

Parents News

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS OF TUFTS UNDERGRUATES

The
Parents
Program
AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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From the Committee

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Sports Highlights

Jumbo athletes have an impressive season—with an NCAA championship and a tournament berth.



SAVE THE DATE:

Parents
Weekend
2008

October 17-19

"Leaders for a
Changing World"

Parents Weekend

October 17–19, 2008

... is the same weekend as the Head of the Charles. Be sure to book your hotel room early. Visit parentsprogram.tufts.edu for area hotels.

The Parents Program

AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Spring 2008

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E-MAIL UPDATES

We send regular e-mail updates from our office, providing highlights from campus, parents' reception events, as well as important messages.

If you're not on our list, please e-mail us at parentsprogram@tufts.edu or visit our website and click on "join our mailing list."

Dear Parents,

In just a month, I'll be attending my third graduation ceremony at Tufts. The first was my own, in 1971. Then came my son's in 2005, and now it's my daughter's turn. And as I watch her receive her diploma, I'll likely be thinking about all the changes that have taken place at Tufts over the years, of how proud I was of my alma mater in 1971, and how proud I remain today.

Even though the campus barely resembles what I remember, what distinguished Tufts then as now was the quality of the teaching and the experience we had as students. I have watched Tufts evolve over the years—first from the sidelines as an alumna, and more recently as an active parent. The transformation has been nothing less than remarkable, and it's a testament to the strong support from alumni and parents over the years who honor their Tufts experience with their own gifts.

My first contribution to Tufts was just \$10, and I have given steadily ever since—adding a few zeros along the way. Although there's still no building named for me, I know that my gifts—no matter what the amount—make a difference. So even though my own children will no longer be the beneficiaries, I will continue to support Tufts so that others can enjoy the same extraordinary educational opportunities that our family has benefited from over the years. I hope you will join me in that support.

If your child will be returning to campus next year, I encourage you to attend Parents Weekend, October 17–19, 2008. The theme is "Leaders for a Changing World." It's an experience I will truly miss. And if your student, like mine, will be graduating this spring, I send my congratulations and hope to see you on the Hill. I'll be the one with multiple tissues—just in case.

With warm regards,



Susan Rothstein

Susan Rothstein, J71, EO5P, A08P
Chair, Parents Committee



Travel-Learn Program

For many golfers, visiting St. Andrews is a trip of a lifetime. You are invited to join the Tufts Travel-Learn Program for a unique six-night journey that provides dual itineraries for golfers and non-golfers. The date of this trip is tentative due to the procedure to obtain tee times on the St. Andrews Old Course, but is currently scheduled for the latter part of May 2009. Registrants will be promptly updated regarding changes that may be required. Space is limited! Book by July 14, 2008 for savings. All reservations must be received no later than August 11, 2008. For additional information and reservations, please contact the Tufts representative at Pioneer Golf, Peter Hazelton, at 800-262-5725, or call Usha N. Sellers, Travel-Learn Program director at 1-800-THE-ALUM (843-2586). Please visit our website at www.tufts.edu/alumni/ed-travel-learn.html for more information.

Engineers' Need for Speed

School of Engineering Gets Leaders on the Fast Track



Tim Boire, E08

Reaction Jackson

Tim Boire has good chemistry with Tufts

Chemical and biological engineering student Tim Boire, E08, hit his stride his senior year. As the vice president of the Tufts student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), Boire has been working on his senior project to create a methanol-fueled mini racer while keeping a hand in research, volunteering, and sports. When he arrived at Tufts, Boire said he thought he might follow the pre-med track, but the Chemical and Biological Engineering Department seemed the best

blend of his interests. "I like the life-sciences aspect of chemical and biological engineering," he said.

Boire's interest in natural sciences is reflected in his research projects. Last spring, he tested the effects of fluid flow on abdominal aortic aneurysms. His experience in cell culture opened up a summer internship opportunity with Genzyme Pharmaceuticals working on chronic lymphocytic leukemia. This spring he's been researching metabolic engineering and bioreactor design for growing liver cells.

