AN ANSWER FOR CANCER

Until There Is a Cure, 30 Suffolk Graduates Offer a Ray of Hope

Plus

FEE FREE
Family Advocacy Clinic Provides the Finest Lawyers Money Can't Buy

LITTLE BIG MAN
Mark Cuban Drafts the 5-Foot-7-Inch “Best Guy Not in the NBA”

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A team of rivals
By Dan Conley JD '83
In 2010, Costello became executive assistant and then community engagement director for Newton Mayor Setti Warren JD ‘07. Two years later, she got “a once-in-a-lifetime offer” to work for President Obama’s re-election campaign, overseeing a staff of 16 and nearly a quarter of the counties in the swing state of Iowa. She returned to Massachusetts as statewide volunteer coordinator for then Congressman Edward Markey’s senatorial campaign, and Walsh reached out to her shortly after she finished working on that race.

“We met a few times and I knew he was someone I wanted to work for,” Costello recalls. “He is committed to public service and believes, as I do, that government is about helping people.”

Government may be about helping people, but campaigns these days rarely seem so noble. Even many jaded politicos and media analysts expressed surprise at the relatively positive tone of Boston’s preliminary mayoral election. Golar-Richie describes “a mutual feeling of goodwill” with her fellow Suffolk graduates Conley and Ross, adding, “Mike and Dan were terrific candidates to campaign with ... I have a lot of high regard for them getting into the race, and my view was elevated because of my interaction with them.”

For his part, Ross believes there was a connection between the tone of the campaign and the ability to focus on substantive issues like housing and jobs. “I attribute much of this to the collegiality at play during the campaign,” he observes. “Did it help that a handful of the candidates had Suffolk backgrounds? Sure. The skills I learned at Suffolk University Law School have made me a better lawyer, a better public policy initiator, and a better candidate.”

In a candid account of his experience as a candidate (“BackStory,” pg. 56), Conley confesses that circumstances during the campaign didn’t always “afford me much to smile about.” Yet he characterizes the overall tenor of the race as “a team of rivals: Bostonians from very different walks of life with what were at times very different ideas about how best to lead the city, but all deeply committed to making it a better place to live, work, go to school, and raise a family. We were political, to be sure, but much more sporting than vengeful, to name Boston’s three famous interests.”

With such a strong Suffolk presence in such a largely positive contest, could there be something about the educational experience here that encourages a new political civility? Associate professor and Government Department chair Rachael Cobb believes that “our focus on pragmatic solutions to governance challenges along with our mission of helping students develop hands-on experience means that our graduates leave here having a deep sense of what is possible and a commitment to engaging in positive debate.”

In an increasingly toxic political environment, many dedicated public servants have opted for early retirement, and the most idealistic aspirants may avoid politics altogether. By providing a training ground in which participants learn to campaign aggressively but agreeably, perhaps Suffolk can help restore a political environment that attracts talented and public spirited individuals. Coming off Mayor Walsh’s victory, her third campaign in just over a year, Costello’s immediate plan is “catching up on sleep.” Yet she describes herself as “a campaigner at heart ... always interested in what my potential adventure might be. So who knows where I might be next.”
Contributors

1. Allison V. Smith
PHOTOGRAPHER / "GET SHORTY," PG. 26
In 2004, Smith left her staff photography position at the Dallas Morning News to pursue a career as a fine art and freelance editorial photographer. Since then, her editorial photography has appeared in publications from The Wall Street Journal to The New York Times, while her fine art work is represented in the permanent collections of the Dallas Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, and the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta. In 2008, Smith and her mother published a book of photography, Reflection of a Man: The Photographs of Stanley Marcus.

2. John Cuneo
ILLUSTRATOR / "BACKSTORY," PG. 56
The distinctive style of illustrations by John Cuneo will be familiar to readers of such publications as Esquire, The New Yorker, The New York Times, Entertainment Weekly, Mother Jones and Town & Country. Compilations of his personal drawings include nEUROTIC and an eponymously-titled collection. His work has received nine medals from the Society of Illustrators, and in 2011 he received the Hamilton King Award.

3. Michael J. Clarke
PHOTOGRAPHER / "RAMBLINGS," PGS. 8 AND 10
Suffolk University's staff photographer has worked for numerous national publications including more than five years as an assistant photographer at Sports Illustrated, where he travelled for portrait and action shoots such as the 2010 Winter Olympics, the 2012 Super Bowl and March Madness.

4. Dana Smith
PHOTOGRAPHER / "THE BEST LAWYERS MONEY CAN'T BUY." PG. 38
Dana Smith's photos have appeared in such publications as The New York Times Magazine, Time, Bloomberg/BusinesWeek, Nature Science Journal, Stern, Boston, and Yankee. He has been an instructor at New England School of Photography in Boston since 1999.

5. Jaime Aron
WRITER / "GET SHORTY," PG. 26
As Texas sports editor for the Associated Press from 1999 to 2012, Aron covered the Dallas Cowboys and Mavericks as well as the Olympics, and several Super Bowls, World Series, and NBA Finals. He was AP Sports Writer of the Year for 2001 and has written five books. Aron now writes for the American Heart Association and teaches sports journalism at the University of North Texas, while living in Dallas with his wife, their three sons, and dog.

6. Dan Conley JD '83
WRITER / "BACKSTORY," PG. 56
As Suffolk County District Attorney, Conley is the chief law enforcement officer for Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Massachusetts, and was a candidate in Boston's 2013 mayoral race. A career prosecutor, he has a national reputation for innovation and reform, earning praise from the Innocence Project for his work to identify, correct, and prevent wrongful convictions, and from human rights advocates for legislation he drafted to treat sexually exploited youth as victims rather than offenders. He lives in Boston with his wife and two children.

7. The Heads of State
ILLUSTRATORS / COVER
Bands such as Wilco and Iron and Wine and companies from Nike to Subaru, have called on Dustin Summers, Jason Kernevich, and Woody Harrington, a.k.a. The Heads of State, for a wide range of projects. In 2012, they launched Pilot and Captain, which features t-shirts, posters, and other products inspired by the Golden Age of Travel.
BOSTON STRONG
William Evans BS '82
The profile on Boston Police Commissioner William Evans is a great depiction of the human spirit and fervent hometown pride of a distinguished Suffolk graduate. The selflessness displayed by Bill Evans speaks volumes about his commitment to his city. His ethic of duty before self brings to mind soldiers I worked with while deployed last year with the U.S. Army in Kandahar, Afghanistan.
Responsible for training Afghan Security Forces in the rule of law and building a sustainable police and court system, we were required to work within the community to build a trust among the locals. Similar to Evans' effort in Boston, the importance behind getting involved in the community directly cannot be overstated. I am inspired by his outstanding work in the BPD and am grateful that there are officers like him promoting this beloved city.

HANK NAUGHTON JD '91
Massachusetts House of Representatives, Twelfth Worcester District; House Chair, Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Patrick Doyle did an amazing job at describing the great leadership by Boston Police Commissioner and Suffolk alumnus William Evans. The Hub has one of the best police departments in the nation, mostly due to its great leadership. Evans is an amazing leader and role model for what a superintendent should be. His dedication to the citizens of Boston drives the work he does for our city. We have to especially thank him for the amazing work he and the department's command staff did during the days of the Marathon bombing. The city could not have asked for a swifter response and higher police presence than what was shown by the Boston Police Department following such a tragedy. [Commissioner] Evans' approach on community policing has [kept] and continues to keep neighborhoods safer.

JEFFREY SANTOS LOPES
BS '12, MCJS/MPA '14
Job Coach, Moakley Center for Public Management

I first had the pleasure of meeting [Commissioner] Billy Evans when he and I attended the Harvard National Leadership Preparedness Initiative held late in December 2012. We gravitated towards the same project group, which was focusing on mass preparedness efforts. Over the next several months the superintendent and other team members dutifully participated in weekly phone calls vetting the various proposed processes aimed at improving the distribution of emergency prescriptions, etc., in a mass incident. Little did any of us know that one of our team, [Commissioner] Evans, would be pressed into service on a real crisis of international scale—the Boston Marathon bombings. Evans not only ran in this Marathon, he immediately responded to the scene leading the investigation and response, which eventually identified and apprehended those responsible. [Commissioner] Evans was quick to credit the success of the Boston PD in this incident to the staff who worked alongside him, the team approach within Boston PD and that of surrounding agencies to catch those responsible, and ultimately his training and experiences as he prepared for this type of incident. The result? His actions are to be emulated by law enforcement leaders across the country.

I recently heard that Evans is now Police Commissioner for the City of Boston. I can think of no greater man for the job, nor a more ethical leader or a more down-to-earth man of the law than Billy. He makes all of us in law enforcement proud!

Boston Strong!

HUGO J. MCPHEE
Director of Public Safety, Three Rivers Park District, MN; VP, Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association; President, Park Law Enforcement Association

Thank you for your extremely well-written article featuring Boston Police Commissioner William "Billy" Evans. As a police chief in the neighboring city of Chelsea, I have had the good fortune to work closely [with] Billy over the years as a superintendent of the BPD. He is an absolutely tireless professional and an extremely dedicated leader, as you have so perfectly portrayed. He is a true Bostonian in every sense of the word, who is committed not only to his family and the department but the community as a whole. I am absolutely confident that Boston is in good hands with Commissioner Evans at the helm.

BRIAN A. KYES JD '02
Chief of Police, Chelsea, MA

I have been to approximately 15 countries as an ordained police chaplain in addition to my normal police role, and I have had the opportunity to interact with thousands of officers from all backgrounds. William Evans is obviously a disciplined, devoted, and dedicated officer. I am sure the men and women who serve under him are inspired by his example of leadership. Upon reading his comments in the article I am reminded of a scripture: "A kind word turneth away wrath." He is an example of strength and humility combined. A true warrior is one who can exercise authority with compassion. I admire leaders who can execute their authority without the need to emphasize it.

RETIRED CHIEF/CHAPLAIN
JACK L. RINCHICH
President, National Association of Chiefs of Police; American Police Hall of Fame
Titusville, FL

RACE TO THE TOP
Matt Malone BS '93

I read with interest the story on Dr. Matt Malone, Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Matt has overcome a disability to achieve this current
position. He has worked in San Diego, Swampscott, and Brockton as an administrator and in Swampscott and Brockton as superintendent of schools.

Knowing Dr. Malone personally, he is a passionate advocate for young people and especially those young people who need additional access to services. He deeply cares about children and presently holds the perfect job [for] his professional experience and knowledge. He makes Suffolk University proud.

DR. ALBERT F. ARGENZIANO BA '65
Interim Superintendent of Schools, Beverly, MA

I enjoyed the feature’s attention to Malone’s unique journey as a struggling student who disliked school to becoming a teacher and finally taking the position as Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth.

One thing I will note is the author’s reference to “his improbable journey from a special education classroom to a corner office on Beacon Hill,” which seems to describe Malone’s career path as extraordinary. What stood out is the word “improbable.” Yes, Malone’s dyslexia increased the obstacles to his achievement, but I don’t believe it lessened his capacity. In my work with students with disabilities, I have never met one who didn’t have great aspirations. The article also references the stigma that Malone grew up with because of his learning differences. Educators need to make a better effort to look at students and not immediately see all the reasons why they cannot succeed. If we set the bar lower, we are in a way stigmatizing them. On another note, I can attest to the fact that Suffolk does work hard to help students, especially those who are struggling academically, succeed in college. As an academic coach in the learning center, I have met with students of all different backgrounds, and helped them work on individualized success plans. Our coaching model embraces the idea that no one's journey is the same but that everyone deserves the same chance at success.

One could argue that Malone’s journey actually makes him the ideal candidate to take on the state’s educational problems. He knows what it feels like to get lost between the cracks, and he knows what it feels to be isolated and unmotivated. In my experience, it is often the students who need help the most who do not ask for it. He had to work hard to get to where he is, and he has had inspirational people in his life who fought for him, who have taught him to fight for his students. Massachusetts’ education system needs more people willing to fight.

MEAGHAN SHEA MED ’13

As a disability advocate and a graduate of Suffolk’s higher ed program, I really admire Malone’s dedication to improving education and college access. Despite struggling with the stigma of a learning disability, Malone was able to turn his academics around at Suffolk, and now he is in a position to improve education across the state. Malone mentioned that Suffolk “never gave up on him.” This kind of community and support is what Suffolk is all about. Suffolk has many resources and programs that enhance the student experience, including the Office of Disability Services that provides advocacy and accommodations for students with disabilities. I am proud to be an alum of a [University] that welcomes and supports students with disabilities and gives them a chance.

