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Suffolk Journal, vol.82, no.17, 4/10/2019

Suffolk Journal

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Recommended Citation

Suffolk Journal, "Suffolk Journal, vol.82, no.17, 4/10/2019" (2019). *Suffolk Journal*. 687.
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SGA votes to endorse the arming of Suffolk University police, awaiting Board of Trustees for final say



Ryan Arel / Opinion Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) discusses concerns about arming SUPD before voting to pass the resolution



Ryan Arel / Opinion Editor

SUPD Chief of Police and Security, Gerard Coletta, addresses Student Government Association about arming SUPD

Haley Clegg / Editor-in-Chief

@HaleyClegg98

Ryan Arel / Opinion Editor

@RyanArel16

Caroline Enos / Asst. News Editor

@CarolineEnos

In a 23 - 11 vote Thursday, the Student Government Association (SGA) passed a non-binding resolution that recommends sworn officers of the Suffolk University Police Department (SUPD) carry firearms. Security officers and dispatch officers would not be armed, as reported by The Suffolk Journal in February.

The vote marked the first time SGA has taken a collective stance on whether SUPD should be armed.

SGA's resolution serves as a recommendation to the university's Board of Trustees, but the board will write and vote on its own motion, Suffolk University President Marisa Kelly told The Journal on Tuesday.

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THE SUFFOLK JOURNAL

*The independent student newspaper of
Suffolk University since 1936.*

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Ryan Arel / Opinion Editor

**SUPD Chief of Police and Security, Gerard Coletta,
answers student questions about the possibility of arming SUPD officers**

Students discuss arming SUPD officers

From SUPD - 1

The Board of Trustees plans to vote in June whether or not to arm SUPD, depending on if board members feel they have enough information to make a decision, Kelly said in an email to The Journal on Monday.

“We will continue to gather community input on the arming question (and of course the SGA vote is one important piece of feedback) and continue to discuss the issue,” Kelly said in her email. “If the Trustees feel they have sufficient information and there have been sufficient discussions, they will then vote on this matter at the June Board Meeting.”

SGA President Morgan Robb will present the resolution to Kelly and a faculty committee in the coming weeks.

“I think that since the administration did note that they would be moving forward with the decision that it was important for SGA to have a stance on this issue,” Robb told the Journal on Thursday, following the SGA vote. “I also think it shows that, very importantly, this was not a unanimous vote. So I think that we did absolutely what we could to represent the concerns that we heard and those were made known today.”

Suffolk Chief of Police and Security Gerard Coletta was invited by Robb to attend Thursday’s SGA meeting to address concerns about the resolution before it went to a vote.

Commuter Student

Senator at Large Lukas Phipps proposed an amendment during the discussion to address student concerns about the “potential misconduct of Suffolk University sworn police officers,” according to the revised resolution.

The amendment states,

“I am disappointed by SGA passing this resolution because SGA is supposed to be an organization on campus tasked with representing the student body. To add validity to a decision that many Suffolk students, especially [students of color], are so vehemently against is extremely unfortunate and makes us feel less represented than we already are.”

- Kayla Maloney

“Be it further resolved, Suffolk University work to further publicize existing mechanisms available to students in order to report the misconduct of Suffolk University sworn police officers.”

The resolution’s author, SGA Class of 2021 Senator Kostas Loukos, believes SUPD should be armed because, according to Coletta, SUPD officers cannot respond to situations involving lethal weapons as effectively as they could if they were armed.

In the past, SUPD has responded to stabbings in Downtown Crossing, the Boston Common and various surrounding areas

close to Suffolk’s campus by calling the Boston Police Department (BPD), according to SUPD officials in SGA’s campus safety forum in February.

Loukos said he believes that arming SUPD would better protect both officers and the Suffolk

community. “When our officers are walking from [Smith Hall] or 10 West to the rest of our campus, there is the possibility that somebody wants to do harm to a police officer or will try to hurt one of our officers,” said Loukos. “At the end of the day, I believe arming SUPD will save lives.” Currently, SUPD officers carry batons and Mace, both of which are considered non-lethal weapons. They are also authorized to use lethal force when lethal force is being used against them or anyone else according to Coletta.

“Because [using lethal force] is such a huge

undertaking [and] such a huge risk and such a huge responsibility for law enforcement and the department, we take these things very seriously,” said Coletta.

Every time any type of force is used by SUPD officers, including if they used a baton, Mace or directly put their hands on an individual, SUPD conducts a full investigation of the situation and interviews every individual who was there when the force was used, including the officer and the person whom the force was used on, according to Coletta.

If SUPD finds the use of force was warranted, Coletta said the department still has a discussion with the officer about what was done right in the situation and what could have been done better.

“We make a determination on whether that force was not only lawful but within our policies,” said Coletta during Thursday’s SGA meeting. “If it’s not, then we take disciplinary action. We have to do that; we have to make sure that the community knows that we take that seriously.”

During the meeting, Coletta also said that since he came to Suffolk in 2013, there have been five instances in which SUPD officers have used force. He said the most recent instance was last year, when an officer used Mace on a student, and that none of these instances were found to have been inappropriate uses of force.

See SUPD - 3

Board of Trustees looks for more information before possible vote in June

From SUPD - 2

During Thursday's meeting, some senators said they are concerned about SUPD carrying firearms within the residence halls.

SGA Class of 2020 Senator Yasir Batalvi, who voted against the resolution, said he believes having firearms in the residence halls is unnecessary, could intimidate students and affect them in a negative way when responding to incidents.

"Only if a situation in a residence hall necessitates it, should armed police officers respond," said Batalvi in an email to The Journal. "All in all, the university will arm the police department if they find it necessary, but they shouldn't do it without first rethinking the role and responsibility of a police department at our university."

Batalvi also voiced his concern that currently there is no independent agency or faction within the university that can evaluate reports of misconduct by SUPD officers and decide what type of discipline should be enforced on those officers.

Following the SGA vote, several students took to Twitter to voice their discontent.

"If anyone needed ANY indication that Suffolk University couldn't care less about their students of color and what they have to say," Kayla Maloney, a junior theater major at Suffolk, tweeted in response to the Journal's breaking news tweet about the passing of SGA's resolution.

Maloney said she and her friends have voiced their concerns at several panel events and forums over the past year that arming SUPD would make people of color on campus feel more marginalized. She also said she believes there is nothing SUPD could do to make students of color feel safe around armed officers.

"The history between armed officers and black and brown people is too deep-seated for any one protocol or policy to bring us any comfort," Maloney said. "It will always be at the back of our minds, and it will always provide another source of stress



Ryan Arel / Opinion Editor

SGA senators vote 23-11 to pass a resolution that recommends Suffolk arm its sworn police officers

and anxiety on top of being a student of color at a predominately white institution."

Maloney said she believes SGA and SUPD did not make enough of an effort to talk to students of color on campus about the resolution.

"SGA has a habit of not involving the voices of Suffolk students in general but especially black and brown students," Maloney told The Journal. "I am disappointed by SGA passing this resolution because SGA is supposed to be an organization on campus tasked with representing the student body. To add validity to a decision that many Suffolk students, especially [students of color], are so vehemently against is extremely unfortunate and makes us feel less represented than we already are."

If The Board of Trustees votes to arm SUPD, "it will be a very strict regimen in terms of how [armed officers] handle a weapon," Coletta said during Thursday's meeting. "We want our officers to only take the weapon out in the event that there is an imminent threat of deadly force being used against them or one of our community members."

Currently, all SUPD officers are required to receive bias trainings and have undergone a psychological evaluation. SGA's resolution recommends

that if armed, officers should undergo a psychological evaluation every two years to ensure that they are fit to carry a firearm and should continue to regularly receive bias trainings.

Coletta said during Thursday's meeting that SUPD officers are trained to de-escalate situations with communication first.

"We train our officers

ground, their financial background, their race, their gender — anything like that."

If a current SUPD officer were to be deemed unfit to be armed as a result of a psychological evaluation or if the officer failed to successfully complete both a firearm training and certification program, the officer "would be relieved from

"When our officers are walking from [Smith Hall] or 10 West to the rest of our campus, there is the possibility that somebody wants to do harm to a police officer or will try to hurt one of our officers," said Loukos.

"At the end of the day, I believe arming SUPD will save lives."

- Kostas Loukos

to use their communication skills to avoid having to use physical force," said Coletta. "We teach our officers ... de-escalation, communication skills, recognizing bias, implicit bias, how to deal with biases, procedural justice, and to treat every individual the same way regardless of their back-

ground, their financial background, their race, their gender — anything like that."

police duties and would be terminated or allowed the opportunity to be employed with the department as an unarmed, non-sworn security officer or dispatch officer," said Coletta in a February interview with The Journal.

In February, SUPD's second-in-command, Capt. Tim Connolly, said

SUPD will be armed only with handguns, not "long rifles," due to safety concerns of bullets breaking through walls or hitting bystanders.

On Thursday, Coletta said SUPD officers would not be permitted to take the firearms home, and that they would be stored in a secure location.

Many university police departments have moved to arm their sworn officers in past years, including several in the Boston area.

"It's really the historical transition from a security operation to a police operation in general in campus public safety. Over the past 20 to 25 years, campus police operations [in general] have become more professional than they ever have been," Coletta told The Journal in January. "We've transitioned into much more like a municipal police department."

In the spring of last year, Suffolk University hired Margolis Healy, a campus security consulting firm, to examine campus safety trends on Suffolk's Boston and Madrid campuses.

According to the firm's campus safety study, released on January 28, two-thirds of Boston-area schools have armed their campus police departments, including Boston University and Northeastern University. Both schools have semi-au-

tomatic rifles in their arsenals for specific officers to use if they deem it necessary.

