New Provost's Global Vision Rooted in Boston

From the time she was in high school, Patricia Maguire Meservey knew she wanted to be a nurse, but she never could have foreseen that the path she had chosen would branch out in unexpected directions, eventually leading her to Suffolk University. Meservey will become University provost and academic vice president on November 1.

"It was very definite for me from an early period," Meservey said of her decision to enter nursing. "I loved it and I'm very happy that was the path I took."

She trained at Faulkner Hospital in Jamaica Plain, then practiced at Massachusetts General Hospital, but it wasn't long before Meservey decided that she wanted a higher education. She attended Boston University, where she earned a bachelor of science in nursing, then a master's degree in parent-child health nursing.

At BU, Meservey had the opportunity to teach and found she enjoyed it, so she decided to move into nursing education. She pursued a PhD in higher education administration at Boston College, all the while teaching and continuing in clinical work. Staying involved in practice allowed her to work with students in the clinical setting, but she also became involved in administrative responsibilities. Again, she found she enjoyed this new aspect of her career.

An Act of Courage in Battle Against Breast Cancer

Geraldine F. Lavin, who lost her seven-year battle with breast cancer on March 18, 2001, fought the devastating disease until the bitter end.

"She was an amazing woman," said Mike T. Lavin, PhD, associate professor of public management and assistant dean of the Sawyer School of Management Cape Cod program. "I would go with her to the hospital for support, and I couldn't believe how determined she was with everything she had to go through. It got to the point where I was just in awe of her courage."

In what has become a University tradition, a caring group of Suffolk people participated in the American Cancer Society's annual "Making Strides for Breast Cancer" walk on October 17. This year they walked in memory of Geraldine F. Lavin.

"It was a wonderful tribute," said Mike Lavin. "The people of Suffolk have a lot of character, and it makes me feel good to be part of this institution."

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and, according to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 215,990 women in the United States — 5,170 of whom live in Massachusetts — will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004. Another 40,580 women — 960 from Massachusetts — are expected to die from breast cancer this year.

Under the direction of President David J. Sargent, Dean of Students Nancy Stoll, Director of Health Services Sharon Yardley and Communication and Journalism Professor Norine Bacigalupo, a breast cancer survivor, Suffolk University rolled out the pink carpet during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Throughout October, the University conducted various community-wide events, informational sessions and promotional efforts to better educate its family of students, faculty and staff.

"I support and applaud those individuals representing the many organizations within the Suffolk community who have participated in breast cancer awareness activities during October," said President Sargent. "They should feel proud of their contributions to get the message out there in promoting early detection and full recovery for all. Together, the women and men of Suffolk can fight — and win — the battle against breast cancer."

Mike and Geraldine Lavin, who had known each other since childhood, were married for 34 years. They raised two sons, Michael T., Jr., (BS'03 and an MPA '05 candidate) and Thomas (presently a senior and business major at Suffolk), who were very close to their mother.
A Message To Readers

Dear Readers:

As another Founder's Day has passed, commemorating the University's beginnings in Gleason Archer's parlor on September 19, 1906, we are reminded of the many traditions and people who have made Suffolk University the great institution it is.

This year's anniversary was particularly memorable, as we reinstated an honored tradition with the Heritage Medallion Award ceremony and reception in anticipation of the Centennial Year, beginning in September 2006.

More than 150 people from across campus joined together with friends at 73 Tremont Street to celebrate and honor four individuals who dedicated their professional lives to Suffolk. The ceremony provided a snapshot of what we hope to see during our Centennial Year. It brought together members of the Suffolk community in celebration of our history and heritage.

What was most touching was the honor and dignity with which the recipients received their awards and how genuinely grateful they were to be remembered. Their remarks were poignant and an inspiration to us all.

Another tradition we enjoy each year is the Deans' Reception. This year we honor 30 individuals who have been at Suffolk for 10, 20, 30 or, in one case, 40 years. The individual celebrating his 40th year is Vice President and Treasurer Francis X. Flannery.

