



# JOHN JOSEPH Moakley

ARCHIVE & INSTITUTE AT SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

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NEWSLETTER

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## STUDENT DELEGATION TRACES MOAKLEY'S VISIT TO EL SALVADOR

TEN SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS and five Suffolk University faculty members traveled to El Salvador during the March break to learn about the late Massachusetts Congressman John Joseph Moakley's statesmanship in the midst of civil war and to perform community service.

The trip formed the core of a Government Department course and was coordinated with the Moakley Institute.

The delegation met with Salvadoran government officials and visited key locations related to Moakley's Congressional investigation of the 1989 Jesuit murders in San Salvador.

The group heard firsthand accounts of the Salvadoran civil war along the way—from members of the ARENA and FMLN political parties, US Embassy officials, former guerrillas, students, and host families.

Moakley Institute Director Beth Bower arranged the trip through Companion Community Development Alternatives (CoCoDA), a non-profit organization involved in projects for democratic, community-based, social and economic development in Central America.



During his investigatory travels through El Salvador, Moakley had befriended the people of Santa Marta. Suffolk's Organizations for Uplifting Lives through Service (S.O.U.L.S) and the Suffolk University Hispanic Association have continued that friendship, raising funds so that students from the village of Santa Marta can attend the university in San Salvador. The two groups of students met and spent time together during the Salvadoran visit.

Stopping by a scenic overlook are, rear, Ana Vaquerano, Law School clinical programs coordinator, Tom Remp, Alex Finlay, Philosophy adjunct Professor Jeff Johnson, Roy De Pasquale, and Ben James; center, Olivia De Jesus, Megan MacDonald, Government Professor Judy Dushku, Theresa Goretti, Allison Strem, Humanities and Modern Languages Assistant Professor Iani Moreno, Mario Alfiero, and Hernan Merino, the group's bus driver; kneeling, Charlene Julien, Moakley Institute Director Beth Bower, and CoCoDa representative Kyle Ham.

EL SALVADOR, *continued on page 2*

## Archive Addresses Enhanced Access & Preservation

NOW THAT THE MOAKLEY PAPERS have been processed and are available to researchers, the Archive's next major initiative is to provide enhanced access to the papers through the implementation of the Archive's online catalog, Rediscovery, and the preservation of fragile materials. These efforts are meant to ensure that a broad range of researchers can fully utilize all parts of the collection.

Due to the vast size of the Moakley Collection—400 boxes of papers and thousands of objects—and the complex levels of descriptive information, the Archive needed to find a database to index the collection. Archive staff selected the Rediscovery collection management database because it works much like a typical online library catalog but has enhanced features specialized for archival

materials. Researchers can search the entire Moakley collection inventory by keyword, subject, or category. The search results include related files, such as digital images, digital audio and video files, finding aids, and links to subject guides. The online version of the catalog soon will be available on the Moakley Web site, [www.joemoakley.org](http://www.joemoakley.org).

ARCHIVE, *continued on page 6*



Student Charlene Julien with FMLN Leader Salvador Sanchez Cerén.



The altar in the chapel at Divinia Providencia in San Salvador where Archbishop Romero was assassinated.



Law School Clinical Programs Coordinator Ana Vaquerano and Professor Iani Moreno, with Damien and Carolina Alegria and staff of the Oasis Guesthouse.



Suffolk's delegation in front of mural in memory of Archbishop Romero.

## STUDENT DELEGATION TRACES MOAKLEY'S VISIT TO EL SALVADOR, *continued from page 1*

Here, in photographs and reminiscences, is a chronicle of the journey.

### MY HOMELAND HAS CHANGED

This experience helped me come to the realization that the country I grew up in and remembered as a child, in my opinion, no longer exists. My homeland has changed as a consequence of the long, bitter, and brutal civil war that was fought between 1980–1992, where 75,000 people died and over 2.7 million Salvadorans were forced to leave the country and never returned. The remittances of all those Salvadorans who live abroad represent the number one source of income in the country. Most of the Salvadoran nationals abroad live in the United States ... and many are in the country illegally. —Iani Moreno, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Humanities & Modern Languages Department

### HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS

Driving through downtown San Salvador and looking to one side of the street to see toddlers running up and down the sidewalk without clothes, diapers or shoes, and to then turn my head to see a mega-mall built across the highway was just incredible. The disparity between the haves and the have-nots in the country is so immense. —Megan MacDonald, student

### FIRSTHAND ACCOUNTS

Leonel Gomez, a Salvadoran labor organizer and investigator who assisted Congressman Moakley and Jim McGovern with the Jesuit murder investigation, gave a thought-provoking master lecture on the roots of civil unrest; the impact of US foreign policy and military funding decisions on late 20th century civil wars; and the intersection of poetry and human rights through the work of Carolyn Fourke. He is a friend of the Moakley Institute who participated in the 2003 El Congresista symposium at Suffolk University and has contributed an oral history to the Moakley Archive Oral History project.

