Suffolk University welcomed its 11th president on Friday in the Tremont Temple as Marisa Kelly was inaugurated in front of family, faculty and staff, students, alumni, as well as elected officials and other dignitaries.

All speakers from Kelly to alumni to current students described the qualities that made the Suffolk experience meaningful.

“Suffolk was founded in the spirit of giving and selflessness. That is something we hold dear, that there is great value in being generous to each other and to our community, and also, being recipients of our community’s generosity,” said Kelly about Suffolk’s history. “We are about transforming lives. We are about building bridges of opportunity.”

The ceremony began with a procession of student groups, with one member of each group holding a flag with the title of the group and their logo. Students filled the second floor and half of the third floor of the Tremont Temple. The students were then succeeded by the faculty and staff, each wearing a robe with colors representing their most advanced academic degree. Finally, speakers, as well as notable faculty and staff, joined President Kelly on stage.

The inauguration program began with Robert C. Lamb Jr. chair of the Board of Trustees, introducing notable attendees.

Lamb was followed by Rebecca Zama, class of 2019, who sang the national anthem. Noted guests from Boston and Massachusetts spoke, including U.S. Sen. Edward J. Markey, who praised Suffolk for its commitment to the city of Boston as well as student success after graduation.

“We have to help students to make it possible for them to all realize their dreams,” Markey said. “Each generation has its own unique challenges. For this generation, it is to put an end to shameful disparities, to protect the planet and its people from climate change, and to use education, the arts, business, law, science and technology, and innovation, to heal the world.”

Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh spoke about how leaders like Kelly are shaping the next generation of Bostonians and, in turn, the country. “Already, President Kelly has built on this proud legacy. She’s taken the helm at a historic time, and at an important time. She’s joining a growing chorus of women voices leading Boston’s institutions, and I’m proud to have her in this role, as we grow as a real teacher, who can guide, explain, counsel and encourage.”

Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh.
Suffolk CARES Pantry open to students in need

Caroline Enos
Journal Contributor

The Suffolk community came together on Oct. 10 to support students in need of food assistance through the Suffolk CARES Pantry ribbon-cutting ceremony. The food pantry is a part of Suffolk’s revitalized effort to fight food insecurity on campus.

“Students can now be confident that they will have a next meal,” said Suffolk President Marisa Kelly. “The pantry is the first of its kind at Suffolk. Located on the 9th floor of 73 Tremont in a private section of the Division of Student Success offices, it has provided 11 students with free food since it first opened at the start of the semester.

Suffolk CARES, in collaboration with student groups and university offices, holds monthly donation drives to help stock the pantry. Students and staff can drop off any non-perishable items in the Suffolk CARES donation bins that are located in the lobby of every academic building.

Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare Foundation, Pepsi and Sodexo have also donated to the project. Darden Restaurants, the pantry’s founding donor, will provide most of its ongoing funding.

A recent study suggests that 20 to 33 percent of students at four year colleges in America experience food insecurity. According to a fall 2017 to spring 2018 Suffolk Food Insecurity Student Profile, student food insecurity at Suffolk is a rising trend.

Suffolk had a food assistance fund for students in need before the Suffolk CARES Pantry opened. Of the students who received food assistance, 85 percent were in good academic standing at the university and 39 percent requested funds more than once. These students were also of a diverse range of races, ethnicities and backgrounds. Those who were given assistance were temporarily out of work or could not afford to pay their bills.

“Students have experienced food and housing insecurities and as a result, they are losing the ability to focus in class,” said Shaw Newton, associate dean of students. “[These students] often pay for textbooks and school supplies with food.”

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, President Kelly shared the impact Suffolk’s food assistance programs had on one student.

The student, who wished to remain anonymous, was in a car accident at the beginning of the fall 2017 semester. They left their job soon after the accident due to poor working conditions and could not pay their bills. They were failing behind in classes and were denied food stamps twice.

This began to change when, once the student received hunger assistance from Suffolk. I’m proud to say I’m still a student at Suffolk,” said the student. “When I heard about the pantry, I cried tears of joy because students don’t have to wonder where their next meal will come from if they are denied benefits.”

According to MassLive, in or around February 2015, while serving on the Fall River City Council, Correia filed false 2013 and 2014 tax returns, failing to disclose $363,690. He proceeded to pay about $211,447 on his “lavish lifestyle” and political career. Within weeks of receiving his investor refund, Correia purchased a 2011 Mercedes. He spent additional funds on designer clothes, jewelry, gifts for his then-girlfriend, dating services, hotel rooms, casino trips and “adult entertainment.”

