Student groups from all across campus collaborated last Thursday in Sargent Hall with music, food and unyielding hope to help raise $20,200 for those impacted by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas through the Caribbean Student Network’s (CSN) “Dressing with Purpose” event.

On Sept. 1, Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas in what turned out to be one of the worst natural disasters ever experienced in the country. The storm caused great damage in the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama. This caused the destruction of infrastructures, dozens of power outages and the disappearance of over 400 people, with 60 being confirmed dead.

Sarianna Quarne / Journal Contributor

Sarianna Quarne
Journal Contributor
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Oct. 10 marked the first anniversary of the Suffolk CARES Pantry and Suffolk University staff, faculty and students gathered to celebrate the impact it has had on campus so far. The pantry, located on the 12th floor of 73 Tremont, is a resource for students at Suffolk struggling with food insecurity. Since it opened last year, the pantry has provided food and other necessities for 749 students, according to Suffolk’s Director of Student Outreach and Support (SOS) Amanda McGrath.

Sarianna Quarne / Journal Contributor

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Journal Contributor
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Suffolk CARES Pantry looks to grow after successful first year
On-campus pantry helps hundreds of students facing food insecurity

The Suffolk CARES Pantry celebrated its first anniversary on Oct. 10.

From CARES - 1

“Our goal is to never purchase food for the pantry,” said McGrath in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “If we can raise food insecurity awareness by doing donation drives, that really is the goal.”

The pantry relies heavily on donations from students and staff, and receives donations from outside organizations such as Hope and Comfort and Bridge Over Troubled Waters. Donation bins for the pantry are located in most residence halls and academic buildings on campus.

Hope and Comfort, a charity out of Needham, provides donations of toiletry items to the pantry. “We have received nearly 2,000 items from them since July, so that’s a huge partnership that we have,” said Janelle Grady, assistant director of SOS.

“We’d like Suffolk students to be engaged with [Hope and Comfort],” said Grady. It’s in the process of talking to Suffolk’s Center for Community Engagement about possible volunteer trips for Suffolk students to assist at Hope and Comfort’s warehouse in Needham.

The CARES pantry also works with Bridge Over Troubled Waters, an organization in Boston that offers help to youth dealing with housing insecurity. Grady said the pantry may further its partnership with this organization to provide students with products they haven’t had access to in the pantry before.

“Bridge Over Troubled Waters] said that they had fresh produce delivered every Tuesday,” said Grady to The Journal. “So that’s something that we want to connect students to because our pantry, right now, does not offer fresh produce.”

McGrath briefly spoke on the housing problem in Boston and at Suffolk, and how it could tie into the future of Suffolk CARES.

“We want to address all of the things that make up somebody’s wellness,” said Crossman. “Food scarcity is something that very highly directly impacts someone’s health and well-being.”

The pantry has been a comfort for students who struggle to afford food. “If you don’t have the money or the means to get a meal plan here, then it’s nice to know you have somewhere to go,” said one student at the anniversary event who wished to remain anonymous.

For students who may be uncomfortable going to the pantry for help, Grady said they should still reach out to Suffolk CARES.

“It helps when students meet with [the CARES directors] because we can talk to them about the resource that the pantry is,” said Grady. “Once they see [the pantry], they’re more open to utilizing the resource.”

For more information on the Suffolk CARES Pantry, email cares@suffolk.edu.
Suffolk students and faculty say Trump impeachment is looming, could be blocked by the Senate

Caroline Enos
News Editor
@CarolineEnos

President Donald Trump has called the Democrat-led impeachment inquiry against him “Witch Hunt garbage.” But to Suffolk University students from both sides of the political spectrum, this isn’t quite the case.

“I think Trump’s actions warrant an investigation,” said Matt Lewis, a member of Suffolk University College Republicans and host of WSFR’s talk show, “A House Divided,” in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

“If there was a quid pro quo between Trump and [Ukraine President Volodymyr] Zelensky, and if Trump did indeed use taxpayer dollars to leverage a foreign power to investigate his political opponent, he should be impeached,” Lewis said.

The phone call that started it all—and what happened next

In a July 25 phone call between the two presidents, Zelensky mentioned buying anti-tank missiles from the U.S.

“I would like you to do us a favor though,” Trump said in response.

Trump then asked Zelensky for an investigation into former VP Joe Biden and his youngest son, Hunter, who had sat on the board of Burisma Holdings, a Ukrainian Energy Company that had once been under investigation by Ukrainian prosecutor Viktor Shokin.

As vice president, Biden pushed for Shokin to be fired in 2015 for failing to investigate corruption cases.

However, no evidence showing that the Bidens committed any criminal wrongdoing in Ukraine has surfaced. The Obama administration and the U.S.’s European allies sought to oust Shokin as a part of their attempts to quell corruption in Ukraine, and Hunter Biden has not been tied to any of Burisma’s corruption allegations.

A whistleblower said Trump’s call for an investigation was concerning.

“In the course of my official duties, I have received information from multiple U.S. Government officials that the President of the United States is using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 U.S. election,” the whistleblower said in their complaint, according to CNN.

The complaint was released on Sept. 26. Two days after Pelosi officially announced the inquiry and a day after Trump made the call’s transcript public.

The whistleblower also said in the complaint that the U.S.’s decision to block about $400 million in aid to Ukraine a week before the call came from Trump himself.

“The president must be held accountable,” Pelosi said when she announced the start of the impeachment inquiry on Sept. 24. “No one is above the law.”

Trump has stood by his comments in the call and tweeted on Oct. 13 that the inquiry is “a fraudulent use of impeachment,” and previously called the inquiry “a coup.”

The White House has refused to cooperate in the inquiry, even ordering a diplomat last week to not attend a deposition with the House committees conducting the inquiry, the Washington Post reported.

Trump publicly called for China to investigate the Bidens earlier this month, which Chinese officials said will not happen, according to the South China Morning Post.

Before Pelosi announced Tuesday night that the House will postpone an impeachment vote, CNN reported that at least 228 House Democrats are in favor of voting to impeach the president, while republicans remain unconfirmed.

Suffolk students and faculty say Trump’s presidency will survive impeachment

Lukas Phipps, Student Government Association commuter senator at large, said the inquiry is especially warranted for Russia’s interference in the 2016 election.

“After already having the FBI confirm foreign interference from elections last year, a president that is soliciting information from a foreign power specifically related to the upcoming election is beyond reasonable suspicion to constitute an impeachment inquiry of treason,” said Phipps in an interview with The Journal.

