Resolution on the Retirement of
Stephen Bailey, Department of Anthropology

The members of the Department of Anthropology are pleased to recognize the many years of dedicated service of Stephen Bailey to both the department and the university at large.

Stephen Bailey came to Tufts in the fall of 1979, while still working on his Ph.D. which he completed the following year. He joined Wilbert Carter and Barbara Tedlock, who had been hired the year before. Anthropology at that time was still part of Sociology, although its three offices were in Sweet Hall, which had formerly served as the campus ROTC building, and in 1979 was also home to the Bursar. Professor Carter retired soon after and Stephen was soon teaching all the archeology and biological anthropology courses while Barbara Tedlock taught all the sociocultural. Stephen was granted tenure in 1987, the same year that Barbara Tedlock left for SUNY Buffalo. For several years Stephen was the only permanent anthropologist in the department, to be joined later by Rosalind Shaw and then David Guss. Stephen was also Chair of the joint Sociology-Anthropology department from 1988 to 1990.

Stephen is an author on over 60 scholarly articles or chapters on two areas of human growth: The first is how the growth of children from different genetic backgrounds is affected by adaptation to high altitudes. This has taken him to high and low altitude sites in Bolivia, and since 1995, to western Sichuan and Tibet, China. His major contribution to this area has been to identify lower leg growth as a simple clinical marker of adaptive success or failure. The second area is assessment of body composition and shape, especially as it relates to risk of obesity or eating disorders. This has led him to fieldwork in Jamaica, Costa Rica, and the Tohono O’odham Reservation in Arizona, as well as using domestic data from state and national nutritional surveys. He also worked with faculty at the Friedman School on how body perception impacts eating behavior in Tufts students, and finally with athletic coaches to determine how training affects body shape and composition of Tufts women swimmers.

Among his greatest accomplishments were those made in the classroom. During the decade between 1990 and 2000, Stephen’s enrollments peaked at between 180 and 220 in a single course (Biological Anthropology), and about 250-300 per year, or about ¼ of all undergraduates during their four years at Tufts. Overall, since 1979 Stephen has taught roughly 6,600 Tufts students. Throughout his time at Tufts, Stephen has been nominated every year in the senior surveys as a professor or course that have most impacted that senior. His university service has included chairing EPC during a review of Arts and Sciences requirements, and ARB during the switchover to the current transfer of credit procedures. Stephen was also one of four Tufts faculty, with Professors Ernst, Hirsch, and Woolf, to develop the initial Writing Across the Curriculum program in 1983. Along with Professors Edgers (Civil Engineering), Manz (History), Pollina (Romance Languages), and Shaffer (History), Stephen also developed the first cross-disciplinary World Civilization courses at Tufts, several years prior to the distribution requirement.

Be it resolved that this resolution be spread on the minutes of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and that a copy be sent to Professor Bailey.

For the Department of Anthropology,

David M. Guss, Chair