Dear Tufts Parents,

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GivingTuesday?

For those who are proud Tufts parents.

For those who were impressed with our internationally renowned scholars and researchers during Parents and Family Weekend.

For those who appreciate that Tufts students have unparalleled research opportunities.

For those who understand that giving to Tufts means access to the best professors and small class sizes.

I am proud to say that on December 2, 2013, Tufts Parents Giving Program joined a national chorus of charitable giving for Giving Tuesday. We encouraged our Tufts families to continue to come together and support the kind of outstanding educational and research experiences that enhance your child’s education every day by participating in this special day.

Active citizenship is a core value at Tufts University. As you’ll see throughout this newsletter, support from parents like you is crucial to continuing the life-changing Summer Scholars program, helping to build the new sailing pavilion, renovating Cohen Auditorium, and more. Your generosity directly enriches your student’s experience here at Tufts.

If you would like more information on any of the stories featured or on how you, too, can make an impact like the parents featured in the newsletter, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you for all you do. You make all the difference.

Warm Jumbo Wishes,

Gina A. DeSalvo, Director
Tufts Parents Giving Program

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U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia Addresses Tufts

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia spoke on “Interpreting the Constitution” and then participated in a question-and-answer session as part of the Richard E. Snyder President’s Lecture Series. The goal of the lectures is to stimulate thought and discussion that foster a deeper understanding of contemporary issues and challenge conventional wisdom. The Snyder Lectures are made possible through the generosity of Tufts University alumnus Richard E. Snyder, A55, former chairman and chief executive officer of Simon & Schuster. Past speakers include Anthony Romero, executive director of the ACLU; historian Niall Ferguson; and journalist Bob Woodward.
The lights dim, the curtains rise, and in the middle of Cohen Auditorium’s stage stands Queen Noor of Jordan, or perhaps Rabbi Irwin Kula, or Ambassador Michael Oren. Luminaries such as these are part of the roster of engaging and provocative speakers who come to campus to extend education beyond the boundaries of the classrooms. And now Cohen, the largest auditorium and lecture hall on campus, is once again open after a critical renovation spearheaded by the Arts and Sciences Board of Advisors.

For parent, alumnus, and Arts and Sciences Board of Advisors member John Halvey, A82, A16P, the renovation project has been especially near and dear to his heart as project leader. Giving back to his alma mater was an easy decision for Halvey. “I’m loyal,” he explains. “Tufts took a chance on me years ago. I was not readily identifiable as someone who should have gotten in, but it gave me a platform that I rely on today.”

An unofficial voice of the university for years, he decided it was “time to put my money where my mouth was,” Halvey says. “I’m proud of the Board. Part of our task is to lead by example and we did,” he says. Halvey notes that the project met several criteria, including getting Dean of Arts and Sciences Joanne Berger-Sweeney’s approval. “We also looked at whether this renovation would be useful for alumni, good for the school, and good for the consumer—parents,” he explains.

And it certainly is! Now students can be inspired by the Gospel Choir, tap along with dance troupes Sarabande and Spirit of Color, or hear the melodies of Torn Ticket’s musical theatre organization, in an auditorium befitting a premier university. Structural and mechanical improvements were made, including upgrades for overhead lighting, a new wheelchair lift for the stage, energy-efficient sustainable lighting and mechanical systems, more comfortable seats, electrical sockets to charge electronic devices, and new audiovisual equipment.

A major part of the renovation is the ongoing “Take a Seat” campaign, which has offered parents, alumni, faculty, and staff the opportunity to leave their mark in Cohen by naming a seat. Gail Wainer, A16P, who with her husband Andrew named a seat, says that her daughter Allison is “having the experience of her life.”

“As a parent, it’s incredible to see. We saw that there was a need to make the facility better and we wanted to help,” she says.

For Mark Rosen, A14P, the decision to inscribe a plaque on a seat was made to honor his wife’s memory. “Since my wife passed away over a year ago, I have been looking for ways to honor her memory that would be meaningful, significant, and perpetual,” he states.

Fortunately, Rosen continues, his wife was able to make many trips to the Tufts campus. “Just as I was trying to come up with additional ways to remember my wife, the letter came in the mail about the Cohen Auditorium. The thought of our family’s name being permanently inscribed in the Cohen Auditorium at Tufts gives me great satisfaction.”
Career Launch

Tufts’ Finance Career Forum Prepares Students for the Financial Job Market

**PARENT LEADERSHIP**

Tufts Trustee Jeffrey Moslow, A86, A16P, interviewed hundreds of students for positions at Goldman Sachs before his retirement there, including many from Tufts. “Tufts students are as bright and capable as any students, and those who had the chance to prove themselves did phenomenally well,” he says. But the investment banker also saw the need to create a more even playing field for students wanting to enter the finance world. “Tufts students needed coaching by others who had paved the path,” he says. “They needed advice about reading publications like Barrons, the New York Times business section, or the Wall Street Journal, as well as learning about available career opportunities, how to network, what to expect and how to prepare for an interview, and the best ways to prepare and strategize for a career search.”