The police departments of University of Massachusetts Boston, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Tufts University are also armed, according to USA Today.

Suffolk's neighbor, Emerson College, does not have an armed police force, the Journal reported in February. The Board of Trustees at Massachusetts College of Art and Design voted to not arm its police force early this year.

On Tuesday, Kelly emphasized that the board will continue to gather data and listen to feedback from the Suffolk community about this issue before they vote whether or not to arm sworn officers of SUPD.

"We appreciate that the Student Government Association has engaged in this very important issue," Kelly said in her email to The Journal after Thursday's SGA vote. "We have been gathering and continue to gather input from across our community on the question of whether or not to arm Suffolk sworn police officers. It is my commitment that the Board's consideration of this important issue be informed by the perspectives of the members of our community, including today's SGA vote."

Dr. Earle talks protecting oceans in “The World is Blue”

Amy Koczera
World News Editor
@AmyKoczera

Over the past decade, biologists and oceanographers have discovered more than ever before about our oceans. The increased exploration of the ocean has led scientists not only to greater discoveries about what’s in our seas, but also the garbage that humans have left there.

For National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Dr. Sylvia Earle, utilizing established research and staying motivated is the key to protecting our oceans and ensuring biodiversity for the future.

This past Monday, Dr. Earle presented “The World is Blue” as a part of Boston College’s Green Week series. Having spent nearly 7,000 hours underwater diving since the 1950s, Earle is considered a “First Hero of the Planet” by TIME magazine and has made it her life’s mission to protect the oceans through documenting and reporting on her research.

“I’m a scientist. I love gathering evidence and exploring evidence, I can’t sit still when I see this evidence, I want to be heard at this critical point in time,” said Earle during the presentation.

Earle is the first woman to ever take on the role as the former chief officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Her work and dedication to science has paved the way for modern female scientists.

The evening was hosted by Boston College’s Environmental Club,

known as EcoPledge. The night began with a brief clip from the Netflix documentary “Mission Blue,” a film capturing the life and work of Earle as a diver, marine biologist and environmentalist.

The clip captured Earle in one of her earlier diving experiences from the 1970s in which she traveled to the Virgin Islands with a group of four other women on the the Tektite 2 mission to live underwater for two weeks. This mission served as a profound moment not only for the women on the team, but for women in science everywhere.

However, with the rise in carbon emissions and ocean temperatures, Earle explained that her dives today rarely look like they did decades ago. When water temperatures rise by even just a few degrees, ecosystems like coral reefs can be severely impacted. Earle said nearly half of all of the world’s coral reefs have been wiped out since the 1950s, according to Earle.

“Coral reefs are not just about the corals, they are about the system,” said Earle. “Take away the fish [and] the corals are stressed. Take away the corals and the fish are stressed.”

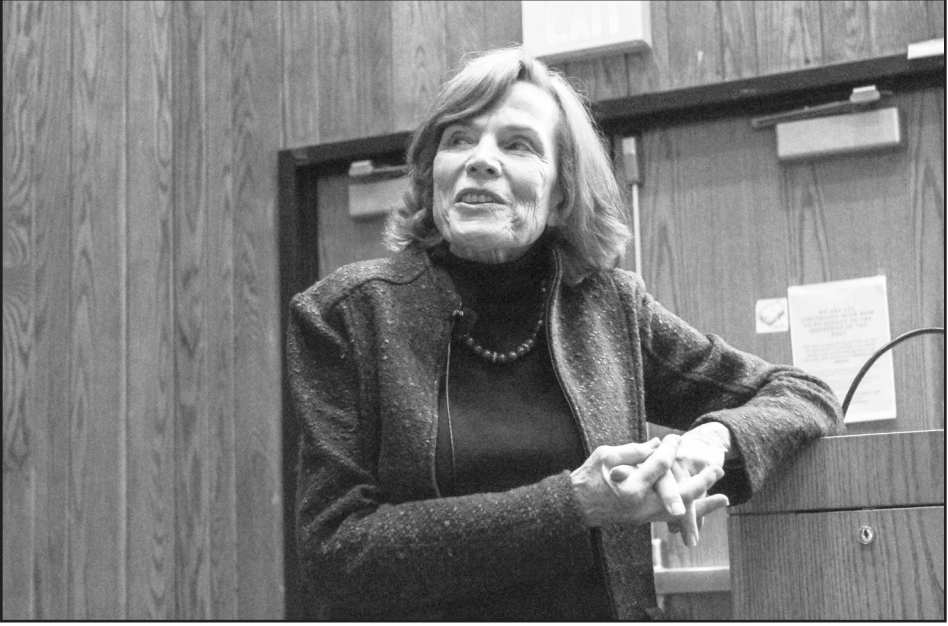
Corals are a part of much larger ecosystem that functions based on a variety of mutually beneficial and interdependent relationships. Reefs support both small and large fish and are the primary food source for hundreds of communities around the world.

From overfishing to global warming, and from overproduction of plastic to industrial agriculture, Earle has found that the

places she once loved to explore are quickly vanishing at the hands of the human race.

She recalled diving in one area of the Florida Keys where some of the coral reefs are still alive and thriving. However, that is far too often not the case in most areas around the world.

“It’s because of the warming, because of the overfishing. We’re taking



Amy Koczera / World News Editor

too many lobsters, too many squids, too many whatever,” said Earle. “We are taking too much life out of the oceans and putting too much trash into the ocean. Now we see these consequences coming back to affect us.”

While humans have evolved and created more technology through the rise of industrialization, they have also produced astronomical levels of garbage that are now ending up in the stomachs of marine life and sea birds.

Earle expressed how important it is to be more aware of the fish and meat humans eat and where it comes from. She encourages individuals to ask

more questions about where their food comes from.

“We need to get a lot smarter and a lot more mindful about what we see on the menu,” said Earle. “Ask about how the fish was transported and what it ate and how old it was and where it came from. All those things we are putting into the ocean are coming back to us, like micro-plastics in oysters

and clams and little fish.”

While the impacts of global warming are vast and widespread, Earle explained how crucial it is that today’s society should not become discouraged by the this issue, but rather motivated by it.

Technology and science have come a long way in the past few decades. Earle believes this is where the solution to global warming may lie.

“The great thing at this point in time is to reflect on how you got to where you are,” said Earle. “Most of the ocean, and most of the planet is yet to be discovered. [Global warming] is a trend that we can measure, we can define, we

can publish papers on it, but what are we gonna do about it?”

Earle has found that her motivation for exploration comes from continually exploring the ocean and developing a relationship with the creatures within it. She looks forward to a day when technology will allow more people to be able to see the depths of the ocean first hand, potentially in mobile

underwater crafts.

During the time she spent living underwater, Earle explained that she was able to go back and visit the same fish at the same time and place everyday. Developing this relationship with the animals deepened her appreciation for the ocean.

“Maybe you’ll look at them with a different attitude, it doesn’t mean you’ll have to stop eating them, but maybe you’ll eat them with greater respect,” said Earle. “To take care of the world they live in is to take care of the world that we live in. We are sea creatures too. All creatures have that beautiful characteristic of being

unique.”

Through thousands of hours of exploration, Earle has founded Mission Blue: The Sylvia Earle Alliance—an organization that brings light to ecosystems that are vital to the health of our planet.

The organization has set up “Hope Spots” throughout the ocean that remain protected from fishing in order to help bring recovery and a resurgence of life back to the sea.

Earle is hopeful that today’s society is capable of protecting the ocean. “It’s about who we are and what we can make of our time here,” she said. “We are the cause and we can also be the cure.”

For Boston College senior and EcoPledge president Christopher Russo, Earle’s story and work is inspiring and important in keeping the younger generations motivated towards solving the problems of climate change.

“This year for Green Week we really wanted to focus on the ocean,” said Russo in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “Based on our current political climate, it’s important to focus on a woman who has done important work and Dr. Earle has contributed so much research to this topic so we thought it would be great to bring her here this week.”

Earle’s intrinsic love for the ocean has propelled her desire for exploration.

“It’s really just doing what I love,” said Earle in an interview with The Journal. “I think not getting distracted from the basic passion for exploration and science has kept me motivated. I’m staying on course with what I really love.”

This week in SGA...

Caroline Enos / Asst. News Editor
@CarolineEnos

On March 28, SGA passed a resolution written by Senator-at-Large Jared Marshall that recommends Suffolk fix inconsistencies in assignment grades and final grades. The resolution stated that not all faculty currently list a final grading scale in their syllabi, despite this being a requirement in College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) and the Sawyer Business School (SBS), and that faculty use different numerical grading throughout SBS and CAS courses.

The resolution recommends that all CAS and SBS courses “shall have their final grading scale listed in their respective syllabi in a clear and concise manner,” and all courses shall adopt these numerical values for final grades: F: 0-59, D-: 60-63, D: 64-66, D+: 67-69, C-: 70-73, C: 74-76, C+: 77-79, B-: 80-83, B: 84-86, B+: 87-89, A-: 90-93, A: 94-100. Under the resolution, all CAS and SBS faculty “shall strictly adhere to the numerical values of these assignment and final grades, except in the case of rounding up a Suffolk University Student’s final grade.”

On Friday, April 12th from 12pm to 1:30pm, the Suffolk University community will be dedicating the academic building of 20 Somerset as “The Leonard J. Samia Academic Center”

Design-x-Change brings innovation to Suffolk campus

Kyle Crozier
News Editor

Suffolk University's Design-x-Change event on Thursday highlighted collaborations between the Art and Design department and the Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability (CUES) that gave students a chance to learn about environmental and social sustainability.

