

Trailblazers: Our 2008 Truman Scholars

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—Sofia Nelson, A09



“We need to recognize similarities in a world where so much divides us. And young people are the catalyst for change.”

—Jennifer Bailey, A09

Parents News

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS OF TUFTS UNDERGRADUATES

The
Parents
Program
AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY



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Helping students look for jobs every step of the way

Save the Date
**Commencement
will be held on
Sunday,
May 17, 2009**

**It's not too early
to make reservations.**

**See parentsprogram.tufts.edu
for a list of area hotels.**

2009
Parents Weekend
will be October 16–18

The Parents Program

AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Fall 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,

The Parents Program welcomes you to the Tufts family. New, as well as returning, parents can use the program as a resource to answer those vexing parental questions and as an entry point to gain access to the wide spectrum of the entire Tufts community.

Your son or daughter is experiencing a thriving and flourishing university. Tufts combines academic excellence with a genuine, supportive environment. There has been no greater gratification for us as parents than to see our son so thoroughly enjoy his undergraduate education—both intellectually and socially.

Tufts will provide leaders who not only understand the challenges of a rapidly changing world, but also will meet and exceed those challenges. Through world-class programs in the life sciences, engineering, and active citizenship, Tufts and its graduates will make a difference for the better now and in times to come. This is a cause that merits our support. Just as we surely believe that Tufts has done much for our son, so too can we reciprocate in our support for Tufts. We hope you will join with us in that effort, and we look



forward to meeting many of you over the course of this academic year.

Best Wishes,

Paul Stanzler, A09P

Marjorie Cohen Stanzler, J73, A09P

Co-Chairs of the Parents Committee

United They Meet

Tufts President's Marathon Challenge Is a Team Effort

Despite the training sessions held during Boston's bitter winters, the muscle cramps, frazzled nerves, and stress fractures, 200 Tufts students, faculty, staff, parents, and friends run the 26.2-mile Boston Marathon each year to support nutrition, medical, and fitness programs at the University. The President's Marathon Challenge (PMC) is the largest known collegiate marathon program in the United States. During the 2008 marathon season, the team raised \$428,814 and since its inception in 2003, the PMC has raised \$1,923,977.

Don Megerle, who began coaching runners after 34 years coaching the men's swim team, said his association with the runners is "pure joy!"

"All the lessons I learned from training our successful swimmers have been applied to the runners. The entire Tufts community has embraced the PMC, making everyone feel that they belong to something very special," he said.

President Bacow, who ran the marathon four times, challenged the Class of 2012 during his Matriculation address to join the team. "If you really want to test yourself, if you really want to learn the true meaning of mental discipline, preparation, determination, and teamwork, join our team," he said.

To learn more about the PMC, please visit <http://www.tuftsmarathon-challenge.com/about.html>.



Meet Our Scholars

Two Tufts Students Named 2008 Truman Scholars

Sofia Nelson developed a policy proposal that would encourage homeless shelters to be transgender friendly, stating that one in five transgender people are at risk for homelessness. Jennifer Bailey, also a senior, used her experience in a summer internship with the Interfaith Youth Core in Chicago to create a policy proposal that would have racially segregated youths perform community service hours together to promote diversity. Last May they were named 2008 Truman Scholars for their proposals, considered the most prestigious award given to undergraduates. They joined 63 other juniors from 55 colleges and universities around the country. Each scholar receives up to \$30,000 for graduate study.

Calling it the “Rhodes Scholarship of leadership and public service,” Dean of Undergraduate Education James Glaser said the Truman Scholarship is a very prestigious award that emphasizes qualities many Tufts students see as important.

Nelson, a political science and women’s studies major, is advocating for the creation of resources to fund things like gender-neutral bathrooms and privacy stall doors in some shelters to protect the transgender population. “I wouldn’t want to force shelters into doing something they didn’t want to do,” Nelson said. “Ideally, though, there would be a shelter available in every city that could accommodate transgender people.”

Nelson is also looking at broader transgender issues, like impacting states’ legislation to offer job protection. Ultimately, she would like to see a federal bill passed.

“We are sending young people out into a global workforce. People no longer have the comfort of growing up in an exclusive environment,” she said.

Nelson credits Tufts’ Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center (LGBTC) as being instrumental in helping her shape her policy proposal and her professors for giving her the space to research. “The professors are excited and willing to let me do my own thing,” she said.

“Sofia has been a very vigorous advocate of LGBT issues on campus and externally. She’s also a force to be reckoned with,” Glaser said.

