2019 BOSTON MARATHON: More than just a race

Read the story on page 16

New provost chosen

Suffolk University announced on Tuesday the appointment of Julie Sandell as its next senior vice president for academic affairs and provost.

Dedication to Samia

The Suffolk community gathered on Friday to dedicate the Leonard J. Samia Academic Center, formally 20 Somerset Street, in honor of Leonard J. Samia.

See PROVOST - 3

See SAMIA - 2
father.

For the nearly 130 freshmen who are among the first group of Samia Scholars, the program has had an even more concrete influence on their education than the newly named academic building. Jocelyn de Paz, a freshman biology major with a concentration in medical careers, said she might have been unable to afford college had she not received Samia's scholarship. Her younger brother was diagnosed with cancer when she started looking at colleges and her family was under a severe financial strain as Boston and now here I am, finishing my first year and having so many amazing experiences, being the first in my family to ever attend college and supporting my brother as he finishes his fight against cancer," said de Paz. Other Samia Scholars at the event also shared how grateful they were for the opportunity Samia provided them.

"Being a Samia Scholar has really led the way for me coming to Suffolk and becoming a student here," said Dan Sokol, a computer science major, in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "I'm putting myself through college so this is a really big step in me actually going to college and attending," Kelly said. Samia has a special connection with each of the Samia Scholars. "I think Lenny sees a bit of himself in these students," said Kelly. "He rightly sees potential and the exponential good that comes when potential is unlocked."

Samia graduated from Suffolk in 1969 with a bachelor's of science degree in business administration. He bought his first building on a Visa credit card for $500 and now owns more than 5,000 buildings as the president and CEO of The Samia Companies, his family-owned real estate company. Both of Samia's daughters have attended Suffolk and he has previously made other donations to the university. He also attributes much of his success to his time at Suffolk.

Caroline Enos / Asst. News Editor

(Left) President Marisa Kelly, Leonard Samia, Robert Lamb
Sustainability Committee prepares for Earth Week

**Monday, April 22**
- **Green Building Campus Tour**
  - Led by Andre Vega, Suffolk University’s Director of Campus Planning, Design and Construction.
  - **Time:** 2:30-3:00 PM
  - **Location:** Sangrey Blue Sky Lounge

**Tuesday, April 23**
- **Farmers Market**
  - Local foods and vegetables, co-sponsored with Sodexo.
  - **Time:** 11:00-2:00 PM
  - **Location:** 73 Harvest lobby

**Wednesday, April 24**
- **Sustainability Film Screening**
  - The End of the Earth
  - **Time:** 6:00-8:00 PM
  - **Location:** Seneca II

**Search for new provost concludes, Boston University associate provost chosen to lead**

From PROVOST - 1

Sandell, the Boston University (BU) senior associate provost and faculty member of the BU School of Medicine, was chosen by Suffolk President Marisa Kelly to continue the university’s work toward their 2025 strategic plan.

“Her experiences doing just those kinds of things are really going to be helpful as we move forward in the implementation of our plan,” said Kelly.

Sandell participated in the creation of BU’s first strategic plan, sought to make changes to the faculty and administration, diversity, professional development, work/life balance issues, among others.

As Suffolk creates its own strategic plan, the 2025 plan, Sandell hopes to implement changes in order to add more transparency between different roles at Suffolk.

“It’s important to be as transparent as you possibly can,” Sandell said in a Q&A with Suffolk University. “I think that having a strategic plan is the best tool for transparency that a leader can have when making tough decisions about where to invest money or where to invest effort or what’s going to be a priority.”

One of many major decisions that Sandell will be involved in within the coming year will be whether or not to establish two new schools at Suffolk, a School of Public Relations and an Honors School.

Although these are both still being investigated as options for the university in the future, Kelly highlighted that Sandell’s interdisciplinary work would be an asset to something like an Honors School.

“I know that Suffolk is considering an Honors college which I think is potentially a way to bring students together from across all three schools,” said Sandell in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “I’d love to explore ways in which an honors college could be more than just prior academic achievement. I think there are a lot of ways to bring students together, a little bit of pulling them out of their colleges and make it more cohesive for them.”

The position Sandell is assuming has traditionality acted as a go-between for faculty, students and administrators across all three of Suffolk’s schools.

Sandell expressed hope to be the connection between all parts of the university, which is reminiscent of what The Journal reported on as what Kelly’s goals would be upon being appointed as provost in 2014.

“I want to help,” the leadership of the university understand what the challenges are for faculty and students,” said Sandell.

“I really enjoy helping faculty understand where the administration is coming from with what they were trying to accomplish.”

The University has highlighted Sandell’s past in working with diversity and inclusion on campus, something that President Kelly believes the provost can help with in having an honest conversation on where the university stands.

As one of the main goals of Kelly’s presidency, Sandell’s diversity and inclusion focus could help to better improve the efforts of faculty hiring.

“From an organizational perspective, that may or may not be any impact in terms of what we are doing here (with diversity), but from a commitment perspective and providing leadership and helping us achieve our diversity and inclusion goals, particularly with respect to faculty hiring,” said Kelly.

With her experience as a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force at BU, Sandell wants to involve students directly in the decision-making process to make the Suffolk community more diverse.

“The person in the provost position is the person who has to view across the student needs, the budgets needs, the administrative needs. But first I look towards the students,” said Sandell. “I really look towards the students themselves as the first and foremost generator of ideas for how I can serve them better.”

Kelly felt that Sandell’s experience teaching anatomy and neurobiology at BU’s School of Medicine for the 28 years has prepared her to work across departments and disciplines.

“While in this position, Sandell was nominated as the school’s Educator of the Year eight times, has been published widely and was responsible for more than $5 million dollars in research funding for BU.

“The experience she brings in that regard will be really helpful as we consider new opportunities in the future,” said Kelly. “It is also that neurobiology is also very interdisciplinary in itself, so having someone very much dedicated to interdisciplinary work, in general, is a real plus from my perspective.”

As Sandell looks towards her new role as Suffolk’s new Provost starting August 1, she highlights her main reason for getting into higher education.

“At the end of the day, I am in higher education to serve students,” said Sandell. “If we are going to serve students to the best of our abilities, that’s the purpose of having an administration for the university.”
Sawyer Business School adds Masters of Management Studies program to increase student options post graduation

Kaitlin Hahn
News Editor
@KaitlinHahn

Suffolk University, in an effort to expand on student opportunities after their bachelor’s degrees, has decided to adopt a new Master of Management Studies (MMS) program out of the Sawyer Business School’s Management and Entrepreneurship.

This program, which is specifically targeted for students who did not study business during their undergrad, hopes to create an environment for those students to hone in on their management skills to further their careers, according to Associate Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship and Director of MMS program, Laurie Levesque.

“We are encouraging students who are in liberal arts or STEM majors to consider it as an add-on, to help them position themselves in the job market as someone more poised for advancement,” said Levesque to The Suffolk Journal. “For students who have had similar content as the MMS, they are better off working for a few years and coming back when they are ready either to progress as a manager or if they have already been promoted.”

The program hopes to reach students both locally in Boston as well as internationally. The MMS program hopes to ensure all graduates have a well-rounded background to enter the business field.

“We have been working on providing opportunities for students to really hone in on the areas of study that they are most interested in and to build that expertise. So we see ourselves as a piece of that puzzle by giving an opportunity to round out their background experience and to have more career progression opportunities going forward,” said Sheila Webber, the chair of the Entrepreneurship and Management department at Suffolk to The Journal.

The degree will require a total of 11 courses, which can either be taken part-time and require at the most two years of coursework, or full-time, which can take up to a year. The course will have a mandatory introduction course, two prerequisite courses, six core courses and the final capstone course.

The courses have a mix of topics, including what is covered by the Entrepreneurship and Management Department for undergraduates, as well as others that focus more on management.

“What we are really pushing with this degree is two intertwining areas; one is management skills and content where the students will learn more about diverse workplaces, how to create learning organizations, how to manage day to day difficulties, how to handle difficult conversations, how to negotiate, etc,” said Levesque. “The other thing we are really excited to have and what I think is unique to the program is a focus on the individual’s personal development, an understanding of who they are; their personality, their preferences, their biases.”

