No vote for arming campus police — yet

The Suffolk University Board of Trustees in June indefinitely delayed a vote on whether to arm the Suffolk University Police Department (SUPD). University officials said the board will vote on the issue later this year, or as early as next month.

The postponement came after a push last semester by the Student Government Association (SGA) and SUPD to arm sworn police officers who pass psychological evaluations and complete firearm and additional use-of-force trainings.

Security and dispatch officers would not be armed, according to the proposal the Trustees considered.

See VOTE - 4

Indonesian festival captivates crowds on Copley Square

Cheerful sounds of Indonesia energized crowds across Copley Square on Saturday at the seventh annual New England Indonesian Festival, also known as IndoFest.

Food vendors, craftsmen, artists and performers from across the globe came together to participate in what has become the largest Indonesian festival on the East Coast.

The beautiful weather made for a picturesque scene in Boston's Back Bay, with the iconic Trinity Church and the historic Boston Public Library as a backdrop. Aromas of spices and smoke wafted from the food stands lining the back of Copley Square while vendors and craftspeople displayed their products in booths flanking the perimeter.

The event was organized by PERMIAS Boston, an organization that unites Indonesian college students across the United States. Several students from Suffolk's Southeast Asian Student Association (SEASA) helped facilitate the festival alongside PERMIAS.

For SEASA president and Indonesia native Joseph Effendy, who volunteered with PERMIAS, this year's festival was one of the best he's attended.

"There were people from different races and different places in Asia that were interested in what was happening," Effendy told The Journal. "Regardless of where you were from or what culture you grew up in, everyone was having fun."

Not only was the festival a place for the Indonesian community to congregate, but also for people all across New England to gather and immerse themselves in a whole new culture.

With cuisine being one of the most defining cornerstones of the region — and there was certainly no shortage at IndoFest. Nearly a dozen food vendors participated in the festival, each providing unique flavors of Indonesia.

See INDOFEST - 6
First-year senators elected, other seats filled in fall SGA election

Suffolk University’s Student Government Association (SGA) election for new senators, including new senators for the class of 2023, is now over. SGA holds elections twice a year. With campaign flyers plastered across the walls of residence halls and classrooms, students were reminded and encouraged to vote for their class representative by Sept. 26.

This election, freshmen students elected nine new senators to represent the class of 2023, including Angela El-Jazzar, Boston Emmanuel, Tara Maltese, Sabrina Liu, JD Conte, Ana Luiza Bernardes, Sabrina Holland, Brian Le and Ivera Galiamova.

The Classes of 2022, 2021 and 2020 voted for their classmates who fought to fill empty senate seats. Sara Tavana and Geraldine Galvis won seats for Class of 2020 senators, while Andrea Doumit, Gabriela Soto Cotto and Emily Dichele were elected Class of 2021 senators. Stephen Rykola won an uncontested race for Class of 2022 senator. Sabrina Liu, one of the newest faces in SGA, is a government major. Following her many leadership positions in high school, including president of her school’s Gender and Sexuality Alliance and vice president of the Diversity Club, Liu now hopes to use her experience to help students at Suffolk.

“I want proper representation for students,” Liu said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “Coming from a small town, I know what it’s like to not see myself in my leaders and feel left out of the conversation. I don’t want that for our class and I want to make sure that every single person is represented, not just the loud ones.”

SGA is “the voice of students on campus” and it “works to ensure that students are well represented and feel comfortable at Suffolk University,” according to the organization’s website.

Liu said she will make it her primary goal to follow through on SGA’s purposes.

“As a freshman, I don’t really know about [Suffolk’s] problems yet, but I know that they exist and I hope to alleviate any issues that I am able to in order to make the student experience better,” said Liu. “I’m very big on inclusivity and diversity and something that is important to me is making sure everyone feels like they can add to the conversation, not just have a seat at the table.”

Suffolk students also voted for open senator at large seats.

Logan Casey was elected senator at large for the New England School of Art and Design, and Jasmine Mohit won the senator at large seat for the College of Arts and Sciences. CJ Koch is also a new senator at large and, like every other at large winner, won an uncontested race.

Chadi Bechara, a freshman politics, philosophy and economics major at Suffolk, was elected diversity senator at large.

Bechara’s passion for politics played a major role in his decision to join SGA.

“My goal in life is to get into politics and the political sphere,” Bechara said in an interview with The Journal. “Any chance I have to give myself an immersion into that kind of world is a good opportunity.”

Bechara said he desires to invoke change within the community. He plans on introducing many new ideas to SGA, including his wish to bring Suffolk to a higher prestigious ranking.

He believes that there is always room for improvement but said, “I simply [have] not been in the school long enough to notice any glaring problems.”

The new SGA senators joined new members at large, who were voted into SGA at the organization’s Sept. 24 meeting, and the returning members of the Senate for a retreat over the weekend.

With many new faces in SGA, a new flux of opinions and voices can be anticipated as the new senators find their footing within the Suffolk community.
Suffolk’s Sawyer Library staff brings
Banned Books Week to campus

The books featured in the display ranged from classic to contemporary and covered a wide range of topics that have been considered controversial over the years, such as LGBTQ+ characters or relationships, sexual content, drug or alcohol consumption and profanity. Some of the novels available for browsing or check out included “Thirteen Reasons Why” by Jay Asher, which was challenged for discussing suicide, and “The Color Purple” by Alice Walker, which was challenged for sexually explicit content. TheALA estimates that media coverage of Banned Books Week alone reaches 2.8 million readers and 90,000 subscribers to either publishing company or libraries, which is why Gregory Heald, the new director of Sawyer Library, was very excited that Suffolk was participating in Banned Books Week.