“However, many things still need to be proven true for that to happen, and while to be impeached only takes a political maneuver from say, we still need to see it through as a legitimate investigation,” he said.

Trump will only be the third president in American history to be impeached, should the House bring charges of high crimes or misdeavors against him.

Suffolk University Government Department Chair Christina Kulich-Vamvakas said in an interview with The Journal that if Trump is impeached, “it will be largely because of the solicitation of foreign aid for personal political gain in the 2020 election and obstruction.”

She also said the House will likely impeach Trump.

“More and more evidence is coming to the surface that President Trump has been using the power of the presidency for personal political gain, rather than in pursuit of foreign policy that benefits the nation,” said Kulich-Vamvakas. “In other words, he is abusing the power of the presidency and has attempted to obstruct justice in hiding it.”
Students can meet their SGA representatives, voice their concerns and see what SGA is all about at SGA’s new “Mingle with a Senator” event Wednesday night from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Stoll Room on the 4th floor of the Sawyer Building.

At SGA’s Oct. 10 meeting, Vice President Oba Oseghali said the Student Judiciary Review Board (SJRB) has gone over two resolutions that will hit the Senate floor soon. SJRB must approve resolutions before Senators debate and vote on them.

Gregory Heald, Suffolk’s new Director of the Sawyer Library, introduced himself to SGA at the meeting. He took questions from senators and shared some of his plans— and concerns— for the library.

Heald said he is looking into upgrading the library’s technology and various systems. He also said he wants to address the issue of not having enough study spaces for students in the library.

He is concerned that the library may not be able to continue to keep a copy of each textbook used in every class on the library’s shelves. He said the growing shift from paper books to online textbooks makes sharing books harder because only one person can activate the codes used to access online textbooks.

He also said librarians are fighting a potential merger between the publishing companies McGraw-Hill and Cengage.

The merger could make it harder for students to afford textbooks, as it would create a publisher so large that it would have control of almost half of the textbook market. Heald said this could drive up textbook prices.

Senators also voted in Tia Anowar as a 2023 member at-large at the meeting.

Class of 2023 members Juan Pastranas and Nicole Dibenedetto became members at-large at SGA’s Oct. 3 meeting.

At the same meeting, first-year student Frensi Thanasi officially became SGA’s international student senator at-large.

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**Store closings could signal a more pricey Downtown**

Downtown Crossing is a hot spot for shoppers, with its streets lined with stores and restaurants. But now that Forever 21 and lower-end stores like it continue to close, and rent in Boston continues to increase, Downtown could change into a more upscale shopping district. Forever 21 announced the closure of all of its Boston stores after declaring bankruptcy on Sept. 29. The fast fashion store is closing 178 locations, yet the only ones in Massachusetts that are being closed all happen to be in Boston.

The store's Downtown Crossing location on Washington Street, the Newbury Street storefront and the site at the South Bay Center are all on a list of stores set to close. Abigail Craighead, a senior global and cultural communications major at Suffolk University, isn't surprised about the closings. She said the Downtown Crossing Forever 21 location closed and reopened several times while she has been at Suffolk.

Because of the closing of an affordable clothing store, Craighead is concerned the district will become increasingly more expensive.

"Downtown Crossing) is becoming more and more expensive as the years go by," said Craighead in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "Downtown has already been somewhat gentrified, which included

Forever 21 one it came in.

Overlooking Downtown Crossing is Millennium Tower, a 60-story apartment building that opened in 2016 on Franklin Street. According to Luxuryboston.com, the condo prices start at $1.15 million and a one-bedroom apartment room starts at upwards of $4,000.

This is a contrast to what the area was like 60 years ago. Then known as the Combat Zone (officially the Adult Entertainment District), the area was filled with X-rated movie theaters, prostitution, peep shows and adult bookstores.

While Downtown Crossing has since been cleaned up, some students are worried about the more upscale additions to the area and what closures of lower-end stores could mean.

"We are seeing a second wave of gentrification with the construction of Millennium Tower pushing out brands," said Craighead. "H&M left, now Forever 21's leaving, so now it's a higher form of gentrification where not only are we pushing out the low-end, but we're also pushing out the middle class."

**Neighbors of X reported that in August 2018, the average asking price in Downtown Crossing per square foot was $1,751.**

With luxury apartments raising the property value of Downtown Crossing, it is difficult for cheaper retailers to keep up with their rent and leases. According to CHBC, the stores Forever 21 plans on closing are least profitable and cannot keep up with their leases.

Payless Shoeource filed for bankruptcy and closed its Downtown Crossing location over the summer. The more expensive shoe store, DSW, is still in business on the same street.

Despite these changes, students are still fans of the shopping district. "Downtown Crossing is not too expensive. It has many affordable options if you are trying to stick to a budget," said Allie Rodrigues, a sophomore psychology major, in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

According to Northeastern's Greater Boston Housing Report Card of 2019, Boston's rent has gone up 64.6% from 2010 to 2019.

Suffolk is in the middle of Downtown Boston and only guarantees two years of housing. Many students find housing in other parts of Boston, such as Allston and East Boston, where there are lower rent prices.

I am concerned with my management of renting and keeping a steady and affordable rent," said Rodrigues.

Students enjoy Suffolk because of its location, but with limited housing students wish there was a more convenient way to live in Downtown.

First-year media/film major Nicole Geary wishes there was more housing on campus.

"I know Suffolk is a commuter school, but it really sucks that we can only live on campus for two years. I would love to live here all four if I could," said Geary. "I mean, when else am I going to be able to live here in the center of Boston without having to pay $3,000 a month in rent?"

Students are worried about rising prices in other areas, too.

"I think it's sad that [rent] is becoming more expensive," said Craighead. "Our tuition is raised two grand a year, so on top of that, adding [rent] increase it's just making Suffolk just more and more inaccessible.

Increased prices in retail and rent are a looming worry for college students. According to them, they're starting to feel the impacts of Boston's changing financial climate.

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### From STUDENTS - 4

**for clubs they would toss or put away," said Wong in an interview with The Journal. "They sent an email last May saying they were going to move stuff around, but I thought they were going to move stuff around, but I thought they were going to move stuff around.**

In order to address these issues, the Diversity and Inclusion Council, which is made up of students and faculty, affinity groups at Suffolk and is run by the Diversity Peer Educators (DPE) out of CSOL, drafted the report to present succinctly to SLI.

