, flute, guitar, recorders, etc.) and for the past 18 years I have directed children's choirs in local churches, and directed children's theater productions for the Pelham Community Theater's children's performance troupe called The Pelham Penguin Players. In addition, I have directed several school musicals for local New Hampshire schools. Even as an undergraduate, I was actively involved in The Suffolk Theater, performing and working tech in both the adult and children's theater productions. In 2004, I had the opportunity to teach general music education to grades K-2 at a private New Hampshire school. I discovered I loved teaching so much, that in fall 2006, I enrolled as a full-time student at UMass Lowell to earn a second undergraduate degree in Music Studies with a goal to obtain a Masters in Music Teaching, hopefully by 2010. For the future, I will continue to use the journalism/writing skills I acquired at Suffolk.
by penning music education articles and a potential book in music teaching techniques that I am considering. Thank you, Suffolk University, for paving a solid – albeit somewhat diverse – career path that has woven its way through many exciting venues."

1974
Patrick Stack (BA) has been the director of Counseling/Life Development at Webster University, St. Louis, MO, for over 20 years. Patrick’s Suffolk University education springboarded him into graduate school and ultimately his doctorate in pastoral counseling. He holds Missouri State licenses in marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, and state certification in substance abuse counseling. Patrick also has clinical status and approved supervisor status with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapist (AAMFT). Patrick and his wife, P.J. (Pamela June), have been married for 21 years and have two daughters.

1977
Linda (Johnson) Friedrich (BSJ) was recently named Director of Women’s Markets at MassMutual Financial Group in Springfield, MA. Women are responsible for 80 percent of all financial decisions, are the primary breadwinners in one out of three married households, and are starting new businesses at twice the rate of men. Linda is now managing MassMutual’s sponsorship of eight Danskin Triathlons, which enable women to contribute towards the cause of breast cancer research, and to learn more about developing sound financial strategies for themselves. She lives in Westfield, MA, with her husband, Kris, and golden retriever, Kloe.

1983
NESAD > Terri (Thomas) Coutu (DIP) reconnected with NESADSU after a long separation while researching Suffolk for her daughter Holly, who will graduate from high school in June. Terri currently lives in Rhode Island with her husband and another daughter, Leah (14). "We produce a weekly shopping guide called The Reminder, consisting of print advertisements, classified ads and community notes...We also do business cards, letterheads, menus, etc. I also do freelance work, with a small but strong client base."

1987
Andrew Corbett (BSJ) was recently promoted to associate professor with tenure at the Lally School of Management & Technology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. Dr. Corbett has won numerous teaching awards from RPI and national organizations for his innovative instruction of entrepreneurship and strategic management. His research on the cognitive aspects of the entrepreneurial process has been published in leading management journals.

Susan (Tortorici) Marconi (BS) writes "I have been a medical technologist since I graduated. I’ve worked at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center for the last 12 years."

1988
Cynthia Campbell (BSJ) has accepted a position as Communications Manager for the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. The Department handles universal pre-kindergarten initiatives and child care licensing for the state. Prior to joining this state agency, Campbell was the morning SmartRoutes traffic reporter on WCVB’s “Eyewitness” newscast for 12 years and was the Director of Operations for SmartRoutes’ traveler information system, now known as 511 Massachusetts.

1989
NESAD > Mark Fisher (DIP) has taken a leave from real estate (“another casualty of this crazy market”) and has gone back to City Music, where he has worked for nine of the past 12 years. City Music is a two-store chain that sells “most things musical as well as a lesson program with about 300 students.” He’s also just finished a new CD. Mark, who’s been married to his wife Nancy for 10 years, has two stepchildren. He writes that “our daughter has just returned from 27 months in Benin, West Africa and is now enrolled in a Master’s program at Brandeis University. Michael is a big-time computer geek working for the U. Mass. president’s office on the network keeping all state colleges running. I feel like an underachiever hanging with this crowd sometimes!”

NESAD > Jack Kician (DIP) has been with the Holbek Group, Inc. for the past 12 years. Holbek is an education exhibit design and fabrication company in Orange, MA. While the company does a wide variety of jobs, most involve natural history, for clients such as the Audubon Society, the National Parks Service, and various zoos and aquariums. They have also worked with clients such as DreamWorks, Warner Bros., and Verizon. Additionally, Jack does freelance work for the Boston Children’s Museum.

NESAD > Suzanne Fletcher (DIP) is living in Livermore, CO, where she is the marketing manager and designer, with three others, for Scuba Schools International in Ft. Collins. She has two children and one stepchild.

1990
Karen (Doucette) Ferrara (BS) was recently named the Director of the Feinstein Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI. The center connects college students with agencies in the local community through curricular and co-curricular service.

Karen resides in Bristol with husband, Frank Ferrara Jr., and their two children, Genevieve, 9, and Frank III, 4.

James Nestor (BSBA) was recently elected Ward 4 City Councilor in Malden.

1991
Pamela Piscopo (AA) has recently relocated to Savannah, GA, where she is owner and president of Flaunt, an upscale boutique specializing in fragrances, local beauty products and soaps, as well as nationally recognized lines. Pam, a member of the Savannah Chamber of Commerce, has received local press as a successful female business owner and Flaunt has quickly become a local favorite. Pam welcomes the opportunity to reconnect with Suffolk alumni at Flaunt.

1993
Ann Sabbey (BSBA) has been named vice president at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. This distinction is awarded to consistent top producers in the company.

1995
Melissa (Downabby) Donato (BA) welcomed her son Vincent "Rocco" Donato on July 4. She is married to Antonino Donato, and they live in Canton, MA. She's been working for the past three years as a sales representative for an international textile company.

