

Suffolk University's

Country Ambassador Newsletter

***From the Desk of Dorothy Zahir:
Director of International Alumni Relations***

Dear Country Ambassadors,

I want to personally thank you for all your effort and hard work throughout the years as volunteers in the Country Ambassador Program. I am pleased to inform you that we had 255 international students from 67 different countries that enrolled at Suffolk University this fall.

It always amazes me to see the correspondence going on between you (the country ambassador) and the prospective/admitted students. You speak from your hearts when you talk about your experiences at Suffolk and in Boston. I had several incoming students inform me that having an ambassador available to ask questions made all the difference in their decision to select Suffolk University.

This newsletter is to inform, update, and share your successes as ambassadors and the exciting changes and activities at Suffolk University. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and I welcome your thoughts and comments on how to improve the Country Ambassador Program and the newsletter.

Again, thank you for volunteering. This program works because of you.

Sincerely,

Dorothy A. Zahir

Spotlight on Outstanding Country Ambassadors:



Nishant Upadhyay is one of the many Country Ambassadors who goes above and beyond in his duties devoting a significant amount of time and talent to the program.

“One thing that stood out for me while interacting with prospective students is that they really appreciated the opportunity to talk to somebody from their country that has been through the program. This is a big decision for

them and this service allows them to make choices in a more confident manner,” explained Upadhyay.

As a representative for India, Upadhyay has been involved with the Country Ambassador Program since 2002. He believes that the program is essential for international students. “It is an avenue for them to talk to somebody who can give very personalized advice for the unique issues faced by international students. I think that this could be a good way for Suffolk to market itself and also for students to get some honest opinions.”

Upadhyay especially deems important the fact that he “bring[s] a ‘been there-done that’ perspective as international students find their way around everything. Also, I think that they instinctively trust somebody from their own country.”

The program is volunteer-based; therefore ambassadors such as Upadhyay must make spare time, after graduating, to reach out the Suffolk community. The upside of the program that makes it more relaxed is the fact that it is administered through e-mail. “Suffolk helped me in a very positive way to shape my future in the U.S. I have been here nine years and I remember my time at Suffolk very fondly. I am in touch with prospective students by email, so it allows me to respond at my own time,” explained Upadhyay.

Not only is the program beneficial to prospective and admitted international students, but it is just as rewarding for the ambassadors themselves. For Upadhyay, “it was one way to stay involved with Suffolk and also give back to a place that prepared me in every possible way to integrate myself into this country.”

Since graduating from Suffolk in 1999, Upadhyay worked as Project Manager in an IT firm in Chicago for a couple of years. He met his future wife, Wendy, there and after marriage moved to Madison, WI. Upadhyay worked as an Operations Manager for a while and then made a career change and entered the world of Business/Intelligence and Data Warehousing. He is currently in the role of Data Architect at CUNA Mutual Group. In January of 2006, the Upadhyays welcomed their first son, Nikhil Michael and life has never been better.



Karolina Stefanski is yet another outstanding country ambassador that became involved with the program because she wanted to give international students the opportunity that she never had when she was applying to Suffolk because the Country Ambassador Program had not yet been founded.

“I was thrilled with the idea to help others from my home country because I knew that they had the same questions about Suffolk that I had when I applied. I think they would be more comfortable speaking with someone who already studied at Suffolk and who can guide them from a student’s perspective.”

As a representative for Germany, France, and Poland, Stefanski contacts a wide variety of prospective and admitted students.

To Stefanski, the Country Ambassador Program is something that is valuable to international students interested in Suffolk University because, “not only do Country Ambassadors melt the ice between two cultures, the American and the prospective student’s culture, they also eliminate the language barrier because the ambassadors usually speak in the prospective student’s mother tongue. [The Country Ambassadors] give prospective students insight information from real life experiences at Suffolk, which is priceless.”

The Country Ambassador Program provides a link with alumni and Suffolk University. Stefanski, who is very involved still with Suffolk, would love to make a difference and give back to the community that provided her with several opportunities, “I will keep my special connection with Suffolk. I loved being a student at Suffolk and I definitely recommend it to any prospective student.”

After graduating in 2003, Stefanski began working at an art gallery in New York City. Within three years she was promoted to gallery manager for the Michael Connors Gallery.

Furthermore, in the last three years, she even turned a hobby into a small business and

began designing jewelry. Karolina Designs was born. Today, she creates exceptional collections of fine bead necklaces for everyday wear and all special events. For more information and to shop online, Stefanski kindly provided her website www.karolindesigns.com.

What's happening at Suffolk University, Boston:

- ❖ **Mildred F. Sawyer Library Relocation:** Suffolk University has completed the construction and relocation of the library from the Sawyer building to 73 Tremont Street, the newest addition to the Suffolk campus. Serving the undergraduate and graduate students and faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Sawyer Business School, the new library occupies the second, third, and fourth floors of 73 Tremont. It is double the size of the previous library. This new library boasts a total of 442 seats for students and faculty including group study rooms, group seating, individual seating, “comfy” seating, a poetry center, and research workstations. It also features wireless internet, wired jacks for all areas, and flat panel televisions on each floor. Taking student comments and recommendations into consideration, the new library has improved lighting and large windows overlooking Boston for natural light. There are future plans to continue to build Suffolk’s electronic library so that it offers students and faculty access to electronic books at all times and is easily accessible for abroad and commuting students. Suffolk is working on converting the space left in Sawyer into classrooms and a cafeteria.



