Dean's Letter

This year's commencement- the 120th for the School of Medicine and the 32nd for the Sackler School- was held on a beautiful May 20th. The ceremony focused on the future of healthcare and research in a world with a rapidly changing healthcare system and constrained resources for science.

Degrees conferred by the Medical School included 153 MDs, eleven MD/MBAs, nineteen MD/MPHs, and eight MD/PhDs, with twenty-one percent of graduates earning an additional degree. In the medical class president’s address, Neel Shah, A06, M12, spoke about his classmates’ varied extracurricular activities, stating “These interests outside of medicine will allow you to connect with patients in a way residency training never will.”

“You are all here because you’ve done something amazing,” said Naomi Rosenberg, Dean of the Sackler School, in her address to 53 graduates, the highest number in its history. “You have all discovered new knowledge, and, more important, you have contributed that knowledge to the world so that everyone can benefit.” The Sackler student address was delivered by triple-Jumbo Robert Howard Goldstein, a graduate of the MD/PhD program. Eleven students received an MS, 34 received a PhD, and eight an MD/PhD degree.

Ellen Zane, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Public Health and Community Medicine, CEO Emeritus and Vice Chair, Board of Trustees for Tufts Medical Center, gave the faculty address at the Public Health and Professional Degree Programs’ commencement ceremony; Jennifer Lee, MPH, M09, Vice President of the PHPD Alumni Association gave the alumni address, and Lauren Elizabeth Palmer, MPH’12 gave the PHPD class address. Graduates included 66 MPH, nineteen MD/MPH, four MBS/MPH, three DVM/MPH, 73 MBS, seven MS-HCOM, and twelve MS-PREP recipients.

Commencement 2012

Congratulations Awardees

2012 Innovation in Diversity Education Awards:

From Baystate Health: Increasing Competency in Transgender Care: A Case-based Curriculum
- Michael Rosenblum, MD
- J. Aleah Nesteby, RN, FNP
- Lauren Meade, MD
- Carolyn Delk, DO
- Malina Yotova, MD

From Baystate Medical Center: Implementation of a Dynamic Curriculum for Cultural Competency Training
- Gladys Fernandez, MD
- Mihaela Stefan, MD
- David Page, MD
- Kaitlyn Wong, MD
- Kimberly William
- Rebecca Blanchard, PhD
- Elizabeth D’Amour, RN
- Andrew Doben, MD
- Richard Wait, MD, PhD

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Reunion Weekend

This year’s reunion, held May 11th-13th, was a warm and festive affair. The events kicked off on Friday with a luncheon for senior alumni, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Philip Haydon presenting his groundbreaking research on nervous system disorders, followed by a CME lecture by Dr. John Leong about the role of bacteria in human cell function.

The evening highlight was a reception and tour of the JFK Library and Museum. At the cocktail and dinner reception, the Tufts Medical Alumni Association (TMAA) presented its new members and awarded the TMAA Dean’s Award, given to select graduates nominated by their peers for exemplary service to medicine. Recipients were Lawrence K. Altman, MD, M62, Frank M. Calia, MD, M62, Sherwood L. Gorbach, MD, M62, J84P, Steven M. Jaharis, MD, M87, and Michael J. Paidas, MD, M87.

Saturday showcased a talk by President Anthony Monaco about the state of the School of Medicine. Attendees then participated in a student-led tour, visiting a campus that looks markedly different than when they were students, followed by a barbeque for family and friends. More than 200 alumni continued to reconnect at their individual class dinners Saturday evening and the farewell breakfast on Sunday.
PA Program Progresses

At last year’s Symposium for New Academic Programs, there was much discussion among faculty and administrators about ways in which TUSM could reach a broader audience by utilizing distance learning technologies. This summer, the MS Health Communication Program is offering its first online course, Mobile Health Design. Lectures are being conducted using Adobe Connect, a web conferencing software program. For discussion purposes, students chat online using Google+ Hangouts, and are required to submit skill-based exercises.