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QSU celebrates National Coming Out Day with “Milk” screening

On Thursday night, the Queer Student Union (QSU) hosted a screening of the film “Milk” to celebrate National Coming Out Day. “Milk,” starring Sean Penn, tells the story of Harvey Milk’s rise from a small business owner in San Francisco to the first openly gay man to serve as an elected official in the state of California.

In the early 1970s, Milk owned a camera shop in the Castro district and began his political activism after facing discrimination based on his sexual orientation. Shortly afterward, he ran for city supervisor. He lost the election multiple times, but in 1977, he was voted into public office. His career was short-lived as a year later he lost his life to show the “sickness.”

Margie Arnold, the wife of newly appointed Suffolk University President Marisa Kelly, gave the opening remarks at the beginning of the event. She explained that National Coming Out Day is necessary because it impacts politics and brings recognition to people’s stories. She also said that it is important to learn from early activists and to carry on their legacy.

“The Smiths, originally from Chelsea, have also established a scholarship for graduates of Chelsea High School who attend Suffolk, in memory of their friend, Pvt. Sheldon R. Cohen, who died serving in Vietnam. Sean Henry, a senior captain of the men’s hockey team, spoke during the ceremony on behalf of Suffolk’s athletes.

“Yes, it’s pretty incredible to think back on how much has changed since my first day at Suffolk, when I first started. We didn’t even have a gym to train in as a team,” Henry said. “Now, we not only have a brand new fitness center for the school, thanks to the Smiths, but we also have a renovated fitness space for the athletes to train together as a unit.”

Michael Smith said the location of the residence hall is fitting. “This street has special meaning to my brother and me. We used to clean windows and wash floors, and then our treat was breakfast down the street. It has a lot of meaning, Tremont Street,” said Michael Smith to The Suffolk Journal.

Just hours before the inauguration of Suffolk’s 11th president on Friday, a coach bus wrapped up in the university’s logo pulled up to the entrance of the 150 Tremont residential building. The bus was filled with student athletes, the soon-to-be-inaugurated Marisa Kelly, and the Smith brothers. Michael Smith, BSBA ’61, and Larry Smith, BSBA ’65, both received business degrees from Suffolk.

Since graduating, the brothers found great success in the insurance industry and have been generous in donating to the university — $5.2 million, according to the university’s website. Their contributions have funded scholarships and various athletics programs and facilities.

To recognize the Smiths’ generosity and dedication to the university, 150 Tremont, first opened in 1996, was officially renamed the “Michael S. Smith and Larry E. Smith Residence Hall.” A stone plaque outside the residence hall bearing the brothers’ names was unveiled during the ceremony. The brothers credit Suffolk with their success, and hope their donations can help to provide current and future students with the same opportunities they received.

“Suffolk” gave us a good education. If it wasn’t for Suffolk, I don’t think Michael and I would be successful. They gave me a basketball scholarship, otherwise I’d still be washing windows today,” Larry Smith told The Suffolk Journal.

The Smiths, originally from Chelsea, have also established a scholarship for graduates of Chelsea High School who attend Suffolk, in memory of their friend, Pvt. Sheldon R. Cohen, who died serving in Vietnam. Sean Henry, a senior

Suffolk residence hall named after Smith brothers

(From left) Michael Smith, Marisa Kelly and Larry Smith pose in front of the renamed residence hall

Haley Clegg
Editor-in-Chief

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Suffolk University’s Ford Hall Forum discusses: “Are Our Democracies Endangered?”

**Kyle Crozier**  
News Editor

**Shayla Manning**  
Journal Staff

Harvard professor Daniel Ziblatt co-authored the book “How Democracies Die” and discussed his findings on identifying changing governments around the world at a Ford Hall Forum event on Thursday.

The forum posed the question of “Are Our Democracies Endangered?” and invited several panelists to speak alongside Ziblatt. These speakers included Suffolk University Law School administrator Renée Landers, Boston College Philosophy Professor Greg Fried, director of the Suffolk University Center for Real Estate Richard Taylor and Suffolk University Political Science Graduate Director Brian Conley.

Ziblatt and his co-author Steven Levitsky laid out the political and historical contexts for identifying when a democracy is at risk in a country, drawing examples from Stalin’s Russia, Hitler’s Germany, Mussolini’s Italy and Hugo Chavez’s Venezuela among others.

