The Honos Civicus Society, an initiative of the Tisch College of Civic Life, selects and publicly recognizes graduating students from all Tufts schools who engaged in meaningful service and leadership activities or otherwise strengthened civic life, on campus and beyond, during their time at Tufts.

Each year, honorees from the schools of medicine, dental medicine, and nutrition come together on the Boston campus for a joint induction ceremony in which we celebrate their accomplishments and encourage them to strengthen their commitments to civic life within the health professions.
Nathan J. Bankoff

Nathan has focused on improving quality of life for adolescents and young adults affected by cancer. He has been an active member of Kids in Chemotherapy and their Students (KICS), a program that pairs medical students with pediatric patients undergoing cancer treatment at the Floating Hospital. He has also been a Senior Board Member in the Reid R. Sacco Adolescent & Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Alliance for ten years. The AYA Cancer Alliance is a foundation based in Nathan’s hometown, which raises funds and awareness for the treatment of cancers affecting the AYA population. Throughout medical school, he has served as a liaison between the foundation and the Reid R. Sacco AYA Program for Cancers & Blood Diseases at Tufts Medical Center, helping to connect community fundraising efforts to tangible clinical and educational outcomes. After graduation, Nathan will be training as a Family Medicine resident at Maine Medical Center.
2017 Honos Civicus Inductees

John J. Bellamee

John has focused on serving the medically-underserved populations of Greater Boston during his time as an MBS and MD student at Tufts University School of Medicine. This has included volunteer and leadership positions within The Sharewood Project, a student-run free health care organization which, through a strong network of volunteer students, physicians, and local organizations, provides health services to communities in need. John’s work as a Sexual and Reproductive Health Counselor made a positive impact on many individual patients, and his role on the Executive Board as General Project Director helped Sharewood to improve the quality of its patient rooms, implement a new electronic medical record, and expand its network of volunteer physicians. Following graduation, John plans to complete his anesthesiology residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, with plans to subspecialize in either critical care or pain medicine.

Abigail H. Benudis

Abigail Benudis has been an active and involved community member while pursuing her combined MD-MPH degree at Tufts School of Medicine. She has provided women’s healthcare and Spanish medical translation services at the student-run Sharewood clinic, conducted mental health research in Guatemala with the support of the William’s grant, instructed the problem based learning course for first year medical students, and sat on multidisciplinary committees to improve medical curriculum. She has held leadership roles with the Massachusetts Medical Society – Medical Students Section, the Psychiatry interest group, and the student senate, representing the MD-MPH cohort. She is thrilled to be pursuing her psychiatry residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell after graduation, with the hope of becoming a community psychiatrist with a specific focus on women’s mental health.

Lauren R. Byrne

Lauren has focused on pediatric obesity, oncology, and medical education during her time as a student at Tufts University School of Medicine. This has included being a student leader for the TEEEN program, a community based obesity program for overweight adolescents. She was actively involved in the KICKS program which pairs students with children undergoing treatment for life threatening diseases. Her KICKS match finished his last round of chemotherapy this year and is now cancer free. She also spent time serving on multiple curriculum committees and is helping to design and implement a new curriculum which will be put into effect for the incoming TUSM class of 2023. She is heading to Oakland Children’s Hospital for a pediatric residency where she will be serving a predominantly underserved population. She plans to pursue fellowship in either hospitalist medicine or emergency medicine.
Adam Thomas Cardullo
During his time at Tufts University School of Medicine, Adam Cardullo has focused on the education and development of children in the greater Boston area. This included involvement with the IDEAS in Medicine program, a body of medical students who volunteer with the Eugene Wright Science and Technology Academy in Chelsea, MA. The program is designed to help 7th grade students improve their math and science literacy, critical thinking skills, and problem solving ability, while also introducing them to careers in the health sciences. Adam became Administrative Director of IDEAS where he obtained multiple grants to support program growth. Adam’s work helped raise student grades in Math and Science as well as student awareness of health skills, such as CPR. Adam will be starting his residency in Pediatrics at the University of Utah-Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City this June.

Anna Dukhovich
During her time at Tufts University School of Medicine, Anna has focused on women’s health and education. This has included teaching English as a Second Language to immigrant women at Rosie’s Place, an organization that provides a safe and nurturing environment for women. In addition, she served as the president of the OB/GYN interest group, while running a program that connected medical students with young pregnant women to offer support and advice. She also became a trained interpreter, and she used her Russian and Spanish skills to facilitate medical health visits at the Sharewood Project, a free healthcare clinic run by medical students. After graduation, Anna plans to go into Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at Stamford Hospital, CT.

