Dear Parents,

A warm Jumbo welcome to our new and returning parents! It’s always an exciting time to be on campus, but this fall especially so. This year’s entering class is the most diverse and selective yet—only 17% were accepted, but we still feature students from 49 states, 22 countries, and the most first-generation college students ever. That’s a lot of brainpower, but it’s also a lot of sports, music, drama, and the myriad extracurricular activities that make a Tufts student so unique. It’s also a sign of your dedication as parents, as you no doubt shepherded them from one countless activity to the next.

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you during this past Parents and Family Weekend. I am proud to say that Tufts is committed to making sure that every student has a transformational educational experience, offering a dazzling array of classes, clubs, lectures, and events from which to choose every day. Students have unparalleled research opportunities, enjoy small class sizes, and get to know their professors. And major renovation projects mean the university will soon have a Collaborative Learning and Innovation Complex (see page 4 for details).

For those who have supported the student experience through your philanthropy, I am deeply grateful. Your gifts truly impact and enhance the student experience. If you would like to talk about ways in which you can make a difference at Tufts, please contact me directly at gina.desalvo@tufts.edu. I would be honored to talk with you.

Thank you for sharing your incredible students with us! Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Jumbo regards,

Gina A. DeSalvo

Tufts Athletics Celebrates Best Season

With three NCAA Championship victories last spring, the Tufts University Athletics program enjoyed perhaps its most successful season ever.

Within a remarkable four-day span in late May, Jumbos won NCAA track, men’s lacrosse, and softball titles. On May 24, senior Jana Hieber was first in the NCAA outdoor 400-meter hurdles in Ohio with a time of 58.63 seconds. The next day in Baltimore, the Jumbo men’s lacrosse team won its second NCAA championship with a 12-9 final over Salisbury University. The Tufts softball team completed the trifecta with a 6-0 victory over Salisbury in Texas to capture their second straight NCAA title.

The Jumbos also enjoyed success in several other sports last spring. Baseball achieved an NCAA Tournament berth and finished with a 34-9 record. Women’s lacrosse just missed an NCAA berth under first-year head coach Courtney Farrell, finishing 10-6. Women’s Tennis was selected for NCAA play for the 14th consecutive season. Three members of the men’s track and field team won All-American honors. Led by the NCAA success, Tufts Athletics placed seventh out of more than 400 NCAA Division III institutions in the 2014 Learfield Sports Director’s Cup, which ranks schools according to their finishes in NCAA events.

Jumbo student-athletes not only won team championships and individual honors last spring, they also earned national academic and service awards. Hieber was one of four Jumbos to receive Capital One Academic All-America honors in 2013–14. Women’s tennis player Samantha Gann, A14, was selected as the Intercollegiate Tennis Association’s recipient of the Arthur Ashe Leadership and Sportsmanship award in 2014. Softball’s Jo Clair, A14, was the New England Small College Athletic Conference’s nominee for the prestigious NCAA Woman of the Year award.

—Paul Sweeney,
Sports Information Coordinator

The Tufts men’s lacrosse team after winning their second NCAA championship in May.
Alan D. Solomont, A70, A08P, the Pierre and Pamela Omidyar Dean of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts, has come full circle.

A Tufts student in the late 1960s, Solomont sees his current position as very much a homecoming. “I’m a product of a Tufts education. I was a trustee, a visiting instructor in political science, and the father of a Tufts graduate. I’ve been part of Tufts for a very long time, and now I have this incredible opportunity to work with a new generation of students,” he says.

The former U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra, Solomont hopes to instill in every Tufts student, no matter their field of study, the values, skills, and knowledge to become active citizens.

The only university-wide program of its kind, Tisch College is a catalyst for active citizenship, collaborating with every school at Tufts to offer extensive programming and to incorporate civic engagement in teaching and research. Nearly every department in the Schools of Arts & Sciences and Engineering feature courses in which service learning and civic engagement are a part of the curriculum, Solomont explains.

“I was not hired to maintain the status quo,” Solomont says. One of the college’s major new initiatives is the 1+4 Bridge-Year Service Learning Program. Beginning in the fall of 2015, students accepted for admission to Tufts can apply for a bridge year to engage in full-time community service, either in this country or abroad, before beginning their formal academic studies.

“We hope to begin with about 50 students, who will be placed with well established domestic or international service organizations,” Solomont explains. “We will provide financial support to students with a demonstrated need by connecting with alumni, parents, foundations and corporations who have a specific belief in the value of service. One of our first donors to this program was a parent. By pushing students outside their comfort zones, introducing them to new and diverse communities, and giving them a chance to work on solving real problems, we will offer them a truly transformational experience, enabling them to learn more about themselves and the world and developing their own sense of purpose.”

Tisch is also home to a nationally recognized research enterprise: the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), the nation’s leading authority on the civic and political engagement of young Americans.

“As President Monaco has said, ‘Civic engagement is part of the Jumbos’ DNA.’ If that is so, Tisch College is the repository of the genetic code.”