Throughout all of these cases, the authors draw a clear similarity, where a country slowly and legally allows an “outsider” or “demagogue” to rise to power often by prioritizing votes over the protection of democratic values.

“Democracies don’t die like they used to. Three-quarters of democracy breakdowns during the cold war came around at the hands of men with guns. Contemporary democracies die in much more subtle ways,” said Ziblatt.

The breakdown of what Ziblatt describes as “unspoken rules” is a major threat to a democratic system.

“Constitutions work best when they are reinforced by unwritten rules, or norms. Our book focuses on two norms in particular,” said Ziblatt. “The first we call neutral toleration, or accepting the legitimacy of your political opponents. And the second we call institutional forbearance, which means to refrain from exercising one’s legal right, it’s an act of self-restraint.”

The book has several examples of moments in American political history where these unwritten rules have protected democracy, or where the dissolution of these rules has led to harm. These unwritten rules, or as Ziblatt says, these “soft guardrails” of democracy, could benefit from being codified into law.

Several speakers during the event discussed how they felt partisanship works for and against America and how it has changed over the years. The book spent a lot of time on this issue, highlighting how in worst-case scenarios, partisanship becomes hatred between opponents.

“Polarization is around to the extent that it is because it works,” said Conley. “Polarization works for the Republican party because it mobilizes people. What a political party is, or used to be, is something that grabs you by the collar and actually yanks you out to vote. Parties don’t care about democracy, they care about winning.”

Fried disagreed with this concept slightly, haranguing back to the opening lines of the United States Constitution, “We the People,” and reflecting on how separate that original “We” has become.

“That is our problem as a nation: we have not yet come to grips with the fractured ‘We’ that we are and really tried to solve that problem. And it is because that problem lies under the surface that different political movements can lay hold of it and manipulate it, and in this case, I fear it is a part of the unraveling of our democratic equality,” said Fried. “The solution has to address the issue of the fractured We.”

The involvement of students in the effort to re-strengthen the country’s democracy was not understated by Ziblatt. In an interview with The Suffolk Journal, he said that the best way for them to begin to affect change is to “mobilize and vote.”

In an interview with The Journal, Richard Taylor agreed with Ziblatt, stressing the power of young voters and their ability to connect with one another. He suggested the use of social media as a tool for students to “galvanize others” in governmental processes.

Taylor went on to say, “I know that students have a lot of demands. They have school, family and sometimes work. But it’s very important as students, to get involved in the democratic process, even at the club level, and the school level. Because once you start getting involved, you carry that with you to the next level. And of course, vote.”

The event drew a large presence of students. Some particularly interested in Ziblatt’s book or the government and others who just wanted to get more involved in learning about the democracy they live in.

James Usovicz, a sophomore majoring in philosophy, was drawn in by Ziblatt’s perspective on American democracy.

“I think that idea of democracy as being a gift from our predecessors, but also a challenge for future generations to take on and to correct, was really striking. You know that it’s so fragile, and we have to be here to stand and protect it” said Usovicz following the event.

Usovicz also agreed with Taylor’s argument that students should keep taking small steps toward getting involved with preserving democracy, to assure their ideas are represented.

Ziblatt closed his statement by offering a new way of thinking about the changes taking place within our democracy.

“There’s often a sense that the crisis of democracy is something like global warming... but I want to propose an alternative analogy; the crisis of democracy is less like global warming, and more like an earthquake,” said Ziblatt. “Like with an earthquake, there may be deep and real fault lines that erupt from time to time. But the democratic crisis, like earthquakes, tend to come and go. The biggest challenge is to get through the earthquake with our institutions intact.”
“Kafka in Palestine” depicts a century of oppression

Amy Koczera
World News Editor

From the extermination of nearly six million Jews during the Holocaust, to the tremendous bloodshed resulting from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a pattern of oppression has fueled global conflicts for centuries.

Written by Northeastern professor Emerita Inez Hedges and directed by Morgan Flynn, the imaginatively crafted play “Kafka in Palestine” integrates critical messages about human rights through the eyes of Bohemian Jewish novelist Franz Kafka during the 20th century.

“This kind of play is a new form of communities education,” said Hedges in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “These plays are not for entertainment, they are meant to encourage discussion about important issues.”

