From the Director

Beyond the Classroom

If you recently read that Tufts was named one of Newsweek’s “New Ivies” you probably weren’t surprised. As a parent of a current Tufts student, you likely have a strong sense of the university and have seen the extraordinary achievements of professors and students (your children) firsthand. A few weeks ago, the New York Times placed us in the same category. Though flattering to those associated with Tufts, this type of evaluation does not necessarily speak to all that Tufts is as an institution.

A great education begins in the classrooms with professors who inspire research into topics such as autosomal diseases, public health issues, civic engagement, and policy issues that impact some of the world’s most vulnerable people. But students and faculty here also know that education extends beyond walls. It extends to activities such as setting up a community language bank, coordinating environmental programs for local children, studying the impact of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, and continuing to clean up after Hurricane Katrina.

As you may know, Tufts launched a fundraising campaign, Beyond Boundaries, in November 2006, with the intent to raise $1.2 billion for financial aid, endowed professorships, new research, and projects in active citizenship—initiatives that will directly impact the education of your own children as well as of the next generation of Tufts students. Of course, our students are already reaching beyond campus boundaries and making a difference in the world. Many of them are supported by individuals who have contributed to this campaign for a specific initiative, or for support of the Parents Fund. Special thanks to all of you who have participated philanthropically, or intend to make a gift toward the campaign.

Best wishes for a relaxing, healthy summer, and congratulations to those of you who are parents of members of the Class of 2007.

Jessica Papatolicas
Director, Parents Program
The photographs were designed to shock: a man blinded after his eyes were gouged out by a bayonet, a boy, barely alive, his face crawling with flies. The Darfur images, shown by Pulitzer Prize winning New York Times journalist Nicholas Kristof, were designed for reaction and action.

Kristof, who spoke before a packed audience at the university, was invited as part of the Merrin Distinguished Lecture Series, a Hillel initiative designed to examine provocative questions: What does it mean to raise a moral voice? What is our responsibility to those who have been deprived of basic rights? What impact do our voices have?

Lauren Estes, Hillel’s assistant director of Programs and Special Initiatives, explained that the Merrin family wanted to fund a lecture series that would focus on social justice topics. When it launched in 2005, Paul Rusesabagina, a Rwandan who is credited with saving over 1,000 lives and whose story was told in the film Hotel Rwanda, spoke on campus following the viewing of the movie. More than 800 students participated and heard him speak.

“The following semester, we held an essay contest; a week that commemorated the Holocaust, with a Holocaust survivor as our keynote speaker; and, an art show that was focused on images of raising a moral voice,” Estes said.

After Kristof’s lecture, Hillel sponsored another essay contest, as well as a joint Social Justice Shabbat with Tisch scholars. There, students took part in an “alternative” service, which was a “discussion on social justice work and spirituality. After, Molly Mead spoke about leading a courageous life,” Estes said. Later, Hillel invited Isaac Majak to campus, to speak to students about his life as one of the “Lost Boys of Sudan,” and Gerda Klein, to speak about her childhood during the Holocaust.

Amanda Mendel, A07, who chaired the event with Marissa Rossi, A08, of the student committee involved in the Merrin Series, said Kristof was inspiring. “It was refreshing to hear him say we could change one person’s life. It might be too big to think about saving an entire community, but it’s important to recognize that every little thing we do might save one person.”

Mendel said that though the program has its roots in Hillel’s Jewish community, involvement is open to everyone, noting that groups like Pangea, an organization dedicated to cultivating community awareness of global issues, and Tufts’ Democrats participated in the planning.

Rossi met with Kristof prior to his lecture and “was blown away by his commitment to shedding light on issues of global injustice and moral responsibility.

“Many people who attended the lecture told me afterward that they felt driven to act. Two students who had helped with the committee even planned a Darfur letter-writing campaign to state senators. It was wonderful to see so much interest. Kristof is using his voice to do good in this world and is inspiring others to take action as well,” Rossi said.
Lasses might end in May, but for many Tufts students, education is a year-round endeavor. Each summer, 50 students participate in the university’s Summer Scholars Program, an initiative that offers research apprenticeships with faculty/clinical mentors to motivated undergraduates.