One of the goals at the start of the course is to have as much of a diverse student population as possible, according to Webber.

“We will attract a variety in backgrounds and experiences, which is always beneficial for the classroom environment. A variety is what we are hoping for,” said Webber.

With the goal to keep the course as relevant as possible, past alumni of the Sawyer Business School (SBS) will have a say on what goes into the program.

“We’re launching a Young Professional Management Advisory Board for alumni to give insight to keep this degree current but also use their networks and energy to build up the co-curricular side,” said Levesque.

Much like the opportunities offered to undergraduates, the MMS program has various study-abroad opportunities for students going through the program. These experiences are incorporated into their program-ending capstone, which focuses on combining all the experiences of the course into one.

“They will think about who they are and how they continue to develop themselves as a leader and in a way develop a career action plan for how they are going to implement this. They are going to walk away with a personal leadership philosophy and the experience of working with clients.”

- Laurie Levesque

This week in SGA...

Caroline Enos / Asst. News Editor
@CarolineEnos

At the April 11 meeting, SGA passed a resolution written by Senator at Large Jared Marshall that recommends the university mandate that “all assignments for courses in CAS and SBS shall be graded and returned to students in person and on Blackboard before the deadline for the Early Alert Project if the due date is before then, and all assignments with due dates after the Early Alert Project deadline for professors to submit final grades to the Registrar for that semester,” according to the resolution. It also states that faculty should list all grades for the semester “on Blackboard using a letter grade with a numerical value in parentheses in conjunction with the university’s suggested grading scale.”

SGA also passed a resolution written by Senators Luis Catalan, Amanda Hare, Youssef Hassan, Kostas Loukos and Abhy Patel that recommends the university hold ABM Industries, which maintains campus facilities, accountable for repairing elevators and fulfilling work orders in a timely manner. The resolution states this is not currently happening and it encourages the university to strictly enforce the contract it has with ABM Industries, mandate ABM to perform routine elevator checks once a month—preferably during low traffic time periods—and “create and maintain an effective line of communication between university employees and ABM Industries.”

At the April 4 meeting, Commuter Senator at Large Lukas Phipps shared a concern that Suffolk University has not made an official statement about Massachusetts passing a ban on conversion therapy for minors. Phipps asked that the members of SGA who agreed with the new bill stand up in order to give an unofficial statement about the bill on behalf of Suffolk. Every senator stood.

APRIL 17, 2019
SUFFOLKNEWS@GMAIL.COM
THESUFFOLKJOURNAL.COM
SUFFOLKNESSTHISGMAIL.COM
Kaitlin Hahn
News Editor
@KaitlinHahn

Suffolk University, in an effort to expand on student opportunities after their bachelor’s degrees, has decided to adopt a new Master of Management Studies (MMS) program out of the Sawyer Business School’s Management and Entrepreneurship.

This program, which is specifically targeted for students who did not study business during their undergrad, hopes to create an environment for those students to hone in on their management skills to further their careers, according to Associate Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship and Director of MMS program, Laurie Levesque.

“We are encouraging students who are in liberal arts or STEM majors to consider it as an add-on, to help them position themselves in the job market as someone more poised for advancement,” said Levesque to The Suffolk Journal. “For students who have had similar content as the MMS, they are better off working for a few years and coming back when they are ready either to progress as a manager or if they have already been promoted.”

The program hopes to reach students both locally in Boston as well as internationally. The MMS program hopes to ensure all graduates have a well-rounded background to enter the business field.

“We have been working on providing opportunities for students to really hone in on the areas of study that they are most interested in and to build that expertise. So we see ourselves as a piece of that puzzle by giving an opportunity to round out their background experience and to have more career progression opportunities going forward,” said Sheila Webber, the chair of the Entrepreneurship and Management department at Suffolk to The Journal.

The degree will require a total of 11 courses, which can either be taken part-time and require at the most two years of coursework, or full-time, which can take up to a year. The course will have a mandatory introduction course, two prerequisite courses, six core courses and the final capstone course.

The courses have a mix of topics, including what is covered by the Entrepreneurship and Management Department for undergraduates, as well as others that focus more on management.

“What we are really pushing with this degree is two intertwining areas; one is management skills and content where the students will learn more about diverse workplaces, how to create learning organizations, how to manage day to day difficulties, how to handle difficult conversations, how to negotiate, etc,” said Levesque. “The other thing we are really excited to have and what I think is unique to the program is a focus on the individual’s personal development, an understanding of who they are; their personality, their preferences, their biases.”

One of the goals at the start of the course is to have as much of a diverse student population as possible, according to Webber.

“We will attract a variety in backgrounds and experiences, which is always beneficial for the classroom environment. A variety is what we are hoping for,” said Webber.

With the goal to keep the course as relevant as possible, past alumni of the Sawyer Business School (SBS) will have a say on what goes into the program.

“We’re launching a Young Professional Management Advisory Board for alumni to give insight to keep this degree current but also use their networks and energy to build up the co-curricular side,” said Levesque.

Much like the opportunities offered to undergraduates, the MMS program has various study-abroad opportunities for students going through the program. These experiences are incorporated into their program-ending capstone, which focuses on combining all the experiences of the course into one.

“They will think about who they are and how they continue to develop themselves as a leader and in a way develop a career action plan for how they are going to implement this. They are going to walk away with a personal leadership philosophy and the experience of working with clients.”

- Laurie Levesque

This week in SGA...

At the April 11 meeting, SGA passed a resolution written by Senator at Large Jared Marshall that recommends the university mandate that “all assignments for courses in CAS and SBS shall be graded and returned to students in person and on Blackboard before the deadline for the Early Alert Project if the due date is before then, and all assignments with due dates after the Early Alert Project deadline for professors to submit final grades to the Registrar for that semester,” according to the resolution. It also states that faculty should list all grades for the semester “on Blackboard using a letter grade with a numerical value in parentheses in conjunction with the university’s suggested grading scale.”

SGA also passed a resolution written by Senators Luis Catalan, Amanda Hare, Youssef Hassan, Kostas Loukos and Abhy Patel that recommends the university hold ABM Industries, which maintains campus facilities, accountable for repairing elevators and fulfilling work orders in a timely manner. The resolution states this is not currently happening and it encourages the university to strictly enforce the contract it has with ABM Industries, mandate ABM to perform routine elevator checks once a month—preferably during low traffic time periods—and “create and maintain an effective line of communication between university employees and ABM Industries.”

At the April 4 meeting, Commuter Senator at Large Lukas Phipps shared a concern that Suffolk University has not made an official statement about Massachusetts passing a ban on conversion therapy for minors. Phipps asked that the members of SGA who agreed with the new bill stand up in order to give an unofficial statement about the bill on behalf of Suffolk. Every senator stood.
On Thursday afternoon, a group of student protesters gathered on Suffolk’s Roemer Plaza to protest the Student Government Association (SGA) vote a week prior to endorse the arming of the Suffolk University Police Department (SUPD).

“We believe that SGA didn’t look at a holistic campus and all the students when making this decision. We actually went to a few forums and we were very, very adamant as the few people of color there that were very, very against it,” said junior sociology major Queen-Cheyenne Wade, who was one of four students who organized the protest. “We are protesting because we feel that our concerns have not been heard.”

The demonstration began in the Roemer Plaza at the start of activities period before heading to the lobby of the 73 Tremont building. Wade explained that they had chosen this specific location in hopes of their concerns reaching members of Suffolk’s administration.

Daryl Satterwhite, a junior psychology major, worked with Wade to organize the protest. He is against the arming of SUPD, citing concerns about the way police interact with people of color in the U.S.

“In general, the relationship between law enforcement and black and brown people is just too deep rooted,” said Satterwhite in an interview with The Journal. “The power dynamic even without them being armed is way too dangerous, way too crucial already. I feel like adding guns to the mix would only make it worse and it’s probably a band aid solution to what probably the bigger problem is.”