Our host, Damian Alegria, recounted the impact of government repression on his life and that of his wife Carolina and their separate decisions to join the guerrilla forces. Damian recounted being captured and tortured by government forces. He spoke of the sacrifices and camaraderie of the resistance perched in the mountainous areas of the country, and he explained the FMLN's transition from army to political party and their own transition from soldiers to guesthouse keepers. —Beth Bower, director, Moakley Archive and Institute

### ARCHBISHOP ROMERO

March 24 is a national day of mourning, commemorating the day in 1980 when Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated while he was celebrating Mass ... And when asked why he is so important to everyday Salvadorans, the answer is usually something like:

"Monseñor Romero is the person who gave his life for us. They say he's the only one in the country who could see clearly and spoke out against injustice. He is a saint to us because he died trying to save us all. He is also like a father for us, who cared more for us than for his own life."

Everywhere murals of him decorate public buildings, and T-shirts show personal commitments to him.

—Judy Dushku, professor of Government

Photos by Mario Alfiero, Beth Bower, Jeff Johnson, Charlene Julien, and Iani Moreno.



**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA**

What seemed to have affected me most are the symbols at the Jesuit University here in San Salvador, the UCA. Walking through the airy, tropical campus I can't make sense of the fact that on these well-manicured lawns six priests were executed by the Salvadoran army less than 30 years ago, rose bushes now guarding the plot their innocent blood once stained. ... The men who died ... came from Spain to help El Salvador and ended up face down in the mud.

An American Jesuit showed us piles of photo albums taken the day the priests were murdered. The bullet holes in the walls, bodies slumped in never-ending sleep, those photos I will never forget, should never forget.

... In this strange land emotion runs wild and the most surprising people in my group cry without warning, probably trying to rationalize the incomprehensible.

—Tom Remp, student

**TERROR AND BRUTALITY**

We visited the small parlor where the priests' housekeeper, Julia Elba Ramos, and her 15-year-old daughter Celina were murdered and viewed the site of the murder of the six Jesuit priests, which has been made into a memorial rose garden. Visiting these sites awakened a small piece of the terror of being trapped in a small room, found and shot. The hundreds of bullet holes in the walls of the building communicated how brutal the murders were. An exhibition of memorabilia of these martyrs personalized their lives for us.

—Beth Bower

**REMINISCENCES OF MOAKLEY VISIT**

In Suchitoto we met at La Mora under the same tree where Moakley met with the representatives from the region and heard some reminiscences from that earlier meeting. The schoolchildren sang songs for us, as an earlier generation of students did for Moakley.

—Beth Bower

**A GUERRILLA'S TALE**

While we were in Suchitoto, Jerry, a bartender, tells me that he was a guerrilla during the Civil War; that he lived in the mountains and fought against the military government. After the war, he helped develop the cooperative where the bar is located with eight other former guerrillas. He and his friends run the bar and guest house while educating their guests and patrons about the war and their experiences. The bar is covered in revolutionary posters, art, and T-shirts, while protest songs from the '60s and '70s play over the sound system.

—Megan MacDonald, student



Members of the delegation in the rose garden at the Jesuit University of Central America, planted in memory of the six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter who were murdered there by an elite Salvadoran military battalion.



La Mora schoolchildren return to school after singing to the delegation.



Suffolk Law School Clinical Programs Coordinator Ana Vaquerano, a native of El Salvador



Dr. Aristides Peres cares for thousands of patients.



Santa Marta villagers



Olivia DeJesus, president of the Suffolk University Hispanic Association, befriends a Salvadoran child.

### HELPING MEDICAL TEAM

A man once told me that, roughly speaking, El Salvador has one doctor for every 6,000 people. His name is Aristides Peres and for him the above isn't just some mindless statistic, it's an everyday reality and job description. Dr Peres is one of a six-member medical team in the remote village of Santa Marta. The first time I met the doctor he stood tired, stethoscope draped over his shoulders, a dog walking aimlessly along the floor of the medical centre as we interviewed him about AIDS (SIDA in Spanish.)

*Remp mentions in conversation that he is a wilderness paramedic, and the doctor immediately requests his assistance in performing government health checks at a school in the mountains.*

All the children lined up in front of us, laughs and smiles contrasting with limbs thin from malnutrition and arms riddled with ringworm. ... The doctor pulled out a chair designed for a 6-year-old and turned to me, "If I tell you what to write can you record each child?"