Having a banned books display shows Suffolk and Sawyer Library’s commitment to intellectual freedom, our commitment to the freedom to read,” said Heald in an interview with The Journal. “It draws attention to banned and challenged books and, in some cases, highlights the plight of persecuted individuals.” Suffolk students took an interest in the Sawyer Library’s display, including Sabrina Liu, a freshman government major. “I think banning books is a borderline infringement on First Amendment rights because it suppresses our right to be heard,” said Liu. “Which is why I’m glad that Suffolk is raising awareness this week.”

Overall, the Sawyer Library’s Banned Book Week display seemed to hold true to the themes of literary awareness and recognition that both Dorian and Heald cited as key aspects in Suffolk’s participation in the Banned Books Week campaign.

“Banned Books Week is an annual opportunity to recognize the shared work that the faculty, librarians, community and students do to ensure the freedom to read is not abridged,” said Heald.

CENSORSHIP LEAVES US IN THE DARK

Colin Cavanaugh / Graphics Editor

Madison Suseland
Journal Contributor @msuseland

This week, Suffolk’s Mildred F. Sawyer Library introduced a display for Banned Books Week, an annual event that allows libraries and readers across the country to advocate for banned or challenged books that have been restricted or even removed from libraries. This year, the theme was Censorship Leaves Us in the Dark: Keep the Light On!” and ran from Sept. 22 – 28.

Meghan Dorian, a senior evening circulation assistant, entering her third year of employment at Suffolk, put together this year’s banned book display. She searched the American Library Association’s (ALA) Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books list for 2000-2009 and scoured the Sawyer Library’s collection to see how she could create a unique display for Suffolk students to interact with that featured the library’s own works.

“Anything we can do to satisfy student’s intellectual curiosity,” said Dorian in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “It’s good to show students that this still happens, that we still see attempts to block and remove works about the ideas that we grapple with in our current public consciousness,” said Dorian. According to the ALA, “It’s good to show students that this still happens, that we still see attempts to block and remove works about the ideas that we grapple with in our current public consciousness,” said Dorian.

“Just because we have access to it doesn’t mean we have to use it in our current public consciousness,” said Dorian.

Suffolk Board of Trustees push back vote on arming Suffolk University Police Department

From POLICE - 1

“The Board will not take action on this issue until it feels it has all the information useful to making a decision. The Board plans further discussions on this topic this year,” Suffolk University spokesman Greg Gatlin said in an email to The Suffolk Journal. “When a decision is made, we will communicate it to the Suffolk Community as is our usual practice.”

Gerard Coletta, the university’s chief of police and security, said in an email to The Journal that he did not know what additional information the Board would seek.

At an SGA meeting Sept. 19, SUPD Capt. Jim Connolly said the board might vote on the issue at its next meeting in a few weeks.

“I think [the Board] is going to have another meeting at the end of [September] or beginning of [October], and I think [the issue] is going to be brought up on their agenda,” Connolly said.

“So right now, it’s in limbo.”

Coletta and other SUPD officials said at a campus security forum on Feb. 7 that they would support a decision to move to an armed department. Discussions about the prospect of arming the department have been around for years on campus.

“I think it’s fair to say that we feel strongly about it for our safety, but more importantly, for your safety,” Connolly said.

SUPD officers currently carry batons and Mace, which are both considered nonlethal weapons. Officers are allowed to use lethal force only when lethal force is used against them or anyone else.

SGA voted 23-11 in April to recommend that the university arm SUPD. A week later, nearly a dozen students led a protest on campus criticizing the vote and calling for the department to remain unarmed over concerns of gun violence.

In a February interview with The Journal, Suffolk President Marisa Kelly said she hoped the university “will in one way or another put this question to rest” before the start of the 2019-20 academic year.

Kelly could not be reached for further comment regarding the trustees’ postponement of the vote.

Class of 2021 Senator Kostas Loukos authored SGA’s resolution to arm SUPD last year. He said that while he was disappointed by the vote’s delay, he was not surprised.

“The system at Suffolk is a whole bunch of bureaucracy that just wants everyone to be happy, where the resolution is seeking to keep people safe,” Loukos told The Journal. “I was hoping for a different result so that SUPD would be better equipped to protect our students.”

Loukos said he was vowing to get mention of arming SUPD and the postponement of the vote into the minutes of every SGA meeting.

Logan Casey, the newly elected SGA senator at large for the New England School of Art and Design, said he was pleased the board postponed the vote. After SGA’s resolution to arm SUPD passed last year, Casey spoke to SGA about his discontent with the vote’s outcome.

He told senators that he thought Suffolk was a whole bunch of bureaucracy that just wants everyone to be happy, where the resolution is seeking to keep people safe,” Loukos told The Journal. “I was hoping for a different result so that SUPD would be better equipped to protect our students.”

He said Heald in an interview with The Journal. “It’s good to show that Suffolk and Sawyer Library’s commitment to intellectual freedom, our commitment to the freedom to read,” said Heald.

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Center for Community Engagement prepares for another year of Alternative Breaks

Avery Gallagher
Journal Contributor

Suffolk University’s Center for Community Engagement (CCE) offers alternative domestic spring breaks and international winter break trips, for all students. Every trip grants students with a contrasting perspective to the Boston setting Suffolk students are immersed in every day.

The CCE established the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) and Alternative Winter Break (AWB) programs for students to experience communities and immerse themselves in other cultures while participating in community service in the area. The programs started approximately 10 years ago, with only 12 students attending. Last spring over 100 students participated.

These programs are one of a kind at Suffolk, as it blends community service with traveling. The 12-day long AWB trips to Myanmar and Cambodia involve students in a Habitat for Humanity project where they build homes for people in need.

“For students who are interested in potentially getting involved that may read the article, don’t hesitate to let us know that you’re interested in anything related to volunteering,” said Dennis Harkins, assistant director of the CCE.

Students will travel to various cities throughout the U.S. on the ASB trip; this year they’ll be heading to Gulfport and Meridian, Mississippi, South Bend, Indiana and Charleston, Georgia. The fifth location for this trip has yet to be determined. They will travel to all of these locations for a cumulative time of six days.

