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2018

Suffolk Journal, vol. 82, no.4, 10/10/2018

Suffolk Journal

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Recommended Citation

Suffolk Journal, "Suffolk Journal, vol. 82, no.4, 10/10/2018" (2018). *Suffolk Journal*. 676.
<https://dc.suffolk.edu/journal/676>

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COUNTDOWN TO KELLY’S INAUGURATION

Kelly says Suffolk community will chart the course for university’s future



Mitch Bruhwiler/Photo Editor

Kaitlin Hahn
News Editor

Kyle Crozier
Asst. News Editor

As she prepares to be inaugurated on Friday as Suffolk’s 11th president, Dr. Marisa Kelly said she is looking forward to developing a long-term vision of the university with significant input from the entire university community.

“One of the things that makes us such a fabulous community is our commitment to our mission ...to be sure that Suffolk is a place that is creating transformational opportunity for students, not just now or five years from now but in 10, 20 years from now,” Kelly told The Suffolk Journal.

“The world is a changing place, so we are going to be working this year as a campus community collaboratively on the development on the next seven year strategic plan.”

Kelly served as the acting president for more than two years before the presidential search

committee selected her for the position permanently.

“I am surprised that as much as I felt the weight of the responsibility as acting president, the sense of that responsibility is even greater as president,” Kelly said. “It is a very different thing to know that you have a level of responsibility for what this institution will look like in five or 10 years, or for laying the foundation for the really long-term

Sebastian Royo said when Kelly served as acting president, she treated the position no differently single thing that she did or didn’t do based on how it could have influenced the decision [to hire her

much the same.”

Kelly, who served as provost before being named acting president and now president, drew attention to Suffolk’s most recent expansion of program offerings including the Registration and Financial Aid Center, Division of Student Success and the Ram Center.

“I think there’s a sense of momentum of everybody knowing that we want to work together and all row in the same direction to ensure the success of our students, our alumni and the institution as a whole,” said Kelly. w

With the inauguration of a new but experienced president, Suffolk hopes to solidify a central system of administration that unites all three colleges — the College of

Arts and Sciences, Sawyer Business School and Suffolk Law School under one leadership system.

Royo has been at Suffolk for 27 years and in that time has seen major changes involving the upper administration at Suffolk.

“It used to be one of the most decentralized administrations I’ve seen in my career. The schools tended to have a lot of the responsibility that other [institutions] with a central administration wouldn’t,” said Royo. “And that has been changing a little bit over the last few years as we have built infrastructure in the central administration.”

“The world is a changing place, so we are going to be working this year as a campus community collaboratively on the development on the next seven year strategic plan.”

– Marisa Kelly

success of the institution long after I am gone.”

Acting Provost than she does now.

“I cannot think of in the last two years a permanently],” Royo said. “So in all honesty, I think it is going to be pretty

Supreme Court Justice confirmed Kelly prepares to officially take office

Nicholas Viveiros
Journal Staff

This article contains a graphic description of sexual assault. Please read at your discretion.

In a close, nearly party-line vote held Saturday, Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh was confirmed to replace retired Justice Anthony Kennedy as associate justice on the United States Supreme Court. The vote took place following a months-long nominating process that dove deep into Kavanaugh’s judicial record and personal conduct. All but two Republican senators, Lisa Murkowski (AK), who voted “present” and Steve Daines (MT), who was home for his daughter’s wedding, voted “yes,” while all but one Democratic senator Joe Manchin (WV), who faces a red state reelection battle, voted “no.” Kavanaugh’s confirmation was in doubt recently after three separate allegations of sexual misconduct, dating back to the 1980s, surfaced last month. The first accuser, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford of California, testified in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee, where she expressed that she felt it was her “civic duty” to come forward after a letter detailing her allegations against Kavanaugh leaked from Senator Diane Feinstein’s (D-CA) office in September. “I am here today not because I want to be, I am terrified,” said Dr. Ford during her opening statement to the Judiciary Committee on Sept. 27. “I am here because I believe it is my civic duty to tell you what happened to me while Brett Kavanaugh and I were in high school.” Dr. Ford went on to detail the happenings of a party in 1982, at which she accused Judge Kavanaugh of pinning her to a bed and sexually assaulting her. “I was pushed onto

the bed and Brett got on top of me...Brett groped me and tried to take off my clothes. He had a hard time because he was so drunk and because I was wearing a one-piece bathing suit under my clothes. I believed he was going to rape me,” said Dr. Ford. Judge Kavanaugh unequivocally denied the allegations made against him. “There has been a frenzy to come up with something, anything, no matter how far-fetched or odious that will block a vote on my nomination. These are last-minute smears, pure and simple,” said Kavanaugh in a prepared statement. “I was not perfect in those days, just as I am not perfect today. I drank beer with my friends, usually on weekends... But that’s not why we are here today... I never did anything remotely resembling what Dr. Ford describes.” Across campus, students reacted with shock and dismay. “It was disheartening to see the Republicans ignore Dr. Ford’s powerful testimony for cheap political ends,” said junior James Walsh. Walsh, a Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE) major from Marlborough, who followed the nomination and confirmation process closely. Junior PPE major Claire Warner had a very personal take on Judge Kavanaugh’s confirmation. As a victim of sexual assault, she said

she looked up to Dr. Ford and admired her bravery. “When I was sexually assaulted in high school, I turned down the opportunity to report my case because I feared no one would believe me. Three years later, I watched Ford take the stand and essentially be the martyr for sexual assault victims. She was everything I wished I could have been three years ago. For her to sit there and tell the whole world of her hidden pain and then have the world dismiss her is exactly why we victims do not report our experience,” said Warner. The hearing shed light on the issue of sexual assault in the United States, where according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men are victims of rape. In light of the #MeToo movement, where the nation saw thousands of survivors of sexual assault speak out, the allegations took on a new meaning. “My issue with it all is the shortness of the FBI investigation,” junior history major Derek Briand told The Journal. “It should’ve been longer and more thorough. I also think the overall process of choosing a Supreme Court justice is archaic and outdated. Whether we limit terms of Supreme Court justices or every 8 years look and reanalyze all the justices and revote accordingly, we have to do something.” Judge Kavanaugh is

not the first Supreme Court nominee to sit on the court despite serious allegations of sexual assault. In 1991, attorney Anita Hill accused George H.W. Bush’s nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment. Despite the allegations, Judge Thomas, then one of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, was confirmed in a 52-48 vote that saw 11 Democrats vote “yes” and two Republicans vote “no.” Before the allegations of sexual assault, Judge Kavanaugh appeared to be a shoo-in for the seat formerly held by Justice Anthony Kennedy, who announced his retirement in June. Kennedy was a crucial swing vote who authored many high-profile majority opinions, while Kavanaugh falls somewhere ideologically between President Trump’s first nominee, Justice Neil Gorsuch and former Justice Antonin Scalia, a conservative powerhouse who was well known for his dissents before his death in early 2016. Despite having the votes to confirm Judge Kavanaugh, there were a few legal concerns surrounding the circuit court judge before his confirmation hearings began. The most controversial and relevant of his beliefs are his thoughts on presidential power. In a 2009 Minnesota Law Review article titled “Separation of Powers During the Forty-Fourth Presidency and Beyond,” Judge Kavanaugh wrote that, “Congress might consider a law exempting a President while in office from criminal prosecution and investigation, including from questioning by criminal prosecutors or defense counsel.”