"These projects have really contributed to my intellectual development," said Boire, who added that these kinds of challenges, including creating a chemically powered car for the AIChE, make him realize that the effort is worth it. "The more you put into it, the more you get out of it," he said.

Outside of engineering, Boire keeps ties to the Tufts community through sports like his intramural basketball team. Through Tufts' Leonard Carmichael Society, he has also volunteered at local homeless shelters and participated in the Tufts disaster relief trip to New Orleans. "I'm open to different things, and certainly Tufts is the perfect place for that."

Alternative Energy Fuels Liberatore's engineering inspiration

Speed racer Matt Liberatore gears up for senior year

Mechanical engineering major Matt Liberatore, E09, got into engineering at the bookstore, but not because he thumbed through the required reading for freshman engineers. "I picked up a copy of this magazine called

Grassroots Motor Sports. I thought, 'Wow, if I do engineering, I could do this,'" Liberatore said. Since then, Liberatore has been racing along in his Tufts career with his ultimate goal of having a fully operational electric Formula 1-style race car.

Liberatore's parents have provided encouragement and some seed money to the Tufts Hybrid Racing team to see the project become a reality. Though Liberatore said his dad's not big into the car scene, he and his father are die-hard motorcycle enthusiasts who like to race courses in open track days for amateur enthusiasts. Liberatore says the team is on track to race next spring, putting the team in pole position to transition their electric car to a true electric-gasoline hybrid for underclassmen continuing the project the following year.

The project has also gotten Liberatore interested in renewable energy. "The major crisis of my generation is what we're going to do about energy," he said. "Racing improves the breed—it's the drive of performance to squeeze the most out of the technology." Liberatore said he'd like to find the time to get involved with the other energy groups on campus, but racing, fraternity events in Sigma Phi Epsilon, tae kwon do, and club hockey all seem to take up the rest of his time.

Fortunately for Liberatore, one of the main reasons he chose Tufts was the flexibility. "I liked that it was possible to easily switch from liberal arts to engineering," he said. As a freshman, he took courses in modern history before his bookstore epiphany. Because of the close connection between the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering, Liberatore decided to keep his interest in history alive, completing courses in the summer to earn a double major.

"I've been able to mold my Tufts experience to the way I want it to be," he said.

Profiles by Julia C. Keller, communications specialist, School of Engineering



Matt Liberatore, E09

Health Matters

Health Careers Fellows Pursue Medical Field...with Support from Tufts



"I found people with similar dreams and ambitions, which was so different coming from rural New Mexico."

—Camille Peterson

When Camille Peterson began looking at colleges, she didn't realize that Tufts was in Massachusetts. She didn't know much about colleges at all—she is the first person in her family to leave New Mexico to attend school—but she applied when she learned about the university's strong science programs. Peterson will graduate in May with a degree in biochemistry and head to the University of California, San Francisco, to pursue a PhD in biochemistry and possibly a degree in dental medicine. She is also part of the Health Careers Fellows (HCF) program, a select group of approximately 50 students who are strong in science and math, are planning a health career, and have overcome economic or educational disadvantages.

"Tufts is a perfect fit," Peterson said. The Bolivian native spent her junior year studying at Oxford as part of a highly select group of Tufts students. And she has amassed an impressive number of awards, including the Audrey Butvay Gruss Science Award; the Thomas Harrison Carmichael and Emily Leonard Carmichael Prize Scholarship; the R. M. Karapetoff Cobb Chemistry Fund Award; and the Max Tishler Prize Scholarship.

"I loved being forced into a liberal arts education. I found people with similar dreams and ambitions, which was so different coming from rural New Mexico," she said. Peterson is also a head tutor in the Academic Resource Center.

According to Edith Balbach, senior lecturer and director, Community Health Department Program, approximately 15 students each year are selected to be Fellows. The program began in 1999 with support from the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), and was administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, a department of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said Balbach, who was the undergraduate director of the program for its first eight years.