Moslow’s affinity for the university inspired him to design and lead the Finance Career Forum (FCF), formerly known as the Wall Street Crash Course, in which about 150 students attended informational panels and breakout sessions, and networked with 37 Tufts alumni from firms throughout the world.

“I wanted to expand the network, get alumni back on campus to meet students, and have students interested in finance jobs better equipped to find them,” Moslow explains. “We’ve now done four forums, and we see students are happier and alumni are coming back. It completes a circle.”

The Tufts father, who comes to campus five or six times a year for his trustee duties and also to see his son, says that he “loved Tufts.”

“I wouldn’t have traded my time there for anything,” he states.

**TUFTS FINANCE INITIATIVE**

The FCF is sponsored in part by the Tufts Finance Initiative (TFI), a university effort to assist undergraduates considering careers in finance, consulting, and business. The Tufts Financial Network (TFN), an affinity group comprising alumni and parents who are finance professionals themselves, also provides critical support. The Tufts Finance Initiative is the brainchild of Bruce Grossman, A85, A16P, and is solely funded by philanthropy.

Alumni and parents have raised about $1.2M for TFI, which funds its new director, Chris Di Fronzo, E96, EG04, as well as Chris Manos, Professor of the Practice in the Department of Economics.

“Tufts is not interested in adding a business school,” Di Fronzo says. “A liberal arts education provides critical thinking skills that we don’t want to lose.”

In his role as associate director of the Career Center and director of the TFI, Di Fronzo helps students explore careers in finance, build their résumés, prep for interviews, and connect with alumni and employers to find internships and jobs.

“Parents can become involved,” he states, “if they’re looking for summer interns or full-time employees.” Di Fronzo, who also organizes TFI events, says parents are welcome to come back as guest speakers.

**STUDENT IMPACT**

Matt Freedman, A14, president of the Tufts Financial Group, a student-run organization that manages a $100K equity/fixed income portfolio that is part of the Tufts Endowment, says that he’s attended the forums every year. “I learn something new each time.”

Wylan Simpson, A15, states that he attended the FCF for the past three years. “It’s an incredible opportunity for current students to interact with successful alumni,” he says.

“The forum was certainly beneficial to me because I got to meet people with a lot of experience and advice,” notes Darcy Covert, A15.
Sailing in a New Direction
The Lawrence S. and Adele Fleet Bacow Sailing Pavilion Is Ready to Launch

Under a cerulean blue sky, Tufts' sailing team's boats dart around the Upper Mystic River, an activity its talented and dedicated sailors do nearly every afternoon. Now, thanks to the generosity of parents, alumni, and friends, the sailors will bring their fleet into the new Lawrence S. and Adele Fleet Bacow Sailing Pavilion, a building worthy of a team that has produced over the years 6 Olympians, 61 All Americans, 25 Women All Americans, and 47 World Championships, among many notable achievements. The team had been renting space from the Medford Boat Club during the renovation.

The initiative to raise money for a new facility met twin goals: to replace the inadequate sailing structure as well as honor Larry Bacow, Tufts' 12th president, and his wife Adele, both champions of university-wide fitness, health, and athletics. “To give you a sense of how much a new building was needed, I sailed out of the old boathouse when I won my first regatta as a member of the MIT sailing team back in 1969,” says Bacow. “And it needed replacement then.”

Tufts University President Tony Monaco states that he is “delighted that our team will now have facilities in which they can take pride as they practice and host regattas. It is uniquely appropriate that the pavilion be named in honor of the Bacows, since they are not only great believers in the contribution of athletics and fitness activities to a Tufts education, but also avid sailors themselves.”

Bacow, who has been a passionate sailor for almost his entire life, states that both he and Adele are humbled and grateful by the generosity of Tufts donors. “It means a lot to have our names on the new building.”

Sailing coach Ken Legler explains that the pavilion's three floors on Upper Mystic Lake will offer storage for the team's 44 boats, a modern carpenter's shop, locker rooms for home and visiting teams, and a large function room for team meetings. “There is also an observation deck over the water that will be the best in all of college sailing,” he says.

One of the parents who helped make the pavilion a reality is Carla Porter, A14P, who along with her husband Timothy, generously named the kitchen in the new facility “The Porter Family Kitchen.”

“Many a Tufts sailor has passed through our kitchen in New York,” Porter enthuses. “We love to share, to give back. Our daughter Mara is an avid sailor, and the sailing team is a big part of her life. When the campaign launched, we felt strongly that we should step up and be part of the effort.”

A food enthusiast who takes pleasure in feeding the team when it’s in the area, Porter says naming the kitchen was fun. “This is tangible. We really take pride in it,” she says.

“Maximizing practice effectiveness and doing boat repair has been difficult without our own facility. The new boathouse is going to be a boon for the program,” states tri-captain Will Haeger, A14.

