00:00 (low chattering)
00:04 Good evening and welcome everyone.
00:05 Please welcome to the podium,
00:06 to get tonight's program started
00:09 2017 "10 Under 10" honoree, Dat Le.
00:14 (audience applauds)
00:20 Good evening everyone, and welcome to the 10th annual
00:23 10 Under 10 recognition night.
00:27 I was expecting people to clap, but... (laughs)
00:30 (audience clapping)
00:34 My name is Dat Le and I'm honored to serve as tonight's MC.
00:38 I'm a proud double Ram.
00:39 I graduated with my bachelor's of science
00:42 in accounting in 2012, my masters,
00:45 or my masters of accounting in 2013
00:48 and 2017 10 Under 10 honoree.
00:54 As a former honoree, being back here certainly brings back
00:57 so many great memories and I'm extremely humbled
00:59 that Jonathan and the team here at Suffolk
01:01 asked me to host this great event.
01:03 I'll admit that before agreeing to host this event
01:07 I had to check to make sure Will and Jada
01:08 weren't on the guest list.
01:10 (audience laughing)
01:13 It's great to be back in here though,
01:14 to usher in the newest class of 10 Under 10 honorees,
01:18 but I would be remiss if I didn't give a shout out
01:20 to my Irish twin brother, Healy,
01:22 who is also a graduate and past 10 Under 10 honoree.
01:27 My brother's currently based out of Washington D.C.,
01:29 works as an attorney for the US Department of Justice,
01:33 and most importantly,
01:34 the father to my adorable nine month old niece, Casey.
01:40 We both graduated in 2012 and he was not too pleased when I,
01:44 the younger brother,
01:45 received this recognition before he did,
01:48 but he quickly got over it real fast
01:49 when he was honored in 2021.
01:52 Thank you to Suffolk University
01:54 for sibling bragging rights for life.
02:00 Anyways, happy 10th anniversary to this fantastic program
02:04 and it's now my pleasure to introduce Suffolk's
02:06 11th president to you, Dr. Marissa Kelly.
02:11 President Kelly is deeply committed to Suffolk
02:12 and she brings to the presidency strong leadership
02:15 and a clear vision for the university's future.
02:18 Thanks to President Kelly's leadership,
02:20 the university's shattering fundraising records,
02:24 building its national and international reputation,
02:27 engaging more alumni,
02:29 recruiting more students from diverse backgrounds
02:31 and developing educational programs.
02:34 We're so fortunate to have her as our president.
Please join me in welcoming to the podium President Marissa Kelly.

(<v>Thank you Dat and on behalf of my spouse, Margie Arnold and I, a good evening to you all. It is really great to be with you tonight. You know, I always look forward to this event. As you can imagine, I spend a lot of time talking to people, talking to people about Suffolk University and I talk with prospective students and their families. I talk with elected officials and with other university presidents, alumni like yourselves, CEOs that represent just about every sector of the economy. I talk with people working on the nonprofit side outside of higher education of course, and small organizations, large organizations. In all of those forums, central to my conversation is the value of higher education and more specifically, Suffolk's core mission and impact, the impact we strive to have on our students and the impact as graduates, that in turn they have on their professions and communities, the communities in which they live and work over the course of their lives, over the course of your lives, for so many of you who are with us tonight. Impact, in other words, is the product at each stage and it is not at all unusual for me to have in mind one or more of our 10 Under 10 honorees each year. I mean, we have been doing this for 10 years, right? It is not at all unusual for me to have in mind one of our 10 Under 10 honorees when I'm having these conversations because our honorees all illustrate beautifully, that impact begets impact. So I always look forward to this event, hearing the stories of our honorees, what they've been doing. It's always so inspiring and I am sure that in just a few minutes, as we move to the main part of our program, you will all feel inspired by the stories of tonight's honorees because tonight we are celebrating an incredible accomplished group of Suffolk alumni and we celebrate the impact they are having, the impact in their professions, in their volunteer work here in Boston, around the world, in fact. They work in healthcare and finance, marketing, journalism. They run small businesses and are part of large organizations. They work with veterans and young adults. They're bilingual, they are mentors and yes, both individually and collectively, they inspire. I wanna take a moment in advance of them being honored to just say to each of them,)</v>
to each of you who are here, congratulations.
We are so very proud that you are part of the Suffolk community and I wanna thank you on behalf of that entire community, for the impact that you are making each and every day.
Again, we are so, so proud of you.
Thanks to everyone who is here, family and friends, to join us tonight in celebrating our honorees and without further ado,
I think we will let the program continue.
Thanks to everyone who is here, family and friends, to join us tonight in celebrating our honorees and without further ado,
I think we will let the program continue.
Thank you so much President Kelly.
We're thrilled that you and your spouse, Margie Arnold, are here with us tonight and thank you for your leadership for this great university.
It is now my pleasure to introduce another president, sort of, to kick off tonight's award ceremony.
I didn't write it, ma'am.
Collin serves as the president of Suffolk University's graduates of the Last Decade Council, Gold Council for short.
Collin's also a double Ram, and served as the president of the Student Government Association during his senior year at Suffolk back in 2015, 2016.
He is now leading the Gold Council, where he and a group of 20 alumni, help advance Suffolk by planning events like tonight's program, helping the admissions and career development efforts, and providing financial support to Suffolk.
Please help me welcome Collin make some noise Loiselle.
Good evening.
Thank you Dat and thank you President Kelly, for being with us on this special evening.
It is my honor to kick off tonight's award ceremony.
Each of tonight's honorees have been nominated for this recognition by members of the Suffolk community and have been thoughtfully selected by the Gold Council's 10 Under 10 committee.
The Gold Council is very proud of our recent graduates' success and are excited to honor this year's recipients.
Our 10 honorees tonight truly represent the best of the Suffolk alumni community.
We'll start tonight with the Sawyer Business School honorees and at this time, I'd invite dean of the Sawyer Business School, Amy Zung, to join me at the podium.
Our first award of the night is being presented to David Campisano.
David is a financial advisor for Ivy Capital and Northwestern Mutual.
He's also a United States Army veteran and founder and president of 22 Mohawks, a nonprofit that assists veterans in need. David earned his bachelor's degree in finance from the Sawyer Business School in 2019, after returning from 16 years of dedicated service in the Army. During active duty, David was deployed to Iraq, he earned his ranger tab, completed the Army Green Beret Special Forces Qualification course, became a paratrooper and participated in the All Army triathlon team. Realizing and seeing firsthand, the difficult plight of many veterans, after graduating from Suffolk, David changed his focus to helping others by founding 22 Mohawks, which focuses on preventing veteran suicide and helping veterans find purpose and navigate the struggles of everyday life. A major focus of his organization is to match trained therapy dogs with troubled veterans and host events, that include dynamic physical activities, like parachuting and opportunities for socialization and emotional support.

