Message from the Director

Just this past week, I felt the first hints of spring. The snow was melting away, buds were swelling, and the birds were singing. And, even though, we once again are digging ourselves out of freshly fallen snow, I must admit that I love this time of year. I wish you all a wonderful spring break and hope that, by the time you return, you have had a relaxing time.

As you reflect back on what you have accomplished thus far and get ready for what is to come as we close out this academic year, I would like to share two exciting new development in the Environmental Studies Program that promises to make the program even stronger. First, as some of you know the Dean of Arts and Sciences initiated a new hiring model, “cluster hires,” that encourages departments to make hires that build on known areas of strength while simultaneously strengthening interdisciplinary programs. The pilot theme was the environment and ENVS was the thankful recipient of two new faculty members from Anthropology (Alex Blanchette) and Economics (Ujjayant Chakravorty) in the first round of hires! This year, the Department of Earth and Ocean...
Sciences just hired the third and final faculty member to join our efforts. Dr. Andrew Kemp will be joining the faculty in the fall of 2013. He is a sea-level scientist who reconstructs past sea-level changes and their relationship to climate to help predict future changes and aid coastal management under scenarios of future change.  

**Biofuels at the 2013 Tufts Energy Fair**  
*by Savannah Dix*  

The eight annual Tufts Energy Conference (TEC) was held at the over the weekend of March 2-3, bringing in guests from across the country and beyond to discuss the issue of global energy security. The conference was organized entirely by a diverse group of 30 Tufts undergraduate and graduate students, with valuable support from Tufts faculty and many private sponsors. The 2013 conference agenda included several workshops, three keynote speakers, a student energy innovation competition, and six panels compromised of experts in a given field of energy security. Hundreds of attendees flowed through the Cabot Intercultural Center to take part in these events, and despite taking place in the midst of midterms and spring breaks; the conference was an overwhelming success.  

**Food for All: Exploring Sustainable Food Systems in the Classroom**  
*by Karen Bustard and Mae Humiston*  

How do you even begin to look for solutions to a failing global food system? This semester’s University Seminar, “Food for All: Ecology, Biotechnology and Sustainability” strives to do just that. The seminar is taught by Tim Griffin, Director of the Agriculture, Food and the Environment Program and Associate Professor at the Friedman School, Colin Orians, Professor in the Tufts Biology Department and Director of the Environmental Studies Program, and Sara “Coco” Gomez, Post-doctorate researcher at Tufts and the University of Rhode Island. They aim to take an inter/trans-disciplinary approach to examining the paradox of sustainably feeding a burgeoning population. Populated with a mix of undergrad and graduate students, the seminar’s thought-provoking discussions are filled with varying perspectives, ranging from that of the lab vet to the geologist to the historian.  

**Faculty Profile: Justin Hollander**  
*by Savannah Dix*  

On March 12th, I had the pleasure of sitting down to talk with former Tufts student and 7th year Assistant Professor Justin Hollander of the Tufts Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning Department (UEP). Apart from teaching several courses on regional and urban planning, Dr. Hollander has published countless articles and three books since 2009, and has been asked to share his work with audiences across the country. In October, *The New York Times* published an Op-Ed written by Hollander where he argued for the preservation of paper as a central form of educational media, comparing the trend of “going digital” to the dismantling of streetcar systems after the invention of automobiles. Dr. Hollander's multidisciplinary work has focused on the issue of...
The invention of automobiles. Dr. Hollander's multidisciplinary work has focused on the issues of polluted land (specifically brownfields) and cities with shrinking populations, both issues associated with the economic recession, and specifically with the decline of the American manufacturing industry.  

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