Dear Graduate Students,

Welcome back, or, for the new students, welcome to Tufts! I’m excited to be starting a new year with the Graduate Student Council. We made great progress last year, and I have every confidence that this year will be even more productive. For those of you who are new to us, the GSC is the only body on campus that represents all graduate students in the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Engineering. We are made up of a core executive body, various committee chairs and members, and representatives from each department on campus. Department reps are the essence of our group – they bring us news, concerns, and issues from their individual areas and students, and then report back on any events or opportunities that the GSC is working on. We work each year on improving conditions regarding stipends, tuition, housing, health care, and any other issues that our members would like to pursue. We have also been recently involved in following the new Tufts Master Plan, focusing on the future development of the Medford campus. In addition we put on social events so that we can all meet each other and – hopefully – just relax for a bit! Each year we plan barbeques, pub nights, various outings, and subsidize tickets to things like the Boston Symphony and Ballet. Our social events are different each year, so keep an eye on us for upcoming plans!

We invite anyone interested to join us for any and all of our general council meetings. We will be meeting first on Monday, September 19th at 7 pm in the Zamparelli Room, in the Mayer Campus Center.

Our future schedule will be both announced at meetings and on our website, located at http://asc.tufts.edu/gsc. The website is also designed to be your first stop for any information about life at Tufts – we keep it updated with GSC events, but also with details about on and off campus housing, links to Boston/Medford/Somerville information, and where to go on campus for questions on health care, upcoming speakers, and more.

Our first few meetings are when we will be setting the agenda for the majority of the year. Please join us! We always welcome any graduate student to attend, and encourage anyone to sign up to be a department representative or committee member.

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact us with any comment or concern, either through feedback at our webpage or contacting the executive board members directly.

I hope to see you this year!

Best wishes,

Amanda Pavlick
President

To find out more about your GSC President and Vice President for 2005-2006, check out the officer profiles on page 2.
Sameera Qureshi (MS, Occupational Therapy, ‘06) entered Tufts in September of 2004 to pursue an MS in Occupational Therapy. In that first year she worked with special needs children at a local middle school, incorporating her studies in OT with the students’ developmental abilities and needs. Before coming to Tufts, Sameera earned an BS in Microbiology, with a minor in English, from the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. While in Calgary she participated in many volunteer activities, such as tutoring for various literacy organizations, at the Inpatient Playroom at Alberta Children’s Hospital, and at a women’s shelter, homeless shelter, and halfway home. In addition to these activities, Sameera is an avid tennis player, and travels extensively. She has visited England, Iran, and Pakistan. She is also comfortable with four languages: in addition to English, she is fluent in Persian (Farsi), and has studied French and Spanish.

As if this weren’t enough! Sameera is our new Vice President, having worked in the GSC office for the past year. She quickly established herself in her first year as an efficient organizer and wonderful aid in getting various GSC activities off the ground. Her desire to increase her participation with the GSC for this year led her to seek an elected office. We are extremely pleased to welcome Sameera as a part of the 2005-06 GSC Executive core!

GSC Vice-President: Sameera Qureshi

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2005-2006 Graduate Student Council Officers Contact Information

President: Amanda Pavlick; amanda.pavlick@tufts.edu
Vice-President: Sameera Qureshi; sameera.qureshi@tufts.edu
Treasurer & Acting Secretary: David J. Proctor; david.proctor@tufts.edu
On Friday April 22, 2005, the Graduate Student Awards Presentation was held, as a means to recognize outstanding faculty and students for their accomplishments and contributions to Tufts University. Awards presented at the ceremony included: Outstanding Academic Performance; Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education; the Robert P. Guertin Student Leadership Award; Rob Hollister Award for Community Service and Citizenship; Sarah Plummer Memorial Prize; Professor Kalman A. Burnim Prize for Scholarly Excellence in Drama; Mary Ann Mulcahy Service in Education Award; The Marjorie B. Greene Award in Occupational Therapy; Graduate Student Research Awards; Outstanding Graduate Contributor to Engineering Education; Outstanding Graduate Researcher; the GSC Faculty Mentor Award; and the Graduate Alumni Awards. (For a complete list of award recipients as well as photos from the awards ceremony, please see pages 4 and 5.)

In addition, the Graduate Student Council presented two GSC Service Awards. The Service Award is meant to recognize those individuals who have gone above and beyond to support graduate education and to improve the lives of graduate students at Tufts. What follows are excerpts from the remarks delivered by David Proctor on behalf of the GSC as he presented GSC Service Awards to Randi Rotjan and Dean Susan G. Ernst

Remarks on Randi Rotjan

“Our first GSC Service Award this afternoon goes to an individual who, over the last three years, has worked tirelessly to improve graduate student life in areas such as healthcare, housing, stipends and a list of others that is frankly too long to go into. In addition to her service to the graduate community, she is also a talented Ph. D. candidate in Biology and has done superb service for the undergraduate community at Tufts through her work as a TA and Lab Coordinator.

