The Patriots triumph in Super Bowl LIII and showcase the Lombardi trophy to 1.5 million people.

Read the story on the back page

Suffolk looks to revisit SUPD arming question

Ryan Arel
Section Editor

Following Columbine, Virginia Tech, and other mass shootings around the United States, many universities have been forced to address similar versions of the same question: Should we arm our university police force?

“My hope is that we will one way or another put this question to rest this spring,” Suffolk University President Marisa Kelly said in a recent interview with The Journal. “That is to say, so when we come back next fall we’re not saying ‘So are we going to have officers armed?’ We decided that putting the question to a conclusion in either this spring or next spring is set for Thursday to discuss campus safety further.”

The firm did not specify whether it believed SUPD should be armed. Rather, it suggested that more communication take place between the community and the administration before deciding, according to the Public Safety Management Study done by the firm.

The firm declined to comment on its assessment, referring to the executive summary. “This is never something that I felt was a good idea to rush to a conclusion in either direction,” Kelly said.

“There are strong feelings on all sides of this, and there are a lot of different community constituents that we need to hear from as part of this process.”

Opinions on campus are mixed about whether SUPD should be armed, according to current SGA President Morgan Robb and the firm’s report.

Some students supporting arming campus police argue that it is “unfair to the officers who are responsible for responding to potentially violent situations and blind to the reality of how violent interactions unfold,” according to the firm’s report.

Others who oppose such a move cited issues such as police brutality, according to the report. Also, some were concerned about the prospect of officers carrying firearms within the residential halls in situations where residents or residents’ guests were under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Some residential assistants were particularly concerned with the idea following a SGA forum that took place with SGA, Boston Police and SUPD representatives on Nov. 15, 2017, according to Kelly. “It’s real-life” had more concern that adding firearms would just add another layer in situations that are either already likely heightened by the use of alcohol or other drugs in the residence halls,” Robb added.

Robb said, “Sometimes students and officers can be a little riled up in those situations.”

Gerard Coletta, SUPD’s chief of police and security, said in an interview that while university police officers know the campus buildings better than Boston Police, Boston police would be the primary response in an active shooter or violent situation, with the SUPD helping them navigate the campus buildings.

If SUPD were to become armed, Coletta said that dynamic would change. “We don’t try to attempt to stop the person that’s doing the shooting or the person that’s engaging in violence because we’re not armed,” Coletta said. “All of our officers are first responders trained in terms of medical response so we would go in with a second wave.”

The firm held forums in late April 2018 to hear the community’s concerns in order to give a fair assessment of SUPD and the university’s security operations.

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Suffolk’s close neighbor, Emerson College, has never armed its officers and has no plans to do so, according to Michelle Gaseau, Emerson’s director of media relations.

Kelly Nee, Boston University’s chief of police and executive director of public safety, said in an email to The Journal that she preferred that her officers carried firearms.

See FORCE - 3

Remembering Marcellous A. Govind on page 5

Photos by Hannah Arroyo/ Sport Editor

{courtesy: Marcellous A. Govind LinkedIn}
Black History Month goes beyond February says students, faculty and staff

Caroline Enos
Asst. News Editor

To Suffolk students and faculty, Black History Month is much more than the brief history lesson it has become to the rest of America.

“One of the frustrating things [about Black History Month] is that it’s still viewed as something that’s just for black people,” said Robert Bellinger, director of Suffolk’s Black Studies program. “That’s not its purpose and that’s never been its purpose.”

Carter G. Woodson, the second African American to receive a PhD in the social sciences from Harvard, first established Black History Month in 1926 as a week-long celebration of black history and the contributions that black community had made to society during the previous year. This week, he hoped, would also be a chance for black people to come together and generate new ideas for showcasing the importance of their community to other Americans.

Negro History Week, as it was originally known, was expanded into Black History Month in the early 1970s. While it is still intended to celebrate the black community’s achievements, Bellinger said the purpose of Black History Month has been obscured in many places across the country.

“These placed trod out the same few people and celebrate [black history] during that time, but the rest of the academic year, very little focus from most people is put on the history of black americans,” said Bellinger. Justine Morgan, president of Suffolk’s Black Student Union (BSU), said the contributions made by black americans to this country should be celebrated and studied all year.

“From Tuskegee Airmen in WWII, Ruby Bridges, to President Barack Obama, black americans have overcome so much to show the strength and power we possess and prove to people that we are a force of nature not only as individuals, but as one,” said Morgan.

Bellinger agreed, adding that because black history is usually only emphasized each February, he thinks others may not understand the importance of black history in America, and as a result, the full history of this country. “Race is really not discussed [in America],” said Bellinger. “As a result, people don’t have the language, the insight and the willingness to address these issues. There’s a willingness to overlook it, to ignore it, to dismiss it, to say it does not continue when it’s staring at you right in the face all the time. To BSU Vice President Mardochée Sylvestre, some people struggle with having conversations about race with those of a different ethnicity because of their opposing views.

“We shouldn’t be backing down and looking to make people comfortable, we should be pushing boundaries” said Sylvestre. “We need to have discussions that make people uncomfortable to get to the root of the issue.”

