Celebrate Brighter

You made the campaign a success. Now see the impact.
Tufts Bhangra performers bring their passion for the Punjabi art form to on-campus shows and national competitions. The dance group is one example of Tufts’ vibrant student community, one energized by gifts to Brighter World.
Building a Brighter Future

In this edition of One Tufts, we celebrate Brighter World: The Campaign for Tufts, the most ambitious and successful fundraising endeavor in Tufts history. Not only did Brighter World surpass its overall $1.5 billion goal, but also all Tufts schools exceeded their individual goals.

This achievement reflects the extraordinary generosity of alumni, friends, parents, students, and staff, as well as corporations and foundations, who share our vision for strengthening the university’s preeminence in teaching, research, and global impact. To those who stepped up with gifts during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, a special thank you. Your empathy makes a big difference in the lives of students and their families who faced unexpected financial hardships.

Our success also builds on the largest group of volunteers that Tufts has ever mobilized, including a university-wide Campaign Cabinet, volunteers advocating for each of our schools, and hundreds of supporters involved in efforts like reunions and Tufts Giving Tuesday. Also pivotal to our momentum were our campaign co-chairs: Trustee Emeritus Jonathan Tisch, A76, H20; Trustee Neal Shapiro, A80, A23P, A26P; Sol Gittleman, A85P, H10, Alice and Nathan Gantcher University Professor Emeritus; Meredith Vieira, J75, H08; and Trustee Jason Epstein, A96, and Chloe Epstein, J96. They, our academic deans, and Caroline Genco, provost and senior vice president and Arthur E. Spiller Professor, deserve a Jumbo thanks for being outstanding Tufts ambassadors. We also acknowledge the gifted leadership of University Professor and President Emeritus Anthony P. Monaco, a champion of the values that define Tufts and make it such a vibrant university.

In the following pages, you will see how Brighter World has had a dramatic impact on all aspects of our teaching and research mission and reinforced values that make a difference around the world. You will meet a few of the many students whose lives have been transformed thanks to the financial aid that Brighter World supporters helped us expand. You will see how the physical landscape of our campuses has been enhanced, energizing academics, research, athletics, and the arts. And you will learn how donors have helped attract and retain world-class faculty and grown the university’s academic and research enterprise, and how our students and faculty are driving positive change that serves the greater good—for humans, animals, and the planet.

Brighter World clearly had an outsized impact. We cannot predict the future, but thanks to the success of this campaign, we can prepare leaders who have the courage, skills, and imagination to shape that future. I thank everyone who has sustained and strengthened Tufts and helped light a path to a brighter world for all.

Peter R. Dolan, A78, A08P
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Tufts University
Sara Blake, E21

FOR SARA BLAKE, E21, working in biomedical engineering labs as an undergraduate not only fed her restless curiosity, it also created a path to her first job with a biotechnology firm. There, she helps develop treatments for degenerative muscular diseases.

“Tufts helped me discover what I found most exciting: to see how science changes lives,” said Blake. “When I am close with patients and hear their stories and how these trial drugs are helping them better their lives—that’s what pushes me to further my research.”

Blake’s self-awareness and strong research skills build on opportunities made possible by the financial aid that she counted on for four years of college; she was the recipient of the Jeanne H. Diefenderfer Endowed Scholarship in the School of Engineering. “My scholarship opened up a whole world for me,” said Blake. “One thing I’ve learned about biomedicine is that there is still so much we don’t yet know. I’d love to help discover the answers.”

HISTORIC GIVING FOR FINANCIAL AID

BRIGHTER WORLD inspired an outpouring of support for financial aid: Donors created 700-plus new scholarships and expanded more than 400 existing funds. Each gift contributed to the diverse and vibrant academic community that defines Tufts today.

• The landmark Financial Aid Initiative raised $95 million for endowed scholarships.

• The Challenge for Arts, Sciences, and Engineering created 40 new scholarships, contributed to 29 existing ones, and added $3.3 million to the annual fund.

• The COVID-19 Financial Aid Challenge raised nearly $5 million to assist families hit hard by the pandemic.

• The Schuler Access Initiative has raised $19 million to date toward a $25 million goal. Jack Schuler, E62, and Tanya Schuler Sharman, E91, started the matching gift effort to strengthen support for underrepresented students, and Steve Tisch, A71, accelerated progress with a $10 million gift.

