From the President

Dear Council Members,

I am grateful to the Communications Committee for initiating this newsletter for Alumni Council members. A great deal of activity takes place on a daily basis, involving great effort on the part of Council members serving on our various committees. It is important for us to have a vehicle to let you know what is going on.

As your President, I have been very busy since I took office on the 1st of July with both administrative duties and representational duties. I have traveled to the Hill in Medford on seven occasions since then and have visited both the Boston and Grafton campuses as well. I have met with our committees, with the Council at our fall meeting, with members of the faculty and administration, and, best of all, with lots of students.

My favorite metaphor for Tufts is that of a family. It was interesting to note that in our remarks to the freshmen and transfer students at Matriculation, the Chaplain, Father O’Leary, the President, Larry Bacow, and I all used the “family” image to describe the Tufts experience. We did this without prior discussion but obviously out of an agreement of what being a Tufts person means.

Like all good families, to be successful, we need the devotion of all of our members. Those of us who are privileged to be members of the Alumni Council bear special responsibilities. Our by-laws require us to be active on committees or in other service to the University. They also require us to be loyal donors both to the University and to the Council’s Loyalty Fund. The by-laws also demand that we be faithful attendees at Council meetings. Many individuals are doing great work and being very generous in all of these areas. Significant numbers of members, however, are not serving on committees, regularly miss Council meetings, and have not made even the most modest contributions.

If you have been generous with your time and treasure, please accept my deepest thanks. If you have been missing your obligations, I urge you to repair to your
touch any member of the committee or:

— The Communications Committee

Committee Reports

The Alumni Resources Committee has already accomplished two of its major objectives for 2002-03. The third edition of the TUA Members’ Directory was distributed at the fall Council meeting and is now being sent to the University’s senior administrators and departments. The directory is also being sent to members who were unable to attend the fall meeting. The committee also hosted an orientation program for new Council members on Homecoming morning.

The committee is now turning its attention to two additional tasks. First, we must collect accurate data on members’ satisfaction of the requirements for term membership. We will then assemble these data into a final report for the TUA President. Second, we must work with other committees to generate nominees for consideration by the Awards and Nominating Committees.

The Alumni Weekend Committee is currently planning events for May 15-18. Tufts Night at Pops will be on Thursday, May 15. There will be transportation into Boston from the Medford campus. On Friday the Third Annual Big Gig will take place at Gantcher. On Friday and Saturday there will be Super Seminars. The Continuing Education Committee, along with input from Alumni Weekend Committee members and Tufts Institute for Learning in Retirement members, is working on speakers and topics of interest and/or a theme. Anyone with ideas is encouraged to contact anyone on those committees. The Alumni Weekend Committee, in an effort to continue to implement new ideas for participation, will try again to have the Alumni Picnic on Saturday. It is hoped that there will not be snow and sleet again this year. If anyone has any new ideas or suggestions for the weekend, or is interested in participating on the Alumni Weekend Committee, please contact any member of the committee or:

— The Communications Committee

Welcome to the first issue of the Council Digest, a quarterly newsletter written by and for the Tufts Alumni Council, and compiled by the Communications Committee. Because the full Council meets only twice a year, most of our members are aware only of their own panels’ ongoing activity. So to improve the Council’s internal communications, this newsletter will provide regular updates on the committees’ goals and accomplishments, as well as well as a message from the president of the Tufts University Alumni Association.

In an effort to limit costs, the newsletter will be distributed by e-mail where possible. If you are receiving this by regular mail but have an e-mail address, please contact Nancy Sardella at nancy.sardella@tufts.edu or (800) THE-ALUM.

Thank you for reading. We look forward to your feedback.

— The Communications Committee

November 2002

News For and About the Tufts Alumni Council

Vol. 1, No. 1

The Alumni Weekend Committee

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The Alumni Weekend Committee

The Career Services Committee

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(617) 482-6111

The Career Services Committee has completed its benchmarking of alumni career service offerings at other colleges and universities and is preparing its report to Alan MacDougall and the Executive Committee. It will be available in December. The bottom line is that there is a significant trend toward
providing dedicated alumni career service professionals to handle increased alumni needs in this area. Tufts provides many of these services but limits marketing due to staffing concerns.

