

## Tufts MedStart pushes for patient access

BY DANIEL GOTTFRIED  
Daily Editorial Board

Tufts MedStart hosted the Blue Button Boston Innovation Challenge at the Tufts University School of Medicine last month, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resource's Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) H@cking Medicine.

Tufts MedStart is a student organization consisting of participants in the dual MD/ MBA program, which partners Tufts and Brandeis University to focus on global entrepreneurship in the field of healthcare.

The challenge was a weekend-long event that brought together individuals from a variety of fields to create projects that improve patients' access to their own medical data as part of the Blue Button movement, according to Director of the MD/MBA Health Management Program at Tufts, Dr. Joe Jabre.

"The concept is that three days with the right people — designing people, programming people, financing people, medical peo-

ple, medical students, MBA students — can result in a startup," he said.

The event began with participants pitching project proposals. Then participants recruited a team from the pool of students and professionals in attendance, and concluded in the team presenting their work to a panel of judges, according to Tufts MedStart co-founder Eric Schwaber, a second year medical student.

"We put these people together, gave them the space, the resources, mentorship, food and all the things that they need to work out their ideas and cultivate them into a business plan which they then presented at the end of the weekend," he said.

Tufts MedStart hoped to give students the opportunity to interact with experts in healthcare that could help turn their ideas into reality, Jabre said.

"Globally speaking, if there is one single goal for this, it is to get people who have ideas to network with other people who can actually make the idea happen," Jabre said.

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DAILY FILE PHOTO

The Tufts Neighborhood Service Fund donated nearly \$20,000 to local community organizations.

## Tufts Neighborhood Service Fund awards \$19,300 to local causes

BY DANA GUTH  
Daily Editorial Board

The Tufts Neighborhood Service Fund (TNSF) recently awarded \$19,300 in grants to

local causes near Tufts' Medford, Grafton and Boston campuses.

Recipients of the donations, all non-profit organizations, included the Somerville Public Library, the Somerville

Homeless Coalition, the Community Harvest Project and St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, according to Director of

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## TCU Senate Trustee Reps present venture projects

BY JOSH WEINER  
Daily Editorial Board

The three Trustee Representatives on the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate delivered a mock presentation of their venture projects in Eaton 203 last night, in preparation for their upcoming meeting with the Board of Trustees this Friday.

The venture projects include improving access to career counselors, increasing financial aid opportunities for non-Tufts study abroad programs and offering more support for first-generation college students.

Senior Lia Weintraub, a trustee representative, presented first, outlining

her venture project's objectives, which included improving the career counseling program at Tufts and helping students — especially those on financial aid — secure internships.

"Right now in this economy, it is necessary to have internship experience in order to succeed," she said.

Weintraub explained that Tufts only has one career counselor for every 1,144 students, while peer institutions have fewer students per counselor. She said she would work with the Career Center to resolve this issue and make career development a more

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CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY

Senior Lia Weintraub gives a mock presentation of her venture project.

## Fletcher fellow discusses changes in banking industry

BY JUSTIN RHEINGOLD  
Daily Editorial Board

Paul Schulte (F '88), a senior fellow at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, led a discussion last night on the growth of technology and its impact on the banking industry.

During the discussion titled, "Financial Technology: The End of Commercial and Investment Banking as We Know It," Schulte told the room of about 20 students that financial jobs are changing and will hardly be recognizable in the coming years.

"You guys are not white collared workers anymore," Schulte said. "You are blank collared workers. The white collared worker is gone."

Schulte, who also serves as managing director at his own consulting firm, Schulte Research International, explained that many banks are stuck working with old processes that will be obsolete with an influx of new technology from entrepreneurs.

"There are so many stupid things that are being done at banks right now that people have said, 'Fine, if you don't want to solve that problem and get rid of that process, I'm going to do it for you,'" he said. "Commercial and investment banking is being challenged at every single angle."

He asked if any audience members were interested in a job in research analysis at banks, and explained that such a job is quickly disappearing.

"The invasion of technology in your traditional sales, trading and research function has meant that commissions have collapsed and investment banks cannot afford the research function anymore," Schulte said.

Instead, Schulte advised students to become involved in entrepreneurial startup companies and explained that their power will continue to grow.

"It is easier, cheaper, the barriers to entry and the cost and all of the headaches associated with becoming an entrepreneur — you are much better off now to become an entrepreneur than at any time in the past," he said. "These larger financial institutions are not capable of accommodating what they used to accommodate because of the way in which technology — small startups and decent-sized startups — are infiltrating and eating away like termites at the foundations of all of these financial institutions."

He went on to compare the current banking industry to the newspaper industry, explaining how the growth of internet ad revenue caused a decline in demand for newspaper ads, and thus the overall demise of the industry.

The internet has also revolutionized the banking industry, Schulte said, and new technology will result in bank branches closing as people turn to mobile and online platforms.

"What's coming along now are all of these different companies which are

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### Inside this issue

'Fired Earth, Woven Bamboo' exhibit at the MFA features elegant works by Japanese ceramics artists.



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Alumna Danielle Weisberg discusses the media industry and her company, theSkimm.



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## Schulte: credit cards will soon be obsolete

### BANKING

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basically small startups with very few people," Schulte said. "What happens if someone comes along and says, 'Me and my seven guys are going to be able to get you new customers for your bank without any physical bank branches, and we're going to be able to do that 98 percent cheaper than your bank branch, per customer?'"

According to Schulte, new technologies will result in a decline in credit card usage, but unlike banks, credit card companies are adapting.

"The phone is becoming a wallet," Schulte said. "Credit cards are going to be eliminated. You would think this would freak out the credit card companies, but the credit card companies are like the music industry — they get it."

Schulte then opened the discussion up to audience questions. Patrick Schena, adjunct professor of International Business at the Fletcher School, explained that as new companies grow they can become similar to banks, potentially exposing them to government regulation.

Schulte did not disagree, but explained that many of the businesses are so new that no one really knows what will happen with government regulation, especially by countries such as China, India and Vietnam.

Florence Young-Aragbaiye, a first-year Fletcher student, then asked how the growth in new technologies will impact the non-profit sector. Schulte responded that innovation and new technologies will also be useful in these industries.

"For the nonprofit, everything I have said is totally applicable to the nonprofits and the government," he said. "The NSA sure has learned this stuff pretty well."

Schulte ended the conversation with advice, telling students that learning about new technologies will help them find future jobs.

"Telephone technology for banking, for pharmaceuticals, for other services in the emerging world is the future," Schulte said.



ASHLEY SEENAOUTH / TUFTS DAILY ARCHIVES

Students at the School of Medicine teamed up with MIT's Hacking Medicine initiative to develop new technologies for managing healthcare data.

## Tufts MedStart hosts entrepreneurial challenge

### BLUE BUTTON

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Schwaber believes that the experience provided by this event is unique for most medical students, he said.

"I want to bring fuller ... and more innovative thinking to students earlier on in their medical career, because I don't think that students are really exposed to healthcare outside of the clinical aspects until much later in their career," Schwaber said. "I think that this a great way to have students get exposed to aspects outside of just the classroom."

According to Schwaber, four teams received awards. The recipients included teams that created an application to help patients more easily access their medical data, a web based tool that recommended preventative care to patients, a bracelet that acts an electronic health record device and an application that conducts head injury diagnostic tests.

"The judges were very impressed," he said. "They found it very difficult to narrow down the choices and teams that were winners, and that is a testament to the fact that the teams presented such great ideas."

Student organizer Rohan Jotwani is optimistic that many of the teams will continue working on their projects beyond the weekend so that they may have a lasting impact.

"I think we will see a lot of these projects pop up over the next couple of months," Jotwani, a first year medical student, said. "We have been keeping pretty close contact with our teams since the event happened, and they are all still meeting and collaborating on their ideas."

Prior to teaming up, Tufts MedStart and MIT H@cking Medicine had separate events scheduled for the same weekend, according to Jotwani.

"Rather than divide the community in half, we said why don't we work together?"

he said. "We were able to bring them in for a meeting, and we jived really well. At the time, we were all trying to see larger partnerships that we could work in."

Tufts MedStart also reached out to the ONC to join an initiative they already had to promote hackathons pertaining to healthcare information and data, Jotwani said.

"We said that we have the venue, all the people, and we would really like to host a hackathon for the White House and the ONC, to talk about new patient data," he said.

Over 80 student and professionals participated in this event, almost doubling the number of participants involved last year, which was the its first time being held, according to Schwaber.