— Dean Alan D. Solomont
Imagine bridge safety inspections done by flying robots. Or a robot that can hold the key to better communication between a patient with Parkinson’s disease and a healthcare provider. Farfetched? Not to the faculty moving into a new facility that encourages innovative, cross-disciplinary research and teaching. The location will be a 100-year-old factory aptly called the Collaborative Learning and Innovation Complex or CLIC, one of the anchors for Tufts’ new Science and Technology Corridor.

The CLIC will provide a fluidity and transparency of building space, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations between physics, astronomy, robotics, human-centered engineering, and disciplines related to human development, health, and performance.

Inside the CLIC, classrooms, labs, project rooms, and research work areas will be housed in a way that optimizes the natural light that pours through the fourth floor’s raised windows and from glass walls that keep the large central stairwell open. Each of the building’s four floors will have shared spaces, central to the spirit of collaboration.

“We want people to run into each other,” says Barbara Stein, strategic capital program director in the Office of Vice President of Operations.

The building is different than other spaces on campus because the occupants’ focus is on academic synergy. There are as few walls as possible and as much glass and glazing as possible; all the exterior walls are windows. There are also shared work spaces as well as office areas and conference rooms centered around research clusters, Stein explains.

A highly anticipated Usability Lab—the university’s first—will be housed in the building, where the ability to conduct non-disruptive observation of both robotic and human factors could catapult research in areas such as occupational therapy, child and human development, and community health.

CLIC is the first building to be completed on the Science and Technology Corridor that will run along Boston Avenue. Anchoring the north end of the corridor will be the Science and Engineering Complex, a new interdisciplinary center for science and technology, nestled between Anderson, Robinson, and Bromfield-Pearson Halls. “Development of the Science and Technology Corridor marks the beginning of a critical time for the university, providing a unique transformational experience for students. Parents can be part of this exciting moment for Tufts by investing in our talented students and faculty,” says Gina A. DeSalvo, director of Tufts Parents Giving Program.

Find out more about naming opportunities at the CLIC by contacting Gina A. DeSalvo at gina.desalvo@tufts.edu or at 617-627-0644 or visit giving.tufts.edu/clic.
How the human brain processes information, and what role water plays in international security—two seemingly disparate fields that share one thing in common at Tufts: they will be the main interests of two of our upcoming faculty members and a new effort at encouraging a collision of ideas, research, and teaching on campus.

The Bridge Professorships are a way to foster collaboration and innovation among departments, schools, and disciplines to advance teaching and research in complex issues across the humanities and sciences, a major initiative in the university strategic plan, Tufts: The Next 10 Years (T10).

According to Associate Provost Kevin Dunn, Bridge Professors will hold tenure in at least two academic units. “The initial five years of their appointments will be partially supported by funds from the Provost’s Office. The goal is to have at least five to ten Bridge Professors on campus once the program reaches maturity.”

The Role of Water in International Security

The professorship in water security will bridge the Fletcher School and the political science department in the School of Arts and Sciences.

“Increasingly, water is becoming both a source of conflict and basis for cooperation. We are looking for a scholar and teacher who can help us to understand the complexity of water security and to lead the way in finding solutions to the challenges it poses,” states Ian Johnstone, academic dean, professor of international law, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Beyond Cognitive Science

“Departments can get locked into a way of approaching problems, and this unlocks the set of tools,” states Ray Jackendoff, Seth Merrin Professor of Philosophy and co-director of the Center for Cognitive Studies at Tufts University.

Jackendoff, the 2014 recipient of the David E. Rumelhart Prize (the premier award in the field of cognitive science), envisions a Bridge Professorship exploring issues like the meaning of intelligence or probing evolution in a deep, comprehensive way.

“Philosophy and cognitive science have always wrestled with the relationship between brain and consciousness. Studying across disciplines will give researchers a broader perspective,” he says.

Matthias Scheutz, professor of cognitive and computer science and Bernard M. Gordon Senior Faculty Fellow, is using his two Ph.D.s (one in philosophy and one in cognitive and computer science) in an interdisciplinary approach in his research and teaching, but is eager for the Bridge Professorship.

“Human-robot interaction would exactly include this type of broader work, where empirical studies with humans interacting with machines are at the core,” he says.

George Smith, interim chair of the philosophy department, a former engineer and current chair of the search committee for the Bridge Professorship in cognitive science, notes that while computers can process information millions of times faster than the human brain, they can’t have a natural conversation.

“The issue,” Smith says, “is we don’t really understand how humans talk.”

Smith adds that we are on the cusp of learning more about the neural steps involved in processing information, and computer programming will be part of that research. He also notes that modern flight was also a time in history that cut across fields of research.

With the addition of these new professorships, Tufts has stepped into a new era of interdisciplinary education that will offer students access to education without traditional boundaries.
“My first thought was that I wish I had gone to college here,” says Nadine Fialkow, A15P, A17P, recalling the day she and her husband Jonathan, A15P, A17P, moved their son Zach onto campus. “It was a quintessential New England day and we were surrounded by the energy and smiles of the students and the passion of the professors. We were hooked!”