REBECCA KMIEC BA ’07, MED ’13

MEAGHAN SHEA MED ’13

WINTER 2014 SUFFOLK ALUMNI MAGAZINE 5
Suffolk's Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Nicole G. Price.
Infusion of Inclusion

SUFFOLK’S FIRST CHIEF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION OFFICER, NICOLE G. PRICE, IS WORKING TO BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATIVE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

BY RENÉE GRAHAM

How did you find out about this position, and why were you interested? [President James McCarthy] reached out to me and we had some conversations around it. At the Law School, I was director of diversity, so I dealt with diversity as it related to our students, our alumni, our relations outside of the Law School in the community, and [our] faculty and administration. So when the president approached me and I began thinking about it, I was excited about the possibilities and opportunities of taking on such a task here at Suffolk. One of the great things I loved about being at Suffolk Law School was the fact that you have a leader [Dean Camille Nelson] who supports diversity. That was one of the reasons I came to Suffolk. I was really excited to be able to work for somebody who got it. I didn’t have to make the argument to her as to why we needed this; I just had to figure out how to do it.

As diversity officer for the Law School, what were some of the challenges you faced? One, as with most diversity positions, you face the challenge of resources—not only financial, but also human capital. There’s a lot of work to do, but as one person, as two people, you can only do so much at a given time. So sometimes it’s frustrating because you have the ideas and even have the support, but there are only so many hours in a day, only so many days in a week. [Another challenge] was trying to touch on various levels of diversity. You have your student population. You’re hoping to diversify the legal profession. You do that through your students, but you also have to do that through the pipeline before they get to law school. So trying to do some pipeline work is important, but pipeline work to be done well requires financial capital and human capital.

For this position, what are your main objectives? One of the things I believe, as it relates to diversity, is you can’t come in on the first day and decide what you’re going to do. Diversity is very specific to an institution, so you have to learn the culture, the history, what the needs are and the wants are, because often our needs and wants are very different. So I listed things that needed to be done. One of the main objectives I have is to make sure we are foundationally strong. Before you can do some of the innovative things around faculty diversity or student diversity, not only in recruitment but retention, to really begin to affect the culture of the institution, you have to have a strong foundation. [In general,] policy and procedures need to be in place—something as basic as a nondiscrimination policy, a statement of diversity. Those things help our community understand those things are important. That’s one of my objectives for the first year: honing in on policies and procedures and making sure we are sound there. And those touch on the different constituencies, so it’s not just the students or the faculty, those policies will touch on the community as a whole. So that’s one of the main objectives. I will create a diversity strategic plan and that’s something that will be done, hopefully, by the end of this academic year. And that will be based on me getting out there and meeting people here, learning what’s here, what we have, what we want, and then designing a plan. There’s so much you can do, but you have to focus so you can actually get things done. If you try to do it all, you end up not doing many things very well.

Given the reticent feelings some people of color have about Boston, do you see part of your job as selling the city as well as the University? Part of my job is making sure we tell our story more accurately. I can tell people, “Boston’s not perfect, Suffolk’s not perfect.” But I think we do better than most people realize. Students will say, “Boston is racist.” I tell people Suffolk’s first black law graduate [Thomas Vreeland Jones JD ’15] was in the early 1900s. I went to law school [at University of Virginia], and UVA’s first black graduate was [in] 1953. So while Boston is not perfect, there’s a whole lot of good history there. Part of the struggle is selling Boston, but we can help ourselves by telling our story more accurately. I don’t think Suffolk really highlights all the good we’re doing on the diversity front, and we need to change that.

Was there anything in your early life that you can trace to what you do today? As accountants in corporate America who grew up during segregation, my parents knew I would have more opportunities than [they] did and prepared me for those through my schooling, extracurricular activities, and travels. My parents instilled many things in me, but one was a healthy dose of self-confidence grounded in varied life experiences and expectation of excellence. This was essential to excelling in the various spaces I have found myself in—growing up as one of a handful of children of color in school, attending the University of Virginia, attending the College of William & Mary Marshall Wythe School of Law, practicing law in New York and Virginia, and even moving into higher education at Boston University School of Law, Suffolk University School of Law, and now Suffolk University. I believe I have a responsibility to share the knowledge, experiences, and information I have gained over the years with those who may not have access or who are the next generation.

photograph by CHRISTOPHER CHURCHILL
Act Two

ENGLISH MAJOR CHELSEA SZMANIA '14 FOUND LAUREN GRAHAM "INSANELY TALENTED" AS AN ACTRESS AND "MULTI-FACETED" IN HER NEW ROLE AS A WRITER.

THOUGH SHE HAD "some amazing English teachers" throughout middle and high school, Chelsea Szmania '14 credits her grandmother for her educational direction. "She would sit on the couch with me and we would read every day," writes the West Springfield, Massachusetts native. "It could be anything from Dr. Seuss to Anne of Green Gables. I love to read mostly because of her and I think that is where my desire to pursue English stems from." When it came time for college, Szmania writes, "I was intrigued by Boston and the opportunities Suffolk had to offer." An English major with a track in creative writing, she counts Gayle Forman and Jodi Picoult among her favorite authors, but when asked to choose the one person in the world she would most like to ask three questions of, Szmania selected a new author better known as an actress.

“I grew up watching Gilmore Girls and instantly fell in love with the show and the character of Lorelai Gilmore,” she recalls. “I always thought [actress] Lauren Graham was insanely talented. Since then, I’ve continued to follow her work.” Interestingly, Szmania followed her inspiration to the literary world. In 2013, Graham, who received a BA in English literature from Columbia University, published Someday, Someday Maybe. The New York Times bestseller is being adapted for television by Ellen DeGeneres’ production company.

“I love the fact that Lauren Graham is so multifaceted,” writes Szmania. “She’s had a flourishing career with two hit TV shows (Gilmore Girls and Parenthood), starred in Guys and Dolls on Broadway and managed to write a novel. It’s incredible to me that she started off as an English major like myself and now look where she is. She has inspired me to feel that anything is possible with the right attitude.”

Here, SAM gives Szmania an opportunity for a little girl talk.

How has the role of Lorelai Gilmore on the show Gilmore Girls influenced your acting career? Do you ever miss playing her? Like most major life experiences, I didn’t understand how important Gilmore Girls was until after it ended. It was an all-consuming job, and I didn’t have much time for reflection while I was doing it. That may sound crazy, considering it lasted for seven years, but it really wasn’t until a year or so after the show had ended, and I was doing Guys and Dolls on Broadway, where I finally got a chance to meet people who were Gilmore fans, and see how the show had stuck with them. Until then, it hadn’t occurred to me that even though the show was over for me, viewers might continue to see it in reruns and on DVD, so there could potentially be a whole new audience every few years. Every show has its own personality, its own strengths, and I think it was the language of that show, and of that character in particular, that was really special. The experience of performing those long funny speeches had almost an athletic quality at times, one that could be exhausting but was always exhilarating. I think that’s one of the reasons the show has lasted: the writing is so good, and so dense, it’s fun to watch it over and over and discover something you may have missed the first time.

Did you always know you wanted to write a novel? In the acknowledgements of Someday, Someday, Maybe, I thank Diane Keaton, for telling me “you should write a book one day,” but even after she said that, it was years before I ever did anything about it. I could have gone my whole life being perfectly happy that someone I looked up to had said such an encouraging thing to me, without ever actually trying to see if she was right. I wish I could tell you angels sang and I looked up and 300 pages had written themselves, but it wasn’t anything so mystical. Even when I thought what I was doing was dumb and a bad idea — I just kept going. In both writing and
acting, I've seen that one difference between having a dream, and having a dream come true, is plain, old-fashioned, hard work. Even then, there's still no guarantee, but I know for sure you have a better chance of having your novel published if it's written on actual paper. The one that's still brewing in your mind is much harder for people to read.

Where did the inspiration for your book Someday, Someday Maybe come from? What was the writing process like for you? People think my novel is pure autobiography, but it really isn't. I chose fiction because I wanted more freedom than a memoir might allow, to create characters and situations drawn from my experiences, but in some cases veer very far away from them. One of the most refreshing differences for me was that, as a writer, I got to play all the characters, not just one. So when people ask if Franny is me, I say yes—in a way—but so is Jane, and Dan, and the dad, and Barney Sparks, the elderly asthmatic agent. What play or movie could I act in that would allow me such a range? I didn't want to write about show business, exactly, as much as I wanted to write about starting out in life, hoping to be part of something, and being unsure if you'll ever get there. Show business is a great world to illustrate that attempt because there's so much that's unknown. You have to be a dreamer, but a tough business person too, and able to weather rejection and success and failure, sometimes on the same day. I think there's something universal in that struggle.

Big Dig
A GROUNDBREAKING DAY FOR 20 SOMERSET.

WITH PRESIDENT JAMES MCCARTHY calling it "a great day" for Suffolk and longtime Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino proclaiming the University's "important role" in the city, Suffolk held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new academic building at 20 Somerset Street. John Nucci, Suffolk's vice president of government and community affairs, drew laughs from the assembled guests when he said, "I never thought I would find a hole in the ground so beautiful." Scheduled to open at the beginning of the 2015 academic year, the $62 million state-of-the-art complex will contain 1,200 general-use and science classroom seats, as well as a cafeteria that can also be used as function space for the University.

"Our students will have the finest labs and classrooms, and the needs of our students will be met as we go into the future," said Suffolk's Board Chairman Andrew C. Meyer Jr. JD '74, H.LLD '99. He later added, "This has been a long time coming, we've worked very hard on it, and we think this will be a tremendous step forward for the University." The eight-story, 112,000-square-foot edifice was designed by the Boston architectural firm NBBJ. It will ease student traffic on Beacon Hill—long a source of acrimony for nearby residents—when classes currently held in the Archer and Donahue buildings are moved into the new space.

"We're really looking forward to the interplay between what goes on in this renovated plaza and what goes on in this great building," McCarthy said.

To view the 20 Somerset groundbreaking ceremony, visit suffolk.edu/about20somerset.

TOP COP
BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT VET AND ACTING COMMISSIONER WILLIAM EVANS BS '82 NAMED TO PERMANENT POST.

In January, Boston's new Mayor Martin Walsh announced that acting Boston Police Commissioner William Evans, who joined the Department when he graduated from Suffolk University, would assume the role on a permanent basis. Last April, after running his 18th Boston Marathon, Evans was among the first commanders to reach the scene when two bombs killed three people and injured more than 260. His brother, Paul Evans, was Boston police commissioner from 1994 to 2003.

To read the profile of William Evans from the Fall 2013 edition of SAM, go to http://bit.ly/1kZBHvz.
Ingredients for Success

ABOUT THAT RESTAURANT YOU’VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF OPENING...RUSS DEMARIANO BSBA ’01, MBA ’02 HAS BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, AND CAN TELL YOU A THING OR TWO.

“I HAD WORKED in the [restau­rant] business since I was 15 years old in high school, worked throughout college, throughout graduate school,” Russ deMariano BSBA ’01, MBA ’02 recalls. He chose Suffolk for its “small class size, teacher attention, [and] close-knit community.” The Boston native adds that “a few professors I had at Suffolk knew the kind of drive I had, and they would push me to get the best results out of me. And that sort of leadership/mentorship has stuck with me.”

After earning an MBA, deMariano worked in advertising and marketing before opening Red Sky in 2006. He owned the restaurant/lounge, which overlooked Faneuil Hall, for more than six years before shifting to the Back Bay to launch his present venture, The Brahmin American Cuisine and Cocktails. He also teaches aspiring restaurateurs as an adjunct professor at Newbury College.

Reflecting on his career path, deMariano says, “I knew and understood the risks, failure rate, and what it would take. I think that’s part of what drives me: to prove to myself that it can be done and that I could do it. I am not afraid to work and not afraid to fail. [I] would always be kicking myself over a ‘what if?’ scenario if I didn’t attempt it.” Here he shares words of wisdom for those with a similar passion for restaurant ownership.

1. **Permit Us to Suggest** Building permits, health permits, liquor licenses, capacity licenses: learning what paperwork you need, where to find it, and how long it takes to acquire it is priority number one.

2. **Location, Location, Location** Finding the right site can be the most time-consuming yet important challenge. Seasoned restaurateurs often rely on word of mouth. Aspiring owners should consider the services of a professional restaurant broker.

3. **Go With the Flow** Do you have experience with floor plans and flow? Considered who will handle the build-out/renovations. Proper layout and design is a fundamental factor in a restaurant’s success.

4. **Chief Cook, Bottle Washer, Bookkeeper** Restaurant ownership isn’t just playing host or chef. The bottom line is the bottom line. Do you have the education and practical experience to demonstrate to prospective financiers that you understand the business side of the job?

5. **Define Your Bottom Line** Financing is very challenging to secure in this extremely expensive venture. Do you have the proper funds? Where and how do you plan to obtain them?

6. **Keep the Right Company** LLC (limited liability company), partnership, corporation, sole proprietor: what type of entity is right for your business?

russ@thebrahmin.com
The Telltale Art

SUFFOLK PROFESSORS PROMOTE POE STATUE FOR BOSTON.

