Freshmen prepare for first round of collegiate exams

Stephanie Miller
Journal Contributor

As final exam season approaches, many of Suffolk's first-year students are finding themselves apprehensive for the week ahead, unsure of how to achieve success in their first college exam experience. Freshman Stavroula Panagopoulos, a government major in the College of Arts and Sciences, said she feels completely unprepared for finals week.

"I'm very stressed," she said. "I procrastinate because I'm not stressed about finals."

Panagopoulos said the biggest thing she thinks all freshmen should focus on is time management in order to relieve stress.

"I procrastinate because I'm confident in my writing abilities, so when I finish an essay the day before it's due instead of spending more time on it, I know it's not as good as it can be.

"I have no idea if I even have a final in my government class, my professor hasn't said a word about it ... all I know is a date."

"Don't procrastinate. Just don't," she warned.

Final exams are not new to all freshmen. Though many had big exams in their high school classes, some still feel nervous heading into the first set of college exams. But, for freshman Nicole Zouharis, that is not the case. An undeclared business major at the Sawyer Business School, Zouharis is taking five classes this semester, but said she is not stressed about finals.

"I only have two finals, and they aren't even in my business courses," Zouharis said. "I used to stress a lot about school, but I've come to the conclusion that I need to stay calm to do well."

"I don't procrastinate," Zouharis added. "Final exams are not new to all freshmen. Though many had big exams in their high school classes, some still feel nervous heading into the first set of college exams."

The biggest advantage is that there are a lot of people who are interested in the arts, who are not practicing artists ... but they want to be in that environment," Secci said.

The committee performed research on what is offered at other institutions across the country in the realm of arts administration. Secci said Suffolk had all of the pieces, but they needed to be put together to offer an interdisciplinary program.

"This started as an idea, it was truly an ad hoc decision," Zouharis said. "I'm very interested in the arts, and I had big exams in my high school final exams was the possibility of being exempt from them, but I chose not to take them."

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"I have no idea if I even have a final in my government class, my professor hasn't said a word about it ... all I know is a date."
SLI, Program Council host relaxing end-of-semester events before finals week, said SLI director Dave DeAngelis from various clubs and organizations decorated tree ornaments and graham cracker houses, ate calzones, and relaxed at The Holiday Herd-Up, the Student Leadership and Involvement office's last event of the semester.

The event was an end-of-semester celebration to give students from different organizations a chance to come together and enjoy an afternoon before finals week, said SLI Director Dave DeAngelis. Even though Suffolk students are preparing to take finals and head home for winter break, about 40 students stopped by during the two-hour event, according to SLI office coordinator Nicole Dygon. Among them were sophomores and members of Suffolk Free Radio Natalie Frausto and Rosanna Corrado.

"I'm a part of the SFR club. We'd heard about it and wanted to come participate," Corrado said.

After wondering what to draw, someone suggested to Corrado that she make the ornament for her mother.

"She'd probably drown me," Corrado said, laughing. "I can't draw." Frausto, who is the general manager of SFR, made a snow globe. Tubes of paint, containers of small marshmallows, and boxes of graham crackers dotted the tables that were spread out around the room. The cold and intermittent snow outside could not put a chill on the students' enjoyment, as they chatted and joked with their friends.

"This is casual. That's why college kids are interested," Corrado said.

The event was laid back and friendly, but groups also had a potential prize to look forward to.

"We're doing a competition to make the ornaments to add to the holiday tree," DeAngelis said as students created their own. "It's something fun to do at the end of the semester."

After drying, the ornaments created at the event were hung on the holiday tree, located in the student lounge in the Donahue building. The small evergreen sits on the counter from the main desk in the lounge, flanked by a graham cracker house.

"A lot of them said it was great, and that it got them in the holiday spirit," Dygon said. Later that evening, Program Council held their biannual relaxation event in The Donahue Lounge. With the theme of "Color Me Calm," the event allowed students to focus on how colors could be relaxing.

"We want to provide an opportunity for students to take a break from studying and maybe try something they don't do on the regular," said Joe Nordlie. Nordlie is traditions and special events chair of Program Council, and organizer of this event.

Students had a wide range of activities to help them unwind, from making their own sand art to decorating gingerbread cookies to making their own aromatherapy bags. Nordlie said Students could also sign up to learn how to paint a picture step-by-step across the hall from the main event.

"I'm excited to be going home," said Serena Secci, a junior majoring in fine arts. Secci said that she was excited to be going home in December, whereas in high school he used to be told directly what to do. For students struggling with portfolios, Morant encourages them to "find research in your more serious work and expand on that."

He urges students at NESAD to allow their ideas to come out naturally. "Don't procrastinate. Just don't."

"Don't procrastinate. Just don't." - Stavroula Panagopoulos
Suffolk Republicans meet with head of Koch Free Zone

Heather Rutherford
Aust. News Editor

Suffolk University Republicans held a meeting with Kalin Jordan, a Suffolk alumna and head of the campaign pushing to remove all funding from the Koch brothers out of the university, to openly discuss their differing opinions on the issue.

During the short meeting, Jordan presented her campaign to the Republicans, and discussed the points she thought would be most significant to a group who disagrees with the campaign.

Jordan, who spoke for the majority of the 20-minute meeting, said “the Koch Foundation has given not a penny to Suffolk since 2008, and all that money has gone to the Beacon Hill Institute.”

Jordan said BHI publishes policy papers that have helped the Koch brothers financially.

“It helped their bottom line,” according to the alumna.

“We disagree with Kalin and the Koch Free Zone organization on many levels,” said McCormick, president of the Republicans.

“Kalin was very supportive of the meeting,” according to Jordan.

According to Jordan, she and the Koch Free Zone have a private institution and can accept or deny any donation that it sees fit. We stand with the Beacon Hill Institute and the administration of this great university on this matter.”

Jordan, who graduated in 2009 with a degree in political science, worked on numerous campaigns in her early career before coming across information on the Koch Foundation’s donations to Suffolk. Her meeting with the Republicans follows a meeting with the Suffolk Environmental Club last month.

David Tuerck, the director of BHI, who was not present at the meeting, said “Kalin Jordan’s meeting with the GOP is not surprising. She clearly will meet with anyone or any entity, except the Beacon Hill Institute, to conduct her campaign aimed at vilifying the Institute and at promoting herself with her radical left clients.”