This trip provides students with an opportunity to encounter issues in the U.S. such as affordable housing, racial injustice and LGBTQ+ rights. Many of the towns students will visit have been involved in some sort of political or social protests that students can learn about.

“We have one trip going to D.C. to work with organizations on LGBTQ+ rights and advocacy and then one trip also going to the D.C. and Baltimore area for racial justice,” said Harkins.

The ASB and AWB trips are open to all undergraduate and graduate students. The requirement for the domestic spring break trip is to attend nine weekly meetings prior to the trip. For the international winter break trip, students must be enrolled in the GVT 387-Conflict and Development in Asia course for the spring semester that follows the trip.

“If you can fit the four credits into your schedule you don’t have to be a government major or international relations or anything like that, we’ve had a wide variety of academic interests and majors,” said Harkins.

Harkins also spoke on how because of the course requirement, it is a common misconception that certain majors can not participate, which is not the case.

The ASB trips around the U.S. costs $100, while the AWB trips to Myanmar and Cambodia are $2500. “[The price] includes your round trip airfare, all of your meals, your hotel accommodations and transportation in the country, so really everything,” said Harkins.

He explained that there are many scholarship opportunities for both ASB and AWB to make the trips more affordable to students. AWB has need-based financial aid available as well, similar to the school’s financial aid system.

“We are also working on a trip that is connected to a social change course in the institute for public service,” said Harkins.

This trip would go to Denver and focus on habitats for less fortunate communities. While a trip to this location isn’t happening this year, it could be the destination of a spring break trip next year.

For more information on alternative break options visit https://www.suffolk.edu/student-life/student-involvement/, email communityengagement@suffolk.edu or visit the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) in room 824 of the Sawyer building.

Below are the newly appointed 2019-2020 SGA sub committee chair members, Student Judiciary Review Board (SJRB) members, SGA class speakers, SGA Finance Committee members and SGA members at large.

Public Relations Committee- Bryanna Crowley, Class of 2020 senator and Marissa Kearney, Class of 2022 senator

Housing Committee- Abhy Patel, Class of 2022 senator

Student Affairs Committee- Dan Redznak, Class of 2020 senator

Diversity and Inclusion Committee- Lukas Phipps, commuter students senator at-large

SJRB’s non-SGA representatives- Steven Rossi, Giovanna Crespo, Daniel Offor-Asamoah and Venice Morris


Class of 2020 speaker- Sara Tavana

Class of 2021 speaker- Valentino Kaja

Class of 2022 speaker- Marissa Michaela Kearney

Class of 2023 speaker- Boston Emmanuel

Members at large for the Class of 2023- Evan Weston, Mashaal Munaf and Frensi Thanasi

Financial Committee- Class of 2020 Senator Melissa Tupkusic, Class of 2021 Senator Gabriela Soto Cotto, Class of 2022 Senator Abhy Patel and Class of 2023 Senator Angela El-Jazzar

Finance Committee decides how much money from students’ activity fees will be distributed to student organizations on campus for events, conferences and other related needs.
Deaf culture celebrated in Boston as MFA celebrates Third Annual American Sign Language Night

With language tours, performances and informational networking, deaf culture was celebrated at the Museum of Fine Arts’ (MFA) third annual American Sign Language (ASL) night.

September is International Deaf Awareness Month, and the MFA’s event on the 25th took place during the last week of the month, coinciding with the International Week of the Deaf, created in 1968 in Rome by the World Federation of the Deaf.

The free event was designed to create a networking opportunity and spread awareness of issues in the deaf/hard of hearing community, as well as to educate those who don’t identify as either.

The evening featured many events, including a performance from the dance group DEAFinitely, a discussion and Q&A led by a panel of advocates and educators for the deaf community and information tables.

The issues discussed included the disconnect between deaf youth and the elderly, a lack of engagement opportunities for deaf youth, as well as hearing children born into deaf families. One point of focus was how the availability of clubs and opportunities available to deaf youth is on the decline.

“We are seeing a drastic amount of language deprivation within deaf youth,” said panelist Elbert “EJ” Joseph, a Boston-area activist and actor.

Joseph said various clubs for deaf youth have closed due to lack of participation and funding, including Deaf Children’s Theatre. Between 1965 and 1994 the theater was home to five groups: The Little Theater of the Deaf; the International Center on Deafness and the Arts; Imagination State; Seattle Children’s Theater with a deaf youth drama program; and Wheelock Family Theater’s PAIH, according to “Deaf Culture: Exploring Deaf Communities in the United States” by Irene Leigh, Jean Andrews and Raychelle Harris.

“We need to see more theater in deaf schools [and] in programs for deaf youth because that would encourage more diversity, encourage more cultural exposure and inclusion and that would help to promote the use of ASL and the learning of ASL as a language,” said Boston University and Gallaudet University alumni, Shana Gibbs. “What we want the hearing world to know is that our community struggles with wider society and the frames that are put upon us.”

The deaf/hard of hearing community works to advocate for their struggles within the community and the world outside of it. When it comes to partnering with the hearing world, they are open to active communication so long as that communication is done in a respectful manner.

“We are a cultural and linguistic minority,” Gibbs said. “We are interested in partnering with the hearing community in ways that are respectful — but as a cultural community and not being framed as a disability community or group.”

Events like the MFA’s ASL night are an opportunity to expose different cultures and groups of people with one another. Event opportunities available in Boston are prosperous and can offer a way to branch out and learn a new perspective on the world.

“The more people come to events like this, the more we are able to educate the hearing community,” said Samantha Castro, a volunteer at the event.

Impeachment inquiry begins

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Tuesday that five state department officials will not appear to give depositions concerning President Donald Trump’s actions in Ukraine.

In a letter released on Twitter, Pompeo called the depositions “an attempt to intimidate, bully, and treat improperly, the distinguished professionals of the Department of State.”