Jessica Lynn González
Jessica González has focused on improving access to culturally sensitive healthcare for limited English proficiency patients during her time as a student at Tufts University School of Medicine. This has included founding the Tufts Interpreter Program which trains bilingual medical students to care for patients in languages other than English. Jessica’s work helped The Sharewood Project to offer care and services in multiple languages. She also personally served as a volunteer Spanish interpreter at Sharewood and as a Peer Facilitator for the Community Service Learning Program. Jessica plans to go into Dermatology after graduation at UT Southwestern Medical Center.
Bethany Wood Harvey

Bethany has focused on providing healthcare, insurance, and other social supports to the greater Malden area during her time as a student at Tufts University School of Medicine. This has included her role as Director of Case Management at The Sharewood Project, an organization which provides a variety of health care services to the medically underserved populations of the Malden and Greater Boston areas. Bethany’s work helped Sharewood navigate the obstacles encountered while learning and implementing the new guidelines associated with the rollout of the Affordable Care Act. As Director, she was tasked with troubleshooting in real-time to ensure that the Case Management team was in the best possible position to be able to help their patient population. After graduation, Bethany will be pursuing a residency in General Surgery at University at Buffalo.

Elena S. Hill

As an MD/MPH student, Elena has had a long time interest in disparities amongst Hispanic communities in the Boston area and has worked directly on issues related to better serving this population. During her medical school career, she worked to establish partnership with a community based interpreters program at TUSM’s Sharewood clinic to expand interpretive services to patients. She also worked longitudinally at the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center to secure funding for a doula/labor companionship program for underserved Latina women. She is committed to increasing access to language services and culturally competent health care. She will be continuing her work with the Hispanic community at Boston Medical Center as a Family Medicine Resident this coming year.

Kailyn M. Kuzmuk

During medical school, Kailyn has focused on community service related to nutrition and physical activity for children as well as service to the Tufts community as a member of multiple committees within the medical school. Her service has included involvement in the TEEEN Program which focuses on combating the pediatric obesity epidemic. Kailyn plans to go into pediatrics after graduation and will be starting residency this summer at Boston Children’s Hospital.
Eung-Mi Lee

Eung-Mi Lee is an MD/MBA student and a member of the 2017 class of the Tufts Student Service Scholars program, a curricular track which prepares students for practice in underserved communities. She has focused on examining racial disparities in health care, and was one of the organizers of the Racial Justice Workshop series for first year medical students to explore implicit bias in health care and reflect on their own identities and roles in addressing structural inequality. She also worked with the Psychiatry Dept at Tufts Medical Center on a research study about improving cultural sensitivity training for third year medical students. She volunteered as a medical advocate for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, and went to area emergency rooms to meet survivors of sexual violence to provide support and resources during the process of evidence collection. Using this experience, she worked with the Ob/Gyn Dept at Tufts Medical Center to create a toolkit to aid providers caring for laboring patients with a history of sexual trauma. Eung-Mi will be entering the field of Ob/Gyn and will be going to Boston Medical Center for residency.

Richard A. Manfready

Richard A. Manfready’s initiatives and leadership in medical science and healthcare have benefited those in need at home and abroad. During his time at Tufts University School of Medicine, Richard volunteered with Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program, where his clinical work evolved into a research-driven initiative to improve medication compliance among homeless diabetics. Richard’s service work also focused on innovative solutions for treating opioid addiction and achieving equitable healthcare cost/quality coordination. His nonprofit work resulted in improved laboratory diagnostic systems used by the VA nationwide. In Africa, Richard conducted patient care and community health assessments in remote villages in Ghana. He additionally served community health causes through leadership positions in The American Medical Association, Massachusetts Medical Society, and MIT Educational Council. He was a Peer Facilitator in the Tufts Community Service Learning Course. Richard plans to pursue internal medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine Program, Mount Sinai Beth Israel.
Larissa Haaser Mattei
Throughout her time at Tufts, Larissa has focused on improving patient health literacy and finding ways to support patients in becoming their own advocates. She first worked as a Spanish interpreter and a Women’s and Sexual Health Counselor at the Sharewood Clinic where she taught patients about their health and helped them find consistent access to care. She later went on to coordinate the Teen Obstetrical Patients and their Students program with the Ob/Gyn department at Tufts. Larissa helped find mentors for pregnant teenage patients and eventually mentored her own patient throughout her pregnancy. Many of the former TOPS patients have since returned to high school or college in part because of the support and encouragement they received throughout their pregnancies. Larissa is moving to Chicago soon and going into Ob/Gyn at Rush University.