SUPD Chief of Police and Security Gerard Coletta came to the protest to hear the students’ concerns and answer any questions the protesters had.

“We want to make sure [SUPD] is providing a service to the whole community,” said Coletta to the protesters. During their interaction, Wade noted that there are alternative solutions that could be looked into that do not involve guns, including services that are already in place.

“It is really important that we address some of the current things that can be used to reinforce the idea of safety, rather than just bringing in something entirely new that actually scares a lot of students,” said Wade in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Thursday.

Wade also cited students’ complaints that SUPD does not consistently answer calls for a police escort.

Coletta responded by thanking the protesters for bringing these issues to his attention, and noted that the numerous forums that have been held throughout the year have been beneficial to the department, as they have given him the opportunity to hear and address concerns that SUPD may have not been aware of prior, citing the escort complaint as an example.

“If you’re calling for an escort, and you’re not getting that service, I need to know that so I can address that, because that is one of the most important services that we offer,” said Coletta to the protesters.

Wade went on to question why SUPD needed to be armed when there are other local police departments in the area.

“We also already have a huge police community surrounding us; Boston Police, the statehouse security, we also have Suffolk police still here. The main question is what do we need guns for?” said Wade.

Coletta explained that the Boston Police Department is limited in terms of resources and manpower, which can impact their response time in case of emergencies.

“They have a huge geographic area that includes this campus, and they don’t always have the manpower to respond to our calls for services in a timely manner,” said Coletta. “That is why we feel that in order to protect the community, we need to have all the resources we can, especially during the times of day and night where there is a higher chance of violence around campus.”

Regardless, Satterwhite advocated for SGA to take into consideration the opinions and concerns from all across campus when voting on an issue that could impact the entire Suffolk community.

“They need to involve students more often, and if they’re going to represent all students, they need to actually do that, and not just be their own little club by themselves and only get us involved after the fact, which is kind of what happened today,” said Satterwhite.

On Thursday afternoon, a group of student protesters gathered on Suffolk’s Roemer Plaza to protest the Student Government Association (SGA) vote a week prior to endorse the arming of the Suffolk University Police Department (SUPD).

“We believe that SGA didn’t look at a holistic campus and all the students when making this decision. We actually went to a few forums and we were very, very adamant as the few people of color there that were very, very against it,” said junior sociology major Queen-Cheyenne Wade, who was one of four students who organized the protest. “We are protesting because we feel that our concerns have not been heard.”

The demonstration began in the Roemer Plaza at the start of activities period before heading to the lobby of the 73 Tremont building. Wade explained that they had chosen this specific location in hopes of their concerns reaching members of Suffolk’s administration.

Daryl Satterwhite, a junior psychology major, worked with Wade to organize the protest. He is against the arming of SUPD, citing concerns about the way police interact with people of color in the U.S.

“In general, the relationship between law enforcement and black and brown people is just too deep rooted,” said Satterwhite in an interview with The Journal. “The power dynamic even without them being armed is way too dangerous, way too crucial already. I feel like adding guns to the mix would only make it worse and it’s probably a band aid solution to what probably the bigger problem is.”

SUPD Chief of Police and Security Gerard Coletta came to the protest to hear the students’ concerns and answer any questions the protesters had.

“We want to make sure [SUPD] is providing a service to the whole community,” said Coletta to the protesters. During their interaction, Wade noted that there are alternative solutions that could be looked into that do not involve guns, including services that are already in place.

“It is really important that we address some of the current things that can be used to reinforce the idea of safety, rather than just bringing in something entirely new that actually scares a lot of students,” said Wade in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Thursday.

Wade also cited students’ complaints that SUPD does not consistently answer calls for a police escort.

Coletta responded by thanking the protesters for bringing these issues to his attention, and noted that the numerous forums that have been held throughout the year have been beneficial to the department, as they have given him the opportunity to hear and address concerns that SUPD may have not been aware of prior, citing the escort complaint as an example.

“If you’re calling for an escort, and you’re not getting that service, I need to know that so I can address that, because that is one of the most important services that we offer,” said Coletta to the protesters.

Wade went on to question why SUPD needed to be armed when there are other local police departments in the area.

“We also already have a huge police community surrounding us; Boston Police, the statehouse security, we also have Suffolk police still here. The main question is what do we need guns for?” said Wade.

Coletta explained that the Boston Police Department is limited in terms of resources and manpower, which can impact their response time in case of emergencies.

“They have a huge geographic area that includes this campus, and they don’t always have the manpower to respond to our calls for services in a timely manner,” said Coletta. “That is why we feel that in order to protect the community, we need to have all the resources we can, especially during the times of day and night where there is a higher chance of violence around campus.”

Regardless, Satterwhite advocated for SGA to take into consideration the opinions and concerns from all across campus when voting on an issue that could impact the entire Suffolk community.

“They need to involve students more often, and if they’re going to represent all students, they need to actually do that, and not just be their own little club by themselves and only get us involved after the fact, which is kind of what happened today,” said Satterwhite.
This past Monday, thousands of Parisians watched as the Notre-Dame Cathedral – one of the most iconic symbols of French pride – was engulfed in flames. This disastrous event rippled throughout the global community in a matter of minutes as tweets and photos of the fire spread rapidly on social media – striking fear, sadness and confusion in all those following the event.

However, for the Parisians that witnessed the tower’s 300-foot spire collapse before their eyes, the catastrophe not only provoked a whirlwind of emotion, but a sense of emptiness and profound loss throughout all of France.

“People everywhere in Paris have mourned almost as they would have for the loss of a close relative,” said Paris-native Raphaëlle Zitoun in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “This morning I went and visited the site, thousands of people were coming in and paying their respect. There is a sense of disbelief, we all thought something so old would outlive us all.”

The fire started at approximately 6:30 p.m., Paris time, according to The New York Times. It began in the roof area, where scaffolding was visible as renovations of the cathedral were ongoing. Soon after consuming the cathedral’s attic and about two thirds of the roof, the fire spread to the widely recognizable spire in the center of the building, according to The New York Times.

Despite much of the building’s exterior destruction, the interior of the cathedral remained relatively untouched. The stone vault ceiling was credited with saving most of the cathedral from destruction, according to CNN.

Although many suspected the fire to have initially been a terrorist attack, public officials believe the catastrophe was likely to have been the result of an accident, according to CNN. Paris prosecutors have opened an investigation that, although in its early stages, is nonetheless expected to be a long process.

Notre-Dame lies in the middle of the Seine River on what is known as the Island of the City. Having taken 850 years to build, the monument is not only a place of community and congregation for the city of Paris, but is also a profound religious symbol for Catholic faith.

Suffolk University professor of French studies and Humanities Barbara Abrams, who spent most of her formative years in Paris, expressed how both Notre-Dame’s geographical and religious significance plays a role in the lives of Parisians.

“Geographically it’s important to the French people, but in terms of the development of faith it really represents the heart of Paris,” said Abrams in an interview with The Journal. “Therefore, because Paris is the heart of the French people, I think [Notre-Dame] really is the heart of French people.

Notre-Dame is also home to many important historical artifacts and pieces of artwork. According to CNN, a human chain was formed by at least one clergyman and first responders to save the relics inside the building. Some of these saved artifacts include the Crown of Thorns, believed to have been a relic of the Passion of Christ, and the Tunic of Saint Louis.

Additionally, the stained-glass or rose windows of the building were not damaged in the fire.

Abrams explained that she received many sentiments from her friends in Paris about the fire. As the cathedral burned, people fled to the streets to pray, sing hymns together and find a sense of community amidst the disaster. Many of her friends expressed that although it is tragic, the French are focused on rebuilding the city.

“It was desolate and awful but the only way we can think about proceeding this is that there will be Notre-Dame again,” said Abrams. “It has been rebuilt three times already. It has already been through all this before. This is another iteration of the heart of Paris, and it will be the work of Paris to rebuild.”

According to CNN, French President Emmanuel Macron said that he plans on rebuilding the cathedral within five years. For first year Suffolk student Marie-France Muyumba who grew up in Paris, although the fire initially raised uncertainty and distrust, she is hopeful that people will come together to fix the building.