“I will use all means at my disposal to prevent and expose any attempts to intimidate the dedicated professionals whom I am proud to lead and serve alongside at the Department of State,” Pompeo wrote in the letter.

The Washington Post reported Tuesday evening that two of the five officials will still appear this week before the committees heading Trump’s impeachment inquiry.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the House of Representatives launched a formal impeachment inquiry against Trump last week after the president released a transcript of a phone call between himself and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

In the call, Trump asked Zelensky for an investigation into former Vice President Joe Biden and his youngest son, Hunter, who had sat on the board of a Ukrainian energy company that had once been under investigation by Ukrainian prosecutor Viktor Shoki.

While vice president, Joe Biden pushed for Shoki to be fired for not investigating cases of corruption.
IndoFest 2019 unites cultures across Boston

From INDUFEST - 1

One of the most popular dishes was Indonesian satay. The widely enjoyed, traditional satay is composed of grilled chicken on a stick coated with sweet and savory peanut sauce. Other dishes at the festival included a variety of vegetables, tempeh, fried rice, fish and meat, typically all served with spicy chili sauce.

"[The vendors] had a really good way of explaining what was in all the foods," said first-year public relations major and Indonesia native Jasmine Theodore. "It can be really confusing because our foods are kind of a mix of everything.”

Dozens lined up to get a taste of the cuisine. Having only been in Boston for a month after leaving her home of Jakarta, Theodore was excited to taste a little slice of home at the festival.

"I was so happy to have a feeling of home. I called my mom afterwards to tell her that I finally got to eat Indonesian food again," Theodore said.

From bubble tea to satay to traditional Indonesian pastries, hardly any mouths were empty as spectators wandered throughout the festival.

"For Indonesians and Southeast Asians in general, food is what attracts us more than anything else," Effendy said. "Food is a very big part of our culture.”

With bellies full of traditional Indonesian delicacies, attendees ventured toward the stage where performers and musicians took the spotlight to express their culture through music.

Over 13 musical acts performed, frequently interacting with the crowd. Indonesia is often referred to as "the thousand islands." Effendy explained that because there are so many different regions within the nation, there are a lot of cultural differences the festival helped him to realize.

"I felt like it actually showed me more about Indonesia than I ever saw back home," Effendy said. "Everything from Jakarta I knew, but the IndoFest actually had performances from other parts of Indonesia as well. So I learned a lot of musical performances that I didn’t know were a thing.”

Some of the musical groups like Anatsaya Poetir performed songs about various aspects of Indonesian culture and religion. Groups like Nusantara Kreasing performed traditional dances including Asmarandana, a style of dance that fuses Balinese and Javanese dances.

"We have unique sounds when it comes to the music, and the traditional dances are not what you see every day," Theodore said. "All of the culture was really shown there.”

Between the food and the music, vendors and craftspeople provided a deeper look into other aspects of Indonesian culture, such as clothing.

"Being Indonesian, I want people to learn more about my culture," said Suffolk senior and public relations major Dina Abeng told The Journal. "This festival is very special to me because of the history behind everything that’s represented here.”

Abeng and a group of her peers represented one activist group for Borneo Orangutan Survival. The group takes care of and helps rehabilitate over 500 Bornean orangutans, a severely endangered species from the Indonesian island of Borneo.

The organization was selling T-shirts to raise money and awareness for their cause.

"It’s great to be educated about everything from fashion to food to music," Abeng said. "It makes me proud of my culture.”

One vendor traveled all the way from the Indonesian island of Java to sell clothing made from batik — a fabric made entirely from cotton, meticulously dyed using hot wax through a traditional, elaborate Javanese technique.

Representing Danar Hadi, a batik manufacturing company located in the region of Solo in Indonesia, 35-year-old Aryo Vidyarto has been traveling all over the world to teach people about the centuries old tradition of batik.

"This fabric is for anyone to wear," said Vidyarto told The Journal. "Our company’s goal is to educate people about batik.”

His passion for batik comes from the history attached to the fabric. Dating as far back as 1641, batik was originally only for royalties. Vidyarto explained that Indonesian batik is high quality due to its complex colors and process.

"We want to teach people that this is a traditional art, that this is the cultural heritage of Indonesia," said Vidyarto to The Journal. He defined batik as the fabric uniting Indonesia from past to present.

"It’s a way to introduce them to a little bit about your home country," said Theodore.

Every aspect of the festival helped to better educate the public about the Indonesian lifestyle.

"I saw a lot of Americans getting excited too," Theodore said.

She said one of the best parts of the festival was seeing people from different backgrounds interact with Indonesian culture. She brought her Chinese and Japanese friends to the festival and was excited to see how much they enjoyed it.

"It’s a way to introduce them to a little bit about your home country," said Theodore.

Check out more photos on the Journal’s photo blog Uncovered with Flash online!
GLOBAL COMMENTARY

U.S. sends troops to Saudi Arabia in response to Iranian aggression

Murat Metshin
Journal Contributor @MMetshin

The attacks led to a shutdown of half of the refineries’ production operations. As a consequence, the oil market has witnessed the largest spike in crude prices in decades, according to CNBC.

“Further damage would be catastrophic for the global and American economy,” said first year student studying political theory, said that the U.S. should stop supporting Saudi Arabia due to its systematic violations of human rights. Echeverria believes that the attacks were orchestrated by “those who Saudis have been bombing for months — the rebels,” referring to Saudi Arabia’s bombing campaign in Yemen that led to “the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.”

The attacks which targeted two large crude-processing facilities in Khurais and Abqaiq, which targeted two large refineries’ production operations. As a consequence, the oil market has witnessed the largest spike in crude prices in decades, according to CNBC.

President Donald Trump to deploy troops to Saudi Arabia

According to the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. goods and services trade with Saudi Arabia totaled an estimated $48.1 billion in 2018. Currently, Saudi Arabia is the 22nd largest trading partner of the U.S. Many feel that any turmoil between the two powers houses could result in major disruption to the global economy.