David's personal commitment to making a positive difference in these veterans lives is commendable, and in addition to the important work of his organization, he is an active member of Suffolk's Veterans Group and a loyal Suffolk alum, who regularly speaks to campus groups and is always willing to give back. Remarkably, David is also a successful financial advisor, with Northwestern Mutual and his wealth management team at Ivy Capital, he has been recognized by Forbes Magazine. David is now enrolled in Suffolk's MBA program and it is clear that there are no limitations on what David can achieve in the future.

In recognition of his professional accomplishments, his leadership and involvement at Suffolk, and his compassionate commitment to serving others in so many ways, we are honored to present the 10 Under 10 award to David Campisano.

That was humbling, thank you, and thanks Dat, appreciate it. I also wanna thank Sarah Baldoff for putting this night together. She did a phenomenal job, wherever you are out there. President Kelly and Dean Zung, you know, anytime I'm in the same room with you, I feel like I've been doing something right, so I appreciate your leadership. Chairman Lamb's not here, Margie just told me
that he's probably in Japan somewhere running a marathon, but I wanted to tell him that rangers lead the way. He actually gave me this pin that I'm wearing.

Alex Patterson, you've been my go-to for all things Suffolk University since 2016. From undergrad, now to grad school, your support and guidance has been instrumental in my success. Thank you for being awesome.

The next names I will thank are former service members that have guided me to where I am at this exact moment. They survived many years of military service in combat overseas, but lost the war in the internal battle, here at home.

So I honor and remember Staff Sergeant Travis Partica for teaching me that even the toughest men are allowed to show emotion. To Captain Curtis Ballad for teaching me that a combat deployment doesn't make the man but rangers do indeed, lead the way. Sergeant Tim Lisk for teaching me that friendly competition is necessary in a professional relationship. To Coach Mike Mahoney for teaching me that pain is weakness leaving the body and that the sound of laughter can cure any frown, especially yours Mike. To Amon Stalianasfasella, for bringing Lana and Chris into my life. To Specialist John Hatfield for teaching me that service to others is the best medicine for combating sadness and depression. Losing you inspired me to the creation of 22 Mohawks, which has saved hundreds of veterans lives.

To Seaman Michael Coin for raising my right hand person and future spouse, Stacy Coin. And lastly to my girls, Stacy, Emily and Bella, thank you for always protecting me and standing beside me, even when you probably shouldn't have. You've taught me that real love can withstand even the darkest moments. I love you.

Go Rams. (applause)

Congratulations David.

Our next honoree is Alfredo Serrano Figueroa. Alfredo is a data sciences consultant at Management Solutions, and international business consulting firm. Alfredo graduated summa cum laude from Suffolk with a bachelor of science degree in big data and business analytics just last year in 2022. Originally from Spain, Alfredo excelled at Suffolk, serving as president of the university's big data club and playing a key role in the club's growth.
As a student athlete, he was a member of Suffolk's 4.0 Club, the athletic director's honor roll, and the Commonwealth Coast Conference All Academic Team. Alfredo balanced his academic pursuits with his passion for sports as a key member of the men's soccer team. He also merged his love of soccer with his love of data, serving as the data analyst for his team. To top off his Suffolk career, he was selected as the Class Marshall for the 2022 Sawyer Business School commencement ceremony.

Since graduating, Alfredo continues to share his professional expertise as a data science and business intelligence professional with the Suffolk community. As a data science consultant for a major international firm, he's working with diverse clients, developing solutions for complex problems. Alfredo maintains his own website focused on data sciences, www.alfredoserrano-datascience.com. There's a dash between Serrano and data science.

My apologies.

He publishes a monthly newsletter called, "Data for Everyone", that's accessible on LinkedIn, and he also hosts a bilingual podcast entitled, "The Analytics Experience."

His willingness to share his growing expertise with Suffolk students and the greater community is commendable. In recognition of his professional accomplishments so early in his career, we are honored to present a 10 Under 10 award to Alfredo Serrano Figueroa.

(applause)

"Thank you so much for the introduction."

David, I want to say that was a beautiful speech. First of all, it was really compelling and I wanna code you actually, from the bottom of my heart, what I try to do day-to-day with this community is give back.