Taieri McKenzie
Taieri has focused on homeless health during her time as a student at Tufts University School of Medicine. This has included leadership at the St. Francis House Foot Clinic, a branch of Boston Healthcare for the Homeless, as well as establishing the first alternative spring break at Tufts with three other students, working on a mobile health clinic for homeless adolescents in Phoenix, Arizona. Taieri’s work helped to establish a relationship for future Tufts students to volunteer on the Crews’n’Healthmobile in Phoenix, providing quality care to some of the most vulnerable members of the city’s population. Taieri plans to go into Obstetrics and Gynecology with a focus on teen pregnancy after graduation at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA.

Jasmine Mikami
Jasmine has focused on pediatric health during her time as a student at Tufts. This has included establishing an alternative spring break program at Tufts working on a mobile clinic serving homeless youth and families in Phoenix, Arizona and involvement in KICKS(Kids in Chemotherapy and their Students) and the Phoenix Project. Jasmine’s work organizing the trip to Phoenix to work aboard the Crews’n’Healthmobile helped to establish a relationship for future Tufts students to continue the alternative spring break program. Jasmine is excited to start her career in pediatrics at Children’s Hospital in Oakland, California, a program with a strong focus on caring for an underserved population.
Jennifer Yuko Moyer

Jenny has focused on correctional healthcare during her time as a student at the medical school. Along with another medical student, she founded the Phoenix Project, a community service learning group that goes to South Bay House of Corrections to run health and wellness workshops, and aims to increase student awareness of issues around correctional healthcare and providing appropriate care to those with a history of incarceration. She also served as student leader of KICKS (Kids in Chemo and their Students). Additionally, she became interested in addiction medicine and did her final MPH project at the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, where she worked on a program designed for inpatients with their recovery from addiction during their medical hospitalization. After graduation, she will be a family medicine resident at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and hopes to continue exploring her interests in urban underserved medicine.

Miranda J. Rogers

Throughout her time at Tufts, Miranda Rogers has focused on understanding the unique health concerns of the commercial fishing community in her home state of Maine. Her interest stems from her childhood upbringing on Orr’s Island in a family of lobstermen. As primary investigator, Miranda initiated her own research project during her first year of medical school and is currently in the process of publishing several papers discussing the barriers to healthcare faced by the fishing community. The goal of her research is to increase the understanding of this community in order to better provide medical care for its members. Miranda plans to go into Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Utah after graduation.

Tuhin Kar Roy

Tuhin Roy has focused on community outreach with youth in the neighborhoods surrounding Tufts, with a special interest and leadership in tutoring at the Josiah Quincy Upper School in Chinatown. He worked with the school coordinator to further develop the program into a longitudinal mentorship and tutoring partnership between Tufts Medical students and JQUS high school students. He helped develop a curriculum and structure that allowed Tufts Medical students to form longitudinal relationships with the students and help them achieve their educational goals. Tuhin’s work has helped expand the program into a more permanent fixture at JQUS and he hopes that the partnership will continue for years to come. Tuhin plans to do residency in Family Medicine at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center in Lawrence, MA.
Katherine S. Takvorian

Kate believes deeply in the values of service and building community. During her time at Tufts University School of Medicine, she has participated in a wide range of projects, including working at the student-run free health clinic, advocating for special needs children in the Boston Public School system, guiding other students through their own Community Service Learning projects as a peer facilitator, and working with first-year medical students as a Problem-Based Learning instructor. She has a strong interest in issues related to social justice and medicine. Her work in this field has included research and efforts to develop a social justice-based curriculum for Tufts Public Health and Professional Degree students. Kate will be starting residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston this coming summer and looks forward to bring this spirit of service and community to both her patients and colleagues.

Lindsay Tishberg

Lindsay has focused on homeless healthcare in Boston and pediatric diabetes care in Haiti during her time as an MD/MPH student at Tufts University School of Medicine. Her involvement in homeless healthcare has included research with Boston Health Care for the Homeless Project to describe the experience of homeless families affected by opioid use disorder and reform approaches to opioid treatment in this unique population. She also volunteered with children at a domestic violence homeless shelter with Horizons for Homeless Children. She spent a summer in Milot, Haiti conducting research with a Haitian pediatrician to assess the effectiveness of a newly implemented pediatric Type 1 Diabetes clinic. Her volunteer work inspired Lindsay to pursue a residency in pediatrics, which she will be doing at Children’s Hospital at Montefiore, a hospital known for its devotion to serving the medical and social needs of the diverse community of the Bronx, NY.