New Director of Development and Alumni Relations

TUSM is pleased to welcome Rebecca Scott as the new Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations for TUSM and the Sackler School. Formerly the Director of the Tufts University Gift Planning Office, Rebecca has an impressive development track record. Since arriving at Tufts in 2005, Rebecca has secured $30 million for the University, with the help of her team and colleagues. In the past year alone, she has raised a significant share of the Medical School’s capital achievement, including both planned and outright gifts in support of financial aid funding towards a professorship, research, and the Dean’s priorities. Rebecca’s wealth of expertise, creativity, and dynamism will be a great asset to the medical school.

Notable News

- Lisa Gualtieri, Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, discusses her role as the Consumer Representative to the FDA’s Arthritis Advisory Committee in her blog post.

- Fourth-year students Richard Matulewicz and Rachel Carroll were named 2012 Medical Society Scholars. The Society’s Scholar Awards are presented annually to students who demonstrate excellent academic performance, community involvement, and financial need.

- UIT has recently expanded Tufts’ existing wireless network service to afford better access for University visitors and guests. When on campus, a wireless device will display the "tufts-guest" wireless network and be able to connect instantly. A tip-sheet explaining the service and its use is available at: training.uit.tufts.edu/pdfs/guestwireless.pdf.

- A summary of the Research Retreat held on May 14th at TUSM is now available online at: medicine.tufts.edu/Who-We-Are/Administrative-Offices/Office-of-the-Dean/Research-Symposium.

- Gevvie Stone, M14, earned a place on the US Olympic rowing team on May 23rd. An aspiring orthopedic surgeon, she will compete for eight days in London, beginning on July 28th.

Accreditation Update

On February 2-5th, 2014, the LCME will conduct an accreditation site visit to TUSM. The preparations that are necessary in advance of this visit have already begun. The Accreditation Project Office is gearing up to launch ‘Part One’ of the process, data collection. Database materials will be readied for distribution in June to the appropriate academic and administrative units for completion.

In September, ‘Part Two’, the Institutional Self-Study, begins. Self-study Committees will be formed with representation from across the entire TUSM community. Additional information on the self-study will be provided at that time and will be available on the Accreditation website: medicine.tufts.edu/LCME. In addition to providing an overview of the accreditation process, timeline, committee memberships and additional resources, updates throughout the project will be posted to this site.

PA Program Progresses

The Physician Assistant Program had a site visit from its accrediting agency, the ARC-PA, at the end of April. Two visitors spent two days at TUSM, touring the facilities, reviewing materials, and meeting with faculty and senior administrators. Accreditation will be decided at the ARC-PA’s September meeting.

The program is already receiving considerable interest; a recent information session at Tufts Medical Center yielded 60 participants. Additional information sessions will be held at Tufts MC on June 8th from 4:00-6:00 pm in the Wolff Auditorium and at Lahey Clinic in Burlington on June 28th from 4:00-6:00 pm in the Radiology Conference Room.

PHPD’s First Online Course

At last year’s Symposium for New Academic Programs, there was much discussion among faculty and administrators about ways in which TUSM could reach a broader audience by utilizing distance learning technologies. This summer, the MS Health Communication Program is offering its first online course, Mobile Health Design. Lectures are being conducted using Adobe Connect, a web conferencing software program. For discussion purposes, students chat online using Google+ Hangouts, and are required to submit skill-based exercises.

TUSM Seeks Approval for New Lab

On May 16th, TUSM announced the intention to seek approval from the Boston Public Health Commission to build a 1,700 square foot biosafety level 3 research laboratory on the 8th floor of the Arnold Wing of the Biomedical research and Public Health Building. The lab will primarily be used by researchers in the Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology to study tuberculosis. An open meeting for the community was held at TUSM on May 22nd to present information and answer questions about the lab. A number of meetings with local organizations are also planned in June. Additional information on the lab and a schedule of the meetings is available at: medicine.tufts.edu/Research/Arnold8BiosafetyLab.