(continued)
7,000 miles away from here.
But before I get started on my journey,
none of this could have been done without my parents,
which are here and today they traveled 7,000 miles
to support their kids.
Thank you so much for that.
As I was saying, none of this could have been possible
with mom and dad, your unwavering support for me.
You believed in my dreams and instilled in me
the importance of education, hard work and discipline.
Your love and encouragement,
have been the foundation of my success,
and you guys are the reason why I'm here today,
standing on this crowd.
I love you.
Going back to journeys,
as a student athlete for Suffolk University,
as mentioned before, I experienced the challenge of managing
how do you balance academic pursuits
with athletic commitments, right?
This experience not only has shaped me
as a current data science consultant now,
trying to make myself a name of the data science world,
but it made me acutely aware of the difficulties
that many people face, especially us international students.
We come here under the American dream
and the promised land, which is true.
You guys are filled with many opportunities
that we are not granted in other places.
And so with great humility,
I've been able to share my knowledge and experiences
by conducting numerous programming languages,
workshops, many conferences on data science,
and I've been able to help a bunch of people,
especially international students,
on developing their job skills,
developing job search strategies,
creating effective investments, optimize their LinkedIn,
but that's not the main point.
The main point is that I feel incredibly fortunate
to be in a position to give back to others
and help them navigate their own path to success,
which is what Suffolk taught me.
Success everyone can get.
How to say it?
A slice of a pie.
That is what success is and Suffolk is the chance
for us to get it.
And so by that, I was driven by the desire
to make data science education more accessible,
which is why I co-founded the "Analytics Experience,"
a bilingual podcast that is striving
to actually make both English and Spanish speakers
talk about technology, data science and data analytics.
This product holds a very significance for me,
as it strives to breakdown barriers on language
and offer opportunities for students,
who might otherwise lack the resources
to explore these subjects.
So to the entire Suffolk community,
I extend my heartfelt appreciation for you guys,
for your constant support and encouragement
throughout my journey.
It is through the involve mentorship
and all the meaningful connections I've done here
throughout the years that again,
I can stand before you today.
So in closing, I would like to acknowledge all of you guys,
the audience, for joining us in this celebration,
for supporting us, and encourage my fellow alumni,
and current students, to pursue your passions,
share your knowledge,
and make a positive impact in the world.
The journey may not always be easy,
but with courage, determination and perseverance,
we can achieve great things.
Thanks so much and go Rams.
(applause)

Congratulations Alfredo.

I'm now pleased to present the next award to Noah Trofimow.
Noah also graduated from Suffolk just last year in 2022,
with a bachelor's degree from the Sawyer Business School in marketing.
During his junior year at Suffolk,
he started a non-profit organization that addresses mental health and serves as its president.
He also is the marketing director at Inner City Weightlifting.
Noah created his non-profit, The Paper Bag Mask Foundation, to help people struggling with mental health issue,
including those who may be contemplating suicide.
The mission of the Paper Bag Mask Foundation is to empower individuals affected by mental illness,
with tools to supplement their treatment,
to create opportunities to help young adults build confidence and to eliminate discrimination
and stigmas surrounding mental health issues.
Drawing on his own experiences,
his program is based on three pillars,
movement, creativity, and meditation,
and offers a variety of educational classes,
workshops, and social opportunities.
The foundation coordinates and funds community outreach
and research and participates in mental health education.
Noah is an outspoken and powerful advocate for mental health
and he has received recognition from several media outlets
and was named one of the most influential 25 under 25
business leaders by Bostino,
a well-respected online news source.
In addition, as marketing director
at Inner City Weightlifting and marketing manager
for Mitcom, Noah is utilizing his experience
as an entrepreneur and digital marketer
to develop marketing strategies and improve results.
In recognition of his extraordinary determination
to improve the lives of those with mental illness
while at Suffolk as an undergraduate,
and his significant positive impact since then
on countless individuals,
thanks to the work of his Paper Bag Mask Foundation,
as well as for his vision as an entrepreneur
digital marketer,
we are honored to present a 10 Under 10 award
to Noah Trofimow.
(applause)