Jennifer Bailey, a political science major, will use her Truman platform to promote mutual understanding among racially and economically diverse groups. She cites the resegregation of American schools—notably in her hometown of Chicago—and her involvement with the interfaith movement, as inspirations for her research in identity formation and leadership development in racial, ethnic, and religious minority youth in the West.

Noting that there is a 40-hour requirement for public service for graduation from Chicago’s schools, Bailey “would love to get racially disparate groups to do their service hours together.



“Jen Bailey is a very exciting and enthusiastic bridge builder who is going to make a very big difference one day. . . [Sofia] Nelson has been a very vigorous advocate of LGBT issues on campus and externally. She’s also a force to be reckoned with.”

—James Glaser, Dean of Undergraduate Education,
Tufts University

“Ideally, blacks and Latinos would approach their service hours together and then take related classes,” she said.

Bailey sees her work with the Interfaith Youth Core, an organization that brings students of different faiths and backgrounds together so they can see their similarities, as a model for what needs to happen in a broader way. “This is a huge issue, especially since America has become more diverse,” she said.

“We either choose to engage or just live. Diversity in America is now an inescapable reality and if we don’t actively engage, resentment builds up,” Bailey said. “We need to recognize similarities in a world where so much divides us. And young people are the catalyst for change.”

“Tufts has so much to offer,” Nelson said. “The university recognizes the importance of an academic lens.”

Bailey concurred. “Tufts empowered us by giving us the opportunity and tool kits to change the world for the better. The big challenge will be applying this to another setting.”

“Jen Bailey is a very exciting and enthusiastic bridge builder who is going to make a very big difference one day,” Glaser said.

Engineering a Future

Senior Chemical Engineering Major Nick Horelik Thrives on a Diverse Range of Opportunities

Senior chemical engineering major Nick Horelik, who spent this summer blending science with policy in Washington, D.C., thrives on a diverse range of opportunities.

In the world of an engineering student, specializing is often the path to success. For

Effects on the Industry,” to a group assembled in the House Science Committee Room, according to a report in his hometown paper, the *Northborough Community Advocate*.

While in D.C., Horelik also made the rounds of many government offices and agencies, meeting with several scientists and legislative officials to get a sense of the interplay between research and policy in the nation’s capital.

“We would meet with a lot of lobbyists, a lot of whom were former engineers for ExxonMobil and now are lobbyists,” recalled Horelik. “They would always try to tell us, ‘Lobbying gets such a bad name, but we’re not evil. There are some evil guys out there, but we’re not.’ They’d tell us what they do and I thought it was very interesting.”

His summer internship even had some unexpected results, sparking a new interest for Horelik in nuclear power.

“It really opened my eyes to nuclear. We met with one of the commissioners of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission . . . and he was talking about how there are nine new applications for nuclear power plants in this country. It just kind of made me think: maybe I want to do nuclear engineering,” he said.

Horelik has taken full advantage of the different ways students at Tufts can explore their interests. During the summer of 2007, Horelik participated in Tufts’ Summer Scholars program, doing laboratory research with Assistant Professor Hyunmin Yi on bonding the tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) to gold plates for uses in nanotechnology. He is planning his senior thesis around his work in Yi’s lab.

“In the chemical engineering department, we’re a very small class, and there are a lot of professors, so if you want research you can find at least several professors who have openings. So it was very, very easy to find research, which helped a lot,” he said.

Now he’s preparing himself for wherever his career might take him, whether it’s back to Washington or somewhere further afield.

“I want to go to China for a year,” he said. “I’m told that the future of chemical engineering is in Asia.”



Professor Hyunmin Yi (left) and Nick Horelik (right) examine microfabricated gold patterns. These small chips serve as surface assembly platforms for tobacco mosaic virus-based nanotemplates toward functional nanodevice fabrication.

Nick Horelik, E’09, however, variety could not be more important.

This past summer, the chemical engineering major and Chinese minor looked to complement his research background with some policy-making experience. He participated in the Washington Internships for Students of Engineering (WISE) through the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). Horelik was one of three AIChE interns selected for the WISE program, and one of only 11 total WISE participants.

“There are two goals of the internship,” he said. “One is to write a 50-page policy argument paper. The other one, and this is more important, is just to learn the system—learn how Congress works, how bills are written, and how science and technology get injected into how bills are written.”