One of the DPE's involved, senior biology major Jess Lorenzana, hopes the report will provide solutions to the issues with SLI that has been prevalent all semester and create a sense of cooperation between SLI and the student groups. "This started as a letter but became a formal report that we were able to find a conclusion to these issues," said Lorenzana in an interview with The Journal. "All of this has taken been taken as seriously as it should and we have been left in the dark on certain issues with not enough communication on different aspects of our clubs and on policies."

Some student leaders voiced their opinions about how SLI could have better utilized the space that has been allocated to other groups. This has increased tensions as SLI has not used the solutions that students see as being an easier transition.

"What they should have done was put everything in what was the office for Greek Life [on the third floor], where it wouldn't have been as expensive," said Wong. "Now we have to ask the SLI student worker every single time to unlock the door which I think is a hassle. I think they could utilize that old Greek office space more efficiently."

Lorenzana said enhanced communication between SLI and student organizations is essential. "My ultimate goal is direct dialogue," said Lorenzana. "With direct dialogue of the people in charge of SLI and students, there is more genuine effort to solve these issues."

Representatives of SLI will meet with students about the issues in the coming weeks. Dean Dave DeAngelis, director of SLI, hopes this meeting will be the beginning of a rewarding and enjoyable leadership opportunity that they are in their positions, said DeAngelis. "So whatever we can do to make that a better experience, or improve some services or anything, that is what we need to do." Overall, the student leaders are viewing the experience as a learning curve; one that can help make the connection between SLI and student leaders and together as clubs.

"Communication is key," said DeAngelis. "To future club presidents," said Wong. "We are seeing a critical conversation about some issues that they are having. That allows us an opportunity to work with them to find remedies," said DeAngelis in an interview with The Journal.

DeAngelis hopes a new relationship will develop between student leaders and student organizations. Specifically, one that can work to maintain and improve the experience of students in the coming weeks. "I want students to have a good involvement experience, to have a rewarding of SLI and student groups working together. I think it's great when students want to engage in a critical conversation about some issues that they are having. That allows us an opportunity to work with them to find remedies," said DeAngelis. "So whatever we can do to make that a better experience, or improve some services or anything, that is what we need to do." Overall, the student leaders are viewing the experience as a learning curve; one that can help make the connection between SLI and student leaders and together as clubs. Communication is key," said DeAngelis. "To future club presidents," said Wong. "We are seeing a critical conversation about some issues that they are having. That allows us an opportunity to work with them to find remedies," said DeAngelis in an interview with The Journal.

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Caribbean Student Network to raise $20,200 for Bahamas relief in “Dressing with Purpose” event

“62,000 people would need clean drinking water, 60,000 would need food assistance. Sharks are swimming in the homes of residents of the Abaco Islands, 60 people have been confirmed dead, and there is an extensive list of unreported deaths,” said CSN Secretary Sydney Watson at the start of the event. “60 fathers, mothers, sisters, cousins, game-changers, givers to the community, 60 people. Tonight I implore you all to donate what you can.”

“Dressing with Purpose” was the first in a series of events CSN plans to organize this year in order to reach their $20,200 fundraising goal. All of the proceeds will go to Hands for Hunger, a charity voted on by CSN for its devotion to helping the people of the Bahamas.

The donations will be used for food rescue and distribution, education and other innovative solutions aimed at achieving national food security, according to Hands for Hunger.

By raising awareness of this issue, CSN aims to provide a little hope for the people of the Bahamas who have endured so much these past few weeks. This fundraiser was just one part of the efforts by CSN to help ameliorate this tragedy.

Nearly 70 community members gathered in the first-floor function hall of Sargent Hall, eager to participate and support the cause.

The dim blue ceiling lights, decorative table setups, classy cocktail attire, and talented Suffolk Jazz Band set the scene for an extravagant, yet emotional evening.

The evening’s performances included an impressive routine featuring Suffolk’s Latin dance team Pasion Latina, a moving A Capella performance by Soulfully Versed and two captivating vocal performances by Suffolk alumna Rebecca Zama.

Throughout the fun of the evening, CSN stayed focused on the issue at hand: raising money for the people affected by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas.

While the short term goal of CSN is to reach their fundraising goal, the group also wants the people of the Bahamas to know they will continue to help however they can, explained CSN President John Gathua.

“Divided by water but united by culture,” said Gathua. “We will continue to do everything we can to help.”

Because natural disasters have impacted people all over the world, many tend to downplay their consequences and go about their lives shortly after they happen.

“At this point, I feel it’s human nature, if you don’t see it and feel it because you are not in it then it is something you don’t have to worry about,” said CSN Vice President Lynnou Modestin.

The devastation these hurricanes brought to the islands, buildings and people of the Bahamas will not be restored in a few weeks.

Similar to what happened to the people of Haiti after the earthquake that struck in 2010, this natural disaster has caused the people of the Bahamas an extraordinary amount of damage and will take years to recover from.

CSN turned a tragedy into an opportunity for the people of Suffolk and beyond to make an actual difference. CSN leaders explained that any small amount of donation to Hands for Hunger is crucial in helping to restore what Hurricane Dorian destroyed in the Bahamas.

CSN expressed how crucial it is to keep this issue at the forefront of our minds because it certainly will not stop being an issue for the people of the Bahamas any time soon.

“We can’t let go, there are people who need our help,” said Modestin.
Haitians have been emphasizing their frustra-
tion with President Jovenel Moïse for weeks
now. Due to these frustra-
tions, massive protests have broken out all across
the island causing schools,
clinics and businesses to
be closed for weeks.

Moïse has expressed
anger about fuel short-
ages since the collapse of
Venezuela’s PetroCaribe
program, according to
Time. For a decade, Ven-
ezuela offered aid and
cheap financing to sev-
eral Caribbean nations to
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economic situation and
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Jovenel Moïse for weeks
have been diverted into politi-
cians pockets, according to
reports documenting how
Venezuelan fuel assistance
was supposed to go to
the people but it didn’t.

Fils-Aime said to The
Jakobin Magazine.
this, Haiti will overcome
this.” The media has failed
to cover this consistently.

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The economy is
stagnating, currency
devaluing, inflation sky-
rocketing, the cost of
living increasing while
wages are low,” said Zama
to the Journal. “Unemploy-
ment is high, people do not
have constant electricity,
basic infrastructure such as
paved roads are not a
given, and even hospitals
are tight on resources.

On a human level, many
Haitian people find them-
selves in a cycle of poverty
because we can see it; it’s
visible, tangible, and mea-
surable,” said Zama.