Which mic am I talking into, both? (v
whichaudience laughs)
I'm extremely honored to be here tonight
and accept this award and to stand alongside
such a great group of alumni.
Congratulations to all the fellow honorees.
First and foremost,
I wanna thank the audience for being here.
It means a lot to see so many faces in the crowd.
I also wanna thank the professors that have supported me in
outside the classroom.
Specifically Sonya Lane, Kim Ring, Heim Letwin,
and the countless other professors that have agreed
to set up phone calls with me and offer advice
in their field of expertise.
My speech would feel incomplete if I didn't also take
a moment to give a shout out to the Suffolk community
beyond the professors, people like Dean Zang,
who showed her support
since The Paper Bag Mask Foundation's inception,
Ben Hall for featuring me in PR opportunities
and the students that took me on as a client
for their grant writing, graphic design
and social change courses.
I can contrarily say that my decision
to come to Suffolk University has not only set me up
for success, but also enabled me to discover myself
and my true potential.
I'm extremely appreciative the resources that I utilized
while I was at Suffolk, having access to a law clinic,
being able to pitch my business ideas to judges,
and meeting with distinguished alumni who inspire me,
are just some of the many offerings at Suffolk.
I also, of course, have to thank my parents,
who encouraged me to get back on my feet
and register for classes when I become depressed
and dropped out of college.
I love both of you.
In closing, I wanna say that receiving this award is not just a personal accomplishment, but also a testament to the support and encouragement of the Suffolk community.
It's proof that when we surround ourselves with good people, change can happen.
So let this be a reminder all of us here tonight, that we have the power to uplift and inspire each other to become our true selves.
Congratulations again, to all the alumni here tonight and thank you for this incredible honor.
(applause)
Congratulations Noah.
It is my honor to present the last SBS award to Captain Brooke VanRosendael.
Brooke serves as banking advisory senior associate at PWC. She's also a captain in the United States Army Reserve.
Brooke joined the Army Reserve right after earning her bachelor of science in finance from Suffolk, magna cum laude, in 2017.
She arrived at Fort Benning in Georgia, worked hard to complete the intensive training, and then returned to Suffolk to pursue a graduate degree in accounting. She was called to active duty by the US Army Reserve and ended up completing her graduate studies while on assignment in the Middle East, graduating from the Master of Science Accounting program, summa cum laude.
In Brooks civilian career, she spent over five years working in the audit world, gaining experience in governmental audit at RH Smith and Company CPAs and in trade audit at BNY Mellon.
Brooke now works for PWC as a senior management consultant in their banking transformation practice and she has a promising career in accounting ahead of her.
In Captain VanRosendael's military career, she was a logistics officer for four years in Westover, Massachusetts, and for nine months she deployed with her brigade to Jordan, where she worked as a contracting officer representative.
Brooke later transitioned to the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion Airborne at Fort Dix, New Jersey, where she completed courses to become a civil affairs officer and paratrooper.
She has even worked with the Royal Moroccan Army in Morocco to train their soldiers in civil engagement and reconnaissance.
As a proud double Ram, an accomplished finance professional and a distinguished member of the military, Brooke is forging new ground and contributing significantly to her profession and to her country, and for those reasons,
24:59 we are honored to present a 10 Under 10 award
25:02 to Captain Brook VanRosendael
25:04 (applause)
25:13 Brooke was called to active duty
25:15 and cannot be with us tonight.
25:16 However, she sent in a thank you video,
25:18 so please turn your attention to the screens.
25:21 <v -&gt;Good evening.&lt;/v
25:22 I would be remiss if I didn't start by saying
25:23 how grateful I am for technology and its ability
25:26 to put me in the same room as you all tonight.
25:28 I'm currently at riggers school in Fort Lee, Virginia
25:30 until May 11th, which is why I'm unable
25:32 to attend the event in person.
25:34 It's a four week course.
25:35 where we learn how to pack, rig, inspect,
25:37 and recover parachutes for both personnel and equipment.
25:40 For color, one of the graduation requirements
25:43 is packing our own parachute
25:44 and jumping it out of the aircraft.
25:46 A little crazy I know, but I'm excited.
25:49 With that, I know I only have two minutes to accept my award
25:52 and I'm sure I'm already close to halfway there,
25:53 so I'll just dive right in.
25:56 Suffolk undoubtedly changed my life.
25:58 I didn't grow up with money
25:59 and I always feared paying for college.
26:01 Access to higher education is a luxury and a privilege,
26:04 especially at a private school in Boston.
26:07 Somehow I made Suffolk work and I'm so grateful that I did.
26:11 Suffolk opened the door to my full-time job
26:13 as a management consultant with PWC.
26:15 It also blessed me with mentors and friends
26:17 that I still hold close to my heart today.
26:20 Most importantly, Suffolk gave the little girl
26:23 from a small town in Maine, who always dreamed
26:24 of being everything she could be a chance.
26:28 I can say with full certainty that I wouldn't be here today
26:31 as a management consultant with PWC,
26:33 the captain of the United States Army Reserve
26:35 and a 10 Under 10 awardee,
26:37 if it wasn't for the Suffolk community.
26:40 In closing, I would like to thank Dr. Ann Schneider,
26:43 an amazing professor, mentor and friend,
26:46 for nominating me for this award.
26:48 Dr. Schneider was my professor in grad school
26:51 and she worked closely with me to complete my final course
26:53 to earn my degree while I was deployed.
26:55 Her dedication and selflessness to her students
26:57 in the Suffolk community is unmatched.
27:01 I'm so proud to be a double Ram and honored
27:03 to be one of the awardees recognized tonight.
27:06 Congratulations to the other awardees.
27:08 Your journeys inspire me.
Thank you.

Congratulations to all the Sawyer Business School honorees.

It is now my pleasure to introduce a fellow double RAM and MPA alum, also the Secretary of the Gold Council, Jackie Bresnahan, to present the first three of the College of Arts and Sciences Awards.

Thank you Colin, and congratulations to all of our SBS honorees tonight.

At this time, I'd also like to invite associate dean of the College of Art and Sciences, Laura Noflo Clements, to join me at the podium.

The first CAS award is being presented to Dina Akel.

Dina is the CEO of Dina Maria LLC.

She graduated from the College of Art and Sciences with a Bachelor's of Science degree in biology 10 years ago.

Since her graduation, she has become a successful entrepreneur and has founded and led several businesses.

In response to the pandemic, she and her husband, also a Suffolk alum, founded Covid Shield Boston.

This company enlisted almost two dozen people to sew and distribute masks to exceptionally needy individuals and groups.

In fact, over 1,500 masks were distributed to people in homeless shelters and elder care facilities.

Her entrepreneurial spirit and positive results during the crisis of the pandemic was recognized and appreciated in the media and elsewhere.

Dina's focus now is on bringing affordability to the luxury fashion industry and making wedding gowns to sew and distribute to all.

She is CEO of Dina Maria and Vieira Luxe in Nashua, New Hampshire, and she previously was CEO of Preowned Gowns.