"My goal is to make this an annual event so we can continue to bring entrepreneurship to Tufts Medical School," he said.

## Faculty, staff donate to non-profits

### DONATION

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Community Relations Barbara Rubel.

The funds were raised throughout the year by the university's faculty, staff and administrators on all three campuses, according to Ange Brome, the chair of TNSF and an applications administrator at Tufts Dental School in Boston.

The program began in 1995 and has raised as much as \$20,000 in one year, with an \$18,000 annual average, according to Rubel.

"Each year, during Tufts' annual giving campaign, the Tufts Community Appeal, faculty and staff have the opportunity to donate to many different charitable organizations, and TNSF is one of the giving options," Rubel told the Daily in an email.

Rubel said that the checks for 2013 were sent out in mid-January to 22 recipient organizations. These regularly include food pantries in each community, as well as Boys & Girls Clubs, the Medford Council on Aging, the Wang Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Chinatown and the Medford Family Resource Coalition.

"Each fall, community organizations are invited to apply for grants," Rubel said. "The TNSF committee reviews the proposals and allocates all of the funds raised in the previous year. Since many faculty and staff donate through payroll deduction, their contributions are not complete until the end of the year."

The fund grants a maximum amount of \$2,000 per recipient, according to Brome.

"They usually apply for anywhere from \$100 to around \$2,000, and sometimes even ask for more," Brome said. "We try to award it to as many organizations as possible, but the number of applications we get always outnumber the amount we have available."

Each non-profit organization applies for a specific amount of money to be allocated toward a project of their choice, which must be approved by the TNSF.

"The applicants tell us what they are looking for in detail," Brome said. "For example, a school might need art supplies for a specific project, and they would break down exactly where the money would go. Then the group will decide whether or not we can fund this project, based on necessity."

One of last year's largest beneficiaries was the Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC), which plans on using their grant to purchase a community washer and dryer, according to SHC Executive Director Mark Alston-Follansbee.

"This will cover the majority of the cost for a new laundry machine in our adult shelter," he said.

According to Alston-Follansbee, Tufts has maintained a close relationship with the SHC over the years.

"We were founded in 1985 with just two paid staff members and mostly Tufts volunteers," he said. "Tufts stu-

dents would make sure everyone in the shelter was safe. We are also very connected to the [Leonard] Carmichael [Society] Food Rescue, which supplies us with extra food."

Although students do not work directly with TNSF, Brome said that long-term relationships between student groups and local non-profits help determine which organizations will receive donations.

"One of the criteria we look for is whether Tufts students volunteer for a given organization," she said. "That usually is a big flag for us to consider them, and we generally will give to those projects with our students involved."

Rubel said that to be eligible, each organization must serve Tufts' host communities and engage students, faculty and alumni, in addition to having an existing relationship with the university.

"While the grants are often small, community non-profits know how to stretch a dollar," she said. "In these difficult times when many funding sources are no longer available, TNSF funds are greatly appreciated."

Alston-Follansbee agreed that the service funds are essential to helping out the local community.

"We have such a strong partnership because it is critical for young people to learn about these issues," he said. "Tufts does a great job with social responsibility. We know that these problems can be solved if we pull our resources together."

## Reps seek improvements in career counseling, study abroad

### TRUSTEE

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integral part of the undergraduate experience. Weintraub also said she hopes to work with the Career Center to provide internship funding for all students on financial aid — 40 percent of the class — and to develop workshops to teach students career skills.

"I think what's unique about my presentation is that finding internships and employment affects all students," Weintraub said. "I felt like addressing this particular topic could have great yields for the entire student body."

Enxhi Popa, a junior, then presented her ideas for facilitating financial aid access for students participating in study abroad programs outside of Tufts. She noted that while Tufts currently offers 10 study abroad options, only three are accessible to students who have not studied a foreign language. This is in contrast with the 47 pre-approved study abroad options from other colleges and independent programs.

Popa said that this ratio and cost considerations make students likely to pursue study abroad options outside of Tufts. She further explained that it would be sensible to allow financial aid to be transferred to other programs, something other institutions, including Williams College, do.

"Beginning this discussion is much needed to create more inclusion and, in a way, better-quality education for students," she said.

Senior Rose Mendelsohn delivered the final trustee presentation, which focused on improving sup-

port for first-generation college students who account for nine percent of the student body. She explained that such students are more likely to come from lower income families and rural areas, and that it is important to fulfill their needs when they arrive on campus.

Mendelsohn explained that she has been working with the administration, as well as student organizations such as the First Generation College Student Council, to better understand how to help these students adjust to life at Tufts, through workshops, advising sessions, social events and other innovative means.

"The First Generation Council has been working to create a community of people who, while very diverse, have this connection and may share experiences," she said. "This topic is multifaceted, and there are many perspectives to it. I think it begins with the recognition that there are first-generation students at Tufts who deserve increased attention."

Following the presentations, TCU President Joe Thibodeau reflected on the presentations and acknowledged the importance of the venture projects.

"I'm very proud of the work that these three women have put into their presentations," Thibodeau said. "I think that this year's Trustee Representatives are speaking to issues on their campus that aren't always talked about or discussed openly, but which are so critical to the students here and their college experience. I really hope the Board of Trustees listens to them and takes to heart their messages."

# Features

tuftsdaily.com

## Tufts alumna Danielle Weisberg finds success with news source, theSkimm

BY BECCA LEIBOWITZ  
Contributing Writer

When Danielle Weisberg (LA '08) graduated from Tufts, she didn't expect she would be her own boss just four years later. In July of 2012, however, she did just that when she co-founded theSkimm, an online newsletter that sends daily news updates to its subscribers. theSkimm breaks down the most important national and international news, delivering content in a witty, easy-to-read way.

The process of creating theSkimm began a year after Weisberg's graduation from Tufts. Upon reconnecting with Carly Zakin, an old friend and University of Pennsylvania graduate, Weisberg discovered that they were both working for NBC News and shared passion for news and media.

Although both Weisberg and Zakin — who met while studying abroad in Rome — loved their respective jobs at NBC, they felt there was something missing.

"Like many people in the [news media] industry, we saw that it was changing," Weisberg said. "The career path that we thought we would have when we started — we didn't really think would be there in the next five years. So we were at a loss."

Self-proclaimed "news junkies," Weisberg and Zakin were unwilling to give up on the news industry as a whole. Fortunately, they recognized a gap in the industry that had yet to be filled.

"Our best friends, predominantly our girlfriends, were highly educated, super smart, leaders in their respective industries, making money or on the path to making money — and really short on time," Weisberg said. "They would consistently come to us ... in order to get them up to speed [on the news] before that meeting, that interview [or] that family event they had."

When Weisberg and Zakin looked at what current news media outlets were offering, however, they discovered there was no product that would easily fit into their friends' fast paced lives.

Although the two women were excited about the concept of inventing a new product to fill this void, Weisberg said she realized they would need to leave their jobs to fully commit themselves to the project.

"It was the scariest thing that we'd ever done, quitting our jobs," Weisberg said. "It was really hard to leave — our coworkers had really become like family at NBC — but we closed our eyes and we quit."

That decision certainly paid off, as theSkimm quickly gained a following. Though theSkimm does not release subscriber numbers, its growth has outpaced that of both DailyCandy and Thrillist, two of the most popular email newsletters, when comparing their respective growth stages, according Weisberg.

Additionally, according to a Nov. 4, 2013 Business Insider article, the average user open rate for media-related emails is 16.4 percent. In comparison, theSkimm has a daily open rate that exceeds 45 percent, with 80 percent of its readers opening it immediately in the morning.

For Weisberg and Zakin, it was obvious that the easiest way to attract their target audience would be through their email.

"We looked at how we consume information first thing [when we get up in the morning], and we roll over and we check our cell phones," said Weisberg "Why not deliver news [to others] in a way that was fitting in with their lifestyles?"

Director of the Communications



Danielle Weisberg (right) and partner Carly Zakin have high hopes for expansion thanks to recent investments in their news source, theSkimm.

and Media Studies Program Julie Dobrow emphasized the importance of adaptation to the ever-changing nature of the media industry.

"Social media of different types have given us different platforms on which we can consume news," Dobrow told the Daily in an email. "The 21st century journalist really needs to be a cross-platform content provider."

Weisberg and Zakin have embodied this new type of journalist, finding a way to deliver news in a way that Nan Levinson, a lecturer in the Department of English, agreed is a reflection of our changing lifestyles.