President Murat Metshin

President Donald Trump to deploy troops to Saudi Arabia

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Ever since she was in high school, Sarah knew study abroad was in her future, and she actively sought out a school with a strong program. Since her days watching “Crocodile Hunter” as a child, Australia has always been one of her dream destinations. She has taken surfing lesson, swam with turtles through the Great Barrier Reef and even found time to visit Auckland, New Zealand. While she has been loving her time she has found herself still focused on her studies and has dedicated time to learning about Australia's history and native people.
Dancing into the new year: SUDC recaps auditions and shares plans for upcoming semester

Members of the Suffolk University Dance Company (SUDC) strike a pose for a group snapshot along the Charles River Esplanade.

The Suffolk University Dance Company (SUDC) has hit the ground running this year, with auditions and their first rehearsal already come and gone.

Junior and SUDC co-captain Julia Baker expressed her excitement for this upcoming year in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. Baker is co-captain of SUDC alongside fellow junior Sarah Kunneman.

“I am so excited to work with and take part in leading one of the largest companies SUDC has seen in a few years with a total of 20 company members,” Baker said. “Sarah and myself are interested to explore choreography and formations with a group this big, and we may have more options for small groups.”

Baker said she joined the team so she could keep dancing and be creative in college, and she’s gotten to do it alongside some of the best friends she’s made at Suffolk. This season is Baker’s first year as co-captain, but she has been a part of the company since her freshman year.

“While a leadership position calls for a lot of responsibility, it will be extremely rewarding to see everything that we are working on come to fruition,” Baker said. “The other members of the company inspire and push me to work harder, and my goal is to do the same for them.”

The year began with auditions on Sept. 22. The team will consist of seven new members and 13 returners.

“We had so much talent at auditions this fall that we were blown away,” Baker said. “Everyone that came to auditions really showcased what they had to offer and the judges panel had a tough deliberation afterwards before ultimately making our decision.”

Freshman Eliza Wandelear has been dancing for 16 years and said she was extremely grateful when she found out she made the team.

“Auditions made me super nervous because I wasn’t expecting the competition that was there,” Wandelear said. “I gave it my all, but still was extremely doubtful.”

Sophomore Tori Milotte has been a member of SUDC for one year and has been dancing since she was three years old. She shared that the team learned almost the entire dance for family weekend in a single three-hour rehearsal.

“Everyone on the team fit so well together and picked up the new choreography very quickly,” Milotte said. “They mesh really well with the previous members of the team and also add a cool new vibe.”

Milotte became close with everyone who was a part of the team over the past year through rehearsals and by spending time with teammates on outings outside of practice. She said her favorite part of SUDC was the tight friendships she formed.

With the new additions to the team and the upcoming events the co-captains and executive board are planning, Milotte is looking forward to what is in store, especially fresh choreography.

“Seeing everyone’s dances come to life with costumes, hair, makeup and a stage is one of my favorite things about dancing,” Milotte said.

SUDC performs at many events throughout the year, and Milotte’s favorite is the annual Celtic’s pre-game show. Family and friends of SUDC members come to watch and the show is broadcast on TV, which Milotte described as “an awesome way to promote the team and showcase our art form.”

But their biggest performance of the year, according to Baker, is the annual showcase that takes place in the spring semester. The team puts together some of their favorite dances from the fall and puts out all of their new choreography that they will be working on throughout the year.

The Performing Arts Office (PAO) helps the team tremendously with finding performance spaces and the Union of Designers, Operators, and Technicians works with them to set lighting and sound to help create their vision. SUDC also invites other Suffolk PAO groups and teams from nearby schools to perform with the company.

“SUDC is ecstatic to have so much new talent on the team and we are looking forward to performing for the Suffolk student body,” Baker said.
Preserved bodies displayed in latest exhibit

When Richard Ballo’s wife lost her battle to cancer in 1993, the heartbroken widower was unsure how to handle the devastating loss, until he reached for a notebook and began jotting his grief down on paper.

The author and Suffolk alum came to the university on Thursday afternoon to speak to students in the communications, journalism and media department about how he uses this painful life experience, and many others, in his literature.

Ballo’s interest in writing was sparked from a young age, but his windy college career path included studying psychology, business management, and technical communications in order to work out the emotions he was feeling and to reflect on what he was going through in order to heal.

“When I proposed to her, my image in my mind was that we would grow old and grey... the thought of her dying from cancer was a million miles away,” Ballo said during his talk. “I just had to deal with it the best I could.”

His private journaling later transformed into his award-winning first book “Life Without Lisa.” Since then, Ballo has also published a collection of interactive journals to help others grapple with the death of loved ones through pen and paper.

“People don’t want to admit their mortality, and talking about it helps people feel better and realize it’s a normal process,” Ballo said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Ballo went on to publish other nonfiction works as well. One of his most notable books is “Bullets and Babies,” a biography about a mother named Janice Riddle who was shot by her husband and continued raising her children despite being left paralyzed.

The author continued to dive into new genres that extend beyond the grim topic of grief. He wrote a children’s picture book, “A Mouse in the White House,” a cheerful story about a mouse named Martin who scurries his way through the president’s home. The book has expanded into a series, and Ballo said he enjoys sharing the tale with his grandchildren.

“i just want kids to laugh because kids are so innocent,” Ballo said in an interview with The Journal. “Let’s give them something to laugh about, that they can enjoy, and hopefully get them to be good readers and writers.”

As his work spans a plethora of categories and readers, Ballo said the foundation for his writing skills was built when he was a journalism student at Suffolk. In his classes, he learned the basics of constructing a story and the importance of editing. He said he later realized that if he was able to write a small article, he was also able to write a full-length book.

Ballo also said that his experience in journalism helped him gain courage to talk to people. The author travels the country promoting his new work and giving speeches, so he has to put introverted tendencies aside to communicate with others.