Vice President Flannery has been the guiding light and instrumental force for many real estate and financial management issues. We have much to admire as we congratulate him on his 40th anniversary at Suffolk and wish him every success in the coming years.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of those honored this fall.

Rosemarie E. Sansone
Executive Editor

A Celebration of Suffolk's Heritage

President David J. Sargent and David Robbins, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and chair of the Heritage Committee, awarded four Heritage Medallions to outstanding members of the Suffolk University community during a September 21 ceremony at the University's new space at 73 Tremont Street. Shown here, from left, are retirees Benson Diamond of the Accounting and Business Law departments; Mary A. Hefron, CAS and SSONM registrar; and H. Edward Clark of the English Department; Sherri Matteson, who accepted the award for her father, the late Malcolm M. Donahue of the Low School; and Robbins. (Photo by John Gilloly)

Potpourri

Barbara Abrams of Humanities and Modern Languages spent two weeks in July at the College de France in Paris working with a team of French scholars from the Institut Sémétique. She presented her findings in a paper, "Figures of Disfigurement: Violence and Retro-modernism in Eighteenth Century France," at the Second International Conference of the Humanities in Prato, Italy. ... The Ballotti Learning Center received the award for Outstanding Developmental Education Program in New England given annually by the Learning Assistance Association of New England. ... Richard Chambers of Theatre Arts prepared the set design for Ronan Noonan's play, The Lepers of Baile Baiste at the Phil Bosokowski Theatre on 45th Street near Times Square in New York City. ... Darlene C. Chisholm, Economics, attended the International Industrial Organization Conference in Chicago in April, where she chaired a session, "Strategic Contracting, Financing, and

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In 1987, Boston University decided to close its School of Nursing. Meservey negotiated the transfer of four graduate programs in nursing from BU to Northeastern University and joined the faculty there.

During the transitional period, she procured a grant to provide neighborhood health care through a partnership involving Northeastern University, BU, Boston's Department of Health and Hospitals and 12 community health centers. After seven years directing the resulting Center for Community Health Education, Research and Service, Meservey was offered the opportunity to work as a special assistant to Northeastern President Richard Freeland.

"I look at this period almost as a fellowship," she said. She advised the president on policy and organization and served as a liaison to faculty and other key stakeholders. As she had so many times before with new opportunities, Meservey enjoyed the work and saw a new direction for her multi-faceted career. She went on to serve as interim vice provost for enrollment management at Northeastern, then vice provost for faculty and budget.

Meservey is pleased to be joining Suffolk, a University that is so much a part of the fabric of Boston, where she has been involved in nursing and academia her entire professional life.

Meservey lives in Wayland with her husband, Rick, and son, Dave. She is a golfer and enjoys kayaking and gardening in the warm months. Winter brings her to the ski slopes.

As "a great consumer of theater," who loves performances of all different types, Meservey expects to spend some time at the C. Walsh Theatre, sampling its array of productions.

She and Rick, who works for OneBeacon Insurance, often commuted together. Ironically, while Pat Meservey is headed for Suffolk's Beacon Hill campus, Rick is now working in the firm's Foxborough office.

Dave, a junior at Northeastern majoring in international business, has gone much farther afield this fall. He is on his way to Shanghai through a semester-at-sea program. Japan was the first destination when Dave set out September 1, and his travels will wind up in South America at the end of the term. Dave is taking four courses aboard ship as he gets a closehand look at world culture.

Suffolk's enthusiasm for international education is one of the things that drew Meservey to the University.

As she met people on campus this summer, she appreciated the warm reception she received, and she was impressed with the scope of what Suffolk offers, its diversity and the many ideas percolating across campus.