“I know that many billionaires in France will send donations to France to reconstruct the church,” said Muyumba in an interview with The Journal. “They had fires before and there were donations again to rebuild the church. I think the same thing is going to happen again and they are going to redo the church.”

While the fire was devastating, Abrams expressed that the international community should be grateful that this has not been declared a terrorist attack. She interpreted some of the messages that she received in French from her friends that were in Paris at the time of the fire.

“At first we were grateful to know that it wasn’t a terrorist attack. This reflected sadly on the world that we live in,” said Abrams, interpreting one sentiment she had received.

Moving forward, Paris has planned to proceed with an investigation into the cause of the fire. As Parisians mourn the loss of the history destroyed by the fire, they believe rebuilding Notre-Dame will help the French community reclaim a better understanding of the culture encapsulated within the monument.

“I am eager to see what has resisted the fire,” said Zitoun. “I truly hope that it can be rebuilt as similarly as it was, even though it will not be the same.”
Photojournalism professor to teach summer class in Armenia

Amy Koczera
World News Editor
@AmyKoczera

Photography has the power to open doors to culture and history all over the world. For Suffolk University photojournalism Professor Ken Martin, traveling is one of the most powerful ways to refine photography skills and to tell the stories of diverse cultures.

This summer, Martin will be teaching students about the art and significance of photojournalism through his three-credit class, Lens on Armenia: Photojournalism in Yerevan, at the American University of Armenia (AUA). Utilizing the ancient region of Armenia and the historical capital of Yerevan as the backdrop for this summer course, Martin plans to introduce students to the basics of photography alongside the cultural context of the nation.

“When you learn photojournalism, you are on the front lines of history,” said Martin in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “With that you learn how to act in the field and how to be a professional gatherer of information.”

As a lifelong photojournalist, Martin has experienced cultures from all over the world through teaching, traveling and taking photographs. He has taught a variety of summer classes, all revolving around photography and journalism.

Martin previously taught classes through Suffolk University in Madrid, Italy and at Suffolk’s former Dakar campus in Senegal in West Africa. Although his Armenia course is not directly offered through Suffolk, Martin explained that Suffolk students are still able to register for the class, so long as they fill out a grade transfer form through the registrar’s office.

“I was contacted by the American University of Armenia, they were familiar with my study abroad classes, they had been apparently following me for some time,” said Martin. “They asked me about going to Yerevan in 2019 in the summer. I just happened I did not have a summer class scheduled with Suffolk, so I agreed.”

Martin explained that this class will be structured in a similar manner to his other summer courses. The class will focus on telling the various stories of Armenia and its culture while polishing photography skills.

“Students will learn about the country through their explorations with the class,” said Martin. “First, we learn about basic photography, how to use your equipment and the history of the field and what people have done before. Filled with excursions throughout Armenia, the class is meant to give students a thorough understanding of all aspects of Armenian history and culture. Martin explained that his students will put together photo essays to portray the lifestyle, politics and history of the nation.

Previously under the rule of the Soviet Union, Armenia has only been an independent nation for about 25 years, according to Martin. Prior to that, the Armenian genocide in 1915, although not recognized internationally, is responsible for the displacement of a significant portion of the Armenian community.

As more nations have begun to acknowledge the struggles of the Armenian community, Martin explained how modern Armenian culture has been impacted by the country’s past. Martin said that he hopes this course will allow students to develop a further understanding of the nation’s history and a deeper appreciation for the culture.

“There’s nothing like study abroad to learn how to become comfortable working in a foreign environment,” said Martin. “You get around, you see things, you meet people. You tell the story of the home country.”

For Martin, the main purpose of photojournalism is to tell stories through a visual medium. In Armenia specifically, Martin explained how the political newness of the country as an independent entity and its profound history will give students plenty of topics to showcase and stories to portray.

“Armenia’s no mystery. For most, it’s new territory,” said Martin. “It’s an ancient country. The capital Yerevan is older than Rome. It’s a country and a region that has had many firsts.”

The archaeology, religion and political discourse of Armenia are notable points Martin has planned to introduce his students to. One of the cultural sites Martin has discussed bringing the class to is the Areni Cave.

Numerous discoveries, including one of the first wineries and even the first human shoe were discovered in the cave, according to Martin. The ancient city of Ani, also known as the City of 1,001 Churches, is another cultural destination Martin hopes to expose his students too.

While Armenia, just the size of the state of Maryland, may seem like somewhat of an obscure place to travel to, Martin explained that tourism is on the rise. It’s like an open-air museum today,” said Martin. “Tourism is beginning to increase as people are looking for alternative sights to visit to learn more about our world.”

Martin expressed his excitement for the world of photojournalism and the opportunities that his course will bring to his students.

“When we finish teaching these seminars, students know what the field is all about,” said Martin. “Photojournalists often times uphold causes. I ask students to do projects on something they’re concerned about.”

By following his concerns and staying motivated, Martin has made it his goal to spark passion within his students to use photojournalism to convey powerful messages. Teaching this course in Armenia has given Martin another chance to provoke a journalistic drive in his class.

“I’ve made it a part of my lifestyle,” said Martin. “It’s about the struggle for human rights and justice on all levels. I really believe that people, no matter what their situation in life, want to live in dignity. I try to do that with my photographs.”

Ancient church cultural site in Armenia

Mount Ararat and the city of Yerevan, Armenia

PHOTO BRIEF

Amendments to Egypt’s constitution headed to referendum

Egypt’s parliament is reviewing amendments to its constitution that would alter the length of the term served by a president to six years. If the constitutional change is approved, Egypt’s current president, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, would see his ongoing term extended by two years as well as be given a chance at another six years in power. President al-Sisi has served as president since 2014. Egypt’s current laws allow for a president to serve for two terms of four years if elected to do so, similar to the U.S. The amendments also include a provision for the president and an executive body to oversee the judiciary. Such a change could remove one of the major checks and balances in the country’s governmental system. Many in Egypt’s parliament are in favor of the reforms al-Sisi has put into place, but there is substantial opposition to the plan. According to NetBlocks, the country’s government blocked over 34,000 websites that campaigned against al-Sisi. The amendments will be put to a referendum in the next 30 days, according to BBC.
Shane Halajko Jr. always had ambitions of traveling while in school but wasn’t always sure about where to go. Inspired by his love for American Freestyle Karate, he chose to travel to Tokyo, where he has spent his time soaking in culture and experiences. He visited shrines such as Meiji-jingu, a tribute to Emperor Meiji and his wife in Shibuya, and the Disney theme park “Tokyo DisneySea” in Urayasu. Shane has learned to navigate the language barrier and has gained a greater appreciation for all non-native language speakers who are living in a foreign country. Here are some photos from his travels.

Connect with Shane by emailing shalajko@su.suffolk.
Caribbean Student Network cultivates culture and color at annual fashion show

Bright colors and lively rhythms filled the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Saturday night as members of the Caribbean Student Network (CSN) took the runway in the group’s 30th annual fashion show, “Elements.” Through highlighting the unique personalities and styles of each club member, the night showcased the different forms power and unity can take through self-expression.

“Everything was superb. The transitions were smooth. The designers were punctual. The models slayed. The dancers were amazing. It was a great night,” said Malik Nichols, CSN president, in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “I felt the culture come alive.”

Featuring student designers, local brands and the island of Anguilla’s premier dance company, “From Within Dance,” the show presented a vast variety of styles and discussed the differences between nature’s four elements: earth, water, fire and air. The event emphasized that these differences in nature and fashion are more united than they may seem.

“Elements control how we think, move and feel,” said the voiceover at the beginning of the show. “Together, the elements work to make every living being whole.”

For Joulie “Jello” Grant, CSN vice president, the theme of elements seemed like it would work best for the group based on the unique personalities of each member.

“Each E-board member represented who they are as an element,” said Grant in an interview with The Journal. “Just like the elements in the real world, they are all beautiful, separate but even better together.”

