Cities across the US take to the streets in protest against mass shootings

By Katherine Yearwood, Journal Staff

Like a storm, a crowd of more than 100,000 people marched through the streets of Boston this past Saturday, fighting to protect the lives of students throughout the nation. The movement was hosted by March For Our Lives after 17 high school students were massacred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. on Feb. 14.

The bodies of students lined the floors of school halls as their assailant stalked around the rooms in search for further targets. Since the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting and the slaughter at Stoneman Douglas, there have been 229 school shootings nationwide, resulting in 438 people being shot and 138 being laid to rest, according to the New York Times.

"This is true and near and dear to my heart to keep guns out of schools to make our country safer," said Nicole Salaun, a teacher of early childhood and first grade students in an interview on Saturday with The Suffolk Journal. "I don't think it's right that I have to think of plans to get my kindergarteners and first graders out of a classroom. I've talked with fellow teachers about how I have to have a backup plan on how to take care of them if God forbid there was a shooter. It's just so real nowadays."

The walk began at 11:00 am at the Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, went along Columbus Ave, to Charles Street and gathered at the Boston Commons for a closing ceremony.

Thunderous voices shook the city streets as...
SGA EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

Results not yet finalized

By Facebook user Morgan Robb for Suffolk SGA President

Morgan Robb
537 VOTES
46.29%

Logan Trupiano
558 VOTES
48.18%

Thursday will be the first day of hearings for eight appeals that called into question the transparency, accessibility and integrity of the most recent Student Government Association (SGA) elections. Currently, the results are not solidified.

Election ballots opened on March 5 and closed on March 7, but due to "technical difficulties" such as error messages and invalid URL links, SGA withheld the results at first. On March 19, however, SGA released the initial election results and "and allowed for appeals about a dispute on the outcome of the election or charges of wrongdoing to be filed in the timely manner as outlined in the SGA Bylaws," according to a statement by the SGA Elections Committee on Monday.

With eight appeals having been submitted in the allotted window, the hearing on Thursday will begin a process that could potentially see its way up to the office of the Dean of Students.

"I wish that communication and more information about the decisions that were being made, why they were being made and what was happening was more clear," said Robb. "I want students to feel supported and heard no matter what, and I think they should be kept informed of situations such as this." This appeal process is being handled by SGA's Student Judiciary Review Board (SJRB), led by the Association's Vice President Levi Smith.

Smith explained in an interview on Tuesday that the eight appeals, which will be heard behind closed doors confidentially, were grouped into 13 categories. These categories were then narrowed down to 11 due to relevance according to Smith; these issues will be the topics of Thursday's hearing.

"I would say the main issue of the elections regardless of anything else that's what it stemmed from, was a lack of documented procedures," said Smith.

Smith said that he hoped to get a ruling out in the next two to three weeks depending on the timeframe of the hearing process. If this ruling by SJRB is appealed, the office of the Dean of Students would then get involved in order to create a concrete resolution.

"We are happy that students are speaking out," said Trupiano. "If students are feeling in any way that there's something up, that's what democracy is, that's what being a free government is."

Connect with Chris on Twitter @ChrisDeGusto
President of the Black Student Union Phyliss St. Hubert

**MLK: Vision alive 55 years later**

Near 55 years after Martin Luther King Jr. gave a rousing speech in Boston on the benefits of a politically integrated society, Suffolk University's Ford Hall Forum conducted a re-reading, highlighting how inequality is still prevalent today.

In “Moving Toward Justice: Reflections on MLK Jr.’s Vision For A United America 55 Years Later,” the presentation last Tuesday aimed to celebrate King speech. Through both the reading of these parts of the speech from recordings as well as through members of the Suffolk community, it was apparent to all who attended that the issues that were prominent in the 1960s are still very real issues today, and that everyone, particularly students, have the capabilities to express their voice.

“The feeling is important to be empowered and use your voice because we do have the power,” said President of Black Student Union Phyliss St. Hubert in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. The speech given by King in 1963 mostly focused on desegregation in law of Boston's schools reluctance to desegregate in the 1960s. The Ford Hall Forum chose to highlight themes in the original speech that could also be seen as needed in today's societal climate; the need for speed to gain political equality, integration over desegregation and the ultimate goal for an integrated society, destroying the myths that time will solve everything and that morality cannot be legislated, and the fear of the un-oppressed to speak out. The speech concluded with the urge to persevere through the hardships in order for the world to someday be a united society of equals.