“A Mouse in Santa’s House,” Ballo’s latest book, will be released this fall. His books are available for purchase on his website and on Amazon.
Suffolk University’s Modern Theatre was transported to Poland last weekend, as the play “Ubu Roar” filled the venue with humor and laughter. This production was directed by Suffolk Theatre Professor Wesley Savick, and was put on by the Juvenila Theatre Company and the National Theatre of Allston. The immersive show had been performed by the theater company earlier this year in May, but was brought back this fall with more rehearsal time.

“Ubu Roar” follows Mr. and Mrs. Poops as they rise and fall from royalty. The plot begins when the main character Mr. Poops comes barreling through the audience proclaiming, “Don’t worry, I’m here!” There is no context for the audience to base this proclamation on, but the audience seemed amused. The main characters are seen going through all sorts of obstacles in their pursuit of the throne, which eventually turns Mr. Poops into King Poops. When fame goes to their heads, the characters go to war and end up giving up their seats of power.

Actors dared to break the fourth wall during the show by interacting with spectators and making them a part of the show. The characters were constantly referring to and talking to members of the audience. At one point, King Poops talked to the audience as if they were citizens in the kingdom, then proceeded to pass out pudding cups to win them over.

Some bright spots of the performance included the women soldiers who help Poops on his rampage to keep the throne and their short, comedic song that had the audience chuckling. The show did a splendid job of introducing media and film in the play, such as the play’s setting being displayed over the main stage throughout the show.

Instead of traditional theatre seating, audience members sat at tables with snacks and drinks available. The show’s take on dinner theatre made the audience feel as if they were in a lounge or open mic rather than a formal performance. The dinner theatre aspect added to the play because it created a relaxed atmosphere.

The engaging set design featured one stage behind the audience and one in front of them, which changed throughout the show. At some points, the actors and actresses even stood on tables where the audience was sitting and performed on those as well. The characters kept everyone on their feet because they never knew which actor was going to pop up where.

The show also starts with a concert-like feel featuring a live band. Senior theatre major and sound designer Samantha Noto describes it as, “part rock show and part theatre.” The live music was definitely a cool element of show, and the band members also contributed some acting and characters to the plot.

The Juvenila Theatre Company, which is made up of Suffolk alumni and current students, put on the performance. Noto explained more about the new company in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “Wes Savick started Juvenila to get the alumni of the Suffolk Theatre Department involved in theatre after they graduate,” Noto said. “He hires mostly alumni so that they can get their acting careers going and designers and technical people as well.”

“Ubu Roar” ran at the Modern Theatre from Sept. 19 - 21, and Sept. 26 - 28. The Juvenila Theatre Company has more shows planned, but has not yet officially released a line up.
Rising performers showcased at first Boston Local Music Festival

Live performances, food vendors, a beer garden and artists selling jewelry, clothing and wearable flower arrangements all gathered on City Hall Plaza this past weekend for Boston’s first Local Music Festival, a free event showcasing 50 local bands and indie musicians. While the festival kicked off with a slow start on Saturday morning, it quickly escalated by the afternoon, pulling people in to see various performances. By 6 p.m. when the festival was supposed to end for the day, the crowd was still full and the performers were still giving their best show.

Even vendors selling their work were astonished by the talent in the performances. “I found out about it online through a friend, absolutely would come back next year,” said Dakota Achin, a vendor for Unlocked Tie Clothing & Apparel, in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. This festival was open for all to come and check out, and people from every age group were there. Grandparents dancing around with their grandkids, couples on a date and teenagers just hanging out were all in attendance.

City Hall Plaza is in the heart of Boston, so it was an ideal place to host the festival since it is centered around some of the city’s most popular attractions. However, it was hard to distinguish what the event was without prior knowledge. The music did attract people and once there, they got the idea of what it was. For those just walking around, they may not have been able to tell that it was a festival.

While attendees said they did enjoy the event, they also believed there were a few things that could’ve been done to make it even better, such as adding more vendors or making a better entrance to make it stand out. Although the festival was something of its first, local musicians are a force that has been impacting the city for decades. The music scene in Boston has been famous for pumping out well-known bands like Aerosmith, who were known as “the Bad Boys from Boston,” to The Pixies. Even with the success these groups attained throughout their careers, they all had their start right in this city with the support of their community believing in their talent.

The same goes for all the musicians who performed at the festival, every band or solo artist had impeccable amounts of talent. It was obvious that most are more than deserving of a successful career in the music industry someday as they had an ample amount of people in front of them cheering them on.

If you were in search of finding new music to check out or just to have a fun day with your family and friends, this was the perfect event that catered to all types of people. While there was room for improvement in minor areas, this was only the inaugural year, so many more successful installments seem to be in the festival’s future.
Unbeknownst to most new college students, the first six weeks of college can be an incredibly dangerous time, for what is referred to as The Red Zone, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). The period between arrival on campus and Thanksgiving break is when a student is statistically more likely to be sexually assaulted than at any other point in the academic year, according to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

The heartbreaking fact is that most in eager college students are attempting to start the next chapter of their lives are the months in which they are more likely to be sexually assaulted compared to the rest of the academic year. Everyone is affected by it in some way, whether personally or knowing somebody affected; according to RAINN, more than 50% of college sexual assaults occur in either August, September, October or November.

And “The Red Zone” isn’t just a term. It exists, statistically.

As we take these next few months in stride, let us remind ourselves of a very jarring but necessary point: these issues are still often underreported. Survivors still fear to come forward, but these assaults are very real.

As a city known for its college culture, it is important to note that we are at the center of this phenomenon. These numbers and percentages on spreadsheets are not just numbers. They are people. People we know, love and cherish. Many of the people who could be affected will become your future wedding party, spouses and best friends.

Due to stigma and underreporting, all of the numbers could be much higher than we are aware.