"I think it's maybe not so much that we don't have time to read," Levinson, who teaches courses on journalism and fiction writing, said. "I think we don't have time to read sitting down with the newspaper over the morning coffee."

Because Weisberg and Zakin's main concern was the time constraints of their readers, they created what they call "the voice of theSkimm," and focused on making the newsletters more easily digestible.

"It's really the voice of your best friend sitting next to you on the couch telling you what you need to know to get through your day," Weisberg said.

Their newsletter embodies this best friend persona with snappy headlines like "What to say when your co-worker cries after you ask about her weekend." The Jan. 23, 2013 newsletter featured a section on the continuing protests in Ukraine that read, "Last week, Ukraine passed an anti-protest law. That didn't go over too well."

According to Levinson, in current day media there is an overload of information and no way to sort through it all.

"There's just too much coming at us," she said. "It does lead to superficiality and it leads to a fabrication of information."

In order to avoid these potential problems and deliver accurate, important stories, Weisberg and Zakin sort through dozens upon dozens of news sources each day in order to condense the essential news into a one-page newsletter. Their efforts are encapsulated in theSkimm's slogan: "We read. You Skimm."

"We really read everything," Weisberg said. "It's a lot, but we really kind of have it down to a science."

Weisberg said, however, that she envisions something bigger and better for the future. In the fall, theSkimm completed its first formal round of funding. Led by investment

firm Homebrew Ventures, this seed raise left theSkimm with over \$1.1 million. According to a Nov. 4, 2013 Business Insider article, theSkimm also received financial support early on from angel investors, like MTV founder Bob Pittman.

Weisberg said that the money they have raised has gone toward increasing user acquisition and staff. Up until Jan. 2, theSkimm was a two-person operation.

Thanks to their recent seed raise, theSkimm has been able to hire three new members to assist in marketing and expansion. Weisberg and Zakin anticipate three more additions to their staff in the near future and are also exploring hiring editorial positions.

A "Skimm'bassador program" is also underway, according to Weisberg, which would place representatives of theSkimm on college campuses as a way to spread the word to students.

"As a very proud Tufts alumna, I would love to see us have a bigger presence on [the Tufts] campus," Weisberg said.

As an undergraduate, Weisberg majored in American studies with a focus in media and politics and minored in English. Weisberg said she considered the real-world skills she learned at Tufts to be just as important as the academic ones.

"What I was really prepared with from Tufts was knowing how to use my networking resources in order to open doors for myself," she said.

Weisberg offered her professional world advice to the Tufts student body.

"There's an art to [networking], how to not be overly aggressive, but still be to the point. And I think that's a skill that takes a lot of time to hone, so I would really stress that you should start working on it now," she said.

She also underscored the importance of internships.

"I think that what's really important is to get real-world experience — not only for your resume, but just for you to figure out what you're going to want to actually do after school," she said.

While Weisberg anticipated working at a media job after graduating from Tufts, she noted her surprise in the unexpected risks she took in her career path. These unexpected risks, however, have brought unexpected rewards — as seen by theSkimm's recent success.

"I think I always had the entrepreneurial spirit," Weisberg said. "I just didn't think I would quit my job at 25 to [pursue] it."

REBECCA HUTCHINSON | WHAT'S POPPIN'

## Trying to keep up with the Kardashians



I only very recently gave in to the Kardashian franchise. For the longest time, I had no interest in America's most infamous family, and couldn't even tell Khloe from Kendall (gasp). But, when news of Kris and Bruce Jenner's divorce was released and every social media site that I'm on collectively panicked, I became curious. Seemingly everybody was very concerned about what to me was just another Hollywood divorce scandal. So, I decided to end my distance from the Kardashian crew and give into the fandom. Lucky for me, "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" is streaming on Netflix, just waiting to be binge watched.

After watching a couple of episodes, I was hooked. I'm not sure if everybody who watches and loves "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" enjoys the show ironically or earnestly. Personally, I have never really liked anything ironically, and I'm not sure I even know how to pull that off (I'm nowhere near hip enough to do anything ironic). I am genuinely enjoying "The Kardashians," despite my mother's best efforts to convince me that it's an absolutely horrible show. I've hopped on the bandwagon. I can understand the panic over the Kris and Bruce divorce.

Of course, there are plenty of Kardashian haters out there. I'm not going to try to claim that they have no basis for their distaste. Yes, perhaps the family hasn't actually done anything to deserve their fame. They do have more money than they seem to be able to appropriately handle. I have seen more physical fights on their show than I really needed to see, and I have laughed out loud at some interview lines that were not intended to be funny.

But at the same time, "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" is a fun show to watch. I began watching the show expecting to hear the Kardashians do nothing but trash talk each other. This proved untrue. Sure, they have their moments when they aren't the nicest people in world, but for the bulk of the show, it's obvious that they all have each other's best interests in mind. In a way, it's kind of sweet.

Of course, every Kardashian, at least in front of the cameras, acts in a completely ridiculous and over-the-top manner. That's what keeps the show entertaining. But, the reason that watching "The Kardashians" hasn't made me hate the whole Kardashian clan is that the outlandish things they do don't seem malicious. In the last episode I watched, Kris became concerned that the family wasn't eating healthy enough, so she decided to purchase several live chickens to keep in the backyard, so her kids could always have fresh eggs. This was obviously absurd. Anybody could have called that Kris' plan to take care of chickens and wake up every morning to collect their eggs was not going to work out. The whole family was in a panic. Khloe tried to revolt by putting the chickens in her mom's bathtub. It was chaos. And while the episode certainly wasn't the most profound hour of reality television, it was definitely entertaining and pretty harmless.

The Kardashians are the family that some of us love to hate while others hate to love. Some of us (me) fall into both camps. As much as we love to make fun of them, people care about what they do. Their fights, marriages, divorces, and three-hour jail sentences are all newsworthy because we're all dying to know about them. Right now, the Kardashians seem to be pop culture's favorite guilty pleasure, and I'm more than happy to embrace that.

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Award!

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TV REVIEW

## 'Parks and Recreation' bids farewell to cast favorites

BY STINA STANNIK  
Contributing Writer

As Parks and Recreation goes on hiatus for the month of February to accommodate the 2014 Winter Olympics, Leslie Knope

**Parks and Recreation**



Starring **Amy Poehler, Rashida Jones, Rob Lowe, Nick Offerman**  
Airs Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. on NBC

(Amy Poehler) and her fellow Pawneans bid farewell to two central characters as Ann Perkins (Rashida Jones) and Chris Traeger (Rob Lowe) drive off to seek unwedded baby bliss in Michigan.

The episode, appropriately titled "Ann and Chris," brings Leslie and Ann's friendship full circle: as a farewell gesture, Leslie wants to break ground — at last — on the park that first brought the two women together in the pilot episode. Ben Wyatt (Adam Scott) and the other Parks Department men hunt for a gift for Chris that is worthy of a man of such heart and effervescence. Along the way, the audience is treated to flashbacks and references to some of the finest moments of Ann and Chris's time in Pawnee — including Ann and Leslie's first meeting, Chris and Ron's burger cook-off and the magical-but-now-definitely-illegal Snake Juice, Tom Haverford's (Aziz Ansari) infamous concoction from local nightclub, the Snakehole Lounge.

In fact, the entire episode plays as a bit of a highlights reel, complete with welcome reappearances from fan-favorite recurring characters Orin (Eric Isenhower) and Perd Hapley (Jay Jackson). Nonetheless, this episode certainly was not the comedy's strongest offering this season. It did not move any plot arcs forward in a significant fashion — the gift-for-Chris plot in particular felt contrived



ACURA NEWS VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

see **PARKS**, page 6 Rashida Jones, who played Ann Perkins, left 'Parks' in the show's most recent episode.

RYAN BUELL | THE BEAT

## The TDE Takeover



When Anthony "Top Dawg" Tiffith tweeted, "WE RAN 2013 WITH OUT DROPPING 1 ALBUM. I WONDER WUTS GONE HAPPEN IN 2014 WHEN I DROP 6," he was hinting at the so-called TDE Takeover — a phrase that has become a slogan of sorts among fans of the record label. With artists like Kendrick Lamar on its roster, Top Dawg Entertainment (TDE) has become a driving force within hip-hop, and it has positioned itself to dominate the genre this year.

