The wisdom of the University in building the new Sargent Hall on Tremont Street was never more evident than on February 5. On that day, the Law School helped host the biggest sports rally Boston has ever seen, a celebration of the Patriots’ remarkable Super Bowl victory. The parade of Patriots football players and coaches passed along Tremont Street, directly in front of the Law School, on their way to City Hall Plaza. For several hours that day, business as usual took a back seat to the celebration.

The crowds lined the streets so deeply that one of our faculty members, in order to cross the parade route to teach his class, had to enter the MBTA Park Street station (paying a $1 fare), walk through the station under Tremont Street and exit on the Law School side of the street. Photographs of the Law School and the parade, which appeared on the Web sites of Yahoo! and the *Boston Herald*, can also be seen at www.law.suffolk.edu/press/2002/pats.

In a year dominated by tragedy and economic recession, there was a palpable sense of relief and release in celebrating such a “feel good” event. People of New England were expressing appreciation for the Patriots’ performance and a strong sense of pride in the region’s team.

One of my roles as dean of Suffolk Law School is to help build pride among our faculty, students and alumni for the Law School. The new building has assisted tremendously in that effort. After alumni see Sargent Hall for the first time, they often express how it adds to their sense of pride in being associated with the school. There are many other activities and accomplishments occurring on a regular basis that distinguish the school, only some of which I can include in this letter to alumni and friends.

**Faculty**

Our faculty members continue to expand their professional and scholarly activities, and through them, the national academic reputation of the Law School. One important example is the number of faculty members who are active in and have received recognition for their contributions to the Association of American Law Schools (AALS). The AALS is the most important professional organization for law schools and law professors, and its annual meetings are a prime opportunity for law professors from different schools to interact.
At the most recent AALS conference in New Orleans, four Suffolk Law faculty members were invited to make presentations: Michael Avery (teaching practice skills), Joe Franco (securities law disclosure requirements), Dwight Golann (alternative dispute resolution), and Elbert Robertson (teaching economics in antitrust courses). Five of our faculty members were selected for leadership positions in the AALS: Lisle Baker (technology in legal education), Victoria Dodd (AALS annual meeting), Valerie Epps and Keith Fisher (international law), and Betsy McKenzie (law libraries).

The decision to grant tenure to a faculty member is our acknowledgment of excellence in teaching, scholarship and service to the Law School community. This year, Anthony Polito is being promoted to Professor of Law after having been granted tenure in 2001. He is an honors graduate of Harvard Law School and of the LLM graduate tax program at New York University. He was a judicial law clerk in the Delaware Court of Chancery and he practiced tax law with the prestigious firms of Debevoise & Plimpton and Willkie, Farr & Gallagher before coming to teach at Suffolk Law in 1995. He has been an excellent classroom teacher of tax and corporate law, and has published articles on tax policy issues in several leading tax journals.

In 2000, we established the Distinguished Visiting Professors' program to bring nationally and internationally acclaimed legal educators to Sargent Hall. This year, we have three outstanding visitors who are contributing to the school while they are here, and will spread positive impressions of Suffolk Law School after they leave.

Professor Michael Corrado is the Arch T. Allen Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina School of Law. An expert on criminal law and jurisprudence, he taught criminal law courses in the fall semester and made a provocative presentation to the community on “The Limits of the Criminal Law: A Philosophical Argument for the Abolition of Punishment.”

Professor Duncan Kennedy is the Carter Professor of General Jurisprudence from Harvard Law School and is teaching courses during the spring semester on housing policy and the history of legal thought. This spring, he presented a lecture on “The Export of American Law and Legal Culture Since World War II.”