Sexual assault happens on all college campuses, including Suffolk’s. By RAINN’s numbers, that means that there’s a chance that some of these survivors could be your lab partner, your student senator, a member of your club’s bible, your roommate or even your newly-found best friend.

That said, according to Suffolk University’s Annual Security and Fire Safety Report for 2019, which reports the numbers for the 2018 year and others, 4 cases of sexual assault — which the report lists as cases of rape, fondling, incest and statutory — were reported on Boston’s campus; none for Madrid.

Suffolk University has many resources in order to help those who have experienced or been affected by sexual assault.

These include The Office of Title IX which can be reached at titleIX@ suffolk.edu or (617) 573-8027. The Title IX office is located on the 13th floor of 73 Tremont. Counseling, Health & Wellness (CHW) is also available for students at www.suffolk.edu/ chw or (617) 573-8226. CHW can be found on the 5th floor of 73 Tremont. Health Services serves students next to CHW. They can be reached at (617) 573-8260.

There are also offices and centers students can go to such as the InterCenter in Sawyer 823 as well as the Office of Student Affairs at 73 Tremont. Suffolk Police is also available on their website: suffolk.edu/police#reporting.

As a university, we must address this more heavily. —The Suffolk Journal Staff

OPINION
We must raise awareness about The Red Zone

Nick Milano
Journal Contributor @nicksullivan12

First came Terrell Owens, followed by Chad Ochocinco. Now it appears that Antonio Brown has taken over the throne as the NFL’s wide receiver diva.

The Antonio Brown saga made for major headlines nationwide, but appears to finally be over for now. Both Patriots and Antonio Brown fans find the way Brown has handled his business over the last month to be childish — and rightfully so. It all started in March, when Brown was traded from Pittsburgh to Oakland, in what seemed like a fresh start for all parties involved. Now, seven months and two teams later, it is clear that this was not the case. After being cut by Oakland in early November following a series of offenses including skipping of mandatory meetings and verbal altercations with Raiders Head Coach John Gruden and General Manager Mike Mayock, Brown was signed to a one-year deal by the New England Patriots.

There are many more ways to handle one’s business than to post your problems all over social media and rely on your fans to constantly have your back, especially considering the disgusting accusations made against him.

The majority of NFL fans find it rude and disrespectful to drag an organization, such as the Patriots, through the mud after giving him such a unique opportunity, even after hitting what looked like rock bottom. Overall, it seems as though Brown’s plan to return to school may be the best thing for him, as he will spend some time away from the spotlight and out of the NFL as a whole.

The Patriots’ signing of Brown looked to be a match made in Heaven with one of the greatest players to ever live, Tom Brady, throwing to one of the best receivers of the decade. All while being coached by a man who would not put up with any of Brown’s shenanigans — Bill Belichick. Judging by Brown’s initial reaction to his signing on social media, it had seemed as though he was ready to leave his bumpy offseason behind and keep his mind set on winning football games.

On Sept. 9, just two days after signing with New England, Brown was hit with a sexual assault accusation by his former lab partner, your student senator, a member of your club’s bible, your roommate or even your newly-found best friend.

The Patriots’ signing of Brown was to be too much for any group of Brown’s plan to take action on social media and rely on your fans to constantly have your back, especially considering the disgusting accusations made against him.

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It is pretty frightening how many people around Suffolk University’s campus are using a Juul or some form of vaping device. They are in our classrooms, lounge areas, bathrooms and outside of the school’s buildings — everywhere we go, there are young people with their hands up to their mouths trying to hide the small, plastic devices they’re vaping.

Some states have recently started to enact bans against not only selling the flavored vaping pods that Juul is famous for, but now also prohibiting the sale of any and all electronic cigarette devices.

Mass. Gov. Charlie Baker was one of the latest government officials to take action against this issue, banning the sale of all vaping products for a four-month period. This ban is a result of his effort to “allow the medical community and federal officials time to investigate what’s driving the spike in illnesses,” according to The Boston Globe.

There are plenty of other things — such as alcohol, drugs and violence, that all have much higher numbers in terms of victims — so why are these vaping companies under so much scrutiny for their comparatively small amount of illnesses and deaths?

Well, the already astounding number of vaping-related illnesses continues to rise each week, recently reaching “more than 800 cases of the lung illness that have been reported across the country,” according to NBC. But the graphic that people believe they are targeting.

One company in particular, Juul Labs Inc., is facing the most scrutiny as a result of them allegedly continuing to sell and market towards teenagers and young adults. After seeing one or two of their commercials, it is hard to argue against these accusations towards Juul. Not only do the majority of their actors and actresses look to be no older than 30, they make it a point to advertise their more brightly colored, fruity flavors.

Boston City Smoke Shop employee Leon Brewer said that “most people that come in [to the shop] buy Juuls or Juul pods are between the ages of 21 and about 25.” On the one hand, placing bans on selling all electronic cigarette products could encourage young adults to do some further research into whether the products they are using on a daily basis are dangerous or not. Even a small amount of research would show these young people that it is not just unhealthy, it is extremely harmful both mentally and physically and could result in some serious, long-term health issues.

While the imminent health issues alone should dissuade users from re-purchasing these products, it unfortunately does not. Similar to the victims of natural disasters, the people that don’t feel they will be affected who adopt “a ‘it’ll never happen to me’ mentality could be the ones who are harmed the most.

The hard truth is that anyone who uses these vaping products is just as susceptible to this mysterious lung illness as anyone else who uses them. Because these illnesses have only recently started occurring, we do not have enough research to help identify the specific cause and as a result, they are incurable.

Furthermore, placing a ban on these vaping products is only a small barrier for the average Juul user. These new laws are not nationwide, so what is to stop someone from traveling an hour to N.H. and buying any product not available in Mass.? N.Y., Mich., and now Mass. are the only states that have laws prohibiting the selling of vape products, according to The Washington Post.