Some also speculate
that the lack of coverage
of the Haiti crisis could be
due to the fact that there
are several other protests
happening in different
parts of the world. While
corruption is prevalent in
many nations, the Suffolk
community feels every
crisis deserves significant
media coverage.

The Haitian community
at Suffolk is working hard
in the U.S. so that they can
give back to the families
and friends who are being
affected by these protests.

“The U.S. doesn’t feel
responsible for what is
going on in Haiti hence
their lack of assistance,”
Fils-Aime said to The
Suffolk Journal.

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“There are institutions
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Senior climate scientist for the NAS, Brooke
Bateman stated that birds are an important
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Birds such as California quails, New Jersey
goldfinches and Minnesota common loons
are already beginning to diminish as a result
according to the NAS.

In 2017, President Trump announced the U.S.
would pull out of the Paris Climate Agree-
ment in order to combat increasing global
temperatures and other detrimental circum-
stances. However, there are many that do not
believe this announcement will go through,
according to Time.

USA Today describes how scientists have seen
studies showing other instances related to
climate change that are also taking their
toll on the bird population. Some of them include
droughts, fires, sea-levels rising, urbanization
and more.

UPT talks about the important steps needed
in order to help protect North American spe-
cies. Advocating for the lowering of carbon
emissions and reducing as much energy usage
at home as possible, are vital. David Yarnold,
CEO of NAS, also urges the protection of for-
est and wetlands so these birds can attain
habitable habitats. Taking action now rather
than later can make a huge difference in the
futures of these creatures.
When Autumn Hall came to Suffolk, she never would’ve guessed she’d be spending her second year traveling throughout Europe and riding camels along the African coast. From the moment she attended an info session on Suffolk Madrid, she knew she wanted to study abroad in the heart of Spain. Since she lives with a host mom, Autumn has been able to significantly improve her Spanish speaking capabilities. She feels the homestay experience has helped her be fully immersed in Spanish culture. In addition to traveling to Portugal, Morocco and various other cities in Spain, Autumn is looking forward to exploring even more countries in Europe like Hungary, Ireland and Italy throughout the rest of her semester.
MFA invites Native American musicians and dancers to celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ Day

Indigenous Peoples’ Day, observed on Oct. 14 in lieu of Columbus Day, celebrates the culture of indigenous populations, honors their ancestors and brings awareness to the issues they have faced in both a historical and modern-day context. The Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) joined in this celebration with free admission and a variety of events in collaboration with Akomawt Educational Initiative, a Passamaquoddy group dedicated to educating others about Native American history, culture and current events.

The MFA introduced the day’s events with a welcome and blessing ceremony featuring the museum’s director, Matthew Teitelbaum, Jonathan James-Perry, a Tribal Citizen of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Nation that helped organize the proceedings, and Chris Newell, a Passamaquoddy Indian and the Director of Education for the Akomawt Educational Initiative.

The opening ceremony also included music from the four-member group Iron River Singers, who had multiple shows throughout the day where they performed modern powwow songs. It was described by the musicians as “round dance singing,” a type of intertribal singing from Canada that would typically be performed in the wintertime to celebrate the past year. Though some of the songs included lyrics and others only featured vocal melodies, they were all accompanied by hand drums played by three of the members.

Hector, a Taino and Afro-Indigenous (Yoruba) 37-year-old from Boston, was able to attend one of the performances by the Iron River Singers.

“It’s music that speaks to everybody,” Hector said referencing how the drums mimic the beating of a heart. He said his favorite part of the music is that listeners “feel relieved at the end of it.”

Hector said the museum’s celebration of Indigenous Peoples’ Day was beautiful and hopes that the MFA continues hosting similar events and expanding on them more in the future.

There were also two hoop dancing performances by Henu Josephine Tarrant and Lisa Odig (Ojibwe), who has been named the World Hoop Dance Champion twice. These intricate dances consisted of numerous hoops that were twisted around the body as the dancer moved to create different designs. The show was accompanied by music from Chris Newell who also served as the performances’ presenter.

In an interview with The Suffolk Journal, Newell explained how he grew up surrounded by indigenous culture and music, which helped him master playing native music. He was taught how to sing and play instruments by his father, among others.

Newell said non-Native Americans “think we’re all dead and gone” due to pop culture, current teachings of history and the focus on colonialism throughout Boston that ignores Native American lives and history. He hopes that the MFA’s partnership with Akomawt during Monday’s events leads to more awareness of indigenous populations and the inclusion of modern Native American art in the MFA in the future.

“There’s no way to undo the loss of people that we have, but we can preserve ourselves,” Newell said. “We can keep our existence alive.”

Other events included tours and discussions about the Native American art exhibit, various opportunities to make art, like pottery with Kerri Helme (Marshpee Wampanoag) and wampum jewelry with Elizabeth James-Perry (Aquinnah Wampanoag), multiple performances by Kingfisher Theater, a New England Native American group of singers and dancers, and two performances from singer Jennifer Kreisberg ( Tuscarora).

Patrons were also invited to view Cyrus Dallin’s sculpture “Appeal to the Great Spirit,” which stands in front of the MFA’s Huntington Avenue entrance. Visitors were asked to give their opinions on the piece and read others’ thoughts on it in hopes that the museum could use those insights in the future to help them better interpret the sculpture.

Indigenous Peoples’ Day was well-received by many patrons, especially those of Native American descent.

In another interview with The Journal, a patron named Debra who did not wish to provide her last name, said she felt she had “to be witness to such an event because it’s about time” for indigenous people to be recognized and honored.

Debra, a woman originally from Florida of Cherokee and Seminole descent, now lives in Boston. She practices Cherokee dance, song, drumming and meditation.

Debra said she hopes the MFA will support Native Americans further by allowing them to display more of their art and teach art at their school affiliated with Tufts because it is important to give them money and recognition like they do with Europeans.

She also said they should “have more events, not just one day a year, for all cultures” so that people can experience these cultures “in a natural, raw way” to really learn about them.
Suffolk’s PAO plans to give students a deadly night out in upcoming performance

**Madison Suseland**
Journal Contributor @msuseland

A night of food, outer space shenanigans, murder, theater and... dinner? These four very different elements are what the Suffolk Performing Arts Office (PAO) will be presenting this year in "Enterprise: Deep Space Murder," their annual dinner theater show. The performance will run from Thursday, Oct. 17 to Saturday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Samia Center Cafe.

The 2019 show is written by Suffolk alum Gustave Cadet and marks the 10th anniversary of the first student-written dinner theater show performed at Suffolk, which was also written by Cadet. The plot blends Star Trek and murder, following the crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise spaceship as they prepare to unveil a new, more powerful galaxy in mere seconds.