• The first initiative of Women Impact Tufts (WIT) focused on financial aid, with more than 170 donors contributing more than $26 million.
Steven Schwab, A20, M25

From an early age, Steven Schwab, A20, M25, was inspired by his beloved grandfather to reach for the stars. A resourceful handyman, “he raised me to believe that, with enough hard work, I could do anything in the world,” said Schwab.

Schwab’s success—as an undergraduate biochemistry whiz and now a Tufts medical student—is a testament to how determination pays off. Still, the Dolan Family Endowed Scholarship in the School of Arts and Sciences was a boost; the “good fortune” of financial aid played a part in turning his dreams into reality.

“I’m eternally grateful for financial aid,” said Schwab, who is considering a career in palliative care or emergency medicine. “Hard work got me to Tufts, but the privilege of scholarships has made it possible for me to realize far more than I could have ever imagined. To all the people who invested in me and so many others, thank you!”

$356M
RAISED FOR FINANCIAL AID

First Step on a Civic Pathway

How do Tufts students develop leadership skills in civic engagement? One influential path is through the transformative Tufts Civic Semester for incoming students, offered by the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life. The program is one of many ways philanthropy has been channeled into innovative civic education.

Participants spend their first semester in either Urubamba, Peru, or the Southwestern United States, where academic and experiential learning are combined with a focus on community engagement and social and environmental justice. In New Mexico, for instance, participants have met with Indigenous activists who are rallying to preserve their water supply and traditional sources of food and raising awareness about the health hazards of fracking.

Back on campus, that immersive experience has staying power. The Civic Semester inspires a commitment to civic responsibility and helps students build the skills to make an impact.
Unlocking Opportunities for Students

Shailab Shrestha, GBS23

FOR SHAILAB SHRESTHA, GBS23, Tufts has opened doors to a career in biomedical science. While earning a Ph.D. in molecular microbiology from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS), he contributed to research on antibiotic-resistant bacteria linked to digestive system infections.

The opportunity to conduct “amazing science” would not have been possible without his endowed fellowship at the GSBS, one of many ways Brighter World amplified support for students at the school. Donors contributed more than $1.85 million to support students, strengthening the school’s capacity to admit those with high need. For Shrestha, it was a lifeline: An international student originally from Nepal, he was not eligible for federal grants.

The aid has made an indelible impact. “Working on a Ph.D. is a long haul; you need people around you to keep you motivated,” he said. “Fellowships have made a huge difference in creating a diverse, lively, and supportive community.”

Eleni Papadopoulos, GBS19, D23

ELENI PAPADOPOULOS, GBS19, D23, has seen the benefits of good oral care—and not only at the School of Dental Medicine. She’s also witnessed oral care bringing hope to rural communities in Zambia through Project SmileWell, a nonprofit cofounded by her parents, Pilar Sanchez, D90, and Bill Papadopoulos, D89, DG91, who also have a private practice outside Boston.

Eleni Papadopoulos earned a master’s degree in biomedical sciences at Tufts School of Medicine before attending dental school. Following in her parents’ professional footsteps, she aims to help her future patients look and feel their best. “It’s important that people have the confidence to smile and laugh,” she said.

The Delta Dental of Rhode Island Endowed Scholarship at the School of Dental Medicine has provided both financial and moral support. As Papadopoulos starts her career, she said she hopes someday to “pay it forward and give others the same opportunities I found at Tufts—and that I will enjoy for a lifetime.”
Jesus Mejia, M25

JESUS MEJIA, M25, knows firsthand about inequities and disparities in health care. He recalls one family friend who refused to visit a doctor because he had an undocumented status and ended up dying from cancer that was caught too late.

“In marginalized communities that are economically, culturally, and socially complex, it’s important to build trust and get the full cultural context to understand their health-care challenges,” he said. “To provide the best personalized care, one has to go well beyond simply prescribing medication.”

Mejia found a perfect match with his aspirations in the Sam W. Ho Health Justice Scholars Program at the School of Medicine, an endowed program developing physician-leaders and scholars with the mission, vision, and ability to transform health care in partnership with communities.

“It’s a unique opportunity to learn how to be the physician I want to be,” he said. “And it’s encouraging to be surrounded by like-minded people who share a vision for supporting marginalized and underserved communities.”