The panel of faculty fielded questions from moderator Robert Bellinger as well as opening up the floor to take questions from the audience. The faculty started by sharing personal experiences, as well as their opinions on the government of the 1960s can be related to today with issues such as education, housing, healthcare and our judicial system. Suffolk professor Mickey Lee, a member of the panel, discussed how bringing controversial topics to Suffolk can help to broaden the minds of the members of the university.

“I feel like Ford Hall Forum and other talks like it can work to bring staff, faculty and students from all three schools together,” said Lee. “The most important is to be in the same room with others that do not normally sit together. Especially now (in the current political system) we need to have that community.”

Members of the Suffolk community came forward to the board with questions on the future of America in terms of the rights of the people, personal experiences of injustice that still exists in our society and how to reach towards a more equal outcome that Dr. King Jr. was striving for.

“The Forum is a perfect opportunity to get involved and productively use my free-time,” said broadcast journalism major Anim Osmani in an interview with the Suffolk Journal. “I think [the Suffolk Community] can benefit from events like this because they have something to learn.”

The Ford Hall Forum will have their next event on April 5 in “Confronting Racism and Disparities: What's next?”

Connect with Kaitlin on Twitter @kaitlinhahn

**THE SUFFOLK JOURNAL**

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Boston marches on

From MARCH - 1

workers, such as bus drivers and firefighters, honked their horns and gave students thumbs up in solidarity.

A slew of people filled the Boston Common in unity with the students marching - taking up nearly all the green space. The student demonstrators, up to 24 years old, were welcomed into the Boston Commons where they awaited speeches and performances from other high school and college students as well as event organizers.

Beca Muñoz, a sophomore at Northeastern University studying Politics, Philosophy, and Economics and Lenor Muñoz, a senior at Stoneman Douglas. The two sisters gave a joint speech together at the Boston Commons.

"I remember every single detail, my trauma isn't going away and neither are we," said the Muñoz sisters.

Both women took the stage in front of a hushed crowd and spoke on the harrowing experience they endured when Lenor Muñoz was at the school when the shooter opened fire. The quiver in their voices was apparent. But, they continued to push on through recounting their trauma - letting the crowd and spoke on the

See more photos from the march at thesuffolkjournal.com.
As soon as we crossed America’s northern border, our GPS shut off, miles per hour meant nothing, and the sun began to illuminate the flat Canadian landscape. Five off-duty journalists and I, still mostly foreign to us, were on our way to Montreal during the week of Suffolk’s spring break. We made hasty plans and did not know what to expect. We left around midnight. The night offered no sleep as we sped northbound for nearly six hours of white-knuckle driving and one wrong turn later, we were in Montreal, looking for our rented condo in the dead center of the city. First order of business was breakfast. We settled on a small, home-style restaurant with a cheerful disposition and incredibly bright lighting. We were grumpy and still getting our bearings in this new place. When the hostess asked us if we wanted French or English menus. We all shouted “English” in unison. Crepes were the specialty and this place had them in anyway you could imagine: crepe wraps, crepe omelets, savory, sweet, you name it and they had it. The good news was our money is a bit more valuable up north currently. Our American dollar is worth 22 cents more than the Canadian equivalent. The locals referred to this as “the American discount.” This prompted a moment of surprised delight. Again, we should have done some research.

After resting for a few hours we were back out in the city. Montreal is impecably clean compared to America’s urban centers. Even the central air that was filtered out of our condo complex had the garlicky, buttery smell that is associated with French cuisine. We went out for dinner and a drink at a local pub on Peele Street, or Rue Peele if you’re speaking French. It was early in the week and the city was quiet. We most certainly didn’t expect the chaotic scenes that were to follow.

It was spring break season for many schools and Canada allows anyone who is 18 or older to drink there. This surely was a recipe for a influx of out-of-towners, but we didn’t put two and two together in our rush to book the trip. In addition, St. Patrick’s Day was just around the corner. The perfect storm of outsider-induced madness was about to descend upon Montreal and we were blind to it.

The next few days were headlined by a flurry of aggressive behavior; anxiety spilled into the clean streets of Montreal. Fistfights seemed to erupt on every bar-lined corner on a nightly basis. The doormen were all stressed out and you could see it in their red, shifty eyes. Their city had been overrun by what many people would still consider children. One beer-drenched American, of an undisclosed city, rushed one of the doormen late on a Thursday night only to be slapped to the ground twice before relenting.