After hijinks ensue, the crew must work together to bond together to try and figure out who done it, in some cases more than others, cast member Bronwyn Crick, a freshman politics, philosophy and economics major who plays the role of Cadet Gustavi, said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "In other cases, it's just pointing fingers."

The cast and crew will be acting, mingling with the audience and serving up a three course meal as the evening progresses. According to Associate Director of Suffolk Performing Arts Kathleen Maloney, several Star Trek themed dishes will be provided by Sodexo Food Services.

The first course will be a Vulcan salad, which is a garden salad garnished with cranberries and a balsamic dressing. For the main course, guests have a choice between Lurian chicken and Sinteel pasta. The chicken will be herb-roasted and topped with a sundried tomato cream sauce with a side of garlic mashed potatoes and broccoli. The pasta will be composed of fusilli noodles topped with a pesto oil, roasted peppers and roasted onions.

To round out the meal, there will be a Ktarian Black Hole Cake for dessert, which is essentially a chocolate bundt cake. Guests will be able to choose their entrees when they purchase tickets and are encouraged to mention any dietary restrictions that the kitchen will be sure to accommodate.

The cast, crew and director have been hard at work since rehearsals began on Sept. 16, attempting to navigate the nontraditional setting of dinner theater while fully developing their characters both onstage and in mingling with the audience.

"There's a lot of adapting what you know and figuring out how to play with that because it throws a lot of the rules out the window," Maloney said in an interview with The Journal. Maloney has directed dinner theater at Suffolk since 2004 and has a lot of experience with the unconventional elements of the show.

There are a total of 12 cast and five crew members in the show who are looking forward to trying their hand at the intricacies of dinner theater.

Sophomore theater major Madison Ashworth, who plays Ambassador Ducat, said of the rehearsal process, "It's really interesting to make connections with people and then translate that into our characters in terms of banter onstage and with the audience." Overall, the dinner theater family, as Maloney, Crick and Ashworth refer to themselves and the rest of the team, is excited to perform "Enterprise: Deep Space Murder" for the Suffolk community.

"I don't think you have to get theater to enjoy yourself and have a good time, and that's kind of what this show is about. It's about interacting with each other and having fun and having a place to be goofy," Crick said. "I hope the audience really participates. Just enjoy it and make accusations with us, sing along, ask us questions and really be a part of the story."

Tickets can be purchased in the Performing Arts Office, on the third floor of the Sawyer building. They cost $10 and include admittance to the show and dinner for the evening. Students can purchase tickets with a meal plan, Ramcard or cash.

**Review: ‘Joker’ storyline thrills viewers**

There are certain times in your life when you sit down to watch something and you don't want it to end. Seeing “Joker” was one of those moments for me. I've never been more moved, or terrified by a single film.

"Joker" is a standalone story focusing on the origins of the titular comic book villain. Arthur Fleck is a poor party clown living in the poverty-stricken Gotham City in 1981. The setting is heavily inspired by the late 70s and early 80s New York City.

Director Todd Phillips was able to portray the metamorphosis of Arthur Fleck into Joker in such a holistic fashion that it begs the viewer to return to the theater and re-watch the film, which I know I will be doing. Phillips uses the small things Arthur does in the beginning of the movie to contrast with the larger-than-life acts of villainy performed by Joker. He also presents the parallels between Arthur and Joker by mirroring the color and frame of individual shots from the first act with similar ones in the second act.

The greatest actors are able to not only play the part, but also become completely lost within their character, which Joaquin Phoenix did in his role as Arthur. Phoenix plays a character playing a character in this story. The audience feels the layers of emotion and madness that Arthur is muddling through as he meets him at the beginning of the movie.

The loneliness of madness combined with the frustration of not having anyone care in the slightest about his struggles makes a person into a ticking time-bomb. Phoenix embodies this type of explosive personality beautifully in “Joker.” His performance shocked me, made me smile and even had me swule with pity.

In witnessing the birth of a killer in “Joker,” we see what may be happening with sad and lonely people living in the world today. There is only a limited amount of heartbreak, lies, abandonment and ridicule that people can take before they break. Even less so when mixed with serious mental illness. Society has come a long way in the way that it perceives the mentally ill, but there are still those who understand a great deal of suffering every day of their lives without saying anything.

This movie took an enormous risk in today’s age of mass shootings and wanton bloodshed by portraying the inception of a mass killer. But the risk was worth it. There isn’t a movie that exists that reveals its protagonist to the viewer to the extent that this one does. You feel every emotion of Arthur as you watch him unraveling through a realistic series of traumas.

The truly horrifying part of it all is that the viewer doesn’t know what Arthur, or Joker believing to the nature of the character, will do along the way. The lines between daydream and reality are blurred as his story progresses.

I can’t think of a single movie I’ve watched thus far in my life that has evoked this kind of a reaction. “Joker” is a legendary work of art that might just be my new favorite film of all time.

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**GeoFF SCALES**
Journal Contributor @geoffscales

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“To me, it’s incredible because what we’re doing is walking into an environment in a room rather than an exhibit,” Narayan Khandeker, Harvard Art Museums Director of the Straus Center for Conservation, said as he began his gallery talk on Sunday afternoon at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA).

Khandeker discussed and analyzed the way Suter creates her work on canvas, which cover the exhibit from floor to ceiling. Khandeker talked through the artist’s creative process, including the type of canvas she uses, the paint and other materials utilized, how she dries the work and outside influences that add to the artwork. He stated that though at first glance some of Suter’s pieces may appear abstract, with a closer look, viewers can see that she paints landscapes, dogs and other objects.

Suter is said to have put her art this way because it is reminiscent of how it should be handled if a piece were to have a leaf fall off. Do you glue it back on, or is it not important? Is it a particular work, or how the cracks could have created these lines on one part of the art? Khandeker stated that part of the art? Khandeker pointed out, it is nearly impossible to find in the United States today.

An audience member pointed out during the gallery talk that she hung a large portion of her work close together, almost like clothes on a clothing rack. Suter is said to have put her art this way because it is reminiscent of how she hangs art to dry in her studio, and she enjoys how it looks. A key element about Suter’s artistic style is how fluid she is in her creative process, both with how she paints and displays her installations. In her exhibit at the ICA, she worked closely with the installation team and always arranges her work in different ways.