The event also contained the university's annual Sustainability Fair, which showcased a variety of Boston-based material and furnishing companies that are working in sustainable design.

"The DesignX team, working across and collaborating with other members of the campus, plays a very important role in those sustainability conversations," said event organizer and Suffolk Art and Design Associate Professor & Program Director Sean Solley. "We

are trying to build more bridges across campuses with design."

The event saw nearly a dozen businesses from the Boston area presenting products that were hoped to be of some interest to sustainable designers. These included businesses like Mannington Commercial, a New England based luxury vinyl, carpet and hardwood designer, and paint and stain company Sherwin-Williams.

"I want to be a design inspiration for these students," said Mannington Commercial district manager Emily Cring in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "I came here to ignite inspiration for sustainable design, it really is so fun to be here and to talk to design students."

Companies like Mannington were chosen as examples of what can happen when sustainable developers and product designers are able to collaborate, as the company

has made great steps in eco-friendly product development and a thorough recycling program.

"It is such an impressive thing to see Suffolk get involved with," said Suffolk alum MacKenzie Sherwood in an interview with The Journal. "I was never a part of this stuff when I was on campus, and I really regret that. I think art and design students should really be jumping on the opportunity to get involved with sustainability, and sustainability students should really be more involved with art and design."

As part of the DesignX team's goal of extending the Suffolk learning experience by creating connections across disciplines on campus, the university's Virtual Reality Lab was also set up at this event to give individuals a tour through a virtual home design.

This interactive demonstration is a result of one student's independent



Kyle Crozier / News Editor

Suffolk Art and Design Associate Professor & Program Director Sean Solley introduces main speakers of Design-x-Change event

study which focuses on using graphic design tools to create a building plan in 3D space, and then to be able to walk through that space to experience the layout of the home during the development process.

"It is often really easy to just talk about doing this sort of thing, but since 2017 we really have had actual results with virtual reality on campus," said Solley in an interview with The Journal. "We have produced complex things with our design programs that are able to be viewed in VR, so it was a bit of a no-brainer to invest more into [the technology]."

For design students, Solley explained that it can be a big hurdle to understand how their design choices actually work out in the real world, that it can be hard to tell that something like a coffee table is obstructing the living-room until you are in virtual reality and you need to step over it.

Solley also said that innovative programs like the VR Lab enable students to be physically involved in their work, which allows for many more learning opportunities.

"Anywhere you have a constraint and an opportunity that's where you see creative design happen," said Solley.

Yanxi Liu, a senior psychology major, presented her research in front of the DesignX crowd about bridging the gaps between psychology and urban design. For Liu, this process means to use historical concepts of building landscapes that connect occupants to the natural world, called biophilic landscapes.

Her inspiration for this kind of design has come in part from her understanding of Chinese courtyard design, which has a green space enclosed by four walls within a building, that puts a focus on air, water, sunlight and connectivity.

"From the very beginning of human design, we can see the concept of biophilia," said Liu. "This hit me as so important because we can use this as the background for our designs today."

Liu explained that eastern designers have traditionally valued the concepts of connectedness and community in their work, and that this is something that she wants to bring to Boston and the rest of the world.

"This kind of design is a type of storytelling, drawing connections between people's lives and the natural world, and storytelling really is the ultimate tool in creating meaning in life," said Liu.

Liu and Solley both referenced a belief that Suffolk's Art and Design department has a great opportunity to incorporate this kind of design, not just into their education, but to the school community, other departments and Boston as a whole.

"The next thing [for DesignX] that is coming up in June is that a number of Suffolk faculty are flying to Shanghai as a collaboration of the environmental guys and the school of design," said Solley. "The virtue of that is putting us in a culture of international people that are using the same design terminology."

This partnership

with Shanghai's Fudan University is a continuation of a relationship that CUES has built in the last two years that has had the goal of establishing academic and research collaborations between the two schools.

Solley identified a key area of focus in addition to sustainable design in what is called inclusive design. This is a process that seeks to understand the psychological needs of citizens moving through a space, and makes sure that the design works with those individuals.

One speaker at the DesignX event explained that one example of her work with inclusive design has been in providing designers with access to individuals with certain disabilities so that the design process can be informed by their needs.

As part of producing effective inclusive design, Solley is hoping that the psychology and art and design departments can have more opportunities to grow together, as he explained a fundamental relationship between interior design and human psychology.

"Our partnership with the psychology department has shown us that where we do human-centered design, we need to be able to have something at Suffolk that will allow us to study the brain and the psychological aspects of the design as well," said Solley. "Some schools already have programs in environmental psychology and I think that is something that is something that we'd like to work on as well."



Kyle Crozier / News Editor

District Manager of Mannington Commercial, Emily Cring, exhibits her companies sustainable carpeting options



Kyle Crozier / News Editor

Clean PVC employees display their environmentally-friendly flooring options to Design-x-Change attendee



@JoyceMsuya:

Today, new rules come into effect in London, aiming to become the world's first "ultra-low emission zone."



STAY TUNED:

Photojournalism professor shares traveling and reporting experiences

See next edition for more.

APRIL 10, 2019 | PAGE 6

Brianna Vieira expresses Portuguese culture through music



Photos courtesy of Brianna Vieira

Suffolk University junior and accomplished Portuguese folklore singer Brianna Vieira passionately performs for the community

Amy Koczera
World News Editor
@AmyKoczera

Suffolk University junior global and cultural communications major Brianna Vieira spent her childhood dancing and singing to Portuguese music in her community. Thanks to the help of her grandmother and the encouragement of her family and friends, the 21-year-old is now an accomplished Portuguese folk singer with a passion for music, heritage and giving back.

Originally from Stoughton, Massachusetts, Vieira has always been involved with music and her local Portuguese community. She has utilized her musical talents as a singer in the choir at the Immaculate Conception Church in Stoughton as well as in various Portuguese folklore groups.

"Music has just always

been a big part of my life," said Vieira in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "My mom has home videos of me and my sister dancing or singing. Music was definitely a way for us to express ourselves and have fun."

Vieira's family is from the small archipelago of the Azores - an autonomous region of Portugal in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Vieira explained that Massachusetts has a large population of Portuguese people, with communities established in various towns and cities throughout the state.

There are several Portuguese folklore groups within these communities. As a traditional form dance and song, folklore typically expresses Portuguese identity and culture through telling stories about the older times, according to Vieira. Participating in these groups in processions, parades and local feasts was one way that Vieira was able to interact with her culture

through music.

At just nine years old, Vieira's passion for music and her Portuguese heritage struck a chord within the community when she placed third at a singing competition in Fall River called "Novo Estrelas," known as "New Stars."

"That was my first time winning and it was really exciting," said Vieira. "Then I began to sing more in communities in the United States, in the Azores and Canada."

After first gaining attention from the Portuguese community at this festival, Vieira began performing at concerts for other famous Portuguese artists. At age 12, Vieira released her first Christmas single "E Natal," written by her grandmother.

The song became No. 1 on the popular Portuguese Luso Beats chart and Vieira soon grew increasingly popular in Portuguese communities around the world. She soon joined the Portu-

guese Heritage group in the Boston orchestra and was given the opportunity to perform the Portuguese National Anthem for the president of Portugal at the Massachusetts State House.

"My great-grandmother was a very well-known singer on the island of Santa Maria in the Azores," said Vieira. "As I got older, I started realizing my great-grandmother was a singer and I really loved that style of music and I loved singing in Portuguese and participating in the cultural festivals."

Vieira mainly performs Portuguese folk music with a modern twist. With her grandmother as the primary lyricist, Vieira participated in her first tour in 2015 and is looking forward to releasing an album next year. The album will feature cover songs of the music her great-grandmother sang in the 1950s.

"I do a lot of covers but I make them more modernized because I feel

like that's also a big part of continuing culture and traditions," said Vieira. "You have to make them appealing to younger generations and society is always evolving so it's really important to go with the flow and support that."

In addition to music, Vieira's appreciation and love for her Portuguese roots inspired her to give back to the community. In her first year of college at Suffolk, she founded a youth organization called "Somos Vencedores," meaning "we are winners."

"The organization was created to inspire the youth to participate in culture — in their own cultures and in the Portuguese culture," said Vieira. "It works to acknowledge and recognize youth leaders in the community and it also encourages speaking different languages, more specifically the Portuguese language to continue that and to celebrate life, community and culture."

Vieira has worked

hard to build the group by meeting with senators, celebrities and other public figures to keep the group going. The organization also does volunteer work throughout Portuguese communities in Massachusetts and stays connected throughout the year support one another's interests and involvement in their local communities.

Vieira's hard work extends throughout the Suffolk community as she also dedicates her time to being a Resident Assistant, a Counseling, Health and Wellness SUPER as well as the president of the European Student Association.

"I love the values of love, family, loyalty, work ethics and passion my culture brings to the world," said Vieira. "Cultures in general are very fascinating to me because every single one is so unique. I believe everyone should travel and involve themselves in different cultural settings to learn more about others."

Students celebrate Japanese culture at Japanese Tea Ceremony

Gabriela Lopez
Journal Staff

On Sunday, the Suffolk University Japanese Student Association (SUJSA), gathered at the Boston Children's Museum to participate at the Japanese Tea Ceremony, held inside of a traditional Japanese house built inside of the museum.

Miho Machida, dressed in a kimono, a traditional Japanese garment, led the group of nine students through different playgrounds full of children at the museum, to a room with a big traditional house from Tokyo.