- ❖ **Suffolk University’s Centennial Celebration:** Beginning September 2006, Suffolk University will be celebrating its 100th birthday. Suffolk has been planning a year-long celebration themed with its history and the future opportunities. Founded in 1906, Suffolk has grown into a global university focusing on educating students in the arts and sciences, business and law, while reserving its true values of education. The celebration will include festive and formal events such as a Centennial Convocation, Birthday Celebration in the Boston Common with guest speaker and former president H.W. George Bush, the launching of an Athletics Hall of Fame, a published book about the University, as well as the viewing of a commemorative video. Students also participated with the planning of a headline concert and a photography exhibit.

Current Country Ambassador Statistics:

As of September 12, 2006 the Country Ambassador Program reports the following for its membership:

Student Country Ambassadors: 61
 Alumni Country Ambassadors: 175
Total: 236

Since May 2001, the program shows a steady increase each year in membership:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Volunteers</u>	<u>Percentage Increase</u>
2006	235	31%
2005	180	3%
2004	174	28%
2003	136	46%
2002	93	75%
2001	53	

There are Country Ambassadors in the following 94 countries:

Africa	Colombia	Ivory Coast	Qatar
Albania	Comoros Islands	Japan	Russia
Angola	Cyprus	Kazakhstan	Saudi Arabia
Argentina	Democratic	Kenya	Senegal
Austria	Republic of Congo	Kosovo	Sierra Leone
Azerbaijan	Denmark	Korea	Singapore
Bahrain	Dominican Republic	Kuwait	Slovakia
Bangladesh	England	Lebanon	Spain
Belgium	Equatorial Guinea	Luxembourg	Sweden
Benin	Finland	Macedonia	Switzerland
Bosnia	France	Malaysia	Taiwan
Brazil	Gabon	Mali	Tanzania
Brunei	Gambia	Mexico	Thailand
Bulgaria	Germany	Monaco	Togo
Burkina Faso	Ghana	Morocco	Trinidad& Tobago
Burma	Greece	Nepal	Tunisia
Burundi	Guinea	Netherlands	Turkey
C.A.R.	Haiti	Nigeria	U.A.E.
Cameroon	Herzegovina	Norway	Uganda
Canada	Hong Kong	Pakistan	Ukraine
Cape Verde Islands	Hungary	Panama	Venezuela
Chad	India	Peru	Vietnam
Chile	Indonesia	Poland	
China	Italy	Portugal	

With the membership consistently increasing, the number of prospective and admitted students reached by country ambassadors has increased as well.

Year	Percentage of Ambassadors Contacting Prospective/Admitted Students
2005	64%
2004	62%
2003	58%
2002	43%

- 846 emails by Country Ambassadors to prospective and admitted students
- 57 new Country Ambassadors and 1 Country Ambassador withdrew from the program
- 145 Country Ambassadors have reported some contact or have emailed us within the last year.

Alumni and Student Country Ambassadors have assisted admitted Suffolk students with the following:

- Airport pick-up
 - Housing
 - Emailed prospective/admitted students
 - Telephone calls to admitted students
 - Assisted Suffolk University representatives abroad during admission fairs and international alumni receptions
 - Translated of marketing materials used during recruitment trips
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Newly Enrolled International Student Statistics:

For the Fall Semester 2006, Suffolk University, Boston, boasts a great number of newly enrolled international students:

Undergraduate:	164
Graduate:	91
Total:	255

The 255 international students are from 67 different countries:

Albania	2	Korea	1
Angola	1	Kuwait	1
Argentina	1	Latvia	1
Bahrain	1	Lebanon	2
Belarus	1	Lithuania	1
Belgium	1	Macau	1
Brazil	1	Malaysia	1
Bulgaria	1	Mali	1
Burkina Faso	8	Mexico	4
Cameroon	4	Monaco	3
Canada	5	Morocco	2
Ctrl Africa Republic	1	Nepal	1
China	24	Nigeria	1
Columbia	2	Norway	2
Costa Rica	1	Cyprus	1
Panama	1		
Dominica	2	Peru	4
Ecuador	1	Philippines	3
Egypt	1	Russia	6
England	2	Saudi Arabia	13
Finland	1	Senegal	9
France	4	Sierra Leone	3
Germany	4	Spain	11
Ghana	1	Sri Lanka	1
Greece	2	Switzerland	2
Guatemala	1	Taiwan	11
Hong Kong	4	Thailand	8
Iceland	1	Tunisia	2
India	22	Turkey	6
Indonesia	1	UAE	9
Ireland	1	UK	9
Italy	2	Ukraine	1
Japan	14	Venezuela	12
		Vietnam	5

Welcome New Country Ambassadors!

On behalf of the members of the Country Ambassador Program, we would like to welcome the new volunteers that have recently been added to our team. We look forward to working with you and hope you enjoy the experience!

Ambassador:

Valeria Mecozzi
Abdullah Ghura
Dev Kumar Shrestha
Amelia Okanovic
H.D. Doven
Daulet Ergozhin
Dmitri Pugach
Alejandro Ochoa
Mohamed Atiqur Rahman
Theodoros Rexho

Representing:

Italy
Saudi Arabia
Nepal
Bosnia, Herzegovina
Albania, Italy, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia
Kazakhstan
Ukraine, Russia, Belarus
Columbia
Bangladesh
Greece

Keep Us Informed!

The Country Ambassador Program would love to hear from you! For our next newsletter we would like to include a section on alumni. If you recently began a new job, earned a degree, married or celebrated the birth of a child, or have any news to share with your fellow alumni, please email Dorothy Zahir, director of international alumni relations, at dzahir@suffolk.edu. Please include your name, phone number, or fax so we can confirm the news with you.

Contact Information:

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Please visit http://www.suffolk.edu/internationalalumni/int_ambassadors.html to learn more about the Country Ambassador Program, how to become an ambassador, or contact other ambassadors.