While there has been significant progress made in diminishing racism, Bellinger still sees the same issues that have hindered diversity throughout American history in modern society. He said the same is also true for Suffolk.

“That’s not to say [Suffolk] hasn’t made efforts and done things, that it hasn’t had progress in those areas, but it’s still something that could be done better,” said Bellinger.

To Bellinger, Suffolk needs to not only consider how diverse its student population is, but also how diverse its faculty, staff and administration are and if its curriculum in every area of study addresses the contributions made by minorities and their histories.

President Marisa Kelly, however, gives Bellinger hope that Suffolk is moving in the right direction. “It seems that [becoming a more diverse university is something that the president not only understands, but believes in],” said Bellinger. “Along with other members of the administration and faculty, it seems that there is a strong willingness to make Suffolk a university that is more representative of the general populations in the U.S.”

Morgan said that Suffolk students should not be afraid to ask questions about race but must also ignore the negative stereotypes that “are simply not true” in order to understand the importance of black history.

“We are not loud, ghetto, nor ignorant,” said Morgan. “We are activists, lawyers, doctors, mathematicians, lawyers and so much more. There is more to us than what people give us credit for.”

 Organizations like BSU, the Caribbean Student Network (CSN), the Black Law Student Association and the newly formed African Students Association provide students from all backgrounds with opportunities to learn about what it means to be black in America and a black student at Suffolk. Students can learn more about black history by browsing Suffolk’s collection of African American Literature in the Sawyer Library, where more than 5,000 volumes and periodicals of work by black authors are available to students. The Black Studies Minor, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary during the 2019-2020 school year, offers courses that cover topics from Boston to the history of Senegal.

“My community envisions a world where we understand that diversity is a gift and not a poison that ought to be eliminated,” said Malik Richmond, president of CSN. “When I think about Black History Month I get so passionate, simply because we have overwhelmingly conquered obstacles and are still overcoming barriers.”

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Security consultants find adding lethal force tools may cause further strain on campus

From SUPD - 1

and could respond immediately to a violent threat as opposed to waiting for armed officers to arrive.

"If an event were taking place on campus, my officers would more than likely be the first on scene," Nee said. "I would prefer that they have the capability and never need or use it, than have it and encounter others are increased costs to us."

Despite the increase, Kelly said Suffolk still has one of the lowest tuition of all the private universities in the Boston area. Kelly also said the tuition of Suffolk's competitors has been increasing at a faster rate. On average, Suffolk tuition has increased by approximately 4 percent each year for the past five years.

Laura Sander, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration/Treasurer, said the increase comes from the university's ongoing investments into student services and student needs. This includes strengthening the Center for Counseling, Health, & Wellness and establishing the commuter lounge, among other student assets.

In 2018, Suffolk received three donations totaling $17 million, which are going toward scholarships, facilities, programs and other areas in student education.

Kelly said providing scholarships is the university's top priority when it comes to fundraising, especially in the form of endowed scholarships which can fund students for decades.

Tuition is the largest revenue stream that Suffolk relies on. While the university has received several major donations this year, these gifts can often only be used for specific purposes outlined by the donor. In Samia's case, the endowment primarily goes toward scholarships which will last over Suffolk's lifetime.

Part of [fundraising] is how donors give their money, whether the money is used all up front or over time, and there are a lot of funds that restrict how we use (donations)," said Sander. Donors can choose exactly how the money is used by Suffolk, however, the university can refuse donations that they do not feel are aligned with their missions.

Kelly also said the newly acquired 1047 Commonwealth apartments play no part in the tuition increase, and has generated auxiliary revenue.

Students were notified of the tuition increase via an email sent by Kelly at the end of January. "The increase over the current year will allow us to continue to deliver and invest in the excellent overall academic experience that our students expect and deserve," said Kelly in the email.

While the email included the prices of tuition, housing and meal plan costs for the 2019-20 academic year, some students wished that more context for the increase was provided.

"It would be helpful for the Suffolk community to know why the cost of tuition is increasing and where the money will be going," said psychology major and freshman Ashley Ness. "Transparency is important."

Laura Sander highlighted the fact that increased revenue to the university is just one half of the equation.

"It's not just trying to increase revenue, it's trying to decrease expenses," said Sander. One such expense is the payment and benefits for faculty such as administrators and professors. Kelly said that the university has seen a 2 percent increase in those areas and that they have heavily weighted them toward the lowest end of the pay scale.

"We are not a for-profit institution, this is not a place where we are trying to see what the highest price we could possibly get away with so that we could go back and pay investors," said Kelly. "We are here for the students."

The Board of Trustees approved a 3.6 percent increase to undergraduate tuition for the 2019-20 academic year, bringing the cost of tuition just under $40,000 for students.

"In general, our expenses increase every year for a variety of reasons," said Suffolk University President Marisa Kelly in an interview with The Suffolk News. "Some of that is in things we want to invest in, that directly benefits students and others are increased costs to us."

To students from the Office of the President.

Kelly said that 740 students completed the SGA survey. About 90 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with campus safety.