Even if it didn't necessarily run 2013 as Tiffith claimed in his tweet, TDE certainly had a big year and did so without any signees releasing a formal album. Lamar released the already legendary "Control" (2013) verse in which he called out some of the biggest names in hip-hop to raise their game, all while touring the country with the great Kanye West. Lamar and his label mates dropped by far the strongest cypher at the 2013 BET Awards. Hype for Schoolboy Q's upcoming album built steadily with a slew of singles including the hit song "Collard Greens" (2013). The label added two new artists in Isaiah Rashad and SZA. Lamar, Schoolboy, Ab-Soul and Jay Rock all hopped on guest features left and right and the occasional group remix — "U.O.E.N.O Remix" (2013) anyone? — maintaining the crew's preeminence, all without a single album release from the TDE signees. So, what would happen if all six TDE signees were to release full albums this year?

With last week's release of Rashad's label debut EP "Cilvia Demo," it seems the TDE Takeover has formally begun. The newest member of the Top Dawg ensemble, Rashad, began 2014 with a lot to prove. Largely an unknown entity from Tennessee, few knew what to expect from his debut. And after hearing the album, there is no way anyone could have anticipated these results. First of all, it's an exceptional body of work from the rookie. Second, he has established a sound unlike anything else under the TDE umbrella.

"Cilvia Demo" is an unhurried, soulful production that approaches R&B at times. Indeed, Rashad is at his best on the slower side of things, with more up-tempo cuts — i.e. "Soliloquy" — sounding inorganic. The high point of the album comes with the song "Heavenly Father," one of those tracks with a melancholy theme that somehow leaves the listener feeling unrepressed happiness. Rashad questions, "Heavenly Father, why you so far away?" as he draws on reggae influences and melodic background vocals to create a song you can't help but keep on repeat.

"Cilvia Demo" also serves as a showcase for the TDE model. The project is unquestionably driven by Rashad as he is never once overshadowed; yet it is clear that his new label is giving him all the tools needed to succeed. The guest features are minimal, with Schoolboy and Rock only hopping on the seven-minute long "Shot You Down," in which Rashad holds his own against his elder peers. Two songs featuring SZA showcase TDE's other new signee, much the same as Rashad was showcased in the BET cypher. And while Lamar makes no appearance on the album, his influence is clear; Rashad applies the Grammy-nominated rapper's multisyllabic flows and ability to use his voice as an instrument in creating his own unique sound.

If "Cilvia Demo" is but the start of the Takeover, hip-hop fans are in for a treat in 2014. TDE is seizing control of the rap game and giving no indication of loosening its grip. Schoolboy's highly-anticipated "Oxymoron" drops Feb. 25, and if Tiffith is true to his word, we can expect four more TDE albums before the end of the year, including Lamar's follow-up effort to "good kid, m.A.A.d. city" (2012). Brace yourselves, TDE is taking over.

Ryan Buell is a sophomore who is majoring in psychology. He can be reached at Ryan.Buell@tufts.edu.

GALLERY REVIEW

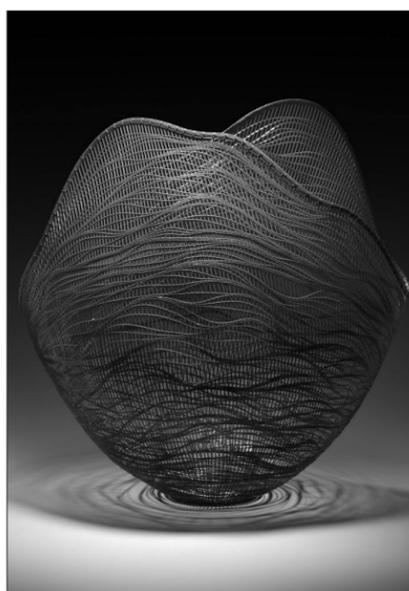
## 'Fired Earth, Woven Bamboo' explores Japanese ceramics

BY HADLEY GIBSON  
Daily Editorial Board

In the Arts of East Asia, Oceania and Africa wing of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), a relatively new exhibit examines the development of contemporary Japanese pottery and weaving techniques. "Fired Earth, Woven Bamboo" celebrates new developments in ceramics and bamboo art that began in Japan in the 1950s. The works featured throughout the gallery are from the Snider Collection — a recent gift to the MFA from Stanley and Mary Ann Snider, who spent 40 years collecting contemporary Japanese ceramics and bamboo creations.

The exhibit is arranged in a series of rings, with the center glass case displaying examples of traditional Japanese ceramics and bamboo baskets. Here, visitors can see several works by artists from the beginning of this movement — these pieces all have utilitarian uses and rather simple forms. These artists had only just begun to consider themselves more than craftsmen: an increasing interest in personal expression and individuality — a byproduct of the Western art movements — explained their newly found desire to express creativity.

The first example of this focus on uniqueness is "Basket with bamboo-root handle," made by Maeda



COURTESY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

'Red Flame' showcases the style and technique of modern day bamboo artists.

Chikubosai during the Showa era in the 1930s. Perhaps the most traditional piece in the entire collection, the basket is wide and has a handle made from an actual bamboo-root that has been bent and shaped into a hyperbola. This center display also houses several simple plates and ceramic boxes, though these still demonstrate evidence of individual

see **BAMBOO**, page 6

MOVIE REVIEW

## 'That Awkward Moment' disappoints with tired, stale story

BY MERILLA MICHAEL  
Contributing Writer

"That Awkward Moment," tells the story of Jason (Zac Efron), Mikey (Michael B. Jordan) and Daniel (Miles

**That Awkward Moment**



Directed by **Tom Gormican**  
Starring **Zac Efron, Michael B. Jordan, Miles Teller, Imogen Poots**

Teller): three best friends in their late 20s who are living in New York and learning how to deal with relationships. Jason and Daniel — two stereotypical womanizers uninterested in any kind of commitment — work together at a company that designs book covers. Mikey is a doctor at the local hospital who has been married for several years. When Mikey's wife confesses to cheating on him and asks for a divorce, Mikey shuts down, confused as to how things went wrong. In an attempt to console him, the three friends make a pact to all stay single for as long as possible and focus on their friendship.

Rather predictably, Jason meets the beautiful and intelligent Ellie (Imogen Poots) at a bar right after the pact is made. Assuming this will be a one-night stand, the two return to Ellie's apartment. The next morning, Jason bolts

see **AWKWARD**, page 6

## Predictable plot drags down potential of 'That Awkward Moment'

### AWKWARD

continued from page 5

upon seeing what he assumes is evidence that Ellie is a hooker: a wad of cash on the night stand, knee-high black boots and boxes of condoms on the floor. That same morning, Jason and Daniel present a book cover to a client, who, to Jason's surprise, is being represented by Ellie herself.

As could be expected, Jason — after much apologizing — begins to spend more and more time with Ellie. Daniel has a similar experience when he drunkenly hooks up with the trio's good friend, Chelsea (Mackenzie Davis) and realizes that he has feelings for her. Mikey, distraught from his imminent divorce, begs his wife to take him back and then secretly starts sleeping with her again. The three friends — each assuming the other two have stayed true to the pact — lie to one another about their significant others.

"That Awkward Moment" is a straightforward romantic comedy, and is certainly nothing spectacular. This is Tom Gormican's debut as a director, so perhaps it makes sense that his first film is rather underwhelming. He played it safe — probably a little too safe

— with this genre. In general, "That Awkward Moment" is enjoyable, but it is not a movie one would be eager to see again. It brings together a talented and attractive cast in Efron, Jordan and Teller, but counteracts their potential with a predictable and bland plot. The actors did their best with what was given to them, but they needed a better script in order to really shine.

Efron, specifically, has clearly outgrown his "High School Musical" (2006) days, showing that he has great potential, even when working with a flat script. He, Jordan and Teller have great chemistry and they do have some truly funny moments — the most notable of which is a scene featuring Efron and Teller naked and planking on the toilet. Unfortunately for "That Awkward Moment," all of the film's most comical sections are compiled into the two-minute trailer.

Indeed, the movie is true to its name: most of it felt like an awkward moment — and not an endearing one. Unless you are a devout Efron fan, "That Awkward Moment" isn't worth the \$10 ticket price. In a few months, if you are looking for a



COURTESY NICOLE RIVELLI / FILMDISTRICT

A trite romantic comedy, 'That Awkward Moment' finds redemption in the comedic skills of its good-looking cast.

fairly one-dimensional comedy that has enough romance and bros-just-being-bros to satisfy

everyone — and you happen to find "That Awkward Moment" on Netflix — then, by all means,

go for it. Just expect a plot filled with elements that have already been done better before.