This past Sunday, dozens gathered at the Community Church of Boston for a staged reading of “Kafka in Palestine” as a part of the church’s Sunday Service Speaker’s Forum. Using a unique, confrontational style of storytelling, Hedges’ play portrays the relationship between Franz Kafka, played by Benjamin Finn, and his sister Ottla, played by Shannon Keelan.

“Sometimes I feel like I’ve never belonged anywhere,” said Kafka during the play reading. Kafka and Ottla, both Jews, were raised in Prague. However, their predominantly German lifestyle creates conflict within their Jewish identity.

The play follows the lives of Kafka and his sister before World War II as they dream of escaping oppression facing Jews leading up to World War II in comparison to the brutality within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict today.

“We must get approval for the homeland now before it is too late,” said Herzl. Hedges refers to the modern world has yet to provide a concrete Jewish homeland for almost a century.

To express both the creative and nightmarish mind of Kafka in the play, Hedges incorporates the “inner demon” that Kafka often wrote about in his novels. This inner demon, played by Genevieve Inez McCarthy, takes shape in the play as a mole and provides insight into Kafka’s deep thoughts.

The second half of the play takes place in the modern world within the land of Palestine. Although Kafka died from tuberculosis and Ottla was killed after being sentenced to the Terezin concentration camp, Hedges magically reunites the spirits of both characters within the current scene of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Together, Kafka and Ottla analyze the current oppression and discrimination that has been provoked within the land they once dreamed would be free from the judgment and resistance they were originally fleeing.

“Look around you, isn’t this the result of all our nightmares?” Ottla’s character asked as she looked out over modern-day Palestine. “As long as there are excluded people, we are them too.”

Despite their hopes of peace for the future, Ottla and Kafka are dismayed by the walls being built around Palestinian territory and the tremendous difficulty of the immigration process.

In the final scene of the play, Kafka and Ottla take shape as migrants attempting to return to the home they once owned within current Palestinian land. They face harsh scrutiny and are told that by previously leaving, they gave up their right to the land that once belonged to them.

After waiting for hours in a line to cross the checkpoint to Palestine, they are told that the checkpoint is no longer allowing migrants to enter and that they should go home.

In response, the play concludes with Kafka and Ottla asking the powerful question, “Home, where is home?”

Hedges’ play illustrates this significant message of oppression and displacement as the main takeaway from the performance.

“The play was trying to put a mirror to the misjustice that happened to Jews and how it relates to the Palestinians today,” said Keelan, the actress playing Ottla, in a question and answer session with the audience after the play.

By including movement and action among characters within the play reading, Hedges brought to life the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. With the help of Flynn as the director, Hedges felt the play embodied difficult issues in an understandable and moving way.

“The story really comes to life if you can see snapshots of placement,” said Flynn in an interview with The Journal. “We were able to bring the stories of Kafka to life within the story.”

With the prevalence of oppression and immigration in the modern era, Flynn and Hedges thought it was extremely important for the play to be heard now. By adopting theatre as the form to communicate these issues, the play was able to reach a broader audience.

“This form of theatre is an accessible vehicle for people to hear about issues they have not already heard about,” said Flynn.

Not only is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict a current event, the play underlines just how long the struggle of intolerance has been going on and how much worse it has gotten.

“Theatre for social change is essential,” said Flynn. “When that story has a political, social or moral core it has even more purpose to be told.”

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GLOBAL COMMENTARY:

Trump’s path to environmental destruction

Amy Koczera
World News Editor

With industrialization and mass production of greenhouse gases escalating alongside rising water temperatures and natural disasters, many scientific researchers have identified a strong correlation between human behavior and climate change.

President Donald Trump has denied the need to make any changes to the current carbon-emission levels of the United States, the world’s second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide, stating that he does not think climate change is caused by humans.

In light of Trump’s unsurprising ignorance, it is essential that he be held accountable for his part in the further destruction of the planet and his antagonization of such an existential threat.

On Oct. 1, the United Nations in a report asserted that to bring global warming back to moderate levels, the international population would need to take “unprecedented” actions to cut carbon emissions over the next decade. Since he was elected, Trump has referred to climate change as a “hoax,” “a total, and “60 Minutes,” in an interview with journalist Lesley Stahl, Trump denied his Agreement — a doctrine outlining the specific energy restrictions for all 195 nations that signed it — in June 2017. The nations taking part in the agreement were collectively responsible for 55 percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions.