This was not what most people expect when they picture our friendly neighbors up north. Upon returning to the pub on Peele, which was close to our temporary home, we witnessed a Canadian task force burst in and arrest the pub’s general manager. Our waitress said she suspected he was selling drugs to the spring breakers.

For a change of pace and a moment of peace, we traveled to the Montreal Biodome. It is located in Olympic Park, which hosted the 1976 Olympic games. The massive facility is part of the largest natural science museum complex in Canada and includes an insectarium, Botanical garden and allows visitors to walk through replicas of the Americas’ four ecosystems. The bustling, still hung-over city was far in our rearview mirror as we walked through the massive butterfly garden exhibit, which is a popular attraction at the park.
The unique beauty of Amsterdam is obvious to anyone that steps foot onto its cobblestone sidewalks. Around 60 canals and 1,500 bridges lace through the city, giving a distinct color and atmosphere to every street. The overall architecture of the city reflects somewhat of an intimate character. Every house and building has its own exclusive style — altogether contributing to the eclectic vibe. Tradition and innovation collide to establish a society that celebrates individuality in both architectural and communal aspects.

As you wander down each narrow road, you will soon realize just how important cycling is to Dutch culture. Despite the city's modern metro system, practically everyone travels via bicycle. If you happen to walk in the bike lane by accident, be prepared to get yelled at by more than a few cyclists.

Although cycling is one of the most common ways to meander through Amsterdam, getting around by boat is not uncommon. There is an entire culture behind life on houseboats. Every canal has its own community of houseboats adorning either side. Numerous restaurants and bars line the canals as well. This enlightened ambiance attracts lots of people seeking an alternative lifestyle.

Being one of Europe's most famous cities, Amsterdam is known not only for its gorgeous canals and avid cyclists, but also for its liberal perspective on drugs and sex. The iconic Red-Light district leaves nothing to the imagination. Cluttered with sex shops, museums and adult theaters, one walk through the urban area is enough to leave a lasting impression on any tourist.

The infamous coffee shops, known for selling marijuana, also contribute to the progressive aura of Amsterdam. Equipped with a menu of pre-rolled joints and several variations of indica and sativa strains, coffee shops attract tourists from all over that wish to celebrate the cannabis culture that is widely accepted in Amsterdam.

There is no better way to describe Amsterdam than as a city of individuality and alternative living. While some may consider some of the city's elements to be quite out of the ordinary compared to other places, Amsterdam has something for everyone that travels there. Whether you enjoy reflecting on the historical and cultural features of art that the city upholds, or you prefer experiencing a more open-minded perspective, appreciation of originality is easy to find no matter where you venture to in Amsterdam.

By Amy Koczera/Asst. World News Editor & Prague Correspondent

Assistant World News Editor Amy Koczera went into Europe with ambitions of achieving numerous goals this semester. She is looking to explore the foreign streets on a daily basis, discovering new architecture and landscapes. She writes every day about her experiences in her own personal blog, advocatesanthology.com, while posting pictures for The Suffolk Journal. Recently she visited Amsterdam.
One of Suffolk University’s latest additions, the performing group, Soulfully Versed, brought to life the importance of soul in their most recent performance, “Wish Upon a Star.”
A dream come true, Soulfully Versed debut

As one of two A cappella groups at Suffolk, they’re working to establish their place on campus.

Juliana Tuozzola  
Journal Staff

Suffolk University’s Soulfully Versed, one of two A cappella groups on campus, prides itself upon both diversity and unity. This group represents 14 different and uniquely talented students, but when their individual passions and voices come together, there is no question that Soulfully Versed embodies one, collective spirit.

Soulfully Versed was founded in 2016 by junior business major Jo’Lise Grant and Josephine Omooygho, an International Relations major.

“When deciding what to name our group, we knew that we wanted to convey the message that we take pride in representing a diverse set of people, and that soul is the type of music which we wanted to perform,” said Grant in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Suffolk’s Soulfully Versed put forth natural talent, hard work and boundless amounts of passion into their debut performance at Roxbury Community College this past Friday. With the combination of talent, new friendships and diligent work, Soulfully Versed was able to accomplish that very goal, making their wish come true.