Three hours later I'd seen dozens of children, most with some small complaint like a common cold, though a few had intestinal parasites. We worked like a production line, each child stepping forward to have his arms, mouth, eyes, and ears examined before being given a slip for medicine and sent to the next area to be measured. I took down information, name of patient, age, sex, complaint in Spanish. My shirtsleeves were rolled up and sweat was pouring off my brow by the time we finished.

—Tom Remp, student



Don Carlos Bonilla, center, takes a close look at the replica of the *El Congresoista: Joe Moakley in El Salvador* exhibit donated to Santa Marta by the Moakley Institute. The village is featured on one of the panels.

### MEETING CONGRESSMAN'S FRIENDS

Our study of El Salvador included a focus on the role of Congressman John Joseph Moakley. Moakley Institute Director Beth Bower organized the itinerary and contacted people who had met Moakley when he was sent to investigate the murders of six Jesuits and their housekeeper and her daughter in 1989, across the street from the military headquarters in El Salvador. He had been appalled at what he learned there and went on to visit other sites in the country to try to make sense of the civil war. Among his visits he went to the village of Santa Marta, where he is lovingly remembered for calling the attention of the world to the inhabitants' plight. Don Carlos Bonilla spoke warmly of his American friend and expressed his admiration for this good man from Boston.

—Judy Dushku



Murals depicting the heroes and martyrs of the civil war can be seen in the cities and villages of El Salvador. This one, showing the escape to Honduras across the Rio Lempa, was painted on the school in Santa Marta.



#### SAD AFTERMATH

The people I met in Santa Marta ... have lost that naïveté, that innocence that I remember so fondly from my countrymen and women. They have become tough in their appearance, in those outer layers, but inside they are constantly suffering the consequences of the brutal civil war and other natural catastrophes that Salvadorans have had to deal with since 1980. They seemed numb, sad, and depressed. The same can probably be said of many of the Salvadorans who had to leave the country during the war and now live abroad.

—Iani Moreno, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Humanities & Modern Languages Department

#### VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

In our three nights in Santa Marta, we lived with village families and saw how the village has advanced: the school, complete with computer room and science lab; the rudimentary medical clinic; the rehabilitation clinic; and the greenhouse project, using hydroponic systems. —Beth Bower

#### A GENEROUS PEOPLE

Everyone we met was so gracious and friendly; willing to help us in any way possible, giving whatever they had to make our stay comfortable, all while having so little themselves. How does a country with so little and a people who are so mistreated produce such caring, loving individuals?

—Megan MacDonald, student

#### SERVICE LEARNING

Our students and faculty volunteered at the medical clinic and on a fish-farming project, digging a pond to raise tilapia. We donated a scaled-down copy of the El Congresista exhibit, which includes a section on Santa Marta, to the village historical group, Memoria Historica. —Beth Bower

#### CONTINUING EFFORT

I am leaning towards the possibility of creating a course where students work with the Salvadoran immigrant community of Boston. The Spanish majors and minors could serve as ambassadors of the University in communities such as Chelsea. As a service-learning component of the course they would offer ESL classes/tutoring for all those interested in learning English. They even could teach literacy courses in Spanish for the older members of the community who don't know how to read and write even in their own language. All of this would be part of a new and revised course, United States, Mexico Borderlands and Central American Immigration: Border Theater in the New Millennium.

—Iani Moreno, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Humanities & Modern Languages Department ■



Members of the team begin digging a fish pond in Santa Marta.



CoCoDa delegation leader Ivan Villasboa translates as Don Carlos reminisces about Moakley's visit.

## ARCHIVE ADDRESSES ENHANCED ACCESS & PRESERVATION, *continued from page 1*

Although, the Moakley papers are relatively “modern,” certain portions of the collection have been off limits to researchers due to their fragile condition or because they are stored in obsolete or obscure formats. Without proper preservation and storage, these susceptible materials, such as news clippings, scrapbooks, and audiovisual recordings, will deteriorate over time and are in danger of being lost forever.

A rare television advertisement from Moakley’s 1972 Congressional campaign against Louise Day Hicks is a prime example of the preservation needs in the collection. Recorded on a two-inch videotape, a critically endangered video format, it was the only known campaign television advertisement featuring Joe Moakley and was never aired. Naturally, curiosity about the ad was high, and it could provide unique insight

into one of Moakley’s most contentious races. The lack of appropriate playback equipment paired with the tape’s poor condition necessitated that it be sent to the audiovisual preservation specialists at SPEC Brothers, Inc., for preservation treatment. The SPEC Brothers team evaluated, cleaned, and stabilized the campaign ad and 10 other audio and videotapes. Some of the recordings were remastered, and all had their contents transferred to modern digital formats such as DVD and digital audio. In addition to having a digital copy of the campaign ad, a Suffolk University student is taking access a step further by transcribing the advertisement and researching the context of this historically significant recording.