While the Paris Climate Agreement has provoked controversy for its costliness and supposed limited effectiveness, the accord itself has forced many major nations to make significant alterations to their greenhouse gas emissions and energy production industries. Many smaller nations, such as Nicaragua and Cambodia, have followed these major countries and joined the accord as well. If the accord were assertively enforced by the U.S. would at least be curtailing greenhouse gas emissions — ultimately slowing the elevation of the planet’s temperature before reaching the dangerously high global warming zone.

Just two weeks ago, The Washington Post released an article revealing that the Trump administration made a horrifying assumption that the planet will warm a catastrophic 7 degrees within the next 80 years. In response, the administration stated the deep cuts to carbon emissions that would be required to prevent this staggering warming “would require substantial increases in technology innovation and adaption compared to today’s levels and would require the economy and the vehicle fleet to move away from the use of fossil fuels, which is not currently technologically feasible or economically feasible.” Ultimately, the Trump administration has adopted a path of complacency and ignorance when it comes to this urgent issue.

The planet has already endured some of the harshest extremes that can result from rising temperatures. Hurricane Maria decimated Puerto Rico last year while Florida is still recovering from the destruction brought on by Hurricane Michael last week.

The world has lost nearly half of its coral reefs in the past 30 years and is expected to have oceans so acidic by 2050 that 90 percent of corals will be depleted, according to the Independent.

Deforestation has contributed to nearly 17 percent of greenhouse gases emitted every year, according to the World Resources Institute.

All of these valuable communities and ecosystems provide a network of support for various species that are crucial to the survival of many communities and the quality of life of many Americans hope to continue to maintain.

It is time for the Trump administration to realize that the path it has chosen is a path to destruction. It’s time for the government to make the decision between the world’s greatest economy and justice for the environment.
HUBWeek Walls adds color to City Hall

Halaina LeBlanc, Journal Staff

At the foot of Boston City Hall, the streets were alive and vibrant as “HUBWeek Walls” challenged onlookers with new perspectives on the world around them this week. This public art exhibit featured artwork by 11 different artists from Boston, Detroit, Miami, Dominican Republic and South Africa, who used empty shipping containers as their canvas.

The intent with the exhibit was to highlight the power of art and how although graffiti is seen as controversial it can also be a positive voice within a community, according to the HUBWeek website.

The main art exhibit, “Mermaids and Other Magical Creatures” by Okuda San Miguel, was placed inside the fenced off area of HUBweek. In his work, San Miguel uses geometric shapes and a wide array of colors to cause reflection on his piece, as he hopes to raise questions of existentialism, the universe, the infinite and the meaning of life. His work has been categorized as Pop Surrealism.

The other 10 art pieces were placed outside of the fenced-in area open for the public to visit and discover throughout the week. The double-sided pieces attracted the attention of many tourists and locals. “I think it’s probably a good way to get people to come down to the area and to be here and get people to post it on social media,” said Adam Fisk of Somerville. “I work for an IT company and I have an interest in public art. I’ve seen Silvia Lopez Chavez before and I was here looking for her stuff specifically.”

Many of the street artists featured at HUBWeek focused on social activism in their work, including Ann Lewis whose piece, “A Post-Colorblind America,” asked its viewers to think about how we are all human and equal to each other. The interactive piece also allowed like-minded individuals to sign their name on the mural in an act of solidarity with Lewis, acknowledging their acceptance of all people.

Many attendees saw the artists’ commentary on social justice and political issues in their work as a way to show the wide range of subjects covered throughout HUBWeek, which is the point of the event. “I think they all have very unique styles and that’s the perfect metaphor for what you’ll find inside of HUBWeek,” Boston University senior Brian Lombardo said. “There’s tech, there’s health, there’s a whole variety of events.”

A couple pieces were reminiscent of the city of Boston, specifically DEME5’s “617” which highlighted the MBTA’s Orange Line and the green tracks they used to ride along above the city and Adam J. O’Day’s untitled piece featuring the skyline of Boston. Both of these double decker artworks were as large as the city they’re perched in for the time being as all the works did, standing larger than City Hall from the messages they represented.

The placement of the artwork in the heart of Boston was successful in drawing attention and also in creating a social media presence. Many groups of people paused to have their picture taken with the post-modern works. Each shipping container had “#HUBweek” and the social media handle of the artist written on the bottom.

“I think they’re really cool,” said Suffolk University senior biology major P. Sabrina Iarrobino. “I actually didn’t know they were doing this, they’re really creative and different from other artwork.”