According to Jim Glaser, dean of Undergraduate Education, "The proof of its success is that large percentages of these students have successfully gone off to medical and public health graduate programs."

Carol Baffi-Dugan, associate dean, Undergraduate Education and program director for Health Professions Advising and the administrator of HCF, said that this is one way that Tufts demonstrates its commitment to helping disadvantaged students. "These are students who come from schools where there weren't many AP classes and they are succeeding now. We are trying to level the playing field," Baffi-Dugan said.

Students are invited after their files are reviewed and they indicate the student has significant financial aid and an interest in a health career, she said.

Johana Oviedo, a senior, was born in Colombia and came to the U.S. with her mother when she was nine. Today, the community health and biology major is the first person in her family to attend college—and after taking a year off, she'll apply to medical school. She is also a recipient of the Audrey Butvay Gruss Science Award and the Audrey L. Hale Award and, like Peterson, spent her junior year at Oxford.

As a Health Career Fellow, Oviedo took advantage of the one-to-one tutoring and is now a head biology tutor.

"I love Tufts," Oviedo said. "The university does a great job of instilling the importance of community service and active citizenship.

"The professors are so passionate about what they're teaching. Growing up, I lived without health insurance. Now it's rewarding to study the theoretical and practical implications of not having insurance. I hope to be more involved with this in the future," she said.



Johana Oviedo, A08, holding a young patient in the Dominican Republic with Tufts' Timmy Foundation.

Tutoring Young Neighbors

Tufts Students Help Create Success Stories

“It’s easy for these students to feel forgotten. It’s nice to show them that someone cares about their progress.”

—Matt Cohen

Senior Matt Cohen was determined to make a difference in the communities surrounding Tufts. Focused on helping immigrant Somerville High School students navigate the college application process, he enlisted a group of Tufts students for one-to-one tutoring sessions. The program began in fall of 2007 with eight Tufts and eight high school students; it has since grown to 20 tutors for 20 middle and high school students who get help doing homework, preparing for standardized Massachusetts exams they must pass to graduate, writing college essays, and completing financial aid forms. Cohen, a psychology major, was

recently recognized as a “Hero Among Us,” before 18,000 Boston Celtics fans, and at a 2008 Hillel summit in Washington, D.C. as a Philip H. and Susan Rudd Cohen Student Exemplar of Excellence Award winner.

Cohen cited Hillel’s Moral Voices, an initiative that examines responsibility in the face of human rights violations, as an inspiration. “It’s based on the philosophy of *tikkun olam* (a Hebrew phrase that means repairing the world). Hillel has been so helpful in getting this off the ground,” he said, but stressed that the effort was nonsecular.

“It’s easy for these students to feel forgotten. It’s nice to show them that someone cares about their progress,” he said. “English

is a second language for all of them. Most of the students come from El Salvador, and some are from Haiti and Brazil.” He noted that the students commit to going at least once a week for one hour to the Union Square facility, which lacks heat and electricity in several places.

Steven Cohen, Education Department lecturer, put Cohen in touch with Centro Presente, an organization dedicated to self-sufficiency for Central American immigrants.

Justin Oldfield, a senior and fellow tutor, who



Tufts students (l-r) Mike Brunnuell, A08, Matt Cohen, A08 (seated), and Lori Lichtman, A10.

nominated Cohen for the “Heroes Among Us” award, said that he was part of a larger group that brainstormed ways of helping, but that Cohen took control and spearheaded the program.

“With Moral Voices, there was a focus on economic injustice, but with this program, we wanted to do something sustainable,” Oldfield said.

Jennie Dougherty, who works as a middle school teacher’s assistant and volunteers at Centro as a coordinator for the after-school programs, stated that “the Tufts students are wonderful. The high school students have changed their mindsets of what is expected of them. They have so many obstacles,” Dougherty explained, pointing out that most parents work two jobs to support their families, don’t speak English, and don’t know how to approach teachers and administrators for support. “What I love about the Tufts students is they’re approachable. They don’t mind being goofy, which is so necessary for middle school kids,” Dougherty said.