She sells couture clothes at reduced prices with the goal of transforming every customer into a fashion success story.

The well-known wedding planning website, The Knot, named Vieira Luxe in its best of weddings list for 2023, and Goldman Sachs named her company as a finalist in their small business recognition program.

Dina's generosity prompts her to give back and here at Suffolk, she is a loyal supporter, who currently serves as a Ramp, a Ram alumni program mentor.

And as a member of the Suffolk University Young Professional Management Advisory Board.

She mentors students at Suffolk and in New Hampshire.

In recognition of her accomplishments as a resourceful entrepreneur and successful business owner, as well as her commitment to the university community and those in need, we are honored to present...
the 10 Under 10 award to Dina Akel.
(applause) (cheering)
(lively music)
<v ->Whoa, it's been 10 years already.</v
Hi everyone.
It is truly an honor to be standing here today.
Congratulations to all my fellow honorees.
As a proud graduate of Suffolk, I can say without a doubt that this is a momentous occasion for me.
Let me take you back to my college years when I graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor's of Science and Biology.
You were one of my professors.
(audience laughs)
At the time, I was determined to pursue my passion for parasitology, the study of parasites.
Exciting, but life had other plans in store for me.
After working in the industry for some time, I realized that my heart wasn't in it and I needed to find something that resonated with me on a more creative level.
That's when I rediscovered my childhood passion for fashion and it led me to work for Boston Bridal Boutique.
It's funny how life works out, isn't it?
Now, I have my own bridal business called Vieira Luxe in Nashua, New Hampshire and I couldn't be happier.
Speaking of weddings, I met my husband, Jonathan Hong, who was also a Suffolk alum before I graduated, and we owe it all to this great institution.
Suffice to say I'm ecstatic about where I am today and it is vastly due to my education here at Suffolk and the people I met here at Suffolk.
So I wanna take this opportunity to thank all of you who believed in me, supported me, and most likely some of you had nominated me for this recognition.
I thank you so much.
It means the world to me and I hope that my story inspires others to follow their passions and dreams.
Once again, thank you for this recognition and thank you for allowing me to share my story with all of you today.
And thank you.
(applause) (cheering)
The most important thing to take away the accessory.
Congratulations Dina.
I'm pleased to present the next award to Tiffany Chan.
Tiffany is a general assignment television news reporter for WBZT CBS Boston, and I hope my introduction lives up to her anchor desk.
She earned her bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from the College of Art and Sciences in 2013.
While at Suffolk, Tiffany was an on-air student reporter for "Suffolk in the City", a weekly morning show segment.
32:57 on New England Cable News.
32:59 She was also a reporter and anchor
33:01 for Suffolk University News.
33:03 After graduation, she began her TV news career
33:06 a few steps away on Beacon Hill,
33:08 serving as a State House correspondent for WWLP TV,
33:12 the NBC affiliate in Chicopee, Massachusetts.
33:15 She covered political scandals, landmark legislation,
33:18 and the administration of two governors.
33:21 Then in July, 2017, Tiffany was offered her dream job
33:25 at one of Boston's preeminent news stations, WBZ Channel 4,
33:29 where she currently serves as a reporter
33:31 and fills in as an anchor.
33:33 Tiffany has made history by becoming
33:35 the first Chinese American woman
to earn an anchor seat at WBZ and she is a proud member
33:40 of the Asian American Journalist Association.
33:43 In addition to her professional achievements,
33:45 Tiffany is also an active member of her community.
33:48 She willingly shares her insights and experience
33:51 in the field of broadcast journalism
33:53 with Suffolk University students and high school students.
33:57 This spring she returned to Suffolk as a panelist
33:59 to talk about women in the media professions.
34:02 She is called on to be a guest speaker and program moderator
34:04 at events and galas throughout New England.
34:07 In recognition of her significant professional
34:10 accomplishments in the field of broadcast journalism,
34:12 as a Chinese American trailblazer and role model,
34:15 we are honored to present
34:17 the 10 Under 10 award to Tiffany Chan.
34:20 (applause) (lively music)
34:38 <v ->I was wondering what song they were gonna pick</v
34:40 for me to come out to.
34:42 I just wanna thank Sarah, the Gold Council,
34:45 President Kelly and the Suffolk community
34:47 for really putting this all together.
34:49 It's always such a treat for me to come back on campus
34:51 because it just reminds me where I came from.
34:54 Being back on campus today though is so significant for me,
34:58 not because you know, I'm accepting an award, but you know,
35:01 when I look out that window and I see that golden dome,
35:04 that's where I first got my on-air TV job
35:07 and when you're a student here,
35:09 it's so hard to kind of picture what type of impact
35:13 you're gonna make in the community as a student.
35:16 So being in this room, receiving this award,
35:18 looking out at that golden dome and realizing that now
35:21 I'm an anchor in Boston is just,
35:23 I know that I couldn't have done it without being here
35:26 at Suffolk, without being, you know,
35:29 in the classes with some of my professors.
35:31 I know Professor Dana Rosenguard,
35:34 I know that name probably resonates
with some of the other honorees here tonight, really gave me such a realistic taste of what journalism is like and I truly don't think that I could have gotten that experience without being a student here. And I always tell students when I come back and I talk to journalism students, you know, there's no other experience than being a student in the heart of the city and a city where so much happens, championship wins, you know, protests on the State House steps. So this campus means so much to me and to be back. Thank you so much. Thank you.