During his internship, Horelik focused on the intersection of public policy and the biofuel industry, which holds a special interest since he would like to work one day in the field of cleaner fuel technology. He presented his findings, entitled “Biofuels in the United States Transportation Sector: Public Policy and Its

“In the chemical engineering department, we’re a very small class, and there are a lot of professors. . . so it was very, very easy to find research. . .”

—Nick Horelik

Photograph by Kristen Barrett

Help Wanted

Career Services Helps Students Every Step of the Way

For the approximately 1,200 students who will graduate next May, the “real world” looms and discussions about finding a job—never mind the perfect job—might seem more daunting than ever. Career Services staff understand students’ anxiety and are available to coach students through all stages of their career development—from exploring majors to researching careers to looking for a job or internship to applying to grad school.

“We think it’s important to have parents involved at the very beginning. Parents can empower their students by showing confidence in them and engaging in communication without pressure,” said Donna Milmore, Assistant Director of Career Services. “Students benefit from their parents supporting their choice of major and encouraging them to explore career options.”

According to Jean Papalia, Director of Career Services, many employers seek out liberal arts majors for their well-roundedness. Papalia said that parents can help by encouraging their child to visit Career Services as early as freshman year. “The earlier students start to explore different options, the more informed career decisions they will make later on.”

Career Services makes every effort to reach students in ways that the students prefer. Cognizant of students’ busy lives, Career Services created brief online workshops to provide basic

job-search information 24 hours a day. These online workshops cover topics such as writing résumés, interviewing skills, and searching for internships. Need individual help? Career counselors are available to students in a variety of ways, including drop-ins, “quick questions,” and hour long appointments. Students can also easily access job and internship postings through an online database.

“We ask students about their interests and strengths and we discuss how those interests and skills relate to the world of work. We get to know the student and help them market their skills through cover letters and résumés,” Milmore said. The career planning process is what Milmore referred to as a four-step one: assessment, exploration, experience, and decision making. Talking to people about their own careers—including parents—is part of the exploration. Toward this end, students and alumni have access to the Tufts Career Network, a valuable networking resource of over 8,000 alumni and parents who offer career-related information, insight, and advice.

“For experience, many students think only an internship or job can be put on a résumé, but extracurricular activities count. For example, if a student is promoting events for an *a cappella* group, that’s marketing. Students shouldn’t worry all the time about what looks good,” Milmore stated, adding that counselors help students really see what they are doing and can tease out valuable skills that translate into tangible jobs.

Career Services recently hosted a Career Fair, filling the Gantcher Center with over 100 potential employers, from the F.B.I. to Microsoft to the Peace Corps. More than 850 eager students spoke to recruiters and passed out résumés. A Science and Technology Career Fair is held in the spring.

Access to Career Services does not end with graduation. “Our tagline is ‘a lifelong resource.’ We have the tools to help alumni with job searches throughout their careers,” Milmore said.

Students and recruiters during the Career Fair.



CHAT Is Open for Discussion

Tufts' New Center Energizes the Humanities



Jonathan Wilson, Director, Center for the Humanities at Tufts University.

There's a new heart and soul of this liberal arts campus and its home is the Center for the Humanities at Tufts (CHAT). At its helm is Jonathan Wilson, Fletcher Professor of Rhetoric and Debate and immediate past director of the Creative Writing Program, who has helped create an interdisciplinary fulcrum by engaging humanities faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows to explore the significance of the humanities and arts on campus and in the surrounding communities.

"Our goal," Wilson said, "is to promote exciting programming that will stimulate intellectual and creative activity on campus and be a center for it." Wilson explained that a different theme will be chosen each year; this year's theme is "Humanities and Human Rights." Art exhibits, symposia, an alumnae lecture series, and brown bag lunches where Fellows will deliver a talk on aspects of their research will be part of the rich curricula offered to the University community.

CHAT, located at the newly named Fung House, 48 Professors Row, will host eight Fellows, three Tufts faculty members, three Mellon postdoctoral students, and two graduate students. One of the house's rooms has been temporarily converted to an art gallery, where the colorful works of Palestinian-Israeli artist Hoda Jamal hangs; her compatriot, Buthaina Milhem, has her work currently exhibited at Aidekman. This fall, speakers include novelist Francisco Goldman and Professor Ian Buruma, and in the spring, the center will explore "The Role of the Public Intellectual: Writing about Literature and Music" with Alex Ross, music critic of *The New Yorker*.

James Wood, literary critic of *The New Yorker* and Dartmouth professor Susannah Heschel will join the center this spring as Visiting Fellows.

