

Suffolk University's

# Country Ambassador Newsletter

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## *Note from Dorothy Zahir, Director of International Relations:*

*The end of the semester is fast approaching. It has been an exciting semester with the kick-off of Suffolk University's centennial, traveling to Asia for the centennial reunion in Taipei, international student career workshops and international alumni connections. I am proud to be part of Suffolk University.*

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## *What's Happening at Suffolk University, Boston!*



*International Alumni Board attended the convocation and lunch  
From left to right: Kashif Ahmed, MSF 98, Amilcar Giraldo, MBA 98,  
Kazuo Sakiyama, MBA 04, Yumiko Katsuyama, MA 06,  
Zhang Chen, BSBA 02, Li Xi, BSBA 02, MBA/MSA 03,  
Jenny Zhan, MSA 98, Juan Lopez, GMBA 05*



### ❖ Suffolk University's Centennial Celebration

**September 21, 2006:** Suffolk President David J. Sargent led a grand procession of dignitaries, faculty, college administrators, trustees, key alumni, political figures and city officials from the Law School to the Boston Common where the Centennial Convocation took place. Former President George H. W. Bush was the keynote speaker. Several afternoon activities continued throughout campus and the Boston Common. There was also a birthday celebration that evening in Emberton Square. Over 3,000 students, faculty and alumni attended throughout the special day.

❖ **Kazuo Sakiyama, MBA 04, reminisces about the Centennial events:**

Dear Friends,

I have safely arrived back to Tokyo from Boston 3 hours ago. Suffolk University's Centennial Academic Convocation, which was held on the Boston Common on September 21, was very impressive, and it was a beautiful day. Wearing a robe, we all walked from the Law School to the convocation place on the Boston Common. The oldest attendee among the alumni was a 99 years old man. Former U.S. President George H. W. Bush was one of the guest speakers. I saw many Deans and Professors, University staff, and old friends from many countries. It was such a wonderful time for me as well.

After having the centennial lunch, Dorothy kindly coordinated a facility tour of the new Sawyer library. The new library is located the opposite side of the Law School along Tremont Street, and the new library has three floors from the second to the fourth floor in the new building. The library is equipped with the most up-to-date IT technology and is very comfortable. It is completely different from the old Sawyer building's library.

❖ **Asian Alumni Centennial Weekend October 20-22, 2006:**

Suffolk University celebrated its Asian Alumni Centennial weekend in Taipei, Taiwan. Alumni from Japan, Korea and Taiwan enjoyed the weekend by touring the city of Taipei, visiting the National Palace Museum and more. David Chang, MBA 04, the Taiwanese alumni and the staff at the Center for International Education did an outstanding job coordinating a memorable weekend. We look forward to more events around the world.

On Monday, I saw Shim in NY, and we ate dinner and talked. She wanted to join our Asian Joint Reunion in Taipei in October, but unfortunately, she could not attend because of her job.

On Tuesday, Jasmine Hsu kindly set up a dinner with Ayca and other Asian friends and professors at a Chinese restaurant in China Town. We also enjoyed talking and eating quite a lot.

Finally, on Wednesday, we had dinner with current students of the ISA, Dorothy and the staff members.

My friends, the next celebration is coming October 21 in Taipei; I look forward to seeing and talking with many of you soon.

Sincerely,  
Kaz in Tokyo

*To read more about Kazuo look at his website:  
[http://homepage.mac.com/kyokom3/e-bostoncommon/boston/boston\\_e2.html](http://homepage.mac.com/kyokom3/e-bostoncommon/boston/boston_e2.html)*



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## *Spotlight on Outstanding Country Ambassadors:*

*Amina B. Shabani*



A great example of a Country Ambassador that portrays hard work and dedication is Amina Shabani. Shabani is a 2004 Suffolk graduate who represents several countries, including Burundi, Belgium, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, and Togo. Having been involved with the program since it first launched, Shabani has devoted several hours to assisting international students with concerns that she could once relate to.

“Although I have lived in different countries when I was growing up, the idea of leaving my parents’ house and going to a new country by myself was quite scary. Getting fully adapted to Suffolk University took me three years. The support I had from friends helped a lot and I wanted to give back by helping someone else with questions and concerns they might have about living in Boston or attending college,” explained Shabani.

Not only does Shabani communicate with students through email, she sometimes sends out personal letters. Her sincere opinions give international students personal feedback that is valued. “I have really helped other students by being honest, by showing the advantages and drawbacks. I had the opportunity to meet some of the students I helped during orientation week

and it is very rewarding to hear that an email helped them.”

Shabani is a strong believer that the Country Ambassador Program is essential for international students to be able to adapt to a new country and different customs. Hearing from another student’s experiences, especially from the same home country, is comforting, in Shabani’s opinion. Reflecting back on her experiences, Shabani knows that having guidance is vital and that the program gives students just that.

Since graduating from Suffolk, Shabani is attending Indiana University where she is pursuing a Master’s in Hispanic Literature. She hopes to continue on to get a PhD to become a professor. Furthermore, Shabani is also interested in creative writing. Last year two of her short stories were published and featured in *Tropos*, a literary journal of Michigan State University.

*Mohamed Brahimi*



*Mohamed Brahimi (brown jacket) next to the Moroccan Consul general and members of the Moroccan American Civic and Cultural Association.*

As a representative of Morocco, Mohamed Brahimi is an impressive asset to the Country Ambassador Program. Having graduated in 2002, he became actively involved

because he felt that “Suffolk University did not get the visibility it deserved in the Moroccan community living in the United States as well as around the academic circles in Morocco.”