It is with great sadness that we learned from Anne Blevins of the death of Christopher Nolin (BFA, DIP). Chris, who was living in the Albany area, had been the operations manager and then a group sales manager for Macy’s, before becoming the assistant manager of the Kohl’s store in Saratoga Springs. In 2006, he started Chris Nolin Home Improvement Services, combining his retail background with his interior design training. Chris leaves a wife, Tammy Bamford Nolin, one brother, and numerous other relatives. A funeral was held on November 30, 2007.

1996
NESAD > David Phile (BFA, DIP) writes that "the best Christmas present" he got this year was to find out he’d passed the NCIDQ (National Council for Interior Design Qualification) exam. This rigorous exam is required for licensing (where applicable) and for professional membership in various interior design associations.

1998
Cynthia Davis (BA) and Steve Molis were married on August 11, 2007 in Boothbay, ME. Cynthia, who serves as a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Board of Alumni Directors, is currently an adjunct faculty member in the Psychology Department at Suffolk, and is completing her doctorate in Applied Child Development at Tufts University.
I Class Notes

2001
NESAD > Sarah (Rowe) Ankrom (BFA) has returned to Rhode Island, this time to Hope Valley, where she and her husband have bought their first house. In addition to working on the house, she has a new job in advertising design with the Westerly Sun in Rhode Island.

"I'm now relocated to Florida and teaching English to students in an alternative program for high school students," Lana Queenenville (BA) writes. "I never thought I'd be a teacher but all those great professors at Suffolk were inspiring! I'll be getting married in June of 2008 to Jacob Tesler, who is just about to finish his degree and become a teacher himself."

Roxanne Romulus (BS) writes: "I was asked to speak at the Diversity Leaders of Tomorrow Conference held in Atlanta in October. It was a wonderful experience. I discussed my thoughts on leadership, diversity, career development as well as some of the professional associations that I am affiliated with. It was attended by over 250 graduate students from Georgia as well as recruiters from several different companies."

Chris Sampson (BA) has accepted an international assignment in the global press office of the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. As a press officer, Chris will serve as a spokesperson responding to business and financial inquiries from reporters all over the world. Chris has relocated from Philadelphia to London, England.

2002
Erin Hogan (BA) and Matthew Guinen (BSBA) were married in Boston on September 8, 2007. Matt has recently been promoted to e-Marketing Specialist at VistaPrint.com and Erin works at Harvard Business School in the Executive Education department. The happy couple currently lives in Lexington, MA, with their cat, Penny Lane.

Lance Morganelli (BA) has been the copywriter for ARCO Medical Advertising for nearly a year. "My career has come full circle since freshman year when I declared advertising as a major," writes Morganelli. "Two weeks into the semester when no one arrived to cover a speech I was only assigned to photograph for the Suffolk Journal, I decided to take notes on it and write a quick story. The editor loved it. I was hooked. Four articles later I declared journalism. Five years later — back in the advertising field — I am utterly grateful for the peer talent and faculty mentorship that was the Suffolk Journal. Thank you, Dr. Jon Bekken."

NESAD > Shari (Longstaff) Mason (BFA) and her family (husband Russ and children Russell and Siss) have relocated to Petersburg, VA, where Russ has taken a position as an assistant pastor, alongside a friend from Zion Bible College. Shari is using her fine arts training as a muralist in both residential and commercial settings. As she says, "I enjoy getting out of the house to paint. I'm hoping that once the boys are bigger, I'll be able to do it more."

Laura Piscope (BA) has joined the Suffolk Advancement Office as the Director of Alumni Relations for the College of Arts and Sciences. In her new role Laura will work closely with Dean Greenberg and his staff as well as the college alumni board in expanding alumni programs and outreach. All college alumni are encouraged to connect or reconnect with Laura.

NESAD > Nicholas Heigelmann (DIP) has returned to Maine after a stint in New York, has left Foote, Cone & Belding for a position as a web designer at RDA International. RDAI is a "full-service advertising, interactive and experiential agency focusing on special interest categories" in the hospitality, technology, entertainment, and fashion fields.

NESAD > Kodiak Starr (BFA), while still in New York, has left Foote, Cone & Belding for a position as a web designer at RDA International. RDAI is a "full-service advertising, interactive and experiential agency focusing on special interest categories" in the hospitality, technology, entertainment, and fashion fields.

2003
Kristen Noyes (BSBA) is Vice President of Human Resources at Meredith Village Savings Bank. A native of North Conway, Noyes came to MVSB after nearly four years in human resources at Community Bank and Trust Company in Wolfeboro. Kristen started her career as an accountant in Boston before moving into the human resources field. In 2004, she returned to her hometown of North Conway and joined Community Bank and Trust in Wolfeboro as a human resources assistant. She was promoted to Assistant Vice President, Human Resources in 2006. Kristen recently accepted a volunteer role as treasurer for the Salvation Army's Meredith Service unit and will also be volunteering at the WLNH Children's Auction as part of the MVSB team.

2004
Jodi-Tatiana Charles (BS) for the second year has managed and coordinated the popular Massachusetts Conference for Women, a one-day event that provides a forum for more than 7,500 women to interact with speakers such as Maya Angelou, Jack & Suzy Welch, as well as experts in the fields of international and national politics, health, media, business, finance, and personal development. Prior to this position, Jodi was Deputy Press Secretary to Governor Mitt Romney, producer of the award-winning NECN program NewsNight hosted by Chet Curtis and Jim Braude, and associate producer for The Marty in the Morning Show on Boston's WXXS, "Kiss-108." She is currently completing her MBA and has been elected to the College of Arts and Sciences Board of Alumni Directors at Suffolk.