## 'Parks and Rec' leaves followers with hope after goodbyes

### PARKS

continued from page 5

to deliver a specific conclusion. To be fair, however, goodbye episodes often exist in a bubble in which plot development is somewhat irrelevant. The characters and the audience receive much-needed closure — which they get in the especially poignant goodbyes between Ann and Leslie and Chris and Ben.

Of course, the departure of Jones and Lowe also opens up a lot of space within the cast. Jones, notably, often played the straight man to the otherwise eccentric personalities on the show. The comedy's challenge moving forward will be to fill the gaps left by departing characters without sacrificing the goofy, earnest tone and camaraderie which has been the heart of the show. Earlier this season, in "Doppelgangers" (2013), we were introduced to crazy and passionate Eagletonian Craig (Billy Eichner), Donna Meagle's (Retta) counterpart and a new employee in the department. The question remains as to whether Craig and other recurring characters, like Ron's (Nick Offerman) wife Diane (Lucy

Lawless), will be bumped up to being regulars. Showrunner Michael Schur might also opt to give more airtime to the criminally underused Donna.

Major shifts on the show this season — Ben's promotion to city manager, Leslie's removal from office, the departure of Ann and Chris — had some viewers wondering whether the show's writers were working to tie up storylines and whether this season — the show's sixth — would be its last. Recent statements from NBC Entertainment chairman Bob Greenblatt, however, all but guarantee a renewal. It seems that NBC — much like the devoted audience — has faith in showrunners to adjust the cast accordingly and continue to allow the Pawnee universe to grow in new, mysterious ways. After all, the "Parks" creative team has already pulled off the near impossible in maintaining the show's momentum even after its central couples were happily paired off.

Whereas many sitcoms stagnate long before their sixth season, "Parks and Rec" has maintained its allure largely by remaining dedicated to

its strong characters. This season in particular has allowed for considerable growth: Ron, the epitome of an individualist, gets married in the season's premiere, "London" (2013), and Tom finally gets a likeable love interest, guest star Tatiana Maslany of "Orphan Black" (2013-present) fame. Even Leslie has managed to mend some fences with the dastardly Eagletonians. Yet "Parks" never lets the characters' natural growth impede the comedy's essential hallmarks with which viewers were originally enamored. Ron is still disgusted to learn that his doppelganger is a vegan, Ben still copes with unemployment by taking up some strange and wonderfully nerdy hobby and Leslie still delivers a Wendy Davis-inspired filibuster like nobody else.

The episode thus ends on a hopeful note — as the tearful characters come together to watch their friends depart. In spite of this loss and future challenges, not much has truly changed — in the words of the inimitable Ron, "There has never been a sadness that can't be cured by breakfast food."



STARBRIGHT31 VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Amy Poehler and Chris Pratt deliver fun and heart-warming performances as Leslie Knope and Andy Dwyer.

## New exhibit at MFA showcases complex artistic history of Japan

### BAMBOO

continued from page 5

design and expression — with embellishments like grapes decoratively painted on a lid and incised patterns adorning the plates.

The incredible sculptural forms positioned at the front of the gallery showcase the dramatic change bamboo art has undergone in the present day. Before focusing on these, however, the viewer can watch a short video of masters Kishi Eiko and Nagakura Ken'ichi. Seeing the work in action electrifies the exhibit for museum-goers, allowing them to imagine the formation of the exhibit's pieces from simple rock and bamboo.

Returning to the fantastic bamboo creations made by today's artists, visitors can see the drastic changes that have occurred in this art form's style and technique. "Red Flame" (2007) by Morigami Jin — with a black to red ombré color-



COURTESY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

Torii Ippo's 'Flight' is a striking example of Japanese bamboo sculpture.

ation on a skeletal, almost seaweed-like basket — is particularly striking. Wavy lines move across the body of the work, creating a sense of movement that evokes the image of a vibrant fire. "Flight," (2003) by Torii Ippo — which features an intricate knot-like form from a long sheet of woven bamboo curled over itself — demonstrates the sculptural aspects that modern day artists have produced with bamboo.

The displays surrounding the center also reveal extreme deviation from traditional forms — turning pottery from a tool into an art form. This is best exemplified by "Wind" (2005) by Nagae Shigekazu. The piece looks like a porcelain box with its two opposite sides removed, so that the viewer can look right through it. "Wind" is important for this collection because it exemplifies another major change in Japan's ceramics industry: the acceptance of women as artists.

The back wall of the exhibit is lined with various other works

that show the full capacity of each of the mediums. Some of the highlights of this section are "Wave," (2007) by Nishimura Yuko, a wall-long piece with a stretched and squished diamond pattern travelling along it, and Sakurai Yasuko's "Vertical Flower" (2007) — which almost looks like a basket, but is actually a bowl-shaped porcelain sculpture with cylindrical holes punched through it. "Woman" (2005) by Nagakura Ken'ichi — a bamboo sculpture that looks as though it may have started as a basket, but slowly grew into a living being — is also impressive.

On the whole, the exhibit will give any viewer with even a small amount of knowledge of traditional Japanese art forms a reason to look twice. For those who are not as well versed in Japanese arts, the exhibit is still sure to amaze with its fantastic and eye-catching works. The exhibit will run through Sept. 8, 2014 and admission to the MFA is free with a Tufts ID.

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## EDITORIAL

## Drug addiction is national, not personal, failure

Academy Award-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman died on Sunday of an apparent heroin overdose, and once again discussions of drug addiction have entered the national media spotlight. Death by overdose is a common sight in the modern American landscape and Hoffman was just the latest high-profile example — the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that a whopping 105 people die from drug overdoses every single day in the United States, 78 percent of which are accidental. Yet despite these staggering statistics, the conversation surrounding addiction rarely focuses on taking action toward reform. Not until we, as a country, are prepared to have a serious discussion about ending the failed war on drugs and supporting state-sponsored rehabilitation and medical treatment can we claim that the death of our celebrities, neighbors and friends are not in vain.

The chronic nature of drug addiction is exemplified by Hoffman's case — the actor had reportedly been clean for 23 years before relapsing and checking himself into a drug rehab facility last year. Indeed, the National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that 40 to 60 percent of all drug addicts will relapse after becoming sober. Chronic diseases are not approached with quick fixes and definitive answers — we don't treat diabetics with one shot of insulin and send them on their way.

While it may be convenient to blame addiction on moral shortcomings, we are also afraid to examine why people turn to drugs in the first place. Rarely do we discuss the cultural norms, societal expectations and evolving state of human relationships that often lead to drug addiction. How is it that such an overwhelming health problem goes relatively unmentioned until someone whose name is BuzzFeed worthy is found dead in

their condominium?

The consequences of drug addiction play out in our courts as legal transactions instead of as constructive solutions. Every year, we imprison thousands of addicts consumed by illegal drugs: while it is important to consider the harm that drug criminalization has had on our society, we must also consider the effects of not talking about drug abuse happening right now in our family rooms, kitchens and high school bathrooms.

The shock surrounding Hoffman's tragic death is just another example of American hypocrisy when approaching the discussion on drug addiction. He will be commemorated at film ceremonies and memorialized by fans; his exceptional acting legacy will endure long after he is buried. But what about the other 105 people that overdosed in America today? They may not be newsworthy, but they should not be forgotten.

AMY BU



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Hours after first reading Taylor Barnard's Monday, Feb. 3 op-ed entitled "Responding to the State of the Union" I continue to be exceedingly troubled by its contents — starting with my surprise with the title's implication that the ensuing articulation would be some sort of "response," rather than unwavering praise of the President. Now that I think about it, I really shouldn't be particularly surprised. In the year and a half I have spent on campus, all too often I have faced near monolithic support of the President, coupled with ignorant accusations leveled at all Republicans. This article only represents the tip of that iceberg in my mind, having been accused of misogyny by a classmate after voting for former Governor Mitt Romney in 2012.

I, of course, am aware of the many issues that manifest themselves throughout the GOP, be it through questionable stances on social issues or elsewhere. Paradoxically enough, in searching for an answer, or perhaps trying to cheer myself up, I watch a few episodes of Aaron Sorkin's "The West

Wing" (1999-2006) from time to time. He does not pull his punches in questioning Republicans and their beliefs. I find that his concerns over GOP policy are quite often grounded — namely Republican policies on abortion, gay marriage and other social issues. Yet Sorkin has succeeded where the Tufts community has collectively failed. No matter how hard the punch or how strongly Sorkin may feel about a given issue, he is always careful to recognize nuance, as well as its influence of policy, on both sides of the aisle.