Brahimi has helped international students through the program by offering his experiences as a student at Suffolk. He deems it important to “make sure to touch the aspect of diversity that characterizes Suffolk as an institution, knowing full well how important it is for an international student not to feel out of place,” when studying abroad. Furthermore, Brahimi believes that a special connection is formed between himself and the prospective student because they are from the same country, Morocco. He reaches out to these prospective students through email and by calling to personally explain to them how he made his decision to attend Suffolk and his rewarding experiences.

“This past semester, I have assisted a new Moroccan student in a way that I would like to give credit to some other members of the Local Moroccan community with. This student came to town with her parents and I hosted them in my friend’s apartment in Everett while we ran around in an effort to get her a place to stay. I involved a few other members of the local Moroccan community to make sure that this student and her parents were well taken care of, and we made sure that the student found an apartment that she was happy with. The student

and her parents were very grateful and they feel that they have an extended family here in Boston. In my opinion, this is how this ambassador program was designed to work and this is indeed how it is showing the intended results,” explained Mohamed

Brahimi continues to stay involved at Suffolk University, attending as many activities as he can, even with his busy lifestyle. Recently, he was honored to attend the Consular Corp. Counsel. Since graduating, Brahimi has co-founded and manages an Arabic/English newspaper, started a freight Forwarding Company as well as a Travel Agency. He is also a full time Real Estate Broker. “My greatest achievement is being the co-founder of ‘The Moroccan American Civic and Cultural Association’, a non-profit organization that caters to the Moroccan community living in and around Boston. Our organization was created to get Moroccans more assimilated and integrated in American society by providing English literacy and teaching the rules of civic engagement.” While Brahimi continues to make several achievements, he stays close to his Moroccan heritage.

Any one interested in learning more about the Moroccan American civic association or to be involved in any way, shape or form, can contact Mohamed at the following: [mbrahim@al-arabnews.com](mailto:mbrahim@al-arabnews.com), or 617-653-6580.

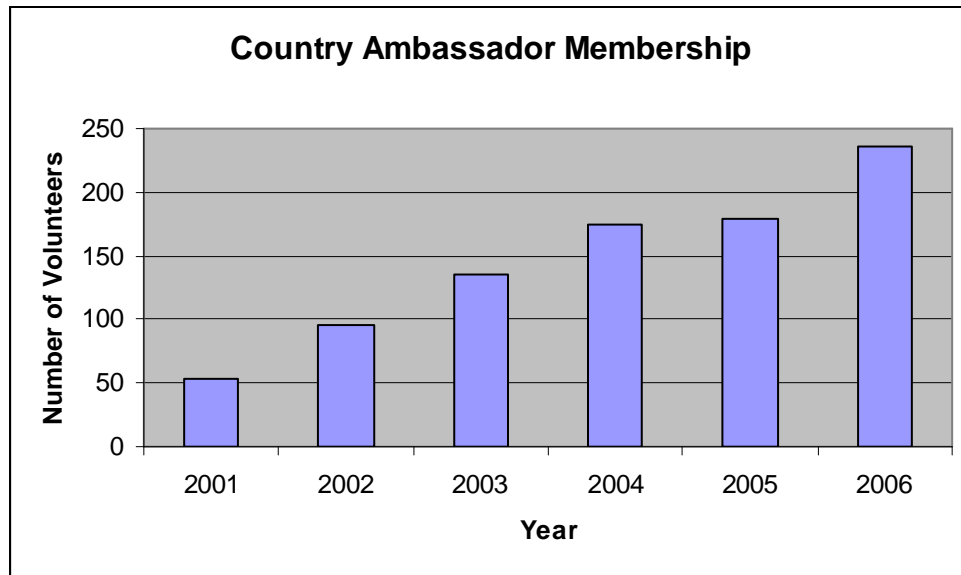
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## *Current Country Ambassador Statistics:*

As of November 15, 2006 the Country Ambassador Program reports the following for its membership:

Student Country Ambassadors:	63
Alumni Country Ambassadors:	174
<b>Total:</b>	<b>237</b>

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



There are Country Ambassadors in the following 93 countries:

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

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Percentage of Ambassadors Contacting Prospective/Admitted Students</b>
2006	66%
2005	64%
2004	62%
2003	58%
2002	43%

- 928 emails by Country Ambassadors to prospective and admitted students
- 60 new Country Ambassadors have joined the program this past year
- 156 Country Ambassadors have reported some contact or have emailed us within the last year

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## ***Welcome New Country Ambassadors!***

On behalf 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:**

Gerardo Santamaria  
Ningfang Huang  
Amal Alotainan Aldosary  
Wei Wang

### **Representing:**

Colombia, South America  
China  
Saudi Arabia  
China

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## ***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](mailto:dzahir@suffolk.edu). Please include your name, phone number, or fax so we can confirm the news with you.

## ***Contact Information:***

### ***Dorothy Zahir***

Director of International Alumni Relations

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Please visit [www.suffolk.edu/4822.html](http://www.suffolk.edu/4822.html) to learn more about the Country Ambassador Program, how to become an ambassador, or contact other ambassadors.

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## ***Corrections:***

The Country Ambassador Newsletter staff regrets any mistakes or misspellings and gladly corrects the errors. Please do not hesitate to inform us of our errors!

*In our last issue, the newsletter misspelled a new ambassador's name and listed the country represented incorrectly. We would like to correct this:*

The Country Ambassador Program would like to welcome a new ambassador, Amela Okanovic, representing the country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

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