Callie Davison (BA) is proud to announce the birth of her son, Ezra Daniel Davison with husband Noah. Ezra was born six weeks early on September 7, 2007, weighing four pounds 13 ounces and measuring 18" long.

Julie Pham (BSBA) recently joined the Screen Actors Guild and worked on some upcoming feature films and television series. She wrote the cover story on Frances Rivera from Channel 7 News in the fall issue of AsianBoston Magazine.

Ryan Ruggiero (BSBA) was recently promoted to the position of Assignment Desk Manager at CNBC Business News. Before that, Ryan worked as the night desk manager at the NBC station in Boston.

2005
"I am teaching English as an adjunct professor at Quincy College in addition to working in the business office at Kiss 108 FM and Jam'n 94.5 FM," writes Leah Bagas (BA).

2006
NESAD > Jin Koh (BFA) has returned to South Korea and is getting ready to apply to graduate school for painting.

NESAD > Kelly Pearson (BFA) has recently moved to New Bedford, where she has bought "an historic sea captain's house." She is freelancing for such clients as PartyLite and Thomson CompuMark.

"I received my MBA degree with a concentration in finance from Suffolk in January 2008," announces Michelle Sibiga (BSBA). "To celebrate my graduation, I will be going on an Alaskan cruise in May."

2007
Ivette Argueta (BSBA) resides in Boston and is employed in the marketing department at Simmons College.

NESAD > Timothy Enright (BSBA) has moved back to New Jersey. He's now working in New York at Match Fine Print.

"Things are going great and I could not be happier in my position," Timothy reports. "A small firm with great people that understand that this field is not about being a commodity but an art... exactly what I always talked about at NESAD."
Sarah Krull (BS) of Chicago won a $2,500 grant from Do Something, which recognizes those who help educate kids and families on how they can lead healthier, more active lives. This fall, hundreds of young people from across the country submitted their healthy living ideas and programs and Do Something named ten grant winners. Sarah won the grant for a program on topics such as You Are What You Eat, Journey of Your Food, and Growing Your Food, while simultaneously building an interactive garden.

NESAD > Kaitlin Palaza (BFA) left Duncan Hughes Interiors and started a new job in September at CBT/Childs, Bertman, Tseckares Architects in Boston.

GRADUATE

1973
"I am the senior receptionist at First Marblehead Corporation, a company that deals in private student loans," reports Carol (Kaplan) Levine (BA ’71, MED). "I have been with them for 13 years. My daughter Amy is a student loan specialist at First Marblehead. My younger daughter, Heather, is a junior at California State University, Northridge."

Richard E. Lockhart (MBA) currently operates Lockhart Communications, a Lowell-based business-to-business communications company he founded in 1989. He serves on the Sawyer Business School’s Alumni Board of Directors, the Advisory Board of The Center for Innovation and Change Leadership at the Sawyer Business School and the Marketing Advisory Committee. He is president of The Merrimack Valley Chapter of Suffolk University Alumni. He is active in his community of Lowell, MA, serving on the Planning Board and the Historic Board. He resides in Lowell with his wife, Rosemary. They have three daughters and three grandchildren.

1975
Nancy Weems-Humphrey (BS ’73, MED) writes, "I retired with full benefits from education after 35 years of service. I was a guidance counselor at Lowell High School for over 20 years and prior to that, teacher/guidance counselor in Wilmington, MA, for 16 years. I am currently starting a small business, The College Planner."

1976
"On January 5th Red Coach Realty celebrated its 30th anniversary," Richard Parziaie (MBA) writes of the company he has run with his father. "Also my son Chris joined the business recently and my son Mike is attending Suffolk as a senior."

1979
John Dobbyn (MBA) lives in Canton and owns Northeast Chem-Dry Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning, which serves residential and commercial customers in the Boston area.

1985
Effie (Pappas) Brickman (BS ’82, MBA) has been involved in Massachusetts healthcare since graduating from Suffolk’s MPA/H program. She is a director with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors and has been with the coalition since March 1999. Previously, Effie was with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts, working on product and program development.

Stephen Brickman (MPA) has been a healthcare administrator since graduating from Suffolk’s MPA/H program. He is currently the Practice Administrator of Garden City Pediatrics in Beverly. Prior to 1997, Stephen was Director of Operations at Lynn Community Health Center and between 1985 and 1988 was a hospital administrator with the U.S. Air Force, stationed in Clovis, NM. Effie and Stephen reside in Andover, MA, and have two children, Alexander, age 10, and Elizabeth, age 5.

1988
Alex Geourantas (MPA) is currently serving as assistant city clerk for the City of Boston. His wife, Nancy Geourantas, is Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Human Resources at the MSPCA in Jamaica Plain. Alex and Nancy live in Roslindale.

1990
Vivian Stameris (MBA), who is currently Director of Nursing Finance at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center in Roslindale writes, “I have the utmost praise for my experience at Suffolk.”

“I live in Montreal and own a high-end specialty guitar store called Boutique Tone,” writes Jeremy Stern (MBA). “It is a unique niche store that caters to professional musicians, guitar collectors, and rock stars. We are the only store of this kind in Canada and are among just a handful of stores in the U.S. We sell in store and on the Web all over the world. I live in Montreal with my wife, two kids, and four step-children.”

1992
Arthur Makar (MED) was recently named an adjunct faculty member at New York University, teaching in the school’s nonprofit management and fundraising program. He continues his “day job” as Executive Director of The Caring Community, a multi-site senior services organization in Greenwich Village and Lower Manhattan.

1993
Craig Hall (MPA) was elected president of the 2007 Class of Robert J. Thompson Fellows for the Council of State Governments. Craig recently completed a series called Innovating Government for the Weymouth News and is currently an associate faculty member for the College of Undergraduate Business & Management for the University of Phoenix. Craig and wife Julie adopted their son, Tyler, this past April. Craig is the Chief Financial Officer for the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council.