One day, Josephine and Jo’Lise were thinking about how many talented people there are on campus,” said Grant. “We wanted to form a group for talented, and passionate students to really come together as one to enjoy music.

Not only does Soulfully Versed take pride in their own diversity, but also in the assorted music genres and selections of which they practice and perform together. The group expressed to the audience that they do not just sing soul, but that soul is something they always strive to create and embody when their voices come together.

“You don’t have to have a soulful singing voice to join,” said Grant. Soulfully Versed is really about all of us just coming together as one. A cappella means being a family and uniting to us.”

The show began with a creative and spirited performance of a dream-orient and Disney Medley. The auditorium was darkened as a single light illuminated the microphones on the stage while the group sang, “When You Wish Upon A Star.” One by one, the members of Soulfully Versed entered the stage and although they appeared individually and in different black attire, it was clear they all embodied a collective heart and energy.

“Our theme was a Disney-dreaming opener, and we chose this because it showed the audience that we are here,” said Grant. “We are pursuing and debuting our dreams.”

The group instantaneously sparked a reaction from the audience as they sang a snippet of "The Circle of Life" from Disney’s "The Lion King," which showcased their talented atonos and wide vocal ranges. Soulfully Versed’s stage presence was entirely that of unity, liveliness and pure joy.

The song which followed in the Medley was "Zero to Hero" from Disney’s "Hercules." The combination of the lyrics, beatboxing, harmonious voices and one powerful vocalist, conveyed a strictly confident message about starting from nothing and celebrating victory. This specific performance within the medley showed the audience that Soulfully Versed is not only excited to share their passion and music with the world, but that they are a fiercely confident group.

“Why don’t you have to have a soulful singing voice to join,” said Grant. Soulfully Versed paid tribute to Disney’s "Mulan" by performing "Let’s Get Down to Business" and "Dark Side of the Moon." During this part, the group was swaying back and forth, snapping their fingers and singing with determination, as the song was about putting hard work forward to accomplish a goal, something this group has experienced first hand.

The group concluded with "Poor Unfortunate Souls" from Disney’s "The Little Mermaid." The enthusiasm and high spirits displayed by Soulfully Versed was undeniable and it was the strong presence of family and community which truly showed what this group was founded upon.

We are so motivated from this show and especially from all the dedication and support we have received,” said Grant. “Everyone is dedicated to enhancing our group’s success which is amazing.”

Suffolk Versed has set some promising goals for the near future, which include having an EP out by this time next year and gaining a bass to add to their A cappella group.

"Soulfully Versed on Facebook as Soulfully Versed, Instagram @ soulfully_versed."

“A cappella means being a family and uniting to us.”

-Jo’Lise Grant  
President,  
Suffolk Versed

Connect with Juliana on Twitter  
@julianatuozzola

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Young people are not the leaders of tomorrow, they are the leaders of today

The March for Our Lives protests across the world have led students to stand up for gun reform. The younger generations are speaking their minds in an attempt to enact change and not be a bystander.

Morgan Hume, Journal Staff

The March for Our Lives took place across the world this past weekend. Overall, more than 200,000 people gathered to protest for stricter gun control policies. Sibling marches also sprang up in areas ranging from New York City to Los Angeles. However, it was not the groundbreaking number of people in attendance, celebrity performances or political activists. But when a gunman stormed into their high school and shot 17 of their classmates and teachers dead on Valentine’s Day in Parkland, they knew that it was time to take action. Almost immediately, they have also become incredibly active on Twitter, using their platform of thousands of followers to affirm their rigid stance on gun control reform. They organized March For Our Lives, which encouraged numerous Americans to take action alongside them for stricter gun control in the United States. Until recently, teenagers have had a bad reputation among older generations. Adults viewed them as little kids who were lazy, glued to their iPhone screens, and were too young to truly understand how the “real world” works. It seemed impossible that they would be able to bring about any significant legislative change. They have underestimated these kids. They may be only 17 and 18 year olds, but they are incredibly mature and professional. Who else would have the courage to address the country in speeches that are not only well spoken, but come directly from their hearts and personal experience? They are filled with passion and determination to make policy changes that should have been made years ago.

Their inspiring stories and strong words are posing great challenges for politicians and lawmakers. They are making people think twice about an amendment that was instituted when African-Americans were still deemed as three-fifths of a person. It has been more than 200 years. Although times have changed, the laws have not caught up.