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Many of Suter’s pieces have outside elements on them like dirt, leaves, plant matter and water lines from flooding. Khandeker said this part of her creative process is interesting in contrast to other artists because she is much less concerned about the natural forces that impact her work. Other artists may pack and ship their work neatly in order to make sure their original image remains intact, while Suter has a more laissez-faire viewpoint. If a twig falls off, it falls off. All of Suter’s artwork is local to her surroundings. She uses locally produced Guatemalan cotton fabric for her canvas, a material similar to what is used to make clothing. She also takes advantage of the oil paint available in Latin America, as Khandeker pointed out, it is nearly impossible to find in the United States today.

Suter adds another touch of home to her work by using locally sourced fish glue by adding it to her pigment, which is an old western painting technique that allows the painting to have a matte look without brush strokes appearing. A key element about Suter’s artistic style is how fluid she is in her creative process, both with how she paints and displays her installations. In her exhibit at the ICA, she worked closely with the installation team and always arranges her work in different ways.

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Khandeker held the talk in a conversational format, often inviting audience members to join in and ask questions, as well as provide their input on Suter’s work and how she may have created some of her pieces. Khandeker turned to the room to pose questions like what could have created these lines on one particular work, or how the cracks could have developed on another. At one point, a debate sparked about how it should be handled if a piece were to have a leaf fall off. Do you glue it back on, or is it not important? Is it a part of the art? Khandeker stated that the different points of view on this are interesting.

The Vivian Suter Exhibition is on display until Dec. 31 in the Paul and Catherine Buttenwieser Gallery.

Dozens of Suter’s painted canvases are spread across the walls and ceiling of the ICA’s Paul and Catherine Buttenwieser Gallery.
Poets Michael Longley and David Ferry inside the Poetry Center on Oct. 10 reading excerpts of famous literature to the audience

Writers brings classic literature to life in poetry reading

Two highly respected poets, Michael Longley and Suffolk University Resident Professor David Ferry made an appearance to give voice to their highly respected lyrical poems, translate the texts of ancient epics and discuss the immense value that simple lines can have in poetry.

Longley, from Belfast, Ireland, made a rare appearance in America with his wife, Edna, to read alongside Ferry. “This is a once in a lifetime event,” Professor George Kalogeris said.

Suffolk professors and members of the Boston poetry community sat with the two writers while the audience watched, packed together with barely enough standing room, to hear the masters of poetry speak about their craft.

Longley and Ferry are both experts in their field and are still actively writing in the later years of their lives. Ferry recently finished a translation of “The Aeneid” and boasts a collection of translations of Gilgamesh, Virgil and Horace, all highly revered and studied writers from the ancient world.

“Ferry has long had the respect of colleagues and poets: the Poetry Foundation awarded him its lifetime achievement award, the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize,” Spencer Lee Lenfield wrote in an article for Harvard Magazine. Ferry is most widely known for his translations and poetry book, “Bewildermist.”

Longley has been publishing books of poetry since 1965 and has won numerous awards such as the T.S. Elliot Award and the Griffin Poetry Prize. Edna Longley, a revered literary critic, also participated in the readings.

The Longley’s began the event by reading the poetry of Ciaran Carson, a fellow Irish poet who had passed away just days before and whose funeral was taking place at the same time as the event. The readings of the late poet were read with both humor and quiet consideration to celebrate and honor Carson’s wit.

Kalogeris, who also helped organize the event, joined Ferry in reading his translations of “The Aeneid,” the ancient Roman epic.

“The Aeneid” translation was nearly a decade-long project for Ferry.

Ferry and Longley read passages from Ferry’s “Epic of Gilgamesh” to complete their readings of epics. Ferry’s lyrical and descriptive translations make the ancient texts understandable to the modern reader without undermining the integrity of the original writing. His descriptive imagery and understanding of the complex emotions of the characters mark his translations as notable examples amongst the others.

“This kind of translation almost needs a new name, to distinguish it from all the other worthy efforts to bring the ancient poets to life: it is an iteration, another version, but also—perhaps, almost—the thing itself,” April Bernard said of Ferry’s “Aeneid” in her review in New York Review of Books.

During the question and answer portion of the event, Longley and Ferry reflected on their views of poetry.

“A reverend once said to me that poetry is the voice of god,” Longley said.

“I would say it is mostly lines,” Ferry added in reference to the form in which poems follow.

“And I would have to agree,” Longley replied jokingly.

In response to an audience member’s question, Ferry compared meter to the complexity of jazz beats. He spoke on their underlying patterns and the poet’s tendency to improve their own unique variations on those patterns. Words and syllables are much like the notes and keys played by a musician, which is why poetry spoken is so similar to a performance, according to Ferry.

“I knew I wanted to spend my life talking about lines of poetry,” Ferry said once he had finished describing his theory on poetry line and music. Longley then humorously discussed the origins of their own poems and the great poems of history.

“If I knew where poems came from I would go there,” Longley said.

Guests were then given the opportunity to purchase books from Longley and Ferry and have them signed.

Editor-in-Chief of Suffolk University’s student literary magazine, Venture, Jackie Janusis, was impressed with the success of the event.

“It was interesting to witness two different writers able to relate their work so well to one another,” she said. “I think it was a reminder that practice of your own writing can create great success.”

While Longley will return to Ireland within the next few days, Ferry will remain as a resident professor in the English department, spreading his wisdom and sharp humor to aspiring poets and creative writers at the university.
Ellen critics need to understand their hypocrisy

TV personality and LGBTQ+ icon Ellen DeGeneres set the Internet ablaze last week. This time, it wasn’t anything to do with her role as the lovable Dory in the “Finding Nemo” franchise, a viral dance or her special brand of affable compassion.

This time, DeGeneres was guilty of sitting next to former President George W. Bush, a Republican, at a Dallas Cowboys game.

As DeGeneres explained Monday in an episode of her talk show, she and her wife Portia de Rossi were invited to sit in the owner’s box at the Cowboys-Packers game by Charlotte Jones, the daughter of Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. She explained her odd friend with Bush, remarking that people should be able to sit in the owner’s box with “whoever it is they’d like.”

But maybe, just maybe, it is the duty of a conscious person to hold their leaders and those they disagree with — at face value, a pretty agreeable point.

Scores of left-of-center publications and keyboard warriors alike slammed DeGeneres, who is openly lesbian, for being chummy with Bush, whose anti-LGBTQ+ policies had a direct, dangerous impact on the rights of the queer community during his presidency. As president, he supported a Constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and the Defense of Marriage Act.