Julian Alexander Waksal

Julian is the co-founder of a non-profit organization called Building Blocks for Change. Throughout his time at TUSM, he has continued his work with this organization with a goal of working with Kenyan communities to develop sustainable infrastructure projects that have longstanding, positive impacts. Through their efforts, Julian and his team have built a women’s health clinic and education facility, and installed hybrid solar/wind-powered energy grids in four rural communities and schools throughout Kenya. In Boston, Julian was a regular volunteer at both Sharewood, and Ideas in Medicine throughout his 1st and 2nd year at TUSM. Julian will complete his residency in Internal Medicine at NYP-Weill Cornell, and plans to continue to drive impactful initiatives, both locally and in developing nations, throughout his career.
Christina Noel Weed

Christina has focused on the intersection of health and social justice during her time as a student within the Tufts MD/MPH program. This has included involvement and leadership in the Tufts chapter of Physicians for Human Rights which focuses on the intersection of health and human rights – especially regarding asylum seekers and refugees. Christina is also a member of the M17 class of Tufts Student Service Scholars – a curricular track focused on preparing students for practice in underserved communities. Christina’s projects within her public health curriculum have included consulting with a health coalition to create pragmatic interventions to improve community health in Snohomish County, Washington, as well as working to establish long-term follow-up of functional outcomes and mental health for trauma survivors in Boston. Christina will be starting her general surgery residency after graduation at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, WA.

Steven Young

During Steven’s time at Tufts University School of Medicine, he was involved in multiple activities including community service and advocacy. In the community, he worked as the ophthalmology coordinator at the Sharewood Project and as a blood pressure coordinator at Castle Square Tenant Organization. As a patient and physician advocate, Steven has been involved with the American Medical Association and Massachusetts Medical Society working on policy that protects patients and lobbying his Congressman annually with hundreds of other medical students from across the nation. Some notable policies that he helped pass include calling for the removal of the ban on gun violence research, supporting Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)-eligible physicians and physicians-in-training, and advocating for healthcare reform that would ensure continued coverage for currently insured individuals. Steven plans to go into Anesthesiology at Beth Israel Deaconness Medical Center after his internship at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital.
Joshua Lo

Joshua has focused on accessibility to healthcare during his time as a student at Tufts University MBS/MPH dual degree program. This has included involvement at the Sharewood Project, which provides free health care services to Boston’s underserved population. Joshua’s work helped individuals and families through case management to connect them with MassHealth, SNAP, and other social services that they need. Joshua plans to go into medical school after graduation at Western University of Health Sciences in California.
Michael Mastroianni

While a student in the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences (MBS) program here at Tufts, Michael Mastroianni has continued serving as the President of the nonprofit organization, Action for Education (AcE). AcE seeks to build community through expense-free education and medical clinics held in their country of service, Honduras. Michael has personally raised over $20,000 to build a public school in San Pedro Sula, Honduras that now teaches over 350 students. In addition, Michael organized AcE’s second medical service trip to Honduras, where a team of Tufts undergraduate students and medical personnel treated 1,133 patients in five days this past Spring Break. He is currently organizing a two-week medical trip this summer with plans to treat over 2,000 patients. To learn more about AcE, feel free to visit www.action4education.org. Michael will graduate from the MBS program this spring and will then begin his applications to medical school.

Cayla June Saret

During her time as a Master of Public Health student at Tufts University School of Medicine, Cayla has focused on health communication and policy. She helped to create the Tufts Health and Social Justice Book Club. The goal of the group is to gather students, faculty, and staff across various Tufts programs to spark conversation about the kind of impact they want to have in the world personally and professionally. Cayla has also served as a leader at Moishe Kavod House, a Boston-based Jewish organization of individuals in their 20s and 30s dedicated to social justice work. She coordinated the planning of the community’s annual Membership Meeting, fundraising drive, and Community Retreat. Cayla has also engaged in local advocacy related to road safety for people who bike and walk.

Jessica Serventi-Gleeson

During her time as an MPH student, Jessica focused on her interest in working with pediatric populations. She spent her summers at Roundup River Ranch, a non-profit camp that serves children and families with chronic and life-threatening illnesses. Her work with Roundup River Ranch aimed to bridge the gap between the social-emotional needs of families and children and their medical care. She created and implemented adaptive camp programming for children with medical limitation. In addition, she helped in organizing and serving meals to individuals experiencing homelessness. She also worked with a non-profit organization that aimed to improve access to literature for prisoners. She plans to continue working with pediatric patients and families after graduation from Tufts University’s Public Health and Professional Degree Programs.
Derrick Darnell Young, Jr.