Kathleen Kwasniak, E14, another tri-captain, agrees, noting that “everyone on the team is very excited to have a boathouse they can be proud to practice and host regattas in.”
Chris Shinn, E16, had never heard of human factoring engineering when he came to Tufts. A longtime music lover who “likes to build things,” Shinn thought that he would concentrate in musical engineering. At the end of his first semester, though, he went to a talk in human factors engineering and was hooked. This summer, as a Summer Scholars grant recipient, Shinn looked at how robots can help reduce repetitive strain injuries in the workplace.

“I like to think of human factors engineering as a connection between technology and end-users,” he explains.

Shinn was one of 55 students whose research was funded by a Tufts Summer Scholars grant, a university-wide initiative that offers research apprenticeships with faculty and clinical mentors to motivated Tufts undergraduates. Anne Moore, director of the Summer Scholars Program, explains there are about 100 applicants who submit a project proposal. Each student receives a living stipend of $3,500 for full-time research that will likely lead to a senior honors thesis. In addition, a $1,000 grant is made available to defray research expenses.

Funding for this life-changing program is provided through the Provost’s Office and by generous gifts from parents and alumni.

“The object is the collaboration between student and mentor,” Moore says. “There is an intense one-to-one connection that is typically not found at the undergraduate level.”

Shinn, who has been researching with mechanical engineering Professor of the Practice Daniel Hannon and Professor and Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department William Messner, used a 3-D printer, a lathe, and drill presses to adapt the Baxter Robot from Rethink Robotics.

“This is an opportunity I wouldn’t get any place other than Tufts,” he says.

“The Summer Scholars Program was a perfect fit for a student like Chris. It gave him a chance to unleash his talents on a truly challenging problem, and has pushed Chris into thinking about bigger and better projects in the future,” states Hannon.

Summer Scholar Mikko Silliman, A14, a double major in philosophy and economics, is working with Dean of Academic Affairs for Arts and Sciences Nancy Bauer on a project in which he engages with a work of fiction to answer questions in analytic philosophy.

Examining David Foster Wallace’s *Infinite Jest*, Silliman sees the novel as a bridge between philosophy and fiction. The traditional approach is that the two are different disciplines, and philosophers often hold the position that a novel can’t adequately deal with philosophical issues, Silliman says.

“But David Foster Wallace uses fiction to explore and bring to life the emotional consequences of philosophical problems. Otherwise, words can be a cold approach to real moral problems,” Silliman continues.

“The sky opened up and dropped a gift into my lap,” states Silliman’s mentor Dean Nancy Bauer. “Even by Tufts standards, Mikko is an unusually gifted and thoughtful student.”

The Summer Scholars Program is one of the very best co-curricular programs at the university, Bauer says. “The close working relationship between student and professor is a hallmark of the university.”

To see Chris Shinn’s robot perform, check out his video: youtu.be/aF-Ib1BjtWc
Douglas, E84, A13P, and Susan, A13P, Kline’s son Zach graduated from Tufts this past May, but that didn’t stop the couple from tailgating with parents of their son’s former football team during Parents and Family Weekend. Their love for Doug’s and now Zach’s alma mater also inspired them to generously endow the Kline Family Scholarship through the Tufts Financial Aid Initiative to support a student participating in the Bridge to Liberal Arts Success (BLAST), a program designed to develop, support, and retain students who may be the first in their family to attend college or have attended an under-resourced high school.

“I wouldn’t have come to Tufts without significant financial aid,” states Doug. “And Tufts is part of the success we’ve had, academically and through networking.”

The Klines chose to create a scholarship with a preference for a student in the BLAST program because they were able to see firsthand the difference BLAST made in the lives of its participants. “I’ve met outstanding students who went through BLAST,” Doug says. “But some of them needed a hand. It’s great for the university to have these students here.”

“All of our students receive financial aid, which is only possible through generous donations given by the Klines and others,” states BLAST director and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education Robert Mack. Doug and Susan also cite their connection with Gina DeSalvo, director of the Parents Giving Program, as one of the reasons they’re motivated to give. DeSalvo notes, “I’ve had the pleasure of building a wonderful relationship over the years with the Klines. As our relationship deepened and I got to know them on a personal basis, asking them to consider endowing a scholarship with a preference to a student in the BLAST program seemed like a perfect fit. The Tufts Financial Aid Initiative also offered the opportunity to have their gift matched, which will create an even greater impact.” The Tufts Financial Aid Initiative matches any newly endowed scholarship of $100,000 or more, thereby doubling the size of the fund the donor has endowed.

Susan nods, stating that enabling young people to come to the university is a goal of theirs. “We’ve always loved it here,” she says.

Doug comments, “We can contribute to an infinite number of places, but it’s nice to have a personal connection and experience the value of it through building a relationship over the years with someone we trust. Because of our conviction that we can make an impact, we gladly contribute.”
Nadine and Jonathan Fialkow, A15P, A17P, are the new co-chairs of the Parents Leadership Council (PLC), a group of parents who support the advancement of the university through leadership and philanthropic support. They encourage parents to join them “to contribute to the future of our children.”