Which brings me back to Mr. Barnard's op-ed. He writes of "the antiquated vision of America offered by congressional Republicans," asking readers to look forward and "hold [Republicans] accountable and give President Obama a congress he can work with."

I know I will not likely convince Mr. Barnard of anything other than the opinions he holds, but in the spirit of nuance, allow me to provide an alternate perspective on President Obama's record thus far. Domestically speaking, the President's efforts to pass the Affordable Care Act have been disas-

trous, from the floor of Congress to the embarrassing — and eerily ISIS-esque — bug-ridden healthcare.gov website. In the foreign policy realm, President Obama has decided, in a rather short-sighted fashion, to scale down American troop presence in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Iraqi city of Fallujah, the battle for which saw the deaths of many U.S. Marines over 10 years ago, has fallen to insurgents and some measure of our progress in Iraq has been reversed. Sadly, the President's failure extends not only to conventional warfare, but to unconventional warfare as well. The President continues to make little progress in negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, as the ever-relevant principle of nuclear non-proliferation falls by the wayside.

I'll leave it at that for now. I look forward to starting a new, more complex conversation at Tufts and on other American college campuses.

Respectfully,

Zach Shapiro  
Class of 2016



ANNIE LEVINE / THE TUFTS DAILY

## On increasing enrollment of computer science courses

BY MICHAEL SHAH

On Jan. 28, 2014 The Tufts Daily published an article on the computer science department struggling with course over-enrollment, and having been a teaching assistant I want to provide the graduate student perspective. My name is Michael Shah and I'm in the Ph.D. program in the computer science department.

I will define what a graduate student is, as we are often confused with being professors (which I enjoy) or being an undergrad (which is a compliment to our eternal youth and charm.) The mysterious people (i.e. graduate students) you see wandering late at night in Halligan Hall have completed a bachelor's degree and are pursuing a master's or Ph.D. A degree at the Ph.D. level extends beyond coursework, and your primary focus is to research an area of computer science so well that you are the world's expert on that topic. You earn this degree if you want to perform research in the industry or enter the field of academia. The key to securing a job is to perform stellar research. "Stellar research," how about being a "stellar teaching assistant?"

Unfortunately, being a "stellar teaching assistant" is not enough to grant you a Ph.D. and send you into the workforce. Graduate students are funded as either teaching assistants or as research assistants. This funding gives us a small stipend and tuition remission. When we are teaching assistants in computer science, our responsibilities can include holding office hours, grading, teaching a lab, hosting review sessions, attending class, answering e-mail, moderating a forum and assisting the professor. The hours certainly add up. (We honestly would grade and return homework faster if we could!) When you are funded as a research assistant, you sit yourself down, stretch the fingers out a little and research intensely on a very hard problem.

The graduation timeframe equation is hereby presented. If  $X$  time is allocated to teaching assistant duties,  $X$  time must be deallocated from research, adding  $X$  time until we graduate. (A plug for my former Computer Science 15 students: remember if you allocate anything, you should always check to deallocate it as well.) The increasing enrollment in computer science classes means the time spent with each teaching duty grows at least linearly in the average case with regards to how many students exist in the class. (One hopes the average case

time complexity of adding another student does not make this time exponential!)

With the above equation in mind, you should not be surprised when you see a graduate student dazedly wandering Tufts beyond a reasonable hour (i.e. after Brown and Brew closes, or maybe that is a reasonable hour? Anyway.) However, let me tell you in my two and a half years at Tufts I am charged up with the enthusiasm the undergraduate population has for computer science! I have been in courses large and small, lower level and upper level, and the students have always been hungry for knowledge. So bring on the students — but to you, students, come for the right reasons.

To the set of all undergraduates who want to major in computer science: What will continue to make our department successful and give you the greatest educational outcomes is for you to really learn to fall in love with computer science. Computer science courses are very difficult — starting with the introductory course. The ability to reason through a problem and then implement it one step at a time on a machine (a very dumb machine) is a skill that needs to be constantly practiced. You are going to have to work hard! And if you work hard, we are willing to take the time to help you through the entirety of your journey (and beyond!)

To the set of all undergraduates who heard it was cool to take computer science courses: I think it's fantastic so long as your motivation is to understand computers, write software/apps, develop computational thinking skills and prepare for the "Internet of Things" (whatever that is). Rarely have I seen hard working students who want to add a skill outside of their comfort zone be dissatisfied with their experiences. It makes us graduate students warm and fuzzy inside when we see you succeed. We want you to take your computational skills and apply them in fields like biology (do robo-bees sound cool? Google it), chemistry, physics, classics, photography, origami or somewhere we would not imagine a beneficial intersection to the world. (Plug for myself, I am open for such collaboration — the crazier the better.)

To the set of undergraduates who want an "A" or to avoid another dreadful course: If you're trying to dodge a course, I hope computer science will surprise you. I have heard tales of undergrads who switched to computer science during their senior year and

loved it. You might get lucky by trying something new, but if you don't, you should be prepared for long hours at the lab. If you're just trying to get an "A" I can always sense it. I encourage my students to fight for their points, because I think it makes you think about the assignment for at least that much longer (a little sneaky teacher trick). Then again, I do not care what grades you get. Having computer science on your transcript is only useful if you truly understand the science. I think there are other wonderful courses at Tufts you could spend your time on and earn top marks in.

To the faculty in the computer science department: keep up the good work, we'll try to help the best we can. The more efficient job we do in assisting with teaching duties, the more time we can spend as a department doing research. We want Tufts to be the best research school in our respective areas! Inverting classrooms, grading projects with students and using resources like Piazza are all solid moves that help save everyone time (even while allowing for bigger enrollments) and make being a teaching assistant a more interesting role than just grading alone at a desk.

To other graduate students: remember the overly simplified equation I posted regarding how we spend our time (there should probably be variables for the time allocated for e-mail and Netflix)? There is a trick, my colleagues — shift your perspective. Over-enrollment provides us an opportunity to get creative, hear a question asked from more angles and force us to become better at explaining problems and solutions (and fill our own gaps). These skills translate into research skills, because we will be at conferences presenting ideas we already understand to different audiences. The long hours of being a teaching assistant make research a reward that should not be taken for granted, and force us to learn time management skills so we can continue solving problems we are passionate about. Keep fighting the good fight, and look at the increasing enrollment numbers as more opportunities for you to improve (and job security, of course). With that I want to leave you with a favorite quote:

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Michael Shah is a graduate student in the Department of Computer Science.

ADAM KAMINSKI | THE COOL COLUMN



## Holy sh\*t and sacred toilets

I'll begin with a description. Imagine an angst-filled sophomore in high school, face acne laden and palms in a perpetual sweat — a total hobbledehoy. A boy about as physically and socially awkward as that word I just used to describe him. Mental picture prepared? Think Neville Longbottom (pre-maturation) and you're halfway there.

Now imagine this already unfortunately awkward boy in another unfortunately awkward locale: the public bathroom, where taboos run as rampant as stench does. Perfect.

And if you're still having trouble, as if this introduction weren't formulaic enough: I'm "him."

Surprisingly (or, potentially, unsurprisingly), as an often out of place high schooler, I found serenity in those often out of place rooms, the bathrooms. They became a sort of home away from home, always good for a moment of quiet. Unless, of course, the school cafeteria had served "Sloppy Joes" or something tantamount to them that day.

This isn't to say I was a misanthropic recluse as a younger teenager, but it is to suggest that incessant social strains were draining, and begged to be balanced by minutes of solidarity — by rooms in which it's the norm to be hypersensitive to speech, eye contact and personal space. Really, they were (and are!) rooms in which it's not totally rude to ignore buzzing surroundings (i.e. chatterbox high school girls).

I'm drawn to bathrooms, in a way less creepy than it sounds, because of the peace they offer me; such peace-inducing places can even grant content akin to the comfort of a home. It's at this point that my family might cringe. Your own home?! Likened to a bathroom?! What am I then, a toilet?? My younger, still house-bound sister would protest, but I'd assure her it's not such an insult. And besides, siblings act like toilets a lot of the time anyway.

It's true, my bathrooms are my practice mobile homes. They are transient little dens where I can be myself — nooks that I cannot carry with me, but are always (or mostly) there, nonetheless around me. Having such interspersed and nomadic homes is valuable, especially in one's college years when one is practically a nomad. I don't know about you all, but I couldn't have the vaguest sense of where I'll be living in two years, in four years, or in the beyond.