Jordan told the Republicans “as an organization who cares about the university, I think there’s a lot to be said of the finances... we want to know what money is coming in, where money is being spent regardless of your political affiliation.”

McCormick, who spoke on behalf of his group, said they “respect private institutions... We trust how the president and the board of directors and board of trustees decide to divvy up the donations they get... I feel differently about public universities and how they handle their donations.”

Jordan achieved one of her petition’s goals, transparency within the university, when the university released a document identifying grants given to the school and how they were used. However, Jordan found what she described as a discrepancy between the amount Suffolk said it received from the Koch Foundation compared to what the foundation reported in its official tax document.

“Suffolk has the opportunity to pave the way for transparency for other private organizations. Legally there’s no grounds for me to say we have to see this,” Jordan said.

In regards to transparency, Tuerck said, “Ms. Jordan packages her campaign around the idea of ‘transparency.’ Had I been at the meeting, I would have asked her to be transparent about her own funding. Where is she getting the funds to conduct her anti-Koch, anti-BHI campaign here?”

Student Demi Lamonica disagreed with Jordan on the topic of transparency.

“I think transparency is important, but at the same time, Suffolk is a private institution that doesn’t necessarily need to do these things,” Lamonica said, adding that receiving donations from the Koch Foundation is not a prevailing issue.

When asked if Jordan has made any contact with BHI in light of the campaign’s recent alliance with the Suffolk Environmental Club, she said it is something she has considered.

“Our campaign is focused on getting transparency really from administration,” said Jordan, noting that administration is who can get information from BHI concerning research.

According to Jordan, she has reached out to President Norma Smith three times for a meeting to discuss alleged discrepancies, and has not yet received a response.

CJN's media production lab among facilities moving to 20 Somerset

From CJN page 1

A blueprint of the fourth floor of 20 Somerset.

The left side will house public relations, journalism, and advertising workrooms and faculty offices. The right side will be primarily dedicated to media production.
POLICE BLOTTER

Friday, November 21
10:41 a.m.
73 Tremont
Larceny. Judicial internal.

Friday, November 21
9:19 p.m.
Miller Hall
Marijuana possession. Judicial internal.

Saturday, November 22
2:59 p.m.

NEWS BRIEFS

Suffolk students place third at trading competition

Suffolk students placed third in the Thinkorswim challenge, where 454 teams of college students from across the nation competed in the virtual stock trading competition sponsored by TD Ameritrade Services Company, Inc.

Master of science in taxation student Mariana Huang, master of science in accounting student Christian Giontonio, and accounting major and senior at Suffolk Francesco Servidio all worked together and placed in third.

On Suffolk's website, Servidio was quoted as saying, "Going into the last week, we were in second place. We had a couple great days where we made $173,000 and $150,000 in one day."

Servidio said to Suffolk that the competition helped them "understand when to sell and hold securities. There were times when we bought an option, and after a few seconds, we lost thousands of dollars. We learned that we needed to have patience and confidence that the price of the security would go back up."

The competition requires students to break up into different roles, like researching stocks, paying attention to company's releasing their earnings, and focusing on trading options.

City of Boston analyzing analyzing student housing data

In an effort to create safer living conditions for students, Boston colleges and universities were required by Mayor Martin J. Walsh to submit a list of their off-campus student addresses to the city clerk.

The move followed the publication of a Spotlight Team investigative series in The Boston Globe. The three-part series exposed the decrepit, and sometimes fatal, conditions students exposed the decrepit, and sometimes fatal, conditions.

On Suffolk's website, Servidio was quoted as saying, "The City is very pleased with the responsiveness shown by its colleges and universities, and will be able to use this data to ensure that all Boston students have access to safe and appropriate housing."

Melissa Hanson
Editor-in-Chief

Each year a giant tree is chopped down in Nova Scotia, a tradition for the last 43 years, according to a statement from a transportation and recreation department. On Thursday, a 43-foot white spruce will go up in lights for all the city to celebrate the holiday season.

A tree was trucked down from Nova Scotia each year as a gift. In 1917, a large explosion of a ship in Halifax, Nova Scotia, rattled the city. Boston quickly acted to help the city, according to the statement. A train loaded with supplies and emergency personnel shipped up to Halifax to assist with the disaster.

Now, as a yearly thank you, a family in Halifax donates a tree to Boston. This year, John and Ethel Ann McPherson donated their tree. Smaller trees were also donated to Rosie's Place and the Pine Street Inn, the statement said.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Nova Scotia band The Stanfields, the Floorlords dance troupe, and the Holy Tabernacle Church Christmas Cantata Choir, the parks and recreation department said.

Holiday lights will shine just before 8 p.m., and the show will close with a pyrotechnic display by MagicFire, Inc., the department said. Santa Claus will also be in attendance.

 Tradition continues with Nova Scotia tree

The 2013 Boston Common Christmas tree. Premier Stephen McNeil of Nova Scotia will join Bostonians in the Common Thursday from 8 p.m. to 8 p.m. along with a host of performers.

The event will be broadcast by Channel 5, WCVB, and feature comic Jimmy Tingle, cast members from Motown The Musical, The Voice contestant Brittany Butler, the New England Patriots Cheerleaders, and a family in Halifax donates a tree to Boston. This year, John and Ethel Ann McPherson donated their tree. Smaller trees were also donated to Rosie's Place and the Pine Street Inn, the statement said.

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Come enjoy some "joie de vivre" with the French Club

Sylvain Gaulier
Journal Staff

If you want to learn more about the French culture or hone your French language skills, the French Club is the perfect place to go.

The French Club meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Sawyer 1108 to explore the French art de vivre through movies, games, and lively discussions.

"Our activities are varied and diverse with the aim of having a good time and enriching our knowledge of the French language and the culture of some French speaking countries in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere at times," said club president, Jean Kemayi. Some of these activities include board games such as Tabou, multilingo, and Scrabble.

The French Department created the French Club in 2009 "to be an effective learning support" for all Suffolk students interested in French and the French-speaking countries. Not only is the club focused on the French culture, but it is tackling a number of cultural dimensions in other French-speaking countries such as Belgium, Switzerland, and Canada.

Every year, Suffolk University welcomes more French-speaking students. They come from a wide variety of countries such as Senegal, Belgium, or Mali. They are ambassadors of the French language and may serve as a liaison between the French Club and Suffolk students learning French. Because of their different backgrounds, they provide a unique perspective of their culture and mother language.

According to the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), French is the fifth most spoken language in the world with about 274 million speakers.