Their message of peace spreads farther than Parkland, Fla. and Washington D.C. For example, in the Boston Common, our own backyard, thousands of people gathered near the Massachusetts State House on Saturday as part of the demonstration. Local high school students delivered moving speeches on how they should be tackling their calculus exam, but instead they are stuck tackling congress, which is a much more challenging equation.

We are often told to raise and teach our children well because they will become the leaders of tomorrow. These mass shootings have caused children to grow up quicker than expected. Their age may technically identify them as kids, but they are stepping into vigorous leadership positions and demanding political action.

They are not preparing to lead the world of tomorrow, they are already leading us today. After all this being said, the most remarkable part about these students is that the March For Our Lives is not the end of a movement, but only the beginning. These students will continue to fight until amendments are rewritten and schools become safe. They will fight in the names of the friends, classmates and teachers they tragically lost. They will fight until their pain becomes our pain.

And as they continue their fight, we will continue to listen and stand by their side.

Connect with Morgan on Twitter: @morganmhume
SUPD, faculty should be armed

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

It is time for Suffolk to adopt a realistic and effective policy regarding the vulnerability of the university community to armed shooters.

The existing policy, if you want to call it that, is to require students and faculty to wait patiently as a rampaging killer decides which class or which assembly to attack. None of the actions typically called for by students and faculty will do anything to improve our odds of surviving an attack. Nothing short of confiscation of firearms will work, and I, along with a majority of Americans, will never see that as a realistic or acceptable solution. The only solution that will work is to equip the university police and faculty with firearms. That policy, once adopted and made known to potential attackers, would deter attacks and give groups under attack a fighting chance to survive.

I strongly urge university leadership to consider, first, arming university police and, second, asking faculty willing to do so to undergo firearms training and to carry firearms with them to their classes.

David G. Tuerck
Professor of Economics
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Editor’s Word

First Amendment remains cornerstone of American democracy

For a school that seems to harp on the importance of inclusivity, diversity and free expression it’s contradictory to see such an uproar amongst students when presented with a set of ideals different from their own. Earlier this week informational flyers were posted around the campus regarding a controversial conservative speaker, Christina Hoff-SommerSy, who is scheduled to speak on campus. Many of these posters have been ripped off of the walls and thrown in the trash. What needs to be considered here is that oppression under the guise of combating oppression, is still oppression.

Limiting first amendment rights is counterproductive to any political agenda, no matter the circumstances. By remaining ignorant to opposing viewpoints, it offers the idea that personal opinions, may in fact, not be strong enough to withstand opposition. We go to this university to try to test what we believe in, not to clamp our hands over our ears and refuse to acknowledge difference, isn’t that what started this partisan feud the first place?

To get the most out of your educational experience, you must immerse yourself in all forms of thought. Only then will you be informed enough to formulate educated beliefs and opinions. By blindly restricting free speech on campus, we will become part of the problem that has fueled identity politics and a country divided. Leave the posters, go to the discussion - or don’t, it doesn’t matter. That’s your right, but don’t infringe on others.
Men's tennis team preparing to shock GNAC

By many, the bar is set low for the Suffolk University men's tennis team, but the Rams will look to surprise doubters within the Great Northeast Atlantic Conference (GNAC). Led by junior captains Rami Esrawi and Chris Parnagian, the Rams will look to surpass the expectations of finishing last in the GNAC as they were voted to this spot in the preseason coaches poll.

Suffolk struggled to the finish in the 2017 campaign. Though the team managed to make it into the GNAC tournament, Suffolk lost in the first round to Johnson & Wales University 5-0, ending the year with an overall record of 2-8.

The Rams started the 2018 season on the wrong foot, losing to Wentworth 2018 season on the wrong foot, losing to Wentworth 2-0 on Thursday. Esrawi downplayed the loss in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal, saying it was only the first game of the year. The Rams will be turning a new page this season, as they compete without their former captain of two years, Francesco Sala. As a result, Esrawi and Parnagian took over his position as co-captains. Both juniors are looking to get different qualities out of their teammates as the season begins.

"As captain, I hope this year our players can show improvement and growth," said Parnagian in a recent interview with The Journal. "I want our team to be willing to play outside their comfort zone and take risks. Sometimes when we take risks we find out what we are truly capable of accomplishing."