BALTIMORE is the geographic location most associated with Edgar Allan Poe. He called the “Charm City” home when he published his most famous work, The Raven, and died there under mysterious circumstances in 1849. His home and gravesite are now popular tourist attractions. Even the name and logo of the city’s NFL team, the Ravens, is a jaunty nod to the writer, as is its mascot, Poe. Yet, unbeknownst to many, Poe is a native son of Boston. Now Suffolk professors have joined an effort by the Edgar Allan Poe Foundation of Boston to honor him with a statue called “Poe Returning to Boston” near where he spent the first three years of his life. Sculptor Stefanie Rocknak designed a spectacular statue that depicts a steely-eyed Poe, his briefcase literally bursting with his work and flanked by a raven, striding toward his birthplace, 62 Carver Street, which is now Charles Street South. (The house was razed in 1959.) The University recently hosted the panel “Poe Statue Project: Public Art, Creativity, Politics, and the Law.” While there are a few small plaques around the city memorializing Poe, there’s never been “a proper commemoration” befitting his stature in American literature, says Suffolk Associate English Professor Peter Jeffreys, who teaches Poe in his American Gothic class. Though Poe had what Jeffreys calls a “love-hate relationship” with Boston, it does not obscure the fact that he remains its most famous native-born writer. Plus, such an honor is something that likely would have made Eliza Poe, Edgar’s mother, very happy. On a watercolor of Boston Harbor, she inscribed to him: “For my little son Edgar, who should ever love Boston, the place of his birth, and where his mother found her best and most sympathetic friends.”

SURVIVAL OF THE SMALLEST

SUFFOLK BIO PROFESSOR DISCOVERS THE MOUSE THAT ROARS.

For fans of the classic film The Princess Bride, rodents of unusual size may seem the stuff of cinematic fantasy, but Dr. Lauren Nolfo-Clements knows such creatures do exist. For several years, the Suffolk assistant professor of biology has been researching Boston’s Harbor Islands, and has found unexpected populations of deer, foxes, coyotes, and, yes, larger-than-average mice thriving on nearly three dozen islands and peninsulas. Many of these animals are migrating to the islands, and Nolfo-Clements says that since these areas don’t have much human occupation, they’re “reverting back to a natural system,” allowing wildlife to prosper. Shortly after arriving at Suffolk in 2007, Nolfo-Clements got in touch with National Park Service officials to start research on the islands. She discovered that, aside from an informal survey, there was nothing systematic or extensive.

And about those oversized rodents—generally, they are white-footed mice that weigh 30-35 grams as opposed to the mainland varieties that tip the scales at 15-25 grams. Unlike the deer that swim to the islands or coyotes that scamper across the ice when it freezes, the mice, which are not strong swimmers, have likely been trapped out there for a much longer period. Nolfo-Clements says “small things trapped on an island tend to get larger, while big things get smaller, because most islands don’t have the resources to support them, so only the small survive.”

Among the common populations on Boston’s Harbor Islands, the vole.
All His World’s a Stage
THEATER GRAD ANTHONY SCHIAVO BS ’13 EARNS A PLACE IN STORIED PROFESSIONAL ARTS PROGRAM.

KEVIN SPACEY. VIOLA DAVIS. ROBIN WILLIAMS. JESSICA CHASTAIN. Last fall, Anthony Schiavo joined the illustrious list of those whose careers began at The Juilliard School in New York. Fresh out of Suffolk’s theater program, Schiavo entered the prestigious school’s Professional Intern Program as a stage manager working on such productions as Thornton Wilder’s Our Town and Sam Shepard’s Buried Child. From opera to dance to Shakespeare, he’ll be working “alongside the best of the best in New York,” he says. So far, Schiavo says, his biggest challenges have been adjusting to his work schedule, which is generally 3:00-11:30 p.m. six days a week, and “constantly adapting to very different work environments and styles with directors and production teams, since each month or so I’m working on a new production or project with a new group of people.”

A New Jersey native who first fell in love with theater after seeing The Phantom of the Opera as an eighth-grader, Schiavo says his favorite Suffolk class was The Art and Artistry of Calling a Show, taught by assistant professor Abbie Katz. He also served as stage manager for several shows and worked on productions by local companies such as Central Square Theater, Boston Children’s Theatre, Fresh Ink Theatre, and The Theater Offensive. A stage manager is the pivotal connection between a production’s actors, director, and backstage crew to make sure everything goes off without a hitch. “You’re with the play from the first rehearsal until the final curtain. You’re the only person who has to know everything about every department,” Schiavo says. “You’re constantly communicating different needs. You bring people together.”
SEND US A SIGNAL
Do you recall the Student Radio Club at Suffolk?
The photo from the University Archives was taken in 1953, but little is known about the organization.
If you were a member or know more about their story, please share it at sam@suffolk.edu.

ON CAMPUS in '53
Suffolk Law School is accredited by the American Bar Association
5' 9" guard Jack Rosnick BA '55 scores the most points (75) in the history of Suffolk's Men's Basketball
Tuition at Suffolk jumps to $400
Suffolk athletics adopt Ram mascot
The first April Fools' issue of The Suffolk Journal
Ice hockey, soccer, and sailing dropped as varsity sports

OFF CAMPUS in '53
First Chevrolet Corvette
First color TVs go on sale
Jonas Salk introduces polio vaccine
Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey
Earl Warren appointed Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court
1953 babies: Pat Benatar, Jeb Bush, Kim Basinger, Chaka Khan
UNDECLARED,

POLITICS MAY BE IN THE FUTURE FOR MARC-DANIEL PAUL ’16; PUBLIC SERVICE IS A SURE THING.

BY RENÉE GRAHAM

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK WILSON
NOT UNCOMMITTED
DESPITE AN INTEREST in politics sparked by the 2008 presidential campaign of then-Illinois Senator Barack Obama and deciding in high school that he would major in government in college, Marc-Daniel Paul '16 insists that he isn't necessarily interested in a conventional political career. "I'm not announcing anything yet—it's way too early for that," he says with a laugh. "What I want to do is serve. Whether that means running for office or staying behind the scenes, in whatever way I can help out my community or my state, that's what I want to do."

The Suffolk sophomore is already off to an impressive start. Last summer, after landing an internship with Massachusetts State Senator Mark Montigny, Paul helped draft an amendment to the state budget that will save college students thousands of dollars. Ineligible for free or state-subsidized health insurance, many were required to buy school-sponsored health insurance, unless they were covered by a parent's plan. Paul and another intern, Jacob Miller, a student at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, pointed out this discrepancy to Montigny and his staff.

"The requirement that they purchase the school health plan cost them thousands in additional monies over and above ever-increasing tuition and fees," Montigny says. "I agreed with [Paul and Miller] that the problem needed to be rectified and tasked them to work with my staff and draft an amendment to a pending budget bill that would address the issue." The amendment was easily passed by both the state House of Representatives and the Senate, and was signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick.

It was a remarkable achievement by a young man who moved to this country from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, just seven years ago and was not yet fluent in English. But by the time Paul graduated from high school in Massachusetts, he had been president of the French club and a math tutor on and off campus and published a book of his original poems, Breathing Ink: The Heart of Poetry.

"He is wise beyond his years," Montigny says. "I fully expect to see him being sworn into office in the not-too-distant future."

His family, Paul says, was "financially secure" in Haiti, which allowed him and his four siblings to attend "the best schools." Yet turmoil such as kidnappings, common in the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, was never far away. "In Haiti, if they saw you go to a certain school," Paul says, "the assumption was that you had a lot of money, and you could be an asset if you were kidnapped."

One day, Paul's father, a restaurant manager, was snatched. Though he was soon released without a ransom, the family decided that "the level of insecurity was too much and we had to leave," Paul says. They emigrated to Florida and lived with a family friend until they found their own place, a rented room in Pompano Beach. It was, Paul recalls, a difficult time.

"We had to start over, which was expected, and English was pretty much a major part of that because we had to get familiar with the language. I had taken English courses in Haiti, but to say I had a level of..."
he excelled. Proficient in math, he tutored classmates as well as elementary-age students served by School on Wheels, which gives academic support to children impacted by homelessness. With his burgeoning interest in politics, Paul was drawn to Suffolk by its proximity to the State House "so that I could take advantage of internships, connections, and networking here."

Brad Bannon, an adjunct professor in the government department, has twice had Paul as a student and found him "very engaged in both classes." And while Paul has yet to declare his intentions, Bannon says, "He cares about politics, which is obviously a big plus in government."

Paul says his government classes at Suffolk have helped to shape "my understanding of the political process and everything that's involved with it." On a personal note, he adds that his professors "all have been great and wonderful to me."

Paul's "hard work and commitment," Montigny says, served his former intern well and will likely lead to continued success. Even with his family's struggles after moving to this country, Paul never viewed those hardships as a deterrent to future achievement.

"With the kind of parents I had, I really had no choice," he laughs. "I was in a household where, ever since I was a little kid, education was the main priority. My mom was a teacher and she knew what a good education could do for a child... Not to say I didn't enjoy doing well because I was always rewarded when I did well, but I was always compelled to do so in the environment I was living in."

proficiency in English? Not really," he says. "It was hard sometimes, and as a kid you get frustrated, and you wonder when it's going to end. But when you compare living there as opposed to living in fear back at home, it was still better. Here, we didn't have to fear getting kidnapped."

The family later moved to Massachusetts, but without a place to stay, they landed in a family shelter in the Boston suburb of Middleborough for about a month. Paul attended Brockton High School, where

**POP QUIZ**

**Last Book Read:** Current Issues and Enduring Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking and Argument, with Readings by Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedau. **Last Music Purchased:** Mostly, I listen to songs on YouTube. **Favorite "Only in Boston" Experience:** Going to school right around the corner from the State House. You get to see people like the governor, senators, and representatives. It's pretty cool. **Where He Would Like to Be in Five Years:** I want to have my bachelor's and master's, with law school as an option. I definitely want to take a giant step to serve—not necessarily running for office, but in whatever capacity that means. **Wisest Words to Live By:** "Respect all, fear none." And that's not just with people, but any challenge that comes your way. **Role Model:** Definitely my parents, who tried their very best to instill the values and qualities that I've tried to uphold. They've had a huge impact on my life.
Jessica Mak, Program Director of Radiation Science
On the Beam

WITH HER STUDENTS AND PATIENTS ALIKE, JESSICA MAK RADIATES LIGHT.
BY SAM TREMONT

FOR A COURSE ABOUT CANCER set in a hospital, the atmosphere in Introduction to Radiation Oncology is surprisingly upbeat. The 14 students gathered around a large conference table in the basement of Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) this evening are clearly well prepared, answering all of the questions instructor Jessica Mak raises in her PowerPoint review. Yet while the conversation is purposeful, the atmosphere is anything but morose. In fact, as the group advances from the makeshift classroom to the treatment room, where students role play practitioners and patients using awe-inspiring machinery, laughter is in good supply.

"With oncology being such a serious topic, when it is appropriate, I like to add humor to make the topic a little lighter and make the learning experience more enjoyable," Mak explains.

Growing up in Buxton, Maine, Mak was affected by a family friend and two lacrosse coaches who were diagnosed with cancer. In high school, she became president of the Fight Against Cancer Society, which raised money for the American Cancer Society and public awareness.

"During my freshman year as a biology major at the University of Vermont, I stumbled across the major of radiation therapy and realized this was the perfect fit for me," she recalls. "I entered the field as someone who has compassion for people and an interest in healthcare. I do feel that the field has an excellent balance of both technology and patient care."

Mak joined Maine Medical Center as a per diem staff radiation therapist in 2006. Three months later, she became a senior radiation therapist at MGH. "When I was working full time in the hospital, I found myself to be a natural teacher in explaining or demonstrating various aspects of radiation therapy" to students, residents, and staff. In 2010, Mak moved down the street to fill the role of clinical coordinator for the radiation science program, which is part of the physics department at Suffolk.

The Radiation Therapy undergraduate and post-baccalaureate certificate program collaborates with such Boston area medical icons as MGH, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Ten students are selected each year following an application and interview process.

Upon graduating from the program, they are eligible to sit for the American Registry of Radiologic Technology board examination, enabling students to become certified radiation therapists.

"I see myself fundamentally as a teacher who also practices," explains Mak, who continues to practice at MGH while adding the title of program director at Suffolk. "I preach what I practice. I teach from the perspective of a radiation therapist, which reflects on my experiences with patient interactions, as well as knowledge and experience with the execution of all the elements that go into radiation therapy treatment."