1996
Timothy Gramig (EMBA) is a commercial real estate broker licensed in Kentucky and Indiana and has been named as retail property specialist in the Colliers Henry K. Moore office in Louisville, KY.

Angela Nunez (BSBA ’82, MBA ’87, APC) has published her first book, With These Words... Heartfelt Poetry (AuthorHouse). Angela believes that in poetry, "love speaks to all of us and reminds us of its power." Angela has three degrees from Suffolk University, Sawyer Business School, where she sits on the Sawyer Business School Alumni Board of Directors and the University Alumni Council. She currently works in Boston as a marketing communications consultant for an investment management firm.

Anunnziata (Sodano) Varela (BA ’94, MA) had a baby girl named Solana in August. Annunziata and her husband, David, live in Weston with Solana and their son, Massimo.

2000
Gina Freccero (MBA) writes “after completing the MBA program at Suffolk in the summer of ’00, I purchased my first home in Malden and received a job offer from RSM McGladrey, a leading provider of financially focused business services. I worked as a business consultant for RSM for a year and a half. During my time there, I worked on various types of projects ranging from financial transformation to project management to ERP system implementations in many states. Recently, I accepted a wonderful opportunity to work as a business analyst for TomTom, the world’s largest navigation solution provider. I travel between our local office in Concord and the Company’s Netherlands headquarters to bridge the gap and provide knowledge transfer between our international parent company and the U.S. My main focus is ERP systems and internal growth projects. I am also a member of the philanthropic committee at TomTom and hope to work with local organizations to provide great opportunities for employees to give back to the community.”
2001

Cari-Lynn (Gershman) Fisher (MBA) and her husband, Scott, welcomed their son, Joseph Liam, on July 9, 2007. Cari is currently consulting from home and in February she started a Stroller Fit Program for moms and their babies in Mendon. The family just relocated back to Whitinsville, MA from Las Vegas, NV.

Robert O'Brien (EMBA) of Milton recently completed the “Fundraising Basics Course” sponsored by the Massachusetts Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). “It was a fantastic experience,” he said. “The lessons my instructors taught me would have taken me many years to learn on my own. I’m confident that what I learned will help me to be a much more effective fundraiser for the rest of my career.” Robert, married and a father of two, is currently the Director of Development for Massachusetts Citizens for Life.

Gabriel Vonleh (MHA) is the new vice president of Operations for Fund Administration and Membership Services at Amalgamated Life. In his new position, Gabriel will be responsible for overseeing eligibility, collections, new membership, and external audits of participating funds. Gabriel has over 20 years of experience in the healthcare field. Although Gabriel spent his childhood in the Boston area, he is a native of Liberia, West Africa. He has been an active member of TADDA, an organization that assists in the school and health reconstruction efforts of his war-torn homeland. Gabriel also serves as a mentor for inner-city youth in NYC, providing guidance in the area of career development and self advancement.

2002

"I got married on July 14, 2007," Andrew Morse (MBA) writes. "We were married in Marblehead and the reception was at Tupper Manor in Beverly. We were surrounded by family and friends at the ceremony, including friends from Suffolk University's MBA class of 2002 and their spouses. Following the wedding ceremony, we honeymooned in Maui, Hawaii and had a wonderful time."

NIESAD > Shelley (Robertson) Sullivan (MID) writes: "I just finished reading the fall alumni newsletter and enjoyed it as always – keep up the good work! Since graduating nearly six years ago, I've been with Warner & Associates, a healthcare design firm here in Boston. About a year ago, W&A was bought by HDR, Inc., a huge healthcare architecture, design, and engineering company with offices all over the country. So we are now the Boston office of HDR. I still love healthcare design, but the true joy of my life is my family, my husband, and our daughter. I attached a picture of our little cutie, Cara. She'll be one in January, and every day with her is a new and wonderful adventure."

2003

In 2007, Vanessa Riggio (MPA) produced a campaign throughout Boston called "Cure on the Runway" to raise awareness and money for causes such as breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and diabetes, through her personal event business, eVent Productions. These upscale fashion shows generated lifesaving funds and awareness for all the organizations involved. In October, Vanessa managed and coordinated the Step Out To Fight Diabetes Walk for the American Diabetes Association at the Hatch Shell.

2004

Jiali Gong (MBA) has been elected as President of Nanjing University Alumni Association in Greater Boston.

Eric Snyder (MBA) recently completed the Wharton Business School’s Executive Professional Development Program. The program focused on leadership, innovation, negotiation, and sales management. Eric was recently promoted to Global Marketing Director at Tyco Electronics in Harrisburg, PA.

2005

Colleen Casey (MS) has begun her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. She works at the F.L. Chamberlain School, a residential treatment program for adolescents.

Matthew Grondin (MSPS) recently took a position in foundation development at WGBH, Boston's PBS station. In September 2007, he became engaged to Jessica Shamaker of Boston, and is planning an August wedding. He is in his second year with the Suffolk Government Department Alumni Board.

Tonika Farrell (BS ’04, MSCJ) is presently working as a law librarian for Rackemann, Sawyer & Brewster.

2006

Michael Gilleberto (MPA) and his wife, Jennifer, are living in Worcester. Michael is Staff Assistant for Operations for the City of Worcester, where he has worked since 2005.

Jeff Ziskowski (MBA) is a Boston-based project management consultant. He is also the owner of All Service Concierge, a Beacon Hill-based personal assistance and travel service.