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Fall Showcase brings student productions to Sullivan Theatre

Alexandria Acacia Journal Contributor

This past weekend the Suffolk University Theater Department presented its annual Fall Showcase, a collection of one-act plays written and directed by students to celebrate their creativity and talent. The plays touched on current events, culture, distress and death.

The showcase featured three plays: “Talk To Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen” written by famous playwright Tennessee Williams and directed by Micaleen Rodgers ’20 and Amanda LoCoco ’19; “Paciencia” written and directed by Adriana Alvarez ’19; and “wild, alone” written and directed by Ali Maynard ’19.

The showcase opened with “Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen,” and set a melancholy tone for the audience. The play featured actors Jack Aschenbach and LoCoco as they navigate a strained relationship, isolated in one room. The characters portray William’s perspective on loneliness and despair. With a simple set design and the echoing of rain in the background, Rodgers and LoCoco were challenged to bring William’s work to life.

Rodgers found that interpreting William’s work “was fun to be able to pick apart what stands out to [her] in 2018 for what the piece is trying to say.” It was also important for LoCoco to choose the right piece because it was her senior capstone project and she wanted to make sure that she was “connected to the female character.” LoCoco, a senior theater major, chose this concept to challenge herself in designing this performance.

The second play was Alvarez’s “Paciencia,” which translated from Spanish means “patience.” The play tackled a Latin American family’s struggle with immigration to the United States, confronting issues of citizenship and deportation.

The play featured multiple families celebrating special moments such as the birth of a child and attending college while also living in fear of deportation.

Being a child of an immigrant herself, Alvarez wanted to elaborate on her story in an artistic way. “I wanted to address immigration in a peaceful way as opposed to an aggressive demonstration.”

The show is about love and the patience of wanting to wait for citizenship,” said Alvarez.

She wanted the audience to focus on the stories of the people rather than the categorization of them as immigrants. “The biggest thing is humanizing the people that you are seeing in the media,” said Alvarez.

“Thinking about them as a person, a part of a regular family, that’s what it’s all about.”

The play expanded on a thrilling, morbid subject, the play expanded on a thrilling, morbid subject.

Rodgers anticipates to submit another original piece for the Spring Showcase with stage manager Ma’chel Martin. Alvarez is hoping to branch out to other story ideas in the future.

College Fashion Week features “Primark” collections

Sarah Lukowski Journal Contributor

Models strutted down the runway on Saturday evening to highlight the latest fall fashions at the Revere Hotel as part of College Fashion Week.

The event was put on by the online magazine “Her Campus.” This year the goal was to showcase real local college women as models and to make the show as diverse as possible by using accessible fashion.

The show was split into three parts featuring all clothes and accessories from Primark. The portions were titled Modern Nomad, Printed Paradise and Power Pose with short breaks in between.

In Modern Nomad the models looked confident on the runway while sporting warm colors and cozy knits. This collection was all about being casual and layering as models wore neutral sweaters and jackets complete with colorful scarves and fluffy hats.

Printed Paradise featured playful prints and nature-inspired looks. Some of the clothing the models wore included jumpsuits, wide-legged pants, dresses, and jean jackets.

The fashion show ended with a call to female empowerment. The Power Pose collection featured an array of retro inspired tees with fun graphics and powerful messages written on them, like “Girl Gang Forever” and “Girl Power” as Beyoncé’s “Run the World” played in the background. The models even gave their own “power pose” while showcasing the looks which got applause from the audience.

Co-founder and President of “Her Campus” Windsor Western was the emcee for the night. She wanted all college women to feel loved and to feel empowered.

“The future is female and college women are the future,” said Western.

Many well-known companies sponsored the event this year, including Ulta Beauty, Sabre, Almay, Eos and Primark.

All of the sponsors had insta-worthy booths and installations at the event. Ulta had a beauty bar and was styling hair and applying makeup for free. Eos had a pit filled with over 40,000 of their egg-shaped lip balms that people could take pictures in. Almay was handing out tasty popsicles and Sabre and Primark had their own photo booths.

Shruti Rajkumar, a freshman at Emerson College, attended the show to feel connected with college women in the area.

“I loved how it catered to women and women empowerment and I think it was a great opportunity and experience,” Rajkumar said.

Now in its sixth year, College Fashion Week is an annual event that has shows in Boston and New York City each fall.