Created in 2003, the program was a response to an undergraduate task-force proposal, which sought to enhance Tufts’ intellectual climate, strengthen community, and add coherence to the curriculum. Students who participate in Summer Scholars spend their summer researching with faculty from Tufts schools and affiliated hospitals. Each student receives $3,500 for full-time research, which ideally leads to a senior honors thesis. An additional $1,000 grant is made available until graduation time to defray research expenses. Faculty mentors receive a $1,000 research stipend.

In summer 2005, Tisch College supported two undergraduates, Mike DeBartolo, A06, and Tim Ryan, A06, in the Summer Scholars Program, to work on research with a faculty member on civic engagement. Both students used their research findings to write a senior honors thesis in their major, and went on to win top national awards in their respective fields.

DeBartolo, an economics major, wrote his senior thesis, “Does Religious Pluralism Play a Role in Fostering Civic Engagement?” which was recently awarded the Frank Taussig Award from Omicron Delta Epsilon, an international honors economics society. This is a competitive award for an undergraduate or recent graduate in economics who submits the best article in any year.

Ryan, a political science major, wrote a thesis, “You Can Lead a Horse to Water...Youth Voting and the Personal Touch,” which won the award for Best Undergraduate Honors Thesis from Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. Submissions come from chapters across the country.

According to James Glaser, dean of Undergraduate Education, there are over 100 applicants for the 50 spots in the program. “The research spans engineering, humanities, social sciences, and the arts. Many people think of research involving test tubes—and we do get many students who work in labs—but research comes in lots of different packages,” he said.

Provost and Senior Vice President Jamshed Bharucha said the scholars should be proud to be selected for their work. “This is a fantastic program that speaks to what Tufts is about—connecting students and professors. Our undergraduates have access to the graduate schools, which strengthens the educational experience for our students. It’s learning that’s engaged.”

David Linz, A07, who was accepted to Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) after his sophomore year, used his summer to study a rare autosomal recessive genetic disease that causes neurodegeneration in children, and leads to cholesterol accumulation in the storage bodies of the cell.

Linz began his research in a Connecticut lab, and continued after finding that TUSM’s Dr. Laura Liscum was doing similar work.

“The Tufts Summer Scholars Program lets you work one-on-one with a faculty mentor. This relationship was extremely important to me,” Linz said.

Mariya Pindrus, A07, researched the effectiveness of progressive strength training in older individuals. The Strong Living Program is an ongoing, community-based exercise class; Pindrus collected data from the participants.

“The data revealed that even in short periods of exercise, many elder individuals are able to improve their physical health,” she said.
The men’s lacrosse and softball, women’s tennis, men’s track and field, and women’s track and field teams all qualified for NCAA championship events. Men’s lacrosse (13-4 record) and women’s tennis (13-7) hosted NCAA events on campus. Women’s tennis set a team record for wins in a season, while men’s lacrosse and softball (31-13) tied team records for wins. Both men’s lacrosse and softball hosted their conference tournaments after finishing in first place during the regular season. Track and field competitors combined for five All-American performances, while the men’s team tied for the conference championship title.

In the water, women’s sailing competed in the Intercollegiate Sailing Association National Dinghy Championship, and finished eighth. Co-ed sailing was eighth at its New England championship regatta. For the crew teams, the women’s varsity eight was fourth and the men’s varsity eight finished sixth in the petite finals at the New England Championships.

The baseball team played in the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) championship game, and finished with a 25-12 record. Women’s lacrosse finished 7-7, but had impressive victories over Trinity and Amherst. Men’s tennis enjoyed an improved season with a 7-5 record.

Don Megerle, the legendary coach of the Tufts men’s swimming team from 1971-2004, received the College Swimming Coaches Association of America’s highest honor—he was presented the National Collegiate and Scholastic Swimming Trophy in late May.