Alexa Barrios '15 came to Suffolk from Florida as a journalism major but transferred to science with the goal of "finding a degree that could land me a successful healthcare job right out of [college]." She describes radiation therapy as "an accelerated program with amazing professors and hands-on working experience with Boston's top hospitals so it looks great on paper." She has taken two courses with Mak and describes her as "extremely down-to-earth and friendly. She has no problem explaining the same topic in five different ways to make sure all her students are on the same page and understand the subject. She throws in light humor to keep us intrigued and always tries to make class more of a discussion rather than an hour-long lecture. . . her patience is eternal, and she will answer any questions in class, and respond to every e-mail."

Describing her own teaching style, Mak says, "I like to check in with students frequently, to make sure everyone is grasping the topic at hand and not getting lost in the medical or technical jargon."

This evening's class winds up in the conventional simulator room, where Mak demonstrates everything from proper needle disposal to the creation of medical tattoos, which help minimize radiation by adjusting the beam as precisely as possible. Students practice their tattoo art first on clementines before advancing to their own skin or a classmate's. Mak allows a reluctant student to move at her own pace, then accommodates the request of another who asks her to try a second tattoo on him. She finds a teachable moment when a student of considerable girth who volunteers to play a patient needs to be assisted to his feet. Throughout the class, Mak is reaffirming and upbeat.

"I really enjoy the excitement radiation therapy students have when they are learning new techniques, and especially when we are discussing, practicing, and role playing various aspects of being a radiation therapist," she reflects. "I am very passionate about the field and appreciate seeing the same enthusiasm and spark come alive in the students."
RAY OF HOPE

Cancer patients depend on an invisible beam and the Suffolk graduates who guide it.

By Amy Crawford

Photographs by Adam BETTER
Senior radiation therapist Ryan Connolly operates the Gantry I at the MGH Francis H. Burr Proton Therapy Center. Opposite, light outside therapy room indicating the status of the machinery.
The beam emerges from the cyclotron and speeds through the hospital, bent and focused along the way by a series of magnets as large as SUVs. This afternoon, its destination is a 100-ton rotating gantry. An apparatus used to direct the beam, the gantry soars three stories high and looks like it belongs on the International Space Station. As it grinds and whirs, a cone on the other side of a wall rotates into position, ready to guide the proton beam deep into the brain of a teenage girl.

She lies perfectly still, her head held in place by a mask of stiff white mesh while a shock of her long red hair hangs over the edge of the mechanized table. With a brief series of beeps, the beam passes through the patient's skull and into the meningioma that is threatening her life.

After a few minutes, her treatment, which she has undergone daily for more than a month, is over for the day. Once released from the mask and helped off the table, the girl hugs her father, puts her earrings back on, and bounces out of the room with a palpable sense of relief, her face still bearing the red crosshatched marks of the mask.

She is one of up to two dozen patients that senior radiation therapist Ryan Connolly BS '07, CRT '09 and his colleagues will see today at the hospital's Francis H. Burr Proton Therapy Center. Once her treatment is complete, the four therapists quickly prepare for their next patient, a freckled teen with a craniopharyngioma. She has asked them to play a CD of upbeat dance songs while she undergoes her treatment.

"A lot of times we get to know patients by their music choices," jokes Connolly, 28, as
he helps the teen onto the table and quizzes her about school. Although his cheerful disposition might seem incongruous with the gravity of his patients' conditions, putting patients at ease is an important part of his job. "Most people see radiation as a terrible force that only causes damage," he notes. "But here we use it as something beneficial, to cure cancer. How many people get to say that?"

Connolly didn't have to go far after graduating from Suffolk's clinical radiation therapy program in 2009. Like many of his classmates, he barely had time to graduate before he was snapped up by Mass General, which boasts one of the best—and most demanding—radiation oncology departments in the world. Although the University's radiation therapy program began only two decades ago, today its graduates dominate Mass General's radiation department, and 30 of the hospital's 76 therapists are Suffolk alumni.

A TERRIBLE PHONE CALL
It may be one of our best weapons against cancer, but most people give little thought to radiation therapy until they or someone they love faces a life-changing diagnosis. When, as a Suffolk sophomore searching for a major, Connolly noticed a poster on campus advertising the department, "the only thing I knew about radiation was that it was bad," he says. He flashed back to high school, when he spent a month in Japan as part of a student exchange program. The trip included a visit to Hiroshima, which was destroyed by an American atomic bomb in 1945.

"My first education about radiation was devastating," Connolly says, recalling the tour of Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park. "It was destructive, it was a force not to be reckoned with. I saw this poster for radiation therapy and I was like, 'What? This is crazy!'"

His interest piqued, Connolly did some research and discovered a calling. He had always liked solving puzzles, and radiation therapy requires figuring out the best way to position patients and equipment in order to deliver the smallest possible dose of radiation. He also knew the daily interaction with patients and fellow therapists, who work closely in small teams, would suit his gregarious personality. Plus, the self-identified geek, whose punk rock earrings and spiky haircut offer a playful contrast with the sober white lab coat and scrubs he wears to work, was drawn to the powerful, massive equipment and rapidly evolving technology.

"These are incredibly complex machines that are being used to help somebody," Connolly explains. "Seeing radiation controlled in such a manner that you could actually do good with it was mind-blowing to me."

Radiation therapy, which uses X-rays, gamma rays, or highly energized particles like protons to kill tumor cells by damaging their DNA, has been used to treat cancer for more than a century, but it has become increasingly effective over the past few decades. Now prescribed for more than half of all cancer patients, it may be our most powerful weapon against a disease that still kills more than half a million Americans every year. But radiation can also be very dangerous, since a dose that is too big, or that doesn't enter the patient's body in exactly the right place, can damage healthy cells and even cause cancer.

Radiation therapists take on an enormous responsibility, says Kathy Bruce, director of business development for Mass General's radiation oncology department and an adjunct professor at Suffolk. "When you work in a place like this, you have to be a cut above."

In the early 1990s, Bruce says, Mass General decided to move toward requiring its radiation therapists to have bachelor's degrees, rather than coming straight to work after a two-year program. But the hospital needed to ensure a steady supply of qualified therapists, so Bruce approached Suffolk about creating a program. The technology was more advanced and treatment plans were becoming more complex, she explains. Demand was growing for therapists who were, as Bruce puts it, "educated," not merely "trained." Suffolk, which graduated its first
class in 1998, would help meet that need.

To graduate with a bachelor's degree or postbaccalaureate certification that will qualify them for hospital jobs, students must complete more than 1,300 clinical hours, during which they shadow therapists and learn the profession on the job. Most do their clinical rotation at Mass General, so when those who are later hired as full-time therapists show up for their first official day at work, they already feel like veterans.

Samah Taha CRT '13, who now works with photon radiation at Mass General's Clark Center for Radiation Oncology, spent her student days pulling 8- or 10-hour shifts at the hospital, often followed by two to three hours of class. “They were really long days!” she exclaims. Taha is on a brief break before her team’s next patient, a 60-year-old man with a malignant chest wall tumor, arrives for a dose of preoperative radiation.

For Taha, the drive to learn the material and develop her confidence and skills was deeply rooted. The middle daughter in a close-knit Lebanese-American family in Burlington, Massachusetts, Taha had watched an older cousin succumb to brain cancer and an aunt battle breast cancer. Her father survived a bout with Hodgkin’s lymphoma before she was born. A younger cousin, whom she last saw dancing happily at a family wedding in Lebanon, died last year at age 10, after spending half his life fighting a brain tumor. And one evening in January of 2012, Taha was on campus when she got a terrible phone call from her older sister. Their mother, Gondolina, had been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

Gondolina Taha has since made a full recovery, and she credits her daughter with helping her navigate the medical system and understand her disease.

“She told me everything about the treatment, she explained everything,” Gondolina says. “She’d tell me, ‘Look at this patient, she survived!’”

For her part, Taha says the experience helped her to be more compassionate toward her patients. But it can be difficult to balance that compassion with the need to maintain a clinician’s professional detachment.

“Sometimes she comes home and she’s so sad,” Gondolina says. “I tell her, ‘Look at the job from two sides: Think of all the people she’s helped! She’s still trying to keep her emotions separate. I tell her, ‘You’re working on it, but you’re a human being.’”

Radiation therapists must be technically proficient, knowledgeable about anatomy and medicine, focused, disciplined, and diligent—but the most challenging part of the job is often psychological.

“You try to separate your personal and work life,” says Meghan Kearney BS ’05, MS ’09, a team lead therapist who currently focuses on pretreatment simulation. “But then you see the really depressing cases or you meet the really young patients, and it’s hard not to let that get to you.”

At times, working in radiation oncology can feel like being in a foxhole, fighting a war against cancer with a close group of fellow soldiers. The four-person teams who manage each machine have their own inside jokes, and
Gallows humor is not uncommon. "It's a small community, and not everyone knows what you go through," Kearney says. "Who knows better than fellow radiation therapists?"

Kearney, a tall 30-year-old with expressive eyes and the light step of a dancer, is known among her colleagues for her way with patients. When an overweight lung cancer patient needs a dozen people to help heave him onto the table, Kearney smooths over what could have been an embarrassing moment. "Look at the team you've got!" she says cheerfully, as the therapists and nurses slide the man from his gurney in one easy motion.

Like many of her colleagues, Kearney relates to patients by drawing on personal experience. As a student at Suffolk, she looked up to Angela Lombardo, the radiation therapy program's tough but kind director. But a year after Kearney graduated and took a job at Mass General, Lombardo received devastating news: the 38-year-old was diagnosed with sacral chordoma, a rare and often fatal cancer.

"It was shocking," says Christine Cerrato BS '98, technical director for radiation oncology at Mass General and one of Suffolk's first radiation therapy graduates. Cerrato, who has also taught classes at Suffolk, had grown close to Lombardo over the years.

In addition to being dismayed by the diagnosis, Lombardo's friends and colleagues were surprised that her doctors had caught the cancer at such a late stage. "We are in this field and you would think that those things wouldn't happen," Cerrato says. "But it still did."

"It hit really close to home," Kearney says. "The worst part is, I remember being in my senior year and she would have this back pain. Sometimes in this field, you can tend to be a little bit of a—I don't want to say hypochondriac, but you think of things a little bit more than anyone else would. I remember her having this back pain and saying, 'I swear to God, if I have a chordoma... And literally, she did, which is so terribly ironic."

Lombardo received radiation therapy at Mass General, where many of her former students were already on staff. But the treatment was not enough, and she died in 2008. Her loss was a blow to Kearney, Cerrato, and others who had known her at Suffolk, but they say her memory inspires them to keep fighting.

"You should treat every patient as if they're your own family member," Kearney says. "Sometimes you can lose sight of that, but those experiences that hit close to home put everything into perspective."

RING THAT BELL
Whatever the root of therapists' compassion, patients say it helps them get through difficult times.

"I had dreaded it," says Jim Gaffey, who was treated for prostate cancer in 2009 by a Mass General team that included several Suffolk graduates. "At first it's like going to the dentist to get a root canal—you're not there to have a lot of laughs." But his team's skill and, yes, good humor put him at ease. "They were professional, organized, efficient. There was never a day in the eight weeks that there was ever a problem."

The Framingham, Massachusetts, resident, 69, is now in good health, and he has kept in touch with his therapists over the years, regularly driving into Boston to deliver homemade chocolate chip cookies.

"Here are these people who saved my life!" he says. "How can you really thank them enough?"

Radiation therapists know that they can't save everyone, but focusing on the good they do helps them get through long and sometimes draining days. In the waiting room, patients in gowns pass the anxious time before their appointments leafing through magazines or watching videos on their iPads. They may have traveled long distances to get to the hospital. They may be dealing with pain, fatigue, and nausea. Often unable to work, many are plagued by financial worries—on top of the fear that comes with not knowing whether the treatment will be enough to save their lives. But on a wall near the exit, there is a brass bell, which, according to hospital tradition, every patient rings three times after his or her last treatment. Its bright sound echoes through the department, bringing a hopeful smile to the face of any radiation therapist who hears it.

"The best part of my job," says Samah Taha, "is when they ring that bell."
WHEN DALLAS MAVERICKS OWNER MARK CUBAN WANTED "THE BEST PLAYER DEVELOPMENT COACH IN THE NBA," HE TURNED TO MIKE PROCOPIO BSBA '97, A PROFANE, 5 FOOT 7, SELF-DESCRIBED "BLENDING OF FORREST GUMP AND LOUIE DE PALMA FROM TAXI."

BY JAIME ARON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALLISON V. SMITH
Three hours before tip-off—before 15,000 people arrive and the place buzzes with the overcaffeinated frenzy that is a Dallas Mavericks game—the American Airlines Center is practically asleep. A cluster of game-day operations folks are testing spotlight patterns, sending balls of light jiggling across the seats. Several photographers are on ladders, taping cameras above and behind backboards. Two security guards with nothing to do are standing around savoring the inaction.

For the two guys on the court, though, this is game time.

The guy dribbling and shooting is Mickey McConnell, who is trying to keep alive his dream of making the NBA. The guy feeding him the ball is Mike Procopio BSBA ’97, whose job it is to try turning McConnell’s dream into reality.

