Committee Reports

The Alumni Resources Committee is working diligently to accomplish its goals for the year, including assessing Alumni Council members’ satisfaction of the requirements for term membership, developing an updated database of member contact information, and planning for the orientation of new Council members following their election in the spring.

Term members are required to make a gift to the University and to the Council’s Loyalty Fund each year. In addition, they must provide service to Tufts and attend the Council meetings. Last year, 83% of term members made a donation to the University, 53% made a contribution to the Loyalty Fund, and 38% of the term members satisfied the four membership requirements. This year, we hope that all members will strive to satisfy the requirements. If you have any questions about your financial or service obligations, please contact the Alumni Resources Committee chairperson or the Alumni Secretary, Nancy Sardella, at nancy.sardella@tufts.edu or (617) 627-3021.

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The Career Services Committee welcomes Leslie Warner as Assistant Director for Alumni Career Services. Leslie joined Tufts this summer as our first full-time alumni career services professional. Hopefully you had the opportunity to meet her over Homecoming Weekend. Her responsibilities include alumni career counseling, working with alumni leaders to stage new career workshops/networking events, and, in the broadest sense, expanding networking at Tufts.

Our committee continues to work with Leslie to expand the Tufts Career Network to 5,000 members and beyond. We seek to market the Network and alumni career services in a number of ways. With Leslie on board, we want to communicate to every alumnus/a that Tufts is offering this new service as a free benefit for alumni.

We welcome your ideas on new ways to market networking at Tufts. Please address your thoughts to the co-chairs or Leslie.Warner@ase.tufts.edu.

Our committee is also working to expand both the Wintership Program and Internships for students. Paid internships, in particular, have been seriously affected by the economy. If you can offer either a Wintership (the deadline is Nov. 7) or a summer internship, please contact Marie McCool at Marie.Mccool@tufts.edu.

Our committee now includes 21 members plus staff. Ten of the members are not Council members. They learned about the committee from the Alumni website and asked to join to be active as alumni.

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The Communications Committee has divided the roster to handle two primary tasks this year, in addition to continuing publication of this newsletter. First, we will re-focus our efforts on examining how the Council communicates with the alumni body. We will begin by exploring the possibility of conducting a professional study of how we have been operating and what changes can be made to improve our methods.

Second, in conjunction with the Regional Programs Committee, we are working to

From the Office of Alumni Relations

Alumni Invited to “The Brain on Music – an Evening with Provost Jamshed Bharucha”

“The mind has an extraordinary ability to adapt to its environment. Music gives us a window to explore this fascinating frontier.”

— Tufts Provost and Senior Vice President Jamshed Bharucha

When we hear music, what happens in the brain? Do culture and environment play an influence? Tufts Provost and Senior Vice President Jamshed Bharucha, a respected scholar in cognitive and neuroscience and gifted violinist, has some answers to these questions and other mysteries surrounding the workings of the human brain. This December Bharucha begins a series of receptions and “mini seminars” in which he will share findings from his pioneering inquiries into “the brain on music” as well as updates on research innovations at Tufts.

For the last two academic years, Tufts University and the Office of Alumni Relations have partnered with regional alumni chapters to bring President Lawrence S. Bacow and former Provost Sol Gittleman to local gatherings across the country. This year, Tufts is pleased to continue this tradition of annual University speakers by highlighting Provost Bharucha. He, too, is looking forward to this year’s visits. “I am delighted to have the opportunity to get to know Tufts alumni, friends and parents, and to share with them my vision for the University,” adds Bharucha.

Invitations for the December receptions will be mailed in early November. Watch for further details and updates at www.alumni.edu and contact your local chapter leader for more information, or contact Gretchen Dobson, gretchen.dobson@tufts.edu or at 1-800-THE-ALUM.

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Second, in conjunction with the Regional Programs Committee, we are working to
improve and expand on the electronic tools available to chapter leaders around the world.

If you would like to become involved with either of these projects, please contact the committee.

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The **Regional Programs Committee**’s 2002-2003 year culminated in the Regional Leaders Symposium held on the Medford campus in June. Leaders representing 26 different chapters from the US, Canada, and the UK came together with RPC members and members of the Office of Alumni Relations for a weekend full of presentations to discuss methods of creating, solidifying and expanding steering committees, growing the size and improving the stability of chapters, planning and marketing events, and learning about the services available from the University to aid chapters in their efforts. Among the highlights were a clarification of the triad relationship that exists among the chapter leaders, OAR, and RPC, and a discussion of how critical each is to the success of the other two.

This year, RPC has expanded its liaison duties to assist even more chapters, including some that are barely in their infancy. The 20 committee members are in regular contact with leaders from 35 active regions, both domestic and international, and they are working with as many as 25 additional regions where chapters might be formed.

Given the large committee roster, we have divided into subcommittees to better accomplish the goals we set for this year.

These subcommittees have been assigned the tasks of: improving electronic communications for regional leaders (in collaboration with the Communications Committee), addressing the on-going issues list that came out of the symposium, and establish a means to measure how well the committee meets its goals. One tool that the communications “task force” has already implemented is a Regional Leaders’ Bulletin Board on the Tufts alumni website.

**RPC Chair Bob Mitchell and Vice Chair Beth O’Shaughnessy lead the Regional Leaders Symposium’s Sunday wrap-up session.**

If you have any comments or suggestions for the committee, please contact:

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In the past several years the **Traditions Committee** has had two big projects.

In 2002, the committee was in charge of the time capsule project. The capsule, dedicated on Tuftonia’s Day, is stored in a container designed by a Tufts-trained artist and is located in the university archives. In 2007, the graduating class will turn a crank which will elevate the container several inches. When the container reaches full height in 2052, the capsule will be opened.

This past year, the committee oversaw the creation of a tour guide pamphlet entitled “Tufts Then and Now.” The booklet was distributed to incoming freshmen this fall. Laura Ferguson and Sondra Szymczak deserve much thanks for their efforts in bringing it to publication.

This year we are working on several projects. In preparation for the pamphlet and in preparation for the sesquicentennial celebration, we have gathered much of Tufts history in digital form. We plan to improve the visibility and usability of these materials on the Web. We will be meeting with the university’s archivist to see how we can improve our Web materials.

The committee seeks volunteers to be trained to conduct tours several times a year — Alumni Weekend, Matriculation and Parents Weekend. Volunteers should contact the committee leaders.

**Mark Your Calendar**

| April 17   | Senior Awards Dinner |
| May 1      | Distinguished Service Award Dinner |
| May 2      | Spring Council Meeting |
| May 20-23  | Alumni Weekend |

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