Margaret Senese, A07, was interested in infectious disease transmission in schools, and how policies are created concerning sick children. “I wanted to study staff resistance in New Jersey prisons, because schools are similar to prisons—everyone knows where everyone is and is going to be—but New Jersey ran out of money,” Senese said. “I found that school policies do not take into account asymptomatic periods.”

Wanting to connect her love of engineering and art to create a staircase, Janet Hollingsworth, E07, built a structure where the top seemingly floats in air.

“An engineer must first be a builder,” she said. “In the world of designer architects and engineers, there is a stereotypical disconnect between the two, an unhealthy relationship. I wanted to use this disconnect as an opportunity for a creative solution.”

Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor Eric Hines, who worked with Hollingsworth, said the staircase is “an excellent piece of work. Janet thinks artistically. Her true achievement is blending artistic concept, engineering, and execution at a level of refinement and simplicity,” Hines said.

Nina Sainath, A07, used her summer scholarship to genetically engineer the gene cluster that controls biosynthesis of emulsan, a polymer. “By manipulating the genes in the cluster—three genes were knocked out and replaced with three similar but different genes—polymer was still produced, though its properties did vary from emulsan,” Sainath explained. She will attend New York University School of Medicine in the fall.

Sainath’s mentor, Professor of Biochemistry David Kaplan, noted his student’s “beautiful and meticulous bioengineering work to alter a specific protein.

“The Summer Scholars Program offers an important window into research for many students, regardless of their prior experience or field of study. This is an invaluable opportunity for them to learn alongside graduate students and postdoctoral fellows about the research process,” Kaplan said.

Spring Sports Highlights

The men’s lacrosse and softball, women’s tennis, men’s track and field, and women’s track and field teams all qualified for NCAA championship events. Men’s lacrosse (13-4 record) and women’s tennis (13-7) hosted NCAA events on campus. Women’s tennis set a team record for wins in a season, while men’s lacrosse and softball (31-13) tied team records for wins. Both men’s lacrosse and softball hosted their conference tournaments after finishing in first place during the regular season. Track and field competitors combined for five All-American performances, while the men’s team tied for the conference championship title.

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PAUL SWEENEY, TUFTS DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION
Undergraduate Life

Change Agents

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Russian-born Vera Belitsky never let herself get too excited about the possibility of winning a Fulbright that would enable her to return home to study a public health issue that she says is “huge, complicated, and [involves] many social factors”: tuberculosis (TB).

Belitsky graduated in May and will leave for Russia in late summer, to continue her research on TB.

“I had the experience at the policy level and I knew what was going on at the top,” she says. “I wanted to see what was actually happening on the ground.”

Under the supervision of the Boston-based nonprofit Partners in Health, she will conduct interviews in Moscow and Tomsk, Siberia, with former patients and health care providers to find out what methods have been effective in treating the disease.

USA TODAY’S 2007 ALL-USA COLLEGE ACADEMIC SECOND TEAM AND TRUMAN SCHOLAR

Julia Goldberg, A07, ran the Boston Marathon with her father this past April, which makes perfect sense: Goldberg is not the type of young woman who would be content going for a jog around the block. In high school, she collected and distributed thousands of pairs of shoes to needy communities, helped open a free health clinic in a border community close to her Tucson, Arizona home, and at Tufts, organized a women’s health fair for immigrants living in Somerville, Massachusetts, to improve their access to healthcare. In 2006, she was named a Truman Scholar, the most prestigious graduate scholarship awarded to students for their commitment and interest in public service, and was recently named to USA Today’s All-USA College Academic Second Team, an honor given to only nineteen other undergraduates across the country. This summer, she’ll work for the Mexico-U.S. Health Commission to deal with border public health.

“I helped open a health clinic in Mexico, and contacted physicians, asking them to donate their time,” Goldberg said. She is currently enrolled in Tufts’ five-year Master’s of Public Health program.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

McCaila Ingold-Smith hadn’t thought much about applying to the Fulbright Program until her housemate handed her “the book”—a listing of research, teaching, and independent study opportunities available to U.S. students in more than 140 countries. Flipping through, she discovered that the program offers grants for English teaching assistantships in Thailand.