Western formed “Her Campus” nine years ago with her friends while they were undergraduates at Harvard University. She said she is grateful for this experience and to be apart of a strong group of fierce women.

College women are awesome,” said Western. “There’s nothing more powerful than a motivated college woman.

The line to get into the event wrapped around the Revere Hotel parking garage as college students from the Boston area eagerly waited for the night’s festivities, which also included a button making station where participants could pick their own custom designs and a station to make personalized bracelets.

Attendees also received gift bags which included a Primark gift card, Ulta products, Eos lip balms, Almay lip glosses and a Sabre drink test kit.

Connect with Sarah by emailing sarlukowski@gmail.com.
I came out as bisexual at the age of 17, first to my then-girlfriend, and then to my mother. Everybody else found out in an election night Facebook post decrying the erosion of LGBTQ+ rights under President Donald Trump.

I sat down in my father’s oversized recliner and took a deep breath. Coming out was easily the hardest decision I’d made up to that point. There was this fear of judgment, a fear of the unknown. Unlike being an ally, actually being a member of the LGBTQ+ community can put a target on your back. Especially nowadays, when bi erasure is a real threat to the ‘B’ in LGBTQ+.

“Mom,” I started. She looked me right in my eyes. I swallowed. “So, I like both women and men.” The room was deathly silent, save for the dog breathing and giving me a side eye, refusing to look at either one of us. She continued to look at me.

“Okay,” she said cautiously. “How do you know?” I was a little startled by the calmness with which she asked her question. I told her I just knew. I had known for a long time. Looking back at it, I felt attraction towards men as soon as I felt them toward women. I brushed it aside as a sexual deviance and tried to convince myself I was straight-ish. I only dated women. I kept my secret close to my belt. Until that one day in July, three years ago.

Ever since then, I’ve been living life to the fullest. I’ve been living my truth. I’ve been living as who I really am.

My mother took it quite well. So did my father, even though he’d have preferred knowing before my social media ramblings. My friends were nothing but supportive, even if some of them didn’t exactly understand bisexuality. I quite frankly didn’t understand it myself.

Unfortunately, this isn’t the narrative we get from most members of the LGBTQ+ community. Instead, many face social ostracization, familial excommunication, and other forms of blatant discrimination.

The mental health issues that accompany being LGBTQ+ are brutal. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), LGBTQ+ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight counterparts. It’s estimated that 20 to 30 percent of LGBTQ+ people abuse substances, and that 25 percent abuse alcohol.

Couple these statistics with my predisposition for mental illness — I suffer from intense anxiety, severe depression and recently diagnosed Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) — and you get a wild ride.

Last March, I fell into a panicked state after I began to question my sexuality. I had been out as bisexual for over two years by that point — all of my family and friends knew of my sexuality and supported me. But for some reason, some voice in my head told me I was gay.

The difference between a true questioning of sexuality and one induced by anxiety that permeates all fashions of life is subtle and often hard to discern. This felt different, very different, from when I had first come to identify as bisexual. I had a girlfriend this time around, who I loved very much. It didn’t make sense that I would be gay because, quite frankly, I still loved women.

It was this panic, this questioning, the onslaught of anxiety over everything and anything, that sent me to the hospital for a third time, twice in one calendar year.

This cuts at the essence of what I experience living life at the junction of sexuality and mental illness. Being bisexual is hard enough — people constantly try and put you in one of the binaries, straight or gay. Adding mental illness to the equation only complicates my identity further.

My story and the story of my queer brothers, sisters, and people of other genders necessitates National Coming Out Day, the most important LGBTQ+ day of the year. It gives our closeted counterparts a chance to see if they’re ready to let the world know who they are. And if they choose not to, to understand that that’s okay, too.

It is critical, especially at such a volatile time for the LGBTQ+ community, that those of us who are out, especially those of us who are like me, cisgender males who “pass” for straight, to use our privilege to stand up for those who are not so lucky.

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Editor’s Word

Society has reached a point where mass shootings and bombings make headlines on a monthly basis. What comes as even more of a shock is the public’s dwindling surprise towards each incident. The emergency alarms that echo in our minds are attached to feelings of anxiety, fear and frustration. On top of all the stresses of school, work and emotional angst that students face, being concerned for our safety adds yet another layer of restlessness to our lives.

We live on a campus fully integrated into a city that has been targeted by terror in the past. As dedicated students that channel the majority of our energy and money into our education, it is essential that we feel secure in our classes, dorms and extra-curricular activities. The recent “non specific” bomb threat on Tuesday evening provoked uneasiness and agitation throughout the Suffolk community.