Derrick Young Jr. is a young millennial who is a champion for social justice, health equity, and education. Derrick has demonstrated his commitment to reaching health equity by centering his academic work around the laws and policies that influence social determinants of health. Since coming to Tufts University School of Medicine, he has taught a group of kindergarten scholars through Summer Advantage USA, a leading summer school program in low-income communities. He has completed the development of an Anti-Racism Toolkit targeting health professionals for the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research. Currently, Derrick works at Codman Square Health Center as the Project Coordinator for Dorchester Knows, an HIV education and testing initiative. Derrick earned his BA from Grambling State University. In the fall, he will continue his education at Boston University School of Law.
2017 Honos Civicus Inductees

Tufts University School of Dental Medicine

Michael Arrigo

Michael has focused on community engagement during his time as a student at Tufts Dental. Michael served as the community service chairman for his class. As part of this role, Michael organized many events in which he and other members of the D17 class volunteered to help serve the community both within and outside of dentistry. Some of these events included promoting oral health at the Special Olympics, and helping to provide for those in need around the Greater Boston area through organizations such as Cradles to Crayons and the Greater Boston Food Bank. Michael plans to go into Orthodontics after graduation from Tufts University.
Anna Bak

During her time at TUSDM, Anna has focused on outreach to the pediatric population of the Chinatown and greater Boston communities to promote oral health and overall health. Through her role as vice president in the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Club at Tufts, she has worked to encourage early formulation of healthy habits and prevention of dental disease in the pediatric and special needs patient. From outreach events at local schools, daycares, and health fairs, to raising funds for Operation Smile, Anna is committed to engaging her local community with service aimed towards oral health. After graduation, Anna will continue her work with the pediatric population as a Pediatric Dentistry Resident at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Mina Boulos

Mina Boulos has focused on underserved Coptic populations in regards to receiving dental care during his time as a student at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. While at Boston College, he founded St. Mark’s Dental Clinic based in Natick, Massachusetts, whose mission is to provide dental care and education to newly immigrated Coptic Orthodox Christians in Massachusetts. Mina’s role has been mainly organization of the clinic, gathering materials, talking to patients on personal care and how important it is to receive regular dental treatment. Currently, he is working with Dr. Kaddis who has been providing the dental care. Mina plans to one day join him in providing the care directly after residency to keep the clinic going and allowing it to grow. Mina will be pursuing Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Connecticut after graduation.

Grace Creech

During her time as a student at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Grace Creech has been interested in the successes and failures of our healthcare system and assessing situations that prevent patients from seeking and obtaining treatment. Her main focus was the Sharewood Project, a free program in Malden run by Tufts dental and medical students, where the underserved and uninsured are able to obtain basic health care services. As the Dental/Medical Liaison, her primary responsibility was improving cooperative patient care among medical and dental outlets. Because Sharewood is an entry point for many patients, she was able to assess factors that keep individuals from accessing care, convey the importance of oral health, and direct patients to resources that are convenient and affordable. After graduation, Grace will remain at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine as a resident in Orthodontics.
Sara Golkari

Sara Golkari has focused on advocacy during her time as a student at Tufts School of Dental Medicine. This has included involvement and national leadership in American Student Dental Association (ASDA) as well as the Massachusetts Dental Society. Recently, Sara Golkari’s work helped ASDA to organize over 1,000 dentists and dental students participation at ADA Lobby Day in Washington D.C. She has helped advocate for crucial dental legislation such as the introduction of midlevel providers and student debt. Sara Golkari plans to go into pediatric dentistry after graduation at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital but will also remain involved in advocacy at both the local and national level.

Houda Hamze

Houda Hamze has been involved in a range of civic engagement activities with different organizations and populations. She devoted most of her time to her role as student director at the Bridge Over Troubled Water Dental Clinic. At this clinic she helped homeless and runaway teens and young adults get access to dental care. Not only did she love volunteering herself, but she loved creating an environment for others to volunteer in, and be excited to be part of. After graduation Houda will start her Pediatric Dental Residency Program in Tampa, Florida and eventually settle down in sunny California. She hopes to send a strong message to her future patients about the importance of preventative care and continue to give back to the community throughout her career.

David Huynh

David Huynh has focused on improving the livelihood of the people in the community during his time as a student at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. This included being a volunteer coordinator for the Tufts Asian Dental Organization and for Charles River Dental during their Dentistry from the Heart events. These projects focus on providing dental services to those without dental insurance benefits. His work with the Asian Dental Organization has helped create an annual oral cancer screening and oral hygiene instructions event at the Women’s Dental Place. He also enjoyed volunteering with organizations such as Project Bridge, New England Center and Home for Veterans, and Sharewood Project. David is grateful for the opportunities to serve his community while at Tufts, and he looks forward to continuing his involvement by attending mission trips to impoverished communities to provide dental services in the future.
Alexis Irby

From the onset of her career at Tufts University, Alexis sought out to have a great impact in the community through increasing diversity in dentistry. Alexis has been involved with several different groups that have helped her to work in her passion including the Women’s in Dentistry Task Force, the Tufts Health Literacy Intensive and the Student National Dental Association (SNDA). The SNDA is the largest student dental organization focused on supporting minority dental students and communities across the globe. Alexis currently serves as the national president and is proud to promote the mission of the organization through her commitment to service. Being involved in these groups has given Alexis a wealth of opportunities to make a positive impact on the communities around her. Upon graduation, Alexis plans to move to Atlanta, GA where she will practice General Dentistry and continue to be involved in serving the underserved.