Professor Michael Malloy is a visitor for the 2001-2002 academic year, coming to us from the University of the Pacific-McGeorge School of Law in California. Professor Malloy is teaching courses in his areas of expertise—administrative law and international commerce. He is currently the chair of the AALS Section on Financial Institutions and Consumer Financial Services.
In the recent winter issue of *Suffolk Law*, the alumni magazine, you may have read about the death of Professor Malcolm Donahue on November 15, 2001. We were also saddened when his wife, Caroline, died a short time later on January 8, 2002. Malcolm taught at the Law School for more than 45 years and served as our associate dean for 17 years. During his career, the Law School grew from being a relatively small, regional school to the large, national institution that it is today. His life’s work was devoted to the Law School, its students and alumni, and our community will miss him. We are developing plans with his family for a memorial fund established in his honor.

**Students**

Our students have contributed to the growing reputation of the Law School through their success in regional and national student competitions. For example, Ron Barriere, Sabrina DeFabritiis and Daintria McClure were the winning team in the 2002 National Tax Moot Court Competition. They defeated schools from all over the country in the final rounds at St. Petersburg, Florida. Congratulations to them and to their faculty advisor/coach, Professor Tommy Thompson.

Another reflection of the national character of the Law School is the surge in admissions applications, particularly from outside of the New England region. A majority of our current first-year day students come from states other than Massachusetts, and 2 percent of them are international students. While we remain committed to our traditional mission of preparing our graduates for a variety of practice settings and for leadership roles in our New England communities, attracting applicants from other geographic areas allows us to strengthen and diversify our pool of candidates.

**Curriculum**

In my last letter, I mentioned that the faculty had approved creation of a new graduate degree program, an LLM in Global Technology, commencing in the fall of 2002. Professors Steve Hicks and Bill Corbett have been developing the program this year and it was recently approved by the American Bar Association (ABA). We are actively marketing the program and would appreciate any assistance you can give us in promoting this exciting opportunity to colleagues and fellow alumni. The LLM offers a flexible, full or part-time curriculum, with the option to focus on a specialization in intellectual property, health law and biomedicine, and information technology. Patricia Davidson, the administrator of the LLM would be glad to speak with you about the program. She can be reached at 617-573-8171 or you can find further information on the Web site: www.law.suffolk.edu/academic/llm.

**Administration**

Two outstanding senior level appointments have significantly strengthened the administration. One of our graduates, Beverly Coles-Roby, ’85, was appointed dean of students in November. Bev brings her excellent experience in private practice and in public service to this position.
Most recently she served as an assistant attorney general representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in civil litigation. She has been a leader in the profession: She is a former president of the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys, is currently chairperson of the Joint Bar Committee for Gender Equality, and serves on committees of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and the Board of Bar Overseers.

In a previous letter, I noted our leadership role in the use of technology in legal education and in the study of legal issues relating to technology. In order to further enhance those efforts, we have appointed Marc Eichen to the newly-created position of director of academic technology. Marc comes to us from Long Island University, where he was the chief information officer for that five-campus university. He is someone who bridges the technical and academic worlds. He has a PhD from Clark University, was awarded a National Science Foundation Fellowship, and has served as a senior Fulbright lecturer in Egypt.

Alumni

We are looking forward to the Annual Alumni Dinner that will be held April 25, 2002, at the Swissôtel in Boston. We will honor three outstanding alumni: James Bamford, BA '72, JD '75, best-selling author and former ABC News reporter, will receive the alumni achievement award; Alex Moschella, Jr., JD '74, noted practitioner and expert in legal services for elders, will be given the alumni service award; and we will also posthumously honor former Professor Alexander Celia, JD '61, beloved teacher and authority on administrative law, with the lifetime achievement award.

Looking even further ahead, those of you in graduating classes ending in a “2” or “7” will have reunions this fall. We would greatly appreciate hearing from volunteers to assist with this year’s reunion. Please contact Annamaria Mueller at 617-305-1999.

I also encourage you to attend any of the events and lectures that are held at Sargent Hall. You may contact the Law School alumni relations office for more details at 617-305-1999 or visit www.law.suffolk.edu/alumni for up-to-date information on alumni activities. The Law School’s general Web site, www.law.suffolk.edu, also has postings of events open to the public.

I hope that the start of 2002 has been a successful one for each of you!

Best wishes,

Robert H. Smith
Dean and Professor of Law