"It's all about the people," she said. "I have enjoyed my community at Northeastern, and it would be difficult to leave if there weren't such a strong community of people at Suffolk." •

Potpourri
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Product Differentiation: Applications to Motion-Pictures Markets." She also presented a paper (co-authored with Margaret S. McMillan and George Norman), "Product Differentiation and Film-Programming Choice: Measuring Product Similarity in a Dynamic Panel Data Setting." • Robert DeFilippi of Management was appointed director of the Center of Innovation and Change Leadership. He was selected as an International Reviewer for the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) and was designated a "distinguished international scholar" to review major research proposals for funded research. • Anne Condon of Management was appointed to the board of directors of the Hingham Council of Aging for a three-year term. • Colette Dumas of Management was named associate director of the Center of Innovation and Change Leadership. • Congratulations to Karen Ferullo, Humanities and Modern Languages, who married Ellen Rhode this summer. They celebrated their wedding with a week in Aruba. • Lynda Field of the Counseling Center was appointed to a two-year term on the Ethics Committee of the American Psychological Association in Washington D.C. She also was an invited guest reviewer for the International Journal of Psychology. • Charles Kindregan, Law School, has been named vice-chair of the American Bar Association Committee on the Law of Genetic and Reproductive Technology. • Sebastián Royo, Government, presented "Still Two Models of Capitalism: Economic Adjustment in Iberia" at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. In addition he presented "From Contention to Coordination: The Strategies of Economic Actors" at the annual meeting of the Latin American Studies Association. • New Faces on Campus: Jeff Stone joins the Athletic Department as athletic trainer. He is serving a three-year term as the District I director for Athletic Trainers of New England. And the Ballotti Learning Center welcomes Margaret Suby, who was named the learning disabilities specialist. •
Battle Against Breast Cancer

They participated in taking care of her," said Mike Lavin. "Although her death was devastating, they knew that they were part of the fight."

"Deanie" Lavin, who was pursuing her undergraduate degree at Suffolk until her illness forced her to withdraw, never gave up hope while combating cancer. In fact, she spent quite a bit of her time helping other women newly diagnosed with the disease, sharing her experiences and offering advice. She supplied these women with a sense of comfort, strength and support, like a real-life guardian angel.

"I remember that she was on the phone trying to help someone the night before she died," recalled Mike Lavin.

A year after her death, the Geraldine F. Lavin Memorial Scholarship Fund was created by three Suffolk Cape Cod students in the MPA program, including a breast cancer survivor. Beginning in 2002, a $1,000 scholarship has been awarded annually to a Suffolk Cape Cod student whose life has been impacted by breast cancer.

"The students who originated the Scholarship Fund knew about Deanie’s fight, and I was touched when they approached me about what they wanted to do," said Mike Lavin, who is now married to Gail Meyers-Lavin, assistant director of Suffolk’s Cape Cod program. "It’s a spectacular tribute to Geraldine and at the same time helps other Cape Cod students with financial support."

"This is our third consecutive year participating in Breast Cancer Awareness Month at Suffolk, and it has gotten bigger and bigger every year," said Yardley. "It has pulled the whole school together, with everyone in the community becoming involved."

Human Resources

Open Enrollment for Group Insurance Plans

Open enrollment for certain group insurance plans is under way. This is the one time of year that employees may drop, add or switch between enrollment in the health and dental plans, add or drop the Flexible Reimbursement Accounts (FRA) or add Long-Term Disability Insurance. Watch your interoffice mail for details.

This is the first time in a number of years that non-enrollees have been able to add Long-Term Disability Insurance, which provides income replacement for those who are unable to work or can only work part-time for an extended period due to injury or illness. Participation not only provides regular monthly cash benefits but also continues contributions to enrollees’ standard retirement plans. The open enrollment period runs through Nov. 15, with insurance beginning on Dec. 1.

Open enrollment for health and dental insurance and FRS will run from Nov. 15 to Dec. 17, with insurance beginning on Jan. 1, 2005.

Suffolk On The Move

There was plenty of action and excitement for Suffolk employees who moved into their new business offices at 73 Tremont Street last month. Julie Schniewind, director of corporate education (left), takes a moment to hang a poster on her wall, while Scott Reedy, director of international student programming (center) removes the plastic off his chair, and Charlene Andrews, senior administrative associate, enrollment and retention management, organizes her files at Suffolk’s newest location. (Photos by John Gillody)