Paulina Kanakos

Paulina has focused on the Sharewood Project all four years at TUSDM. Her involvement included conducting oral health/cancer screenings, providing oral hygiene instructions, applying fluoride varnish treatments, and assisting patients with dental referrals to help them find a dental home. She is also a member of the Hispanic Dental Association and participated on the annual service trip to the Dominican Republic last year. Next year Paulina will be entering a pediatric dental residency program at the University of Connecticut.

Bailey Klein

As a student of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Bailey Klein became involved in health literacy early on in her career. Her passion began when she participated in the school’s first Health Literacy Intensive program. As the years went on, Bailey strived to continue to educate underserved communities by providing oral health sessions on Tufts Psychiatry floor. Here she was able to provide residents a variety of dental health lectures and helped to create educational materials for resident use in plain language. Her volunteering led her to participate in a unique opportunity to create educational material for inter-professional collaboration in the Occupational therapy field. She and her colleagues presented their research and teaching materials at the Massachusetts Association of Occupational Therapy Annual Conference. After graduation, Bailey will begin an advanced education in general dentistry residency at the University of Missouri-Kansas city.
Derek Leung

Dr. Derek L. Leung is a senior pediatric dental resident at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Passionate about teaching, Dr. Leung lectures at Tufts on topics such as local anesthetics and pharmacological sedation. At Tufts, he has served on multiple panels, advising enrolled dental students on choosing their specialties. He has been shown commitment to community service by participating in several outreach programs and health fairs for children and adults. Likewise, he advocates for children’s oral health each year to public officials on the state and federal level. Upon completion of his residency, Dr. Leung will continue building a practice in the Greater Boston area.

Justin Maillet

During his time at TUSDM, Justin immersed himself in promoting community service within the school. During his first year, he was selected as the Community Service Chair for the D17 class. He later helped create Dental Central, an online hub for promoting and showcasing the community and public health efforts of TUSDM students. Justin won the Best Public Health Research Award for his 2015 Bates-Day research on student perceptions when treating patients with HIV under the guidance of Dr. John Morgan and Dr. Wanda Wright. During his senior year, he became the president of the Student Ethics and Professionalism Association in Dentistry. After graduation, Justin will be working at a community health center in Nashua, NH and also plans to receive his Masters of Public Health in the future.

Kaitlin Martin

During her time as a dental school student, Kaitlin Martin has spent a lot of her time educating children and their parents on the importance of oral hygiene and creating a dental home. This has included going to schools and teaching lesson plans in her “Healthy Teeth, Healthy Body” curriculum, which emphasizes the importance of oral hygiene and its effect on our overall health. In addition, she served as the President of TUSDM’s American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Chapter, where she was responsible for setting up various community service projects to allow dental students to work with the pediatric population. A highlight of dental school for Kaitlin was in her fourth year when she had the opportunity to go on a community service trip to the Dominican Republic, providing dental care to children and adults from impoverished communities. After graduation, Kaitlin will be a Pediatric Dental Resident at Boston Children’s Hospital-Harvard University.
David Oser

As a post-graduate endodontics resident, David has many years of experience providing care to underserved communities throughout the world. As a third year dental student, he started a dental mission trip to Kenya. During his 4th year, he joined a dental outreach trip providing care to the children of sugar cane workers in the Dominican Republic, a program he has participated in for the past 6 years. This past year they developed a fixed dental clinic providing full service dentistry with a multi-specialist approach. David provides endodontic therapy as well as restorative and surgical services. Recently, this outreach has formed a non-profit organization called World of Smiles Inc. In collaboration with US dental schools and residency programs, the organization is dedicated to fostering humanitarian service as part of the educational process. The school now serves close to 1700 students drawn from the poorest neighborhoods and surrounding barrios and batayes (sugar worker camps).

Poorna Phaltankar

Poorna Phaltankar has been dedicated to service and civic engagement throughout her time at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. She was involved in service through her role in the Class of 2017 executive board, coordinating a significant effort to donate clothing and items to Haiti. She was involved in Smile Squad, Project Bridge, and spent a summer as an extern for the American Dental Political Action Committee acting as an advocate for student dentists with congressional staff members and politicians. After graduation Poorna will be a General Practice Resident at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, VT, and she hopes to continue serving the community in New England.