Twitter also blasted her for her association with a man they consider to be a war criminal, referring to Bush’s actions in the Middle East that resulted in the torture and deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocents. His use of torture on so-called “enemy combatants” is as reprehensible as the “techniques” — in other words, torture — that the CIA used “enhanced interrogation techniques” — in other words, torture — to extract information from subjects held at Gitmo.

To this day, Gitmo is still up and running, allegedly without such “techniques.”

In the Middle East, Obama’s indiscriminate use of unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as drones, resulted in at least 162 civilian deaths just in the first half of 2011, according to leaked documents obtained by The Washington Post. Another estimate from a government watchdog puts that number as high as 7,500 in Iraq and Syria alone.

It is the duty of a conscious person to hold their leaders and those they disagree with to account for their actions — whether they’re good or bad.

And we’re all in this life together, trying to leave the world a more inviting, more safe and more exciting place to live than we found it.

So do it, Suffolk. As the other saying goes, “Stop and smell the roses.”

Nick Viveiros
Senior Staff Writer
@thenickviverios

On a weekly basis at The Suffolk Journal, one or more of our staff members sits down late at night — and tries to convey a collective message from all of our staff members.

Lately, we’ve been writing of very intense and hot button topics. The Journal believes that transparency, reasonable conversation between the staff and our readers is important in fostering a trusting, positive relationship between us and the community we report on. Every week, we do our best to reflect the opinions of community in which we serve.

At The Journal, through our staff editorials, that collective message is often a jarring read when we’re consistently writing of difficult topics that are current subjects of discussion. But we think that this week, we can say some thing important about the season we’re in and how we can get past some obstacles that beset us nearly all of us in this very busy time, with no politics and no news involved.

It’s no secret that we face a lot of stress. We face stress as students, employees, student leaders, activists, sons, daughters, significant others and so much more. Through the jobs we work, the people we deal with, the assignments we have and the commitments we take on, it can be difficult to represent ourselves accurately on a daily basis. We are often nothing but our “busy selves,” or the caricature and seemingly going gets tough. And when the going gets tough, it’s easy to lash out.

We are more than just people with an opinion. We are more than just students and employees of this university, and in a world where we’re constantly at odds with each other in our beliefs, we often spend more time pointing fingers and being angry than remembering what’s really important in our lives: the people around us.

Suffolk, put down your devices. Turn off the news and ignore your mobile section on Twitter. Ignore all the noise and petty dis agreements you may have with your peers, because those disagreements shouldn’t always be the end of friendships. Take the time this season to reach out to an old friend or make amends with someone you’ve wronged.

Take a minute to take a breath. Take a breath from all the politicking and look to someone next to you and say, “I know we may not always agree, but you’re a human being just like me.” Take a breath and recollect on what’s important in your life and what you’re doing to take care of those things, as we, collectively, embark on the journey of exactly that life.

It’s tough, too. With so many of us, busy at work in our daily lives, it’s hard not to get angry, fed up or look for things to hit — or in contrast, hold onto — in stressful times.

Even though The Journal tries to reflect on our own and our community’s views through our editorials, it’s important to know that we, too, disagree on some issues. And we’re not perfect either. Let’s spend less time politicking and let’s spend more time together.

Because whether we like it or not, we’re all human. And we’re all in this life together, trying to leave the world a more inviting, more safe and more exciting place to live than we found it.

—The Suffolk Journal Staff

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It has become fashionable in the past few decades to designate the legacies of Columbus that we built the West. Among the defining none other than Christopher Columbus, the Italian explorer who, through unmatchable bravery and heroism, led the effort to establish the first permanent colony in the New World.

The incredible ignorance surrounding Columbus’ actions in the New World and the gross understatement of his world-changing government has led some in the U.S. to call for the end of our veneration of the great explorer, which takes place the second Monday of every October in this country. This call for the end of our celebration of the founder of the New World is rooted in a lack of historical nuance necessary for a fair assessment of his legacy.

In order to properly understand the importance of Columbus’ actions in the New World, we must first understand the state of the world when he left Spain for the great unknown. Columbus left Spain in 1492, attempting to find a sea passage from Europe to Asia. Specifically, he was looking for the most direct route to India. Unbeknownst to anyone on continental Europe, in between Europe and continental Asia were two continents untouched by the outside world. Columbus’ voyage to the New World and subsequent return to Spain commenced the Age of Exploration and laid the foundation for the creation of modern civilizations on the North and South American continents. Columbus’ unification of the New and Old Worlds is undoubtedly the single most important event in modern history.

The lack of historical nuance in our modern understanding of the great explorer begins with an examination of the interactions with the Native Americans of North and South America on his journeys to the New World (Columbus made four trips in total during his lifetime). As has been hum}

In December of 1492, Columbus did indeed sail the ocean blue, bringing along with him a line of three grand ships whose names and likeness have been ingrained in the heads of every young American for generations. The native of the independent state of Genoa was looking to profit off the lucrative spice trade by routing a western passage by sea to the East Indies.

With the flair of gold in his eyes and desire to crusade his passion for Christianity, Columbus committed a series of unspeakable atrocities against the Native Americans he encountered when he landed in the Americas. Columbus wrote in his diary in the beginning of his tirade, “With fifty men I could subjugate them all and make them do everything that is required of them.” This ultimately shut down the argument that Columbus was unintentional in his actions. So why is it important? Why now, 527 years later, has the holiday celebrating Columbus’ arrival in the Americas become such a political issue?

States around the country are choosing the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples’ Day. People that oppose this argue that the accomplishments of the man who “discovered America” are being wiped from history. Italian-Americans dread the erasure of their ancestral hero; however, they neglect the brutality that they fear will be destroyed.

There was no animosity from the indigenous people, so why did Columbus begin a long conquest of brutality and genocide that would eventually have him lose the favor of the Catholic Monarchs and the people of Spain?

When Columbus landed in modern-day Haiti and encountered the Arawak Native Americans, the indigenous people were friendly towards Columbus and his men. He even wrote in his journal, “As I saw that they were very friendly towards us, and perceived that they could be much more easily converted to our holy faith by gentle means than by force... they were much more delighted, and became wonderfully attached to us.”

Bartholomé de las Casas, a friar who joined the conquest, was a vital source for documenting the atrocities committed by Columbus and the colonists in his book, “Narrative of the Indies.” In one particularly brutal paragraph, he wrote, “The Spaniards thought nothing of cutting two American heads off in one swoop to test the sharpness of their blades... two of these so-called Christians met two Indian boys one day, each carrying a parrot; they took the parrots and for fun beheaded the boys.” Casas was fully devoted to his Catholicism, yet an advocate for the indigenous people in the new world. Several state and local governments have taken a stand against Columbus Day that celebrates the bloodshed of so many Native American tribes, whether they welcomed him or not, and elected to rename the holiday to “Indigenous Peoples’ Day.”