“C’mon, focus in,” Procopio says following a missed jumper. “Everyone in the world knows you’re not going left,” he taunts. “Short!” McConnell screams when the ball leaves his fingers.

“Keep shooting short,” Procopio says after the ball touches nothing but net.

Procopio is in his first full season as director of player development for the Mavericks. Team owner Mark Cuban is paying Procopio to take castoffs like McConnell and second-round pick Ricky Ledo—players who, relatively speaking, cost the team pennies—and turn them into contributors, players who can move from the end of the bench to coach Rick Carlisle’s rotation.

Procopio? He’s 5-foot-7 and north of 200 pounds. He looks like the beer vendors and security guards.

His playing career peaked in high school, when he scored all of four points—not even in the same game—on a Revere High team that went 0-20. But Procopio understands basketball at a microscopic level. His expertise is not Xs and Os, but nuances like where the right hip should be on a between-the-legs dribble going left, proper footwork on offense with the ball and without, and correcting flaws in shooting mechanics.

Communication—often through impeccably timed one-liners—is another strength. He can get through to anyone because he’s worked with everyone, earning the trust and respect of some big names. Lakers star Kobe Bryant relied on Procopio during several championship runs. Tim Grover, Michael Jordan’s longtime trainer, hired him to run the basketball side of his gym. Leo Papile, founder and coach of the Boston Amateur Basketball Club (BABC) and a longtime executive for the Boston Celtics, talks to him daily. Celtics veterans Danny Ainge, now the
A Great Social Experiment

PROCOPIO GREW UP in a Boston apartment that looked straight at the Boston Garden, home of the Celtics. His dad, John, was an electrician, and a good one, although you'd only hear it from others. He taught his son about humility, loyalty, and doing the right thing purely because it's the right thing. "Why waste time having an ego?" Procopio says, imparting the approach to life he took from his dad. The family moved to Revere, Massachusetts, when Procopio was 7. At 12, he got his first job in basketball: keeping score at the Hill Park Summer League. "To me, that was the NBA," he says.

He was soon going to every gym and camp he could, volunteering just to be part of the action. Over the years, he began studying the game, figuring out what worked and what didn't for each player. When he was around 17, he was smitten with the BABC teams and asked a friend how he could hook up with them. He still has the yellow slip of paper with Papile's phone number in red ink.

They met in the parking lot of the Wonderland Greyhound Park. Within minutes, Procopio had the keys to Papile's blue Cadillac and the duty of chauffeuring players. He also kept score, tabulated statistics, and ran leagues and tournaments, plus did a little coaching and a lot of learning. "It was a great social experiment in what guys responded to and didn't," he says. "I found out how to get a point across."

After graduating from Revere High in 1993, he enrolled at Suffolk. He loved living at home while remaining nestled in his basketball world, and expanding it by being the Rams' team manager.

"Even his freshman year, when he was reluctant to speak up, it was obvious this young man had something to offer," Nelson says. "In the close games, the ones decided by one or two plays, Mike's suggestions on how to defend someone or how to attack someone proved to be fruitful."

Procopio held the job for three seasons, including Nelson's final two as coach. Their bond remains so strong that, after Procopio got married in Indiana, he had Nelson preside over a ceremonial second event in Boston. "I'd rank his influence on my life just below my mom and dad," Procopio says.

The Light Bulb Went On

ONE SUMMER DURING his Suffolk years, Procopio landed a gig at the Nike All-American camp. The campers were high schoolers, with college players serving as counselors. While the youngsters were occupied, the college players gathered for individual skills training.

"Guys were teaching and correcting. The light bulb went on: This is what I want to do," Procopio says.

The summer before his senior year, Procopio used Shona Mutambira as a guinea pig: he went from being a backup who averaged 8.9 points a game to a starter averaging 14.4 points, on his way to 23 the next year.

Nowadays, skills training is a money maker, from NBA development coaches to training kids hardly bigger than a basketball. Back then, there were no such jobs, so Procopio left Suffolk seeking a career path.

He applied to be varsity coach at his alma mater, and Papile had then-Kentucky coach Rick Pitino call to recommend him. He still didn't get the job. Instead, Suffolk Associate News Director Tony Ferullo BSJ '78 hired Procopio to coach the junior varsity team.

"It's halftime one night and I go to get a slice of pizza with the coach of the varsity team we're about to play," Ferullo says. "We walk down the hall, and all of a sudden you hear this really animated speech using vulgarity and everything else. This guy was really going off on them! The varsity coach says, 'Who's that?' I told him, 'My JV coach. He gets a little excited.'"

Next came a stint at a prep school, a job at NikeTown, even time at a computer company. In 2002, Papile brought him to the Celtics, mixing gofer duties with scouting. "In the 2006 draft, he said, 'Here's my ranking of the point guards. Rajon Rondo is my number-one guy, and I'll stand behind it,'" Papile says. "That one has stood the test of time."

All along, Procopio kept working at summer camps, especially one at trainer Tim Grover's Chicago gym. In '06, Celtics forward Paul Pierce was walking in to lift weights with Grover as Procopio was walking out, and Pierce and Procopio agreed to meet later for an on-court workout. Grover witnessed that session and approached Procopio. "That was great work," Grover told him. "I've never seen a guy who looks like you work out a guy like that."

"Take a ticket and stand in line, because you're not the first guy or the last guy to tell me that," Procopio responded with a smile.

"Would you like to work for me?" Grover offered.
From top, Procopio works out Jae Crowder; consults Dirk Nowitzki during a time-out; catches up with Kobe Bryant.

sults conference following Game 7 when Bryant—who'd just won his fifth title and second Finals MVP award—was asked about his traveling party. Grover they knew; who was the tubby dude?

“He's my Jack Bauer,” Bryant said, referring to the fictional hero of the TV show Knight Rider. “He gave me all the edits and scouting reports and wrote defensive rotations of the Celtics. He was my eyes and ears, so when I played the game, I'd use all the scouting reports and all the information. And it was huge for me.”

Several months later, Procopio went to a UPS office to pick up a package. Inside was a solid-gold, diamond-filled Lakers championship ring with “Procopio” inscribed on the side.

“It was surreal,” he says.

All along, Procopio told Bryant he'd know they were done when the texts stopped. It happened in the summer of 2012, around the same time Grover lost his gym. Stuck outside the NBA for the first time in years, Procopio cranked up a basketball consultancy business he'd been dabbling in for years—until March, when Mavs coach Carlisle called. Cuban's talent search was a solid-gold, diamond-filled Laker's championship ring with “Procopio” inscribed on the side.

“Procopio has set up a program that expands on practices and drills through film sessions and quizzes. He works closely with the director of sports psychology and the rest of Carlisle's staff. As always, he jabs everyone with a sharp tongue.

“If you've seen the movie Ted, he's a lot like that [profane] teddy bear,” Carlisle says.
Both Feet in Cement, Thrown in the Atlantic Ocean

BACK AT THE AMERICAN Airlines Center, everything has fallen into place. The swirling spotlights were on target for the introduction of lineups, the dancers got the crowd going when the arena lights went on, and the ball is now poised for tip-off.

Procopio is nowhere in sight.

Because his work comes in the hours between games, he usually watches from the locker room, where he doesn’t have to wear a sports coat. It fits what his friends say about him—that he’s the same guy as 20 years ago, and he’d be just as happy coaching the Revere Patriots as he would the Dallas Mavericks.

Asking about that scouting report, Procopio nods and smiles. After all those years of trying to match a good job with a good salary, everything’s clicked. At 38, he’s starting a three-year contract that will provide for his wife, Natasha, and 1-year-old daughter, Maria. The owner of one NBA ring, he’s chasing another that would be even more meaningful.

“At the end of each day, I catch myself saying, ‘Are you serious? This is my life right now?’” Procopio says. “I’ve hit a goldmine jackpot with the Mavs. This is not a stepping-stone. I’m in this job with both feet in cement, thrown in the Atlantic Ocean.”

All the threads of his life story have stitched together perfectly. Not that he planned it this way.

“I’m sort of like the blending of Forrest Gump and Louie DePalma from Taxi—a wiseass, mutant-looking guy, and a guy that’s done all these cool things that he probably shouldn’t have. That’s how I see myself.”

WINTER 2014 SUFFOLK ALUMNI MAGAZINE 31
ABC D CEO
JOHN DREW
MBA '76
ISA VETERAN OF THE WAR ON POVERTY.

BY RENÉE GRAHAM

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JARROD MCCABE
HAD ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ABCD) EXISTED WHEN ITS PRESIDENT/CEO JOHN DREW WAS A CHILD, HIS FAMILY WOULD HAVE BEEN EXACTLY THE KIND OF CLIENTS FOR WHICH THE ANTIPOVERTY ORGANIZATION WAS FOUNDED.

Born in Boston's then-gritty Charlestown neighborhood, Drew and his four siblings were raised in a Somerville housing project. His father worked the graveyard shift as a shipper at a milk plant while his mother stayed at home to care for their children. At any given time, other relatives would stay for extended periods in the 4 1/4-room apartment when they were out of work, or otherwise out of luck. In a place where criminals were more plentiful than college graduates and liquor was an easy salve to mask the pain, Drew witnessed how unchecked poverty can erode the soul and short-circuit a productive future.

"There weren't a lot of options," Drew says. "The usual thing in my neighborhood was that you'd get a job at 16, or maybe you'd be a crook."

In the faces of those who turn to ABCD for such crucial services as child care, job training, fuel assistance, and foreclosure prevention, Drew sees how harsh circumstances can defer dreams and how easily people can slip through the cracks without help. That's what's kept him at the organization for most of his professional life.

"I came in for six months to help out, and 41 years later, here I am," jokes Drew, 76, who has been at the helm of ABCD since 2009. "In a way, there was never a good chance to leave, because there was always something to be done."

Yet Syvalia Hyman III, chair of ABCD's 48-member board that represents neighborhoods throughout Boston, says more than professional obligations have kept Drew with the organization for decades.

"If you experience something, you really understand it, and John has experienced the hardships many of our clients are going through," Hyman says. "I think that's a big difference, and you can see that in the way that John engages our clients and runs the organization."

The Breaking Point

The turnout for the rally is smaller than expected, the invited television cameras and reporters instead positioned about a quarter-mile away at Boston City Hall. On this crisp fall morning, the city awoke to the startling news that Boston Public School bus drivers had launched a wildcat strike, stranding thousands of students, flummoxing their parents, and infuriating the city's usually avuncular mayor Tom Menino.

It's the mayor's hastily called press conference that garners media attention, but those gathered in this third-floor room overlooking the Boston Common have issues just as pressing as the bus strike: the ill effects of the federal government's latest shutdown. For many of the people here—including a veteran dependent on fuel assistance to heat his home and a young mother lamenting the potential loss of a program that has taught her English—the stoppage means more than spoiled visits to national parks and monuments.

"Just because the government is shut down, doesn't mean we're shut down," Drew tells the small but vocal crowd. "I've lived through a lot of this, and I don't ever remember this much bumbling and idiocy from our national government. I'm here every day and I watch people come with pieces of paper, saying, 'I can't pay this, I have no place to live, I need some food.' People are angry. All of us here are stretched to the breaking point. So we have one simple message for Washington: shut down the shutdown!"

ABCD receives 85 percent of its $135 million budget from federal funding, and infighting in Washington, D.C. threatens agency clients like John MacPherson, a World War II vet who lives in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. He receives $941 a month in Social Security benefits and is a longtime recipient of fuel assistance. Without it, MacPherson, 87, says, "I'm going to freeze, I can tell you that."

At the rally, Drew places his hand on MacPherson's shoulder, lauds his service to this country, and calls him "a wonderful man who shouldn't be going without any assistance, any time at all."

Founded in 1962 by Boston community activists and officials, ABCD was established to help people overcome poverty by providing a range of services connected to housing, education, and employment. With more than 100,000 clients and operating under the motto "Helping People, Changing Lives," ABCD boasts more than 100 community and social service programs, including 22 Head Start centers, and other divisions such as Learning Works, a career development center. In 1993, ABCD founded the Urban College of Boston, and also runs two alternative secondary schools—University High, for young people at risk of dropping out, and William J. Ostiguy High School, known as Recovery High, for teenagers with a history of substance abuse. "They've left the school system because of addiction, and some of them even ended up on the streets," Drew says. "It's a struggle, but a lot of them have been able to get through, and we get referrals from all over the state for this high school."

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, a recovering alcoholic,
speak at the school's 2013 graduation as a mayoral candidate and praised the fortitude of its students. As a boy, 21-year-old Iain, one of Drew's three children from his second marriage (Drew also has three children from his first marriage) loved spending time with his father at ABCD. But he also learned a great deal about the "gulf that exists between people who have much and many who don't. That's one of the main reasons I wanted to pursue a career in medicine—because ill health is both a major cause and effect of poverty all over the world."