I first met Randi in the fall of 2001 when she volunteered to serve as a representative from the Biology Department to the GSC. Joining the GSC at a volatile time, Randi proved immediately to be a source of sound judgment, strength and determination. She was elected Vice President of the Graduate Student Council in 2002, a position she will hold until the end of May [2005]. As Vice President, Randi launched a series of initiatives aimed at increasing the number of graduate student organizations on campus, initiatives that proved highly successful. The most recent example of this is the GSC recognition of the Tufts Scuba Club, a club unique in that it combines graduate students and undergraduates. Randi wrote the legislation passed by the GSC which allowed this group to be recognized and funded as a hybrid Graduate-Undergraduate Student Organization.

In the area of stipends, Randi has been an constant and unyielding voice calling on the administration for increased stipend levels. As we will see this fall, her persistence and hard work along with that of the administration has paid off for graduate students. Randi has also worked tirelessly with Michelle Bowdler in Health Services to improve the visibility and effectiveness of graduate student health care options.

I could go on for hours about Randi, but it suffices to say that Randi Rotjan has pent her time at Tufts not only as an outstanding scholar and teacher, but as someone who has fought hard to improve graduate student life at Tufts. The Graduate Student Council and the graduate student community is forever in her debt and we are therefore delighted to present her with this 2005 GSC Service Award.”

Remarks on Dean Susan G. Ernst

“Our second award goes to another biologist. This biologist is an established leader in her field as well as being on of the most important voices for the advancement of graduate education at Tufts University. Dean of Arts and Sciences Susan G. Ernst is the epitome of the Tufts faculty member and administrator—a devoted scholar and teacher,

See Ernst
Continued on page 8
Recipient list for the 7th Annual Graduate Student Awards

- **Outstanding Academic Performance**: Thaddeus Brunye (Psychology), James Lentz (Philosophy), Dana Le Winter (UEPP), Alexandre B. Pereira e Sousa (Physics)
- **Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education**: Ryan Hughes (Classics) and Stephan Richter (Physics)
- **The Robert P. Guertin Student Leadership Award**: Randi D. Rotjan (Biology) and Amanda Pavlick (Classics)
- **Rob Hollister Award for Community Service and Citizenship**: Rachel Lomasky (Computer Science) and Dara Olmsted (UEPP)
  - **Sarah Plummer Memorial Prize, Department of Classics**: Karen Mower
  - **Professor Kalman A. Burnim Prize for Scholarly Excellence in Drama**: Natka Dawn Bean Bianchini
  - **Mary Ann Mulcahy Service in Education Award**: Andrew Hiroshi Hara; Musiri K. Abdal-Khallaq; Stacy Kitsis
  - **The Marjorie B. Greene Award in Occupational Therapy**: Midge Hobbs
- **Outstanding Graduate Contributor to Engineering Education**: Michael Horn (Computer Science) and Elena Jakkubiak (Computer Science)
- **Outstanding Graduate Researcher**: James F. Limbrunner (Civil & Environmental Engineering)
- **GSC Faculty Mentor Awards**: Julian Agyeman (UEPP), Steven Luz-Altermann (Department of Education), Olga Baloueff (Department of Occupational Therapy), and Martha Pott (Department of Child Development)
- **Alumni Outstanding Career Achievement Award**: Michael Tzannes (G90, Electrical Engineering)
  - **Alumni Outstanding Service Award**: Luke Jorgensen (G00, Drama)
Highlights from the 7th annual graduate student awards presentation...

Robert Guertin (left) and Dean Kanarek (right) with Guertin award recipient Randi Rotjan (center)

Robert Guertin (left) and Dean Robin Kanarek (right) with Guertin award recipient Amanda Pavlick (center)

Amanda Pavlick presenting Dr. Steven Luz-Alterman (Education) with an Outstanding Faculty Award

Amanda Pavlick presenting Dr. Julian Agyeman (UEPP) with an Outstanding Faculty Award

Dr. Martha Pott (Child Development) receiving an Outstanding Faculty Award from Amanda Pavlick

Photos courtesy of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Part of the GSC mandate is to advocate for organizations within the community, either by raising funds (such as through the GSC Annual 5K Run/Walk), or by helping to recruit volunteers for various agency opportunities. Two local organizations which the GSC collaborates closely with are Project Hope, located in Dorchester, and Respond Inc., located in Somerville. This article provides background information on both of these organizations, describes the programs affiliated with them, and volunteer opportunities for students.