URVASHI CHOPRA, F23

“WHEN YOU GROW UP in India, you don’t need to look far to see social challenges,” said Urvashi Chopra, F23. “In college, I made it my purpose to give back, particularly by focusing on how to increase opportunities for jobs.”

At The Fletcher School, Chopra honed data analysis and econometrics skills she now uses at the World Bank’s Solutions for Youth Employment. Her work addresses a global crisis: One in four young people in the world cannot find jobs paying more than $1.25 per day, the international threshold of extreme poverty.

Chopra is grateful for a scholarship established by Trustee Lisbeth L. Tarlow, F84, F97, the Alma G. and Merton B. Tarlow Endowed Scholarship at The Fletcher School. That support allowed her “to be surrounded by people who shared a concern for the common good,” she said. “That’s what Fletcher is all about: We’re all thinking about how to solve big problems.”

A BRIDGE TO THE WORLD OF WORK

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI OF THE FRIEDMAN SCHOOL of Nutrition Science and Policy share a passion for improving the health and well-being of people around the globe. Those aspirations translate into a diversity of professional opportunities nationally and internationally, from work on agricultural sustainability and nutrition policy to work in humanitarian aid, school food programs, and entrepreneurship.

At the new Ellie Block and Family Career Services Center, students and graduates find what they need to explore how their interests and experiences connect with the world of work. The center reflects the vision of Ellie Block, BSOT66, a member of the school’s Board of Advisors and its former chair. Services include workshops, a database of internships and jobs, and advising with career coaches to support students and alumni, at any stage of their lives, in strategically leveraging their Tufts education to develop fulfilling careers.
Decoding the Intelligence of Cells

COULD HUMANS SOMEDAY regrow damaged limbs? Will living robots help clean up pollution in our waterways or deliver medicine within our bodies? Michael Levin, A92, A26P, Vannevar Bush Professor of Biology in the School of Arts and Sciences (left), and his team are pondering such questions—and getting us closer to answers. During Brighter World, their trailblazing work on how single cells from embryos generate complex organisms was recognized with a $10 million grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

Levin’s team has gained attention for creating self-replicating living robots from frog cells. The research, being conducted at the Allen Discovery Center at Tufts, may have future applications for the repair of congenital disorders, limb regeneration, and cancer treatment.

Levin said the foundation’s support helped accelerate this revolutionary work. “Such generous resources define world-class research,” he said. “With the finest minds, and cutting-edge tools, there are no limits to what we can discover.”
Anthropology Reimagined

ANTHROPOLOGIST SARAH LUNA (above) holds a new appointment that pays tribute to the late Kathryn A. McCarthy, J45, AG46, a physicist and Tufts’ first woman provost. As the inaugural Kathryn A. McCarthy Assistant Professor in Women’s Studies, Luna too is forging a path in the School of Arts and Sciences.

Luna, who teaches in the anthropology department and directs the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program, is exploring complex and overlapping issues encompassing sex work, migration, and race and ethnicity. Her first book, based on ethnographic research in a Mexican border city, brought fresh understanding of the lives of sex workers and missionaries as they intersected in a prostitution zone.

At Tufts, Luna values opportunities to promote an interdisciplinary worldview. “When I was in college, anthropology inspired me to question everything I understood about the world,” she said. “I want to give that same transformative opportunity to my students.”

THE SCIENCE OF LEARNING

RECOGNIZING THAT PEDAGOGIES must adapt to meet the needs of today’s students, Tufts is advancing the science of learning and teaching through the Tufts Institute for Research on Learning and Instruction.

Launched with a gift from the James S. McDonnell Family Foundation, the institute is one of the first research centers of its kind. A hub for faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and graduate students from across the university, the institute brings innovative scholarship to complex questions such as how a student’s language and culture may inform learning.

By generating evidence-based teaching methods, Tufts strengthens its commitment to helping students discover and develop their full potential.

UNDERSTANDING HOW WE THINK

Tufts is pushing the boundaries of cognitive science with the Stibel Dennett Consortium for Brain and Cognitive Science, made possible through the generosity of Jeff Stibel, A95. The initiative honors the mentorship of Professor Emeritus Daniel Dennett, a noted philosopher, and brings together multiple departments and schools for the study of the brain and behavior. Funding supports two endowed professorships at the School of Arts and Sciences and a Ph.D. program that leverages Tufts’ interdisciplinary strengths in areas such as psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, human development, animal cognition, and human memory.
A GIFT FROM the Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation is boosting work at Tisch College of Civic Life focused on civic participation among youth. The gift endows the directorship of the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), the preeminent research institution on youth voting and civic education in the United States. Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg (above), Newhouse Director of CIRCLE, said the gift “will expand our reach, deepen our impact, and amplify our contributions to the essential task of integrating young people into a diverse and inclusive democracy.”

