The Moakley Oral History Project continues to build its collection of interviews, many of which are available on the Moakley Archive and Institute Web site. Among the newly available oral histories is a 2003 interview with Fred W. Clark, Jr., who served as district director for the late Congressman John Joseph “Joe” Moakley in the 1970s. Suffolk University Law School Professor Joseph McEttrick and Suffolk University History Department Chair Robert Allison conducted the interview.

In a fascinating series of anecdotes and personal commentary, Clark recalls his own budding interest in politics, Moakley’s accomplishments, and the way the close-knit staff became like family to the late congressman and to one another. Following are excerpts from the oral history. Access to the complete transcript is available online at www.joemoakley.org.

Audio and video files of this and other oral history interviews soon will be available on the Web site.

**Budding Interest in Politics**

“I had a great fifth-grade social studies teacher, and she got us interested in the presidential campaign. … It was 1972; you remember who was running … I had the assignment of contacting the campaigns … from Richard Nixon to Shirley Chisholm at the time, George McGovern.

“When I got materials back from each of the candidates, I was just so smitten … with the bumper stickers and the buttons. And you know, in fifth grade I don’t think I was really as much interested in…

**Oral History Recalls Lessons Learned from a Master Politician**

The Moakley Oral History Project continues to build its collection of interviews, many of which are available on the Moakley Archive and Institute Web site. The exhibit and SMART launch will take place with a celebratory event in October and programming in November to commemorate the Jesuit murders that led to Moakley’s investigation and his contributions to peacemaking in El Salvador.

**Online Archive to Be Launched with Fanfare This Fall**

The Moakley Archive and Institute will celebrate the public launch of its online archive this fall with an exhibit about Suffolk University’s ongoing connection with Salvadoran communities first befriended by the late Congressman John Joseph “Joe” Moakley in the 1970s.

Computers will be integrated into the On the Front Line of Democracy: Joe Moakley’s Continued Legacy in El Salvador exhibit in the Adams Gallery at Suffolk Law School so that visitors may explore the Moakley papers online and become more familiar with the ongoing work of the Moakley Institute.

The Suffolk/Moakley Archives Research Tool, or SMART, is an online catalog available through the Archives Web site that allows researchers and the general public to search across all the archival holdings of Suffolk University.

A simple search, such as “Moakley and El Salvador,” will bring up citations to pictures, oral history interviews, correspondence, press releases, and other documents.

The exhibit and SMART launch will take place with a celebratory event in October and programming in November to commemorate the Jesuit murders that led to Moakley’s investigation and his contributions to peacemaking in El Salvador.
MOAKLEY ARCHIVE & INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY continues to keep Joe Moakley’s legacy alive in El Salvador through yearly service-learning trips that retrace the late congressman’s Salvadoran visits.

Moakley Institute Director Julia Collins visited the country in January, collecting documents and oral histories related to Moakley’s central role in ending the civil war that ravaged El Salvador during the 1980s and early 1990s.

Collins was part of a Suffolk delegation that included 12 undergraduate students who worked on a construction project in a poor, rural community near Suchitoto, a colonial-era city in a northern province.

“We are an archive, so we collect and preserve materials related to Moakley’s career. But we are also an institute, so we promote activities that carry Moakley’s legacy forward,” said Collins. “This trip accomplished both.”

When they weren’t digging ditches, Collins and the students also had a packed schedule of intensive field studies that ranged from meetings with business leaders and former guerrilla commanders to lectures by economists and U.S. Embassy staff. The highlight was an evening with the confidential informant.
who proved vital to Moakley’s investigation of the 1989 murders of six Jesuit priests by the Salvadoran military.

“It was very exciting, because this man has never spoken publicly before,” Collins said. “He surprised us by attending our meeting with Leonel Gomez, who was one of Moakley’s primary contacts in the country.”

Collins will return next January with Suffolk students and faculty. Meanwhile, members of this year’s delegation are raising scholarship money for young people they met on the trip and sending supplies to their host village.”

“Moakley would be proud,” said Collins. “Two important aspects of his life—El Salvador and Suffolk—are coming together.”

NEW EXHIBIT SHOWCASES EL SALVADOR PHOTOS

The Moakley Archive and Institute exhibit On the Front Line of Democracy: Joe Moakley’s Continued Legacy in El Salvador will be at the Adams Gallery at Suffolk University from October 2008 to January 2009. The exhibit will feature photographs from recent visits to the rural communities Santa Marta and El Sitio in El Salvador—including this image of Suffolk University student Francisco Peguero in front of a mural of Archbishop Romero at the Divina Providencia in San Salvador. The exhibit also will include an encore showing of El Congresista: Joe Moakley en El Salvador.

(Tom Gearty photo)
MOAKLEY’S CAMPAIGNS

“He never took anything for granted. We would start off with signature drives. We always had a goal to get more signatures than the time before. We used those opportunities to flush out his volunteer pool and to bring new people in, to keep that volunteer pool fresh every two years. ... We got as many as 25,000 signatures. And, I mean, you only need two [thousand].