Senior Dara Kanowitz, an architectural studies and art history major, noted that many students are related in some way, so if something happens, everyone is impacted.

Harsha Dronamraju, a senior majoring in economics, noted the influence her parents had on her education. “I can’t imagine how difficult it would be to have parents who didn’t speak the language or come from a school system that didn’t provide a strong network,” she said.

“College is such a big predictor of success,” Cohen said. “I would hate to have kids not go because they couldn’t get help.”



Matt Cohen, A08, accepting the “Heroes Among Us” award, with Joe Johnson of the Atlanta Hawks and Paul Pierce of the Boston Celtics.

Getting R.E.A.L.

Older Students Pursue a Different Road to Education

Most of Tufts' students arrive as teenagers, after taking the most difficult classes, performing hundreds of hours of extracurricular activities, and studying and scoring highly on standardized tests. However, some undergraduates have carved out a different path, beginning their college education in their mid-twenties through their forties. The Tufts Resumed Education for Adult Learners (R.E.A.L.) program was established in 1970 as a way to help women who had their education interrupted; in 1976 the program was broadened to accept men. Today, the program is open to adults at least 25 years old who are seeking a bachelor's degree and who have had some college experience.

Diego Villalobos, A08, for example, went on a "voyage of self-discovery," he said. He worked on indigenous research with the national health department in his native Costa Rica before buying a one-way ticket to Colombia, hoping to take a bus further south, when he found himself stranded for eight months without money.

"It was a turning point in my life. I became more political and interested in human relations," he said.

He attended the University of Colorado at Boulder before transferring to Tufts, where R.E.A.L. program dean Jean Herbert found him in a transfer orientation group.

Diego Villalobos, A08, right, with a volunteer, in Nicaragua with the BUILD trip (a Tisch College and IGL-supported program).

"The most important thing was not feeling alone. There was a group of us who met weekly and talked about the challenges we faced," he said.

Villalobos is an anthropology major, but is busy collecting minors in Latino studies and economics. He is also a Tisch College Scholar, working with the local arts council to create a mural project along the Mystic River with youth groups, and runs a sustainable development group through the Institute for Global Leadership. He was recently named a recipient of the Presidential Award for Citizenship and Public Service.

According to Dean Herbert, R.E.A.L. students are often the first in their families to go to college. Most of the students have community college experience, and there is a rigorous interview process.

Matt Weiser, A09, graduated high school in 1999 and began working for the post office before joining the army and becoming a ranger. After getting a medical discharge, Weiser talked to Herbert about the program and started as a full-time student in 2006.

"Tufts has really been there to help all the time. Connecting with other students was important, because there was a sense of community," he said. Weiser is a math major and will pursue a PhD in the subject.

Erik Erkenbrack, A08, didn't think about going to college after high school, so he began working for a hotel. "Then, something clicked," he said. He started attending a local college in Minnesota, before applying to several schools.

For Dean Herbert, the benefits gained by this program are "almost incomprehensible."

"It's not just the degree, but the knowledge gained," she said.



Erik Erkenbrack, A08



Matt Weiser, A09



Profiles in Excellence

Extraordinary Students Create Legacies

“Mark is an example to us all of a very special human being who, through courage and perseverance and love of life, reaches for and attains excellence.”

—Gloria Ascher



Mark Leekoff, A08

Mark Leekoff, who is poised to graduate this May with a degree in biology and is hoping to attend medical school in the fall, sees himself as an ear, nose, and throat physician—keeping a promise he made to himself to help others cope with hearing loss. Born deaf, Leekoff had a cochlear implant fitted when he was four, a surgically implanted electronic device that collects sound waves through a microphone. Even with the implant, some lectures can be challenging.