Improving Dental Care for Older Patients

THE DR. HILDE TILLMAN, D49 Professorship in Geriatric Dentistry at Tufts School of Dental Medicine will have a lasting impact on the oral health and well-being of older adults. Established in memory of Hilde Tillman, D49, an advocate for underserved older adults, the endowed position “is invaluable for advancing specialized educational programs and driving innovative oral health-care initiatives,” said Tillman Professor Karin Arsenault, D94, (below) director of Geriatric Dentistry in the Department of Public Health and Community Service.

The professorship also helps secure grants and collaborative research opportunities, so Tufts stays at the forefront of a rapidly growing field. “It’s never been more important to understand the complex medical, behavioral, and social challenges increasingly faced by older patients,” Arsenault said. “Coming generations of Tufts dental graduates will be able to provide the comprehensive and empathetic care our aging population deserves and needs.”

A LEADER IN CLIMATE POLICY

Advancing responses to climate change, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation continued its support of the Climate Policy Lab (CPL) at The Fletcher School with funding for four new scholars and interns from China and the Global South.

Launched in 2016, CPL partners with scholars and governments around the world to help countries meet greenhouse gas emission targets set by the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. CPL research guides climate policies that affect issues such as finance, clean energy, and sustainable agriculture.

“We are indebted to the Hewlett Foundation,” said Kelly Sims Gallagher, F00, F03, A27P, CPL director, dean ad interim, and professor of energy and environmental policy at The Fletcher School. “They allow us to expand our reach and strengthen our mission to train the next generation of climate leaders, whose influence, whether in government, business, or the nonprofit sector, is needed now more than ever.”
CANCER CONNECTIONS

AN ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP is advancing the research of Cheryl London, V90, (right) who studies novel approaches for treating cancer and helped develop the first anti-cancer drug specifically approved for dogs.

As the Anne Engen and Dusty Professor in Comparative Oncology at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine and director of the Clinical Research Shared Resource, London conducts research that holds the promise of leading to treatments for both companion animals and people.

London, who is also associate dean for research and graduate education at Cummings School and a research professor at Tufts University School of Medicine, said dogs and cats develop many of the same diseases as humans, “so when new diagnostic or treatment approaches are studied in pets ... the knowledge gained may benefit not only our patients but people too.” She added, “It is a privilege to continue Cummings School’s leadership in this effort.”

ADVANCING HEALTH

BRIGHTER WORLD’S Professorship Partnership Challenge spurred extraordinary faculty support, including amplifying basic science research at Tufts University School of Medicine. JoAnn Giffuni Wellner, J63, endowed the Kenneth and JoAnn G. Wellner Professorships, held by Jamie Maguire, whose research investigates the mechanisms behind neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders, and Pilar Alcaide, whose work explores immune response and inflammation with a focus on heart disease.

Paul Chervinsky, A48, M52, A77P, J79P, and his late wife, Elaine Chervinsky, A77P, J79P, endowed a professorship in immunology, held by Linden Hu, co-director of the Tufts Lyme Disease Initiative. Hu’s trailblazing research is developing new approaches to Lyme vaccines.

Food: An Integrated Approach

WHAT DOES THE future of food look like? Is industrial agriculture, with its demand for energy-intensive practices and vast swaths of land for monocrops, still viable amid a global climate crisis? And if not, what do sustainable and equitable food systems need to succeed?

Tim Griffin (above) tackles these complex questions at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, where he is the Teri and Barry Volpert Family Professor in Nutrition, Agriculture, and Sustainable Food Systems. His position was established with an endowed gift from the Volpert Foundation.

The foundation’s support capitalizes on the school’s strengths, Griffin said. “The Friedman School is uniquely placed to link agriculture, nutrition, health, economics, and individual and societal well-being,” he said. “With this integrated perspective, we can meet the foundation’s goal to advance research, education, and action that promotes food system sustainability and improves human health.”
A New Gateway

SWEEPING IMPROVEMENTS TO TUFTS’ campuses are a shining example of the impact of philanthropy on the life of the university.