About 10 to 15 students regularly go to the French Club meetings, Kemayi said. Even though most of these students are majoring in French, the French Club hosts all students yearning for improving their knowledge of the French language. The French Club aims to provide a hands-on opportunity to practice French in a relaxed environment.

The club faced a major budget issue this year. They had to review their agenda as their budget had been cut off, according to Kemayi. In addition, the French Club faces a lot of competitors among the other Suffolk clubs. Many other clubs meet at the same time, therefore, the French Club e-board members worked even harder this semester to organize a large array of attractive events.

This semester, the French Club hosted the famous French writer and screen director Francis Perrin. Kemayi was proud to have an eminent figure of the French theater scene coming to the university. He then assisted to the actor's performance who drew an accurate painting of playwright Molière in a one-man show presented by Suffolk University.

Kemayi said, "The play was presented in French with English subtitles followed by a discussion." Moreover, the French Club played the acclaimed musical 1789 Les Amants de la Bastille, and a movie based on Marie-Antoinette's life.

Next semester, the French Club plans to play TV show Question pour un Champion. This general knowledge contest is highly popular in the French-speaking countries. It might be attended by the French Consul. The French Club will celebrate Valentine's Day with some French loving words, have a cooking 101 session, make crepes for Mardi Gras, and head to Quebec.

About 100 people gathered in the C. Walsh Theatre for the annual African Diaspora, a night of music, dance and spoken word.

The theme was "celebrating black excellence," and it served as a form of motivation for students. It encouraged them to look up to celebrities like Oprah, Beyoncé, or Jay Z, as role models.

Students from Suffolk University and other colleges came together to appreciate people who have fought against all odds to not just be successful in life, but to also make a positive impact in the lives of others.

The event was organized by Suffolk University's Black Student Union.

"It was an excellent show," said Isaac Boateng, a sophomore majoring in politics and law. "It showed a lot of cultural differences here at Suffolk and that is good thing because it did not divide us, but brought us together as one party."

The two-hour event was hosted by Choppa the Beat Boxer, a renowned performer who has been featured in previous African Diaspora events and is committed to bringing black excellence to the limelight. The event featured performances by the Suffolk University Step Team, a group of students who enjoy rocking to rhythms and sounds using a mixture of footsteps and the clapping of hands, Ben P. and Sycalone, both freshmen at Suffolk and are trying to make a name for themselves in the music industry, and Serina Gousby, who is a junior and a Suffolk Journal staff writer.

The night started with a spoken word titled "My Definition," by Gousby. With phrases like "My Definition does not control the actions of us, but black excellence has to start with me," Gousby's poem reinforced the theme of the night and served as a source of motivation for the students who attended.

Her spoken word was followed by beat boxing from Choppa. The Step Team then thrilled the audience with an amazing 15-minute step dance, and Ben P. and Sycalone delivered an amazing performance of their single "No More."

BSU is a student-run organization at Suffolk University, which aims at improving and expanding interactions between students of African descent and those from other races and ethnicities through programs like the African Diaspora. The organization also strives to put the culture of people of African descent in the limelight through programs like educational events, guest speakers, conferences, and community service activities.

The show ended with a performance by Choppa, followed by an after-party at the Milford P. Sawyer Lounge where people had the chance to delight themselves in some Soul Food and enjoy music from DJ Charlie II.

Many attendees seemed pleased with the performances, as they exited the C. Walsh Theatre with smiles on their faces. Most students were happy with the theme of the night.

"The Black Student Union did a great job in making such a fun show," said Gousby, "and we need more events like these to have the entire Suffolk community integrate more because there are so many leaders and future world changers in this school, we have to support each other."
Venezuelans protest prison conditions, break into infirmary

Alexa Gagosz
Acting Intl Editor

Many of the families of prisoners in a jail in the northwest of Venezuela were notified that at least 35 have died after overdosing on the contents of a jail infirmary they stormed, a Congressman who remained anonymous told BBC News Saturday.

After allegedly breaking into the facility, the prisoners consumed a variety of medicines. In addition to the fatalities, more than 100 are being treated while 26 are in serious condition, according to William Ojeda from the governing Socialist Party. Before breaking into the infirmary, the prisoners were protesting the jail's conditions.

Prison officials told Sky News on Saturday that the inmates had ingested medicines including pure alcohol and antibiotics after storming the infirmary at the David Viloria penitentiary centre in the western state of Lara.

According to BBC, the patients ingested a combination of anti-seizure drugs, insulin, antibiotics and hypertension treatments.

Because Venezuela has the highest crime and homicide rates in Latin America, the caseload for the judicial system continues to pile up as they struggle to investigate and solve the crimes as the prisons are becoming overpopulated as prisoners await trial.

Francisco Vivas, who graduated in May, is living in his home town of Monagas, Venezuela, before he returns to go to Suffolk Law School next fall to become a lawyer in criminal law.

"Here in my country, the situation about the government is very complicated because all the government officials, such as the president and vice president, participate in monopoly and corruption."

- Francisco Vivas

After the staff took control over the revolt, the handcuffed inmates were forced into the morgue to identify the 35 bodies. Despite what Ojeda reported, relatives of the inmates have stood outside the prison, accusing the warden of poisoning the inmates, while anxiously waiting to hear if their loved ones were among those dead.

The chief prosecutor's office commented to BBC, saying that they were interested in looking in and questioning the prison director because of the deaths.

According to reports from Sky News, the penitentiary center has a capacity of 850 inmates, but is currently housing 3,700.

Many prisons in Venezuela are currently occupied by inmates, with security having little or no control over the prisoners, the nongovernmental organization Venezuelan Prisons Observatory said to BBC. According to Sky News, the chief prosecutor's office of Venezuela plans on filing charges on one of the staff members over the deaths.
Police in Egypt used tear gas and a water cannon in order to disperse protesters after murder charges against former President Hosni Mubarak were dropped.

BBC reported that 2,000 people massed in Cairo's Tahrir Square, which was the birthplace of the 2011 revolution. One person was killed during the clashes when the people heard that after Mubarak was given a life sentence in jail, the charges were cleared in a retrial.

In a TV interview, Mubarak said he “did nothing wrong.” However, the former president, who is now 86, is serving a separate three-year sentence for the embezzlement of public funds, according to BBC. It was not clear how much time he has already served.