The show opened with a number by “From Within Dance.” Each of the four elements were represented by a dancer and a unique style of dance. The powerful movements and intense music conveyed how emotional and difficult it can be to maintain balance in the world, and in this case, between four very different elements.

The dancers depicted that while Mother Nature almost faltered under this struggle, the four elements were united by harmony, moved together as one and embraced their differences to create a stronger world. This message of intertwined diversity and unity was seen throughout the collections that showcased on the runway, especially in one by award-winning designer Tonya Nichols and her brand “Imperfectly Perfected Designs,” which will also be shown at this year’s Paris Fashion Week.

Nichols’ collection was inspired by her late mother’s creativity, strength and confidence and consisted of classic silhouettes and bold fabrics. While the first several looks were sparsely woven that epitomized the traditional definition of glamorous fashion, the collection gradually showcased how glam fashion can take many forms and defy gender norms. This included a woman wearing a loose pea coat dress with strong shoulders, a man wearing a form-fitting pink lace shirt and several street-style inspired looks, many of which emphasized the models’ bodies.

A collection by “Tainted” also celebrated body positivity. The line was a bright and bedazzled array of swimsuits that ranged from more conservative two-piece looks to tiny bikinis that were often accessorized with feathered headpieces or angel wings.

Other collections by “Afrocentric Designs,” “Fly Girl” and “Omooba Fashion” showcased bright, intricate African prints and demonstrated how African-inspired fashion can be trendy, sophisticated and alluring for men and women in every area of fashion.

A collection by “Imose Wraps” also showed how traditional African head wraps can be modern, on trend and worn anywhere from work to a night out on the town.

Leah Grannum, a Suffolk Black Student Union member who attended the event, was encouraged by the representation seen in the show.

“The vibe was pretty chill,” said Tarwoe. “There were a lot of serious moments, but overall a lot of the designers let us do what we wanted and wanted us to be comfortable on stage so that not only are we representing their brand, but were also showing people that we could be comfortable in our own skin and wear their product at the same time.”

CSN Public Relations Officer Mardochee Sylvestre said the organization is already looking toward next year’s show.

“We got big plans [for next year], but we’ve got to top this year,” said Sylvestre. “We flew out a team from Anguilla. We can only go bigger than that.”
Graphic Design department exemplifies students’ individuality in ‘Beyond the Bleed’ exhibit

Morgan Hume
Arts Editor
@morganmhume

Making the transition from a full-time student to a member of the working world can be challenging, but Suffolk University’s Graphic Design department helped make that change smoother by encouraging seniors to create a final project that will stand out in their portfolios.

The “Beyond the Bleed” exhibit on the sixth floor of the Sawyer building is a collection of student work done by graduating seniors in the Graphic Design department. A reception for “Beyond the Bleed” was held on Friday night in the art gallery, letting families and other members of the Suffolk community admire the wide array of art.

This year, for their senior capstone projects, students were encouraged to design a campaign for either a client of their choice or a project they were interested in exploring after graduation. The main gallery room houses the capstones, which explore a variety of topics, from fictional brands of hard cider to a website about how to properly care for plants. Some of the projects were about existing companies and others were designs for fictional businesses.

The rest of the gallery includes work completed in different courses, such as branding and identity design taught by professor Peter Bianco and publication design taught by professor Laura Golly.

“Graphic design today has to be more multidisciplinary,” so it’s not just about designing an ad or a brochure. It is about dealing with branding, which is creating a whole system that enforces a customer experience,” Laura Golly, the program director for the Graphic Design department, said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

In each project, students had the freedom to tackle a subject they found intriguing and add their individual flare to it. But before diving into the design process, they had to conduct research about their topic and present their ideas to faculty members for approval. Some students spent over a month piecing the assignment together.

“I think that it’s going to help them out a lot from the standpoint of having something in their portfolio that feels real and developed, and they can also speak about it from the ground up. They can talk about how they really tackled every little nuance of the project,” Keith Kitz, a graphic design professor, said in an interview with The Journal.

Since the graphic designers were not limited by specific regulations or prompts, they were able to let their creativity flourish and take their projects in all different directions.

“We’re encouraging each one of them to develop their own individual voice,” said Golly. “So the fact that we don’t want cookie cutter designers that are just using clip art and looking like it’s a template machine made, each student is encouraged to pursue their own interests as well as their own style.”

For example, senior graphic design major Cameron Lamoureux has an interest in craft beer and noticed that the neighborhood of Allston-Brighton does not have any breweries or tap rooms. In his capstone, he created a hypothetical brewery named “District 14 Brewing Co.” He began by making the logo, and later designed growlers, flight boards, T-shirts and the interior of the brewery, creating a spread of merchandise for the hypothetical establishment.

Working with a similar theme, senior graphic design major Michelle Krasuski designed a fictional hard cider company called “Scorpion Cider,” inspired by her astrology sign, Scorpio. Her designs were printed on aluminum cans, pint glasses and posters, and she also added a personal touch by scattering miniature plastic scorpions around the display of glassware.

“I feel like we have like specific projects that we do in the major and this was like one of the first projects ever where I got to like choose my own project and choose what I wanted to do, so I wanted to do something that related to me,” said Krasuski. “It was something that I really practicing in this idea of having an individual voice as a designer,” said Kitz.

Kitz explained that from the time these students entered their first graphic design class to now, as they wrap up their last days at Suffolk, they have transformed into a dynamic group of designers. He also noted that watching that process has been a rewarding experience.

The “Beyond the Bleed” exhibit will be on display on the sixth floor of the Sawyer building until April 23.
Rampage welcomes back alumni during annual cabaret

Rampage show choir and sketch comedy troupe Who’s Askin’ joined forces on Saturday night to fill Modern Theatre with a combination of music and humor during the Rampage Alumni Cabaret.

The show began with a collection of indie acts, where soloists or small groups of singers performed a song of their choosing, highlighting the talent and personality of individual members. The set list spanned a variety of genres and styles, including pop bands like Panic! At the Disco and the recently reunited Jonas Brothers, as well as hits Broadway show tunes from “Wicked” and “Phantom of the Opera.”

“I’m excited to sing something for everyone and let everyone see all the different tastes all the members of our group have,” Grayson Collins, a freshman and member of Rampage, said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal before the cabaret.

Who’s Askin’ added a comedic layer to the show as they cracked jokes while introducing songs, and interacted with Rampage members by handing them props and acting alongside them during their indie acts.

For example, while Katie Johnson, Carina Fresa and Rebecca McAuliffe belted the nostalgic 2007 Jonas Brothers song “That’s Just The Way We Roll,” members from Who’s Askin’ threw a plush whale on stage during the lyric “there’s a whale in the pool with my mother” and pretended to paint the side of the stage when the girls sang the line “And my dad paints the house different colors.”

While some songs were funny, others took more of a serious route to focus on the song and less on acting. Freshman Hannah Voteur brought the crowd to a standstill as she sang “Think of Me” from “Phantom of the Opera,” exhibiting her soprano vocal range, which was always on pitch.

Another song performed during the annual cabaret invited former Rampage members to join the group in a rendition of “Morning Glow” from the musical “Pippin,” which was in the show choir’s set last year, and three alumni joined the current students.

“It’s kind of nice to see the different versions of Rampage that they all have in their minds because everyone remembers it differently because obviously the group changes throughout the years,” Fresa, a sophomore and the Rampage media coordinator, said in an interview with The Journal.

In addition to Who’s Askin’ hosting the event and introducing songs, the comedy group also performed original sketches, causing the audience to erupt with laughter at their witty sense of humor.

For instance, in one of the sketches, actors Ma’chel Martin and Austin Sheridan could not agree on the difference between what a cough and a sneeze sound like. To prove each of their points, they both tried to mimic the sound of a cough versus a sneeze until they were obnoxiously and loudly hacking at each other.

“I think it’s really great, the process of comedy, seeing when you get up on stage you see what does work, what doesn’t work,” said Sheridan. “Then you go back to the drawing board and rewrite.”

Rampage recently competed in the Fame National Show Choir competition in New York City, where they performed a routine of five songs. Rampage ended the cabaret by performing the same set inside Modern Theatre, giving the Suffolk community the chance to see the 20-minute routine they have been working on all year.