Esrawi mentioned expectations of what he wants from each player and how each player's mentality should be the same. "I expect [my teammates] to go to most practices and to work hard every day," said Esrawi. "I also expect us to take it more seriously this year. Our younger players are more experienced and I want to tap into that potential."

One player that will be benefiting from this experience is sophomore Omar Azzaoui. Azzaoui is currently the most essential piece to the puzzle for the Rams, as he currently is slotted in the first singles position. This means that Azzaoui will be going against the opponent's top player every match, making his position on the team the most important.

Esrawi proved why he should be in the primary slot, winning his first match of the season. This gave Suffolk one of only two wins in the overall match. When asked if he feels any added pressure being the top spot on Suffolk, Azzaoui said there was none.

"I already go into every match wanting to perform at the highest level, so there's no added responsibility for me," said Azzaoui in a recent interview with The Journal. "I already feel that extra edge of enthusiasm for this sport and support for my family." Azzaoui proved why he should be in the prime position, and his enthusiasm for this sport and support from his family served him well.

"I want our team to be willing to play outside their comfort zone and take risks."

- Captain Chris Parnagian

"I want our team to be willing to play outside their comfort zone and take risks."

- Captain Chris Parnagian

BOURIKAS REPRESENTS LADY RAMS IN SENIOR ALL-STAR CLASSIC GAME

Senior Georgia Bourikas found yet another spot in the Rams' record books this weekend when she competed at the New England Women's Basketball Association (NEWBA) Senior All-Star Classic at Smith's Alukworth Gymnasium. Being the sole representative from the Lady Rams, Bourikas, who ended her Suffolk career with a total of 1,109 points, is the first Ram to participate in the classic. The senior put on her Lady Rams' home basketball jersey one last time when she added 11 points to her teams 66. Unfortunately, Bourikas and the home team lost 91-66.

Bourikas had the opportunity of competing with a team of collegiate athletes from seven opposing schools and was coached by one of the Lady Rams' top rivals, Saint Joseph's College of Maine. Back in December, Bourikas hit another first in Suffolk women's basketball history as she was named NEWBA Player of the Week. In that week she averaged 29 points and 9.5 rebounds per game.

As her collegiate career came to an end, Bourikas finished with a total of 108 game appearances for the Lady Rams, while playing a total of 2,649 minutes and averaging about 38 points per game.
A calm and collected presence at the plate, the regular designated hitter (DH) for the Rams, redshirt senior and entrepreneurship major Greg Speliotis, hopes to focus on “leading by example, but also vocally.”

Speliotis, who sat out the season his freshman year from a shoulder bone chip, took his opportunity off the field to teach himself more about the game of baseball. In his time off, Speliotis said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal that he “analyzed the game and took everything in to motivate myself to come back better.”

Speliotis hopes the younger players can benefit from the insight he gained being off the field for a season. “The younger players are coming out of high school, the game is faster now and [it will take time for them to adapt to the speed],” said Speliotis. “I am there to help each individual slow down the game and play to their full potential.”

Aside from being a part of the Suffolk baseball program for his entire collegiate career, Speliotis described his final year as being one of the utmost importance. As a graduating senior and a team captain, he hopes that the senior class will set an example for newcomers and for Suffolk college baseball as a whole.

“It’s different because it’s the end of the road,” said Speliotis. “The seniors and I want to make sure we leave on a high note.”

Starting off posting an impressive 2.25 ERA in Florida this year, redshirt senior and finance major Mark Fusco will continue, in his last season, to be a key addition in the Rams rotation on the mound. Fusco, who said his role was mostly coming out of the bullpen until last season, will settle into a demanding and important role this year – a starter for conference games. As captain, Fusco plans to help unify the Suffolk pitching staff and make sure that every pitcher on the roster is on the same page when game time comes.

“I’m not necessarily looking for the young guys to pick anything up off me,” said Fusco in an interview with The Journal. “I am just trying to help them understand the mindset we have as a pitching staff throughout the season.”

Fusco said this year would be different than others since the team has “a bunch of new faces,” and is hoping this season that him and his teammates will set an example for newcomers and for Suffolk baseball as a whole.

“We as upperclassmen are going to have to show them how things are done to make sure they can adapt easily to our baseball program,” said Fusco.

However, in the meantime, Fusco’s goal for the team is an ambitious one, which is to get to the World Series, an opportunity that was just out of Suffolk’s reach last season.