Mubarak was convicted in 2011 for issuing the murders of peaceful protestors during the revolt. He was sentenced to life in prison. Mubarak appealed and was granted another retrial this year. According to CNN, his supporters cheered in the courtroom when the judge said he was not guilty.

BBC’s reporter Orla Guerin was in Cairo during the protests and described the scene.

“In a rare and risky act of defiance,” she said, “crowds gathered close to Tahrir Square. It was a relatively small protest, but hugely symbolic.”

According to reports from multiple news outlets, both the Islamists and liberals were present, calling for freedom, which was described to be an echo from the revolution for some.

Police officers arrived a few hours after the protests started, attempting to break up the chaos with tear gas, but caused complete mayhem instead, according to BBC.

Reports from Al Jazeera said what happens next will be the ultimate and critical test for Egypt. Questions have been raised as to whether the protest group will form again, or if law enforcement units will be able to completely crush the eruption like they have crushed so many others.

Al Jazeera reporters asked: “Four years after the uprising that toppled the longtime leader, what message is the verdict sending?” They wonder what kind of message is being spread across to the people of Egypt.

CNN was told that the Cairo judge dismissed the charges of the murders of hundreds of protestors in 2011, saying that he was not guilty of corruption.

On Saturday, Mubarak’s former Interior Ministry, Habib el-Adly and six of el-Adly’s aides, who were found to be connected to the deaths of 239 peaceful protestors, were also acquitted in court while Mubarak’s two sons had corruption charges completely dropped of corruption, according to Al Jazeera.

Mohamed Morsi, the Islamist who became Egypt's first democratically-elected president, supported the retrial, but argued that Mubarak should have received a death sentence instead of a life sentence in captivity.

In the weeks before Mubarak resigned in 2011, there were 800 protesters thought to be killed by the security forces as they tried to break up the protests. They were at the command of Mubarak.

According to BBC, Mubarak is currently serving the remainder of his time in a military hospital, where he is expected to stay a few more months.

Students told to go home | Hong Kong

Following clashes with police, the remaining camp of students protesting in Hong Kong were told to leave due to fear of worsening violence, according to The New York Times. A professor from the University of Hong Kong also called for the students to leave the streets, telling the Times that they had faced blood, broken bones, and sorrow. Though some advocates support the young protestors, they fear the student's safety and further turmoil with the police, according to the Times. Support for the street protests has waned over time, according to the newspaper, and professors and residents feel the students should leave the streets and rebuild the movement. The students are asked to leave not only because of the threat of more violence from police, the Times said, but because cold weather is setting in.

WORLD BRIEFS

Coupies given chance to marry | Rio De Janeiro

Thousands of couples were able to wed in Rio De Janeiro as a part of an annual ceremony to assist low-income couples. Nearly 2,000 were married over the weekend at the Maracanazinho arena, an indoor sports venue, according to BBC, with about 12,000 people in attendance to celebrate the new marriages. Civil judges who were there as volunteers, as well as a Roman Catholic bishop and a Christian evangelical pastor wed the lovers. The ceremony became the biggest mass wedding in Rio’s history, BBC said. The day is known as Dia do Casamento or Day of Wedding. To be a part of the day, the couples had to have a monthly family income of $1,000, BBC said.
Top Tier provides a glimpse into a decade of leadership

Sylvain Gauthier  
Journal Staff

"Wagner long ago should have enlisted its top New York City's version of what Williams and Amherst are to Massachusetts, or what Haverford and Swarthmore are to Philadelphia." Those words, written by current Suffolk University President Norman Smith, describe his ambition when he served as president of Wagner College in Manhattan.

Smith tells the story of how he managed to breathe life into Wagner College, located on Staten Island, in a memoir reflecting his takeover as president from 1988 until 2002. His influence was apparent—Smith gave confidence in the college's ability to weather the challenges that faced them, as well as giving them the ability to thrive. Students, parents, faculty, investors, and trustees all recognized the progressive rebirth of Wagner College under Smith's presidency, as noted in the memoir.

While the book mainly spotlights Smith's life, it never fails to hold my interest. The chronological order and short chapters make it easy to follow. I was always drawn to the next critical event: From the presidential search to Smith's departure, a wide variety of topics are touched upon.

As a management student, I could relate to many concepts he tackled in the book. An important part of the memoir is focused on Smith's search for financial options for the university. He settled for a satisfactory, but not ideal, solution.

"The actual bond transaction date, the one that set the interest rate, was August 2, 1990, the exact same day that the United States launched the Desert Shield Defense in Kuwait. But even with a new board of trustees that featured myriad Wall Street investment bankers, this was the only refinancing opportunity that came our way."

Other topics discussed in the book include Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, a theory in psychology that suggests people are motivated to achieve self-actualization, and also the concept of "headcounts." Maslow's hierarchy of needs asserts that everyone is trying to reach the next unmet need on the hierarchy among physiological, safety, love/belonging, esteem, and self-actualization needs.

"I think his concept of "headcounts" was particularly interesting in the context of school management. He defines "headcounts" as the number of full paying students after discounting tuition. Most students do not pay full tuition so, I believe it is fundamental to take into account these metrics when considering the surge or decline in student admissions."

Throughout this book, the reader can also learn more about Smith's personal interests, such as his passion for photography and his dedication to his family. He highly values relationships, both with family and co-workers.

I was most impressed with Smith's resilience and power of persuasion. His abilities to attract more trustees to pledge funds to the university was a veritable feat, as the university did not provide many guarantees for the future. Despite Smith's goodwill, the university's mere survival was threatened for a number of years after his arrival, which is evident in the book.

Wagner's revival was not made possible by only one man. Smith is an experienced and exemplary leader who never misses an opportunity to give just praise to his hard-working team. He wrote, "My view of good leadership has always been to share the success with those who were key to enabling the outcome."

In each chapter, Smith talks about one or several people who contributed to Wagner's new success. Not only trustees or professors, but groundskeepers and secretaries are also recognized. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who is interested to learn more about President Smith's life and leadership's style. This memoir is a valuable testimony of a life spent educating the future generations of leaders. After all, it may in fact herald Suffolk's future.

Local artist encourages readers to ask for help in new book

Haley Peabody  
Arts Editor

In a society where the competition and standards of success are fierce, it can often leave people feeling totally stranded, forced into a perpetual state of independence, where asking for help is often frowned upon and viewed as a sign of weakness.

