

Transcript for *Activism on the Hill*, "Introduction"

Hosts: Chae Chun, Rachel Klein, Basile Moreau, Kelsey Narvaez

00:00 **Kelsey:** Hello, you are listening to the first episode of "Activism on the Hill", a podcast about student activism at Tufts University.

**Chae:** We are Chae,

**Kelsey:** Kelsey,

**Rachel:** Rachel,

**Basile:** and Basile.

00:11 **Chae:** We're a group of seniors at Tufts University doing an inside look at activism on campus, and this podcast is our senior capstone project as part of the Tisch Scholars program.

00:20 **Chae:** So does everybody want to introduce themselves?

**Basile:** Yea, so my name is Basile. I study international relations and I use the he pronouns.

**Kelsey:** Hey, I'm Kelsey. I also study international relations and I use the she series pronouns.

**Rachel:** I'm Rachel. I study religion and environmental studies and I use the she pronouns.

**Chae:** And I'm Chae and I study political science and I use the she series pronouns.

00:46 **Rachel:** So, the goal of this podcast is to collect experience and advice from Tufts activists. We hope that our podcast will serve as a conversation starter about activism among current and future activists here at Tufts or elsewhere and promote a space for reflection.

01:02 **Basile:** This project originally started because of the conversation that we had about the influence of student movements on campus, mostly what happens to them when these activists graduate. What we noticed is that movements are often forgotten when students graduate or the campaign ends.

01:20 **Kelsey:** For example, the year before we started at Tufts, there was a big movement called the Three Percent, which addressed the fact that only 3% of the Tufts student body and faculty were black. When we were freshman, Abolish Greek Life was a big movement. We heard about this from upperclassmen. But even within our four years, it seems like younger students have no idea what these movements were or that they even existed. Greek life is thriving at Tufts and the school is only about 4% black.

01:45 **Basile:** So we began to think about the ways in which we can strengthen institutional memory and continue to pass down the legacies of these movements and the work that goes into them. We're trying to gain insight and reflection to what activism is really like here on campus. We want this podcast to be a toolkit and a source of knowledge for activists and non-activists alike.

02:06 **Basile:** So we were asking questions along the lines of "How do student activists balance their activism work and school?" "What goes into organizing an action?" "What have been your

biggest challenges as activists?" We often know the faces of the movements, but we don't always know the labor that goes behind them.

02:26 **Chae:** So I think as Basile was saying, we wanted to learn more about people's experiences and we also wanted to try to answer these questions, so we interviewed activists from different groups and movements across campus. Throughout the podcast you'll hear voices from United for Immigrant Justice (UIJ), The Tufts Dining Action Coalition (TDAC), Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Tufts Climate Action, and the Tufts Sunrise Movement.

02:52 **Rachel:** But before we let you get into the podcast, we just want to acknowledge that our project is limited and imperfect. This group of student activists is not representative of all student activists or student movements at Tufts. These are just a few voices out of many. We recognize that our podcast can't encompass the diversity of commitment to social change among the Tufts student body and the wider Tufts community.

03:15 **Kelsey:** To be honest, we're all busy, over-committed seniors with a very limited timeframe and we definitely don't know everyone on the Tufts campus. A lot of the activists that we did know graduated.

03: 26 **Chae:** So while we are the creators of this podcast, we definitely are not experts on activism and this podcast definitely should not be representative of all the student activism on this campus. I think making this whole podcast has been a journey but then also a learning experience for all of us.

03:42 **Rachel:** And with that, we present [**All:**] "Activism on the Hill."