The Vermont native’s true introduction to Thai culture, however, will come in September, when she relocates for eight months to a suburb outside of Bangkok. After taking intensive language and culture classes, she’ll be paired with another teacher to lead a class.

“I really look forward to throwing myself in and learning a new language,” she says. “I know this is truly going to push my boundaries.”

BARRY M. GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

By most people’s standards, Paul Kehayias, an engineering physics major, has chosen a complex field of study. But the Tufts junior describes his attraction to the scientific discipline in simple terms. “I like working on interesting problems, and physics just has a lot of interesting problems,” he says.

And Kehayias has tackled many of them over the years. He says his lab experience helped earn him the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, an award that recognizes outstanding math, science, and engineering undergraduates across the country.

“We are trying to determine how much fat and protein people eat,” says Kehayias, pointing out that the concentration of carbon-13 atoms in their breath is the key to that information. “This application would be useful for nutritionists because right now, it’s tricky to tell how much people are eating.”

CORO FELLOWSHIP

When Unaza Khan moved to the United States with her family at age 13, the transition was difficult. Far from her native Pakistan, she struggled to fit in at her middle school and high school in Long Island, N.Y. Khan believes that the combination of her experiences—as an immigrant, as a Muslim living in New York after September 11, and as a student at Tufts—and her determination to rise above adversity helped earn her one of the most prestigious public affairs fellowships in the country.

A scholar at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, the international relations major already has a significant amount of experience in the public service realm. Last year, she helped found the student group STAIR (Students at Tufts Acting for Immigrant Rights). Through Tisch College, Khan also worked on immigration reform advocacy with a Massachusetts nonprofit.

“My interest in international relations has led me to explore a variety of issues, from development and aid to the Middle East, to the Arab-Israeli conflict,” she says. “I have been provided with a lot of opportunities to do research and to expand my horizons.”

PROFILES OF VERA BELITSKY, MCCAILA INGOLD-SMITH, PAUL KEHAYIAS, AND UNAZA KHAN, WRITTEN BY MEGHAN MANDEVILLE, WEB COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST.
Tufts students are well-situated to take advantage of an increasingly connected world. About 40 percent of the junior class spends at least one semester in another country, either in one of Tufts’ programs or in one of the hundreds available from other fully accredited colleges and universities.

Tufts offers its own foreign study programs in Chile, China, Ghana, Hong Kong, Japan, UK, Spain, France, and Germany, and a summer program in Talloires, France.

“The university has a serious language requirement, and international relations is one of the most popular majors here. About 15 percent of incoming freshmen are international, which makes for a student body that is internationally sophisticated,” Director of Programs Abroad Sheila Bayne said.

“Our programs are structured to provide immersion. Students live with either host families or in dorms, to provide maximal opportunity to learn a language,” Bayne continued.

She noted that there were many different ways to acquire knowledge, and part of the education in another country is learning how to learn in a different system. “In most European countries, there’s not a lot of participation; it’s a more lecture-style approach. There’s an expectation that students will do most of their reading in a library and will gain knowledge outside of the classroom,” Bayne said.

In China, the method is rote learning, which is hard for Americans, Bayne added. “But we work in the Chinese way when we’re there, because our philosophy is immersion,” she said.

The resident directors on all of the campuses are either natives of the country, or have lived there a substantial amount of time.

“If a student is having a problem, the resident director can help. Security is our most important priority,” Bayne stated.

Bayne fields lots of questions from parents, especially when the early “honeymoon period” is over. “There’s often a period when a student feels more anxious. His or her self-esteem is threatened. I call that the red flag of culture shock. I urge them to step back and put their experience in perspective. It’s not better or worse than education here, just different. Pretty soon, they’re able to make a joke in another language and they feel like a new, more competent person,” Bayne said.

For students who don’t want to study in one of Tufts’ programs abroad, there are many options, including models that teach students about cross-cultural learning through internship placement.