Musician and Artist Amanda Palmer challenges this in her first book, The Art of Asking. In her colorful and artistic language, Palmer chronicles the different stages of her life, from angst enveloped teenager to world renowned musician. Her extensive experience with a copious variety of different people from around the globe allowed her to come to the realization that asking, no matter for what or whom, is a universal challenge that our society wrestles with.

Although asking has been a concept she has struggled with throughout her life, whether it be for some extra cash to pay her rent or for people to come and listen to her perform, the challenge became particularly noticeable when she decided to break free of her record label and rely entirely on funds from her fans which were collected through Kickstarter, a crowdfunding site where fans and sponsors can directly give funds to enable artists and musicians, such as Palmer, to make their art independently. Amazingly, the Kickstarter for her most recent album, Theatre Is Evil, raised more than a million dollars, making it the most successful crowd-funded music project in history.

As a result of this success, TED, a series of non-profit global conferences, asked Palmer to give a talk, which she centered around the challenges of asking others for help. To her surprise, many
Odds are not in Hunger Games fans' favor

Colleen Day  
Asst. Arts Editor

What is most interesting about the latest installment of Lionsgate's film adaptation of Suzanne Collins' bestselling trilogy, "The Hunger Games," is how completely different it is from the rest of the franchise. And, unfortunately, when "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1," released Nov. 21, the difference was clear. It is fair to say film adaptations rarely satisfy their book-enthusiast fan bases. There is always something left out, a character misplaced or misrepresented, and a chapter or sequence of events that producers felt made more sense in a different order to appease the audience. Until now, Lionsgate has done a phenomenal job of staying true to Collins' writing, and more or less capturing our imaginations and translating them on-screen.

However, the studio's decision to make two films out of the Collins' final book might have made sense business-wise, but this move is likely to leave the audience disappointed and dissatisfied. The final book is Collins' farewell to her character, which has arguably been the most successful franchise since the Harry Potter series and Twilight saga film adaptations. So, it is no coincidence Lionsgate would follow a similar path of "The Hunger Games" highly profitable predecessors. Nevertheless, from a viewer and reader standpoint I felt jipped and as if a story I thoroughly enjoyed was being violated by greedy producers.

Halted out of the games by an anti-government task force, the penultimate installment opens with Katniss Everdeen, played by Jennifer Lawrence, struggling to ground herself in reality in her new home of District 13. As the movie progresses, the audience watches as Katniss Everdeen, clothed in combat-black and put on camera as a symbol of Panem, is clothed in combat-black and put on camera as Katniss is clothed in combat-black and put on camera to film war propaganda shots in efforts to rally the increasingly downtrodden population of Panem.

Through a series of shots depicting the disheveled Capitol led by President Snow, played by Donald Sutherland, and the subsequent efforts of the rebels to continue a political uprising, the movie is chock full of violence, media propaganda, war, socialism, tyranny and women's roles.

My biggest criticism of the film is its tendency to overemphasize seemingly minute details in the grand scheme of the series. When the book presented particularly interesting chapters, it seemed as if producers exploited those moments to fill the clock. Since the climax of the plot will take place in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay-Part 2," it was clear that the movie conveyed exactly what Lionsgate intended it to be: a placeholder before the grand finale.

Amidst the seemingly never-ending drone of overemphasized moments, the movie did include something that Collins completely omitted in the book that paid off. This is a notoriously dangerous move, the inclusion and detailed display of the rebel's mission to rescue Victor, Beet Mellark and Johanna Mason, is one of the highlights of the film. I believe the expansion of a scene we didn't read in the book was likely the producer's best move yet.

With the second installment set to be released at the end of 2015, the biggest question that remains is what will happen to Plutarch Heavensbee played by the late Philip Seymour Hoffman. Rumors are that Hoffman has already filmed the majority of the scenes for the second movie, but with his character being so profound in the latter half of the series, fans must be worried.

Placeholder or not, the film is worth seeing as long as you open your mind to the new direction the producers took compared to the previous two films. However, view Mocking- jay-Part 1 with caution because if you haven't seen the previous two or read the books, you will be completely and utterly lost trying to put the pieces together.

New memoir is both humorous and inspiring

From ASK page 8

people came up to her following the talk to tell her how greatly her words had touched them. It was then that Palmer realized that she was not alone in her struggle of asking, but rather it was a challenge that other people have to offer. As a street artist, Palmer learned much about the importance and vulnerability in self-expression. As a street performer in Harvard Square, Palmer learned much about what it meant to ask people for things as she stood for hours on end, posing as a botanical hanging flowers to strangers who would walk by. In itself, she argues that art and self-expression are forms of asking, inviting an audience of strangers to observe what you have created and plead with them, as Palmer does, "PLEASE BELIEVE ME, I'M REAL!"

Palmer's writing is both poetic and powerful. She does not use the preachy prose of what you would expect from a seemingly typical self-help book, but rather weaves her enduring sense of humor into practical and inspiring thoughts and observations. The points that Palmer raises throughout the book pose a simple answer to a difficult task for the overwhelming majority. In a way, the book acts as a gentle and reassuring nudge to stop worrying so much about asking for things and open up to the graciousness that other people have to offer.

The Art of Asking is not only an enjoyable read, but also an important one for anyone who is battling any amount of self-doubt, stress, or uncertainty. Palmer's light-hearted and witty style sheds a hopeful light on a lingering issue that is relevant to readers of all ages. However, the book holds a special significance for young adults, particularly college students who find that asking for help is an astonishingly hard pill to swallow.

AMANDA PALMER

The Maine "Ho Ho Hopefully"

This year, I want you alone.
-Melissa H.

The Cool Brothers "Christmas Sparkle"

After this song, I have lived.
-Jeremy H.

Faith Hill "Where Are You Christmas"

"Stop Worrying and Let People Help"

-HYPE BROWN

The Cool Brothers "Christmas Sparkle"

NSYNC "Home For Christmas"

"Ho Ho Hopefully"

-Amanda Palmer's Facebook page

The Cool Brothers "Christmas Sparkle"

NSYNC "Home For Christmas"

-The Maine "Ho Ho Hopefully"

Faith Hill "Where Are You Christmas"

Colleen D.
Eastwood shoots and hits in newest film American Sniper

Sammy Hurwitz
Journal Staff

It was apparent that Clint Eastwood was at helm of American Sniper. After the first 10 minutes of Bibles, American flags, camo-wear, lots of beer, and semi-abusive fathers, you could clearly sense Eastwood's artistic style. However, these clichés fit seamlessly. The film, set in Texas, depicted many symbols and characteristics similar to other Hollywood blockbusters made in the Midwest part of the state.