From the first note of “Stronger” from the musical “Finding Neverland,” which kicked off their routine, to the final chord in “Peace and Love Inc.” by Information Society, the show choir was bursting with hip-hop dance moves and up-tempo tunes, ending the cabaret with an energetic vibe.

“It’s one of those songs you hate in rehearsal because it takes up so much energy and you’re so tired, but on stage with the adrenaline and the audience reactions, it’s so much fun,” said Fresa when describing the rehearsal process for “Peace and Love Inc.”

Rampage will be performing at the annual variety show Springfest on April 26 and Who’s Askin’ will be at Improv Asylum on April 24.
Suffolk University’s Photography Club (PC) held their first ever photo gallery event Thursday evening on the fourth floor of the Sawyer Building to indulge students in just a fraction of the talent they had to exhibit. Most students dressed elegantly for the afternoon, and those who didn’t rushed out of their classrooms to make it in time.

For their first standalone event, the club had a solid start and is looking to expand with each coming year. The work of 15 artists was on display, with 105 photos in total. Some of the work included shots of skylines of cities such as New York and London, animals like dogs and birds and friends who modeled for the camera.

The president and founder of the organization, Casey Grosjean, was in attendance and also had her own work displayed at the exhibit. Grosjean began the club to help students share photos of the places they explore in Boston.

“Part of the reason I came to Boston was for the opportunity to capture aspects of the beautiful city. I was so surprised when I got here and learned that there was no photography club, so I decided to start one,” Grosjean said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Grosjean took three years of photography classes in high school, and is no stranger to running events. In addition to being a photojournalism major, she also ran Healthy Minds Alliance (HMA) and the Tip Tap Toe club this year.

Another aspect of the PC is that they pair up with other student organizations on campus to take photos for them, such as with Suffolk’s HMA to do the “Share Your Story” event, which was nominated for best event at the 2019 Student Government Association awards.

Grosjean said that she loves it all because the group allows her to meet new people and make connections. When asked if she had any favorite photos on display, she said that they’re all amazing.

“Everyone put in so much work and you can see the passion, but they’re all different. The beautiful thing about photography is that two people can shoot the exact same thing but have it look completely different,” said Grosjean.

One of the viewers, Sarah Bishop, a psychology and English student, came to support the work of her friends Logan Casey and René Maldonado. Bishop said she enjoyed everything there, and was pleasantly surprised to learn that anyone could submit their own photos.

She said she “loves all of the pictures, but of Logan’s [collection], I love his photo of the cherry blossoms he captured in D.C. And for René, her picture of the Zakim bridge.”

The event also included a performance from Suffolk University’s Jazz Band, who lent their talents to create an elegant atmosphere as the audience admired the samples of artwork. Christina Hickey, a global business and marketing student, is the violinist in the band, and despite nearly a decade of classical experience, this is her first year using her skills on the violin for jazz.

“I always enjoy playing in these types of gigs. We’re all pretty close and we get to play in a fun environment,” said Hickey.

Casey, an interior design student, is another member of the PC who had some of his work hung up. When asked if he had any favorites, he responded “that’s like picking a favorite child, you can’t do it.”

Casey also spoke about his experience as a photographer, a craft which he has been practicing since his junior year of high school, but has gotten more active with it while attending Suffolk.

“It’s all about interacting with people, the environment, and exploring. I like trying new ideas because I’ll never master the art, but with each photo comes improvement,” said Casey.

The Photography Club welcomes all levels of photography and meets every Tuesday during activities period in Samia room 217. See more of their work on Instagram, @suffolkphotographyclub.
As news continues to flood in from Paris about the cause of the sudden Notre-Dame fire and what art and relics were saved or destroyed, many people have taken a step back from the tragedy to look at the other religious places that have burned around the world over the past few months. On the same day that Notre-Dame was lit aflame, the third-holiest site in Islam, the Al-Aqsa mosque, also suffered from a fire, though this site had no damage reported, according to Newsweek.

In the United States, three Black churches in Louisiana were burned to the ground by Holden Matthews, who is being charged with arson and hate crimes. St. Mary Baptist in Port Barre and Greater Union Baptist Church and Mount Pleasant Baptist churches in Opelousas were all destroyed. After outcry at the amount of money raised for Notre-Dame in the mere hours after the blaze, which totaled more than $600 million as of Tuesday morning, a comparably small amount raised for the three churches in the U.S., many asked why social media and the media in general focused so heavily on a predominantly white church, which was damaged but could be easily rebuilt, over the three churches that were destroyed in an act of racism.

This isn’t to say that the churches haven’t received support. Before Notre-Dame, the fundraisers devoted to rebuilding these churches had raised nearly $100,000, but nowhere near the $1.8 million needed to rebuild all three churches. As of Tuesday evening, the fundraiser has hit nearly $1 million of its goal, largely due to the push for funding sparked by the Notre-Dame blaze.

As news outlets call for an obliteration to shed light on all stories in order for people to stay informed. We have the power to disseminate information that either may fade into just chatter. This is a huge obligation and should be handled with care.

Major news outlets should not solely focus on what trends on social media, but also what has the most impact on people. While many people have talked about Notre-Dame, who is talking about the people of Flint, Michigan, who still are without clean drinking water? Who is talking about the devastation in Puerto Rico and the inability to rebuild?

This is just to name a few. As journalists we need to hold each other accountable to continue to fight for the rights of humans. The stories we write and share are not for the clicks and publicity, but for the pursuit of knowledge for all.

- The Suffolk Journal Staff

OPINION

Nick Sammarco
Journal Staff
@nsammm41

From Shake Shack to the Snyder building on our very own campus, gender-neutral bathrooms are being installed around the country. Proponents of the radical shakeup to the way we “do our business” make a pretty appealing and straightforward case. A person who identifies as gender-neutral or transgender that feels uncomfortable entering either the male or female bathroom has a right to their own bathroom where they do feel comfortable. Although it seems appealing to air on the side of “rights” and “comfort” in this debate, you should say no to gender-neutral bathrooms as they distort scientific reality in order to perpetuate the myth that biological sex is a mere “social construct.” Not only do they distort science to fit an a-scientific narrative, they create more discomfort than they alleviate, open up avenues for sexual abuse that were previously non-existent, and push the dangerous myth that commodities and services of any kind are fundamental human rights.

First, the idea that a subjective feeling of discomfort for one individual generates a complete change of cultural norms for everyone in the bathroom is quite a stretch of logic. Bathrooms are not separated by gender as the transgender rights activists would have us believe. Instead, bathrooms are separated based on biological sex. Men go to the bathroom alone with other men, women go to the bathroom alone with other women — and for good reason. As much as the transgender activists advocate for the notion that there are no inherent differences between the sexes, anatomy says otherwise.

Activists may respond that there is no need for the separation between the sexes, but this flies in the face of common sense. Would any woman prefer to be in the same bathroom alone with a group of inebriated men at a bar late at night? The sexes are separated because they are biologically, socially and behaviorally different. The number of both male and female women that feel uncomfortable in a gender-neutral bathroom far exceeds the number of non-binary people that will feel uncomfortable in a normal bathroom. The number of people that could potentially be victimized in a gender-neutral bathroom far exceeds the number of people that could be victimized in a single-sex bathroom. No, this doesn’t mean that transgender or non-binary individuals should have the right to a bathroom to themselves. There are predator stalking the bathroom, looking for victims to prey upon, but gender-neutral bathrooms do open up opportunities for sexual abuse and sexual abusers that otherwise would not have been there. As reported by the Economist, “In 2012 Christopher Hambrook assaulted women in two homeless shelters in Toronto, gaining access by falsely claiming he was a trans woman. State law had changed earlier that year to recognise self-declared gender identity. In 2014 he was found guilty ofbian sexual assault and sexual harassment.” The pernicious act of falsely identifying as transgender or non-binary in order to commit crimes is a real threat, and the previous example is only one of the many avenues of abuse the tearing down of sex-seperated bathrooms creates. If the main motivation behind creating gender-neutral bathrooms is the elimination of discomfort for those that identify as non-binary, why does the potential discomfort of the transgender community, constituting roughly 0.6% of the world’s population according to the Williams Institute, outweigh the potential discomfort of 99.4% of the world’s population? It shouldn’t.