All in all, figuring out a way to minimize the amount of young people using the Juul and other vaping products is really the ultimate goal. Teenagers and young adults unknowingly being sucked into a cycle of constant urges and unhealthy habits is bad enough, but when it starts to have serious physical consequences and even fatal repercussions, it is an issue that is worse than we originally thought.
Balancing extracurriculars while being a role model for Suffolk University is definitely a challenge, but it is something that junior business management and finance major, Blase Cormier does with ease.

Cormier has played baseball his whole life and decided to play at the collegiate level when he came to Suffolk. For the past two seasons he’s been the team’s first baseman.

“I have fun with my teammates and winning is our ultimate goal. I chose to play at Suffolk because I wanted to continue the game that I love, especially in the great program that they offer,” said Cormier in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Cormier has played in a total of 42 games and holds a batting average of .326 with a total of 57 runs.

Off the field, Cormier is a role model for incoming students by being an orientation leader. This year, Cormier chose to be a part of Family Logistic Orientation, where he worked with families, oversaw the orientation leaders and worked behind the scenes to schedule and create events to ensure orientation ran smoothly.

“A big part of me joining the Orientation team was when I was a freshman at orientation and I saw how willing the orientation leaders were to help me out and make the process of college so much easier, I love to help people and put myself out there,” said Cormier.

Cormier’s coach, Anthony J. Del Prete, associate director of athletics, has noticed how dedicated he has been not only to baseball, but also to being a leader.

“Blase has done a great job balancing his multiple roles at Suffolk by being a student-athlete and an orientation leader,” said Del Prete in an interview with The Journal. “He shows great diligence with baseball in working to improve his skill and also excelling in the classroom. He has been a valuable resource for the baseball program as an orientation leader helping many of our recruits transition during the first year.”

As a student-athlete, Cormier is a leader. Not only does he work hard to improve the team, but also to make the transition onto the team easier for others. As incoming students join the baseball team, Cormier steps up to guide them.

In order to balance being a collegiate athlete and a student leader, time management is essential for Cormier. Although it is still early in the semester, Cormier is looking to put more on his nearly-full plate. He and a few friends are already working on plans for a boxing club they hope to have ready by the spring semester. Right now, Cormier and friends are in the process of finding local gyms with proper space in their price range.

“Even when I’m juggling the many things I do here at Suffolk, I ask myself, ‘What else can I do with my time to help out?’” said Cormier. “It isn’t a chore or a job, it is something I take on and enjoy doing.”
The Suffolk women’s volleyball team celebrates a point after winning 3-0 against Pine Manor College on Sept. 11

Suffolk volleyball captain Hannah Fabiano

Suffolk volleyball captain Sarah Mullahy

Andrew Laird
Staff Writer
@The_AndrewLaird

The Suffolk women’s volleyball team celebrates a comeback season

Suffolk women’s volleyball serves up comeback season

STAY TUNED:
Suffolk Athletics will be hosting Fan Fest at East Boston Memorial Park on Saturday. Stay tuned for our coverage of all the festivities.

Andrew Laird
Staff Writer
@The_AndrewLaird

The Suffolk women’s volleyball team said their goodbyes to seven seniors last season. This year they welcomed nine new players, including five freshmen, two walk-ons and two transfers.

At this time last year, the team had a 5-12 record. This year the team sports a 12-5 record, enough for second best in the Greater Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC).

“You never know who the starting six is going to be,” said senior captain Sarah Mullahy in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “This type of climate where we’re always working for our position has been great for everyone to step up and accept that challenge.”

So far, the Lady Rams seemingly prefer the feeling of victory, as they have won eight of their last 10 games. The team is tied for both the most five-set matches and the most three set matches in the GNAC. The Rams have been able to beat teams handily, and weather tough nail-biting wins as well.

In all four of the team’s five-set matches, Suffolk has emerged victorious. Just this year, the Rams were losing a match to Lasell 2-0, before rallying to win the last three sets and the match. “I think that was a big testament to who we are and what we’re going to do,” said junior captain Hannah Fabiano in an interview with The Journal. “We’re not letting teams roll over us. We came here to finish this, we have something to prove.”

Standout freshmen setters Kenzley Bell and Harmony Johnson have both been huge additions to a now-winning Rams team. Bell has 224 digs on the season for an average of 4.07 per set, ranking her fourth and fifth in the Greater Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). Johnson ranks fourth in the GNAC with 7.78 assists per set.

“College volleyball isn’t all about the wins and losses,” said Head Coach Scott Blanchard in an interview with The Journal. “It’s about learning to play as a team, it’s about learning to depend on each other. Something this team has done since the beginning.”

Blanchard is in his second year coaching the volleyball program. In his short time with the team, the Lady Rams have been more motivated than ever.

“We’re not settling this year, there’s no reason to,” said Fabiano. “Everyone’s just like ‘what’s next? What more can we do? How do we get better today than we were yesterday?’”

With the fourth most kills and the second most digs in the conference, the Rams are prepared to take their balanced approach farther than ever before.

“Not a lot of groups have this opportunity,” said junior Dakhensey Marcellus in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “We have goals to break the Suffolk single season win record. We’re also shooting to have a home playoff game as well.”

Breaking Suffolk’s 18-win season record set in 1997 would be just yet another milestone coach Blanchard and the team have managed to accomplish in his young tenure.

Next year, the team will be leaving the GNAC for the Coastal Commonwealth Conference, and plans on doing so in style. “[By] Representing Suffolk, showing all of our hard work, proving a lot of people wrong, and going into a new conference we want to end this with a bang,” said Fabiano.

The Ram’s next game is this Saturday where they’ll travel to take on the sixth ranked team Emmanuel College. The team will return to Regan Gymnasium on Oct. 9 to battle Johnson and Wales.

The Suffolk women’s volleyball team celebrates a point after winning 3-0 against Pine Manor College on Sept. 11

Suffolk volleyball captain Hannah Fabiano

Suffolk volleyball captain Sarah Mullahy