It was an auspicious beginning. Zach, now a Tufts senior, and their daughter Alex, a sophomore, couldn’t be happier, says Nadine. Seeing their children thrive is why the couple have made supporting Tufts a philanthropic priority and why they’ve become key members of the volunteer community as co-chairs of the Parents Leadership Council (PLC). The PLC is a group of parents who facilitate the advancement of the university by providing philanthropic support, serve as ambassadors, and share a common interest in strengthening the academic mission and reputation of the university.

“We’ve witnessed Zach become a leader in his fraternity and other activities and Alex carve out her own path, which we know comes from small class sizes, one-on-one time with professors, and an administration that is interested in making sure that all students have a one-of-a-kind educational experience,” Nadine says.

Joining the PLC was fortuitous, Jonathan adds. “We attended our first Parents Leadership Council meeting three years ago and our affinity grew even stronger. We were with parents who share the same love and excitement for Tufts and are enthusiastic for the growth and future of the university.”

“The PLC is a wonderful way for us to be involved with the faculty, the administration and the school, even from our home in Miami,” adds Nadine.

But living vicariously is not the main reason for their involvement, states Nadine. “We see supporting the university as an opportunity to contribute to the future of our children and to the future of Tufts’ community. Working closely with the Parents Giving Program has afforded us the opportunity as parents to feel as though we are directly enhancing not just our kids’ experiences but the experience of all Tufts students.”

Visiting their children at Parents and Family Weekend was wonderful; seeing their “new” Jumbo family members was a bonus. “We’re all in this journey together,” Nadine says. One big Jumbo family!

“We see supporting the university as an opportunity to contribute to the future of our children and to the future of the Tufts community.”

— Jonathan Fialkow, A15P, A17P
It was during rides accompanying her father to pick up Rohingya refugees from their New Hampshire home to attend mosque that Tufts senior, Safiya Subegdjo, became intrigued by the refugee resettlement process. These global citizens, she explains, travel the world in search of a safe home, escaping violence and persecution.

“More than anything, I was interested in how refugees became independent in a country in such a short amount of time,” Subegdjo says.

Her efforts working with refugees have earned her a Truman Scholarship, one of the country’s most prestigious undergraduate awards. One of 59 scholarship recipients chosen from more than 600 applicants from 300 universities, Subegdjo is one of two Tufts undergraduates to receive the scholarship this year, part of the reason Tufts was named the Truman Foundation’s 2014’s Institute of Honor for its active encouragement of careers in public services. (Amber Rose Johnson, A15, the other Truman scholar, was unable to meet for an interview). Recipients receive $30,000 to pay for graduate school.

Subegdjo also humbly noted that she is very thankful that Tufts supports her with a generous financial aid package. “I am extremely grateful for the financial aid Tufts has provided me, because without it, I could not accomplish my dreams,” she states.

There is no doubt, though, that Tufts University’s Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service is responsible for helping to inspire her passion and channel that into action.

Initially, I became involved through Tisch Scholars, an active citizenship program where selected students are matched with community-developed projects centered on public service and social justice. Additionally, Tisch has supported the organization I lead—the Tufts Refugee Assistance Program (TU-RAP).

Her global health work has taken her to her father’s country—Indonesia—where she spent the summer after her first year doing hands-on work at the Foundation for Mother and Child Health (FMCH), and Amman, Jordan, where she joined a team of Tufts students and researchers analyzing the challenges of providing a healthcare system for Syrian refugees.

“Indonesia is plagued by many public health crises like dengue fever,” she explains, which sickened two cousins. “I am dedicating my life to eradicating these illnesses.” Subegdjo insists her inspiration comes from the Tisch staff and scholars who have been an integral part of her Tufts experience. “I am in awe of the work my fellow active citizens are pursuing!” she says. And we are of her.

How to Make Your Gift a “Win-Win”

Howard Hartenbaum, A16P, laughs when asked why he and his wife Junko donated stocks to Tufts. Motivated by their daughter’s happiness at Tufts and wanting to give back, Hartenbaum explored different giving options. “Donating stocks was the easiest way to support the university,” he says.

Most people assume giving stocks or securities is a hassle, but it’s almost as easy as writing a check and the tax benefits are better, he explains. “We’ve been giving money each year, but we don’t pay capital gains taxes with a stock gift, the university can sell it tax-free, and I get a bigger tax write-off. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

“As long as the stock is appreciated and donors have held it for longer than a year, donors may be eligible to receive a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of their stock gift and avoid capital gains tax,” says Craig O’Donnell, associate director, Tufts University Parents Giving Program.

If you’re interested in learning more about donating stock to support the student experience at Tufts, please contact Tufts Parents Giving Program at 617-627-3798 or email parentsgiving@tufts.edu.
Architect’s rendering of the new Collaborative Learning and Innovation Complex. Please see page 4 for the article.