Connect with Nicholas by emailing nviveiros@su.suffolk.edu

From KELLY - 1

Royo believes there is still work to be done. “One of the issues that has been raised is the need for [Suffolk] to work as one university,” said Royo. “I think we have made a lot of progress over the last few years, but I feel there is much to be gained from further collaboration among the three schools.” Kelly also said it is vital that Suffolk build on its tradition of welcoming a diverse student body and faculty. “The commitment to diversity and inclusion, to people from different ethnic, racial, religious, geographic origins, gender identity, political persuasion, the whole gamut, is in our DNA. Because we really were founded on that mission,” said Kelly. “I want to be clear here though: We have work to do. “We have a vision of ourselves, I have a vision of us in terms of the kind of inclusive community we aspire to be. But there’s a core commitment here that is shared by the members of this community, and that allows us to make good on those promises.” Morgan Robb, president of the Student Government Association, believes the answer for more diversity in faculty and staff is the key for President Kelly’s hopes for expanding diversity. “I think that compared to other universities the numbers of marginalized identities that we have in our student body is extremely high, which is wonderful to see. [However] those numbers are not matched by faculty and staff which is concerning because then our students don’t have people to go to,” said Robb. “So I think that if we continue to work on that, overall we will better as a community.” As well as working on adding diversity to the school, there is a push to expand on the opportunities for students in order to make them as successful as possible. Royo, emphasizing the need for students to leave Suffolk well-informed and able to be compatible

with jobs in their field. “It’s crucial that we help students with their experiences and opportunities when they are here but also to get jobs when they graduate. So I think continuing to build the infrastructure for career services is going to be absolutely essential,” said Royo. Robb hopes to continue the growth students have made for themselves and their community as Suffolk provides the support they need for their ideas to thrive. “I continue to see students creating more businesses or getting more recognition for themselves and for the university,” said Robb. “I also think Suffolk has started to invest in its own people and I think that is going to be huge for incoming students, alumni and faculty and staff, that we are going to continue to grow and get better.” Above all, President Kelly hopes to improve the Suffolk experience for each student as they try to find their way through college and into their future. “We are an institution that really cares about your success in life. That’s professional and personal success because both are equally important and I think the college experience at every level, needs to be defined by what we can do to help you be successful,” said Kelly. “And if there is a time someone doesn’t feel that way, I want to know because I want to see what we can do to improve it. We care.” President Kelly’s inauguration ceremony will be held Friday, in the Tremont Temple Baptist Church at 3 pm with the reception immediately following at 5 pm.

Connect with Kaitlin and Kyle by emailing suffolknews@gmail.com and kyledcrozier@gmail.com

“Fighting Nazis” put into Perspective

Former Neo-Nazi and founder of Free Radicals visits MIT

Caroline Enos
Journal Contributor

For panelists at MIT’s October 4th event “How to Fight a Nazi,” compassion is capable of deradicalizing a Neo-Nazi.

One panelist at the event, Christian Picciolini, is a former Neo-Nazi who had helped 220 people disengage from extremist groups through his organization Free Radicals. At age 14, Picciolini was on his way to the corner store to buy baseball cards and Lemonheads when he was recruited into America’s first Neo-Nazi skinhead group, the Chicago Area Skinheads.

“I had no idea about politics, I didn’t understand racism--although I’m sure that I was complicit in institutional privilege--but I didn’t learn [to become a Neo-Nazi] from my parents,” said Picciolini, whose parents immigrated to the United States from Italy in the 1960s. “For all intents and purposes, I should not have gone down that route.”

In Picciolini’s case, and in many others, joining extremist groups is not caused by racist views. Instead, it is caused by a person’s search for identity, community and purpose.

Extremist groups primarily target young white men, and now recruit members mostly



Caroline Enos/ Journal Contributor

Science journalist and MIT Communications Forum Coordinator Christina Couch, Christian Picciolini, a former Neo-Nazi and founder of the organization Free Radicals and Lee-Or Ankori-Karlinsky, a senior program officer at Beyond Conflict

through underground websites, disinformation on the internet and online video games like Fortnite.

“When we get detoured in life, there are people waiting who understand these vulnerabilities and are very savvy, tailoring their pitch so they can promise you paradise and essentially create some imaginary enemy so that you can project your own self-hatred on them,” said Picciolini.

A Southern Poverty

Law Center (SPLC) report showed that while KKK membership declined in 2017, Neo-Nazi groups increased 22 percent in the same year. According to the SPLC, this is a growing trend of young people opting for “a more loosely organized alt-right movement.”

“We’re failing our young people,” said Picciolini. “I don’t think adults know how to be vulnerable with young people, and in turn, they

will never be vulnerable with us.”

Picciolini felt the camaraderie of the Neo-Nazis when he first joined, and defending the group soon became his purpose.

Everything changed for Picciolini once he was introduced to the perspectives and compassion of those he hated.

“There was a point that I thought I was doing the right thing and when we were attacked, I couldn’t

understand why we were the subject of that attack,” said Picciolini.

Lee-Or Ankori-Karlinsky, a senior program officer at Boston consulting nonprofit Beyond Conflict and panelist at the event, stressed that conflict resolution will only be successful if groups are prepared to meet each other.

Videos of people punching Neo-Nazis on the street have gone

viral in the U.S. and in Germany, where support for Neo-Nazis has increased substantially in recent years.

“I don’t know any Nazi in the history of earth who changed his views because he got punched,” said Picciolini. “If you want the satisfaction, do it, but then look in the mirror and say am I any different from that person I just punched.”

To Picciolini, ignoring Neo-Nazis and disregarding race issues in society does not mean that extremist groups and the use of microaggressions are in decline.

“We need to ask a lot more questions,” said Picciolini. “None of us should feel that we know everything about race because none of us do and no matter how tolerant or how progressive we are, we step in it and we do things that we don’t even know are racist. It’s a learning process and we have to be open to learning.”

The most important part of diminishing extremist groups in America, however, is all in how we look at them.

“I try to be that person that I wish had been there for me,” said Picciolini. “I try to see the child in everybody; a broken child instead of a monster.”

Connect with Caroline by emailing cenos@su.suffolk.com

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The independent student newspaper of Suffolk University since 1936.

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8 Ashburton Place, Office 930B, Boston, MA 02108
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BlackKlansman speaks on race and politics



Katelyn Norwood and Mikaela Linder/ Journal Contributors

Ron Stallworth, the BlackKlansman, is interveiwed by Suffolk student Jolice Grant

**Katelyn Norwood
Mikaela Linder**
Journal Contributors

Ron Stallworth visited Suffolk University on Oct. 3 to talk about his experience as an undercover police officer that infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan in the 1970's. In 2014, Stallworth wrote the book, "Black Klansman: Race, Hate, and the Undercover Investigation of a Lifetime," that documented his experience as the first black man to infiltrate the KKK as part of an undercover investigation in Colorado Springs. Recently, famous director Spike Lee turned Stallworth's book into the feature film, BlackKlansman starring John David Washington and Adam Driver.

"I wrote a book that has resonated with people. It has ignited a national conversation about race and race relations, and [with] the movie, Spike has taken it to another level. I never planned on that. It's a little overwhelming. It's fun to be in this discussion...to be in this moment," said Stallworth. The movie adaptation BlackKlansman premiered in August and quickly received reviews from both critics and the public. Since then, it has been receiving considerable Oscar buzz, especially in the Best Adapted Screenplay category. While it is based on Stallworth's book, BlackKlansman is not a documentary and often uses composite characters and events in order to tell a more comprehensive story. Tackling difficult subject matter, the movie is serious with moments of well-timed humor interspersed throughout.