Washington D.C. will observe the holiday under its new name this year for the first time along with ten other states including Michigan, Oklahoma and Maine, according to AP News.

We should take time on the second Monday of October to remember and mourn the loss and suffering of the people who called the Americas their home, rather than celebrate the man who enslaved and overlooked their murder.

Even though Columbus should not be worshiped from history. Rather, we should be informed about the atrocities that horrified the earth and caused as he achieved his accomplishments.

Pro-Columbus Day arguments also feature the inclusion of the pride of Italian-Americans. A statue of Columbus stands within Washington’s National Mall. There are numerous tributes and memorials to Columbus constructed by Italian-Americans. Even still, Columbus did many of these people that came to America looking for a better life were scrutinized, prejudiced and stereotyped.

So why do Italian-Americans support a man who committed hate crimes similar to the ones that were committed against them? Columbus was no longer seen as a hero, but rather as an object of historical study, to be remembered for the good he accomplished.

The incredible ignorance surrounding Columbus’ actions in the New World is rooted in a lack of historical nuance necessary for a fair assessment of his legacy.
Suffolk club team bonds over cultural differences

From SOCCER - 16

"gigantic," said goalkeeper Felipe Tomicioli Giesteria in an interview with The Journal.

Giesteria, along with freshman Mo Zaidan, were named captain for the game against UMass Boston.

"I pass around the [captain] armband to give a chance for people to step up," said Almehdar.

With a lack of club sports at Suffolk, members are grateful for the opportunity to stay active while playing a sport they love.

"I enjoy this club because it gives us students an outlet to compete physically at a time when many of us have lost that aspect from high school," said Abhy Patel to The Journal.

While the club has existed for less than a month, they already have the schedule and assets of a well-established organization. They typically meet three days a week for pickup games with training sessions occurring prior to those games.

To ensure the players are prepared for game day, manager and sophomore Michael Tseytlin runs a variety of drills and warmups to make sure everyone is healthy and prepared. The clubs’ outreach can be attributed to its PR representatives CJ Koch, Reema Fayez and Marianne Sirgy, Sirgy and Fayez run the club Instagram, and can be found on the sidelines of every event.

The club’s finances are managed by sophomore Mohammed Ammar. In terms of the money Ammar has to work with, Almehdar said that they were only granted $224 of the $1000 they requested from Student Government Association (SGA). To offset this, team members are bringing their personal equipment to use at games and practices.

“Our financial officer worked relentlessly to make a reasonable and cheap request, he really went above and beyond in the proposal, I have a deep respect for the SGA’s finance committee, but I really think they dropped the ball on this one,” said Almehdar regarding the situation.

While resources are limited, the players still have high praise for Almehdar and the rest of the leadership.

As an international student living in Boston, Almehdar said that Suffolk lacked opportunities for students like himself to play the game they grew up playing. In addition to creating such an opportunity he “really wants to start something where everyone feels at home.”

“Everyone here has a struggle of their own, their own struggle. But out there on the field all that matters is one thing, our passion, a shared love for it unites us, the beautiful game has an amazing way of bringing our family together, it’s much more than a club,” said Almehdar.

This club is bringing a new age of sports into the light at Suffolk, and they encourage anyone that wants to connect with them to go to their Instagram @suffolk.fc.
The Suffolk Football Club’s starting lineup huddles shortly before kickoff vs UMass Boston on Oct. 13

Suffolk football club: pioneers in club sports

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Club sports have traditionally been on the back burner at Suffolk University, but one group of passionate students is out to change that. The Suffolk Football Club is one of the newest organizations on campus, and are already making a huge splash. While the club has only formally existed for about three weeks, its member group chat has over 120 members and over 30 people are consistently attending events.

The men’s team has already had three scrimmages, including last Saturday’s 2-1 win over UMass Boston. But it wasn’t all glory up until this point by any means.

The club’s “founder” Fehr Almehdar (or “Fehrrari” to his teammates), started this process his freshman year.

“I started about four or five years ago grabbing signatures to start this soccer club, cause SLI [Student Leadership and Involvement] told me you can start whichever club you want, and that’s an amazing idea, and when I went to do that, I got denied,” said Almehdar in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “It didn’t work because they said varsity is looking for players and this would be infringing on them. I kept trying to make it happen for years and it didn’t work out.”

According to Suffolk, SLI is currently in charge of 80+ clubs on campus. In his second year as the Associate Director of SLI, Casey Mulcare helped assist Almehdar in forming the club. Mulcare said in an interview with The Journal that because of limited space on campus getting clubs off the ground right away can be tricky.

“The conversation was never that this was not going to happen,” said Mulcare. “We want to support as many new clubs as possible.”

His persistence would eventually pay off. For the next four years, Almehdar continued to work towards his goal. He drafted the constitution and had the people for an E-board. At the beginning of the current semester, he again found himself in SLI asking if a soccer club could actually happen. Mulcare put Almehdar in touch with Sadiq Sheikh and Karen O Comeau, who had also been attempting to put a soccer club together on their own.

“It was like three presidents sitting together at a round table, all wanting the same exact same thing,” said Almehdar. “It was like three presidents sitting together at a round table, all wanting the same exact same thing,” said Almehdar.

Mulcare later introduced Vu Tram to the table, who became the fourth “president”.

All of this work has led to a club that means the world for some. Almehdar estimates the current club members are almost 95% international students, with over 50 countries represented.

“When we are abroad, when we are not with our family and we don’t have any connection to our roots and nothing to hold on to, it’s always been football,” said Almehdar.

“‘We grew up with [the] ball at our feet.’

With the large amount of international students in the club, comes lingual diversity. Almehdar says that this factor brings the club closer, rather than creates language barriers.

“You hear every single language, and it’s the common tongue because we all understand what they’re saying, because when it comes to football you just know. It’s something that really brings us together,” said Almehdar.

Besides bringing a sense of home to America for many of these international players, the club also serves as a second family.

“Being a part of this team has made me feel like I belong somewhere, that I’m wanted somewhere, and that is the greatest gift I could receive,” said club member Alvy Xavier.

Some players found a home in this club out of the ashes of defeat.

“I remember when I tried to audition for the Suffolk team, and I remember how I was rejected but it all gave me strength and we managed to create something special.”

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