To step into the house, every student had to remove their shoes and go to the next floor through high and stretch stairs. After leaving aside their shoes and jackets, the students sat in a circle surrounding a small hole with a square shape in the floor with the tea pot.

Machida repeated "Cha-no-yu," several times, before explaining its meaning.

"It simply means hot water for tea," said Machida. "Cha is tea, no is for and yu is hot water. This is a very appropri-



Gabriela Lopez / Journal Staff

Japanese Student Association (JSA) hosts Japanese Tea Ceremony

ate word to describe the Japanese Tea Ceremony. The word has been used for 500 years and is still used today. It has many aspects, it depends on how you look at it, how you understand it and how you study it."

Anthony, the performer of the tea ceremony, stood before the entrance of the room and said in Japanese, "I'm going to make a bowl of tea," which Machida translated. He entered the room and sat in front of the teapot in a seiza position that he maintained throughout the whole ceremony. Seiza means good

posture, and consists of placing the knees on the floor and the buttocks on top of the feet.

He proceeded to arrange the utensils in order to prepare the tea. His movements were gentle and delicate while he lightly cleaned the cups and the tea scoop.

"The concept of purification is very important in Chanoyu," said Machida. "All the utensils are already clean before they are used, but what Anthony is doing with this ritual in front of the guests is symbolic, he is not actually cleaning the utensils, this is a represen-

tation before the guests of purification of the utensils as well as each person's spiritual purification."

A student seated closer to the performer was given a sweet called Namagashi —sugared gelatine— in the shape of a flower, used in tea ceremonies to contrast the bitterness of the drink.

"Tea is ready," said Machida, as Anthony poured tea in the cup. Only one student tasted the tea coming from the teapot and said it was good but bitter.

After closing the ceremony, Anthony cleaned all

the utensils and brought them outside of the tea room where they were before.

Each of the nine students received a Yamaguchi, made of a mixture of water and sweet rice powder that had a soft consistency. The inside of the treat was a thin red paste and on top was Yomogi powder, a Japanese green grass pike tea powder.

After finishing the sweet, the students tasted the pure matcha tea without any type of sugar or milk. Machida had a small Q&A with all the students,

and she said she has studied Chanoyu for around 23 years.

"It is a lifelong commitment, there's no end from studying it," said Machida. "It's like you are learning a new language or how to play piano or violin. You study for many years the basics, in this case all different procedures to prepare the tea. Then, we have around 100 different more aspects related to the people you are serving, utensils used, calligraphy, flowers, containers and others."

The president of SUJSA Yoshimasa Fujikawa, thanked Machida and the performer for receiving and welcoming the students at Kyo no Machiya, the Japanese House and said 'arigato' —thank you— together with a bow of his head and both hands together showing respect.

"For me, it's more about learning from a new culture, because most of the times the events are for food or a social gathering," said Ashley Gee, a freshman at Suffolk University majoring in global business. "But the Japanese Tea Ceremony allowed us to experience more in depth this traditional culture."

Global Commentary: Brunei punishment of homosexuality intolerable

Chris Sadrnoori
Journal Staff

The tiny nation of Brunei recently drew the ire of the international community when it declared the new Sharia-based penal code would go into effect on April 3. The most widespread of these new laws is the implementation of capital punishment for homosexuals.

Found in the South Pacific on the Bornean island, the country is smaller than Delaware and home to 428,000 people. Brunei has previously persecuted homosexuals for years – but not to this extent.

With many other countries growing more progressive and accepting of all sexual-orientations, it's uncommon and troublesome to hear of one going in the other direction.

The Sharia Penal Code Order of 2013, found within the Brunei Constitution, explains crimes and their corresponding punishments.

This order states that if

two men engage in intercourse, then they can be sentenced to death.

Two women can receive up to 10 years of imprisonment, an equivalent \$30,000 fine, 40 strikes of a cane or a combination of the three. These new laws mostly apply to Muslims, which comprise about 285,000 people of the total population.

Convicting someone has some stringent requirements, however, and perhaps purposefully so. According to the Penal Code Order, a group of Muslims must have witnessed the act, and then report it to authorities. This penalty seems to be a fear tactic more than a legitimate form of banning homosexuality. This has caused Bruneians in the homosexual community to be fearful to share their sexual orientation even with their closest friends.

The Bruneian leader's reasoning is shoddy and often criticized by many in Brunei. On a nationally-televised speech, Bolkiah said, "I want to see Islamic teachings in this country grow stronger." He then emphasized

that Brunei is a country that devotes its worship to Allah.

However, some analysts believe Bolkiah's decision is not entirely based on embracing Islamic teaching. Matthew Woolfe, the man behind the Brunei Project, believes Bolkiah is trying to remain in power as the economy become unstable, and gain the support of powerful conservatives.

Bolkiah's kept the stability of the nation in check by offering zero income tax and government subsidies, but as Woolfe explains, the day of reckoning may be nearing. Unemployment is rising and the oil wells may soon dry out.

Woolfe believes that the populace looked the other way on many of Bolkiah's past questionable decisions due to these benefits. He says that Bolkiah is trying to introduce harsher Sharia laws to keep the people under control should the country's situation go awry.

These strict punishments are hardly new for Bruneians. Stealing can result in an amputa-

tion and each subsequent offense will result in further dismemberment. Those who insult the Prophet Muhammad or are convicted of black magic can also be put to death. Even overzealous Christmas celebrations or drinking alcohol are crimes, according to the Guardian.

This may seem medieval to someone living in Europe or North America, but harsh punishments like these are relatively common across Africa and the Middle East. In fact, there are still 72 countries that persecute homosexuals and an additional 10 that impose the death penalty — all of which, excluding one, are on the African and Asian continents.

In April 2011, Forbes listed Bolkiah as one of the richest in the world, with a recorded net worth of \$20 billion. He resides in a massive palace in the nation's capital, complete with 1,788 rooms and 257 bathrooms. Bolkiah's younger brother, Prince Jefri, had his assets frozen after the government oil investment he oversaw

was missing a paltry \$14.8 billion. According to Vanity Fair, Jefri spent an average of \$50 million a month for years. Unfortunately, the list of the Bolkiah's blatant misuse of the nation's wealth hardly stops here.

Combined, the Bolkiah royals own 150 additional homes, 9,000 luxury cars, a private zoo and a handful of aircraft. Despite making the Forbes Top 5 for wealthiest in 2012, about half the population of Brunei relies on welfare to survive according, to global poverty advocacy group the Borgen Project.

Bolkiah's barbaric laws have caused an uproar among celebrities including, Ellen DeGeneres, George Clooney, Elton John and Sam Smith. They have called for boycott of the many hotels owned by Bolkiah, two of which are in Los Angeles, The Beverly Hills Hotel and the Hotel Bel-Air. The remaining are across major cities in Europe.

Advocacy groups including Amnesty International, the United Nations Human Rights Organization and count-

less LGBTQ+ support groups have called Bolkiah to immediately cease these inhumane and cruel laws.

A notable absence in this situation is another wealthy, hotel-owning leader, President Donald Trump. His silence is unsurprising and according to the Advocate, the White House has yet to comment and deferred inquiries to the state department. In a statement they expressed their concern over the situation and oppose human rights violations.

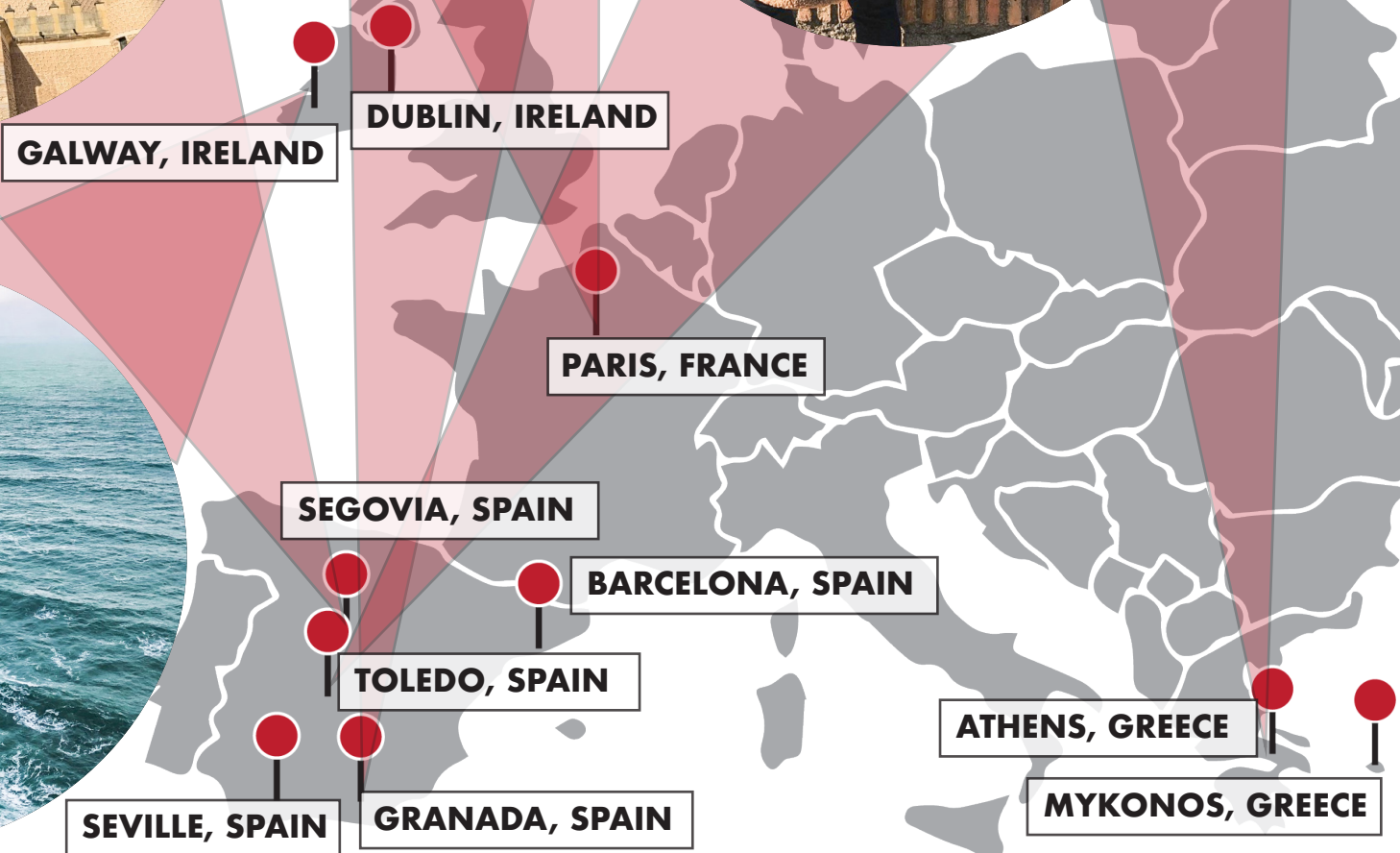
Whether or not the Bruneian government will actually utilize this new law is uncertain. There have been no executions in the country since 1957, but the renewed sense of fear that Bolkiah's laws bring cause angst and doubt for the future of the LGBTQ+ community in Brunei.

