

Suffolk University's

Country Ambassador Newsletter

Note from Dorothy Zahir, Director of International Relations:

Dear Country Ambassadors,

As 2006 came to a close I was more than pleased on how much progress the Country Ambassador Program has made! Membership has increased steadily and I have received positive feedback from incoming students. I am pleased to further announce that Suffolk University was presented an award for its active involvement in recruiting international students. This of course could not have been possible without all your hard work and dedication. Congratulations to you, Country Ambassadors as well, for taking the time to reach out to the international prospective students!

Since January, the program has prospered even more! Keep up the good work! Also, I very much enjoy your personal news so do not hesitate to keep me informed!

Again, thank you for volunteering. I look forward to another successful year.

What's Happening at Suffolk University, Boston!

❖ Suffolk Receives US Commercial Service Award:

On February 9, 2007, Suffolk University received an Export Achievement Certificate for its recent accomplishments in the global marketplace from the U.S. Commercial Service, a branch of the U.S. Department of Commerce. This award recognizes Suffolk's success in working with U.S. Commercial Service offices around the world recruiting international students. Suffolk University is the first educational institution in Massachusetts to receive this certificate in recognition of accomplishments in international student recruitment as well as the first recipient from the Greater Boston area since 2004.



US Commercial Service Director, General Israel Hernandez presenting Vice President of Enrollment and International Programs, Marguerite Dennis with the award to Suffolk University.

❖ **Spring 2007 International Student Orientation:**

January 8, 2007 marked the orientation for new international students for Spring 2007. Approximately 83 international students enrolled at Suffolk University this spring arriving from 36 different countries. Students had the opportunity to meet other students from their country as well as student orientation leaders. One highlight of the event included students gathering and singing their respective national anthems.



Spotlight on Outstanding Country Ambassadors:



Kamelia Valkova, BSBA '05

Kamelia Valkova, a representative for Bulgaria, graduated from Suffolk University in 2005 with a BSBA in Finance. Valkova is an essential asset to the Country Ambassador Program; she is a hard-working individual and

always very consistent and prompt with her emails to prospective and admitted students of Bulgarian descent. Valkova's dedicated nature has had a great impact on recruiting international students to Suffolk University.

Valkova initially got involved with the program with an interest in becoming active on campus. After attending an informative orientation, Valkova realized that being a part of the Country Ambassador Program would allow her to help future students transition more easily to the United States and to Suffolk, something she had experienced herself as a prospective student. "Leaving one's home country and attending a university in a foreign country can sometimes be a frightening and stressful experience. A lot of students experience difficult

time adjusting to the new language, culture, and university, and still do well in their classes. I believe I have helped many prospective and accepted undergraduate and graduate students with their questions and concerns on Suffolk University matters and life in Boston,” reflected Valkova.

In the spring of 2006, Valkova attended a session where, as a mentor, she was able to meet with students she had advised and assisted. She commented that this had been a very rewarding experience and one that stood out among the many duties as an ambassador for Bulgaria. Valkova describes the Country Ambassador Program as an encouraging and comforting program because students can turn to ambassadors like herself with questions and concerns. She strongly believes in the program and its purpose and would love to see it prosper even further.

It is amazing how Valkova is able to dedicate so much of her time to the program as she is currently furthering her education. After graduating in May 2005, Valkova accepted a position at a boutique hedge fund in Boston where she gained essential experience in the asset management side of finance. Today, Valkova is a full-time student pursuing her M.B.A. with concentrations in Finance and Management. In the near future, her plans include pursuing a PhD in business and teaching. “I have a keen interest in the world's cultures and traveling, which is one of the reasons why I am studying in the USA,” and which also makes Valkova an exceptional ambassador and a lumna of Suffolk.



Juan Lopez, Global MBA '05, Patricia Garcia, Global MBA '06, also a Country Ambassador for Colombia, and the newest member of their family, Samuel Lopez.