**Project Hope**, one of the three organizations which benefits from the GSC Annual 5K Run/Walk, works in partnership with families to move them up and out of poverty. The agency acts as a catalyst for change in the lives of families and in the systems which keep them at the poverty level. Family support solutions are developed and provided for just public policies, which helps strengthen the family unit.

Within Project Hope are numerous programs, all aimed at the goal of bringing families out of poverty by targeting numerous aspects of an individual’s life. These programs include the Family Shelter, Children’s Center, Adult Learner Program, Family Child Care, Business Enterprise, housing services, food pantry, One Family Scholars, and the Transition to Work program Over the past year, the GSC has been working with the Adult Learner Program (ALP). This program addresses the need for basic education among adults in our community. The ALP combines intense education with support services and a holistic approach, enabling women with low schooling and other issues to achieve educational progress, thus transforming their lives, and completing the goal of moving up and out of poverty.

The ALP started in 1990, when five women residents at Project Hope recognized the need to better their education in order to move up and out of poverty. Today, the program serves up to 50 women at three different educational levels: ABE (grade levels 0-4), Pre-GED (grade levels 5-8), and GED (grade levels 9-12). Women not only prepare to attain their GED, but also gain the foundation for lifelong learning by setting goals for life beyond the GED.

There are numerous stories about clients making remarkable strides and progress in their lives, due to the holistic approach taken by the Adult Learner Program. As one student shares, ‘I loved the way my tutor taught me and showed me different ways to do math. She gave me the knowledge so that I can keep working toward my goals.’ Tutors also gain tremendous benefits from the program, as one tutor states in the following quote: ‘I am able to give back to the community by being a tutor at Project Hope. I can’t tell you how proud I was of my student when I watched her receive an award for academic excellence in all subjects.’

**Adult Learner Program working on an experiment**

**Adult Learner Program (ALP)**

**Tutoring Opportunity**

**Background:** the ALP program serves women ranging in age from 18 to 65 years; academic courses in reading, writing, math, science, & social studies. ALP students receive extra tutoring to meet academic goals.

**Opportunity:** Tutors are needed to participate in the ALP; tutoring takes place before classes from 8:30—9:30 am, and after classes from 2:15—3:15 pm.

**Tutor Expectations:** participate in tutor training; meet with student’s teacher to discuss plans; communication with student; commit to tutoring at least one day a week for minimum of 9 weeks

**Contact Information:** Kristin Shapiro, Education Counselor; (617) 442-1880 ext. 14; e-mail kshapiro@prohope.org

For other volunteer opportunities at Project Hope, contact Heather Sullivan, Volunteer Coordinator, (617) 442-1880 ext.21; e-mail hsullivan@prohope.org
Profiles continued: Respond Inc.

Respond Inc. of Somerville is the second community organization that the Graduate Student Council works closely with throughout the academic year. Founded in 1974, this organization was the first in New England and the second in the nation to serve as a domestic violence agency. Respond helps women make safer choices for themselves by engaging in preventative activities that are aimed at reducing the incidence of violence. Their mission is to help women and their children create options for a safer life, free from domestic violence, and to further the efforts of the larger community and to end domestic violence. This mission is fulfilled by providing shelter, support, advocacy, and education.

Respond Inc. is comprised of numerous programs which are aimed at fulfilling the above mentioned mission statement. Programs and services include an emergency shelter and safe home, 24-hour intake and referral line, comprehensive children’s services, support groups, individual counseling, legal advocacy, community outreach and educational programs. The majority of these services are for women and their children; however, referrals are made for men through the 24-hour hotline, and educational programs and outreach are also geared to both men and women. All of Respond Inc.’s services are free and confidential.

Respond Inc. serves more than 4,000 women and their children every year. Since 1974, Respond has served more than 40,000 women; in 2004 alone, the organization’s hotline answered more than 4,165 phone calls and provided shelter for 39 women and 37 children. Such numbers are indicative of the prevalence of domestic violence, something which Respond Inc. is working towards to eliminate.

Individual and group counseling is offered in Somerville. Staff and volunteers are trained in basic counseling skills as well as in housing, legal, welfare, childcare, and health care advocacy. For the children’s services, staff and volunteers are trained in the special needs of children who have been impacted by domestic violence. Child care is arranged for when women drop by the center for appointments or group meetings. Direct-service staff and trained volunteers spend quality time with children, running arts and crafts projects, story time, and interactive play sessions. Through Respond Inc.’s emergency shelter program, up to ten women and ten children can be accommodated on a nightly basis, and they can stay in this program for up to 60 days.