Projects supported by Brighter World include Joyce Cummings Center (above and right), a stunning new gateway to the Medford/Somerville campus. Housing multiple departments and innovation hubs such as the Derby Entrepreneurship Center at Tufts, Joyce Cummings Center is a new type of academic building, one that promotes the collaboration that is vital to innovation and discovery.

Next to the newly opened Green Line MBTA station that links the campus to Boston, the building was made possible thanks to a visionary lead gift from Trustee Emeritus Bill Cummings, A58, H06, J97P, M97P, and his wife, Joyce, H17, J97P, M97P, through their Cummings Foundation.
The Power of Proximity

TUFTS USHERED IN A NEW ERA for interdisciplinary collaboration with the Collaborative Learning and Innovation Complex, or CLIC, a fresh home for disciplines such as physics and astronomy, occupational therapy, and community health. The mural (at right) that spans its central open stairwell conveys the spirit of creativity that infuses the building, a bold restoration and reimagining of a former factory. “In Person,” by Sophia Ainslie, AG01 (MFA), was commissioned by Joan Henricks, J69, and Alan Henricks, who support installations by alumni of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University as part of the Tufts University Art Galleries’ public art program.

ENGINEERING CHANGE

THE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING COMPLEX, or SEC (left), seamlessly melds the School of Engineering’s brick-and-mortar buildings with a soaring glass-clad addition. At its heart is a sunlit atrium and the street-level Kindlevan Café. The SEC’s popular makerspace, Nolop FAST (Fabrication, Analysis, Simulation, and Testing) Facility, strengthens the spirit of exploration by giving students hands-on opportunities to make robots, interactive games, and other projects.

PHOTOS: ALONSO NICHOLS, ANNA MILLER

TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF NEW AND RENOVATED SPACES

908,623
Building Campuses for the Future

A Boost for Sports

TUFTS SPORTS TEAMS, students who participate in recreational athletics, and members of the Medford/Somerville community all benefit from transformative gifts to athletic facilities. The $2.4 million Daniel Ounjian Field, for example, celebrates late Tufts economics professor Dan Ounjian, A57, J85P. The home of Tufts field hockey, Ounjian Field was built thanks to giving spearheaded by Trustee Doug Rachlin, A85, A20P, A22P, one of Ounjian’s former students.

A donor-funded $2.7 million renovation of the football field at Ellis Oval features new lights and a video board; the grass was also converted to an environmentally friendly synthetic turf.

A $6 million eight-court squash center—including a glass show court, designed to allow spectators to enjoy matches—positions the university to host NESCAC and regional intercollegiate tournaments, as well as high school and club competitions. And a new baseball stadium honors Sol Gittleman, A85P, H10, the Alice and Nathan Gantcher University Professor emeritus and an authority on America’s favorite pastime. Sol Gittleman Park features synthetic turf, stadium lights, expanded seating, improved bullpens, and high-quality batting cages.

COMMUNITY HOUSING

THE CAMPAIGN GAVE fresh energy to residential and student life. Wood-frame houses were renovated and converted into on-campus housing known as CoHo (for Community Housing), creating a new neighborhood for juniors and seniors. Many donors stepped up to make that vision a reality, including mathematics professor Loring Tu. Three houses on Bellevue Street are now named for Tu and his two brothers.
Championing the Arts

THE ARTS ARE THRIVING on the Boston campus of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (right), a part of the School of Arts and Sciences since 2016. Support for Brighter World has expanded funding for the school’s distinctive approach to arts education: studio coursework combined with liberal arts and sciences courses and varied degree programs for undergraduate, graduate, and continuing learners.

SERVING ANIMALS AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

PROJECTS AT CUMMINGS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE translate into the highest-quality service, clinical trials, and innovative therapies. New construction on the Grafton campus includes the Equine Sports Medicine Complex (below), home to the region’s largest team of board-certified equine specialists.

The Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals was transformed by a challenge gift from the Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund that raised more than $10 million to support the hospital’s renovation. The project included a new reception area, state-of-the-art examination rooms, and larger treatment rooms for specialty services.

Veterinary students also are developing hands-on clinical skills in the Joseph Kelley, D.V.M. Simulation Laboratory, a renovated 3,000-square-foot space. The laboratory’s namesake was a friend and mentor to Cummings School alumni; a $5 million gift in his memory enabled construction and established a $2 million endowment.