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Involvement Complimenting the Classroom: Suffolk’s Annual Winter Involvement Fair

Jenna Locke
Journal Contributor

More than 450 Suffolk students made their way out of the rain and into the halls of the Sawyer building to attend Suffolk’s annual Winter Involvement Fair last Thursday.

A total of 88 student organizations and campus resources set up tables along the perimeter of three Sawyer student lounges in hopes of recruiting new members for the spring semester. For many, the Winter Involvement Fair offered the chance to commit to a club or group on campus before the end of the academic year.

First-year transfer student Adia Clifford said the fair was a great way for her to finally get involved in extracurricular activities, an opportunity she had not yet taken advantage of.

“At my old school, I didn’t really get involved at all, so I came here to change that,” said Clifford in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “It’s always important to meet new people, get to know other students and build connections.”

Kelsey Johansen, the assistant director of the Student Leadership and Involvement office (SLI), believes events like the Winter Involvement Fair help students branch out and take advantage of the skills each club has to offer.

“There are so many different kinds of involvement, and it’s important to make sure every student has the same experience and be welcomed to the Suffolk community, regardless of what semester they start their Suffolk journey,” said Johansen in an interview with The Journal.

For students like senior Politics, Philosophy and Economics major Tyler McGrath, the event provided him with another chance to engage with students from across campus. McGrath, a member of the Suffolk Free Radio, said he attends the Winter Involvement Fair annually to revisit clubs from previous years and interact with organizations that are new each semester.

“It’s important to venture out and meet new people,” said McGrath in an interview with The Journal. “I come to see the older groups and also to check out whatever new groups are here and decide if I wanna sign up.”

This year alone, SLI introduced six new groups: the Financial Technology Club, Sports Marketing and Business Club, Climbing Club, African Student Association, Fundamental Sisterhood Society and the Youth Empowerment Ministry.

“The involvement fair is sometimes the only opportunity a new group has to put their face out there and recruit new members,” said Johansen. “It is definitely a crucial time for new clubs, and older clubs as well.”

Through the SLI office, students can form new clubs at any point in the year. Clubs are required to start with four executive (e-board) members, two general members and a faculty advisor.

SLI recorded a total of 459 attendees for this year’s Winter Involvement Fair. Johansen assured that attendance of the event has steadily increased over time.

Johansen, a Suffolk alumna, said her participation in club activities helped her gain the “soft skills” she needed to feel confident in life outside of academics.

“There is so much more to involvement than the social aspect,” said Johansen. “Joining a club and engaging in extracurricular activities can give you experience you cannot find in the classroom. Depending on the role they have in that group, students can learn how to budget, how to lead, improve time management and so much more.”

Johansen said she enjoys being a resource for students looking to get involved at Suffolk.

“As advisers, we encourage students to take that step because student organizations can give students knowledge, experience and soft skills they did not know they needed.”

Connect with Jenna by emailing jlocke@s.suffolk.edu

This week in SGA...

Members discussed changing the current SGA bylaws that state how much money can be given to the Suffolk clubs and organizations who request funding for conferences, or any off-campus event that is not open to all Suffolk students.

Under current SGA bylaws, the SGA Finance Committee will fund 80 percent of the travel costs for the first four members (which usually means the e-board) who are attending a conference and 40 percent of the travel costs to send every other member, should the group’s initiatives request be granted by the Finance Committee. SGA will also fund 100 percent of the travel costs for the club’s adviser, who is required to attend the conference with the group.

The assembly discussed giving less funding to groups attending conferences, such as changing the bylaws to instead fund 60 or 50 percent of the first four members’ costs and possibly 20 percent for all other members. There is currently no motion to change the bylaws concerning conference funding for Suffolk groups.

Treasure and Finance Committee Chair Michael Royce said that since the Student Activities Fund is funded by the activities fee every Suffolk student pays each year, more of this money should go toward events that are open to all Suffolk students and staff.

Non-registered SLI groups have been granted $20,000 by SGA this year, and there has been an increase in departments on campus that ask for money from SGA. The E-board said this is a concern, since these departments already have their own budgets, and SGA money should only be used by student groups.

SGA is working to revise current election bylaws. One senator noted that there should be “more transparent elections.”

Lukas Phipps, Commuter Students Senator-at-Large, read a statement condemning the “homophobic and racist” attack on Jussie Smollett and the unsuccessful kidnapping of Olivia Ambrose in Boston, adding that the Suffolk community recognizes the fear some students may have surrounding these events.

“While we can’t be everywhere to fix the bad things that happen in the world, we can make a world of difference to those around us,” said Phipps. “To our collective community; you are heard, you do matter, and we are here for you.”

The finance committee meets every Tuesday during activities period in Sawyer room 427. All Suffolk students are welcome to attend.
In Memory of Marcellous A. Govind

Marcellous A. Govind, 22, was an integral part of Suffolk University's Biology Department. The Dorchester native graduated from Suffolk in May of 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology (BSN) and a concentration in Biotechnology. He died on January 15, 2019.

"It’s a loss for our community, his friends, his colleagues and his family. I’m really saddened by it," said assistant professor Celeste Peterson to The Suffolk Journal. "Marcellous loved biology. He was ambitious and showed such promise. He was eager to participate and do science, not just be a spectator."