Congratulations Tiffany. The next award being presented is to Daveson Perez. Daveson serves as the manager of baseball communications and media relations at the Boston Red Sox. He graduated from Suffolk in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in broadcast journalism. He was the co-producer and on-air personality for "Clash of the Rams", the official sports talk show of Suffolk University. He also served as a production intern at Studio 73. He returned to Suffolk earlier this spring to serve on a panel of distinguished alumni during the Black Excellence Celebration sponsored by the Suffolk University Black Alumni Network. Daveson began his career in communications as a freelance photographer for Univision Boston. As a lifelong lover of sports, he made his way to the Boston Red Sox and Fenway Park in 2016, working as a media relations assistant and Spanish language translator. His diverse responsibilities included translating for several well-known Red Sox players and he witnessed firsthand on the field, the final game of the historic 2018 World Series. Daveson landed two different positions in broadcast journalism the following years, working in Presca Isle, Maine, and serving as sports director in Peoria, Illinois. He also worked as a public relations associate in the mayor's office of the city of Brockton. Now serving as the manager of baseball communications and media relations, Daveson Perez is doing what he loves, working for the Red Sox organization and contributing to the greater community in Boston and far beyond. In recognition of his significant professional accomplishments in the field of sports journalism and his strong commitment to giving back to the community, we are honored to present
the 10 Under 10 award to Daveson Perez.

(applause) (lively music)

Wow, this is incredible.

I'm a little nervous, so just bear with me.

First of all, thank you to Suffolk University

for this amazing honor.

Freshman year I didn't think I'd be here at all,

so I'm very humbled, so thank you.

Thank you to God because without him

none of this would be possible.

Thank you to my wife sitting there.

She seen me through a lot of highs and lows.

That's why I get emotional.

But thank you to you, thank you to my family,

two Dominican immigrants who came to this country

wanting a better life for us.

So this is a manifestation of all of that.

Thank you to my best friends here in the house.

We're missing a few due to travel,

but I'm so grateful for your friendship over the years.

You guys always show up and I need you, so thank you.

Might show up a little late, but you know, you show up.

Lastly, thank you again to Suffolk.

I wanna shout out a professor,

one professor in particular, Jerry Glendi.

For those of you who studied broadcast journalism

like I did, we spent a lot of time in that studio
down the street and Jerry provided a very welcoming
and fun environment for us to explore
and do our thing in there.

So Jerry, I know you're not here,
you're probably at the garden right now, but thank you.

Quick speech.

I'm not special at all.

I know it's weird 'cause I'm receiving this award,

but I'm really not special at all.

I'm just a dreamer that fully commits
to every dream that I have.

You know, when I was here at Suffolk,

the goal was to be on ESPN, be a sports anchor,

and I remember, you know, on weekends being in front
of the mirror practicing how to tie a tie,

which clearly didn't work cause I'm not wearing one

and yeah, just practicing standups

and trying to make it.

You know, when I was an orientation leader here at Suffolk,

we went to Fenway with a bunch of students

and I told myself like, one day I'm gonna work here

and I'm fortunate enough now to call Fenway Park

my office every day.

So it's truly, truly humbling and I'm grateful.

The reason I feel like I'm not special

is because a lot of times we accomplish things,
like receiving a 10 Under 10 award, or being on the field for the 2018 World Series, like I was, and we think that we're, our ego tells us that we're better than the next person and that's truly, life has taught me that that's just not true. I've accomplished a little bit of things in my career so far. I'm still very young. So hopefully, there's more stuff down the road and I'm grateful for those things. But on a personal level, I just strive to be someone who's consistently putting in hard work every day and just treating everybody that I meet with kindness and respect.

You know, to me, those two things, when added to an unwavering belief that you can truly make any dream that you have come true, you know, I think that's why I've been able to receive a lot of blessings, opportunities, a lot of them have come via relationships that I've had. So I think that's really important. So if I can leave you with anything, it's just that you know, believe, truly believe that you can make any dream that you have come true, consistently work at it, even when people aren't noticing you, when people aren't, you know, checking for you, your time will come if you consistently put in the hard work. But the most important thing in my mind is truly treat everybody with kindness and respect. Not just the people that you're friends with, not the people that you have the most in common with. Truly everybody, open that door, let that person cross the street when you're driving around. It makes a difference not just to that person but to you. The gratification comes to you when you do those things. So if you can do those things, I think that career accomplishments aside, you'll just be a genuinely good human being.

So thank you once again for this honor. Sorry I choked up there in the beginning. I just get emotional when I talk about my family. But no, thank you and congratulations to all the other honorees.

Have a great night. (applause) Congratulations Daveson.

Now to present the last three awards of the evening. It is my pleasure to welcome my fellow Gold Council member and fellow double Ram, Briana D'Amelio. (applause)

Thank you Jackie and hello everyone.