Patsy Terrazas-Stallworth, Ron Stallworth's wife, has been supportive of her husband's newfound fame and the process from book to movie. "Can you believe this? We're just two normal people," said Patsy. Patsy then went on to explain how she was able to witness the reactions of people leaving the theater after they viewed the movie and one man simply told her, "I have to go home and wash the white off of me." Before the moderated talk, the mood in the room turned serious when Stallworth pulled out his wallet to show his KKK membership card signed by David Duke, the former Grand Wizard of the organization. The biggest shock was when Stallworth mentioned that Duke called him before the movie premiered and

played the voicemail for the room. On the phone, Duke praised Stallworth's book and encouraged his podcast listeners to read it and see the movie. Stallworth took the stage for a Q&A session moderated by Jolise Grant, a senior business management major at Suffolk. Grant asked a variety of questions and kept the conversation flowing, touching upon topics of race, politics and the entertainment world. Stallworth was candid and unapologetically honest in his responses when speaking to the small audience, making the evening feel intimate. At times the conversation was heavy, especially when Stallworth was asked what interacting with Duke was like. "He's a likable guy. He plays well to the camera, plays well to the media," said Stallworth of the

former Grand Wizard. "[However] he cannot talk to anyone for any length of time without the subject of race coming up. The minute the subject of race comes up Dr. Jekyll becomes Mr. Hyde and the monster in him is unleashed." Stallworth then talked about a phone call in which he and Duke debated Donald Trump's racism. After challenging many of Duke's views, Stallworth pointed out a common rhetorical tactic often used by white supremacists known as pivoting. "You pin them on something, they will pivot to another topic to redirect your thinking... kinda like what Donald Trump does every day," Stallworth said in reference to white supremacists. This comment was received well by the audience, generating a round of applause. It was obvious that Stallworth was passionate about stopping white supremacy and all forms of hate. When asked by Grant about his time undercover, Stallworth was proud of the work he did, ultimately stopping three cross burnings due to increased police presence and removing two top security clearance officials from the KKK. Continuing with the political theme of the night, Stallworth shared his opinion on the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. He openly declared his support for the organization and emphasized their mission to bring about positive community change. "When you have that one bad apple [officer] that violates his constitutional

oath at every opportunity, I will call that cop-out," said Stallworth. David DeAngelis, the Director of the Student Leadership and Involvement (CSDI) office that contributed to bringing Stallworth to campus, felt the overall event went well. As for future events, DeAngelis supported the student input, curious to know who students would like to hear. "That's what these [events] are about, challenging new questions," said DeAngelis in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. After Grant opened the floor for Q&A, a Suffolk student challenged Stallworth's stance on BLM and other racial issues. The pair engaged in a passionate debate that ultimately resulted in the Suffolk student leaving early. Ending the event on a tense note, the audience's reaction to the exchange was mixed. "I thought [the exchange] was unnecessary," said Mileika Jaime, a Senior Biology major at Suffolk. Hannah Dillis, a graduate student studying clinical mental health counseling described the exchange as one of the more authentic moments of the night and felt that the student "was completely justified in speaking up and standing his ground."

Connect with Katelyn and Mikaela by emailing knorwood@su.suffolk.edu and mlinder@su.suffolk.edu

Trump money under investigation

The New York Times' investigation into the Trump family finances laid out many allegations of what they called "creative accounting" that may now force the family to pay out hundreds of millions in back taxes, fines and penalties to New York state. The complicated process that father Fred Trump used to distribute his wealth allowed him to pay 5 percent in estate taxes on his wealth of over a billion dollars, standing in contrast to the then-standard 55 percent estate tax. The Times alleges multiple instances of fraud, including a massive undervaluing of the Trump properties, lowering their required tax payments. Allegedly they also devised a system that allowed Fred Trump to list wealth that he transferred to his children as business expenses instead of taxable gifts. Despite the alleged borderline tax fraud by Trump and his father, many parts of the con could never be criminally pursued, as they happened well outside the criminal statutes of limitation. Politically, Trump's actions on the campaign trail are being questioned, as he had presented his wealth that had been tthe result of his own great business acumen.

Pipeline pressure spurs fear

Less than a month after a series of explosions resulting in nearly 80 house-fires throughout the Boston area, a surge in natural-gas pressure on Oct. 8 led to a service shut off for about 300 homes in Woburn, MA. The decision to suspend service was done as a result of a surge in pressure, noticed within minutes by the company that services the pipes, National Grid, and attributed to "human error." The company did not have to call for any evacuations, but the Department of Public Utilities did order that National Grid halt all work across their service area until a safety review could be completed. "It's extremely dangerous and I can't understate the risk of this incident. Any overpressurization is a large-scale emergency and a near-disaster. Just because they're lucky no one was killed or no one's home was destroyed doesn't mean this wasn't a serious issue. . . It's just crazy that it happened so shortly after Lawrence," said Boston gas explosion investigator Mark McDonald to the Boston Globe. The company said that they expect service to be fully restored by Thursday, and have yet to cite the exact cause of the incident.

WORLD

“The Staging Post” reaches Suffolk students

Shayla Manning
Journal Staff

As millions of individuals and families seek refuge from war torn countries or tyrannical rule, few are lucky enough to embark on a journey that fosters love and support. The documentary film “The Staging Post,” directed by Australian filmmaker Jolyon Hoff, follows the lives of two Afghan Hazara refugees, Muzafar Ali and Khadim Dai. They navigate living in limbo after Australia’s Operation Sovereign Borders stopped the boats, forcing them to seek temporary asylum in

Australia by boat. On July 9, 2013, the Australian government refused resettlement for more incoming refugees. Those left were to remain offshore, where Cisarua, Indonesia, became their staging post.

Hoff explains at the beginning of the film that when he visited Cisarua, he wanted to learn more about the refugees living there. Almost immediately he met Ali, a photographer, and Dai, a filmmaker. Together, they decided to make a documentary.

In 2014, when the film was made, there were about 5,000 refugees in total living in Cisarua. They were

What began as an idea sparked a refugee education revolution.

Indonesia.

Dr. Elizabeth Robinson of Suffolk University’s sociology department stressed the themes of storytelling, community building and engaging with the human experience during her introduction of the documentary. It was shown to students in the Strategies for Working with Emergent Bilinguals class on Tuesday, October 2, in the Sawyer Building.

Between 2008 and 2013, 51,798 asylum seekers arrived to

denied access to work, education and support. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) did not allow the refugees to form any sort of community or organization, but Ali and Dai set out to change that.

“We wanted to make an organization which can represent refugees, or make a breach between the United Nations, local government, and refugees,” said Dai during

See POST - 6

“Oceans Ventured: Winning the Cold War at Sea”

An enduring military narrative



Ryan Arel/Arts & Culture Editor

Former Navy Secretary John Lehman (left) with Commanding Officer Nathaniel R. Shick

Ryan Arel
Arts & Culture Editor
Morgan Hume
Asst. Arts Editor

The USS Constitution Museum in Charlestown brought former Navy Secretary John Lehman to speak about his career and promote his new book, “Oceans Ventured: Winning the Cold War at Sea,” on Oct. 3.

Lehman served as the 65th Navy secretary, during the Reagan administration. Lehman served during the last decade of the Cold War, from 1981-87.

President Ronald Reagan, who served 1981-1989, was in office during the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union, with the USSR officially dismantling in 1991. Lehman, who was 38 when he became Navy secretary, remains the youngest person to ever serve in that position.

In his speech to more than 50 former and current members of the Navy along with museum staff and visitors, Lehman explained that toward the end of the Cold War, the United States had cut its military so severely that the Soviet Union was superior militarily.

In turn, the U.S. resorted to trickery to

make the Soviets believe the U.S. was stronger than they were.

“How can we make the Soviets think we can do it?” said Lehman, referring to how the U.S. could appear stronger and have more forces than it actually did.

Lehman emphasized

exercises along the Soviet border — essentially taunting the Soviets. As a result, Reagan’s Navy was crucial in causing the Soviets to overspend on the military, Lehman said.

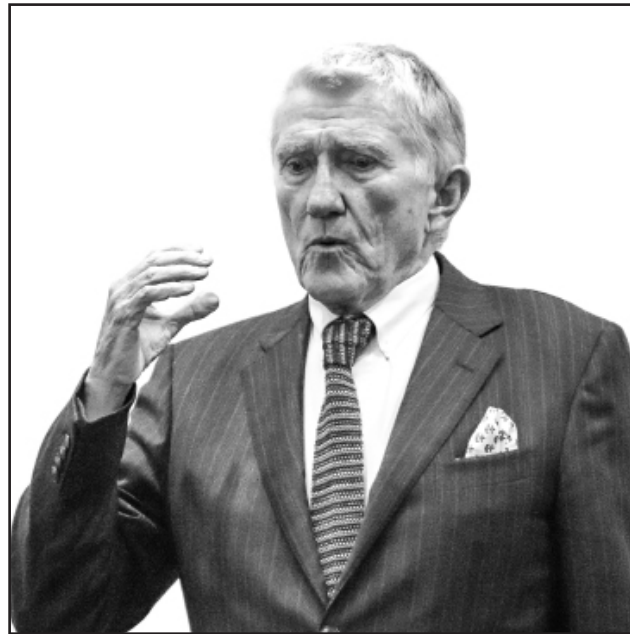
He said the the book took much longer to complete than he wanted, noting that the book

audience, discussing the challenges the Navy faces today, including North Korea and cyber security. To tie together the “then” and “now,” Lehman compared the Axis powers of World War II — Japan, Germany and Italy — to Russia, Iran and North Korea today.