The pressure is mounting on both Bolkiah's wealth and his reputation — the only things he seems to value. With the global opinion not nearly in his favor, he may soon have to reconsider his decision.

SUFFOLK OVERSEAS

Hayley McIntyre never had the chance to explore a new country or culture as kid. However, here at Suffolk University, she was given that opportunity. She traveled to the Suffolk Madrid campus to better herself and network with other students while also having the chance to explore Europe. She visited Dublin and Galway in Ireland, Athens and Mykonos in Greece, as well as five different cities in Spain. She learned some of the Spanish language and immersed herself in the culture while even having the experience of snowshoeing through the Sierra Nevada mountains. Here are some photos from her travels.

“I really loved the idea of networking and making friends with other people from Suffolk and being able to come back to Boston the following semester with more friendships than before.”
— Hayley McIntyre



All photos courtesy of Hayley McIntyre



Courtesy of Stratton McCrady

The cast of the Suffolk University Theatre Department's production of "Everybody" inside the Modern Theatre, which ran last weekend

'Everybody' impacts audience through themes of love, death and understanding

Morgan Hume
Arts Editor
@morganmhume

If death came knocking on your door, ready to take you and a companion to the afterlife, who would you bring along on the journey?

Pulitzer Prize for Drama finalist Branden Jacob-Jenkins explores this question in his play "Everybody," adapted from a 15th century morality play titled "Everyman," which the Suffolk University Theatre Department put on a production of last weekend

at Modern Theatre from April 4 - 7.

The 90-minute show centers on the main character named Everybody, played by three rotating actors. Death, played by Kane Harper, summons Everybody to die but says that they are allowed to bring someone else along so they are not alone on the frightening odyssey. Everybody looks to their friends, family and personal belongings, but none of them agree to accompany them. Finally, Love, played by Anastasia Bolkwadze, agrees to join them after Beauty, Strength, Understanding and Mind have also left their side.

While the original source material focuses on telling people how to die, Jacob-Jenkins's version focuses on telling people how to live. The audience can see themselves mirrored in the allegorical characters as they expound relatable themes of friendship and love in both serious and comedic ways.

"Everybody" featured a rotating cast, where the lead role was alternated between Ma'chel Martin, Jamie Steinbach and Kiara Caridad Stewart. Each person played the role for two of the six performances. The three actors had to attend every rehearsal, and while one person was running through the scene, the other two watched attentively and took notes. The rest of the roles in the show remained the same.

"It's always so cool to watch the other two Everybodies work because I feel like I learn so much about the character just from watching the way that they do it, and they have said similar things to me," said senior theatre major Jamie Steinbach, who plays one of the Everybodies, in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "Having other people who are sharing the role with you is really really liberating because their performances can inform your own."

Everybody is a vulnerable and thought-provoking

role. In some scenes the character is comical and blunt while in other scenes the character delivers emotional, heartfelt lines that are designed to strike a chord with audience members.

The actors found playing the part of Everybody to be a great opportunity and learning experience, but the multi-layered role also came with some challenges. The trio had to think deeply about the script and reflect on their personal life experiences in order to fully portray Everybody.

"In order to get into the mindset of this character, I had to see myself dying and what the stages of that [would] look like. How would I act? How would I sound? How would I be if I was getting ready to die?" said junior theatre major Ma'chel Martin, who also plays Everybody, in an interview with The Journal.

Blurry black and white video clips of the actors in another location were interspersed throughout the show to depict a dream-like state of mind. Plays don't ordinarily include film segments, so for some cast members, it was a chance for them to try film acting for the first time. In addition to incorporating video, the heavy use of audio, lighting and other technical elements differentiated "Everybody" from the theatre department's past productions.



Courtesy of Stratton McCrady

Ma'chel Martin, who played one of the three Everybodies

Every year, professionals from the Boston area are invited by the theatre department to work with students on different parts of the show, giving them experience collaborating with people outside the Suffolk community and the chance to build connections with established individuals in the industry. "University theatre and outside theatre can be two different things, so it's interesting to bring an outside perspective into the world I've been in for four years," said senior theatre major and production stage manager Julia Bregy in an interview with The Journal.

"Everybody" was directed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology Senior Lecturer Anna Kohler, who has been an actress and director both on-stage and on-screen for years. Some of the plays she has directed have

been performed all over the world, from Brazil to Germany.

"She's such a smart director and she sees things that I've never seen another director go near before," said Steinbach.

Through the production of "Everybody," students were able to form long-lasting relationships, both with the outside professionals working with them and with their fellow cast and crew members. After the show, the students hoped that the audience responded to the play and was somehow impacted by its deeper message.

"I hope this impacts everybody in some way, whether it's a positive or negative way, just as long as they get impacted," said Martin.



Courtesy of Stratton McCrady

Kane Harper in the role of "Death"



Shayla Manning / Journal Staff

A group of musicians and music fans pose at the club's last open mic event of the semester on Friday

Suffolk Musicians Network hosts final jam session of the year

Shayla Manning
Journal Staff
@shaylamanning37

Among utter silence from an entranced crowd, a haunting rendition of Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide" floated through the ears of students gathered on the third floor of Sawyer last Friday night for the Suffolk Musicians Network's (SMN) final open mic of the semester.

The student organization is a collaboration of musicians and avid music listeners. Its intention is to provide a space for members to jam together and talk about their favorite artists and genres.

Gianna Brimlow, president of SMN, was intrigued by the idea of the club, which has existed for several years on campus. However, she wanted to expand on what past students created within it when she became president.

"I always wanted something to do on campus that was music-based, but wasn't something I had to practice for or do group performances for," said Brimlow in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "I wanted to create something that was more

solo-oriented, but also a way to network with other people who are also music enthusiasts like me."

The club dwindled after its entire executive board graduated last year, so Brimlow, who was a member of the Network in her early years at the university, contacted The Performing Arts Office to open it back up and start holding meetings again this year.

With the help of Social Media and Public Relations Chair Dylan Shamy, Brimlow rejuvenated SMN, bringing forth a new platform for music fans at Suffolk.

"We just like to talk about music, new and old, and host events like karaoke or open mic nights, or even jam sessions, where members can just rent out the band room and everyone plays music with each other," said Shamy in an interview with The Journal.

Along with hosting events and jam sessions, SMN also has a blog that features coverage of live shows, reviews, music news and a forum for musicians and fans to share their thoughts on trending topics.

Brimlow, a journalism major, wanted to tie together her love of music

and writing, and the blog was the perfect way to do so.

"I feel like every other college I toured before Suffolk had more than

fashion. As the night proceeded, more and more individuals were drawn into the room by the sounds being shared.

While the main focus

a folk-inspired set consisting of covers and original songs, with his confident vocals and acoustic guitar sending chills through the audience.

"I want to welcome people in and show them to not be afraid to be who they really are," said Cassella. "They don't have to worry about being alone, because we're all alone together, and we're all one and the same here. So, I just want to welcome more people next year, as well as do more of the open mics."

Cassella also touched upon how the open mic provides him with an incentive to create more and refine his work as an artist.

"I really like the open mics, because they keep me going with writing more. I just want to be heard, not just at town shows or bars, but by people in my Suffolk community as well too," said Cassella.

Brimlow closed out the night with a set driven by heavy electric guitar, and emotional original work. She premiered a new song "Cycle," a raw expression of love and doubt.

SMN meets every Tuesday during activities period at Beacon Room 104. The club is always welcoming new members to come and share their love of music.



Shayla Manning / Journal Staff

Gianna Brimlow shares her music on stage with the audience

two publications that students could write for, so I wanted to create something that could progress after I was gone," said Brimlow.

Events like the open mic on Friday allow performers to showcase their talent in a laid-back

of the night was music, the dance group Fusion Dhamaka also took the stage for a performance of K-pop and Bollywood inspired dance.

Among the other performers of the night was Gio Cassella, vice president of SMN. He delivered

Since Brimlow and Shamy are graduating this semester, Cassella will be one of the main members moving forward. When asked about his plans for the club in the years to come, Cassella said he simply wants to build on what Brimlow has created.