The story's protagonist, Chris Kyle, as played by a gigantic, 250 pound Bradley Cooper, is widely considered to be the U.S. greatest sniper of all time, with an estimated 255 recorded kills. He's tough, he's manly, and he's a Texan. And boy, did Cooper fit the part. The juggernaut was more than believable, as he transformed from cowboy-wannabe, to a respectable Navy SEAL. Humble, and impressive, Cooper was able to express the hardships faced by those who choose to fight overseas, as the steady progression of PTSD from each of his four tours became more evident each time he returned home.

Bradley Cooper and Sienna Miller co-star in American Sniper, a film inspired by the true story of one of the most well-known snipers of all time, Chris Kyle.

Cooper deserves praise for being able to act with such little emotion at times, and recreate what it was like for Chris Kyle to be home, knowing that his brothers in arms were still in battle. Cooper also did an exceptional job recreating the nonchalance attitude of the sniper in combat. Not to be outdone, his co-star, Sienna Miller, turned in one of her greatest performances to date, as she masterfully recreated Taya Renae Kyle, the wife of Chris Kyle. Miller's reaction to the project was, "Holy *'s*, it's Clint Eastwood. Holy *'s*, it's Bradley Cooper. Please can I go in and read for this part?" Miller said when asked what her initial reaction to the project was.

As viewers, let's be thankful that she took the role. It is incredibly difficult to walk the line and convey to the audience a character that is both the annoying, emotionally damaged wife who sobbed for the duration of the film but also the strong woman that Taya Kyle is as well. Miller bravely took on the part, spending extra time with Taya Kyle to learn her character, and gave an exceptional performance. The emotion of a wife raising children while her husband is overseas for roughly 1,000 days is tough to recreate, so I give Miller a lot of credit and praise. Because the film is an adaptation of a true story, there is always plenty that could go wrong in its production; characters depicted incorrectly, emotions conveyed unimpresively, etc. American Sniper, with the exception of a few minor character discrepancies, overall stayed true to the book released in January 2013. The film conveyed a sense of patriotism, sadness and perseverance. Just be warned, you will not be able to predict this film's ending until it hits you, square in the heart.

ARTS BRIEFS

"Blink!" light show to return to Faneuil Hall Marketplace

The magical and unforgettable light and sound extravaganza, "Blink!," is returning to Faneuil Hall Marketplace for its third year. According to the Faneuil Hall Marketplace website, the show runs every half hour beginning at 4:30 p.m. by "The Big Tree," on the East End, and then runs every half hour beginning at 5 p.m. by "The Three Trees," in the North Market. The seven minute show consists of more than 350,000 LED lights that illuminate the Boston skyline set to the music and stylings of the Boston Symphony Orchestra's, "Holiday Pops." The show will be running every day through Jan. 4 and is free admission.

4th Annual Downtown Boston Holiday Market

The fourth annual Downtown Boston Holiday Market is back. Located on 459 Washington St. in Downtown Crossing, the market features new artisan vendors each week, along with appearances and musical performances on Summer Street. The market is open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Open until Jan. 10, you can get your holiday shopping done while supporting local artists and food vendors. According to the market's website, Alex's Ugly Sauce, Golden Rule Honey, Karol Peralta Jewelry, Mao Sim Silk, Recycled Glass Jewelry, Epoca Amber Jewelry, Billy's Botanicals, McCrea's Candles and Swissbakers bakery will make up this year's largest holiday market. Santa Claus will also be at the market daily from noon to 2 p.m. and taking pictures is free as long as you bring your own camera. His last day at the market will be on Dec. 23.
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Walsh says he has plan under Obama’s initiative, and we should see it

How will the mayor help Boston’s men of color?

Thalia Yunen
News Editor

Mayor Marty Walsh recently vetoed a proposed Boston City Council commission advocating for a 21-member panel of black and Latino men to act as advisers to Walsh on issues affecting their cohort. Since rejecting their proposal, Walsh should make a point to speak about the programs and initiatives he has in place or is working to put in place to support a panel of men of color.

In a letter to the city council on Nov. 17, Walsh said the proposed commission would duplicate and complicate his own administration’s efforts to support men of color, according to The Boston Globe.

We have to make sure that we are paying special attention to underprivileged populations. I think if Marty Walsh says he’s on it, then he should talk about the programs and initiatives that exist to support men of color.

Walsh’s efforts to support men of color were allegedly developed after an initiative created by President Barack Obama in February. The initiative, called “My Brother’s Keeper,” is aimed at ensuring that boys and young men of color overcome barriers of success. He invited mayors from across the country to visit Boston to discuss his initiative. Marty Walsh was among those in attendance.

In a September speech to the Congressional Black Caucus, Obama introduced the My Brother’s Keeper Community Challenge, which encouraged communities to implement programs to help young boys of color.

“We need to address the unique challenges that make it hard for some of our young people to thrive,” Obama said during the speech at the caucus, according to the White House media website. “[We] all know relatives, classmates, neighbors who were just as smart as we were, just as capable as we were, born with the same light behind their eyes, the same joy, the same curiosity about the world -- but somehow they didn’t get the support they needed, or the encouragement they needed, or they made a mistake, or they missed an opportunity, so they weren’t able to overcome the obstacles that they faced.”

In regards to Walsh rejecting the panel, a Globe article published in November quoted Walsh as saying, “This is not about me taking credit. This is about making sure that my commitment to the president of the United States is followed through.”

I hope Walsh is paying special attention to the lives of people of color, and is working on ways to address the same issues that may have led up to the death of Michael Brown. Although Walsh publicly commented on protesting in Boston after the decision not to indict Officer Darren Wilson was announced, I would like to testing to whether he is working to address the issue facing the black and Latino men and boys living in Boston, and what he is going to do to help them.

In such a time of protest, it is important that Marty Walsh speak about this issue and state his plans to keep Obama’s. If he doesn’t, then I won’t be surprised if Councilors Ayanna Pressley and Matt O’Malley keep pressuring to develop a committee to address the issues faced by men and boys of color.

In response to Walsh’s veto, Councilor Pressley was said to have cited recent studies attesting to problems affecting black and Latino men, such as crime and gaps in education and health. She said there are not enough programs to address their needs, according to the Globe.