Much of the funds needed to support Respond Inc.’s programs are raised through fundraising. For example, in 1999 a group of artists released a 2-CD benefit set called Respond, featuring 27 songs by women songwriters from the Boston area. The CD project team released a follow-up compilation in 2003, Respond II, which featured sixteen Grammy nominees including Dolly Parton, Bebel Gilberto, Aimee Mann, and the Indigo girls. Funds are also received from the Massachusetts Department of Social Services, various community organizations, as well as from corporations, foundations, and individual donors, including Tufts University. At the organization’s annual Gala on October 15th, Tufts University is being presented with a leadership award for funds donated to Respond Inc., and also for advocating volunteerism and philanthropy.
a talented administrator who has not lost touch with her students.

For many years the GSC faced an uphill battle with the Tufts administration. The graduate deans were always on our side, but other areas of the administration did not seem as openly supportive of graduate education. This all changed in the fall of 2001 when the officers of the Graduate Student Council met with Dean Susan Ernst. What had been scheduled as a 30 minute meeting lasted well over an hour. For the first time the GSC and graduate students in general were dealing with an upper level administrator who not only seemed to openly value and care about graduate education, but who was also committed to improving the lot of graduate students on the Medford campus.

Our first concrete example of Dean Ernst’s commitment came with the appointment of Robin Kanarek as Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. For some time after Dean Hollister stepped down, it was unclear whether a new Dean of GSAS would be appointed or whether the position itself would be eliminated. Dean Ernst not only appointed a new Graduate Dean, but chose an incredibly talented faculty member to serve in that role.

Dean Ernst’s support of graduate education and graduate students has continued throughout her tenure as dean. She has attended every workshop and forum on graduate issues that the GSC has held and she had been a constant voice of support for the improvement of graduate education at Tufts. The improved relations between the Tufts administration and the graduate community which has led to much positive change, began in 2001 in that meeting with Susan Ernst.

I would have ended my comments on that note, but there are two other quick stories I want to relate which explain even more why Dean Ernst is so deserving of this award. In June of 2003, the Classics Department lost, as you heard earlier, one of our graduate students, Sarah Plummer. During that summer, most of the department faculty were abroad along with the majority of the department graduate students. What faculty remained in the US were coming in only sporadically. As the administrator for Classics it was my responsibility to notify the department of Sarah’s untimely passing. I was alone in my office most of the morning notify department members of what had happened. Early that afternoon, my phone rang and it was Dean Ernst offering her condolences and her support, not only to the department, but to me as well.

I saw this kind of concern, dedication and engagement again this past weekend at the undergraduate awards assembly, the Graduate Student Research Symposium and the Phi Beta Kappa induction ceremony. Whether it was congratulating a student she knew with a quick hug or handshake, chatting with parents and family members or catching up with university faculty and staff, Dean Ernst’s commitment to the Arts and Sciences community, to faculty, staff, students and their parents was never more clear.

As Dean Ernst steps down this August [2005], the Graduate Student Council and the graduate community, loose a stalwart friend and champion. Whoever succeeds her will have very large shoes to fill indeed.

The Graduate Student Council is privileged to present this 2005 GSC Service Award to Dean Susan G. Ernst.”
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences:
Welcome Back BBQ

- **When:** Wednesday September 7, 2005
- **Time:** 4—8 PM
- **Location:** Remis Sculpture Court, Aidekman Arts Center
- **Information:** ALL graduate students are invited to attend.
- **First year graduate students:** don’t forget to attend the BBQ to find out the winners of the GSC Raffle from the Graduate Student Orientation!!

GSC Meeting Schedule

All graduate students are more than welcome to attend GSC Meetings!! We value and need your input, so please join us—we look forward to seeing you there!

*Note:* All meetings will be held in the Zamparelli Room, in the Mayer Campus Center, at 7 PM.

**First meeting:** Monday September 19th

GSC Fall Events

- **GSC 2005 Welcome Back Event** (held in conjunction with the International Student Center):
  What: Apple picking at Honey Pot Orchards
  When: Saturday September 24, 2005
  Meet at: Meyer Campus Center
  Details: Bus departs at 9:30 am, returns at 3:00 pm; see attached flyer!!

- **Halloween Social: Costume Bowling** (food bank items to benefit Project Hope of Dorchester)

- **Keep your eyes open for more social events throughout the semester!!**

New GSO Hoping to Form for Ph.D. Students 40+

If you are a Ph.D. student in the 40+ age range who is interested in sharing your unique perspective and strategies for success with other similarly seasoned Tufts students, please contact Christine.Rioux@tufts.edu. Christine Rioux, is a Ph.D. candidate in the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program.

Editors Corner:

A special thank you to Sameera Qureshi for her outstanding work in putting together this issue of the GradGrind

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