Brenda Lavasta's (MBA) Suffolk degree is a natural extension of her interest in youth development, which led her to volunteer with the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston and Women of Action – a mentoring program for incarcerated youth. She has also served as a volunteer for the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and collaborated with other MBA graduates to deliver pro-bono consulting services to local area nonprofits as a member of the Community Consulting Teams. Professionally, Brenda began at Harvard Business School as a Program Coordinator. Most recently, she served as the Admissions Coordinator for Enrollment and Admissions Services for Executive Education. Brenda is the daughter of Dominician immigrants and grew up in Lawrence, MA. She is one of six new Diversity Fellows with experience in health, education, youth development and mentoring, literacy programs and nonprofit management and a passion for making a difference in their community who are kicking off the second year of Associated Grant Makers (ACM) Diversity Fellowship Program. Through this Diversity Program, Brenda will have the opportunity to enter the world of philanthropy and contribute their skills to this vital sector.

2007

NIESAD > Hanna Kim-Seda (MID) has taken a job with Zebrowski Design Group, a hospitality design firm in Culver City, CA. Zebrowski focuses primarily on hotels and restaurants, as well as some private residential projects including the Ritz-Carlton in Half Moon Bay (near San Francisco), a resort in Tucson, and an intercontinental Hotel in Montreal.

"I have been working at State Street Corporation for six years," Melanie Salome (MA) writes. "After graduating with a Master of Arts in Communication in May 2007, I was promoted to assistant vice president. I am a database support analyst for our international client base in Hong Kong, Dublin, and Toronto. I manage the site conversions of their database repository and have been an integral..."
part of State Street's database initiative within the IT Data
warehouse department."

NESAD > Emille Tucker (MID) has a new job with the inte-
rior design firm Manual de Santaren in Boston.

NESAD > Karen Urosevich (MID) started a new job at
Benson Interiors, as a residential interior design firm in
Boston.

LAW

1974

Michael J. Wallach (JD), author of
"How To Get Arrested", instructed the
class he created for UCLA Extension
this winter. "This Business of Acting,"
aims to inform and motivate actors.
This marks the fourth year the class
has been offered by the college.

1977

Kenneth Graham (JD) won the 2007 Greater Bridgeport Bar
Association Tennis Championship. On a professional note, he
was reappointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
of Connecticut to the office of Superior Court State Referee.
This is his third appointment as State Referee since his 2003
early retirement from his former position of State Assistant
Attorney General.

1979

Marcia (McGair) Ippolito (JD), Chief of Legal Services for
the Rhode Island Department of Administration, is president
of the Rhode Island Bar Association. Since 2004, Marcia
has been employed by the Rhode Island Department of Admini-
stration's Division of Legal Services, as chair of the Adminis-
tration Practice Group providing specialized legal representa-
tion to the Rhode Island Division of Taxation and the Rhode
Island Division of Motor Vehicles and its boards. She is a member of the
Rhode Island Bar Association Executive Committee and served as Chair-
person of the District Court Bench/Bar Committee, Government Lawyers
Committee, and the Annual Meeting Committee. She is a fellow of the
Rhode Island Bar Foundation and a fellow of the American
Bar Association. Her professional associations include serv-
ing as a fellow, board member, and former vice president
of the St. Thomas More Society of Rhode Island. She was a
member of the St. Francis Chapel and City Ministry Center
re-founding steering committee; Rhode Island Supreme
Court Public Access to Court Records Task Force; American
Bar Association; and the Rhode Island representative of the
Women Advocate Subcommittee. Marcia has a lifelong inter-
est in the sciences, oceanography, and swimming. She en-
j oys spending time with her husband, Joe, and both are avid
Providence College basketball supporters.

"After spending 14 years in Hong Kong and Sydney in the
 corporate real estate lending sector, I returned to Boston
with Wells Fargo to focus on the residential market," George
Johnson (JD) writes. "A very different, challenging, and
exciting time! I enjoy seeing old classmates and meeting
new alumni."

Kevin Wall (JD) writes, "I recently joined the SULS adjunct
faculty teaching Accounting for Lawyers. I also teach Tax Fac-
tors for Business Decisions and Cost Control Techniques in
the graduate program at Harvard University."

1980

Jordan Fiore (JD) writes "I was recently elected to the Taun-
ton City Council. I previously served there from 1998-1990
and 1992-2002 and I had been on the school committee from
2002 until now."

1982

James Barretto (BS '77, JD) is currently a partner in the
law firm of Bellotti & Barretto, P.C., which he co-founded in
1989. Prior to that, he served as a Middlesex County assis-
tant district attorney. He has also served as legal advisor to
various House Committees in the Massachusetts House of
Representatives and special counsel to the House Commit-
tee on Post Audit and Oversight. Jim joined FOX 25 News as
a legal analyst in 2002 covering breaking legal news and pro-
viding specialized coverage involving scores of controversial
legal issues. Nationally, he has appeared on Fox News and as
a guest legal analyst for Court TV. Jim lives on the North
Shore of Massachusetts with his wife and their two sons.

1984

Anne (Winnifred) Hulecki (JD) celebrates the 10th an-
niversary of her law office, focusing on copyright, software
and technology licensing, trademark, commercial and gen-
eral business for emerging businesses as well as established
international corporations. She will chair a Massachusetts
Continuing Legal Education seminar on contract negotiation
this May.

Victor Sloan (JD) has reunited with Michael Hooker (JD
BS) to form the "Michael Hooker Experience," a Northamp-
ton based eclectic rock band. Vic and Mike were founding
members of the Persuasive Lips band that entertainied Suf-
folk Law crowds during the mid-80s. Vic continues his solo
practice in Uxbridge, concentrating in guardianship law and
criminal defense. He also plays drums with "Randy Robbins
and the Jilted Lovers," and released a CD this year with the
Joe Cotton Band.