Juan Lopez graduated from Suffolk University in 2005 with a Global MBA degree. A Colombian student pursuing his MBA, Lopez had the opportunity to join the Center for International Education at Suffolk and become involved with a series of activities created to aid international students with transitioning to the United States.

“I really liked (the CIE) and started to become more involved with the international students' community, listening to their worries and expectations while in the US. It just reminded me of the way I was when I got here. Then I thought, I could help even more and give a hand to international students that could need my help.”

Lopez, as a representative for Colombia, served not only as an ambassador but also a coach and advisor for international students. His main incentive was to assist students in obtaining internships and jobs in the competitive labor market, while at the same time helping them adjust to American culture. Lopez further lent his abilities as a motivational speaker, instructing students on how to achieve their goal in the short-term.

Lopez advises students to keep a positive attitude when dealing with all goals and life in general. “There was a Chinese student, I do not remember her name, who was a true believer of my advises. I remember when she told me that every time she faced a problem or had to take an important decision in her life, she always remembered my advice and that things are not easy but with honesty and hard work, everybody should be able to succeed. She made this phrase part of her life. After she told me that, I was pleased that I truly helped one of the junior students. It was an incredible experience for me.”

The Center for International Education and the Country Ambassador Program are both excellent tools, which provide opportunities for

international students. As a student at Suffolk, Lopez took advantage of the programs and would like to see more students do the same.

“The program helped me when I really needed it the most, especially in times when finding the right job is very hard. Networking is a key tool to succeed not only in the business world but also in life. Through the program you can increase your networking opportunities meeting people that may represent in the future a chance for you to be successful or just increase

your pool of friends, you never know who is going to give you a hand in life.”

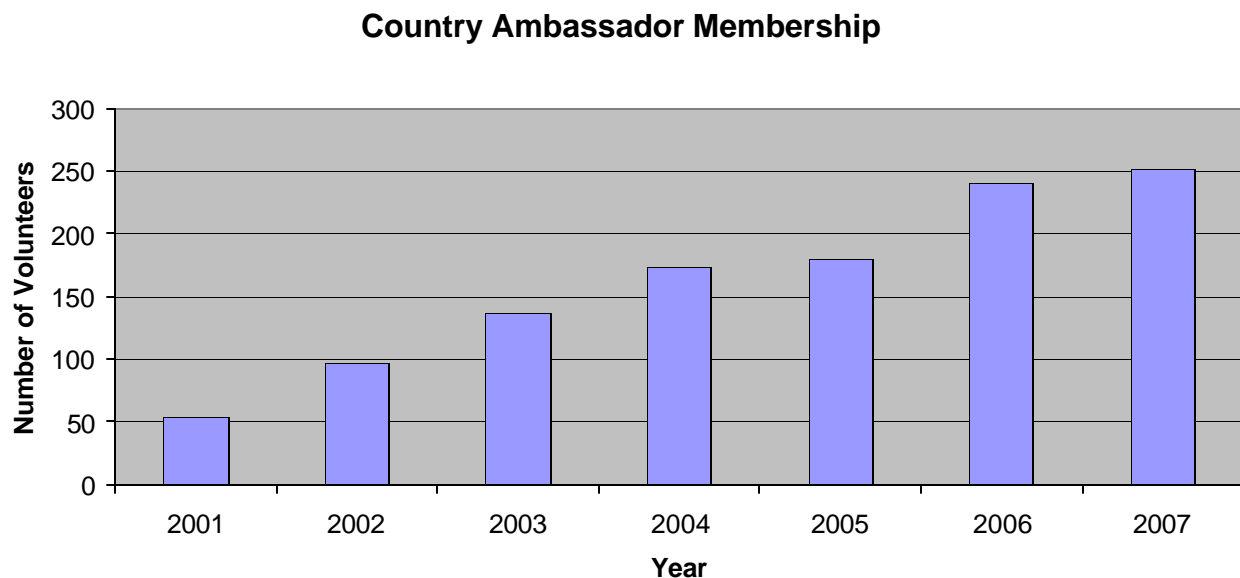
Even though Lopez is extremely busy with his job and with recently becoming a proud father, he still finds the time to help and support fellow international students. “When you like something you find the time to be part of it. It does not matter how busy you are, you will do whatever it takes to get to it.” This enthusiastic outlook is just another reason why Lopez is such a success with the international community at Suffolk.