I have the honor of presenting
the last three awards of the evening.
Our next honoree in all the way from Peru, Karim Rifai Burneo.
Karim is the founder and CEO of Uayki, Innovations to Connect the World, a nonprofit organization based in Lima, Peru where he lives.
He is a 2015 Suffolk graduate with the degree in economics from the College of Arts and Sciences.
Before coming to the United States to attend Suffolk, Karim attended one of the top 10 high schools in Latin America and represented his country on the national soccer team.
He then played professional soccer in Peru for a top ranked league team.
At Suffolk, he excelled academically and focused on business and economics and he worked with two non-profit organizations, The Open Learning Exchange and The Help for the Andes Foundation.
Karim returned to Peru in 2015 to found Uayki, a social benefit enterprise focused on providing internet connectivity for disconnected, underprivileged and disadvantaged communities that will improve access to quality education programs and provide them with vital multimedia resources.
His Uayki system is proprietary technology that involves a patented low-cost hardware and software solution that deploys large clouds of wifi connectivity regardless of location.
Uayki is committed to providing low cost and high speed network access to hundreds of devices simultaneously, even in the most remote locations.
Working tirelessly for the past seven years, Karim and his team have helped numerous underprivileged communities and have already implemented more than 50 programs in 11 states in Peru.
They also collaborate with organizations, including Open Learning Exchange, the United Nations, the US AID, and will launch their first international pilot in 2023.
Karim sees access to the internet as a human right and a change agent that reduces inequality and delivers educational opportunity.
In recognition of his extraordinary vision and commitment to improving people's lives through technological innovations, we are honored to present the 10 Under 10 award to Karim Rifai Burneo.
Hello everyone.
I want to start by congratulating my fellow honorees and by thanking Suffolk University and the Gold Council for this amazing recognition.
My objectives in life is to help connect and empower and remote rural communities across the world. And it started and this dream started here, in Boston City before creating from this great university. Now Uayki, as they have just mentioned this amazing introduction, we are benefiting several communities. We have more than 50 programs in two countries in Peru and Guatemala. We are impacting, I'm proud to say, tens of thousands of users by getting them connected to the best of the digital age opportunities that we have had since we are really young. And that's not a reality of more than 50% of the population across the world. I was lucky enough to go to a top high school, a top university, and I believe in giving back, as other of the honorees have mentioned. You know, it's so rewarding and I want to continue doing so and for me this is a really inspiring opportunity to hear in front of such a accomplished group of people. It puts a lot of fuel in the gas tank to continue going forward. I want to help my team, my friends, my brother, my family, but particularly my mother and my father for their unconditional support throughout this past seven years. I want to talk directly to them. You will lift me when many will have not and without your help and guidance, I will not be here today. Both of you are my examples in life and I hope to make proud of what we are building together, because I consider you part of this project that I want to take throughout my life. I don't consider it my professional life, it's something I want to do till I'm old and probably decades are gonna pass, but I'm not gonna achieve my mission that soon. Thanks again to Suffolk University. Congratulations to all the my fellow honorees. It's a honor to be here. Seven years ago I would've never imagined I would be here in this building, back in this city that I love, receiving this amazing recognition in front of such an amazing group of people, after hearing the from the stories of all of you. So thank you so much. (applause)

Congratulations Karim and thanks for traveling! Our next honoree is Carla Christina Rojo.
Carla is a bilingual reporter for Telemundo Nueva Inglaterra, an NBC Boston. Carla is a first generation Columbian American college student, whose parents came from the US from Meadowland, Columbia. She has proudly graduated from Suffolk University with a bachelor of arts degree in communications and focused on broadcast journalism in 2014. While at Suffolk, she served as a student reporter for NECN’s acclaimed "Suffolk in the City", and as a member of the Rampage Show Choir. Born and raised in Lowell and a graduate of Lowell High School, she first earned an associate's degree from Middlesex Community College in 2012 and continues to be actively involved there. She received Middlesex Community College's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2016 and served as their commencement speaker. Carla also volunteers as a mentor to students, especially from the Bipop community. Carla is already an Emmy award-winning bilingual reporter for NBC Boston Telemundo. She covers diverse topics, from breaking news to education, to immigration to New England sports. She chose her career to support and represent her Latino community. Her impressive credentials as a journalist these past 10 years represent only the beginning of what promises to be an outstanding career of reaching out to the community, making a positive difference in people's lives, and giving back and setting example for others to follow. In recognition of her significant professional accomplishments in the field of broadcast journalism, her passionate commitment to empowering her Comunidad Latina and the greater community through her career and volunteer work, we are honored to present the 10 Under 10 award to Carla Rojo. (applause) (lively music)

Wow, thank you, (speaking in foreign language). Thank you Suffolk University, the Gold Council, and congratulations to the other honorees. You have truly inspired me and I don't even feel like I deserve to be here. So I wanna dedicate this award to Lowell, Massachusetts, to my Middlesex Community College, to Suffolk University and mostly my dad, who passed away a few years ago. (speaking in foreign language) (applause)

My journey in college was not the typical one. I come from a city so diverse,
but it's hard to make it out and it's hard to be here.
I went to Middlesex Community College as was mentioned, where I got my associate's degree.
Then from there I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do.
I knew I wanted to give a platform to my Latino community who doesn't necessarily, or they don't--
It's not that they don't have a voice, they just never had that platform and at Middlesex, when I sat down one day with my counselor, I really was trying to figure out where I wanted to go and I knew I wanted to be a reporter but a bilingual reporter and that's when Suffolk was in the conversation.
I applied, got accepted, and I commuted from Lowell every single day for my classes while I worked full-time.
I'm so grateful to Dr. Dana Rosenguard, Jerry Glendi and Keith Erickson. My time here, they taught me so much and I still take that with me to this day in my career.
Suffolk has just been an amazing, an amazing key, an amazing journey for where I am today and I still have so much more to accomplish.
But once again, I couldn't have done this without their help, without my family, my friends, and the Suffolk community.
So all I wanna say is congratulations. I am truly honored.
I am so grateful to be here and (speaking in foreign language).
Thank you so much.
(speaking in foreign language)
(appause)
Congratulations Carla.
And last but certainly not least, it is my honor to present the final 10 Under 10 award of the evening to Ajia Zimmermann.
Ajia currently holds the position of developmental and behavioral pediatrics physician assistant at Tufts Medical Center.
Ajia graduated from Suffolk with a bachelor's degree in biology in 2016.
While a Suffolk undergraduate, she was an honor scholar and engaged student who served as the vice president of Best Buddies and treasurer and fundraising chair for Theta Phi Alpha.
Actually, my sorority sister.
In 2021, she completed a dual master's degree, earning a master's of medical science and a master's in public health from Tufts University School of Medicine.
During her undergraduate, nope, graduate degree training,
Ajia published policy recommendations through Children's Health Watch to help achieve
health equity for young children and their families in the U.S., and health equity remains a priority for Ajia. She began working at Tufts Medical Center as an anesthesia technician. Then in just two years she was promoted to lead technician and less than a year later, she was part of a group of authors who published research into preventing medical errors in the operating room. Now, as a well-established physician assistant in pediatrics, she diagnoses and treats children who are struggling with developmental and behavioral disabilities and works closely with them and their families. She has published several articles and in her spare time on the weekends, she treats patients with severe back and spinal pain at Brigham and Women's Spine Center. In recognition of her professional accomplishments that makes a positive difference in the lives of her patients every day, we are honored to present the 10 Under 10 award to Ajia Zimmermann. (applause) (lively music)