NEW ERA FOR ANATOMY LAB

ON THE BOSTON HEALTH SCIENCES campus, the School of Medicine celebrated a new era in anatomical education with the opening of the Michael J. Anatomy Lab. The facility incorporates the latest technology as well as updated ventilation and natural light. An essential component for Tufts’ medical, dental, and physician assistant programs, the lab was made possible by a gift from the Jaharis Family Foundation, which inspired others to also support facilities, faculty, and scholarships at the medical school by matching their gifts.

In other improvements to hands-on learning, the school moved and upgraded the Camilla Bessey Thompson and Paul D. Thompson, M.D., Clinical Skills and Simulation Center.
Civic Engagement on the Rise

TUFTS IS ADVANCING the lifelong skills and values of civic engagement thanks to remarkable philanthropy from Lizzie and Trustee Emeritus Jonathan Tisch, A76, H20. Their campaign gifts, totaling $26 million, expand the impact and reach of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life.

The couple’s gifts include one at the launch of Brighter World and another that propelled the campaign past its goal earlier this year, as well as a $1 million gift to honor Alan Solomont, A70, A80P, H23, dean emeritus of Tisch College. Their philanthropy has endowed professorships in civic studies, supported ongoing research on youth voting, and widened opportunities for students from all socioeconomic backgrounds to participate in service learning—just some of the ways that Tufts is securing the future of a robust and inclusive democracy.

That civic commitment was on full display on the night of November 8, 2016, when Tufts students, including Sara Newman, A18, AG19, and Lilly Tahmasebi, A17, F18, (above) gathered at Tisch College to track voting in the U.S. presidential election by filling in an electoral map.

Inspiring a World of Good

$682M

Raised for teaching and research
Meat without Farm Animals

BY 2050, THE WORLD’S POPULATION will reach 9.7 billion. But the planet already struggles to produce a sustainable food supply. How will we keep pace?

The Tufts School of Engineering is advancing a solution: cultivated meat production, also known as cellular agriculture.

Led by David Kaplan, the Stern Family Endowed Professor of Engineering, Distinguished Professor, and chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering (above, standing, with a postdoctoral researcher), scientists at the Kaplan Lab are using tissue engineering to grow meat from individual cells, avoiding the need for farm animals. They’re transforming the cells into protein-rich structures with tastes and textures similar to those found in beef, chicken, and seafood.

Significant investments have propelled their research forward, and that research is crucial, Kaplan said. “We cannot feed the growing population unless we do something drastically new and different.”

SAVING LIVES

IN THE UNITED STATES, Black women are two and a half to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women. The new Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice at the School of Medicine addresses that disparity.

“The country is in a crisis around maternal health,” said Ndidi Amutah-Onukagha (below), founder and director of the center and holder of the new Julia A. Okoro Professorship of Black Maternal Health. “The majority of Black maternal deaths are completely preventable. We intend to impact policy in a way that will save lives.”

INVESTING IN IMPACT

TRUSTEE JASON EPSTEIN, A96, AND CHLOE EPSTEIN, J96, are empowering Tufts to train finance professionals who can help businesses and investment managers align their work with equity and sustainability goals.

By funding a new graduate certificate in Impact and Sustainable Investing, the Epsteins are demonstrating their commitment to advancing social justice and environmental sustainability. The program funding also supports an endowed professorship awarded to an expert in ethics or a professor whose work contributes to solving significant societal problems.
Confronting Racism

ERIN KELLY, FLETCHER PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY in the School of Arts and Sciences (above, with Winfred Rembert), first met the late Winfred Rembert while researching her 2018 book, The Limits of Blame. She had seen Rembert’s extraordinary tooled-leather artwork depicting his life in Georgia’s prison chain gangs and wanted to include his stories in the book.

That collaboration eventually led Kelly and Rembert to co-author Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist’s Memoir of the Jim Crow South, which won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Biography. Publishers Weekly called the book a “stunning portrait of hope in the face of evil, barbarity, and racism.” The memoir reflects the depth of scholarship pursued by Kelly and other faculty members who hold endowed professorships. It also underscores the importance of confronting injustice.

“I was filled with admiration for Winfred’s courage ... and his determination to share his trauma,” Kelly said. “His story speaks to harsh realities we must grapple with as we strive to create a more just society.”