Dr. Lauren Nolfoclements, the chair of the biology department remembers Govind as an engaged and self-aware student.

"The interesting thing about Marcellous was that he was a quiet student but also very kind and thoughtful," said Nolfoclements to The Suffolk Journal. "He wasn’t the student that would be raising his hand all the time, but when he did volunteer, his answers were always well thought out and it was obvious that he really understood what was going on and what I was trying to get at."

Dr. Annette McGehee, an assistant professor in the biology department, worked closely with Govind during his time at Suffolk.

"Marcellous was one of a group of students who are special to me because they started at Suffolk the same year that I did," said McGehee to The Suffolk Journal. "They were part of my first year experience and then I got to see them all graduate, it was all very special."

McGehee taught Govind for the first time in an introductory course in the spring of his freshman year. He went on to take all of the courses that McGehee taught.

"He was a big personality, you always knew he was there which was great," said McGehee. During his senior year at Suffolk, McGehee worked closely with Govind on his studies in his Principles of Cell Culture course, the last class the two would share during his four years at Suffolk.

"I actually have a card from him right here above my desk. Not many students say thank you to their professors, but he was one of them," said McGehee to The Suffolk Journal. "I spent a lot of time with him that last semester, working on ways he could understand the material and it was actually really surprising and meaningful to me that he wrote me this note that said ‘I appreciate that you put in all that extra effort and I couldn’t have done it without you.’ It was surprising, but very nice."

"He was a notable and integral part of our department," said Nolfoclements. "He was here to learn something. He will be missed."
Students volunteer on the work site in Myanmar

Many college students spend their winter break vacationing or relaxing at home, but this winter, some Suffolk students decided to go abroad and build a house for those in need. This annual winter trip is sponsored through the Center for Community Engagement’s (CCE) Alternative Winter Break (AWB) program.

This year 10 students went to Myanmar and the other 10 to Cambodia. The program has been around for around for nearly 15 years according to Dominguez. The trip used to be exclusively to El Salvador, but Dominguez and other members involved with AWB wanted “to develop a context in other countries and expand the tunnel vision we had by going to El Salvador yearly.”

These 20 students spend the fall semester learning about developing countries in a course called “Conflict and Development in Southeast Asia” taught by professor Roberto Dominguez of the Government Department. After these students gain cultural experience by touring the city. According to Boukou, they toured buddhist temples and other historical museums.

The participating Suffolk students spent an afternoon teaching an English lesson to the children of Myanmar. Boukou said that one of the most influential moments on the trip was the time she spent with the elementary school students.

AWB is open to graduate and undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences and Sawyer Business School. The CCE Assistant Coordinator Dennis Harkins elaborated on their experience with the students of the Cambridge School of Cambodia. The Cambridge School of Cambodia is solely funded by a Cambridge non-profit organization. The organization fundraiser raised enough money to build the school and fund it yearly.

Suffolk students bonded with the Cambodian students despite facing a language barrier. “The kids were able to bond with the Cambodian students through nothing but a smile,” said Harkins. “They knew we were there for them and the bond was apparent because of this.”

Along with the bond students made with the people of Cambodia, they also bonded with other Suffolk students on the trip. Phuong Le, an international student from Vietnam, spent her winter break in Cambodia. Le expressed that she felt a deep connection with her teammates.

Harkins also explained how deep the emotions spent in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity. The students spent 5 days from 9 a.m. to almost 5 p.m. building a home for the less fortunate. According to Harkins, many students willingly worked through their lunch breaks because they felt so strongly about the work that needed to be done.

Students volunteering in Myanmar

Traditional Myanmar cuisine served for lunch

Cambodian students threw a dinner party for the students. “Although there was a language barrier, the smiles communicated it all. There was a feeling of deep bonding that wasn’t communicated through words,” Harkins explained.

Harkins’ students even planned to create a charity organization on campus to further fund the Cambridge School of Cambodia. AWB is somewhat affiliated with the Alternative Spring Break program which takes place only in the United States. These programs tackle social issues within the LGBTQ+ community and with racial discrimination in today’s society. Contact the CCE for more information on these programs.

Connect with Carolyn by emailing cnash@sufolk.edu
Carole King’s humble beginnings explored at Boston Opera House

For decades, Carole King has been known for her sweet voice and solo albums, but few people know the story of her younger days as a songwriter, where she wrote tunes that climbed the Billboard charts before she ever stepped foot on stage. The Boston Opera House is giving audiences a glimpse into the early life of the influential composer in “Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.”

Throughout the show, the audience goes on a delightful journey about King’s life before her success as a solo artist. The hit-filled musical shows King selling her first song in Brooklyn as a teenager in the 1950’s. As a songwriter, where she wrote tunes that climbed the top of the Billboard charts before she ever stepped foot on stage. The Boston Opera House is giving audiences a glimpse into the early life of the influential composer in “Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.”

The two and a half hour show follows her until she entered motherhood and was beginning to experience a turbulent marriage, she chopped off her hair and began wearing mom jeans and cardigans.

By the end of the show, King radiated with a newfound sense of confidence. She emerged as if the audience was transported back to the 1960s and 70s. The actress was also able to mimic King’s mannerisms, highlighting the singer’s moments of stage fright, heartfelt bursts of confidence.