Current Country Ambassador Statistics:

As of April 2, 2007 the Country Ambassador Program reports the following for its membership:

Student Country Ambassadors:	67
Alumni Country Ambassadors:	185
Total:	252

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



There are Country Ambassadors in the following 99 countries:

Africa	Comoros	Japan	Qatar
Albania	Cyprus	Jordan	Russia
Angola	Democratic	Kazakhstan	Saudi Arabia
Argentina	Republic of Congo	Kenya	Senegal
Aruba	Denmark	Kosovo	Sierra Leone
Austria	Dominica	Korea	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Dominican Republic	Kuwait	Slovakia
Bahrain	England	Lebanon	Spain
Bangladesh	Equatorial Guinea	Luxembourg	Sweden
Belgium	Finland	Macedonia	Switzerland
Benin	France	Malaysia	Taiwan
Bolivia	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	Niger	Tunisia
Burundi	Hong Kong	Nigeria	Turkey
C.A.R.	Hungary	Norway	U.A.E.
Cameroon	India	Pakistan	Uganda
Canada	Indonesia	Panama	Ukraine
Cape Verde Islands	Israel	Peru	Venezuela
Chili	Italy	Poland	Vietnam
China	Ivory Coast	Portugal	
Colombia			

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

- 985 emails by Country Ambassadors to prospective and admitted students in 2006
 - 129 emails by Country Ambassadors to prospective and admitted students since January, 2007
 - 64 new Country Ambassadors have joined the program in 2006
 - 11 new Country Ambassadors have joined the program since January, 2007
 - 165 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:

Michael Balvy
Aicha Belemkoabga
Zlatelina Bezheva
Nehal Desai
William Ekobe
Cleon Kanellis
Manav Khanna
Marian Konseiga
Tram Le
Vladimir Nicolaas
Rodions Podgorbunskihs
Freddy Roca
Fatima Urooj
Khaled Younes

Representing:

Israel
Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Togo
Bulgaria
India
Cameroon, Italy
Greece
India
Burkina Faso, Gambia, Mali, Niger, Senegal
Vietnam
Aruba, Netherlands
Russia
Bolivia
Pakistan
Jordan

International Alumni News Bits:

On behalf the International community here at Suffolk University, the Country Ambassador Program would like to congratulate the following alumni on their great news!

- ❖ **Theodoros Rexho**, BSBA '06, is proud to announce that he recently started a job at BDO Seidman LLP. Rexho is a Country Ambassador for Greece and Cyprus.
- ❖ **Cedric Rosenfeld**, MBA '05, is pleased to announce his recent engagement to **Sophie Champion**, also an alumni of Suffolk University. The French natives were classmates and began dating while at Suffolk. They will marry in 2008. Rosenfeld is a Country Ambassador for France and Europe.



- ❖ **Daulet Ergozhin**, MBA '03, was recently named the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Ergozhin is a Country Ambassador for Kazakhstan.

❖ **Mohamed Atiqur Rahman**, MBA '98, recently joined the Citibank, N.A., Bangladesh as Resident Vice President and Country Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer (CAMLCO) leaving his job in the Central Bank of Bangladesh where he was Deputy General Manager of the Anti-Money Laundering Department (AMLDD). Rahman is a Country Ambassador for Bangladesh.



❖ **Amilcar A. Giraldo**, MBA '96, and his wife are proud to announce the birth of their son on March 20, 2007. Giraldo is a Country Ambassador for Colombia.

Keep Us Informed!

The Country Ambassador Program would love to hear from you! For every 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 www.suffolk.edu/4822.html to learn more about the Country Ambassador Program, how to become an ambassador, or contact other ambassadors.

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 failed to list Dominica as one of the countries represented by Lubert Labad. We apologize and have corrected this error. Thank you for bringing this to our attention!