Uncertainty is intimidating, and so are mortgages. These are not, however, prerequisites or requirements to reap some of the benefits a home can offer. These sorry components to life are not usually interwoven into the mobile, nomadic home. They function separately — it's what makes bathrooms so certain, so free (well, excluding room and board tuition...) and so sweet, in spite of those not-so-sweet smells.

These "homes" are certain, free, and personalized too. From planes and buses to friends and restaurants, anywhere one can attach meaning will do. So, indeed, anywhere will do. These places and moments can act as temporary centers, as placeholders and stand-ins for more permanent settlements. They come in every shape and size, but provide in each case, I propose, something similar.

The accessible nature of these special places is only relevant because of what they can provide. Like a good gas station, they offer rest, sustenance and fuel. Like a really good gas station they offer free fuel — periods of rejuvenating solace, no matter what the manifestation.

I do believe (or naively hope) everyone has or can find such simple areas of peace. And if yours is the bathroom ... well, I'll see you there.

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## WOMEN'S SQUASH

## Jumbos compete in difficult NESCAC tournament in New York

BY STEVEN HEFTER  
Daily Staff Writer

The women's squash team competed at the NESCAC tournament in Hamilton, N.Y. at Colgate University over the weekend, coming in 10th place out of 11 teams. The tournament saw the team rebound from a difficult first-round loss to Bowdoin with a win over Connecticut College in the first consolation round, before ultimately falling to Colby 7-2 in the second consolation round.

Although Tufts had trouble with Colby in its last match of the consolation bracket, the team did prevail over Conn. College on Saturday. This marked the second time the Jumbos and Camels faced off this season. While the match score was just 5-4 in favor of Tufts in their first meeting, Tufts won more decisively this time around, earning a 7-2 victory.

Sophomore Paiget Stanco won her match in the No. 1 position in three games, 12-10, 11-5, 11-8, junior co-captain Paige Dahlman won at the No. 2 spot in four games by a score of 11-8, 10-12, 11-7, 11-9, and junior co-captain Ann Bellinger won in the third position in three games, 11-4, 11-5, 11-5. In the No. 5 position, freshman Lynn Cheng won her match in four games, winning three straight after dropping the first game to her Conn. College counterpart. Senior Caroline Howe won in four games as well, playing in the No. 6 spot.

"Everybody stepped up and did really well," freshman Anna Bezahler said.

In their final match of the weekend against Colby, Dahlman won her match in the No. 2 position by a score of 11-9, 7-11, 12-10, 11-6. The other win for Tufts came from Bezahler in the fourth position. Bezahler won her match in five games by a score of 2-11, 11-3, 5-11, 11-8, 12-10.



CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY  
Junior Paige Dahlman sends a serve to senior Cassandre Burke of BC last week.

The rest of the team struggled against Colby. In the No. 1 position, Stanco fell in three games by a score of 11-9, 11-8, 11-3. Bellinger also had a hard time with her Colby opponent, losing in three games by a score of 11-5, 11-9, 13-11 in the No. 3 position.

"I thought we played as well as we could," Bezahler said. "But all the teams came out strong. Colby came out and put it all out [there] very quickly, and we tried our best but as a team couldn't pull it out."

Even though the result was not what Tufts had hoped for, there were bright spots from the Colby match, such as Bezahler's victory.

"One of our players, the No. 4 [Anna Bezahler], was down two to one, and then she ended up winning the game," freshman Lynn Cheng said. "[It] was very exciting for all of us."

The first match of the weekend for No. 10 seed Tufts came on Friday night in the first round of the tournament against seventh-seeded Bowdoin College. The Jumbos were defeated by a match score of 9-0. Stanco, who again played in the top position, had a grueling five-game match in which three of the games went to extra points. She fell to Bowdoin junior Rachel Barnes, 12-10, 12-14, 12-10, 9-11, 11-6.

Dahlman, Bellinger and Bezahler fell in three games apiece in the ensuing No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 matches, respectively. Cheng in the fifth position pushed her Bowdoin foe to four games, but ultimately lost, 9-11, 11-8, 11-3, 11-6.

"I thought as a team we played really well," Cheng said. "There were hard-fought matches, so as a team I don't think we were that disappointed."

The Jumbos continue the season on Feb. 4 at Northeastern before competing in the Div. III Individual Championships and the College Squash Association Team Championships later in the month. The team is extremely excited to compete and prove their talent.

"[I'm] looking forward to hopefully seeing some teams that we've lost to in the season and proving ourselves as a strong team that we are," Bezahler said. "[I'm also looking forward to] everybody just being on their A-game going into it with a lot of practices in the next couple weeks."

Tufts has a good reason to be enthusiastic about its chances heading into national competition, as the team has had competitive matches against teams seeded comparably in the national rankings.

"I think that's the last stretch where we can really prove ourselves," Cheng said.

## Jumbos earn second runner-up finish of season behind strong individual performances

## MEN'S TRACK

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two impressive top-10 finishes. Junior Brian Williamson edged out Swett in the shot-put, placing second with a throw of 51' 3", ensuring that Tufts claimed two of the top three spots in that event.

The long and triple jump witnessed two more fine performances, turned in by sophomore Bryson Hoover-Hankerson and freshman Jared Asselin. With a jump of 20' 9", Hoover-Hankerson placed fifth,

while Asselin finished in the same place in the triple jump with a jump of 42' 6".

Despite being so quick out of the gate as a unit, some members of the team still feel as though the lost presence of a talented crop of graduated seniors from last year's squad shorts them on respect.

"I think we're viewed as underdogs at this point in the season since we lost a lot of guys to graduation, but there's definitely some type of storm cooking up here at Tufts," Bhalla said.

Some others, however, see things a bit differently.

"It's great to see the team coming together as a cohesive unit, invested in each other's performances," senior Graham Beutler said. "We're headed to BU next weekend for a meet that's big both in size and importance. Tufts will be a presence in competition and in cheering. Most of us are focusing on competing in one event and looking for some great performances to gain momentum leading into [the Div. III championships]."

## Despite strong weekend, team still sees room for improvement

## WOMEN'S TRACK

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est competitor. Sophomore Marilyn Allen soon followed suit in the 60-meter hurdles, placing third in the finals by running over the barriers with a time of 9.31.

In the 200-meter dash, senior Anya Kaufmann and freshman Bianca Rescalvo scored valuable points for the Jumbos, as they took fifth and sixth with times of 27.13 and 27.70 seconds, respectively.

Freshman Hannah Loss picked up a few points for the Jumbos, running a solid 63.31 in the 400-meter dash to take fifth place. The Jumbos also scored a key victory in the 4x200-meter relay, winning the event with a fast time of 1:47.25.

The mid-distance and distance girls also had impressive days on the oval. Juniors Colleen Flanagan and Lauren Gormer took the top two spots in the 600-meter run to pick up 18 points for the Jumbos. Flanagan (1:40.90) just edged out Gormer (1:40.96) for the win. Senior Misha Patel and junior Isa Cuervo also placed in the top six in their event, running times of 2:21.60 and 2:22.05, respectively, to take third and fourth in the 800-meter run.

Sophomore Sydney Smith added eight more points to the score, running a time of 3:01.66 to take second in the 1,000-meter run. In the mile run, senior Laura Peterson (fifth, 5:09.50), sophomore Olivia Beltrani (sixth, 5:12.07), and senior Abby Barker (seventh, 5:13.12) used their "run together" strategy, that worked so well for their team during cross country season, to finish within three seconds of each other, allowing them to add more to their scoring tally.

In the 5,000-meter run, senior Lauren Creath used her cross-country running strength to pull her to a time of 18:40.63 and a fourth-place finish. At the end of the meet, the distance runners also combined together to take second in the 4x800-meter relay, running a solid early season time of 9:56.91.

Peterson elaborated on the goals of the distance runners on the season.

"We had a strong cross-country season, and we want to continue that success on the track," Peterson said. "There is also a lot of room for the mid-distance and longer distance girls to make up for key graduations last year."

Although the women's field event competitors did not notch many victories on

the day, they were still able to post enough solid results to contribute to the Jumbos' final tally.

Senior Kristen Roberts took fourth place in the high jump by leaping over the bar at a height of 5' 1/4". Freshman Keren Hendel grabbed third-place honors in the pole vault as she flew over the bar at 10' 10".

Junior Grace Demyan continued her solid season in the shot put and weight throw, as she was able to take third by heaving the ball 38' 3 1/2", and fourth in the weight throw by launching the weight 48' 3 1/2" away.

