



Welcome

TO THE TUFTS COMMUNITY

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Welcome back to all of you returning to the Hill for another year at Tufts, whether from a summer break or from a semester studying elsewhere. And of course, a special welcome to the Class of 2011 and to our entering transfer and exchange students!

The Class of 2011 was selected from an ever increasing number of students applying to come to Tufts and is our most diverse class ever geographically, racially, ethnically, socio-economically and in sexual orientation. We are all fortunate and privileged to be here—as students and as faculty and staff. There is a great deal that we can learn from one another, both inside the classroom and in all other aspects of life at Tufts.

We are a community made up of individuals from every state and more than one hundred countries. The diverse backgrounds and experiences that you bring pretty much guarantees that events in our community and in the world will be seen through a broad variety of lenses. All of us should cherish the chance to be exposed to different values and different passions, even though balancing them will at times create tension among us. There is no reason to think that we will always agree with one another. We would not be an interesting campus if we all held similar opinions about everything—or if we were not willing to engage in difficult conversation with others whose views we find hard to understand. I urge you to be open to new ideas; to embrace the unfamiliar. Take advantage of every opportunity to broaden your understanding of others' viewpoints, even if you will never hold those viewpoints yourself, for they will be part of your world beyond Tufts, and you will thus be better prepared for that world.

At the same time, meaningful dialogue depends on respect and civility. Those who engage in expression without attention to these values can and should anticipate that their choice of expression will not promote dialogue—it will instead cause hurt and divisiveness. On the other hand, rules and policies cannot protect you from all that is unpleasant since civility can't be required—it can only be encouraged. What all of us can do is voice our own outrage when others' behavior is outrageous. Together, we are committed to achieving understanding and to enriching the experience for all Tufts students.

This edition of the *Pachyderm* is dedicated to our dear friend Professor Gerald Gill, who passed away during the summer. Professor Gill's teaching and advising had a profound impact on students and colleagues for more than a quarter of a century. As President Bacow stated, Professor Gill, "always pushed Tufts to be a better place, a more inclusive place, one that is welcoming to all. For many of us it is difficult to imagine Tufts without him."

Celebrate Tufts. Be fully engaged in your coursework, but also in the wealth of co-curricular activities of the community. Get out there and get to know your classmates. Look forward to joining them at the new Hotung Grille in the Campus Center when it opens in November. Many of them will be your lifelong friends.

Welcome to Tufts—or, welcome back to Tufts. In either case, look forward to making 2007–2008 an enjoyable and rewarding year for yourself and for each other.



BRUCE REITMAN
Dean of Student Affairs