A FOOD STRATEGY FOR AMERICA

THE FRIEDMAN SCHOOL of Nutrition Science and Policy played a pivotal role in developing a new national strategy for combating hunger, improving healthy eating, and reducing diet-related disease by 2030.

Dariush Mozaffarian, Friedman School distinguished professor and dean emeritus, co-chaired the Task Force on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, which made recommendations that were woven into national strategies announced at the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health.

Mozaffarian is now leading an ongoing advocacy initiative, supported by Brighter World gifts, to ensure that “the national strategy sets out a strong, detailed, whole-of-government approach to fixing food,” he said. “It’s up to all of us to ensure these are not just words on a page but become real actions.”
Advancing Global Equity

FELLOWS IN TUFTS’ NEUBAUER FAMILY Program in Economics and Public Policy tackle some of the world’s most pressing challenges, including poverty, malnutrition, and climate change.

The five-year Ph.D. program bridges the Department of Economics at the School of Arts and Sciences and The Fletcher School. The Neubauer Family, long-time Tufts supporters, helped launch the program in 2017 with a generous gift from the Neubauer Family Foundation.

Throughout their five years in the program, the graduate student fellows achieve a solid grounding in economics and analysis while focusing on successful implementation of development projects that solve real-world problems.

Ernesto Tiburcio, AG24, (above right, with Neubauer Fellows Robel Alemu and Carolyn Pelnik) examined how international assistance programs can strengthen civic and political engagement and bolster local governments in receiving countries. “To the extent that the world is able to create democratic, functioning, fair government,” he said, “everyone will be better off.”

A BEACON OF HOPE

FOR SIMA SAMAR (LEFT), a former Minister of Women’s Affairs in Afghanistan, Tufts has been a lifeline to continuing her role as a human rights advocate. Her two-year fellowship at The Fletcher School is made possible through the university-wide Scholars at Risk program, which provides temporary academic positions for academics, artists, and public intellectuals who face danger in their home countries. Tufts also has welcomed an Afghan research analyst and, from Ukraine, a professor of international relations and a veterinary surgeon. Diana Chigas, senior international officer, professor of the practice, and associate provost at Tufts, said the program inspires support. “Looking at what’s happening around the world, this program offers a welcome freedom of thought and reflects values of the university and the Tufts community,” she said.

SCIENCE UNLOCKS A SEAL RIDDLE

THERE’S A VIRUS INFECTING mammals, spreading through close contact, sneezing, and coughing. It makes some sicker than others, and it has been mutating.

The culprit is phocine distemper virus (PDV), which leads to a potentially fatal respiratory illness in seals. When it was first recognized in the late 1980s, PDV decimated harbor seal populations on the European Atlantic coast. But when it struck seals along the North American Atlantic coast, the virus killed only a small fraction.

At Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, postdoctoral researcher Kaitlin Sawatzki and scientist Wendy Puryear are developing valuable insights into PDV, which they’ve shown may be related to a similar virus that strikes dogs. Their work, drawing on resources provided by the annual fund, is also revealing why seals on different continents have experienced different outcomes and how some groups may develop greater resistance to the virus.
ENSURING FUTURE EXCELLENCE

AS A FRIEDMAN SCHOOL GRADUATE and current adjunct faculty member who has held major roles at the school—from founder of the Admissions Office to first president of its Alumni Association to associate professor—Trustee Elizabeth Cochary Gross, N82, NG88, has always taken an active interest in the school’s evolution. She and her husband, Phill Gross, generously expanded their support during the Brighter World campaign. The impact of their philanthropy includes, among others, creating an interdisciplinary research fund, endowed scholarships, and a professorship focused on nutrition equity.

“It’s been exciting to see the Friedman School grow and thrive,” said Cochary Gross, who also co-chaired the school’s campaign committee. “Phill and I are happy to help ensure that its excellence continues for future generations.”

Friedman School Dean Christina Economos, NG96, said, “Through their dedication, Liz and Phill make it possible for us to conduct rigorous research and train future leaders to create a healthier, more equitable, and just future.”

A BEQUEST HONORS PARENTS

SHILPI BANERJEE, GBS93, co-chair of the Brighter World Campaign Committee of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, holds the distinction of being the first GSBS alumna to join the university’s legacy society, the Charles Tufts Society.