Now a behavioral neuroscience major at Northeastern University in Boston, Iain says, "My father gave me the bulk of my understanding about the social injustices that occur and limit opportunities and hurt so many people here and around the world."

John Drew says he has "a visceral reaction to people being poor and not getting any help. I don't like when people are treated as beggars and takers. We should be doing whatever we can to make things better. Part of my job here is to be an advocate; I'm the public voice for a lot of people who don't have a voice, and I can easily articulate the needs of these people because I've been there."

Part of My DNA

Growing up in a tough Somerville housing project, Drew says education wasn't a priority. Working and keeping the family whole consumed his parents' days. His father dropped out of school in the fifth grade, while his mother, one of 15 children, ended her formal education in the eighth grade when she left school to care for her younger siblings.

"No one in my family was an academic achiever," Drew recalls. "My parents were very bright people, but they didn't have the opportunities, and higher education was something no one even thought of. You'd see someone going by and someone would ask, 'Where's he going?' If someone said, 'College,' you were like, 'What's that?' Some of his friends ran afoul of the law, ending up dead or in prison.

Drew's own education was hindered by a severe and undetected hearing problem. "I became introverted because I couldn't hear what was going on," he says. "So I turned off school." He started working at 14, doing odd jobs in bowling alleys and restaurants to help his struggling family. He "somehow sneaked through high school" and got a job as a milk truck driver after graduation. He married, became a father, and continued living in a Somerville housing project. Working at the plant, Drew managed a fragile living until a ruptured disc in his back left him unable to work.

Suddenly, he was 28 and unemployed with no prospects. Then, he says, "I got a break." Driven by the sense that he needed something more than low-wage jobs, he had taken a few accounting courses at Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts years earlier. A caseworker suggested Drew resume his studies. He took two classes and did so well he stayed on for the fall semester as a full-time student. Drew's insurer and Massachusetts Rehabilitation picked up the tuition, and Drew supported his family with a job as a security guard. Three years later,
he had his degree in accounting and finance, and credentials as a CPA. He landed a job as an auditor with the international accounting firm Peat, Marwick, Mitchell (now KPMG), where he worked for several years. With his new position, he moved his family out of public housing. One of his assignments was an audit of a struggling Boston social services agency called ABCD. That's when Hyman, who was running the Roxbury Neighborhood Corporation and was an ABCD board member, first met Drew.

"I found him to be a really good guy who understood the business, and was committed to the organization and the work," Hyman says.

At 35, Drew had been considering leaving the accounting firm when he started working on ABCD's audit. Impressed by his work, then ABCD president Robert Coard asked Drew to become the agency's budget director for six months to sort out its financial problems. Within a few months, Drew was named finance director, and never looked back. "It was a challenging time, but it was an exciting time," he recalls. "There were all these people who needed help, and they weren't getting it. We saw ourselves as being in a position to do something about that. That mission really became part of my DNA."

Level the Playing Field

After a half-decade, Drew was promoted to ABCD's deputy executive director, but wanted to expand his academic credentials with a master's degree. After starting at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, Drew transferred to Suffolk, located near ABCD's headquarters across from the Boston Common. "ABCD was at best a start-up, large, and, like any start-up, somewhat chaotic," he recalls. "It didn't have a lot of systems in place. I had my CPA, but by being enrolled at Suffolk for my MBA, I was able to implement the business practices I was learning about in class. I was able to institute ideas and theories related to real estate management and financial management. I was using all of the skills on the job that I learned about in class. What I learned while earning my MBA at Suffolk University helped ABCD in the long run, as a business and as a major human services force."

While Suffolk helped Drew hone knowledge of how to run an organization and manage its many people and departments, he also finds time to maintain contact with clients like Paola Garcia, a young Boston mother, whose daughter Emily is in Head Start.

"One of my goals is to become a lawyer. It was my dream since I was a little girl," she says. "I couldn't do it if ABCD and Head Start didn't ask what was stopping me. Because of my English, I was afraid to go to college. But thanks to the support of ABCD, I got my girl into Head Start as child care, then I got myself into ESL classes. And I keep working on my English so I can achieve my goal."

Like her brother Iain, Olivia Drew spent time at ABCD, and credits her father's work there for her decision to pursue a nursing career. "I always understood that my father helped people, but didn't realize the gravity of the situation for a lot of people until I was a little bit older," says Olivia Drew, who is also a behavioral neuroscience major at Northeastern. "It made me appreciate him even more for putting so much into helping people get the same opportunities, and give every person the same chance to be where they want to be. He wants everyone to get those opportunities, whether it's being financially stable or happy and healthy. My dad just wants to level the playing field, and I'm very proud of that."

John Drew is proud that, despite constant threats of government cuts, ABCD continues to serve some of society's most vulnerable citizens.

"Being poor does something to your spirit, and we want people to have independence, a sense that they have some control over their lives," he says. "We see people who have been victims of domestic violence, are disabled, or just can't find a job. The fact is unless we pay attention to them, it's going to be a lost generation. And if they have children, those children may be lost, too. That's something we have to change."
THE BEST LAWYERS CAN'T BUY MONEY
THE WELL-SCHOoled STUDENT ATTORNEYS OF SUFFOLK'S FAMILY ADVOCACY CLINIC PROVIDE CLIENTS WHO LACK RESOURCES AN ALTERNATIVE TO SELF-SERVE REPRESENTATION.

BY RENÉE GRAHAM
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANA SMITH
that a woman’s ex-husband can cut his child support payment by nearly $50 a week, and the woman’s lawyer, Jasmine Elatab ‘14, can barely contain her disappointment. After months of delays, it's a surprising end to a trying case at the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse in Boston. This is Probate and Family Court, where the frayed remains of relationships and familial ties are legally sorted and settled. At least that’s the intention, but, as Elatab has come to realize, nothing in these wide, gleaming corridors is that simple.

When the hearing began, Elatab was confident that her client, a single mother, would not be forced to make do with less for her 5-year-old son. Her former spouse claims a medical problem prevents him from getting a better paying job, and though he has no paperwork to support this, a reduction in child support is granted. That the amount could have been cut even more is not lost on Elatab; this is the kind of law lesson better learned in a courtroom, not a classroom.

A third-year law student, Elatab is participating in Suffolk Law’s Family Advocacy Clinic (FAC), which gives real-world legal experience to students. These are not mock trials. Students are assigned clients and must prepare and present their cases before a judge. And since these are family court cases, the serious issues can vary from child custody and support to divorce and domestic violence. This is why Elatab, whose devotion to helping children once made her consider a career in childhood nutrition, wanted to be part of the Law School’s clinical program.

“As clichéd as it sounds, I’ve always had this inherent interest in helping people,” says Elatab, who has a psychology degree from American University in Washington, D.C. “It was just a matter of me finding the right outlet to do it. I wanted to affect people long-term and make an actual difference.”

Win-Win
FAC is one of 10 in-house clinics offered at Suffolk Law to second- and third-year students. “Legal education began to recognize the need for experiential learning for law students in the ‘60s and ‘70s, so there was a burst of clinical programs for law students,” explains Suffolk’s FAC Director Maritza Karmely, who also teaches a trial advocacy course in family law. Along with practitioner-in-residence Christine Butler JD ’78, Karmely is one of the supervising attorneys who attend court hearings with students. “Little by little, most law schools began to develop their own programs,” Karmely says. “It’s fair to say that family law cases are the kinds that have always needed help, and there’s even more of a need for our kind of legal services. It’s a win-win: the students get real-life lawyering experience, and clients get needed representation.”

Established in the early 1970s, FAC was one of Suffolk’s first clinical programs. In addition to the courtroom component, students must attend a seminar each week on lawyering skills and ethics, a supervision meeting focused on professional development and case strategy, and log a minimum of 13 hours a week on their cases. Recently, the Law School’s clinical programs were cited among the nation’s best by U.S. News & World Report.

Butler, who has been involved with domestic violence issues for more than 30 years, notes an expansion at Suffolk Law in both the number of clinics and the areas and fields of law they cover. “The multiple clinics now available to students provide more students the extraordinary opportunity to practice law under the guidance and close supervision of an experienced attorney,” Butler says. “It is hard to imagine a more appropriate way to help law students transition into practicing attorneys.”

To find its clients, FAC has a contract with HarborCOV, a Chelsea, Massachusetts, organization that provides emergency and long-term support services for victims of domestic violence, especially in Chelsea and the surrounding areas of East Boston, Winthrop, and Revere. FAC-eligible clients must fall within federal poverty guidelines. Usually, they would have no choice but to represent themselves in court because they can’t afford an attorney, but FAC helps level the field, says Michaela Moshier, a HarborCOV legal advocacy specialist.

“They’re an incredible resource for us. In addition to having experienced domestic violence, most of our clients are almost always low-income, and we serve a lot of immigrants and non-English speakers—people who are facing additional barriers in accessing the justice system and getting legal representation,” she says. “To be able to refer clients in need of legal services to [FAC] directly and get people in touch with representation they probably wouldn’t have had otherwise is an amazing opportunity.”

A Hand to Lead You
On the airy floor where family court is held, the halls teem with men and women awaiting their moment before a judge. Amid the cacophony of various languages and fussy babies, some gather with family members, while others hunch over smartphone calculators running figures on child support payments. Still more sit alone, a worn manila folder stuffed with various court documents, certificates, and receipts held on their laps. When their name is called, they will enter the court pro se, meaning they will represent themselves. The process “isn’t a friendly one, especially to people who may not speak English and may not
know how the system here works,” Moshier says. Yet for Elatab’s client, the court experience is vastly different. Long before her hearing begins, the woman sits with Elatab and Karmely, as well as an interpreter since the client is not fluent in English. They discuss strategies and weigh options with the client as an active participant.

“I feel like I can show clients that I relate to them,” says Elatab, 25, who hails from North Haledon, New Jersey. “It shows them that you want to solve their problems, and I’m sincerely doing this from a position that we’re in this together. I’m your voice. I hope people are in tune with that, and we can build a case together.”

Clients are informed up front that law students supervised by attorneys will represent them, Moshier says. “People know that if at any time they’re not happy with the services, they don’t have to continue, but I haven’t heard from anyone that they’ve been unhappy,” she says. “People are usually pretty grateful for the opportunity to have legal assistance.”

Either Butler or Karmely attends a student’s initial interview with a new client, but they remain as unobtrusive as possible. “We’ll sit [in]—not to direct the interview but to be in the background—and then sit down later with the student attorney[s] to talk to them about how they think it went, what they think worked, what they could do differently,” Butler says. “During a session with a client, we’re not going to stop [a student attorney] mid-sentence and say, ‘You forgot to ask about this,’ because that’s not going to engender confidence for the client.”

While clients know a seasoned lawyer will advise their attorney, “Students are really good at engaging with the clients and establishing a working relationship with them,” Butler says. “If their first reaction might be, ‘Oh gosh, is this a student who’s going to represent me,’ they become more and more comfortable as they spend time with the student attorney—and the fact that they know we’re in the background.”

Several years ago, Sindy Munoz, who lives in the working-class city of Chelsea across the Mystic River from Boston, was referred to FAC for a child custody issue. Without FAC, she would not have had legal representation, she says. “The student I worked with seemed like she was a lawyer already. She explained a lot and she knew what I wanted. She was driven, but she never doubted what I wanted. She was always checking up on me and my son in emails, text messages, and calls. At the end of the day, I’m the one making the decisions, but it’s good to have a hand to lead you.”

For the law students, the guiding hand comes from Karmely and Butler. In court, they sit at the lawyer’s table with the students who present the case before the judge. Says Elatab, “I feel like we won the lottery with Chris and Maritza as advisers. They never get impatient, they really teach you A through Z. They make it the best learning environment possible.” Lauren Standiford ’14, a clinic fellow last summer, called Karmely and Butler “a safety net,” but added that the two seasoned attorneys “didn’t step on my toes or force my hand in making any decisions.”

“I remember one negotiation, my second, and I was sitting across the table from two attorneys, both speaking at me at the same time, and [I] looked at Chris, like, ‘Which one of them do I address?’ So, Chris took the lead on that issue because she had worked on this case for a year and I was just getting my teeth sunk in,” says Standiford, 26. “It’s great when you have that ‘deer-in-the-headlights look’ to have her be able to help me. But it’s not like Chris takes over and I’m just playing on my
iPhone. I’m not just passively involved. I’m still actively taking notes and thinking about what they’re saying, because I have to report everything to the client. But that was an instance when I felt, ‘Thank goodness I have someone here with 30 years of experience.’”