Let’s also dispel with the notion that anyone has a “right” to a bathroom. Bathrooms, just as housing, water, food and healthcare, are commodities or services depending on your definition. They certainly aren’t things that we “endowed by the creator” with a right to. Declaring a commodity a right is as foreign to the Western notion of inalienable rights as a Polar Bear is to the rainforest. The Bill of Rights guarantees rights that are immune to any interference from government, these rights are otherwise known as “negative rights.” For instance, the government cannot infringe on your right to free speech, imprison you without due process nor deprive you of your right to bear arms. However, guaranteeing commodities as rights require something from government, which in this country is the people of the United States. These rights presume that by virtue of very existence, they are entitled to goods and services that someone else must provide. Although it may sound compassionate and progressive to say that things like healthcare, food and water are “human rights,” commodifying commodities as rights actually leads to a violation of human rights.

To illustrate the danger of these “positive rights,” consider the following situation. A hungry man walks into a 7-11, takes a Milky Way and a bottle of water, scoops them down, and then leaves the store without paying for neither the food nor water. The clerk immediately calls the police, the man is arrested and charged with petty theft and a trail ensues. The defense of the sweet-toothed bandit is not that he made a mistake in stealing the candy bar, but instead his defense is that, he having a right to food and water, should not be imprisoned for simply exercising his rights.

The onus is on those that argue for commodities as rights to explain either why he should be imprisoned if he has a right to food and water or why his stealing is justified. Furthermore, if we treat commodities as human rights, why couldn’t the man force by government action the store clerk to provide him with the food or water? If the clerk didn’t provide the man with the food and water willingly, surely it would be a legitimate role of government to guarantee the rights of the man in this situation as well. The road to hell is most certainly paved with good intentions.

Lastly, we arrive at the crux of the issue. As established in this article, earlier, no reasonable person would come to the conclusion that access to
Let’s talk: Two opposing views on whether or not SUPD should be armed

Elvira Mora, Journal Staff, @marmaladeedly

A protest on April 11 took place as a direct response to the Student Government Association (SGA) 23-11 vote in favor of the Suffolk University Police Department (SUPD) to carry firearms. Although Suffolk Chief of Police and Security Gerhard Coela Hendrix has said it abundantly clear that only sworn SUPD officers would be armed, there is still a high level of concern.

Despite the assurances of all SUPD officers and coming fresh training and psychological evaluations, this does not wipe away history of racial tension between people of color and police institutions.

The manner in which SGA collected data from the student population in the fall of 2017 was nowhere near adequate as less than 20% responded to the survey in regards to their personal opinions of arming SUPD. Clearly, not representing everyone of the student body and all of their concerns being addressed.

Arming SUPD is something that has been discussed for a long time. People have had opinions on all sides. This hotly contested issue seems to be in its final hour before a decision will possibly be made.

Overall, arming SUPD would be great decision. It will keep students on campus safer. It will help keep SUPD officers safer. It will be a lifesaving change to the lobby of the 73 Tremont Thursday, some students and administrators passed by would stop and ask “what’s this about?” They would be unwary of the SGA vote passed in favor of arming SUPD officers. The Board of Trustees plan to vote on this issue in June. They will only vote if they collectively feel ready and aware of all matters. If not, the vote will be pushed to a later date. SGA’s vote was made.

It is a real possibility and a regrettable consequence can unfold. Is that a risk worth taking if we arm our police?

The perspective of students of color did not seem to be taken into account. In the current political climate, their white counterparts do have to continuously prove that they are not a threat and are pointed at their face or treated as second class citizens. Their safety on campus is also in peril as many students feel safer with armed police on campus, the same cannot be said for those of color.

Matt Lewis, Journal Contributor, @marmaladeedly

Don’t arm SUPD

Biological sex is not a “social construct”

The Student Government Organization (SGA) voted in favor (23 - 11) of arming the Suffolk University Police Department (SUPD). This vote comes in the wake of a university-wide discussion of arming SUPD officers. Considering the location of Suffolk University—in one of the more dangerous areas of Boston— the decision of SGA to endorse the arming of SUPD officers is the correct decision.

The Downtown Crossing neighborhood is arguably one of the most dangerous areas in the city. Considering the close proximity of the 10 West, Modern Theater and Smith Hall residence buildings to Downtown Crossing, it surprised me that SUPD was not armed when I first arrived here as a freshman last fall. Even at my small high school in Lakeville, Massachusetts we had an armed School Resource Officer (SRO).

Never once at my high school did I hear a complaint that we had an armed police officer at the school who was there to serve and protect, not to intimidate. The same is true with officers of the SFPD. My high school’s SRO was a sworn police officer of the Lakeville Police Department. She had to go to the police academy and follow all of the steps that it takes to become a police officer. All officers of a different color currently have to do this training as well.

So why is there high school but a SRO is the same reason that Suffolk University has police officers. They are here to keep us safe. In one of the most dangerous areas of the city, I would expect that SUPD should be armed. It would not be out of the realm of possibility that a Suffolk student could be robbed or hurt near the residence halls or outside a classroom building where a SUPD officer would be much faster to respond than the Boston Police Department (BPD).

At the SGA campus safety forum earlier this semester, it was noted that there was an average response time for BPD of 7 to 7.5 minutes. That 7 minutes could be the difference between life and death. What is the point, however, of having SUPD when they cannot respond to incidents where a suspect could be armed—because of their own lack of a gun? Like it or not, police need guns to do their jobs effectively, especially in the United States. There will always be guns on the streets illegal or not. The police and law enforcement need to be able to counter those with their own guns.

Arming police has, however, given rise to concerns about police brutality and racism, as well as SUPD officers responding to incidents of drunk students in the residence halls where alcohol is not permitted.

To the issue of SUPD responding to drunk students, I have one answer: how do you not see an armed police officer in your dorm room, do not get drunk, and bring alcohol into the dorms, you accept the risk that a possibility outcome is that an armed police officer comes into your living space. This would be no different, perhaps even worse, off campus. A BPD officer responding to an underaged drinking call will be armed, whereas all SUPD officers, and that situation could end in an arrest instead of disciplining a freshman from the university.

As far as the issue of racism and police brutality, there are still many minority officers on the SUPD police force. Making generalizations about police is dangerous. Yes, there are some bad apples in police departments across the country, but Suffolk is a small community with a police force nowhere near the size of BPD or NYPD or even some smaller towns.

Of course, SUPD officers are not represented to everyone who has this concern is to reach out and talk to an SUPD officer. Talk to them about why they think they should be armed, why they are a SUPD officer or anything else. You could even offer to take a friend by doing it.

Arming SUPD is something that has been discussed for a long time. People have had opinions on all sides. This hotly contested issue seems to be in its final hour before a decision will possibly be made.

Overall, arming SUPD would be a great decision. It will keep students on campus safer. It will help keep SUPD officers safer. It will be a lifesaving change to the lobby of the 73 Tremont Thursday, some students and administrators passed by would stop and ask “what’s this about?” They would be unwary of the SGA vote passed in favor of arming SUPD officers.

The Board of Trustees plan to vote on this issue in June. They will only vote if they collectively feel ready and aware of all matters. If not, the vote will be pushed to a later date. SGA’s vote was made.

It is a real possibility and a regrettable consequence can unfold. Is that a risk worth taking if we arm our police?

The perspective of students of color did not seem to be taken into account. In the current political climate, their white counterparts do have to continuously prove that they are not a threat and are pointed at their face or treated as second class citizens. Their safety on campus is also in peril as many students feel safer with armed police on campus, the same cannot be said for those of color.
Switzer continues to pave path for female runners

Today, Kathrine Switzer (fifth from right) has founded a nonprofit to empower female runners called 261 Fearless.

In 1967, while there was much opposition, Switzer became the first female to complete the Boston Marathon.