FIND YOUR HAPPY PLACE

Pop-up exhibit is ready for your Instagram close-up

Sarah Lukowski
Journal Staff
@thesarahdipity



Courtesy of Bethany Kattwinkel



Courtesy of Bethany Kattwinkel



Courtesy of Bethany Kattwinkel



Sarah Lukowski / Journal Staff



Courtesy of Bethany Kattwinkel



Sarah Lukowski / Journal Staff

The interactive and immersive pop-up exhibit, "Happy Place," is a picture heaven with larger-than-life installations and 12 multi-sensory themed rooms on a mission to spread happiness and positivity during its two-month run in Boston.

The exhibit has had successful stops in Los Angeles, Toronto and Chicago. Half a million people have visited the innovative experience so far.

"Happy Place," which occupies the former space of Marshall's on Boylston Street, is 13,000 square feet of whimsical areas and Instagram-worthy rooms including a cookie room that smells like freshly baked cookies, 6-foot tall X's and O's covered in thousands of mirrored squares, a confetti dome, a giant rainbow with a "pot of happiness" ball pit, a room filled with 40,000 handmade gold flowers, an upside down room and several other rooms that will spark joy.

For a local spin, "Happy Place" features the hand painted work of Coco Roy, a Boston filmmaker, musician and painter. A floor installation of candy hearts also features the lyrics of Boston's beloved musical icons like Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch and New Edition.

"Boston is one of my favorite cities in the whole world," Jared Paul, founder

of "Happy Place," said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "I like that everyone from Boston is proud to be from Boston...it's a city where living here means something."

Paul, a Los Angeles-based talent manager and producer who manages New Kids on the Block and other performers, is a father of three children and enjoys going to immersive places with his kids to play and interact. Paul wanted to go a step further and create his own interactive exhibit.

"I wanted to do something with my skills that was positive and so I realized that the world is unfortunately challenged," Paul said in an interview with The Journal. "What I want people to experience is joy and make that our goal and not be shy about it."

This joy is reflected in the playful rooms with vibrant coloring, professional lighting and even the food – M&M's and a cookie from Boston Baking – that you can snack on along the way.

"Happy Place" is expecting tens of thousands of visitors over the course of the two months that the exhibit is in Boston. With timed entry and "Happy Place" being open six days a week, there is plenty of opportunity for people to

buy tickets.

"It's just a time of year where it's getting a little warmer and people want to do things so I'm very hopeful," Paul said. "It does appear that the city of Boston is embracing us."

"Happy Place" also features a lemonade stand where the net proceeds will benefit two local non-profits. In April they will be benefiting Action for Boston Community Development and their partner for the month of May will be announced at a later date.

Of course, the Instagram-worthy walls and interactive rooms draw in loads of celebrities and social media influencers, with many high-profile names Instagramming their time at the exhibit such as Kourtney Kardashian, Olivia Wilde and Hilary Duff. Boston's "Happy Place" already had musician and former Fifth Harmony member, Ally Brooke, visit the exhibit during its preview days.

"I expect to have people who are well known in Boston as it has become something that seems like a must visit," the creator said.

Paul is always thinking ahead to the next great thing to feature in the exhibit and he plans to add more elements to

the Boston exhibit along the way.

"I got a list a mile long of things we haven't gotten to yet," Paul said. "One of the things we've been doing is making sure we have a little bit of a local flavor."

Paul and his team also plan to take this show around the world, and introduced it to all kinds of cities across America that typically don't see exhibits like this.

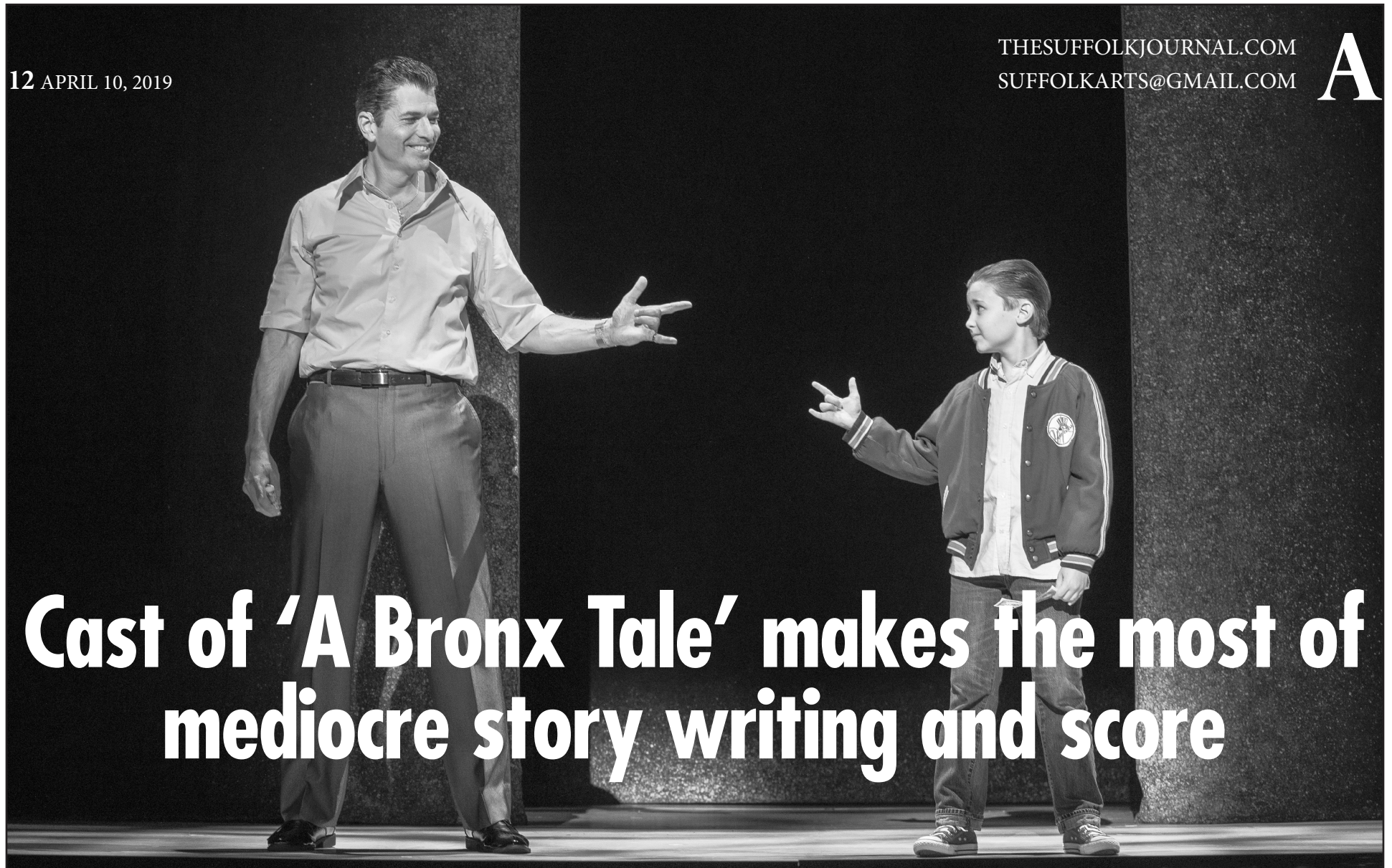
"It's amazing to be in such a huge city like Boston, but there are a lot of other cities that don't get anything like this," the veteran manager and founder said. "I don't see why this wouldn't be well received everywhere."

If you need to escape from the hustle of final projects, put your best smile on and come visit "Happy Place" at 500 Boylston St. to immerse yourself in a creative and lively environment.

"I don't think I can cure anyone's problems or the world's problems, but if maybe they leave out the back door just a little bit happier than when they walked in the front door maybe on a small level that can make the world a little bit better," Paul said.

A general admission ticket to the exhibit starts at \$30 and will be spreading happiness to Bostonians until June 2.

Cast of 'A Bronx Tale' makes the most of mediocre story writing and score



Courtesy of Joan Marcus

Joe Barbara in the role of "Sonny" and Frankie Leoni in the role of "Young Calogero"

Sarah Turley
Journal Staff
@SarahCTurley

"A Bronx Tale" transports audience members inside the Citizens Bank Opera House back to the 1960s, as the touring Broadway musical depicts a coming-of-age story about a young boy witnessing a murder and then spending his life helping a local gangster.

The show begins with Calogero, played by Joey Barreiro, setting the scene by describing his home on Belmont Avenue in the Bronx, a street that overflows with proud Italian culture from the butcher selling salami to the gangs running the neighborhood.

After young Calogero watches Sonny, a gangster played by Joe Barbara, kill a man in front of his house, Calogero's life becomes intertwined with the mafia as he becomes the prized friend of the most feared gangster in town. The mobsters are shown as a comedically dysfunctional family instead of terrifying criminals.

Only once throughout the musical is Calogero put against them, and even then, he isn't afraid of them.

This part of the musical was somewhat strange as a grown man fully welcomes a young boy into the hard life of being a gangster. Most of the characters have no prob-

lem with Sonny bringing Calogero into this life at such a young age, except for the boy's parents, who are the only ones that seem to think realistically throughout the show. There were scenes

father's footsteps as a bus driver. Despite Lorenzo explicitly stating he does not want his son to waste his talents, for some reason, Calogero thinks his father wants him to become a bus driver like

have a problem with their interracial love.

The central plotline of the musical focuses on Calogero choosing between following the lead of his loving father or newly befriended,

relationship felt unfinished and was buried by the other parts of the show.