Cross the Bar

For Elatab, there’s now “a change of energy” she experiences walking into a courtroom, but it wasn’t always that way. She recalls a case where, in order to pass a note to a state Department of Revenue attorney, she needed to cross the bar, the long wooden railing that separates the judge, jury, court officers, and attorneys from others in the courtroom. “At first I felt like a law student, like I was out of place. The attorney was all the way in the front, and she asked us to let her know what we decided to do. You can’t talk in court so Maritza said, ‘Just go, walk through, and hand her a note.’ And I said, ‘Cross the bar? You mean I’m just allowed to walk in it? Do I have to ask someone’s permission?’ And she said, ‘You’re an attorney, you’re allowed there.’

“I was convinced the judge would stop me and say, ‘No, you are out of place, you don’t belong here. What are you doing, child?’” But as soon as I crossed that bar, sat next to her, and passed her that note, I felt like this was my place and I felt more comfortable,” Elatab says. “It’s a little thing, but I felt like I was playing the part until then when I turned into the part. It’s like being in the cool kids club.”

Standiford’s entry into “the cool kids club” came quickly—her first court date was also her third day of work at the Family Advocacy Clinic. “I hit the ground running and never quite stopped. The day and night before [my first court date], I worked for hours with my calculator adding and re-adding all of the child support payments a father had made to one of my clients. I remember looking at the clock on the wall in the office and saying, ‘Is it really 7:15 p.m.? I really have to be in front of a judge in just over 14 hours?’ But I was ready, as everyone always seems to be ready for the big day they’ve been thinking about for months.” Standiford made her argument—the father was representing himself—and the situation was mediated in her client’s favor without a judge. “I left feeling like I’d just won the lottery for my client,” she says. “These are people who have real problems on their hands and we’re their only resource.”

That realization—that the strategies pursued and decisions made in these courtrooms can have long-lasting ramifications for their clients and families—is not lost on either Elatab or Standiford. It is also what moved them to pursue this clinic and fuels their desire to continue this work postgraduation and beyond.

“It’s honestly disturbing to me to think our clients aren’t the only people with these problems and there are other people who don’t have anyone to help them,” Elatab says. “Advocacy is everything to me, and being part of this clinic is one of the best decisions I’ve made in law school.”
Dear Fellow Alumni,

RECENTLY, AS A MEMBER of a panel interviewing candidates for a vice president slot at my company, I was reminded of sitting on the opposite side of the table, decades ago. As a 3L, I committed one afternoon each week between my Wills and Civil Practice class to review several binders (yes, nothing was ‘online’ back then) of jobs which lucky alum had landed. I remember an entry that caught my attention from a recent Law grad working at the United States Office of Special Counsel in D.C. The Suffolk grad had completed an alumni questionnaire answering a variety of questions about her current job.

Back then, I hoped to work in a district attorney’s office but those positions were reserved for the politically and well-connected or proven oral advocates who had several moot court victories under their belt. Neither characteristic described me.

And so I wrote to the U.S. Office of Special Counsel to apply for an attorney position. I was shocked when I received a phone call asking me to come down for an all-expenses-paid interview. At that time, it seemed too good to be true. Why would a prestigious federal agency with countless excellent area law schools choose me?

I spent the weekend taking a trip to the local mall for a white shirt and red power tie. As I left Reagan National Airport and entered one of several enormous federal buildings downtown, I couldn't help but think that all I needed was an opportunity to be myself and shine.

I sat in a conference room anxiously waiting to meet my interviewer. Fortunately I was welcomed with a friendly face, a nodding ‘I understand’ when I offered an answer. It was from my very first boss, Ralph Eddy, who had spent his entire career mentoring and coaching new lawyers joining the ranks of the federal government. Our conversation was relaxed, talking about the attributes that come with the importance of hard work, the right attitude and remaining true to oneself even in such a political environment as Washington.

At the end, Ralph mentioned having great luck with a Suffolk grad—yes, the same alum completing that questionnaire—who had recently returned to Boston. In fact, he said that if I could bring the same abilities as the other Suffolk grad, things would work out fine. Shortly after that interview, I was offered the job. And that was the start of my long career in administrative law and regulations.

And the Suffolk Law alum who completed that questionnaire? We never met, but if you're reading this THANK YOU for paving the way and personifying all that it means to be a Suffolk grad.

Sincerely,

ROB HOWLEY, JD '92, MEMBER, SUFFOLK LAW ALUMNI BOARD

POSTSCRIPT BY TRISHA GRIFFIN-CARTY, BA '71

Rob's interviewer knew the best way to learn about a candidate's skill, experience, and possible fit was to set the stage for a relaxed two-way conversation. In my work as a communications coach, I encourage interviewers to focus on the person behind the resume. Here are a few tips to improve your I.Q. (interviewing quotient):

Consider how to “set the stage” for a professional and relaxed two-way conversation. Start (but don't stay) with the resume. Qualities such as a strong personal drive may not show up in print. Consider taking a chance on a candidate who demonstrates a strong work ethic.

Well-conceived questions prompt more complete answers. Ask open-ended questions that encourage the candidate to respond using actual school/work examples. Actively seek out Suffolk graduates for openings in your companies.

Spend more time listening than speaking. Remember, the goal is to learn about the candidate.
When was the last time you felt inspired to write your employer a check?

It speaks volumes that so many employees of Suffolk University are among its most consistent donors. Suffolk Alumni Magazine asked a cross-section of staff and faculty what motivates them to contribute so consistently.

"As a Suffolk alum I wanted to give back to the university that provided me with vital education via teaching. Suffolk University’s competitive advantages are bright professors who are dedicated to their students, highest standard of education, small classes, and the university’s location."

David Hartstein, BSBA ’85, MBA ’86, Executive in Residence, Marketing

"I had the opportunity to meet so many prospective students and families from all walks of life who I knew could really benefit from our unique educational experience. So many students who weren’t just interested in coming to school in Boston, but who wanted to be a part of the city; students who would take full advantage of all we have to offer; students who were not just interested in taking, but also giving. Too many of them, however, could not afford to enroll here. Some would scrape together all they could to make it happen, only to realize after their freshmen year that they couldn’t afford to continue with us. Being in my position, working every day to attract and enroll these deserving students, made it even more heartbreaking when we lost them to other schools. At the start, I was struggling to raise my own family as well. I knew I couldn’t contribute much. But when I thought about all of the other folks here in a similar position, many who’ve been here much longer than me, I figured even a little something from everyone could help our students. Continuing to give has been easy. Years after my arrival, Suffolk’s mission remains strong. The students with financial need who could thrive in this environment are as well-deserving as ever."

Walter Caffey, Vice President, Enrollment Management

"I first contributed to Suffolk upon graduation. I think my favorite thing about how the Alumni Association encourages alumni to donate is that they simply encourage the act of donating, no matter how big or small. Every little amount makes a difference, and being able to specify where you’d like your gift to go gives a personal touch to giving back. What makes me ‘re-up’ every year is still feeling connected to the Suffolk community and watching the institution continue to grow as a whole and being able to see what’s in store for its future. I was able to do some amazing things as an undergraduate at Suffolk, and now, as a staff member, I’d like to help ensure that students that come after me have the funding for similar experiences."

Pat Nobrega BA ’12, Staff Assistant, Office of Student Affairs

"My first contribution to Suffolk was as a volunteer coming back to speak to history majors. Through that experience and from my own strong affinity for Suffolk, I began giving back through financial support shortly thereafter. Each year I have continued to increase my support as I feel as though I am continuously enhancing my own relationship with Suffolk as an employee, as a “double Ram” and as a proud alumna. I have the advantage to work at Suffolk as an alumna so I get to see every day the importance of supporting our University and the students I work with."

Elizabeth Conley, BS ’07, MPA ’12, Managing Director, Alumni Engagement

"Anything we can do to support the school and reduce the debt burden on our graduating students is important."

Joseph W. Glannon, Professor of Law

"I’ve been incredibly impressed by our students and the challenges they’ve faced, and sacrifices they’ve made, to pursue their own dedication to helping others. This is why I continue to contribute. I’ve been blessed by having an incredibly rewarding legal career, including, now, the opportunity to teach here. The financial demands on students are so much greater now than they were when I was in law school, and I hope to help support our students in achieving their goals, beyond whatever I might contribute in the classroom."

Diane S. Julian, Clinical Professor of Law

"Anything we can do to support the school and reduce the debt burden on our graduating students is important."

Joseph W. Glannon, Professor of Law

ONLINE For a photo, video and social media recap of Homecoming Weekend, visit suffolk.edu/homecoming
7] Suffolk beat Emerson in our inaugural Homecoming Flag Football Game. [8] President McCarthy being interviewed during the post-game wrap up. [9] Members of the Class of 1962 at the Welcome Reception. [10-13] This year’s signature event was held at the New England Aquarium, where the University community came together for Suffolk Makes a Splash!
Holiday Party and Sweater Drive
WASHINGTON, D.C. / DECEMBER 9, 2013
[5] Adam Sulewski JD '09 and Farrah Saint-Surin JD '08.

15th Annual Career Forum
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL / OCTOBER 29, 2013

SULS Microbrew and Boston Chowdah Open House Reception
BOSTON MILTON HOTEL / JANUARY 2, 2014
Class of 1993-1994 Wine Tasting Reception
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL / OCTOBER 8, 2013

Teri Scibelli Blum JD '94, Kim Gainsboro JD '94, Kimberly Cooperstein JD '94,
Sue Lagree BS '90, JD '94, Christine Devin JD '94, and Jane Cohen Freedman JD '94.

MBA Wine Tasting
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY / NOVEMBER 9, 2013

Alumni and current MBA students came together for Harvesting Success: Fearlessly Looking at the Future of your Business. The lecture and wine tasting was presented by president and COO of Cape Classics, Robert Bradshaw EMBA '05. This event was a part of the Suffolk Alumni Association Inspired Career Series.

New York Reception
LINCOLN CENTER, NEW YORK / DECEMBER 17, 2013

Alumni in New York City came together for a networking reception and to see fellow alum Jonny Orsini BS '07 in Macbeth at Lincoln Center. This was the first event for the newly established New York City Alumni Network.

Deans' Holiday Reception
OMNI PARKER HOUSE / DECEMBER 9, 2013

CAS Dean Kenneth Greenberg and SBS Dean William J. O'Neill Jr., JD '74 hosted a holiday reception for alumni in the fields of communications, finance, accounting, government, nonprofit, and real estate.
education at Suffolk from 1966 to 1976. Richard currently serves as Director of the Reading Certificate Program at the MGH Institute of Health Professions.

1973
[1] Francis J. Farina (BSBA) CPA joined the faculty of Ralph W. Ketner School of Business at Catawba College, Salisbury, North Carolina as Associate Professor and Director of the School's Institute of Accounting. Frank’s son Mark is a first year student at Suffolk University Law School.

1974
Patrick Crowley (DIPLOMA) has "repositioned himself." The owner of Crowley Design has added small business image development packages to his practice which includes graphic design and art direction.

1975
[2] Since 1994, Paul Dever (BS) has been principal and creative director at Dover Franikan Advertising Communications, a full-service agency in Milford, MA specializing in B2B. This spring, the agency will celebrate its 20th year in business.

1976
"Thank you Suffolk University for my start in professional sports management, radio, TV and journalism," writes Bob Stackelbeck (BS). And what a career it has been: former sports reporter for WRKO (Boston), WLLH (Lowell) and WNAV (Haverhill), covering three Super Bowls and three World Series; member, United States Professional Tennis Association; and teaching/touring pro with the World Team Tennis League, founded by Billie Jean King. "I would love to hear from you, especially my old teammates and players from the Suffolk University Men’s Tennis Team, 1968-74," Bob adds. "Thanks for the memories."

1990
"Hi—from a long ways away—
I can say it's been a strange, long trip, too," reflects Susan Peterson (BA). "After graduation, I went to work for daily newspapers and fell into my specialty—medical writing—and also right into the AIDS epidemic. People with AIDS were my age, a bit older and seemingly a lot younger, and I realized life was short. In '95, I switched paths from journalism to somatics and I do medical massage now. Writ­ing? A hobby, sort of. Nice to get paid to do it."

1993
"I always have news," reports Bev Flaxington (BSBA). "I will be launching an Internet TV show on the Conscious Evolution Media Station called Human Behavior Coach TV. Bev also taught three classes last semester "for my beloved alma mater."

1997
Karen (Shine) Nelson (MPA) RN enjoyed her second year as VP of Quality, Compliance & Regulatory Affairs for Partners Continuing Care. Partners Healthcare at Home and the Spaulding Rehabilitation Network were saddened by the Marathon bombings, and humbled to be able to care for so many of those injured. Karen also spent time on the Suffolk campus, teaching HLTH660, Leadership & Ethics in Healthcare Organizations. A lovable hound named Jacoby joined her family this year, and all were crestfallen by Elsbury's defection to the Yankees. "Jake" is now getting used to it.