Regardless of who sets programs in place to create opportunities for men of color, someone must, and right now would be just as good a time as any other. I’m looking forward to seeing what Mayor Walsh will do for the young black and Latino men of Boston.

“Walsh was among those in attendance. In a September speech to the Congressional Black Caucus, Obama introduced the My Brother’s Keeper Community Challenge, which encouraged communities to implement programs to help young boys of color.”

Thalia Yunen

The holidays have always been a time for people to say what they are thankful for. The appreciation begins with Thanksgiving and continues through December festivities. Gratitude through loan payments - if you can.

The students who are graduating this month and in May won’t see any of the payoff of Smith’s work until a few years into their careers — or a few years into their job search. They might be thankful then, but in the first months of the real world the payoff might seem far away.

Perhaps Smith is putting all his energy into the future because he believes Suffolk is running well the way it is now. If that’s the case, then we all should be giving thanks.

While Smith’s work will be visible and appreciated in the future, the students of this university won’t see a president that is focused on what is happening in the classroom day-to-day until Smith’s successor. That could be any time in the next one to three years.

Suffolk is at a crucial point right now. The payoff will likely be huge in the near future, but the present is a time to introspect as a staff member how thankful we should be through this holiday season, heat by and hold on to that gratitude through loan payments — if you can.

http://www.suffolkjournal.net/suffolk/universitys-student-newspaper/

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What can we learn from the Ferguson protests?

Sylvain Gaulier
Journal Staff

Protesters across the U.S. rose up against a grand jury’s decision not to indict Ferguson, Missouri, police officer Darren Wilson for the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old black man. Peaceful protests spread from Ferguson to most major American cities after the verdict, however, the media focused by taking a few sound measures by the protests.

Who is to blame for the civil unrest happened in the greater St Louis area? What can we expect in the weeks and months to come? What lessons can we learn from Brown’s case?

As reported by The Los Angeles Times, “more than 2,000 National Guard troops spread out across the St Louis area last Tuesday to prevent another night of rioting and looting.” However, some businesses burned down as protesters shouted, “no justice, no peace,” and unleashed their fury.

The riot was foreseen for weeks. In an environment heavily charged with mistrust and civil disobedience, only one outcome was possible: unrest. So why didn’t the police and grand jury collaborate to lay the grounds for the verdict and pacify Ferguson?

In Shaw, near Ferguson, people could see the slogan “if we burn, you burn with us” tagged on a building. Slate reported. This saying is from the movie The Hunger Games: Mockingjay-Part 1. It could be interpreted different ways: some may consider it a threat calling for retaliation, while others will see it as a collective expression of sorrow shared by the whole community.

It is tragic to realize Michael Brown’s death could have been prevented. Too many racial killings involving policemen and black people occur every year. According to a 2011 Bureau of Justice Statistics report published in the Washington Post, “the black victimization rate (27.8 per 100,000) was six times higher than the white victimization rate (4.5 per 100,000).”

St. Charles, Missouri, resident Rachel Mangan told me: “I feel that the protests are completely unnecessary. It’s one thing to protest peacefully, but to destroy the city and ruin innocent business owners buildings is very wrong. To me, the only ones who care about Mike Brown are those that did the peaceful protests, while those that are looting and stealing just see an opportunity to be reckless. What justice is it doing Mike Brown?”

In Ferguson, the police and the grand jury seemed to have no respect for the judicial system treating minorities with less consideration. According to a Huffington Post-Yahoo! poll published in the New York Times, “62 percent of African-Americans believed Officer Wilson was at fault in the shooting of Mr. Brown, while only 22 percent of whites took that position.”

It is time to work on bridging the communication gap between law enforcement officials and black people in the U.S. A dialogue must be reestablished to fully respect minorities. It is going to take time, but important community figures such as religious leaders, social workers, or firefighters could act as mediators to bring forth a new positive environment and regain trust.

Every community overflows with resourceful and talented people. I saw such an example in the initiative taken by artists in St. Louis district of South Grand, where I went on Thanksgiving Day to get a feel of the atmosphere in this neighborhood, plagued by violent protests on the Monday before.

After many shop windows were shattered in the district, local artists decided to paint boarded windows to enlighten a gloomy picture. This action may be the symbol of a better start in the community – one based on dialogue, respect, and cooperation.

Baker’s remaining secretory picks should match his abilities

Sam Humphrey
Opinion Editor

Governor-elect Charlie Baker has filled half of his cabinet positions so far to join his transition team. With five left, he has to avoid being judged on the matches he’s made by taking a few sound measures. First, prosecutor Robert McCulloch could have been discharged to avoid any suspicion about his impaired judgment due to his numerous ties with police. The grand jury’s decision might have been announced when the police could have more easily controlled rebellious protesters.

The riots were foreseen for weeks. In an environment heavily charged with mistrust and civil disobedience, only one outcome was possible: unrest. So why didn’t the police and grand jury collaborate to lay the grounds for the verdict and pacify Ferguson? For them, the only ones who care about Mike Brown are those that did the peaceful protests, while those that are looting and stealing just see an opportunity to be reckless. What justice is it doing Mike Brown?

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After many shop windows were shattered in the district, local artists decided to paint boarded windows to enlighten a gloomy picture. This action may be the symbol of a better start in the community – one based on dialogue, respect, and cooperation.
The St. Louis Rams will not be disciplined for demonstrating receivers Kenny Britt, Chris Givens, Tavon Austin, Stedman Bailey, and tight end Jared Cook. Following the "hands up, don't shoot" pose before Sunday's game. St. Louis County police asked for an apology from the Rams' organization and players, according to USA Today Sports. St. Louis Police Chief John Belmar believed the "hands up, don't shoot" pose before Sunday's game. The five players who demonstrated were receivers Kenny Britt, Chris Givens, Tavon Austin, Stedman Bailey, and tight end Jared Cook. Following the "hands up, don't shoot" pose before Sunday's game. St. Louis County police asked for an apology from the organization, but the Rams denied ever apologizing. According to NBC Sports, it was a classic situation of apologizing for any offense taken, but not an apology for the gesture itself.