Samantha Ferrell, A06, a German and women’s studies major who studied in Tübingen, Germany, said it was “the best experience of my life.”

Crystal Gonzalez, A07, a Spanish and archaeology major who spent the year in Madrid, agreed. “When I look back at my academic career here, the thing I will look most fondly on is my year abroad... I wouldn’t trade the experience for anything!”
Citizens of the World

Tufts Parents Find Adventure and Camaraderie

Tufts parents have an open invitation to join the Tufts Travel-Learn Program and see the world in the company of travelers who are savvy and intellectually engaged. According to program director Usha Sellers, she frequently receives telephone calls and emails wondering if the program is open to parents. “Indeed, we are delighted to welcome new parents and have been very pleased with comments from parents who have already traveled with us,” she said.

The Tufts Travel-Learn Program offers between 20 and 22 journeys annually, with destinations and themes as diverse as studying the ecosystem of the Galápagos Islands, taking a safari in Tanzania, or visiting major archaeological sites on a private jet.

“The hallmarks of our program are their intellectual substance, the affiliation and camaraderie with Tufts, and the opportunity to meet and mingle with other university friends, joining journeys that are conducted in a style appropriate to university travelers, with excellent service from the Travel-Learn office,” Sellers said. She noted that parents mix “beautifully with alumni.”

Travel-Learn journeys vary by cost and themes. Remaining 2007 destinations include a historic trip to China (including Lhasa, Tibet), sponsored in collaboration with the Tufts International Board of Overseers; and visits throughout Europe. The 2008 slate features an array of destinations, including Tahiti, Morocco, Norwegian fjords, the Greek isles, Peru, Thailand, Italy, and France.

“We also offer a weekend of hiking and paddling, and volunteer trips, which are popular with parents and children. More recently, there has been an exciting trend toward travel to celebrate special occasions, family reunions, and for customized itineraries to suit individual families,” Sellers said. Group size varies with each program, and generally includes travelers from other universities.

Adam and Toni Raczkowski, A09P, who traveled to Tanzania, were thrilled with their experience. “The trip far exceeded our expectations,” Toni said. “I didn't expect it to be so beautiful. The lodgings were wonderful and the guides well-educated. They answered all of our questions. Usha is an absolute treasure. We felt like family.”

Fellow Tanzania travelers Robert and Patricia Kalis, D07P, were also enthusiastic. “Usha thinks of all the details. Absolutely everything was attended to. The guides were so knowledgeable and had a great sense of humor. Everyone we met was so interested in being there. We would do it again in a heartbeat,” Patricia said.
The Virginia Tech tragedy catapulted issues involving campus safety into the forefront of university life. The Parents Program received hundreds of emails from concerned parents. John King, director of Public and Environmental Safety, and other university officials are examining current safety systems and addressing future options.

“We're looking at ways to push out information through a variety of ways,” King said. “We are addressing the feasibility of using text messaging. Currently, we have procedures in place for emails, which we used recently after sexual assaults were reported near the campus.” King added that the university has also contacted vendors and spoken with representatives from other schools about a siren system.

Additionally, recently purchased software is being tested, which public safety could use to recall a crisis management team in the event of an emergency.

According to Dr. Julie Jampel, senior staff psychologist at Tufts’ Counseling and Mental Health Service (CMHS), the Dean of Students Affairs Office is often the first stop for a student who is seen as a potential danger to others. For example, if someone's behavior is aggressive or potentially threatening, it violates the student code of conduct, he or she would be responded to by the Judicial Affairs Officer. If, however, the student appeared to be suffering from a mental health concern that might be influencing their behavior, the Dean's Office could also require an evaluation with a counselor at CMHS, to evaluate the person's psychological state. “Predicting dangerous behavior is extremely difficult. People suffering from mental or emotional illnesses are much more likely to harm themselves than another person,” Jampel said.