1999
In November, Eric Lappanen (BSBA) had a full gallery show at Asymmetry Arts in Rockland, ME. His work took the grand prize of Ovation’s Artists in Motion contest.

1999
[3] Reverend Virgil Gordon Glenn III (BA) has announced his candidacy to be the next editor of the Christian Recorder newspaper of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This election will take place at the 50th Annual Conference of the AME Church in 2016 in Philadelphia. In March, Reverend Glenn and his wife Rachel welcomed their second child, Virginia Grace.

1999
"Hey there," writes William Ogg (BSBA). "I enjoy reading Suffolk Alumni Magazine (and) I wanted to share my success story with my business that I started up back in the Fall of 2005. I decided to follow my passion in life and work with animals. I own a personalized pet service in Charlotte, North Carolina. I have carried over several business practices that were taught to me during my courses at Suffolk. Moreover, my dream was to become independent as a college student in the wonderful city of Boston. Suffolk supplied me with the necessary tools to support my passion and build a healthy business."

2001
Rosane Romulus Withers (BS) and Arthur James Withers III were married on September 27, 2013 in Norcross, GA. They honeymooned in beautiful St. Thomas. Smiles and greetings from the beautiful U.S. Virgin Islands.

2002
"I've been designing custom plush for the ABC-TV show Bridesmaids," reports Laura Granlund (BFA). "Keep your peppers peeled for background stuffed animals."

2002
"I'm proud to share my news that I was recently hired by the California Highway Patrol," writes Ryan Winters (BA). Following six months at CHP Academy in Sacramento, Ryan will be assigned to patrol in one of the eight divisions in the state. "Excited to follow in my father's footsteps," he adds, "and have a career in law enforcement."

Laura Piscope (BA) spoke to K-8 students, faculty, administrators and parents for the annual Veterans Day program at Meadowbrook School of Weston in November. Laura spoke about her experiences enlisting at age 17 into the Army Reserves and training as a linguist and intelligence analyst. She tied in theme of the military with the values of the school, focusing on leadership and teamwork. Laura just completed her MPA program at Suffolk.
Amanda Rosenblatt (BSJ) writes, "I am still a freelance pop culture/ fan culture sociology-oriented press writer working full-time in medical billing and collections, but I am writing my first book and podcasting every week."

I am working towards a very important goal in my real estate career in San Diego, CA," writes Louis Ray Brigmac (BS). "I am striving to be inducted into the National Broker Magazine "30 Under 30" feature showcase. I am also working as the Suffolk University liaison to San Diego, which will enable me to reach out to fellow alumni moving to the area or just visiting."

2010
"Upon graduating, I moved to New York City to intern for NYLON magazine and community... I am training for my second half Ironman... I am using my connections with the community and passion for fitness to try and inspire others to live a healthy lifestyle and connect."

2012
"A month before graduation, I became an employee of a vendor of the Department of Youth Services," writes Cathryn Gilbert (BS). "I work with at-risk male youth in a detention setting. Suffolk gave me the confidence to achieve my career goals."

"I wasn't too sure when my SU educational experience would kick in, but to and behold, it did," writes Chardine Chanel-Falateau (BS). "When I was hired at [Boston] Mayor or Menino's wage gap negotiator, I was unsure of my ability to fulfill the duties of my job [that] required me to conduct free workshops at different organizations around the city to teach women how to negotiate for their wage. Sounds simple enough, if the material wasn't so intricate. At first... I wasn't sure how to do it without making it seem like another workshop. But I remember taking a class with an amazing professor by the name of Gini Mann-Deibert who taught a course about how women were portrayed in the media... I started to draw back on all these notes I took for the class and voila, my workshops became a lot more vivid. I was able to demonstrate how much the wage gap has affected me and has been affecting the audience of women... I was so thankful for Gini Mann-Deibert's lessons because I was not only able to apply them to everyday living but I was able to use them to show women that even though we are placed in a 'different light' from our male counterparts, we are able to defend ourselves and receive what we know we deserve... I have gone from conducting workshops at Wonder Women of Boston to Society of Women Engineers (Northeast chapter)... I really want to send a special thanks to Gini Mann-Deibert. She was very patient and gave great visions that I am now able to pass on to other women and affect change in their lives."

5 From Veronica Montross (BA): "As of now, I am working for Mystic View Design, a small graphic design firm in Chelsea, MA. I found out about this job through the Suffolk Alumni Facebook page. Upon starting, I realized the owner of the company was a Suffolk alum as well and attended NESAD. Small world! This job has been great... Aside from work and school, I have been able to travel with friends to Miami and Puerto Rico... I love traveling and will try to do it as often as possible. Suffolk was a great place to attend school because of the travel it offered. I was able to study abroad in Madrid... I am open to new adventures. Can't wait to see what else the future brings!"

2013
[6] CampusTap founder and CEO Remy Carpineto (BSBA) writes, "During my final year at Suffolk University I was able to fund my dream and found my startup, CampusTap, an online and mobile platform which allows students to interact with their classmates and find on-campus events to attend based on their interests. CampusTap's mission is to help students learn, collaborate and transition from academia to a career. Upon graduation this past summer I moved out to San Francisco to work with my development team. We have officially relocated back to Boston, and are renting workspace at Exponential Boston, a co-working ed tech space in the Back Bay. I'm really excited to have the whole team out here and formally have our headquarters in Boston. We launched our Alpha test at Suffolk this semester and currently have a couple hundred Suffolk users testing the program. Our launch party was hosted at Suffolk University and with over 200 students in attendance, it was a huge success. We are looking forward to officially launching the full version of our product next semester at Suffolk, as well as a few other select colleges in Boston."

7 "I raced last year with the XC team before I graduated in May," reports Jesus Portillo Mulero (BSBA). "Before I joined the XC team, the most I'd ever run was 3 miles. With them I raced 5 miles in the woods. I never thought that one year later, I would be doing my first Ironman... I finished 2 half Ironmans in 24 days. Moreover, I finished top 5 in my age group in the last one."

STAY CONNECTED
You can reach your classmates on the following pages through the Suffolk University Alumni Association Online Community. If you are not currently a member, please email SuffAlum@suffolk.edu for your user ID number to register. Registration is free and the easiest way to stay in touch with Suffolk University's 70,000 graduates worldwide. (Due to privacy concerns, we are unable to print or provide individual contact information.)
"A few weeks after the class of 2013 commencement, and receiving my diploma, I had the exciting opportunity to travel," reports Zerina Dorcolovic (BS). "The four years I spent at Suffolk University have definitely influenced and shaped me as an individual and travelling throughout Europe reaffirmed that. With an open heart, I was able to completely submerge myself in foreign places, learning from rich cultures, languages, and traditions of those who I came into contact with. Traveling is a wealth like no other."

**GRADUATE**

1973

Bill Driscoll (MBA, BSBA ’72) writes, "I became a CPA in 1977. From 1977 to 2008, I was an adjunct Professor of Accounting at Suffolk. During this period of time, I was employed full time at the IRS. In 2008, I was hired full time as an instructor. This was a dream come true for me. I love teaching at this University."

In 2008, William Casey (MBA ’73, BSBA ’66) retired from The Co-Operative Central Bank, Boston after a 29-year career, serving as president and CEO from 2000 until his retirement.

1987

"I recently completed my PhD in Organizational Psychology," reports Pat Griffin (MBA) "and am currently consulting and teaching psychology at SMCC [Southern Main Community College] in South Portland, ME."

1999

Joe Kaplan (MBA) is working as the Director of Norfolk County [MA] RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program).

1995

"Years ago, I finished my MBA at Suffolk but the memories are still very present in my life," writes Idola Azaledegui (MBA). "Nowadays I'm the general manager of POLYMAT, a research investigation linked to the University of the Basque Country. I'm responsible for operating processes, project and personnel management, subjects of a legal, fiscal and economic-financial nature as well as resources of the research center."

1996

Tina Brokshorff (EMBA) co-founded CoPiloted, "a web-based service that provides investors with advice for 401k's and other retirement accounts." She lives in Westwood, MA with her husband Milan and son Jonathan.

2013

"I currently am the PR manager for StudyDin, a leading commercial real estate brokerage firm in New York City," writes Angela Bonnici (MA).

2006

Danielle Wuschke (MBA) has been named general manager of FleichmanMiller's Boston office. She will oversee the office's operations, financial performance and senior staff of the global communications firm.

2007

In 2013, David Orzontohi (MBA) and his wife Melissa welcomed identical twin boys into their family, bringing the total to 5.

2010

"We're hiring the best," writes Environmental League of Massachusetts president George Bachrach of ELM's new legislative director Erica Mattson (MBA '08, JD '13). "ELM is delighted to have Erica join the ELM team and strengthen our advocacy work at the State House."

Erica has served as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators and as a legislative aide to Massachusetts State Senator Cynthia Creem. She created and coordinated Suffolk University's..."
SAM WANTS YOU...

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Bringing you news from Suffolk, the city, the region and the world—updates, travel highlights, awards and honors, shout-outs to classmates—anything that you’d like to share with your 70,000 fellow Suffolk graduates. We also welcome your high-resolution (minimum 300 d.p.i.) photos.

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"SMILE MORE."

It seems like a piece of advice no political candidate should need, but it was one I received over and over again during my campaign for mayor of Boston last year. When you want to connect with people and convince them of your commitment to their best interests, you’d be crazy not to make your first and last impression one that features a wide and toothy grin.

But while I was running for mayor on nights and weekends and during the occasional lunch break, I also had a day job—that of district attorney for Suffolk County, one of the most densely-populated regions in the state, with about a quarter of the Commonwealth’s violent crime—and my public appearances in that capacity didn’t afford me much to smile about.

Less than two weeks after I declared my mayoral candidacy, for example, terrorist bombs claimed three lives at the Boston Marathon—a scene I’d left less than half an hour earlier, and one to which I immediately returned to oversee the death investigation that Massachusetts law made my responsibility until our federal partners took jurisdiction. My wife and I had been just a few feet from where the second bomb would go off. As DA, I had a professional obligation that day, but my feelings of outrage were deeply personal.

A few months later, a cold case investigation we had jump-started late the previous year finally bore forensic fruit, leading to the conclusive identification of Albert DeSalvo in the 1964 murder of Mary Sullivan—a determination that finally brought closure to her family. There’s a sense of satisfaction in answering a question that puzzled so many for so long, but it was hardly a cause for celebration.

During another two-week period not long after, Boston was rocked by three homicides. When good news comes in cases like these, it’s that a suspect has been identified or apprehended—cold comfort to the parents, children, and loved ones left to carry on after suffering the ultimate loss. I very often meet with those families, and the last thing I can imagine doing in those circumstances is smile. Add to those high-profile cases the thousands that were perhaps less serious but still momentous to the victims, witnesses, and even defendants they involved, and the weight of being Boston’s chief law enforcement official was hard to shed during a quick ride from the office to a campaign event.

This isn’t to say that there weren’t moments of cheer in the weeks between early April and late September. In fact, I enjoyed it a great deal. I had an outstanding team with innovative ideas, an electorate that challenged and inspired us every step of the way, and a field of fellow candidates whom I genuinely liked and respected (and still do). No one was sure what to expect during the city’s first truly contested mayoral race in decades, but what we got was a team of rivals: Bostonians from very different walks of life with what were at times very different ideas about how best to lead the city, but all deeply committed to making it a better place to live, work, go to school, and raise a family. We were political, to be sure, but much more sporting than vengeful, to name Boston’s three famous interests.

I would never have run for mayor if I didn’t hope to win, and I wouldn’t have dared hope if I didn’t think I could succeed. But with the campaign behind me and the breakneck pace of the trail giving way to a more predictable one that allows me to see my incredibly supportive wife and two wonderful kids again for more than an hour at a time, I do believe I smile a little more.
When I first became a student at Suffolk, I did not know in what direction my life was heading. Suffolk University, its administrators and professors, embraced me as a student. The caring and concern for me as an individual allowed me to grow, learn, and eventually excel as an entrepreneur in the food industry. From these experiences I vowed to help support Suffolk and its students.

My Suffolk education enabled me to extend educational opportunities to my wife and my children who went on to successful careers in business and law. We decided to give back to the place where all of our family’s good fortune began, Suffolk University. Throughout the years we have believed in giving back and now see firsthand through our family’s scholarship fund what we can do for others. Including Suffolk in our bequest allows for us to continue to support the J. Robert Johnson Centennial Scholarship Fund we established in perpetuity.

I would ask all graduates to look at where their education at Suffolk University has taken them throughout their lives and then to consider the reward of supporting Suffolk and its students so that these same students may have the same opportunities.

J. ROBERT JOHNSON
BSBA ’63, MBA ’68
Founder and Chairman of Yankee Marketers, Inc., Trustee, Suffolk University, with Sandra Johnson

We decided to give back to the place where all of our family’s good fortune began.