He compared them as nations not having common allies “but common adversaries.”

Lehman was brought to the USS Constitution Museum as part of the Leadership Lecture Series, said Museum President and CEO Anne Grimes Rand. Rand said that the museum invited naval and military guests to discuss their job duties.

“Being here in Boston, obviously there’s an interested audience,” said Rand in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “This evening we have museum members, people who may have had military service in the past who might be interested in this, or business leaders who are interested in sort of the questions of leadership and strategy.”



Ryan Arel/Arts & Culture Editor

Former Navy Secretary John Lehman

that the Cold War was not only won because of the weakening of the USSR, but also largely in part by the Reagan administration and its actions.

The book describes Reagan’s aggressive policy toward the Soviets. Lehman said during the Reagan administration, the Navy was more provocative in its military

could have taken around six months to finish. Instead, it took 10 years because much of the information he wanted to use in the book was classified. He said he went to the trouble of getting the information declassified because “it is a story that is important for people to know.”

After his talk, Lehman took questions from the

Connect with Ryan and Morgan by emailing rarel@su.suffolk.edu and mhume@su.suffolk.edu

MAPA risk-takers honored for tireless activism

Amy Koczera
World News Editor

Given recent global events, many feel that now is the time to speak up and advocate for social justice everywhere. Dedicated members of the nonpartisan and nonprofit organization Massachusetts Peace Action (MAPA) have put themselves on the forefronts of history by participating in civil disobedience acts within the past year to protest the various global injustices and the United States' involvement in them.

"If you don't stand for something, you'll lie down for anything," said former Cambridge mayor Denise Simmons at MAPA's "Honoring the Risk Takers" celebration dinner this past Saturday afternoon at the First Church in Cambridge.

As an organization that seeks to promote human rights and global peace, MAPA uses policy advocacy and community education in an effort to end wars and redirect excessive military spending to meet human and environmental community needs.

Throughout the evening, MAPA featured and awarded various "risk takers" and social rights

activists to emphasize the importance of civic engagement.

"You can't complain if you're not willing to make change - you have to stand up. Your silence is your complicity," said Simmons. As the first African-American and openly lesbian mayor in the U.S., Simmons has been a trailblazer for activism her entire life.

Despite the fact that most of them are retired, MAPA members have been spending their time participating in civil disobedience acts and protests in an effort to provoke a strong peace movement throughout the world.

"Boycotts are as American as the Boston Tea Party," said MAPA executive director Cole Harrison who began the night with a brief review of the humanitarian and foreign policy crises' over the past year. In response to these events, Harrison and other speakers explained to the audience the impact and significance of protesting in today's

society.

MAPA members hope to inspire young people to become more involved in political advocacy with their risk-taking behavior. Suffolk Peace Action (SPA) represents the goals and message of MAPA on Suffolk's campus.

"Getting involved and joining stuff on

and fighting together is awesome because you feel like you're not alone."

Various MAPA members pointed out the lack of government attention toward education programs, transportation systems, community building and relief programs. Consequently, many members were disheartened with the overwhelming funding being given to military and defense.

"It's not about

have increased defense funding but we never have enough money for what matters for human funding."

Although it is easy for some to become easily discouraged by international policy decisions, the members of MAPA have channeled their discontent into political activism.

"There are decades of tireless activism in this room," said musician and MAPA activist Dean Stevens in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "This is a call to young folks to dive head-first into activism of all sorts - it's their future."

Stevens explained how his optimism has kept him going throughout the political and global cataclysms that have occurred over the past century.

"This political state of our country is the last dying gasp of an era in our country, I believe that something amazing is on

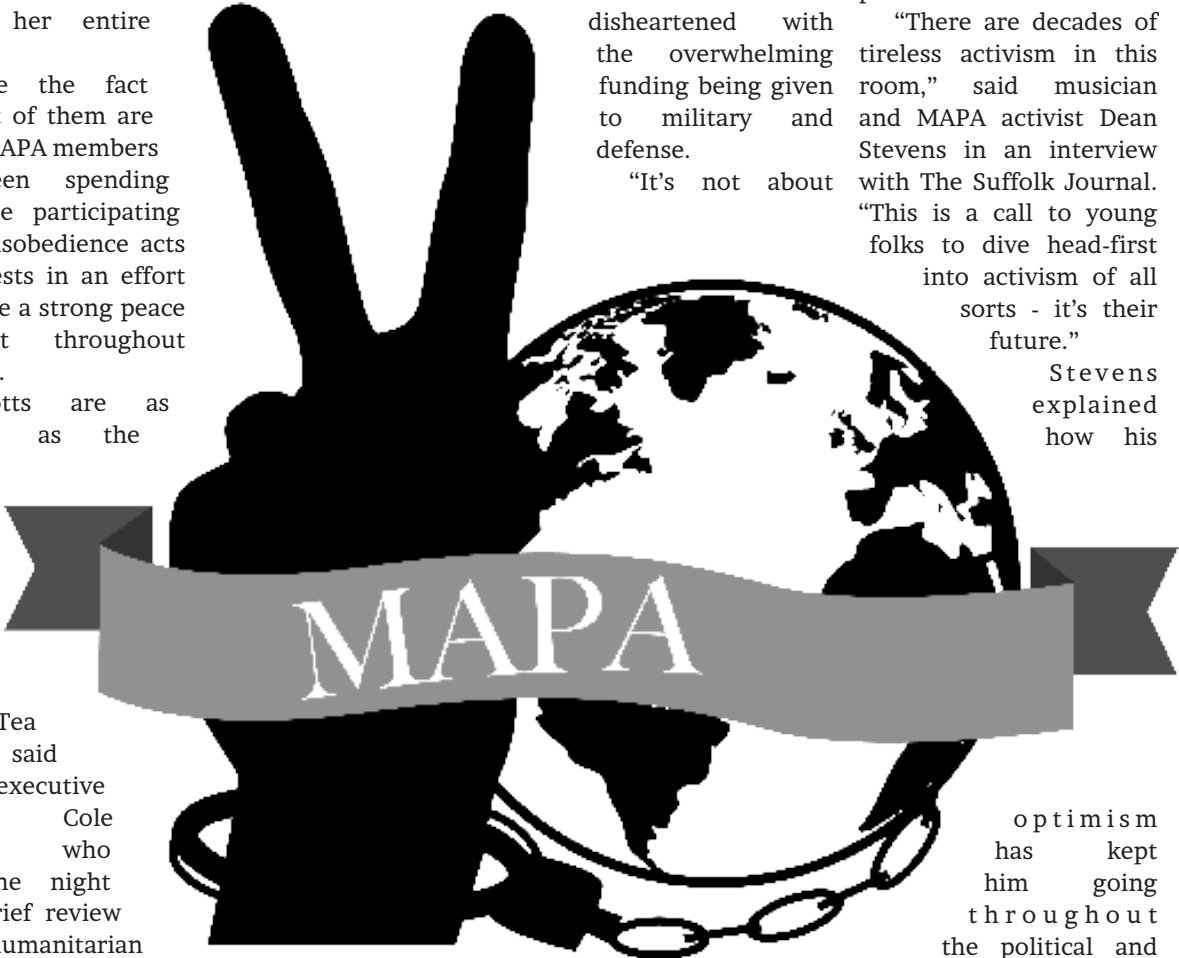
its way," said Stevens.

Many MAPA members have been lifelong activists and are well-aware of the consequences attached to civil disobedience.