The soundtrack was comprised of hit songs by King and Goffin, and their competition, songwriters Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann. Tracks off her hit album “Tapestry” were expected, but other songs like “The Locomotion” by Little Eva and “Some Kind of Wonderful” by The Drifters came as a surprise. The musical showcased how influential King was before her career as a solo artist because she topped the Billboard charts long before her voice was on the radio.

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One of the things that makes the minor appealing is the diverse career field it promises after graduation. Marketing, fundraising, for-profit and nonprofit, and curation are only a hand-ful of industries that careers involving arts administration can be as government, business, theater or advertising. As a collaboration between the College of Arts and Sciences and the Sawyer Business School, the minor allows students to take interdepartmental courses.

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Administration minor allows interdepartmental courses

From ADMINISTRATION

Stern’s arrival in the minor is fueled by the hope to tap into other academic departments, as she believes that the arts are capable of pulling together different elements from a variety of fields.

Suffolk University alumna Jillian Barrows is stepping into the Boston music scene by headlining a show at the Hard Rock Cafe next month, the rock musician’s biggest performance yet.

Barrows, who uses the stage name Jillian Ann, sang in her local church choir in Medford, Mass., as a child and by the age of 14 was writing her own songs. Her parents often played 70’s music around the house when she was growing up, so icons from the decade like Carly Simon and Linda Ronstadt have heavily influenced her as a singer and songwriter.

When Barrows entered college, she knew she wanted to explore her two areas of interest: music and writing. She decided to major in journalism while staying active in Suffolk’s performing arts clubs so she did not have to give up either one. She started out as a member of the Ramifications, Suffolk’s a cappella group, but she later realized that she was seeking more rock n’ roll. She joined Suffolk’s house band The Common, formerly known as Rhythm, for an edgier vibe.

After graduating from Suffolk in the fall of 2016, she enrolled at Berklee College of Music to focus on songwriting, where she plans to graduate from later this year. When she is not working on her original music, she is performing with different bands she is a part of, such as the duo she formed with her childhood friend called Istra Element.

“I don’t want to be just like any average performer where I’m just there to show off what I’m doing,” Barrows said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “I just want people to enjoy my music and actually get something out of it.”

Her experience majoring in journalism at Suffolk and songwriting at Berklee gave her a unique skill set in writing. Barrows explained that songs are like stories, so the storytelling aspect of journalism comes into play when composing new tracks. Also, as a student reporter, Barrows reviewed concerts and was exposed to music from a critic’s perspective, which taught her the do’s and don’ts of performing.

“They go hand in hand for sure,” said Barrows. “It definitely helps as a writer to know music in both ways, like where you can critique it and perform it, so you can critique yourself in that way.”

Barrows’ passion for rock n’ roll is wholehearted, but not everyone she worked with has realized that. She has had situations where people did not take her seriously as a woman rock musician. Although some of the groups she has joined in the past did not treat her fairly, she says those unfortunate experiences have only made her grow as an artist.

“I’ve had some instances where I wasn’t taken as seriously as a woman, in rock music especially,” said Barrows. “I think here, in my time at Suffolk and now at Berklee, I’ve learned to be stronger in that way and just to write the music that really inspires me, and not to really care what people think about me in that way.”

At next month’s concert, in addition to singing covers of classic rock songs, Barrows will be showcasing her own music. If there is one take-away from her songs, the musician said that she wants listeners to feel inspired to do the things they want to do and achieve their goals, even if others try to stand in their way.

“You shouldn’t let anything stop you from doing what you want to do, and I’ve gone through situations where I felt like people were trying to stop me from doing what I wanted, and I pushed out of it and kept going,” said Barrows.

Barrows is looking forward to a night of lively energy and performing alongside her friends, Roman G & The Odyssey, the instrument group who will be the opening act.

Jillian Barrows’ show is on Feb. 9 at the Hard Rock Cafe.
Mr. Trump, don’t build this wall

Chris Sadrnoori
Journal Staff

The United States-Mexican border has been an area of controversy since its final layout in the 19th century. The overall 1,900-mile-long border stretches from the Pacific Ocean in the west to the Gulf of Mexico in the east. Large metropolis areas such as San Diego, El Paso, Ciudad Juarez, and Tijuana all lie on the border. What would be one of the largest construction projects in U.S. history, could also become one of the biggest wastes of money as well.

The building of the wall has become less of a realistic security option for our southern border and more of a political statement. Many agree that border security is a legitimate concern, but in order to build such a wall without fully understanding the risks and evaluating the actual necessity of a border wall, there can be no toying with our security and wellbeing. This proposed solution has many risks that proponents cannot rebuke.

Some tunnels that U.S. Border Patrol routinely discover are not an average hole through the ground. Some include solar panels, ventilation, rail systems and even air conditioning – amenities that are not found in many Boston-area apartments, according to the Telegraph and LA Times. A wall would hardly prevent any of these intrusions, as cartels have nearly limitless resources to get their products over the border.