1985

Marcine Anderson (JD) is the co-chair of the 20th National
Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) national
convention which will be held in Seattle, WA in November.
NAPABA is the national association of Asian Pacific American
(APA) attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students.

1986

Anthony Lepore (JD) continues to practice communications
law as the principal of his own firm with offices in Wash-
ington, D.C. and South Florida, and is pleased to note that his
daughter has been accepted as a freshman to the College of
Arts & Sciences. He and his wife, Marla, now turn to preparing
for their son's college application process.

1987

Debra Breton (JD) writes "Since I graduated from Suffolk
Law, I went on to get my LLM and graduated in 1996. In 2003 I
went out on my own as a sole practitioner. In 2005, I opened
a mortgage brokerage company. One Stop Mortgage Compa-
ny, LLC. I have two daughters: Meghann, age 12, and Briquette
(Gigi), age 5. I am a single mom."

MargaretAnn Kerkhoff (JD) writes "I currently reside in
Brookline, NH, a small community just outside of Nashua,
with my husband of 21 years, David, and our 3 children. Our
oldest, Jason, was born 7 weeks after graduation and is cur-
rently a sophomore in college. We have been here for just
over 4 years after 7 corporate moves with David's career. I
have been in real estate for three years and love it. I would
love to hear from fellow 1987 graduates."

1988

Maureen McDonough (JD) is the Director of Program Ad-
ministration for Allston Development Group at Harvard Uni-
versity, located in Cambridge. She is married to Lou Tammy
with two children: Griffin, age 10, and 6-year-old Kierce. The
family resides in Canton.

AnnMarie Cienava Rocco (BA '83, JD) is a partner in the
Connecticut law firm Polineir, Polineir, Antin & Cienava Rocco,
PC. Her husband, Steven, is an architect. AnnMarie, Steven,
and their daughter, Caroline, live in a 1799 center chimney
colonial in a little village of historic homes on the bank of the
Connecticut River.
1991
Elizabeth Arwine (JD) is the Chief Patent Attorney and Intellectual Property Counsel for the U.S. Army Medical Command and the U.S. Army Medical Research 

8 Materiel Command. She is responsible for the intellectual property needs of 18 clinics and hospitals and 8 laboratories and armed forces organizations. With the Army and while on vacations, she has been able to travel to many different countries. She is very sad to report that her husband of 17 years, Mark Clement, died fairly recently from cancer.

Elizabeth (Croke) Comproni (JD) has relocated her office to Quincy. Her concentration is in family law.

"After a long stint in private practice, I am now Director of Intellectual Property at ConforMIS, Inc., a pre-IPO medical device company in Burlington," writes Nicholas Triano III (JD). Nick lives in North Andover with his wife Jane (Owens) JD '88, and children Lydia (UMass '11) and Nicholas (St. John's Prep '10).

1994
Russell Kirshy (JD) writes: "I have my own practice, limited to criminal defense and personal injury. I have been living in Port Charlotte, FL for the past 13 years with my wife, Angela, and 3 children."

1995
Patricia Hider (JD) has been a magistrate in Hamilton, OH serving under Judge Randy Rogers at the Butler County Probate Court, since 2003. Prior to joining the probate court, Patricia worked as an aide to the area courts judges and was engaged in private practice. Before working for the courts, she was the Director of the Patent Estate for Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc. and also worked for the Procter & Gamble Company as Counsel for Patents. She has published numerous articles in medical journals and spent time as an instructor at the Emory University Hospital 

School of Medicine. Patricia, who resides in Hamilton, has competed at the national level in Olympic recurve archery. She holds the record in Ohio for the highest score during a tournament at 60 meters. In addition, she is an avid fly-fisher and also enjoys skeet shooting. She is a lover of Siamese cats and Daschund dogs and is an accomplished cook.

1996
Jeannine McNaught Reardon (BS '93, JD) authored a lead article in the Suffolk University Law Review for the 2007 academic year, Volume XL, Number 4, entitled "Selecting Supreme Court Justices: Preserving the System, Protecting with Professionalism." She currently lives in Maryland with her husband David Reardon (BS '93, JD '99) and their 3-year-old daughter, Ashley. Additionally, David, an Inspector- 

Attorney for the United States Postal Inspection Service, was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States of America on May 1, 2006. Jeannine and David both serve on the Board of Directors for the Suffolk University Law School Alumni Association of Metropolitan Washington D.C.

Kimberly Kozemchak Paster (JD) "just wanted to let you know that my husband, Bradley, and I had another baby girl, Katherine Olivia, on June 12, 2007. She joins her very proud big sister, Caroline Colia, who is now 4 1/2 years old. I'm still working (part-time) at Holland & Knight in Boston in the Syndication Practice Group."

1998
Melissa (Fletcher) Craig (JD) had a daughter, Katelyn Alyssa Craig, on April 24, 2007. She writes, "I live with my husband, David, and my three daughters (Katelyn, Lauren, and Jillian) and work as a staff attorney for South Coastal Counties Legal Services in Fall River, Massachusetts."

Jessica (Shlok) Maher (JD) writes "my husband, Jeff, and I welcomed our second child, William Jeffrey Maher, on January 10. He joins big sister Helen, who is 2 1/2."

General Sales Manager Augusto Rojas, Jr. (JD) is looking forward to another great season at McCoy Stadium, home of the Pawtucket Red Sox Triple-A affiliate of the World Series Champion Boston Red Sox. He invites all his former classmates to come and see Boston's future stars at family-friendly McCoy!