“CMHS provides counseling for students who have eating problems, anxiety, alcohol and drug problems, depression, and relationship or academic issues,” she stated. Roughly 15 percent of the Tufts University student population takes advantage of what CMHS offers, Jampel said. Tufts generally offers brief counseling to students, often in the range of 8–10 sessions per student, per year. A student will be referred to providers in the community if more services are needed. Additionally, CMHS offers round-the-clock intervention in the case of life-threatening mental health emergencies. “Parents are not automatically notified if their child is identified as someone who is in need of counseling; medical and mental health clinicians are bound by privacy laws. But if a student is seriously suicidal, parents will usually be notified,” she said.

If parents, faculty, staff, or other students have concerns about a student's behavior, the concerned party should contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 617-627-3158 for assistance. Anyone who feels threatened or has concerns about their own safety should contact TUPD at 617-627-3030.
PARENTS RECEPTIONS

New York City  JANUARY 17, 2007
Parents Committee chairs Ruth and Itzhak Fisher, A04P, A08P, hosted a reception at the Neue Galerie, featuring President Lawrence S. Bacow and Fletcher Professor of Rhetoric and Debate Jonathan Wilson, A04P, A08P, who discussed his latest book, Marc Chagall.

Paris  MARCH 21, 2007
Parents Committee member Carole Pinto, A05P, A08P, welcomed parents and alumni to a reception with Sol Gittleman, the Alice and Nathan Gantcher University Professor; Robyn Gittleman, director of the Experimental College; James Glaser, dean of Undergraduate Education; and Parents Program Director Jessica Papatolicas, for a discussion by Professor Gittleman on “God and War.”

Los Angeles  APRIL 28, 2007
Parents Committee members Steven and Marjorie Lewis, J76, A08P, held a reading by English and history professor Martin J. Sherwin, A91P, the Walter S. Dickson Professor of English and American History, and co-author of the Pulitzer-prize winning biography, American Prometheus, The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer.

London  FEBRUARY 19, 2007
Connecticut  MAY 6, 2007
Connecticut and New York parents joined Parents Committee members Renee and Ronald Noren, J74, A75, A00P, A09P, Parents Committee Chair Ruth Fisher, A04P, A08P, Senior Vice President and Provost Jamshed Bharucha, and Parents Program Director Jessica Papatolicas, for an afternoon reception.

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND
The William A. Shoemaker Boathouse Dedication  MAY 19, 2007
Crew members and their families gathered at the new boathouse during Parents Weekend last fall, and for its dedication during Commencement weekend.

President’s Reception  MAY 19, 2007
(l-r) Alexander Argyros, E07, with his parents Pericles Argyros and Evi Papadaki.

Commencement  MAY 20, 2007
The Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, mayor of the City of New York, founder of Bloomberg L.P., and noted philanthropist, received an honorary doctorate of public service and delivered the Tufts 151st Commencement address.

Rain didn’t dampen students’ enthusiasm.
Associate Professor of Economics David Garman was selected as the 2007 recipient of the Lillian and Joseph Leibner Award for Excellence in Teaching and Advising of Students. This award is presented annually to a member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences who is recommended by both faculty colleagues and students for the outstanding instruction and guidance of Tufts University students.


Tufts welcomed back Kirk Loevner, E79, chairman and CEO of Epocrates and member of the Tufts School of Engineering Board of Overseers. He shared his experiences on campus and the way his time on the Hill influenced his exciting and very successful career leading Internet startup firms.


Former U.S. Secretary of State and United Nations Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright delivered the 2007 Issam M. Fares Lecture. She stated that diplomacy depends on learning from history and valuing open dialogue. The lecture series is supported by an endowment from the Fares Foundation, which enables Tufts University to implement a program for promoting Middle Eastern studies in the humanities, social sciences, and arts, including history, political science, economics, sociology, anthropology, demographic studies, and languages. This program is jointly sponsored by Tufts Department of History in the College of Liberal Arts and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Drama and Dance
Tufts University’s Department of Drama and Dance presented *Company*, directed by Barbara Wallace Grossman, AG84, chair of the Drama and Dance Department.

Art
The Tufts University Art Gallery presents its fourth annual juried summer exhibition May 31–July 29.