There are also plenty of methods that do not involve going under the wall. Ropes and ladders are probably the first tools one can think of to scale a wall, but cartels have access to airplanes, boats and even submarines, all with the capacity to smuggle large amounts of drugs and people according to the Center for International Maritime Security. An expensive wall is unlikely to withstand the aptitude of clever drug cartels. Billions of taxpayer dollars are at stake for something that cannot be refunded should it fail. Yet, over the past few administrations, walls have erected along where these two nations meet to thwart illegal immigration.

President George W. Bush signed the Secure Fence Act of 2006, adding some 600 miles of fencing to the border in hopes to prevent illegal immigration. Today, one can easily see how well this wall fared. The long fencing stymied the efforts of some, alas, it inevitably failed as many would just go around, over or even under. The lengths at which drug cartels and smugglers go to get their products across this border are astonishing.

The total sum of drugs coming into the U.S. from Mexico is a highly contested statistic, as more methods of smuggling are uncovered and there is no way to account for successful attempts that have gone unnoticed.

The controversy over the southern border is far from over. Trump was dealt a blow by conceding to a 2017 report by the U.S. State Department. As of Friday, Jan. 25, Trump agreed to reopen the government temporarily for three weeks. Both sides must reach a deal, or he has threatened to declare a state of emergency to allocate funds for the wall. He claims that he needs $5 billion to build the wall, but according to a study done by the Washington Post, the price could be as high as $67 billion.

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It may seem shocking to think about a safe place where individuals can use drugs legally, under the supervision of professional medical staff. Supervised injection services (SIS) are facilities where someone is allowed to bring illegal drugs that they have obtained themselves to inject under the watch of staff that are trained to look in the instance of a fatal overdose.

There are so many positives and negatives of safe injection sites, therefore it’s not likely that Massachusetts, or the United States in general, will see the opening of any facilities any time soon. Despite the ongoing opioid epidemic, the idea of allowing individuals to do illegal drugs in a legal setting is unsettling to the public.

With the opioid epidemic being of great importance in Gov. Charlie Baker’s last campaign, he credited his programs with decreasing the number of drug overdose deaths. There is the 2016 law which limited first-time opioid prescriptions to only seven days, as well as the Step Act, a law passed in 2017 which mandated participation in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. The Center for Disease Control reported that Massachusetts saw an 8 percent decrease in overdose deaths in 2017, therefore some progress has been made.

Not enough progress though. While SIS have been accused of fostering more drug use, evidence largely shows they reduce harm to users by providing clean needles and medical staff that can intervene in the case of an overdose.

Currently there are at least 100 supervised injection sites open, mainly in Europe, Canada and Australia according to NPP. None exist in the United States, despite attempts from cities like Seattle, Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Francisco and New York to establish such facilities. They have mainly not succeeded due to the Justice Department threats to take legal action, according to the Harvard Political Review.

Safe injection sites have been operating in Europe for the last three decades, according to The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Evidence from their 2017 article titled “Perspectives on Drugs: Drug consumption rooms: an overview of provision and evidence,” shows that SIS revealed “self-reported reductions in injecting risk behavior such as syringe sharing.” As a result, this reduced the risk of HIV transmission and overdose deaths for patients.

With opioid related deaths in Massachusetts at over twice the national rate, a solution is well overdue. Despite Baker’s reluctance, safe injection sites pose a potential breakthrough to a rapidly worsening crisis.

In the first nine months of 2018, there were over 1,200 confirmed opioid-related overdose deaths. With limited data available for 2019 so far, it’s unlikely that the death toll will slow, according to Mass. gov.

Sites in other countries have helped reduce overdose deaths and rates of infectious disease while getting more people treatment to reduce their drug use, according to The American Medical Association. However, any previous attempts to
Editor’s Word

As a student publication, The Suffolk Journal has the same intentions as your local news station - to provide you with the facts you need, when you need them, regarding Suffolk University. Although The Suffolk Journal, and other outlets nationwide, have made mistakes in the past, mistakes are made in all industries.

We ask that the Suffolk University community, as an educated community, maintain that the truth be worth seeking at all costs, and that we not use the media as reinforcement of our own prejudices. Without the honest media, storms would hit with no warning. Elections would occur with a blind eye.

Despite what other media outlets have been doing from time to time - setting biased agendas, deliberately polarizing some Americans’ political views further and creating news stories in an unfair fashion - we, the staff of The Suffolk Journal, ask that the Suffolk University community maintain their trust in the honest press.

~The Suffolk Journal Staff

Harper Wayne
Journal Staff

As Americans, are we supposed to believe that the religious clause of the First Amendment holds weight, when our dollars pay for the phrase “In God We Trust” to be placed on government buildings?

Separation of church and state is a part of the First Amendment in the Constitution, stating that, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” The government cannot endorse a religion or allow discrimination against a religion in the U.S. borders. Ultimately, the founders of the first modern American government in the late 18th century tried to remove religion from within the government in order to adopt a secular governing fashion.

Despite such efforts, some government buildings still display the words “In God We Trust” across their doors, in their lobbies or in other various parts of the buildings. In May 2018, there was a bill pushed to have the sign in public schools. States like Florida, Arkansas and Arizona are among the group that have passed the law. However, no one ever voted on this saying to be the American way in our current climate, as a whole nation.