1999
Sean Leonard (JD) writes "I am a partner in the Boston office of Holland & Knight LLP, where I represent investors and syndicators in tax-advantaged investments, primarily involving low-income housing and/or historic rehabilitation tax credits under the Internal Revenue Code. I live in Newton with my wife, Stacy, and our four children. I coach a number of youth sports teams (soccer, basketball, and baseball), and just completed my first marathon in Orlando, Florida."

Anita (Czerniwiski) Thomas (BS '93, JD), her husband Scott, and sons Tyler, Matthew, and Ryan, have been living in Wilmslow, England, since Scott accepted an international assignment with his company in August 2006. "We have all enjoyed living in another country and have done lots of exploring," Anita writes. "We have travelled throughout England, Scotland and Ireland. We have visited family in Poland, and explored Paris, Barcelona, Stockholm, Venice, Florence, and Rome." Scott and Anita also celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary with a short trip (alone) to Nice and Monte Carlo. The family will return to their Wilmington, MA, home in June.

2001
Irina (Nirsberg) Gott writes, "my husband Ryan (JD) and I had our second baby on November 17, 2007. His name is Aaron Thomas. Our daughter, Abigail Rachel, was born in May of 2004."

2002
James Enlow (JD) writes that "on October 24, 2007, my wife Sara and I had a baby boy, named William Richard Enlow II. I also recently started a new job as a production attorney for Harpo, Inc."
Justin Fabella (JD) and Alison (Gormley) Fabella (JD) proudly announce the birth of their first child, Gavin Mark, who was born on November 2, 2007. Alison is currently Assistant General Counsel to the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department, and Justin recently joined the law firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson as an associate.

Mark Iacono (JD) has been named a partner at the law firm of Correira & Associates (now Correira & Iacono). In addition to his practice in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, Mark will serve as the partner-in-charge of the satellite office in Naples, FL. Mark joined the firm in 2006 as a senior associate concentrating in the areas of estate tax planning, business planning, and asset protection. He is a frequent speaker and writer on issues of Florida residency for New Englanders, and authored an article for Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly on that subject in June of 2007. Prior to law school, he worked at The Golf Channel in Orlando. A native of Warwick and current resident of Providence’s East Side, Iacono is an avid golfer, participating in local and regional amateur tournaments. He is a volunteer with the Alumni Association of Providence Country Day School and with the Golf Foundation of Rhode Island, where he is active at its Button Hole Golf Course, which provides programs to inner city youth.

William Moorhouse (JD) returned from Iraq in June 2007. He deployed as the Chief of Administrative and Civil Law with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. He is now working towards his LLM at the Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia.

“I am currently working for Fidelity Investments in their risk department,” reports Lisa Parent (JD). “My husband, Sean, and I welcomed our second daughter, Makenna Myrtle Rose, on October 25, 2007. Makenna joins Casadie, who is 2½.”

David Skinner (JD) is now an attorney-advisor at the U.S. Tax Court in Washington, D.C. He and his four cats have a nice apartment in Alexandria, VA, and are coming to enjoy a mid-Atlantic/southern lifestyle. His big question: whether to stay in DC. (probably with the feds) or to return to MA (and probably join a firm) when this posting ends in 2009.

2003

Kristen (Vogel) Blabey has been working at Price, Postel & Parma LLP in Santa Barbara, CA since 2005, doing trusts and estates and taxation work. In addition, she and her husband, Tom, recently had their first child, a daughter named Cyanne Marie Ellis Blabey, born September 26, 2007. Kristen greatly enjoys juggling the duties and joys of motherhood with her legal practice. If any fellow alumni are in the area, please get in touch as she would love to hear from you.

On September 14, 2007, Katerina Callahan (JD) got engaged to Cristiano Colitti (JD). Katerina reports that they are planning a 2009 wedding and “recently purchased our first home and moved away from New England.”

Sean Higgins (JD) married Lindsey (Burke) Higgins (JD) on June 23, 2007, in South Dartmouth, MA. Sean writes that “the wedding reception was at Lindsey’s parents’ house, where we had a great bunch of alumni.”

Kyla McSweeney was married to James Burton, on October 13, 2007. The wedding was held at St. Ignatius in Chestnut Hill and the reception at the Exchange Conference Center in Boston. “James and I were happy to celebrate with many of my Suffolk classmates including maid of honor, Melinda Troy (JD),” Kyla writes.

Julie (Warshafsky) Fraser (JD) is happy to report that she was married to Kevin Fraser at Stow Acres Country Club. “We honeymooned in Mazatlan, Mexico,” Julie writes. “Two of my bridesmaids were women I became friends with in law school and two others attended. I am employed as a litigation associate at Badger, Dolan, Parker & Cohen in Boston and am pursuing my MBA on a part-time basis.”

Nicole (Armstrong) Ramos (JD) writes “I was married two weeks after Julie in October 2006 at OceanCliff in Newport, RI. My husband and I honeymooned in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico. One of my bridesmaids, Pamela (Nasuti) Magnano (JD), was a woman I became best friends with in law school and several other law school friends attended. Two months after our wedding, my husband and I purchased a home in Windham, NH. I continue to be employed at Davis & Davis, PC. in North Reading, MA as a family law attorney where I have been practicing for 3½ years.”

Stephen Silveri (JD) opened the Law Office of Stephen D. Silveri in Dedham after graduating in May 2003. He has been focusing his efforts in residential real estate and estate planning matters. Over the last several years, he has become a routine continuing legal education instructor at the Boston Bar Association, Massachusetts Bar Association, and Tri-County Board of Realtors, where he lectures about real estate contracts, practice, and procedure. In September 2007, he was selected to be a part of the Boston Bar Association’s Public Interest Leadership Program. This spring, he will run his eighth marathon to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society with its Boston Team-In-Training. This will be his fourth year on the team and second year serving as a mentor to new marathon runners.