The score of the musical was unimpressive. It didn't negatively affect the show but it didn't add anything remark-

if this is even a musical, or just a play with some songs thrown in.

However, the cast's voices always remained on pitch despite having to dance through many of the numbers, and they never seemed to run out of breath. Specifically, Barreiro's voice was incredibly consistent throughout his many belting notes.

The stage design was minimalistic yet powerful. The use of a backdrop full of fire escapes and apartment stoops creates an easily believable metropolitan environment. A large mesh screen dropped in some scenes, revealing a glowing dark red building used to convey the tight-knit community of Belmont Avenue. The eye-catching set stood out to audience members, making it feel much more important than the individual characters.

The production ends with Calogero concluding his story by saying he left Belmont Avenue and returns sometimes to visit, without describing what he's doing now or if he has left the mob life behind. The play does the title justice by indeed telling "A Bronx Tale," a short story that leaves the audience needing more information to fully grasp the plot.

"A Bronx Tale" will run at the Citizens Bank Opera House until April 14 and tickets can be purchased online or at the box office.



Courtesy of Joan Marcus

(Foreground, L to R) Haley Hannah, Joseph Sammour, Joshua Michael Burrage, Giovanni DiGabriele, Sean Bell, Kyli Rae. (Background, L to R) Robert Pieranunzi, Michael Barra, Paul Salvatoriello and Mike Backes.

where the plot felt rushed because characters acted rashly on their emotions, without considering the consequences.

Calogero's parents, especially his father Lorenzo, a "working man" played by Richard Blake, do not want him to be a part of the dangerous gangster lifestyle. However, Calogero does not want to follow in his

him.

Amidst this dilemma, the protagonist quickly falls in love with a beautiful girl named Jane, played by Brianna-Marie Bell, who is from a predominantly African-American neighborhood on Webster Avenue. Sonny has no problem with Jane and Calogero's relationship, but Calogero's seemingly sweet-hearted father does

charming gangster.

The beginning of the show highlighted the romance between Calogero and Jane, but as the show continued, their love story was put on the backburner to focus on the conflict between the two neighborhoods. Other than the ending when Calogero described his love for Jane as "one of the great ones," their rela-

able either. Music is used by directors to add more emotion behind scenes, and while the soundtrack did convey a message, it did not make the show more impactful or the audience more sympathetic. The songs simply repeated what the actors said in the previous scenes. The music seemed so out of place that it was questionable



Editorial

Progress, regression on LGBTQ+ rights across the globe

This month, Suffolk celebrates its Pride Month in recognition of the contributions and successes of the LGBTQ+ community both on-campus and off. This year, there's plenty to celebrate. As reported in The Suffolk Journal on April 3, the Massachusetts State Legislature recently voted on a bill to ban conversion therapy for minors in the Commonwealth. On Monday, Gov. Charlie Baker signed the bill into law, making Massachusetts the 16th state to ban conversion therapy, which aims to "convert" LGBTQ+ youth to heterosexuality. The practice has been

described by Dr. Douglas Haldeman as "pseudoscientific," "harmful," and generally considered bad medical practice in a 1999 article on the practice by Haldeman. CBS News reported that, besides being incredibly harmful, the practice almost always fails at changing the sexual orientation of patients. The ban, which garnered bipartisan support, passed the House 147-8 and passed the Senate 34-0. Meanwhile, a world away in a nation that few have heard of, one of the largest rollbacks

of LGBTQ+ rights is underway. Brunei, a predominantly Muslim nation with a population comparable to the city of Boston, recently enacted a strict interpretation of Sharia law that outlaws homosexuality, a crime now punishable by death by stoning. The small South Asian nation, which ironically bears the official name "the Nation of Brunei, the Abode of Peace," faced international backlash, but implemented the law anyways. The dichotomy between the recent victory for LGBTQ+ rights

in Massachusetts and the abject moral failure in Brunei demonstrate the reality that all members of the LGBTQ+ community are not treated equally across the globe. That must change. That in 2019 a developed nation — or any nation, for that matter — engages in such a barbaric practice is beyond deplorable. Even worse is the Sultan of Brunei's eagerness to cloak such an inhumane practice under the guise of religion. Members of all communities, especially marginalized groups, should have a reasonable

expectation of equality across the globe. The United States federal government must send a message to the world that their priority is the advancement of basic human rights at home and abroad. This includes, but is not limited to, the recall of all diplomats in countries that violate human rights such as Brunei, cessation of any and all foreign aid to such nations, and the strictest possible sanctions. Domestically, initiatives such as U.S. Rep. Patrick Maloney's (D-NY) bill to ban taxpayer funding of conversion therapy

at the national level should be wholeheartedly endorsed by officials from both major political parties. Anti-discrimination laws must be enforced. Above all, voters must hold their elected officials accountable for their actions on discrimination. While our society has made great strides towards equality and equity at home and abroad, we must commit ourselves to tirelessly advocating for marginalized groups to ensure their access to institutional and social justice. ~The Suffolk Journal Staff

Artists' work must stop going unappreciated

Ryan Arel
Opinion Editor
@RyanArel16
Morgan Hume
Arts Editor
@morganmhume

Imagine a world with no paintings, no music, no poetry, no books, no Netflix, nothing. Imagine going home on a Friday night after a long work week with no series to binge-watch. Imagine walking home or working out at the gym with no music to play through your headphones. It's important for people to realize that art exists everywhere, not just in galleries and museums. People consume art every day through widely used forms of media, such as music and film. Our society as a whole would suffer without the arts, so why do so many people discourage students from learning about it? There are people of all social classes, backgrounds and levels of education who do not value the arts, even though it is a powerful force that is worthy of merit. Nothing in this world is appreciated until it's taken away. Slashing funding for the arts in schools and low starting salaries for careers in the arts jobs have led to a lack of respect for people work-

ing in the arts, theatre and music industry. The arts, however, contribute more to our daily lives than we think. The arts provide a medium to help process our emotions. It's easy to listen to a song or watch a movie that you see a part of yourself in and it's easy to see different parts of yourself in a character on stage. It's hard to believe many of our readers don't have different playlists on Spotify or Apple Music for different moods they're in. The arts and the different types of media they encompass offer a more abstract way to process and understand real events as well as social issues. The real issues that we have to try and understand can often be depicted in artistic forms, helping us as individuals and a society process them using a creative medium. For example, "The Handmaid's Tale," a novel that was later adapted into a Hulu series, depicts a dystopia that alludes partially to the true events of the Iranian Revolution. There are endless other examples within the realm of films, such as "Black Hawk Down" which depicts Operation Gothic Serpent, a U.S. military operation in Somalia that took place in the early 1990s. Courses in the arts help students become more

well-rounded, think in unique and creative ways, and show how to work productively both individually and collaboratively. They also help students build key problem solving skills. If students are taught arts at a young age, then children can master these skills at a very early age which will benefit them and their creative abilities later on in life. Maintaining consistent education and understanding of the arts is essential. After all, how are you supposed to understand different types of media, or what the artist was trying to convey, without a solid foundation of arts

fluency? Another reason the arts are often devalued is because people fail to see the hard work and deep thought that goes into every painting, song or film. Those who are not educated in the arts may look at an abstract painting, for example, and think to themselves that anyone can splatter paint onto a blank canvas, hang it up on the wall and call it a masterpiece. They are blind to the deeper meaning or vision the artist intended their work to have on viewers, and therefore they cannot fully appreciate or understand the art they are looking at.

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Despite our dependence on the arts — whether we realize it or not — fiscally, the U.S. government hasn't agreed. The White House has continued to cut funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, cutting \$897 million from arts-directed funding in 2019 according to The Washington Post. If people took the time to learn about arts, they would have a greater understanding for all the craftsmanship that is into an artist's work, which would lead to a deeper appreciation. Also, if people willingly participated in the arts, such as acting in a play, they would gain a better sense of the amount of tireless hours and extensive thought that goes into making a show. The same can be said for film, paintings and any other medium. Art has the power to change culture and spread important messages. Although it is a creative outlet, it has the power to stir conversation and bring certain social issues to the surface. Artists aren't just hippies carelessly doodling on scrap sheets of paper — many artists are well-educated and well-attuned people who aim to use their medium to express significant messages to viewers. It's okay if arts is not something that interests you, but that doesn't

mean it is not valuable. Something being interesting and something being valuable are two different things, but often times the people who don't like arts are quick to judge it as fluffy and not taken seriously. Some find sports obsolete while others find the same with mathematics. When it comes to making a career out of being an artist, there is a stigma that full-time artists do not work as hard as people in other industries, such as those in the medical field. Although most artists do not hold doctorate degrees, their work can still uphold the same amount of respect and importance of a doctor's. While doctors spend years perfecting their own craft, artists also do the same with theirs. The realities facing the "starving artist" and the term itself must be eradicated from our society. It's time that we as a society, a nation and a world community finally understand that art cannot be created to its fullest potential without proper funding for the arts and support for all artists. We take the work of artists for granted on a daily basis, both in our morale and our direction of funds. It's time we give artists the recognition, praise and fiscal strength that they deserve.

Congestion pricing could solve Boston's infamous traffic problem



Ryan Arel / Opinion Editor

A packed highway in Allston plagued by bumper-to-bumper traffic outside of rush hour in Boston, which ranked as the worst city for traffic in the U.S. in 2019.

Kyle Crozier
News Editor

Amy Koczera
World News Editor
@AmyKoczera

As New York City follows through with their plan to establish the traffic reduction policy called congestion pricing, Boston is still unwilling to move forward with this proven path for change.