“But what Joe loved to do ... and which I think benefited his campaign the most ... he dutifully went out every year, to every town hall. ... In some places we would have sixty, seventy people deep, waiting for five or ten minutes with Joe Moakley, and he would see every single person. ... "There was a very old, crusty, cranky gentleman, probably in his mid- to late-seventies. ... He was going to give Joe hell on every issue. ... I let Joe know this. ... I said, ‘If you want me to come in in five minutes and just say that you’ve got a phone call.’ ... Joe said: ‘No, no, no, let him in, it’s fine.’

“He went in, and I’m kind of listening at the door. In about five, six, seven minutes later I hear laughing back and forth. In another five minutes Joe came out, his arm was around this old gentleman, and the old gentleman’s arm was around Joe. Then I noticed that Joe was wearing this gentleman’s tie, and this gentleman was wearing Joe’s tie. Joe gave him one of the congressional ties, and this gentleman gave him—I think it was a Cape Cod. ... "I asked him, ‘What happened?’ And so Joe said, ‘Well, he came in, he wanted to talk about these issues. But I got away from the issues as quickly as I could, and we talked about some things we have in common. ... And we had a good conversation about everything other than issues. And he remarked about my congressional tie, and I remarked about his tie.’ And he says: ‘You know, I found something in common and we had a connection, and became friends from it.’

“He taught me a lesson there in terms of politics, because it isn’t the partisan, it isn’t the policy; it’s the people. And Joe made a friend that day. That’s the way he conducted himself in public office, and it taught me a lot about how to conduct myself with him. Partisanship came second, policy came third; people came first.”

STAFF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CONSTITUENT SERVICE

“The thing about constituent casework—which is what I spent most of my career with Joe working on—you had to do it, because if you didn’t do it ... eventually Joe would know you didn’t do it. He would always find out ... and you would get really in big trouble.”

RESPECT

“We respected him so greatly because of the way he handled himself. And he was as genuine in public as he was in private. There was no difference in Joe behind the scenes. There were no crass comments, or whatever. He never once disappointed me, in terms of personal ethics or, you know, anything scandalous in any way.”

HOW MOAKLEY WOULD SEE POLITICS TODAY

“Joe might express a concern that some public officeholders are getting a little too distant from the people they represent. ... And I think that’s when constituents start to get apathetic, somewhat, and negative in regards to the people that represent them. So stay close to the people you work for.”

ORAL HISTORY continued from page 1

the issues. From that day on I just had the political fire lit inside of me.”

During the 1970s, Joe Moakley and his staff took this Mobile District Office on the road to keep in touch with constituents. (Moakley Archive photo)

Joe Moakley chats with fishermen on the docks in Boston, 1982. (Moakley Archive photo)
The past year was a busy one for the Moakley Archive. Following are highlights of recent accomplishments.

- Oral history collection: Now includes 73 interviews total. 24 have been transcribed and edited; 18 transcripts have been added online in 2007–2008; two interviews collected in El Salvador.

- Moakley papers: 86 boxes were processed, including memorabilia (620 items, 64 boxes) and photographs (thousands of items, 22 boxes).

- Digitization project: 25 items and photographs digitized.

- Research: 40 total researchers (doubled since 2006–2007), including three Suffolk University staff/faculty, 24 Suffolk students, one Suffolk alumnus, 13 outside researchers.

- Types of researchers: Federal officials for case preparation, Suffolk students in the Legislative Politics course, Suffolk students in Oral History course, Fire Safe Cigarette researcher, writers, political scientists, National History Day students on busing, filmmaker.

- Items conserved: Moakley campaign scrapbook.

**FY 2007–2008 Productive for Archive**

Because of their depth and breadth, the Moakley papers provide opportunities to introduce Suffolk students to the many facets of Joe Moakley's legacy. The Archive provides material to support the study of Congress, politics, public service, foreign policy, public policy, and historic preservation. In the past year, the Archive staff has made presentations to classes in Suffolk's Government and History Departments, encouraging students to do original research and explore issues related to Moakley's career while promoting information literacy.

**RECENT ACQUISITIONS**


- Files recently donated by William Shaevel document Moakley's role in passing the Snob Zoning Act of 1969. Moakley, then a state senator and chairman of the Massachusetts Senate Urban Affairs Committee, pushed for legislation to create affordable housing units in suburban areas by changing zoning regulations. According to Shaevel, then general counsel to the Urban Affairs Committee and later Moakley’s law partner, the landmark legislation was instrumental in “removing restrictive zoning in the suburbs so as to establish affordable housing in the suburbs” with the end result of creating more than 40,000 units of affordable housing since 1969. Researchers can learn more about the creation of the bill and the public’s response through committee reports, draft legislation, memos, constituent correspondence, news clippings, and Shaevel's oral history interview.

**Collection Guide Helps Users Navigate Archive**

NOW THAT MORE THAN 500 BOXES of materials have been sorted and cataloged, the Moakley Archive staff is finalizing a collection guide to direct researchers and others who want to explore the late Congressman Joe Moakley's papers.

Most of the archived material dates from 1973 to 2001, documenting Moakley's years in Congress. There also is a smattering of pre-Congressional and personal material.