2004

Lori A. Atkins (BS ’01, JD) recently left her position as an Assistant District Attorney with the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office and joined the law firm Marcus, Enrico, Emmer and Brooks, P.C. Lori is a litigation associate practicing commercial and residential real estate matters. She also serves as a member of the CAS Alumni Board of Directors and is an Adjunct Faculty member in the Government Department.

Ben Kurtzman (JD) and his wife, Gretchen Siegchrist, welcomed a baby girl, Clare Siegchrist Kurtzman, in October 2007.

“I was married on May 12, 2007, to Carla Wahnon,” William Shaw (JD) writes. “I am currently Patent Counsel at Boston Scientific Corp. Carla is Director, Business Development at Fidelity Family Office Services.”

Adam Stewart (JD) and Alyson (Bagley) Steward (JD) were married on April 21, 2007. Adam is an associate at Shapiro Haber & Urmy LLP in Boston, and Alyson is an associate at Ropes & Gray LLP in Boston. Brian Baggott (JD ’05) was the best man. The couple live in South Boston.

2005

Wayne Carroll (JD) has a growing IP law practice in Phoenix, AZ. He has recently moved offices to make room for his practice. Wayne has five children and two dogs and loves living in the community of Anthem, AZ.

Rory Pfeiffer (JD) writes “I was married on November 3, 2007, in Chicago. We live in Davis Square in Somerville.”

2007

Sara Stanley (JD) married Joseph Atchinson on September 2, 2007, in West Glover, Vermont. Sara is enjoying her DOJ Honors Program clerkship with the Boston Immigration Court, conveniently located across the street from Joe, the manager of quality control and training at American Student Assistance.”
The Blonde Leading the Blonde

The woman in the curly blonde wig was eyeing me. There was something she wanted to know.

We exchanged hellos and smiles every day at 5:30—the appointed hour for our radiation treatments at The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute—but we hadn't really spoken.

Each evening, I would change into my hospital gown, sit in the waiting area with a half-dozen other women, and take refuge behind a magazine. I did not want to be there. I did not want to make friends. I did not want to engage in any discussions about cancer, God forbid, because my cancer was gone, gone, gone. It was a barely-there carcinoma in my right breast, caught early and almost entirely removed in the biopsy. Surgery was a breeze. Now I just had to get through these next six weeks of daily radiation and I could move past it all.

I never intended to join the cancer survivors' club (I guess no one does). My feeling was, if I allowed myself to participate in anything more than my necessary medical appointments, it would be giving the cancer more power over my life than it deserved. I didn't visit chat rooms, wear the Pink Ribbon, or otherwise seek out soul-mate cancer sisters. I hit the gym, hired a nutritionist, and set my mind to making my body as strong and as healthy as possible.

Still, it was hard not to take in what was going on around me in that waiting room: the young, frail mother weakened by chemo, diagnosed while she was pregnant, talking about her beautiful baby; the grandmother in the colorful hats who always got emotional and needed a hand to hold; the African-American friends who shared their recipes and their joie de vivre; and the feisty 30-something in her blonde curly wig complaining that she couldn't find a natural-looking hairpiece, or a decent dietician.

It was my hair that caught her attention. Because chemo was not part of my treatment plan, I was the only one in the radiation waiting room who still had a full head of it. She surveyed my locks and blurted, "What kind of cancer do you have?" When I told her it was ductal carcinoma in situ, stage zero, she actually chortled. Chortled. "That's wussy cancer!" she declared. "THIS," she said, pointing at her wig and the implied bald head beneath it, "THIS is cancer."

I was stunned into silence for a few seconds. Then I realized she just wanted to draw me out, engage me, knock a hole in the wall I built around myself, force me to be in her world—our world—and make me laugh. And so we sat there, two blondes giggling uncontrollably, until the technician called my name. It was my turn on the radiation table.

When I came out she was gone, and I never saw her again. It still makes me sad to think I never even knew her name. It would have been nice to have exchanged phone numbers so we could keep up with each other's progress and, most importantly, share more laughter, the best medicine of all.

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Opening a Door, Lifting a Ceiling

When Jennifer Tonneson MSF '94, CAG '04 needed to get to the next level in her career, she enrolled in Suffolk's Master of Finance program. "At Suffolk, it was not just the book education," says Tonneson, "it was the quality of the students recruited into this program. I learned a lot about group dynamics that you will never find on any syllabus."

Tonneson, the Vice President of Finance and Administration at Cambridge College, wants to ensure that future generations of women meet with her level of success. This spring she added a provision to her will designating a percentage of her estate to Suffolk University for an endowed scholarship for women in the finance or organizational development programs. "I want to see female students continue to break that glass ceiling, and anything that can be done to help successive generations behind me is going to help," says Tonneson.

To find out how you can help future leaders realize their dreams, visit www.suffolk.edu/giving and click on "Planned Gifts" or contact: Charlotte Sobe Neinas, Director of Planned Giving, at (617) 573-8441 or cneinas@suffolk.edu.
Suffolk's reach stretches farther than you can see from the top of Beacon Hill on a clear afternoon. Our community extends back in time and all over the world, from alumni who graduated a half century ago to students from halfway around the globe.

What binds this remarkable family together? A commitment to access and excellence. A passion for service. A legacy of hard work and giving back that has fostered generation after generation of success in law, business, and the arts and sciences. Suffolk graduates take hold of opportunity with both hands and don't let go—unless it is to offer a helping hand to someone else.

AT SUFFOLK, WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR STRENGTH IS OUR STRENGTH. THIS IS YOUR UNIVERSITY. MAKE IT YOUR HOME, FOR LIFE.