“I wanted to show my gratitude to Tufts and to honor my parents for their courage,” she said. “It was not an easy decision for them, but they let me move 8,000 miles away from them. I chose to honor them by creating in my estate plans an endowed fund to help other international students like myself. The best channel open to me is through a bequest. What’s wonderful is knowing that the fund will be given, in perpetuity, to help future students have that Tufts experience that I enjoyed.”
“Many people helped me get where I am today, including my mother and the people at Tufts who took a chance on me. You don’t forget the people who lift you up. I am overjoyed that my wife, Jean, and I can, in our own way now, say thank you to Tufts and help future students, who, like me, just need a helping hand.”

Louis A. Fiore, D62, H23, who, with his wife, Jean, created the Louis A. Fiore, D.M.D., D.P.S., D62, H23, and Jean H. Fiore Endowed Scholarship Fund. They are the most generous individual donors in the history of the School of Dental Medicine.

The Bruce-Grieffey Leadership and Diversity Internship Fund pays tribute to Lena Bruce, E92, and Anita Grieffey, J90, two members of the historically Black service-oriented sorority Delta Sigma Theta who died within two years of each other in the early 1990s. Their sorority sisters, Francesca Freeman-Lujan, J93, (below), Andrea Nelson Meigs, J90, and Leslie Keyes, J90, joined with other alumni, family, and friends of the women to honor their legacy. Together the group created a fund to give students the financial resources they need to pursue unpaid internships, which can be influential first steps toward future opportunities.

“My internship while at Tufts on a Spike Lee film inspired my career,” said Freeman-Lujan, who continues to rally support for the internship fund to expand its impact. “Lena and Anita, both extraordinary students and community leaders, were poised for great things. Now their promise lives on through the lives of others with equal potential.”
Creating a Culture of Philanthropy

Every Gift Is Jumbo

A YEAR IN TUNISIA on a Fulbright Scholarship inspired Pauline Eveillard, A05, to establish her own business importing and selling Tunisian decorative items and apparel. She credits her liberal arts education at Tufts for helping to prepare her to be an international entrepreneur. She joined Young Friends of Tufts Advancement (YFTA) in 2006 and has been an active volunteer, co-chairing YFTA and annual giving for the School of Arts and Sciences.

Every year, she looks forward to showing her gratitude. “I value the opportunities I enjoyed at Tufts,” she said. “The annual gift is my way of giving back and helping to build a stronger university.” And gifts of all sizes add up, she said. “Participation is what matters most. What we do collectively reflects how much we care about our time at Tufts. I always say: ‘Do what you can; every gift is Jumbo.’”

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

NOTHING REFLECTS a robust culture of philanthropy more than strong annual giving participation. Providing flexible support for priorities in teaching, research, and student life, annual giving ensures that Tufts faculty and students have the resources they need.

During Brighter World, more than 123,000 donors responded to the annual giving call to action, giving more than $207 million, with each school surpassing its goal.

Many of those gifts are made on one day each year: Tufts Giving Tuesday, which ignites global support for annual giving. More than $20 million in gifts of all sizes has been raised through this worldwide generosity movement.

ADVOCATES FOR THE ARTS

EVERY YEAR Steven Horowitz, A98, A27P, and Amy Horowitz, J98, A27P, look forward to the Art Sale at SMFA at Tufts, where a portion of the proceeds is funneled into financial aid. During Brighter World, the couple doubled their impact by creating a scholarship matched through the Schuler Access Initiative. Their goal? To support “students who traditionally can’t afford college or to pursue a career path in the arts,” said Steve Horowitz. Such young artists “will, in the years to come, astound the world with their originality, convictions, and courage.”
1,105
New members in the Charles Tufts Society (those who include Tufts in estate or gift plans)

$1.53B
TOTAL RAISED ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY

$296M
CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH PLANNED GIFTS, NEARLY 20% OF THE CAMPAIGN TOTAL

$559M
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENDOWMENT

28%
SHARE OF CAMPAIGN GIFTS FROM CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

132,799
Alumni, parents, and friends made gifts
At Tufts, the Illumination Ceremony reminds students that the university motto—“Pax et Lux”—can guide them as they generate bold ideas and bring “Peace and Light” into the world. Thanks to the generosity of the Tufts community, the Brighter World campaign will keep the spirit of this tradition shining for generations to come.