Congestion pricing is a method of deterring drivers during peak commuting times by tolling drivers as they enter a certain part of the city. New York's plan proposes a toll that would amount to around \$11 a day for most drivers to enter Manhattan below 60th Street, according to The Boston Globe.

This new method of controlling traffic at peak times is meant to reduce drivers' carbon footprints in the city, relieve gridlock and provide billions of dollars towards the city that could be allocated to improving their public transit system; all of which are traffic symptoms that are not unique to New York, and are issues that Boston has tried and mostly failed to tackle in the last several decades.

The reasons for Boston's slow response to

downtown congestion are unclear, especially with the knowledge that the city recently rose above New York as the No. 1 ranked American city for traffic congestion, according to a transportation

into the slim budgets of many drivers, and needs to be addressed.

Although congestion pricing also imposes a cost onto the driver, it does so at a price that is expected to be far less than the

hidden cost of sitting in traffic every day. In addition to this, the policy would encourage drivers to travel using public transit systems at a lower cost than driving would be, only further reducing the

Big Dig project which was completed in 2006.

The project was extremely costly, and while it did reduce some congestion in the short term, there has still been a recurring demand for the

to drive into the city in order to avoid train delays. However, with the introduction of congestion pricing, money generated from the policy could be used to improve the functioning of Boston's public transportation system.

In addition to improving the MBTA, congestion pricing will also significantly reduce carbon emissions within the city of Boston. This will help the city to achieve its sustainability goals for the future, and will also improve the quality of public health in the long-term for Boston residents.

The policy is not a new concept; London put a similar plan in place in 2003 that has since reduced congestion by 15 percent and increased traffic speeds by 30 percent, all while reducing the economic load on drivers and increasing the air quality of the city, according to the Transport for London.

London was the first step in proving the effectiveness of congestion pricing, and New York is likely to be the second piece of evidence in its favor. If Boston does not implement this change soon, the plague of traffic is likely to continue to spread, and our public transit will not be able to save us.

The 10 worst cities in the U.S. for traffic tie ups

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Boston, MA | 6. Seattle, WA |
| 2. Washington, DC | 7. Pittsburgh, PA |
| 3. Chicago, IL | 8. San Francisco, CA |
| 4. New York City, NY | 9. Philadelphia, PA |
| 5. Los Angeles, CA | 10. Portland, OR |

Data according to the 2019 INRIX Global Traffic Scorecard

analysis firm INRIX.

The same firm reported that the average commuter in Boston is estimated to spend 164 hours a year stuck in mind-numbing gridlock, which is estimated to cost drivers \$2,291 annually. The cost of this inconvenience both in time and money eats

economic pressure placed on drivers.

Many people travel using their privately-owned vehicles for comfort purposes with the idea that it will ultimately save more time than taking public transportation. However, despite any attempts on the individual

level to avoid traffic, congestion is still inevitable, especially during peak rush hour times.

As long as the roads are free, there will be no disincentive to drive into the city. Boston has made prior attempts to lighten up traffic congestion through the decades-long

use of the highways. The less traffic that exists, the more people will want to drive into the city, which ultimately leads to an increased buildup of traffic in the long-term.

Boston's MBTA system is widely criticized for being slow, which often encourages individuals

Freshman softball player hits past all expectations

Joe Rice
Journal Staff
@josephrice1997

Freshman Caitlin Murphy, an outfielder for the Suffolk University softball team, has provided an instant impact to the 11-9 Lady Rams. Her recent success could potentially be the spark that the team hopes will bring a Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Championship to campus.

The first-year player, fresh off a state title at Abington High School, realized she would flex her ability of being an outstanding fielder almost

been working really well for me this season."

The technique of "slapping" the softball is a unique style of hitting. The batter, standing on the left side of the plate, attempts to place the softball in a given area while shifting their momentum towards first base. It is almost like the player is beginning to run while hitting the softball. The idea of slapping the ball is to get a runner on base early in innings.

As a result of adapting to this hitting style,

Senior Mackenzie McGrath has been impressed by the play of Murphy and included that her addition has been massive to the Lady Rams.

"I think with the combination of her speed and the contact she makes as a power slapper, it makes for the perfect lead-off [hitter] in the lineup," said McGrath in a recent interview with The Journal. "It's always crucial to start off the game and get someone on the bases and I think she's done a great job at finding her way on."

Despite her strong physical talents, Murphy believes that the intangible skill of being mentally strong has been the main reason for her success this early in her collegiate career. Murphy said the need to have a short memory while playing softball was something she was taught at a young age.

"I've just been playing how I learned to play—composed, confident, being a positive teammate and having a short memory," said Murphy. "Those are some of the key mental aspects of the game that my coaches ingrained in me, and they are what I attach much of my success this year to."

McGrath, in her final season wearing a Lady Rams' uniform, admits the team has been close to a GNAC Championship in years past but have not been able to get past the hump. This year, with help from underclassmen like Murphy, she is confident a title could be coming their way later this spring.

The Lady Rams, in the midst of a five-game winning streak, are just as hot as Murphy right now. They will look to continue the streak of positive results against Becker College in a double-header on Wednesday.



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

right away for the Lady Rams. What she did not expect though was the instant success she has sustained at the plate.

"Defensively, I expected myself to excel as it's always been my stand-out," said Murphy in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "But not really offensively. I've bunted a lot in the past as well as hit, but had never utilized slapping anywhere near as much as I do now, and it's

Murphy currently owns a .404 batting average in 18 appearances, which is good for best on the team by nearly 60 percentage points.

On top of the best average within the Lady Rams, Murphy leads the team in on base percentage (.467), slugging percentage (.481) and runs scored (12). Her eight runs batted in places her in a tie for third place on the squad.



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

Freshman Caitlin Murphy lays down a slap bunt, something that she commonly does at bat.



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

Murphy currently leads her team in on base percentage, slugging percentage and runs score.



@RochieWBZ:

Dustin Pedroia has been reinstated from DL; Lin sent down. Pedroia will not bar leadoff today - @wbz #WBZ



HELP WANTED:

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Contact the sports team by
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Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

Andrew Pease
Journal Staff
@The_AndrewLaird

More than halfway through the season, the Suffolk's baseball team has continued to have a successful run, accumulating 17 wins and a perfect 10-0 conference record.

The team's last conference win came in a double-header versus Anna Maria College on Sunday, where in the first game, Suffolk lefty Worth Walrod threw a no-hitter in a 5-0 game.

"Walrod has really stepped up as a senior leader on the mound, he has dominant stuff and we

know we can beat anyone when he steps on the mound," said senior Tim Brigham in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Walrod's performance on Sunday is the peak of an above average season on the mound for the Rams, as they rank in the top five of the Greater Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) in earned run average, strikeouts and walks given up.

The Ram's identity, however, lies in their bats. Suffolk currently leads the GNAC in total hits and runs batted in (RBI) and is third in on-base percentage.

"Offensively, we've had contributions up and down the lineup all season. When we are all hitting well at the same

time, this is a really scary lineup," said Brigham.

For many of the Rams, Brigham has been the key to their offensive this year. The junior infielder set the Suffolk record for doubles only 25 games into the season. He has had 41 hits and 32 RBI's, all while batting an average of .410, fifth best in the GNAC and better than Suffolk's average by more than 25 percent.

"Brigham's bat has been red-hot all season long... and he's showing no signs of slowing down," said captain Trevor Lee in an interview with The Journal. "Hitting is contagious and our lineup has fed off of his success throughout the entire season."

The season got off to a bit of a rough start down in Florida, when the Rams went 5-6 on their out of conference road trip.

"When we were struggling at times during our Florida trip, I kept telling the guys not to panic because we were still at the point where we were searching for our identity and figuring out how our team this year will win baseball games," said Lee.

Since then the Rams have found a better rhythm, winning 12 of their last 16 games

including an eight-game streak at one point. The Rams refuse to be handed losses though and are currently on another win streak of four games.

Suffolk has been able to reinvent itself in the last few years in order to become a multiyear contender. The Rams went to the GNAC championship game the last 12 years, and has been victorious the last four years.

Once a power hitting, long ball team, that stat has become one of the least impressive facts about this squad, as they only have six home runs on the season, ranking them in the bottom half of the GNAC.

Though not a team that will often send balls over the fences, this Rams team decided to craft a winning formula through defense and base hits, choosing speed over power.

"Our strengths are our athleticism on our roster...we've been pretty good in the middle of our lineup in terms of driving in runs," said Del Prete in an interview with The Journal. "The other guys have done a really good job setting the table and getting on base. For us, it's a matter of getting a lead and holding it."

For many, the burden of Suffolk's success is the

fear of being the team that does not continue it. Del Prete continually reminds the team that every game counts the same in the regular season and that every team is gunning for them and the title.

The Rams, as any team with championship aspirations, use the

achieve that goal. Despite that, Suffolk is in first place in the GNAC, with some players already having bigger aspirations.

"I think we could definitely get by the first round [of the regionals]," said senior captain Charles Batchelder in an interview with The Journal. "I don't



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

Pitcher Worth Walrod threw a no-hitter on Sunday against Anna Maria College.

regular season as a tune up for the playoffs. At the beginning of the season, Suffolk set their own win goal at 30, continuing a tradition implemented since Del Prete took over.

Now that the Rams sit at 17 wins, with only 13 games left, Suffolk would have to win the rest of their games in order to

think there's any reason we cannot win three or four games and get past that first divisional round and I think this year we have the team to do it."

The Rams play Wheaton College Wednesday at 4 p.m. in their continued search for excellence and dominance in the GNAC.



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

The Suffolk baseball team at the mound.