The upgraded Tufts Career Network currently has approximately 3,000 members. To reach our goal of 5,000 members, we are working with Career Services to market to Council members (only 38 have signed up), faculty, parents, and graduating classes — starting with our younger classes and using our Transitional Members and existing Class Agents/Leadership — and other affinity groups. We also seek to monitor and upgrade the quality of network usage.

We welcome your ideas and participation.

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The Citizenship and Public Service Committee continues its efforts to expand and enhance its awards program for high school juniors, in collaboration with the University College of Citizenship and Public Service. For details on sponsoring an award at your local high school, contact:
Marilyn Blumsack, J79, G82
marilyn.blumsack@tufts.edu
617-627-5885

In addition to launching this newsletter, the Communications Committee has taken the first steps toward designing a visual identity for the Tufts University Alumni Association. We originally considered doing this in conjunction with the website redesign, but opted to take them one at a time so that we could devote more time and attention to both tasks. Now we are doing preliminary research before jumping into the actual design stage. We welcome participation from anyone interested in helping with this project.

The Communications Committee is also researching the possibility of webcasting future full Council meetings, and we think it may be happen for the spring meeting. When webcasting becomes operational for the TUA, Council members will be able to watch the proceedings from their own computers via the Internet. Meanwhile, we continue to monitor the alumni website (http://www.tufts.edu/alumni) and track its use, which so far greatly exceeds the traffic on the previous website.

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The Continuing Education Committee has discussed the need to re-examine the traditional Continuing Education programming, the hallmark of which has been the Enlightenment Series. Although often successful events, the feeling has emerged that these Boston-area functions might best fall within the realm of the Boston Tufts Alliance. As such, we will examine the potential to collaborate with BTA relative to local cultural events programming. Specifically and ideally, if we can successfully transition these events to BTA over time, they will take ownership of this project with our Continuing Education Committee playing a supportive role. Looking to the spring of 2003 and with a minimized financial risk point of view, we will be exploring already-scheduled campus events that we can piggyback onto and promote to our members.

Another major responsibility for our committee is developing the Super Seminars programs for Alumni Weekend 2003. We are presently looking for members for our Super Seminars Task Force. A Super Seminar alumni volunteer description is available by request to Jonathan Burton at the Office of Alumni Relations — (617) 627-3577 or jonathan.burton@tufts.edu.

A third more long-term goal involves exploring distance-learning programs (in keeping with our goal of engaging our ever-increasing global alumni network), and we will be looking at various technologically based options over the next few months.

Of course we will continue to support the already very successful Tufts Institute for Learning in Retirement and the Travel-Learn Program.

Individuals interested in participating in the Super Seminars Task Force or in contributing in any way should contact:
Lorenzo Lepore, A74, D77
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(781) 395-5545

The Regional Programs Committee (RPC) continues its aggressive efforts in support of regional chapters, whether these chapters are self-sustaining, struggling, or forming. Committee members were appointed as liaison to approximately 50 locations where the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) recognizes a formal regional chapter or where RPC and/or OAR believes a new chapter could be developed. This allows our committee members, in collaboration with OAR, to identify and/or bolster local alumni taking on leadership positions or forming local steering committees. Several chapters have appointed Associate Members to the Tufts Alumni Council.

At the October Council meeting, RPC received funding authorization for the second Regional Leaders Symposium in June 2003. Committee members are currently developing symposium topics, materials, and the weekend’s agenda. Twenty-five key chapter leaders will be invited to participate in the three-day session.

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The Tufts Institute for Learning in Retirement invites you to continue your odyssey of lifelong learning through its Winter Session, beginning Tuesday, January 21, and continuing for five consecutive Mondays, January 27, February 3, 10, 17, and concluding February 24. The theme of the Winter Session is “Great Moments in Italian Culture.” This collaboration with Brookhaven at Lexington will offer a video-conferencing component. Our small study groups offer the perfect opportunity to explore in-depth some of the world’s greatest artists and their remarkable contributions. Deadline for registration is December 20. For information go to the TILR section of the alumni website or contact:
Marilyn Blumsack, J79, G82
marilyn.blumsack@tufts.edu
617-627-5885

Mark Your Calendar

April 12
Senior Awards Dinner

April 26
Distinguished Service Awards Dinner

May 4
Spring Council Meeting