Thousands of women ran in the Boston Marathon this year, but back in 1967, 20-year-old Kathrine Switzer was the only woman on the course. Her decision to participate in the marathon that morning sparked a social revolution that has given women across the world the motivation to run for over 50 years.

In 1967, Switzer was a student at Syracuse University studying journalism, who spent her off-hours training alongside the men’s cross-country team. Her coach was impressed as her times got faster and faster so he decided to take Switzer along with the track team to compete in the Boston Marathon.

Switzer registered for the race by filling out the entry form just like everyone else, but instead of writing out her first name, she signed the sheet with her initials “KV.” Her father misspelled Kathrine on her birth certificate and KV has been her nickname since childhood. When she filled out the entry form to register for the race and signed her first name as “KV” instead of “Kathrine,” it was nothing out of the ordinary. No one suspected that KV was a woman and there were no rules specified about gender in the rulebook.

“We probably wouldn’t be having this conversation if I signed the entry form Kathrine,” said Switzer in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “That was very important for me and as it turns out for millions of women.”

From that day forward, Switzer dedicated her life to empowering women from all over the globe to run. She was one of the leaders in getting the Boston Athletic Association to let women run the marathon, and six years later, women were officially allowed to participate in the race in 1972.

In 2015, Switzer founded the nonprofit organization “261 Fearless,” which arranges noncompetitive running clubs that motivate women not only to be active, but to connect and socialize with others. 261 Fearless has running clubs in 11 countries, and by next year, they hope to expand to a total of 15 countries. Currently the organization has about 2,000 members and Switzer seeks to see this number rise.

A team of 35 women represented the organization as one of the 36 official charity teams in the Boston Marathon this year. Glad in matching purple t-shirts, the runners aimed to raise money for the foundation. Switzer was there at the finish line this year, rooting on her team members.

Switzer has been sharing her story for the last 50 years through interviews, memoirs and speeches. But this month, a new way to share her journey as a pioneer athlete and feminist emerged. Kim Chaffee, an elementary school teacher and author, wrote a picture book titled “Her Fearless Run: Kathrine Switzer’s Historic Boston Marathon,” about the acclaimed runner. The book, which was released earlier this month, is letting children explore Switzer’s feat for the first time.

Switzer has written three memoirs, and explained that she always wanted to write a children’s book about her experience, but she never got around to it. After reading Chaffee’s work, she learned that writing picture books is a craft that requires a special kind of talent.

“Children’s writing is difficult, exact, unique, and she has a gift that I don’t have,” said Switzer. “You have to have a special good writer to be a children’s [writer].”

Switzer explained that when she was growing up, her father encouraged her to run one mile a day and to participate in as much as she could. Now, in addition to Switzer being an inspiration for women, Chaffee’s book is helping spread her message of empowerment to kids.

“If this book really helps young girls and boys to participate, that’s one of my greatest goals because if they can be empowered from an early age, just attaboy, attagirl, you can do anything. Tell them those things,” said Switzer.

Even if Switzer didn’t decide to run the marathon in 1967, she said she believes she still would have run it eventually and still dedicated her life to helping women gain the confidence to run. Although the events that unfolded during her first marathon were unplanned, Boston became the place where this social revolution was sparked.

“There was a bad moment that took place in 1967 that turned into one of the best things of our lives, and that sometimes the worst thing in your life can become the best thing in your life,” said Switzer. “That’s what happened to me with the Boston Marathon.”
The 123rd Boston Marathon was about more than just a race. Runners from all over the world cast light on different stories of how they had stepped foot onto the blue and gold starting line, but all had one ultimate goal: to finish the 26.2 miles.

With a rainy and cold marathon in 2018 many runners feared another gruesome trek for this year's race. It was almost the complete opposite case though as morning show runners made way for a warm sunshine.

According to the Boston Athletic Association, 20-year-old Daniel Romanchuk said to ABC News, "I'm thankful to God for the opportunity that's been presented." For the elite women's runners, Worknesh Degefa of Ethiopia finished on top with a time of 2:23:31. On the men's side, finishes were tight, as Lawrence Cherono of Kenya came in first by two seconds in his Boston Marathon debut.

While many elites and celebrities took part in the race, it was members of the Suffolk University community that hit even closer to home. Suffolk alumnus Matt Durkin, a 2017 broadcast journalism graduate, took part in his third Boston Marathon. As the Executive Director, he runs with his family's organization, The Durkin Foundation, which he founded after graduating. According to the foundation's website their mission, "is to help and support individuals and their families impacted by the effects of Alzheimer's Disease, Intellectual Disabilities, and U.S. Veteran Services by providing education, services, and daily assistance dedicated to improving the quality of life of all so challenged."

Durkin's grandmother had Alzheimer's, his grandfather was a World War II veteran and his aunt had Down syndrome. While all of them have passed, Durkin started the foundation with his family in mind.

"I think that's what's so beautiful about the marathon. It's not just a race, it's a great showing of humanity, human strength, love and support," said Durkin in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "Everyone's there for a reason."

Durkin explained that some people run to raise money, while others run in memory of loved ones, but no matter the story, everyone is supportive of each other. He said that while it's important to train for the marathon the majority of the race is about having the mental strength and determination.

Another Suffolk Alumnus, Lauren Spencer, '15, also took part in her second Boston Marathon running with a team from the Patriots Foundation. As reported before by The Journal, Spencer is the Social Media Coordinator for the New England Patriots.

In total, Spencer was able to raise $7,845 for the foundation which will be distributed to charities across New England. Spencer finished with a time of 4:24:18, beating her personal from last year by more than 20 minutes. "It is really cool to be a part of the marathon, especially being from this area," said Spencer. "Being from Boston, I always looked up to the people who ran to one day qualify individually as runners with foundations do not have to do this. Whether someone is running for a charity, accolades or both, the Boston Marathon brings over 30,000 runners together every year and celebrates astonishing narratives that will be remembered for years to come.

"I think that's what's so beautiful about the marathon. It's not just a race, it's a great showing of humanity, human strength, love and support," said Durkin in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "Everyone's there for a reason."

Durkin explained that some people run to raise money, while others run in memory of loved ones, but no matter the story, everyone is supportive of each other. He said that while it's important to train for the marathon the majority of the race is about having the mental strength and determination.

Another Suffolk Alumnus, Lauren Spencer, '15, also took part in her second Boston Marathon running with a team from the Patriots Foundation. As reported before by The Journal, Spencer is the Social Media Coordinator for the New England Patriots.

In total, Spencer was able to raise $7,845 for the foundation which will be distributed to charities across New England. Spencer finished with a time of 4:24:18, beating her personal from last year by more than 20 minutes. "It is really cool to be a part of the marathon, especially being from this area," said Spencer. "Being from Boston, I always looked up to the people who ran to one day qualify individually as runners with foundations do not have to do this. Whether someone is running for a charity, accolades or both, the Boston Marathon brings over 30,000 runners together every year and celebrates astonishing narratives that will be remembered for years to come.

"I think that's what's so beautiful about the marathon. It's not just a race, it's a great showing of humanity, human strength, love and support," said Durkin in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "Everyone's there for a reason."

Durkin explained that some people run to raise money, while others run in memory of loved ones, but no matter the story, everyone is supportive of each other. He said that while it's important to train for the marathon the majority of the race is about having the mental strength and determination.

Another Suffolk Alumnus, Lauren Spencer, '15, also took part in her second Boston Marathon running with a team from the Patriots Foundation. As reported before by The Journal, Spencer is the Social Media Coordinator for the New England Patriots.

In total, Spencer was able to raise $7,845 for the foundation which will be distributed to charities across New England. Spencer finished with a time of 4:24:18, beating her personal from last year by more than 20 minutes. "It is really cool to be a part of the marathon, especially being from this area," said Spencer. "Being from Boston, I always looked up to the people who ran to one day qualify individually as runners with foundations do not have to do this. Whether someone is running for a charity, accolades or both, the Boston Marathon brings over 30,000 runners together every year and celebrates astonishing narratives that will be remembered for years to come.