Provost and Senior Vice President Jamshed Bharucha said that it was important to find ways to energize the

"We are encouraging conversation and debate in an effort to reach beyond the borders of a given discipline."

—Jonathan Wilson

humanities, stating that they have always been at the core of a liberal arts education.

"We hope to give the humanities a platform on campus, to invite interdisciplinary collaboration, and really define the role of the humanities in today's society," he said.

Wilson credits many people for laying the groundwork for the center, including Robert Sternberg, Dean of Arts and Sciences; Vicki Sullivan, Dean of Academic Affairs for Arts and Sciences; and Associate Professor Kevin Dunn.

Sternberg noted that there are several different humanities departments at Tufts, as elsewhere, but because of departmental structure, it's often difficult for students and faculty to collaborate in a way that maximally leverages Tufts' strengths.

"The whole is more than the sum of its parts. At Tufts, we are now providing a way to provide such integration," Sternberg said.

The need for a humanities center was recognized as a specific recommendation as part of Tufts' 2005 Strategic Plan for Scholarship in the School of Arts and Sciences, Dean Sullivan observed.

"The idea," she explained, "was to provide intellectual sustenance to campus. Interest in the humanities should involve the entire university. The model is often solitary scholarship, but we want to bring scholars to the campus to talk about their work and others' work, to have a vibrant, intellectual community."

Associate Professor Dunn echoed Sullivan's description of solitary scholarship. "There's often talk of collaboration, but there's much time sitting alone in a library," Dunn stated. "The center is about connecting to each other and to the larger humanities environment."

Wilson is enthusiastic about the intellectual excitement generated by CHAT.

"We are encouraging conversation and debate in an effort to reach beyond the borders of a given discipline," Wilson said.

Arab Palestinian-Israeli artists Buthaina Milhem and Hoda Jamal with CHAT faculty fellow Eulogio Guzmán at the opening of the artists' work.



Full Circle

Tisch welcomes the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement

Civic engagement research at Tufts University took a leap forward this month when the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), a nationally prominent nonpartisan research organization, moved to Tisch College from its longtime home at the University of Maryland.

Founded in 2001, CIRCLE has become the leading source of authoritative research on civic and political engagement of Americans between the ages of 15 and 25 and serves as a clearinghouse on related information and scholarship.

Peter Levine, director of CIRCLE since 2006 and now based at Tisch College, said the move will significantly increase the potential of the center and Tufts University to develop additional research.

“Tufts has great intellectual assets for the study of citizenship and civic engagement, and Tisch College offers an unparalleled opportunity to build on the work we do,” said Levine. “The institutional commitment to civic engagement by a top-rated research university like Tufts is great for CIRCLE because we see ourselves as playing a leadership role in drawing attention to citizenship.”

While CIRCLE’s research agenda continuously evolves, Levine expects the new affiliation will allow the organization to build on its core work, especially by being able to engage Tufts faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates. That work produces:

- Special reports and books written by CIRCLE staff, grantees, and other research partners.
- Working papers, which provide in-depth analyses on a full range of civic engagement topics. To date, 59 working papers have been produced, with many later published in scholarly journals.
- Fact sheets, which can run to 20 pages each, providing detailed information on topics ranging from youth demographics and voting participation trends to K–12 education and immigration voting patterns.



Peter Levine, Director, Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement.

In addition, CIRCLE provides training and technical assistance to organizations nationwide, primarily providers of services to youth. To date, it has worked with more than 300 such organizations.

Levine himself has authored six books, including *The Future of Democracy: Developing the Next Generation of American Citizens*, which is part of the Civil Society series published by Tufts University Press. In his new role, Levine will oversee the Civil Society series, as well as the annual Tufts Civic Engagement Research Prize.

Assisting him at Tisch College will be two researchers whom he is in the process of hiring. Two other longtime staffers, associate researcher Emily Kirby and researcher and youth coordinator Abby Kiefa, will continue to be based in the Washington, D.C., area, giving them ready access to key constituencies that are important to CIRCLE.

“I am very excited about joining Tisch College and Tufts University,” said Levine. “Not only will it strengthen us financially and administratively, but it also will allow us to tap into the intellectual resources of Tufts.”

*Submitted by Sarah Shugars,
Communications Specialist, Tisch College*

“Tufts has great intellectual assets for the study of citizenship and civic engagement, and Tisch College offers an unparalleled opportunity to build on the work we do.”

—Peter Levine