"I would give our performance at this meet a seven out of 10," Peterson said. "Although there were a lot of personal records set, MIT, our biggest competition at Div. III New Englands, definitely gave us a wake up call. There is still more room for improvement."

The Jumbos will next be competing in the BU Valentine Invitational, held at the Boston University Track and Tennis Center next weekend.

"It's still early in the season, but we have talent across the board and have already had some great performances," Hieber said. The girls on the team just need to focus on each role everyone plays."

## SAM GOLD | THE GOLD STANDARD

## One goal too quixotic



Ethical and other dilemmas run rampant within the NFL. The Super Bowl, however, perhaps given its stature as a de facto national holiday, annually proves impervious to them. A day-long reprieve from the crises relentlessly — but rightfully, to be sure — besieging commissioner Goodell and his cronies. The Super Bowl barely qualified as such this year and does not lend itself to being written about in a profound manner.

Thank goodness for Barcelona.

It surfaced recently that there was something rotten in the autonomous community of Catalonia. Murky details surrounding the transfer of Brazilian striker Neymar from his native club Santos to Barcelona, once thought to be an open-and-shut deal, purportedly prompted the resignation of club president Sandro Rosell.

In the not-too-distant past, Barcelona was struggling mightily to reconcile its populist model — nominally, its supporters own the team — with a balance sheet steeped in the red. Then came corporate sponsors, plans to remodel the Camp Nou, and the best player on the planet.

Joan Laporta has been hailed as the man responsible for the turnaround. In 2003, Laporta was voted by members to reinvigorate the club and rescue it from insolvency. His successor, Rosell, campaigned robustly to ensure himself victory, reminding voters that his stint as vice president was as integral to the turnaround as was Laporta's presidency. Rosell emerged victorious; who could deny his résumé.

Nearly two weeks ago, however, it all came crashing down. Rosell resigned amid threats to his family, replaced by Josep Maria Bartomeu, who was promoted to fill arguably the hottest seat in all of sports. Facing hostile cameras for the first time, Bartomeu parried a volley of questions, fired with ferocity atypical of a Barcelona press conference. By its conclusion, he had aged considerably. A blameless institution, a bastion of respectability, was coming undone at its seams.

In fairness, nobody knows exactly where the money has gone. Barcelona alleges that it has done nothing wrong, and that it paid 57 million for Neymar, though disparities in figures suggest otherwise. Santos, his former club, claim that it received only 17.1 million of that amount.

Transactions between two teams tend not to be just that when superstars, particularly those of little means, are involved; invested third parties and carpetbaggers view these as a gold mine and are thus inclined toward blackmail or some other lucrative modus operandi. Rosell conceded that, among other dubious dealings, Barcelona paid 40 million to such an entity: Neymar & Neymar. It also doled out substantial payments to minor brokers in exchange for promises that Neymar would go nowhere else.

Unexpectedly, the illumination of these maneuvers and their concomitant pitfalls has spawned a legal minefield, FIFA violations notwithstanding. The Spanish High Court has stepped into the ring, which should mire the club in controversy for the coming months; additional taxes or fines levied, or points docked, are not out of the question either.

That the world's most formidable roster demanded yet another significant upgrade indicates only a ravenous appetite for victory — and perhaps paranoia — on the part of Barcelona's upper management. That Barcelona has been cagey about the nature of its business relations reveals a darker secret that could well discredit the viability of a "mom-and-pop" style of management. Politicization and deceit now grip the whole of Catalan fandom, its darling prostrated by gross misconduct. Hardly anyone has forecast the end of one of the greatest sports dynasties of the modern era, though a protracted legal battle could do untold harm.

What follows, if severe enough, may necessitate an unprecedented restructuring of international club soccer.

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WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

## Hieber smashes school record, Jumbos take second at Stampede

BY CHRIS WARREN  
Daily Editorial Board

Although senior Jana Hieber did not compete on the same day as her nationally-ranked No. 23 team, she was still able to lead it to an impressive second place finish behind No. 2 MIT at the annual Tufts Stampede Invitational.

Hieber scored 3,622 points in the pentathlon on Friday, winning the event by over 400 points, smashing the former Tufts record and achieving the fourth-best all-time score in Div. III history. Of her five events, Hieber won four of them. In her fifth and final event, the 800-meter dash, she was still able to manage a second-place finish to lock up the victory.

"My goal was to get a good overall score and work on each individual event," Hieber said. "Since the pentathlon is such a taxing event on the body, I use the meet as an opportunity to qualify for nationals very early in the season, so I can be fresher as the season goes on."

Although Hieber did post an impressive score, she is still hungry for more.

"I definitely need to work on my shot put and long jump techniques," Hieber said. "Those weren't my best marks, but I know I can improve."

The rest of the Jumbo squad got started on Saturday. The sprinters had an impressive day against many top-ranked runners and teams. Sophomore Alexis Harrison got the day started with a win in the 60-meter dash, finishing in 7.98 seconds, just 0.02 seconds faster than her next clos-



VIRGINIA BLEDSOE / THE TUFTS DAILY ARCHIVES

see **WOMEN'S TRACK**, page 11

Senior Jana Hieber led her team to a second place finish at the Stampede Invitational by recording the fourth-highest Div. III score for the pentathlon.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

## Home-field advantage sees Tufts through to second place

BY SAM GOLD  
Daily Editorial Board

Having already notched a first and second-place finish this season, Tufts hosted a two-day competition in the Gantcher Center, beginning Friday and concluding late Saturday morning.

The team's consistency, which dates back to last spring's

NESCAC championship and nationals performances, has been its hallmark. The Jumbos have picked up right where they left off, and this meet was no exception.

Friday kicked off with the heptathlon, in which sophomore Alex Karys and senior Andrew Osborne took second and third, respectively. Osborne finished a mere six

points behind Karys, who won both the long jump and the shot put. Karys's tally of 4,075 points, most of which came from field events, is a personal best.

Also competing in the event for the Jumbos were freshmen Nicholas Usoff and Dan Camilletti and junior Allan Yau. Yau emerged atop the latter group, finishing with 3,832

points, while Usoff finished with 3,334 and Camilletti with 2,777.

The remainder of the festivities commenced Saturday morning, which bore witness to numerous personal bests, a couple of national qualifiers and a slew of top-five finishes.

At the end of the day, Tufts accumulated 117 points, more than 100 points off of MIT's meet-leading 257. Still, MIT's dominance failed to overshadow Tufts' stellar individual performances as well as its solid team effort.

Sophomore Mitchell Black, who has burst onto the scene as a rookie, added to his illustrious resume with the fastest NCAA Div. III 800-meter time in the nation thus far this season. His time doubled as a school record, as Black surpassed the mark previously established by Jeff Marvel (LA '13) in 2012. He crossed the line over two seconds before his nearest challenger with a time of 1:51.14, and although his time was augmented because it was recorded on a flat indoor track, Black will almost certainly qualify for the NCAA Championships.

Veer Bhalla, a classmate of Black's, also performed well in the 800, placing third in an indoor personal-best time of 1:54.92, which landed him alongside Black among the top 10 times in the nation.

"Personally, I was surprised with my race on Saturday," Bhalla said. "I didn't think I could hit that time this early in the season. I'm pretty pumped about that, and I'm looking to back it up with a 1:53 low at BU this weekend hopefully."

Sophomore Francis Goins was the lone Tufts runner to finish in the top ten in a packed field in the 400-meter dash, crossing the line in a time of 50.95, which was good enough for a personal best. Senior Max Levitin also recorded a personal best, 53.94, which got him 13th place overall.

Not to be outdone, Tufts' distance runners continued the impressive streak of performances on the track. Junior Marshall Pagano clocked a time of 8:48.18 to finish second in the 3,000-meter run, and he was joined in the top-five by freshman Luke O'Connor, who posted a time of 8:50.65 to continue a promising rookie season.

Tufts fared well in the mile, too, as senior Ben Wallis and sophomore James Traester took fourth and fifth, respectively.

In the field events, sophomore Atticus Swett placed fifth in the weight throw with a heave of 49' 2 1/2". In the shot put, his toss of 47' 3/4" earned him a third-place finish, as he ended his day with



SOFIA ADAMS / THE TUFTS DAILY

Sophomore Mitchell Black proved his strong freshman year on the track was no fluke, recording the fastest 800-meter time in Div. III this year at the Stampede Invitational.

see **MEN'S TRACK**, page 11