"Civil disobedience should be done strategically to lift up a moral issue," said Harrison. Being from the Vietnam war generation, Harrison has been a persistent risk-taker and protestor. "To be successful you have to link all of the issues together rather than just going at one alone."

Other activists and risk-takers explained how powerful it felt to participate in acts of civil disobedience.

"It felt like I was standing on the shoulders of giants," said risk-taker and MAPA member John MacDougall who was arrested in May 2018 for protesting as part of the Poor People's Campaign outside the Massachusetts State House. "I was trying to be an ally to those low income people. I believe there are ways to resolve conflicts peacefully."



Boston Tea Party," said MAPA executive director Cole Harrison who began the night with a brief review of the humanitarian and foreign policy crises' over the past year. In response to these events, Harrison and other speakers explained to the audience the impact and significance of protesting in today's

campus is important for getting involved because there are power in numbers," said junior SPA president, Lucy Giordano. "Gathering together

resources, it's about reorganization of priorities," said MAPA board member Jared Hicks in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "We

Afghan Hazara refugees spark community education

From POST - 5

a discussion after the film. "There are no refugees talking for themselves, and that hurts, when you are a refugee," said Dai.

After much deliberation, the Hazara refugees were allowed to form a community center, which they secretly converted into a school.

The bulk of the film focused on the work of the refugees to build a life for themselves. Desperately wanting to educate their children, the refugees pooled all their money together to assemble a school. Several Hazara women volunteered to teach students and Australian citizens provided them with over

100 pounds of books. The school was named "The Cisarua Refugee Learning Centre."

What began as an idea sparked a refugee education revolution. The school now currently

within their communities.

By building a community with one another, the Hazara refugees created a home where they never expected to find one and invited the outside world

The end of the film marks an emotional turning point, as Ali and his family are granted a resettlement in Australia. Before his departure, the Hazara refugees send him off in a tradition they call

people were just rushing around and trying to get a boat and go. But now, together, we build a community. We build and we achieve."

After the film, in a question and answer

filmmaker.

"When I went to Indonesia, I was feeling that I was voiceless. I don't have any voice, I don't have any agency," said Dai. He was motivated to make a film when he realized the lack of refugees speaking on behalf of their own community.

Hoff's way of inviting viewers to become friends with the Hazara refugees offers a positive perspective on an often negative narrative.

A story of friendship, courage and the power of community, "The Staging Post" brings light to the world of a refugee, and reminds viewers that they are humans, too.

“There are no refugees talking for themselves, and that hurts, when you are a refugee.”

— Afghan Hazara refugee Khadim Dai

holds nearly 200 students and has inspired the opening of six other refugee schools in Indonesia. The UNHCR now encourages them to engage in activities, such as hosting holiday celebrations and events

to take a look in.

"Refugees were living scattered like strangers, they were not mixing with each other as a community," said Ali. "The fear factor has gone within families, within children."

"dropping water," which signifies good luck.

Dai also received a visa and planned to resettle in the U.S.

"I was just here to learn. I remember three, four years before," said Dai. "When I arrived here,

session, Dai discussed plans to start filming the next phase of "The Staging Post," where they will focus on where the refugees located after resettlement. He also elaborated on his own journey as a refugee

Connect with Shayla by emailing smanning@su.suffolk.edu

A

ARTS & CULTURE



Mexican playwright merges conflict with theatre in play ‘The Crossing’

Ryan Arel
Arts Editor

Mexican playwright Hugo Salcedo visited Modern Theatre Tuesday evening for a live condensed reading of his play, “El viaje de los Cantores,” which roughly translates to “The

Salcedo intended to show the importance of humanizing the atrocities that happen when one attempts to flee their country.

It took Salcedo nearly two years to conceptualize the play so that he was able to fully dive into the true story that needed to be shared with the world. It then took him one month to scrawl his findings across the page, to then have it taken to

Through his writing, Salcedo depicts the true story of 19 people attempting to cross the border from Mexico into the U.S. and the obstacles they must endure. Salcedo chose to create this play to express his discontent with the situation involving the Mexican people who search for a better life in the U.S.

As an attempt to help others understand the

of political standing on the issue of border relations.

Salcedo said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal that he hopes that his works in theater will help raise awareness about these issues in a way that is different from conventional news coverage.

Setting the tone for the rest of the production, Chayo, who is about to board the train where all

those traveling die, hugs his wife and says goodbye at the beginning of the play in a tearful, emotional embrace. She asks, “when will you return?”

Chayo does not reply, and the viewer is left to infer that the answer is never.

Five hours after the bodies were found, the lone survivor of the event, Miguel “el Miqui” Tostado

Rodriguez, is talking to presumably an immigration officer. In his trauma, he tells

whomever he is speaking to his life story. In an attempt to portray how immigrants are often seen as numbers and forms as opposed to people,

Rodriguez’ character goes on a moving tangent about his life when the officer, or whomever he is speaking, is not satisfied with his ability to identify himself.

The exchange is crucial to the emotional appeal of the play, as this man just witnessed many die. He only survived by creating a hole in the side of the train to breathe through while everybody else suffocated.

“I’ve told you everything, sir,” says Rodriguez’ character. “Everyone calls me el Miqui. First at home, by my brothers and sisters and my parents, then in the neighborhood by my buddies.”

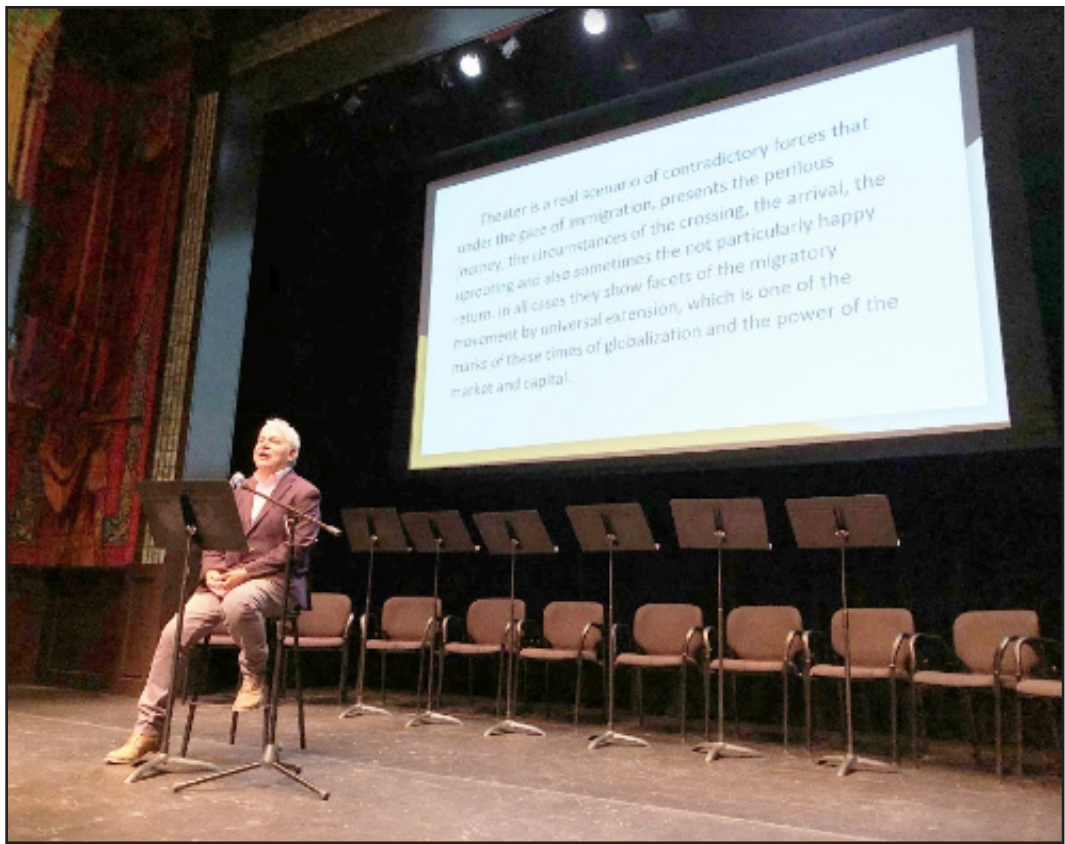
Salcedo attempts to convey the message that people are people, regardless of whether or not they are legal. “The Crossing” is a creative representation of how he can contribute to the world in a positive way; by humanizing situations where we stand by and watch.