Hi everybody.

Thank you so much and I first wanna thank the audience. I know all of us 10 Under 10 honorees wouldn't have made it here without all the support from you guys and thank you to all my fellow honorees as well. Honestly, when I received this award, I couldn't believe it, so much so that I ignored Sarah's email and she had to reach out to me on LinkedIn because I could not believe it was for me. Like many of us, I kind of keep my head down and just kind of grind day by day. So this is a really gracious reminder that all the hard work that I've put in really has made a difference. There are so many I have to thank for this achievement. My amazing fiance, another Suffolk alum, and all my best friends here today who were able to be there for me for every hardship along the way and all my mental breakdowns in between my different master's degrees in healthcare work, my parents who have been there to encourage my growth and support me through everything, and most of all Suffolk, the amazing professors and educational staff that I got to work with along the way. When I first graduated high school, I really just wanted to live in a city, but it was so hard to choose 'cause there were so many different schools in Boston. I ended up touring Suffolk kind of on a whim. I didn't even think I'd want to go here, but I absolutely fell in love. I could tell how much the professors really cared...
about their students success and at the time there was nothing cooler than living in a high-rise building and having the commons as our school green. During my time here, I met amazing professors. I was able to present research while I was here and one of the most formative things for me was joining Best Buddies. I actually ended up joining thinking it was a place to make friends as a freshman, and then quickly realized that it was a group that fostered friendships between college students and people in the community with intellectual and developmental disabilities and it honestly just changed my whole worldview. I knew I wanted to go into medicine, but I knew that disability activism was so important to me too. I didn't think I'd ever be able to find a niche that was able to fulfill both. But thankfully, during my career at Tufts, I was able to get connected to the Center for Children with Special Needs and that's really changed my entire life. I'm just so happy that I've been able to get here and I look back at my four years at Suffolk and honestly, I wouldn't have changed a thing. It was one of the best experiences of my life and it made me who I am today. So thank you everybody and thank you for coming. (applause)

Congratulations Ajia and thank you

To close out the program tonight, please welcome back to the podium Dat Lee.

Wow, wow, wow, wow, wow.

What a great night celebrating these amazing Suffolk graduates. Congratulations to all of tonight's honorees.

Really makes me proud to be an alumni in hearing all those speeches and also makes me grateful for winning the award when I did, 'cause I'm not sure I would've made the cut, (laughs) if I had waited any longer based on that, but. I want to thank you the Gold Council, along with Alumni Relations team, including Sarah and Jonathan for all of their hard work in putting this event together.

Thank also to President Kelly, presidential spouse Margie Arnold, Dean Amy Zang, and associate Dean Lauren Noflo Clements for their attendance tonight.
Thank you guys.

Before we continue the celebration, I want to take a moment to share that this week Suffolk hosted their annual days of giving, a fundraising event that encourages the entire Suffolk community to come together and support Suffolk with the gift of any amount.

In preparation for this event, I wanted to put some thought into why I personally give to Suffolk. I feel like most people give to Suffolk because they feel as though their university gave them the tools to be successful in the real world. Though their university gave them the tools to be successful in the real world.

While that feeling definitely resonates with me, I give back because I know that the next student who needs that same support will get what they need from Suffolk.

Aside from the numerous letters directly asking me to give back, I've had points in my career where I just felt completely lost and Suffolk was always there to give me the support and guidance I needed to find my path and move forward.

Not just tools to succeed, but the staff and the team here really had a commitment and investment in my success and I could truly say I would not be here today without their continuous support.

I give back because I know that the next student who needs that same support will get what they need from Suffolk.

So for me, I guess my donations are my way of paying it forward to the next student. It's not late to participate in Suffolk Days of Giving and all the gifts made this evening will count towards that important effort.

By giving to Suffolk, you can help us provide scholarships and financial aid to students who may not otherwise be able to afford a Suffolk education, and you've seen firsthand tonight, a Suffolk education has the power to give our students an incredible future.

You can make your gift by text, by texting the word SUGIVES to 71-777, remember the dash, or scanning the QR code in the screen, behind me or the posters you see around here tonight.

This concludes our formal program for the evening and the Goal Council invites everyone to stay for the reception in further celebration of our honorees.

Lastly, I asked all the honorees, please come up front for for photos. Thank you and all, and have a great rest of your evening.

(applause)