It creates an identity for the government, a government just beginning to show diversified backgrounds in the House and Senate. An identity that is beginning to change, but for a while repressed a large part of America’s people.

If the owner of any given property wishes to place such a placard on their private property, they should be able to, as long as the business or people that inhabit the property do not discriminate or make people feel unsafe to openly practice any religion.

The key difference between private property and public is that one is paid for by a private donor, person or business, and one is paid for by the public’s tax dollars. While there may not be direct discrimination, government buildings which place such a saying are subtly endorsing a belief that is not that of all American citizens.

This shows that little separation of church and state actually exists in the government, since the buildings occupied by the government are implicitly publicizing “In God They Trust.”

America represents the American people, which is sometimes referring to place “mating pot” for its varied and intricate body of people who come from all over the world and practice a wide range of religions.

The placards may not be discriminatory or make people feel as though they are not accepted, but it displays an ideology not all of America believes in nor were given the opportunity to vote for.

People will find a way to use drugs no matter what laws exist. While it seems jarring to encourage drug use, SIS appear to be a good first step in eliminating fatal overdoses.

Establish safe injection sites in Massachusetts have been mixed by Baker.

In an interview with The Boston Globe in July of 2018, Baker said, “The evidence is clear that sanctioning heroin injection facilities does not reduce overdose deaths and these facilities are not a responsible tool to combat the opioid epidemic.”

The opioid crisis cannot and will not be solved overnight. People will find a way to use drugs no matter what laws exist. While it seems jarring to encourage drug use, SIS appear to be a good first step in eliminating fatal overdoses. By allowing spaces that foster clean and guided drug use, it opens up other ways of helping reduce drug abuse in the long run.

Since the opening of any sites has been denied in interested cities, it’s unclear exactly how they would operate in the United States. Any discussion regarding the establishment of SIS has received backlash from the public, due to the important question: Who’s going to pay for it?

While taxpayers may not love the idea of their hard-earned money funding a site of opioid drug use, the success of safe injection sites in other countries proves they are a step in the right direction. SIS allow medical professionals the ability to reach and maintain contact with high-risk drug users who may not be so willing to quit, and offer comprehensive treatment, says the EMCCDA.

By reducing the risk of the spread of disease and fatal overdoses, while also fostering access to addiction treatment, the wider health and public order benefits outweigh any potential drawbacks of supervised injection sites.

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“In God We Trust” doesn’t represent all Americans

From SIS - 9

SIS have the potential to save lives

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For the love of sports: Suffolk’s multi-sport athletes

Joe Rice
Journal Staff

It is safe to say that being a student-athlete at any university is a difficult task. Between classes, homework, practice and games, it makes for little free-time. But in the rare phenomenon of being a multi-sport athlete at a university, this lifestyle is even more amplified.

In the case of senior McKenzie McGrath, sophomore Dakhensey Marcellus and freshman Julia Hunt, being a student-athlete in multiple seasons is a way of life; what was once considered a leap of faith is now a reality that is fully embraced by all of them.

McGrath, a captain for both the golf and softball teams, began her collegiate career as only a softball player. The then-freshman had no intentions of adding a sport to her resume, until she was made aware that the university was adding varsity golf, she explained.

McGrath was ironically informed of the golf team by softball head coach Jaclyn Davis. Davis texted McGrath and told her the university was adding a women’s golf team, aware that the then-sophomore had played in high school. McGrath got in touch with head coach Jay Parker and joined the team shortly after.

“I figured it was another opportunity and was something that I couldn’t pass up,” said McGrath.

In a recent interview with ‘The Suffolk Journal’. “I’ve never been a single sport athlete. Originally having no recruiting for what happens than just quitting before I start,” said Hunt.

Though adjusting to a busy year round.”

Between a 16 hour work week after just obtaining a job, practices and class, she hardly finds herself with a lot of free time.

But much like McGrath, Marcellus embraces balancing practice and schoolwork, noting that any type of sport is a remedy to a stressful day of hitting the books.

“Sometimes in college, this during college because these sports are what make my life. I know I’m only young once. There was never a doubt that I couldn’t do it.”

Participating in the 60-meter and 200-meter dash, Marcellus joined the track team her freshman year, filling out her winter and spring seasons.

“After practice, I’m motivated to conquer anything and everything,” said Marcellus.

Unlike Marcellus, Hunt was a highly recruited athlete coming from high school. The track standout was recruited by head coach Will Feldman during her meets in high school, eventually receiving a spot on the Rams.

Hunt also had a passion to play soccer at the school, so back in April, she sent in a recruitment form to Suffolk. According to Hunt, head coach Ashley Van Vetchen almost immediately got back to her showing interest. When Hunt was offered a spot on the team, she took it right away.

Before stepping foot onto the university, Hunt was a three-sport athlete at Suffolk.

Hunt did express her concerns with how things would play out upon arrival to the school.

“There was doubt in the beginning of summer because I learned about early morning practices and I wasn’t sure how difficult college work would be compared to high school,” said Hunt.

“However, I’d done three seasons of sports my entire life and figured I’m better off giving it a shot and seeing what happens than just quitting before I start.”