These projects, while time-consuming and expensive, yield many rewards and are vital to ensuring the full use of the collection and



A still from a never-aired television ad from Moakley’s 1972 Congressional campaign against Louise Day Hicks.

long-term preservation. A primary goal of the Moakley Archives is to make the materials last into the next century so that future generations can access and connect with the legacy of Congressman Moakley. Therefore the effort will continue as the Archive raises additional funds through gifts and grants. ■

## Oral History Project Making Progress

The Moakley Oral History Project has collected 12 oral history interviews in the past year, bringing the total number of interviews in the collection to 70.

The Moakley Archive continued its partnership with Suffolk University’s oral history class. Students interviewed nine area residents who were affected by the 1974 decision by Judge Arthur Garrity that called for busing within the Boston Public School system to end desegregation.

A key addition to this collection of oral histories is an interview with James W. Hennigan, Jr., who, as president of the Boston School Committee from 1970 to 1974, was the lead defendant in *Morgan v. Hennigan*, the case that led to the Garrity decision. Suffolk University Law School Professor Joseph McEttrick and Suffolk University History Department Chair Robert Allison collected his oral history in January.

In November 2006, McEttrick interviewed Joe Moakley’s close friend, fellow Suffolk graduate and University trustee James F. Linnehan, Sr. Linnehan supplemented his interview with a variety of newspaper articles and personal memorabilia related to their friendship and careers.

The Moakley Archive has expanded access to its oral history transcripts in the past year by making them available online as they are completed. There are now 14 transcripts available for viewing in PDF format at [www.joemoakley.org](http://www.joemoakley.org). ■

## Institute Launches Veterans Public Service Center

The Moakley Institute at Suffolk University established the Moakley Veterans Public Service Center in September to assist veterans, active duty military, reservists, National Guard members, and ROTC candidates in pursuing post-secondary education that prepares them for a career in public service.

The Moakley Institute created the Veterans Public Service Center to:

- address veterans education benefits issues

- work with military and civilian organizations to effectively provide assistance to veterans
- provide representation for veterans who may need career or educational counseling

The Moakley Veterans Center provides access to an organized system of information, assessment, career guidance, financial aid counseling, and job placement at no cost to veterans who hope to pursue a career in public service.

A recent open house enabled networking among service men and women in the Suffolk community, while informing them about the Moakley Veterans Public Service Center and other programs and services available to them. The Moakley Veterans Center also is conducting an online survey to gather information about the veterans' needs.

The program is administered by Moakley Institute Director Beth Bower and coordinated by Patrick Wright, a veteran and Suffolk graduate student. ■

## Legislative Staff Training Addresses Service & Ethics

Suffolk faculty and experts from state government presented new legislative staff with the information and resources they need to effectively carry out their responsibilities in the General Court during a February training program.

The program, presented by the John Joseph Moakley Archive and Institute at Suffolk

University and the Sawyer Business School's Center for Public Management, drew about 70 legislative staff members.

Senate President Robert Travaglini addressed the trainees, speaking on "The Importance of Good Public Service."

Other topics covered in the training included: the legislating process, dealing with the media, ethics, navigating state government, and the state budget process.

Moakley Institute programs have trained more than 200 state and city employees in good government. This was the second Moakley Institute legislative training. The first was offered in January 2005. A training program for Boston City Council staff took place in March 2006.

These training programs support the Moakley Archive and Institute's efforts to preserve the late congressman's legacy by promoting public service and leadership. ■



Speakers and presenters at the legislative staff training included Suffolk Government Professor John Berg; Marie (Sandy) Matava, clinical assistant professor of Public Management and director of the Center for Public Management; William J. O'Neill, Jr., Sawyer Business School dean; Patricia Maguire Meservey, provost and academic vice president; Senate President Robert Travaglini; Visiting Assistant Professor Linda Melconian, former Massachusetts Senate majority leader; and John Nucci, vice president of Government and Community Affairs. (Photo by Ken Fonzi)

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### MOAKLEY LEGACY COMMITTEE

Suffolk University's Legacy Committee evaluates the efforts of the Moakley Archive and Institute.

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JOHN DELISO, *Associate Dean of Suffolk Law School*

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