“Some professors talk very fast and I missed half the information while taking notes,” Leekoff said. The university’s Academic Resource Center helped Leekoff, providing a stenographer who typed notes for him during large classes. Despite the extra effort required, Leekoff has made Dean’s List every semester and is the recipient of several awards, including the Alexander Graham Bell 75 Stars Award, the Alexander Graham Bell

Scholarship, the Cochlear Americas Graeme Clark Scholarship, and the Optimist Club Oratorical Contest. He is also an organic chemistry tutor and a Biology 14 lab teaching assistant.

“Biology is definitely a challenging major,” Leekoff said. “Harry Bernheim (associate professor of biology) has always been very receptive of my needs. There’s a great support system here.”

“I have nothing but profound admiration for him,” Bernheim said. “The academic record he has attained would be admirable for any student, but when you consider the extra work he has to do in order to get the information

mastered for each and every lecture it is truly awe inspiring.”

Gloria Ascher, associate professor of German studies and co-director of Judaic studies, said that “Mark is an example to us all of a very special human being who, through courage and perseverance and love of life, reaches for and attains excellence. He has both taught me about his deafness and made me forget it! It certainly affects but does not define his life.”



Kelsey Ettman, A09, presenting her costume designs during Parents Weekend.

Kelsey Ettman

Chemistry and costume design seem an unlikely pairing, but for Kelsey Ettman, A09, there was an unmistakable connection. Ettman intended to major in chemistry but “fell in love with constructing clothes.”

“I had acted in high school and so I auditioned for a show at Tufts that I was really interested in working on. I didn’t get a part so I e-mailed the director to find out if I could help in some way. She said they needed a costume designer, so I agreed to do it. I loved it, even though it was the hardest thing I had ever done before. But I’ve found that I love the same thing about costume design that I loved about chemistry, thinking up something totally new and making it happen,” Ettman said. She stuck with costume design because of its interdisciplinary nature—she researches what and why people were wearing during different times.

“I research politics, economics, sociology, and then I use a base of information to create art,” she said.

Ettman was a Summer Scholar, a university-wide initiative that offers research apprenticeships with faculty/clinical mentors to motivated Tufts undergraduates, and was also awarded the Schwartz-Paddock fellowship, a new scholarship for students doing research in the arts.

“It allowed me to continue my summer project through the year and beyond what I would have been able to do as merely a Summer Scholar,” Ettman said.

Sports Highlights

Jumbo Athletes Have Impressive Season



Kendall Swett, A09

It was a banner winter for Tufts sports teams.

Diver Kendall Swett, A09, **Women's Swimming & Diving**, won NCAA Championships off both the 1-meter and 3-meter boards. She finished her career with three NCAA titles.

On the same weekend in March, the **Women's Track** team's distance medley relay of Stephanie McNamara, A11, Kaleigh Fitzpatrick, A08, Katy O'Brien, E08, and Catherine Beck, A08, were also best in the country, winning the NCAA title with a 11:46.79 time, leading the team to a sixth-place national finish.

After earning its first NCAA Tournament berth, the **Women's Basketball** team made an unprecedented run to the national quarterfinals and finished with a 26-4 record. Senior Khalilah Ummah was the Conference Player of the Year.

Senior triple jumper Dan Marcy from **Men's Track & Field** was an NCAA runner-up in the event with a 48' 4 1/2" leap.

Men's diver Rob Matera, A10, **Men's Swimming & Diving**, was an honorable mention All-American in the 1-meter and 3-meter competitions.

Men's Squash lost in the final of the Summers Division at the College Squash Association team championships and finished with a 10-8 record.

Women's Squash (9-12) qualified for the Kurtz Division, the second tier at the national team championships.

In **Women's Fencing**, the epee team took first at the New England Championships.

Senior Jake Weitzen finished his **Men's Basketball** career with 1,440 points, seventh on the team's all-time list.

Men's Hockey goalie James Kalec, A08, became the new Tufts record holder for career saves with 2,166.

Written by Paul Sweeney, Director of Sports Information