While our society is plagued by these unfortunate incidents, more needs to be done to strengthen the security of our buildings and the peace of mind of our students. This threat should serve as a wake-up call to every single student, administrator and faculty member. It is time to do more to ensure the safety of everyone in the Suffolk community before we end up apart the headlines far too many other schools have already fallen victim to.

- The Suffolk Journal Staff

Give all students the tools to vote, not just ones from MA

Harper Wayne, Journal Contributor

Entering Suffolk University as a legal adult that can vote, I was excited to be able to use my new power to make a change in an environment that already has a high voting population. However, what I was not prepared for was not being educated on how I can vote.

While peers of mine got more information on how they could vote in MA, mine ended and I felt left out of the mix.

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California I found that more environmental issues and how to fix them in the government was of greater discussion. This led to my further enthusiasm in voting. I really wanted to vote and be a part of the political scene since I was being educated on it and although I am unable to vote in Boston, I wanted to be a part of both worlds.

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Being educated on the political scene in Massachusetts is very interesting and has provided me with a new perspective on how to live in a different state than where you can vote. Suffolk encourages its students to vote, but I found less encouragement when I mentioned I vote in California.

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Women’s golf aims to become repeat champions

Senior spotlight: Lombardo serves 200 career aces

Hannah Arroyo
Sports Editor

When Talia Lombardo strode on the court for her first match in Suffolk University’s Regan Gymnasium freshman year, she could not even imagine where her time as a volleyball player would take her.

Four seasons and 97 matches later, Lombardo reflected on a career that she referred to as “eventful.” The senior setter currently has career totals of 829 digs, 843 assists and 507 kills.

On Oct. 10th as the Lady Rams faced the University of Saint Joseph, Lombardo etched her name into the record books becoming the first Suffolk volleyball player to serve 200 aces. Her team would later go on to win the match three sets to none.

“I actually didn’t even know that I was the only [player] to do that,” said Lombardo in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “It wasn’t something that I thought about. It’s really cool being able to do that [and] being able to make history here.”

As a freshman, Lombardo came in with high hopes of playing the sport that she loves. She said that she was thrown right into the game and that because there were so few upperclassmen, she was named a captain right off the bat.

“To be a freshman and be playing all four years was nice,” said Lombardo. “You never had to sit on the sidelines.”

After four years of being a captain for The Lady Rams, Lombardo said that she enjoyed how diverse Suffolk and her fellow teammates are. She said that while the team has had it’s up and downs, growing together is something that hasn’t come with nothing but downs, growing together is something that has come with nothing but problems.

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The enthusiasm that I ran at Suffolk,” said Feldman in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “They’re just a great reflection of the school.”

Both groups had a successful finish on the day with men’s placing 3rd of 19 and the women’s close behind placing 4th of 19 in their respective races.

For the women’s team, junior Emma Weisse individually finished in first place with a time of 19 minutes 14 seconds. For the men, freshman Matyas Csiki-Fejer crossed the finish line second with a time of 27 minutes 5 seconds.

“This is a special group of athletes. This is the most fun I’ve had coaching in 11 years.”

Feldman also touched on his time at Suffolk and how Emerson College has been one of the team’s biggest rivals. To restore this friendly bought of competition, both Suffolk teams competed in what is called The Battle for Boston Common.

Many of Feldman’s runners credit him with such success in a season. Feldman ran for the university in the early 2000s and his love for sport has remained unwavered. Passion is too simple of a word to describe what the Suffolk coach feels for the sport. “This is a special group of athletes,” said Feldman in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “This is the most fun I’ve had coaching in 11 years.”

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Runners from both schools went head to head during the Suffolk Invite to see who would come out with the better team score. Suffolk beat Emerson in both the men’s and women’s races, taking home a trophy that will continue to be fought for as the team hopes to keep this tradition alive for years to come.

While their success shines through this season, both teams know that there is still work to be done. Both men’s and women’s teams will compete in the GNAC Championship on Oct. 27 in Standish, ME.

Weisse said that the hard work her teammates put in is really starting to show. She explained that the team as a whole has gotten a lot more fit and that they are growing towards their full potential.

“I wish I could be here four years from now to see the recruits and see how they build the [program],” said Weisse. “I think they’re just going to keep getting stronger.”

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