Hunt explained that the transition of soccer to track was difficult at first.

“It’s very hard to switch gears. Soccer and track are very different sports and you need completely different styles of running. Ending soccer season, I was in perfect shape for a soccer game, however I struggled to run a track workout. But already being in some form of shape helps make it easier to adjust,” said Hunt.

Though adjusting to different sports may be tough at first, Hunt is not letting that get in the way of her school work.

“I’ve never been a student to not do my work, so I have never been behind on work. The coaches make sure that school is the priority. Academics always come first,” said Hunt. “Also, playing sports actually keeps me on a schedule all day and [helps] me procrastinate less because

For the love of sports: Suffolk’s multi-sport athletes

Senior McKenzie McGrath participates in golf and softball.

Junior Julia Hunt participates in soccer and track (not pictured).

I know I have less free time to get my work done.”

Though Hunt had her worries and struggles at first, she found her way. Hunt has no regrets about being a three-sport athlete and is ready with what will come her way in the upcoming seasons.

“I’ve made my best friends from my sports teams and I’m so glad I made the decisions (to play three sports at Suffolk). I played sports my entire life and I knew I wouldn’t be the same if I didn’t continue in college so I was very excited to see how college sports would turn out.”

Connect with Joe by emailing jrice@su.suffolk.edu

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Patriots Dynasty Lives On

Hannah Arroyo / Sports Editor
Sean Cushing Asst. Sports Editor

“Dynasty” is the only fitting word to describe the New England Patriots in the recent years. With a 13-3 victory over the Los Angeles Rams, the Patriots have now won the Super Bowl in three of the last five NFL seasons. For Boston sports fans and Suffolk University students alike, the feeling never gets old, as the Patriots and Red Sox have rallied in the streets of Boston in three of the last four years.

“I’m so grateful that I’ve had the opportunity to see three championships in my time at Suffolk,” said Suffolk University student Sophie Bortone in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “It’s something that not every city gets to experience, especially as often as we do, so we really just make sure to take it all in and enjoy every minute of the celebrating.”

This year was different, though. This time around, the Patriots finished with their worst regular season record since 2009. The regular season finish brought on the critics, and doubt continuously loomed throughout the playoffs. But the Patriots remained focused. Tom Brady, Julian Edelman and more players fed off of the negative energy that eventually sprouted into the “still here” movement that sparked the Patriots playoff run.

After moving past the Chargers and Chiefs in the playoffs, it was time for the Patriots to take on the NFC powerhouse that is the Los Angeles Rams. Super Bowl LIII proved to be a battle of the defenses, as the Patriots’ victory was not the most exciting one.

This year’s Super Bowl game was the lowest scoring and lowest rated Super Bowl of all time. Despite the low scoring game, Suffolk University student RJ Agostinelli’s excitement remained unshaken.

“I had never seen a playoff game with such a low score,” said Agostinelli in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “I was so excited that they managed to pull out a win and put to bed many of the doubts that people had about them throughout the year.”

Nonetheless, this game will not be forgotten by Edelman, who took home the Super Bowl’s most valuable player (MVP) award with 10 receptions for 141 yards. With this honor, Edelman became the first Jewish NFL player to ever win Super Bowl MVP. He was not the only one who contributed offensively for the Patriots, as rookie Sony Michel continued his impressive playoff year with 18 carries for 94 yards and a touchdown drive, all you could hear was ‘Brady! Brady! Brady!’

As the newly crowned champions, the Patriots came back to Boston on Tuesday for a duck boat parade and celebration. Patriots players, staff members and coaches piled onto the duck boats and rode down Boylston and Tremont Street. Red white and blue confetti flew through the air as fans sang and cheered for their home team.

Suffolk University students were pleasantly surprised to learn that their classes scheduled during the parade had been canceled. Many were thrilled to watch the parade, which ran directly past Suffolk buildings such as the Smith Residence Hall and the 73 Tremont building. Junior broadcast journalism major Anim Wongly said that “happiness” was the only word he could describe his emotions towards another championship.

“I think that’s a new fun fact,” said Sine in an interview with The Journal. “I can say I saw three parades during my undergrad. All of which I saw in front of the University. It’s a sweet moment that I got to celebrate with people in my community.”

Patriots linebacker Elandon Roberts holds up the Lombardi trophy on Tuesday in celebration of their Super Bowl win.

For Suffolk seniors watching their third parade of undergrad, the moment was bittersweet. Suffolk senior Jean “Wongly” Sine said that “happiness” was the only way he could describe his emotions towards another championship.

“I feel very blessed that I got the opportunity to see three championships in my time at Suffolk,” said Osmani in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “Not only did the Patriots and Rams find their way to Mercedes-Benz stadium in Atlanta, but Suffolk University lecturer Taylor Riley made the trip as well. Even though the game was in Atlanta, she felt right at home.

“The Super Bowl felt like a home game. There were so many Pats fans around and ‘Beat LA’ chants were heard all day long,” said Riley in an interview with The Journal. “On the touchdown drive, all you could hear was ‘Brady! Brady! Brady!’”

As the newly crowned champions, the Patriots

Hannah Arroyo / Sports Editor

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