McDaniels denies coaching rumors

Rumors swirling around the Internet have indicated New England Patriots' Offensive Coordinator Josh McDaniels is a potential candidate to coach the University of Florida Gators. The rumor, for now, has been crushed by none other than the man himself ... McDaniels. According to ESPN Boston, McDaniels said his focus is "solely on the [San Diego] Chargers." The Chargers are the next opponent for the Patriots. The Pats fell to the Green Bay Packers on Sunday 26-21, which is the most points scored by the Patriots offense in a loss this season. McDaniels was fired as the head coach of the Denver Broncos in 2010. He spent some of the 2011-12 season as the offensive coordinator of the St. Louis Rams before officially coming back to coach with the Patriots.
Women's basketball victory ends losing streak

Lauren Spencer
Journal Staff

The Suffolk women’s basketball team is looking to keep the momentum rolling after putting an end to a three-game losing streak with a 60-53 road victory over Roger Williams last week.

"I was proud of the kids," said Head Coach Ed Leyden after last Tuesday night’s win. "I thought we fought really hard. It’s very hard to win the game losing streak with a 60-53 road victory over Roger Williams, so I think we all felt a sense of satisfaction."

The Lady Rams will travel to Fitchburg State Thursday before hosting Framingham State Saturday afternoon. The two games will be Suffolk’s final two before heading into the three-week holiday break.

Leyden said he doesn’t expect the last two matchups to be easy ones, but knows the team is ready to put in the work necessary to come out on top.

"Anytime you play a state school it’s a very hard game," he said. "State schools have a wide variety of majors and the schools are relatively inexpensive so for a school like Suffolk University, they are a huge challenge. We know what we need to work on and we’re willing to work on it so that’s all you can ask."

The Lady Rams have faced a challenging non-conference schedule in their opening five games, and although the team’s offense is averaging 67 points per game with seniors Shelby Santini and Ilana Quadri and sophomore Kelsey Schlebel leading the team with 53, 51 and 46 season points so far, respectively, Leyden notes the team’s defense as a major aspect to improve upon.

"What we’ve been struggling with is everybody being on the same page," he said.

"If there’s been one consistent area that we have to really work at it’s been that we have to do a much better job on the defensive boards."

Suffolk has averaged 28 defensive rebounds per game through their first five contests and has been out-rebounded overall by four of the five opponents.

"We’ve been absolutely pounded by second shots and I think that’s something that we’ve worked at and it’s been something that we really have to get better at," Leyden added.

"That’s really kind of where we’re at, is to get a lot more sold on defensive boards."

Leyden said the sign of the good team is that they get back on defense, they have five people rebounding the ball, and they don’t have problems against pressure. He cited those three points as keys to the Rams’ next two games against Fitchburg and Framingham this week, as well as having success throughout the rest of the season.

"We haven’t gotten back on defense so that’s an area that we want to get better in," he said.

"We haven’t been able to rebound as much as we should be, and (playing well) against pressure is something we have to work on as well."

But having identified their room for improvement, Leyden and the Lady Rams are optimistic.

"We know we have a capable team," he added. "We have a hard-working team so we’re kind of a work in progress at this point.

Injured athlete, Bourikas, faces challenging semester

From BOURIKAS page 16

who are on a set schedule, and I’m not. I don’t know when I’m going to be at Ridgeway, Archer, you know? I’m not on a set schedule," she said.

Transportation via the Suffolk University Police Department is also not an option.

"When I was at the art school, I asked an SUPD officer if there was anyone who could drive me to Ridgeway, that way I wouldn’t have to hail a cab ... They said, yeah, of course," recalled Bourikas. "Then they said it was a one-time deal, and I had to go through disability services because they couldn’t keep doing this."

Because of the lack of transportation from the university, Bourikas has been using Uber, which is a car service, as an alternative to a taxi.

"It’s expensive and not that reliable. The drivers would be late, and make me late," Bourikas said. "My professors have been really understanding, so they were fine with the outcome. But my parents are paying for it, and I’m not being reimbursed."

The base cost of Uber’s cheapest option, UberX, is $2, plus 21 cents per mile, or $1.20 per mile, with a cancellation fee. As of now, Bourikas said she has spent hundreds on Uber transportation alone this year.

"I haven’t really coped that well so far. I’ve been relying a lot on my team and roommates. Everyone has been such a great help, I’m so thankful. I’ve been going to PT and working with Jeff Stone. He’s been such a great help."

-Georgia Bourikas

Although she did not start a game her freshman season, Georgia Bourikas still played in all 26 games played in the regular season.

She recorded 17.7 minutes per game more than any bench player on the team.
Men's basketball conquers rival Norwich Cadets for GNAC win

Madeline Scovotti
Journal Staff

After a win that marked the third straight victory for Suffolk's men's basketball team, the Rams have proven that they are here to fight and dominate this season.

Tuesday's victory over Norwich University was a particularly exciting victory for the Rams as, according to senior captain Sam Nwadike, Norwich is one of their biggest rivals.

Though Nwadike admits the game against Norwich would be a challenge, he had no doubts about being able to overcome their rival.

"As far as tonight the main key is defense, defense, defense," said Nwadike. "We are one of the leading scorers as far as team wise in the conference, so we're not really worried about scoring or our offense. It's really just our defense, being able to shut teams down, keep them under a certain amount of points and get rebounds. But I'm really confident in tonight's game."

The team certainly proved they were able to step up their defense with an 80-58 victory against the Cadets, leading the scoreboard throughout the entire game.

Though it is just the beginning of the season, with an overall record of 4-3 and three straight victories in a row, the success of the team already seems promising. Nwadike also looks at the remainder of the season with great optimism, and a hope that his team can continue to work together to succeed.

"We definitely have a good team dynamic," said Nwadike. "We just have to work as a team on our consistency. You know, our coach always says that we don't ever play a full 40-minute game because we'll play really hard for five minutes then let the other team come back. That's what we really need to work on, playing a full 40-minute game."

Norwich never got the chance to come back over the Rams, however, as Suffolk virtually dominated the game, almost never allowing less than a 15-point gap between the scores.

When it comes to looking to the future, Nwadike is looking forward to the success of the team this season, Nwadike has set some big goals for his team, and has no doubts about the team's success and where it will take them.

"We're going to make it to the playoffs," said Nwadike. "I can tell you that from a captain and from a leader's perspective that as far as making playoffs, there's no question about it. Everyone's playing their roles and that's pretty much what's helping us win these games."

The senior biology major also has set a goal for him and his team that he knows will be the biggest challenge they will face this semester, but will be the most rewarding if achieved.

"My particular goal, honestly, is to win the conference and to go to the Division-III national tournament," said Nwadike. "That's exactly what I want to do. I want make it to the tournament."

At the current rate that the Rams are succeeding, anything is possible for this team.