**The Experimental College**
**Annual Report, 2014–15**

**ExCollege Mission Statement:** Through its innovative, interactive, and interdisciplinary programs, the ExCollege strives to enrich the intellectual experience of undergraduates at Tufts. These programs serve as an incubator for new ideas about teaching, learning, and curriculum. They also aim to engage students actively in the design and delivery of new academic initiatives, often in collaboration with faculty. Shared governance, collaborative learning, and involvement with the community are hallmarks of the ExCollege.

**Faculty / Student Board:** The board of the Experimental College is charged with responsibility of selecting courses to be offered each semester, of identifying functions for the ExCollege to support, of selecting undergraduate board members, and of supporting the ExCollege’s mission statement. The board is composed of ExCollege staff, a rotating body of faculty (with frequent assistance from alumni), and students. This diverse mix of perspectives on Tufts as a community and an institution makes the board a particularly vibrant corner of Tufts and the insights it produces lead to unique and timely programming.

**Committee members, 2013–14:** Rebecca Czaja ('14), Mary Davis - Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Sarah Fields ('14), Stephan Fuchs – Biology, Ken Garden – Religion, Hong Jie Lim ('16), Noe Montez – Drama, Kumar Ramanathan ('15), Marcy Regalado ('15), Jason Rife - Mechanical Engineering

**Faculty Chair:** Ken Garden served as chair for the 2013-14 academic year and will continue as chair for 2014-15.

**Meetings:** The committee met once a month for 1½ hours and for a half day on the 1st day of reading period each semester.

**The committee’s major activities this academic year were as follows:**

1. We selected courses for both the Spring 2014 in Fall 2014 semesters.
   a. Fall 2013 (selected the previous spring): Of 124 lecturer proposals submitted, 25 were accepted to be taught for Fall 2013 (704 students enrolled in courses, 116 first-year students enrolled in Explorations Seminars, and 120 first-year students enrolled in Perspectives Seminars).
   b. Spring 2014 (selected in the fall of 2013): Of 99 lecturer proposals submitted, 24 were accepted to be taught for Spring 2014. (811 students enrolled in courses).

2. We helped to plan and support activities related to the 50th anniversary of the ExCollege. These included:
   a. Creating two displays on the history of the ExCollege, one in Tisch Library consisting of books written by past visiting lecturers and a timeline of the past 50 years mapping milestones of the ExCollege’s development onto developments in American history.
b. Holding a day-long conference on the Future of Higher Education on Friday, April 11, which featured Andrew DelBanco of Columbia University, author of *College, What it Was, Is, and Should Be*, as a keynote speaker, a panel of Tufts Students, including board member Kumar Ramanathan, discussing their experiences of taking MOOCs in the context of a Quidnunc (Group independent study) held through the ExCollege, as well as other guests from around the country.

c. A gala at the Museum of Science attended by 280 people. The gala was a great success, was attended by Tufts students of the class of 2014 and alums from some of the earliest ExCollege classes. The event featured a film produced by Howard Woolf and student assistants, showing alums today speaking about the influence of the ExCollege on their lives.

3. We selected student and faculty members for 2014-15 (see below)

**Next Year (2014-15)**

**Faculty Chair:** Ken Garden will continue as faculty chair for 2014-15.

**Committee members, 2014–15:** Rebecca Czaja (‘14), Mary Davis - Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Sarah Fields (‘14), Stephan Fuchs – Biology, Ken Garden – Religion, Hong Jie Lim (‘16), Noe Montez – Drama, Kumar Ramanathan (‘15), Marcy Regalado (‘15), Mark Salander (‘16), Grace Segers (‘17), Lilly Tahmasebi (‘17)

On behalf of the committee

Ken Garden, Chair