The collection guide, also known as a finding aid, includes narrative descriptions to give researchers an idea of how they might use the archive. It also will list the many categories of topics covered by the material.

With thousands of folders, 10,000 photographs, 600 pieces of memorabilia, and several hundred audio and video recordings in the collection, the guide is essential to efficient use of the materials. It will inventory each folder and item in the archive.

A searchable online version of the guide will list the collection's contents, with links to material that is digitized and available online.

R.O.A.R. button recalls the desegregation controversy of the 1970s. (Moakley Archive)
Memorabilia Illustrate Stories of Congressman’s Travels, Honors & Dedication

THE SPECIAL MATERIALS PORTION of the Moakley collection includes 621 objects that range from the whimsical to the profound. They include plaques, artwork, oversized posters, “Congressional Trading Cards,” and objects such as paperweights, a machete, and a piece of the U.S.S. Constitution.

These mementoes tell the stories of Moakley’s trips to foreign lands, relationships with constituents, campaign strategy, public policy in action, and the honors he received.

1 Moakley campaign button in Spanish, “Joe Moakley for Progress, Joe Moakley for Congress.” (Moakley Archive)

2 Full-page newspaper advertisement published in the Parkway/West Roxbury Transcripts, the West Bridgewater Times, East Bridgewater Star and Bridgewater Independent, 1982. (Moakley Archive)

3 Poster with instructions for Salvadorans applying for Temporary Protected Status, a program created by Moakley to provide political asylum for Salvadorans in the United States, 1990s. (Moakley Archive)

4 Telegram sent by Moakley to his brother Bob Moakley, who was serving in Japan, announcing his election victory in a race for the Massachusetts House of Representatives, 1952. (Moakley Archive)

5 Russian nesting dolls depicting Gorbachev, Brezhnev, Khroushchev, Stalin, and Lenin. (Moakley Archive)

6 Stuffed donkey, with pins from various political campaigns, used to sit in Moakley’s office. (Moakley Archive)
Moakley Institute Programming 2007–2008

IN PURSUIT OF ITS MISSION to encourage and celebrate public service, the Moakley Institute has presented or planned the following:


• Breakfast with members of El Salvador’s Truth Commission, October 26, 2007.


• “All Politics is Global: Constituent Service in an Immigrant Nation” discussion planned during Congress to Campus program, February 26, 2008.


• Connections 2 College Program, August 2008. Six-week residential program that acclimates inner-city high school students to college life.

A Way to Say “THANKS” to Joe Moakley

The success of the Moakley Archive and Institute in carrying on John Joseph “Joe” Moakley’s legacy has been advanced by gifts of time, memorabilia, and financial resources, and we thank all our friends and supporters for their generosity. Your continuing support is essential in making the Moakley Archive available online, co-sponsoring seminars and conferences, reaching out to inner-city students, training legislative staff, and supporting service learning in El Salvador.

Julia Collins
Archivist and Institute Director


“WELL, YOU KNOW, IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF JOE’S PAPERS AND HIS EXAMPLE WOUND UP IN A BOX, LOCKED AWAY IN A CLOSET. AND I THINK THE MAGIC OF JOE MOAKLEY IS IN HIS EXAMPLE, AND BY SHARING HIS EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC SERVICE, I THINK YOU REALLY HELP THE CAUSE OF PUBLIC SERVICE AS A WHOLE.”

FROM THE ORAL HISTORY OF FRED CLARK

TO MAKE A DONATION

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT IN THE AMOUNT OF $25 $50 $100 OTHER, PLEASE SPECIFY AMOUNT $ TO SUPPORT THE JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY ARCHIVE AND INSTITUTE AT SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY.

(PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY.)

NAME __________________________________________ PHONE _______________________

ADDRESS _______________________________________ CITY, STATE, ZIP _______________

EMAIL __________________________________________

OR, PLEASE CHARGE MY GIFT OF $ _____________ TO SUPPORT THE MOAKLEY ARCHIVE AT SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY TO MY:

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NUMBER _______________________________ EXP. DATE ___________________

SIGNATURE ______________________________________

MAIL TO: SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT OFFICE, 8 ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON, MA 02108-2770
New Leadership at Moakley Institute and Archive

JULIA COLLINS is the new director of the John Joseph Moakley Archive and Institute and University archivist.

Collins joined the Moakley Archive and Institute in 2002 as assistant archivist and immediately became involved in processing the late congressman’s papers. She was later promoted to associate archivist, and her role in the Moakley and the Suffolk University archives has expanded over the past six years.

Before joining the Moakley Archive staff, Collins worked in the Harvard Theatre Collection and Widener Library at Harvard University.

She holds a bachelor of science degree in wildlife and fisheries biology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a master’s degree in library science from Simmons College.

Her priorities for the coming year include launching the SMART online catalog, curating the upcoming exhibit On the Front Line of Democracy: Joe Moakley’s Continued Legacy in El Salvador, developing public programming, and overseeing research fellowships.

Collins succeeds Beth Bower, who has joined Salem State College as special assistant to the president for external affairs.