“I’m just looking forward to competing again, [especially after] being so close to making it to the World Series last year and losing,” said Fusco. “Ever since then I’ve been looking forward to starting up this year and getting where we could’ve been last season.”

The senior class, along with transferring senior Mark Fusco, hopes to focus on “leading by example, especially with this younger group.”

Although the Rams are coming off some historical seasons, getting too caught up in previous success is not a beneficial outlook for the team to have this season, according to Grant. Keeping it simple, finding ways to win and trusting the process will pave way for a great season.

“Our focus at this point is just finding out the best path to winning games and being able to do that consistently,” said Grant. “We really just have to take each game and practice day by day, one at a time; you can’t get ahead of yourself in baseball, and that’s really been our focus.”

Mark Fusco
B. Chant
G. Speliotis
M. Fusco

Having entered the spring ranked at the top of the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) coaches poll, the Suffolk Rams baseball team goal for the season is simple - a fourth straight GNAC title. The team split a double-header against the No. 1 NCAA ranked UMass Boston last Saturday.

In 2017, the Rams offensive powerhouse collected 326 runs in just 45 games. Having lost three of the four captains from last year’s team, senior Brady Chant has stepped up for his second year as captain, alongside newly named senior captains Mark Fusco and Greg Speliotis.

Holding down the spot in center field, Brady will act as a staple in the team’s offense and defense. In this year’s spring training games in Florida, Chant put up a .410 batting average, including two consecutive home runs.

Chant said in a recent interview with The Journal that the team’s roster this season compared to last season, which was filled with upperclassmen, is much younger.

“We went from an older team last year to a much younger one this year,” said Chant. “It’s been a much different experience.”

Chant, a senior finance major from Warwick, Rhode Island, is described as being a more soft-spoken individual on the Rams roster.

Because this 2018 campaign will be his last year in a Ram uniform, his role as captain is going to be much more vocalized than it was during his 2017 season.

“I think being a senior makes it more of a vocal role on the team,” said Chant. “Especially with this younger group”

Although the Rams are coming off some historical seasons, getting too caught up in previous success is not a beneficial outlook for the team to have this season, according to Grant. Keeping it simple, finding ways to win and trusting the process will pave way for a great season.

“Our focus at this point is just finding out the best path to winning games and being able to do that consistently,” said Grant. “We really just have to take each game and practice day by day, one at a time; you can’t get ahead of yourself in baseball, and that’s really been our focus.”

Starting off posting an impressive 2.25 ERA in Florida this year, redshirt senior and finance major Mark Fusco will continue, in his last season, to be a key addition in the Rams rotation on the mound. Fusco, who said his role was mostly coming out of the bullpen until last season, will settle into a demanding and important role this year - a starter for conference games. As captain, Fusco plans to help unify the Suffolk pitching staff and make sure that every pitcher on the roster is on the same page when game time comes.

“I’m not necessarily looking for the young guys to pick anything up off me,” said Fusco in an interview with The Journal. “I am just trying to help them understand the mindset we have as a pitching staff throughout the season.”

Fusco said this year would be different than others since the team has “a bunch of new faces,” and is hoping this season that him and his teammates will set an example for newcomers and for Suffolk baseball as a whole.

“We as upperclassmen are going to have to show them how things are done to make sure they can adapt easily to our baseball program,” said Fusco.

However, in the meantime, Fusco’s goal for the team is an ambitious one, which is to get to the World Series, an opportunity that was just out of Suffolk’s reach last season.

“I’m just looking forward to competing again, [especially after] being so close to making it to the World Series last year and losing,” said Fusco. “Ever since then I’ve been looking forward to starting up this year and getting where we could’ve been last season.”

Speliotis hopes the younger players can benefit from the insight he gained being off the field for a season. “The younger players are coming out of high school, the game is faster now and [it will take time for them to adapt to the speed],” said Speliotis. “I am there to help each individual slow down the game and play to their full potential.”

Aside from being a part of the Suffolk baseball program for his entire collegiate career, Speliotis described his final year as being one of the utmost importance. As a graduating senior and a team captain, he hopes that the senior class will set an example for the younger group of players.

“It’s different because it’s the end of the road,” said Speliotis. “The seniors and I want to make sure we leave on a high note.”

Speliotis is a force offensively and on the base paths; last season, out of 80 at-bats, he walked nearly half the time, gathering 36 walks and an on-base percentage of .478, the highest among the lineup for any players with seventy or more at-bats.