He goes on to talk about how he likes adventure and narco movies, and how everyone has called him by his nickname since he was a kid. Portraying Rodriguez as a human being, with a past, nickname and interests as opposed to an illegal alien does a justice in helping force the idea that refugees are human

beings, not numbers on a spreadsheet.

In the following scene where everybody but Rodriguez perishes, which occurs about five hours earlier to Rodriguez’ plea to the officer, Gavilán Pollero is introduced telling the group of six men to calm down when they are in distress, threatening to not smuggle one man for his lack of money. Pollero is the man that the 19 workers paid to help smuggle them out of the country.

Throughout the reading, there are scenes of camaraderie that arise. The men sing songs in the train while awaiting their fate, trying to help the time pass. Toward the end of the reading, the train comes to a halt, and the men get worried. At 6:15 PM the night of the tragedy, the character of Mosco, Pollero’s assistant, suggests a game where the men all name “cantinas,” or bars and clubs, until they cannot name anymore in order to distract them from the fact the train has stopped. After playing the game for a bit, reality sets in, and they all panic. The men in the train car do not speak again.



Ryan Arel/Arts Editor

Crossing,” in English.

This artistic presentation vividly portrays the very real crisis happening along the U.S.-Mexican border.

the stage. In Modern Theatre, Suffolk students, along with outside actors, performed a reading of the play, which was originally written in 1989.

plight Mexican people go through to get to America, Salcedo uses emotional appeal to win the hearts and minds of the audience, regardless

Connect with Ryan by emailing rarel@suffolk.edu



By Twitter user @nicksboston

Fashion Designers share their humble beginnings in fashion

Gabriela Lopez
Journal Contributor

Nine women artists gathered at the Downtown Boston Business Improvement Center on Wednesday to share their stories of passion and hard work in the world of fashion. Comedian and model Bethany Van Delft hosted the show on Oct. 3.

Van Delft said the goal of the night was to understand through these women's stories that "fashion is not frivolous." Their stories portrayed the idea that fashion is about the people behind the clothes; the designers, photographers, makeup artists and marketing people.

The audience was invited to participate in the show by answering the prompt "In 140 characters or less, tell us about a time you unleashed your fashion goddess." The prompt was given to the public to answer anonymously before the show started. Van Delft emphasized the word "goddess" from the prompt, explaining how the word is related to feminism.

The artists' names were written on scrap paper and randomly picked out of a bag by Van Delft to determine the order of presenters. The first artist selected was Mariolga Pantazopoulos, a Puerto Rican makeup artist, who discussed how she got into the fashion industry.

"Makeup came naturally to me, it was like breathing," said Pantazopoulos. "I didn't have to think about it but

I never saw it as a career." She came to New York and completed her studies in college in fashion merchandising and marketing. Meeting new people and exploring the vast artistic world allowed her to find her passion for makeup.

"By exposing myself to fashion shows, I went to school for fashion, I surrounded myself with people that were doing works of styling," said Pantazopoulos. "Little by little, I started doing the makeup for the photoshoots, or fashion shows, or theater."

At the beginning of her career she started doing photoshoot tests, and over time, more important jobs started arriving at Pantazopoulos' door.

However, she shared that there were also bad experiences that demotivated her to keep working hard in her field. She kept a positive mindset despite the troublesome times she experienced after moving to the U.S.

"They are not failures," said Pantazopoulos. "Each experience taught me something, [like] living [in] the moment."

Pantazopoulos emphasized that her passion for makeup was discovered thanks to interactions with people with similar interests.

The producer and founder of Boston Caribbean Fashion Week Althea Blackford was selected to speak towards the end of the show. In the same way that Pantazopoulos found her passion by interacting with people with the same

interests, Blackford found her passion for fashion because of her family.

Her Jamaican and Barbadian heritage inspired the creation of Caribbean Fashion Week, whose main goal is to show the city of Boston a mix of Caribbean culture and fashion, although the event is not only for Caribbean designers.

Before Blackford had this idea, she created a show at Boston Neighborhood Network named "Style It Up," which was a locally focused, weekly fashion show.

She recalled being immersed in the world of fashion since she was young because her mother loved to design and create new clothes for her. She explained that she was the girl at school everyone wanted to dress like because her mom followed the latest trends.

Both Blackford and Holly Nichols, a fashion illustrator from Massachusetts, use visual arts to show the world of fashion, but Blackford's style focuses on fashion shows while Nichols bases her work on fashion illustrations.

Nichols started uploading her sketches and illustrations on Instagram. She currently has 750 thousand followers and has collaborated on different campaigns, including one with TRESemmé.

Nichols does not think the meaning of the word "influencer" reflects her work on Instagram because she is not influencing her audience to follow certain

rules or believe in certain ideas. She wants her followers to be inspired and connected with the art and fashion world.

"I became a slave to social media," said Nichols. "I got to a point where I would post around three times a day."

Pleasing her audience became her obsession. The fashion illustrator said she responded to everybody's direct messages on Instagram and read most of the comments. This situation, Nichols explained, took over her life. She would feel stressed because she needed to create more content, which distanced herself from her family and friends, and set her farther away from her goals.

Currently, she dedicates more time to sharing content she feels happy with and is passionate about, not as a way to please her followers.

Other speakers were Historian and Artist Kimberly Alexander, CEO and Co-Founder of the company 19th Amendment Amanda Curtis, Co-Founder and Chief Merchant at M. Gemi Maria Gangemi, Director of the Fabric Discovery Center Diana Jaye Coluntino, CEO of Dependable Cleaners Christa Hagearty, and Curator of Fashion and Textiles at the Peabody Essex Museum Petra Slinkard.

Connect with Gabriela by emailing gabigabilopez@hotmail.com

Suffolk Fall Showcase

This weekend Suffolk University students will welcome their parents and relatives for Family Weekend.

Along with spending time with family taking a break from the chaos of the school year, Suffolk will be showcasing the work of select Suffolk students in the Fall Showcase. All showings are open to Suffolk students to go and see what their peers have put together.

Visit the Theater section of Suffolk's website, on the majors and minors list, and click "Our Productions" to find tickets to support your peers' before tickets run out.

Showings run Thursday at 7:30 PM, Friday at 8 PM, and Saturday and Sunday have two showings at 3 PM and 8 PM.

The three productions are:

Paciencia - Written and directed by Adriana Alvarez, Class of 2019, the production tells a story of a Latino family journey to find a better life in the U.S.

wild, alone - Written and directed by Ali Maynard, Class of 2019, discover the differences between an "urban legend" and a "full-blown haunting" in gothic New England.

Talk To Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen - by Tennessee Williams and directed by Micaelen Rodgers, Class of 2020, and Amanda LoCoco, Class of 2019, two lovers struggle to escape from their relentless cycle of giving comfort and inflicting pain.

Humanitarian Crises:

Trump and his administration forget about the American people. All of the American people.

Will the United States government move forward in helping its citizens?

Or keep moving backward?

With the recent destruction of Hurricane Florence in the Southeast, this raises the question, when will the American government finally begin to care about the health and safety of lower income communities when disaster strikes?

Just over a year after one of the most deadly natural disasters in United States history, thousands of people in Puerto Rico remain without power or a home. While The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided over \$3 billion in repairs to the residences on the island, that money failed to end up anywhere near lower class communities, according to the New York Times.

President Donald Trump may tell himself the federal government was a “great help” in aiding Puerto Rico, but the truth is, it was, and remains, wholly inadequate.

The American government, despite the fact that it has been a U.S. territory since 1898, often forgets about Puerto Rico. After centuries of Spanish rule, Puerto Rico was only independent for a year before the U.S. government took

Flint, Michigan 2014

Water Crisis

authority over its one million residents.

For over a century the American government has owned Puerto Rico as a commonwealth, yet citizens do not have any voting power and it is not legally a state, despite efforts to become one. At the very least, the U.S. has an obligation to aid Puerto Rico in a dire situation like Hurricane Maria. Puerto Ricans are Americans, even if most Americans, including the government, want to ignore that.

Thousands of people should not have died, or continue dying, from lack of government aid. Trump has made it clear, especially in his heartless tweets, that he has little respect for Puerto Rico. During the hurricane last year, Trump tweeted,

Shayla Manning,
Journal Staff

“Texas & Florida are doing great but Puerto Rico, which was already suffering from broken infrastructure & massive debt, is in deep trouble.”

Maybe as the president, you could help get them out a bit?

Trump’s lack of attention toward crises speaks volumes about his attitude. It is easy for him to turn a blind-eye to his people, especially those who are low-income, or non-white. He’ll tweet about it like it is not even his problem, which it actually is, and Americans who are in the position to stay quiet, will. They will ignore those in need, just like President Trump.

This lack of empathy can also connect to other crises Americans are still suffering from today. Take the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, for example.

In the spring of 2014, Flint decided to develop a new water authority in order to save money. It was intended to be built from the ground up, a risky endeavor, according to The Guardian. Since it

Puerto Rico, 2017

Hurricane Maria

was going to take several years to even be able to deliver gallons of water to the city, officials turned to the Flint River for water.

This resulted in water being sent out to residents without being properly treated. The water came out of faucets murky, foamy and loaded with lead. For two years, residents were left to cook, drink and bathe with it.

It has been four years since the Flint crisis, and to this day, they still do not have clean drinking or bathing water.

Officials say it’s safe to drink, but residents refuse to trust their government, and who can blame them?

According to Data USA, Flint’s population is 54 percent Black, and has a poverty rate of roughly

42 percent. It seems like President Trump is ignoring the crisis for a reason.

Instead of continuing to spend millions on golf trips, perhaps Trump could use even some of that money to the benefit the American people. Unfortunately, it seems improbable.

Money is not being distributed for the greater good. When destruction hits, communities are ill prepared and need the help of the federal government to ensure their survival, especially those in lower class or largely minority communities.

Based on the current state of disaster stricken communities, it is hard to believe Trump’s words of “inspiration” when the next one occurs. He has proved time and time again that he has no intent on following through when areas of his country are in a time of need, unless they are contributing to his wealth, and pro-white, ethnocentric agenda.

Action needs to be

The next disaster that Trump is going to ignore.

taken sooner than later by the U.S. government in order to ensure the survival of thousands of citizens. More money needs to be allocated toward disaster relief, and rebuilding the communities affected. Overwhelming populations of the country have been suffering for years from these kinds of disasters, and the next one is always waiting right around the corner.

We, as a country, need to know that our president and his administration will be there with support for individuals of all races, social and economic classes in their time of need.

Connect with Shayla by emailing smanning@su.suffolk.edu

When it comes to minimum wage, one size does not fit all

Nick Viveiros
Journal Staff

Amazon made waves last month when it announced a minimum wage hike to \$15 an hour, one of the first major companies in the United

States to do so. Target has also said it would raise its minimum wage to \$11 in January 2019 and to \$15 by 2020.

Amazon and Target’s recent wage hike has reignited a national conversation about raising the federal minimum wage, which

currently sits at \$7.25 an hour. Around thirty states and the District of Columbia have minimum wage laws exceeding the federal minimum.

The fight to raise the minimum wage has been a long and hard-fought one. Activists have staged sit-ins, protests, and strikes

and organized under the Fight for \$15, a national nonprofit founded in 2012 to advocate for a \$15 minimum wage. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), one time presidential candidate and prominent liberal, has been an outspoken advocate for a national minimum wage

of \$15.

The concept of a \$15 minimum wage is appealing. The Economic Policy Institute estimated that a modest raise from \$7.25 to \$10.10 would help put around \$22.1 billion into the economy, and create nearly 85,000 jobs in the first three years.

A review of 64 minimum wage studies shows that there was negligible impact on unemployment when states raised their minimum wage.

Raising the minimum wage would also help reduce poverty. A 2014

Editor’s Word

Midterm elections are quickly approaching, which means another year of low voter turnout.

Time and time again, America chooses to sit idly by and complain about election results on their Facebook and Twitter feeds, without having voted themselves.

Enough is enough.

If you are eligible to vote, and choose not to, you have no right to complain about the direction the country is heading, plain and simple.

There are few opportunities for the common person to have a say in our country’s government, and by not taking advantage of this, you’re throwing away your voice.

You have the power to change the course of politics in this country.

Whether you lean left, right or somewhere in between, your vote matters. Even if you think your vote doesn’t matter to you, it matters to others.

Registering to vote is not enough; casting your ballot on November 6th is the only way to make a difference.

For people living in Massachusetts, the last day to register to vote is October 17th.

Stop being lazy, stop being complicit.

Vote.

- The Suffolk Journal Staff

A three tier minimum wage system has the potential for change

From WAGE - 9

Congressional Budget Office report found that raising the minimum wage to \$9.00 would help bring 300,000 people out of poverty, and raising it to \$10.10 would bring 900,000 out of poverty.

Minimum wage hikes do have their detractors. In September 2015, the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago polled 42 well-known economists about raising the minimum wage. There was no consensus as to what would happen. Many opposed the wage hike.

“The big challenge today is we have technology that’s replacing people. With that headwind of technology, the worst thing to do is to make jobs more expensive. Technology is already taking jobs,” Steve Kaplan, a professor at the Booth School told ABC News.

To Kaplan’s point, a 2004 review of more than 20 minimum wage studies found that a

10 percent increase in minimum wage raised the price of food by roughly four percent. A higher minimum wage also makes it more difficult for many firms to hire more workers.

The solution is pretty clear-cut — we must institute a three-tier minimum wage. One for corporations with between one and two hundred fifty employees, one for corporations with between two hundred fifty and one thousand employees, and one for big business.

Small businesses — those with less than two hundred fifty employees — should be allowed to pay a wage of \$10.10 an hour, while their medium counterparts can pay \$12.00, and the largest businesses — the Amazons and Targets — can pay \$15.00 an hour.

This system benefits all businesses equally. It takes into account the unique financial situation small businesses find themselves in — large enough to pay taxes with the big boys, but too

small to turn over large profits like Walmart. These businesses make up 99 percent of the United States’ economy. They are on every street corner, from your local bodega in East Boston to your thrift

Why work for the mom and pop store when you could make more at Amazon? It’s a concern that’s well founded. There is no immediate answer.

shop in Allston-Brighton. They deserve a chance to make a profit while still paying their workers a fair wage.

Workers, too, would benefit from this proposal. Starting jobs at small businesses would pay a wage that economists know would help workers, so even the lowest paying jobs would pay enough to

lift people out of poverty. Workers would have upward mobility — that is, if they wanted a higher paying job, they could easily apply for one.

The one downside of this approach — and there is a downside — is that it could potentially drive employees away from smaller businesses. Why work for the mom and pop store when you could make more at Amazon? It’s a concern that’s well founded. There is no immediate answer.

The bottom line is that we must balance the right to a living wage with the right of companies to watch their bottom line. Like it or not, in a capitalist society, corporations exist to make money, and that fact must be given due consideration.

That being said, we have an obligation as a civilized society to ensure all working individuals can pay rent and keep food on the table. It’s only

Connect with Nick by emailing nviveiros@su.suffolk.edu

Dorm issues are inevitable in college

Olivia Acevedo
Journal Contributor

College is both an exciting new chapter in life as well as an overwhelming one. It is a time for hard work that will lead students to their potential goals as well as new experiences. Some of these new experiences can be a larger campus, new people, independence and of course, living in a dorm. Students typically look forward to college because of all these new luxuries, however, no one really acknowledges some of the struggles that accompany it. One of the most common struggles consist of dorm issues.

I’ve heard about the common issue of not being too compatible with a roommate, people staying up too late, being too loud, bringing uninvited guests and more. Roommates and dorms are supposed to be a safe place that you can always depend upon,

even on the worst of days. Nonetheless, it is very common for people to experience the opposite of this and have their initial experiences ruined because of it.

I’ve only had little

using the bathroom in the morning has been a mission. It’s not too much trouble but when you are rushing for class it can be stressful. There is also the importance of sleep schedule which

specifically because without communication, most problems will never resolve. To be quite honest, I didn’t have the willpower to bring up my situation to my suitemates until my room agreement with my RA. It was then when I immediately started to see positive changes and because of it, we have all been better off. I recommend being honest about your room assignments because your dorm is your personal space and your home, and you should always be honest about how you prefer things to be. Communication is key in dorms and a vital part of the college experience. Though it may seem hard and a bit awkward to do, all in all you are entitled to your own living space and it’s better off to be honest with each other and with yourselves. The best is only yet to come.

Connect with Olivia by emailing oacevedo@su.suffolk.edu

Communication is key in dorms and a vital part of the college experience.

problems consisting of me personally having to buy toiletries for the first month by myself and sometimes having a messy bathroom when I prefer it to be clean. There are also the issues revolving around having different schedules altogether. My suitemates and I never discussed our schedules and because of that, there have been times where I mention this solution



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

Scott Blanchard, head coach for the Suffolk women's volleyball team, leads his team in a cheer before a game.

New women's volleyball coach looks to push for playoffs

Andrew Pease
Journal Contributor

As a senior in high school, volleyball was far from Scott Blanchard's mind, until an injury ended his season on the tennis team.

Unable to play, he instead decided to join his friends on the volleyball team as a manager.

Although he did not think much about it at the time, little did he know that volleyball would go on to shape the next 30 years of his life, leading to his current position as head coach of the Suffolk women's volleyball program.

"I love the game, to me volleyball is the ultimate team game," said Blanchard in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "I like the fact it has a lot of strategy to it."

The Lady Rams have both improved their record every season for the last three years and have made the Great Northeast

Athletic Conference (GNAC) Championship Tournament for the past two years, setting high expectations for Blanchard.

When Blanchard walked into his new office in the Ridgeway building, his focus was not on expectations, but on instilling his philosophy and culture into a locker room that included seven seniors.

After high school, Blanchard attended the University of Michigan at Dearborn, where he started on the path to becoming a head coach by working as a student assistant.

In a few short years he went from shagging balls to helping run drills and scouting high school players as a second assistant.

To continue climbing up the ladder, Blanchard headed over to Madonna University in Livonia, Mich. to be a first assistant, a position he held for three years. In his tenure there, the

team managed to finish fifth in the country in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics in his second year.

Blanchard decided to move on from Madonna, and moved out east to be an assistant for Brown and

championships, winning one. The team also accomplished the victory of an undefeated season, only losing a single set all season. In total, Blanchard won more than 83 percent of his games in his tenure at Medway.

"In my eyes, as long as we continue to move forward and play hard, we'll continue to be successful, regardless of wins and losses."

**— Head coach,
Scott Blanchard**

Northeastern University for two years each.

After leaving Northeastern, Blanchard moved to Medway High School to be the head coach. He stayed at Medway for eight years, a time in which the team made it to two state

Yet again, the itch to move on to a bigger and better project struck Blanchard, and he decided to move on from Medway to take a first assistant coaching job by returning to Brown. Blanchard described moving on from Medway as a tough

decision.

When Blanchard returned to Rhode Island's Ivy League campus in 2008, he did not anticipate he would spend the next decade of his life in Providence. Yet in 10 years at Brown, the team managed to finish in the top four of Ivy Leagues, four out of the 10 years, and sent three players to Europe to play professionally.

This past year, Blanchard felt the need for a change and started the process of looking for his own program just as Suffolk had an opening for the head coach position. Making the change from Division I to Division III Volleyball, Blanchard cited the schedule of playing games during the week, not just on the weekends as a biggest adjustment for him.

The season has started off rocky for the Lady Rams, who own a 3-11 record. Blanchard attributed that to a harsh schedule and bad injury luck. This poor luck

struck again when a few days ago as captain and senior Talia Lombardo was lost for the season with fractures to a vertebrae and a slightly slipped disc.

"The expectation coming in was we're going to put our best foot forward," said Blanchard. "We're going to go out there, show up every time and they're going to get our best match."

This start has not kept the team's spirit down, despite the feeling of "being a fastball hitter that keeps getting fed curveballs," as Coach Blanchard remarked. The team is still in great shape to qualify for the GNAC playoffs.

"In my eyes, as long as we continue to move forward and play hard, we'll continue to be successful, regardless of wins and losses," said Blanchard.

*Connect with Andrew by emailing
apease2@su.suffolk.edu*



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics



Suffolk seniors cap off collegiate careers

Sean Cushing
Journal Contributor

For the past four years, Melissa Adamo and Veronica Bernardo have remained consistent players for the Suffolk women's soccer team. Entering their first year of collegiate play in 2015, the two captains came onto the team along with a group of seven other freshmen. Today, they are the only ones from that group remaining.

"We have been through all of the highs and the lows, but we always stuck together," said Adamo in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Being a college athlete is a lot to balance. Whether students have classes, internships or

another job, it is tough to find time for a college sport. When times would get tough, Adamo and Bernardo always remembered why they started playing in the first place: for the love of the game.

"It is a big commitment that a lot of people do not anticipate, but we have always been up for the challenge because this is a sport we love and want to play. I'm glad we got to see it through and now have something to be extremely proud of," said Adamo.

In her first year coaching, head coach Ashley Van Vechten understood how hard Adamo and Bernardo had worked to get to their senior year. It was clear to Van Vechten who would be leading the team for the 2018 season.

"They have the ability to motivate their team and get them moving in the right direction. We are talking two seniors who truly care about the success of the team and the program," said Van Vechten in a recent interview with The Journal.

Whether it was little tasks like carrying gear for the team, or pivotal objectives like managing conflict or adapting as a team, Adamo and Bernardo were always there to get the job done. In the long run, hard work always pays off and that is why Adamo and Bernardo were named captains of the team this past year.

"Being chosen as captain was a huge accomplishment to us,"

said Bernardo in an interview with The Journal. "We worked really hard since freshman year to get where we are and be leaders so to be recognized by our teammates as well as coaches has been an amazing feeling."

Maintaining meaningful relationships off the field has been key for the team. With Adamo and Bernardo being the only seniors, and two of the four upperclassmen on the team, it was their job to make sure the underclassmen felt at home.

"If we did not have such a close bond off the field, it would have been a difficult season. The bond that we all created is something to be extremely proud of," said

team is truly our family, they got us through everything."

Although the year is coming to an end, there is still some business to be taken care of for this women's soccer team. Currently ranked 10th in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference, the team looks to get within the top eight and make a run into the playoffs.

The team has faced a lot of adversity, with many injuries including a torn ACL and two concussions. Despite this, Adamo, Bernardo and the rest of the team know that they can compete. It is going to be tough, but they understand how to get the job done.

"Keeping everybody's mind in the right place and staying focused as well as having the mentality to go out there and compete is what we need to finish the season strong," said Bernardo.

No matter how the season ends, there is no doubt that Adamo and Bernardo are proud of what they have done for this program. Having fought through many obstacles already, Suffolk women's soccer looks to finish strong with a playoff berth. With three conference games left, and two leaders like Adamo and Bernardo guiding the way, the team remains optimistic going into the late part of the season.

Unfortunately, all great experiences come to an end. Even though both captains have built something that will last a lifetime, it is always tough to say goodbye.

"It was a long ride, but it was a great one. There were lots of highs and lots of lows but I could not have had a better experience and I am so glad I decided to come to Suffolk and join the soccer team," said Adamo. "This

Connect with Sean
by emailing
scushing2@su.suffolk.