Eric Ricci

At Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Eric Ricci was involved in Delta Sigma Delta, Health Literacy Intensive, and served as a Teaching Assistant in Group Practice Exeter. In dental school, Eric sought to not only learn a physical skill, but to also learn how to communicate in the most effective manner with his patients, in an effort to make dentistry a less feared profession. His proudest achievement was completing his externship at Tufts Dental Facilities (TDF) Worcester clinic for special needs. The program was founded in 1976, by a lawsuit brought against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by Eric’s great uncle, Dr. Benjamin Ricci, to provide healthcare to people with special needs. After graduation, Eric will proudly fulfill his life’s dream, by working every day with his father, Dr. John Ricci (D83), and sister, Christina (Office Manager) in private practice at Ricci Family Dentistry in Providence, Rhode Island.
Ingrid Romero
During her time at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Ingrid has focused on community service and increasing diversity in dentistry. She has held leadership roles in the AAWD as Fundraiser Coordinator, Class of 2017 Representative and Treasurer of the Hispanic Dental Association, and Dental Director Coordinator and mentor of the Teachers and High School Students Program (TAHSS), a program affiliated with Tufts University School of Medicine. Ingrid has also participated in various health care fairs, Global Serving Learning Programs, Smile Squad, YMCA Pediatric Outreach, and community educational outreach programs. She’s also founder of the Happy Teeth Organization, a self-initiated volunteer project that serves the underprivileged areas by providing basic toiletries, food, and dental care to children. Ingrid plans to work in private practice and serve the underprivileged community in South Florida after graduation.

Jordan Shapiro
As a student at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Jordan was deeply involved in student life and has been a big proponent for student advocacy. Jordan was a member of the American Student Dental Association and had the opportunities to meet with State Senators and Congressman in the state of Massachusetts and in Washington, D.C. Jordan advocated for legislation that supported the initiatives of the American Dental Association and legislation that reduced the burden of graduate student loans. He also hosted seminars to educate his peers on effective ways to advocate to state and local representatives. Jordan hopes to continue his involvement in organized dentistry and advocacy as a resident in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Boston University.

Michelle Ta
During her time as a dental student at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Michelle focused on preventative care and promoting higher education for youth. She organized dental clinics at community centers in Boston to provide free dental supplies, oral cancer screenings, and oral hygiene instruction. Her research combines public health with dental materials and aims to increase access to dental care globally. She collaborated with Josiah Quincy Elementary School and Upper School to pair younger students with dental students through a weekly mentoring program. In addition, she presented college readiness workshops to encourage and prepare students for college applications. After graduation, Michelle will return to the bay area to begin a Pediatric Residency at the University of California, San Francisco.
Kanupriya Tewari

During her time at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Kanu has focused on integrating public health into her dental education. This has included volunteering in educating and delivering direct dental care at the Sharewood Project (a free healthcare clinic run by medical and dental students) and at Project Bridge (free clinic for at-risk and homeless youth). Kanu also designed and implemented a Dental Materials and Public Health study, which aims to create a standardized protocol on how to use materials in resource-limited environments. Her project has helped to further the World Health Organization goals of developing sustainable materials that can withstand local climatic, storage and handling limitations. Kanu is excited to continue to pursue her aim of alleviating oral healthcare disparities as she furthers her education in the Postdoctoral Orthodontics Program at Tufts.

Lauren Vargas

Lauren has been an active member of the Hispanic Dental Association during her four years at TUSDM, including serving as President during her senior year. With the HDA, Lauren traveled to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic during her third and fourth year to perform dental outreach. Her first trip left such a heartfelt impression, she eagerly and enthusiastically helped organize a second trip. Lauren has a true passion for helping minority populations. She has planned and attended many health fairs and trips to elementary schools to teach the community about dentistry and oral hygiene. Last summer, Lauren mentored ten high school students from minority backgrounds that were interested in the health professions. She prepared lectures related to dentistry and answered their questions and concerns. Lauren’s most rewarding moment came when one student who was unsure if dentistry was a good career choice, changed her mind after seeing Lauren’s passion and love for the career. Lauren plans to complete a General Practice Residency at Lutheran Hospital in Brooklyn, New York next year.
2017 Honos Civicus Inductees

Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Alison Brown

Alison’s civic engagement and volunteerism has focused on issues of equitable access to healthy food and community nutrition education during her time as a doctoral student at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. This has included involvement and leadership within the Boston NAACP, Healthworks Community Fitness Center, local high schools, and other organizations that work with and advocate for underserved communities in Boston. Her work and research aims to reduce health disparities and improve diet-related health outcomes among minority populations in the U.S. While at Tufts, she has also served on numerous committees to increase the recruitment of students from underrepresented backgrounds and the implementation of training of current students on cultural competence and humility. After graduating, Alison will be completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the Tufts’ Clinical and Translational Science Institute where she will be evaluating a community/clinical partnership in the Dorchester community of Boston.
2017 Honos Civicus Inductees

Samantha Hoeffler
Sam studied Food Policy & Applied Nutrition at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. She specialized in community food security and health equity, and her broader focus is building a more just and equitable food system. While at Friedman, she coordinated gardening lessons for Chinatown youth; taught nutrition and cooking classes to families and children in Dorchester; chaired the social justice student group; started a story-time program for first-graders to facilitate empathy; and conducted outreach with SNAP participants. After spending two months teaching in India this summer, she will start community-oriented food systems work in North Carolina in September.

Caitlin Joseph
Caitlin has focused on urban planning for community public health during her time at Tufts, by studying in both the Friedman School and the Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning (UEP) Department. While at Friedman, she was dedicated to the Friedman Justice League and was instrumental in bringing farmworker justice leaders to the school this spring and leading education and activism around labor justice campaigns. She also partnered with fellow FJL members to visit local high schools to teach students how they can become food justice advocates in their communities. While studying in the UEP program, she was also involved in community-based projects dedicated to increasing healthy food access in Somerville and Revere. Caitlin is seeking a job in food systems planning and hopes to make her way to California for such a position.

Danielle Ngo
Danielle has focused on food justice, environmental justice, and health equity during her time as a dual-degree student at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy & Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning. This included active involvement in the Friedman Justice League, the Student Planning and Policy Association, the Intercultural Practice Group, and Tufts New Economy. Collectively, these organizations have supplemented Danielle’s coursework with community organizing, systems thinking, and grassroots movements. Her involvement has ranged as active member, project leader, and co-chair. This has contributed to fostering authentic and sustainable relationships between the campus communities, local host communities, and social justice movements. Following graduation, Danielle plans to go into the field of food and agriculture policy in the San Francisco Bay Area.
Emily Margaret Piltch

Emily Piltch has focused on food systems and public health service work on the Navajo Nation while a student at the Friedman School. During Emily’s PhD program, she volunteered on projects through Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment, a non-profit public health organization in a border town to Navajo Nation (and sister-organization to Boston-based Partners in Health). This work included: co-directing a community food assessment with Community Health Workers and coordinating with small stores on a local Fruit and Vegetable Prescription program. She also provided data collection assistance on a Navajo Division of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention food environment assessment. Emily looks forward to working at the intersection of community-based research and food security programmatic initiatives upon graduation.

Kristen Scommegna

Kristen has concentrated on sustainable food systems while at the Friedman School, but outside of her studies, she focused her attention on hunger relief and food rescue throughout Boston, Cambridge and Somerville. As Director of the Somerville Backpack Program, a program that provides weekend food to students in need, she provided over 25,000 meals throughout the school year to 278 students in the Somerville Public Schools. At Food For Free, a food rescue and hunger relief organization, Kristen helped pilot the Family Meals Program, making frozen meals out of donated prepared food from university dining halls to feed homeless families living in motels. Kristen plans to spend part of her time directing the Somerville Backpack Program and hopes to find work within sustainable agriculture in the Boston area after graduation.

Emily Forsythe Steliotes

Emily has focused on food security issues during her time as a student at the Friedman School. This has been through her volunteer work at the Preventive Food Pantry, part of the Nutrition Resource Center at Boston Medical Center (BMC), which aims to provide low-income patients with the healthy food they need to manage their nutrition-related illnesses without the stigma of going to a “normal” food pantry. This is accomplished by having doctors at BMC give patients a “prescription” to go to the pantry, which indicates their specific health issue(s) – i.e. diabetes, cardiovascular disease, etc. Emily is very passionate about the pantry’s mission and her work has helped give countless BMC patients delicious and nutritious food options at no cost. After graduation, Emily plans to move to California and work in Research and Development for a food company that prides itself on providing nutritious food for its consumers.
Delphine Van Roosebeke

Delphine Van Roosebeke, a graduate of the Biochemical and Molecular Nutrition program, is a profound believer in community work as a means to improve people’s health. While at Friedman, she has focused on developing healthy food awareness in populations of different socio-economic status. This has included leading a campaign at the Medford Farmers Market to encourage low-income families to buy healthy produce, organizing nutrition education activities as part of the Snack It Up project to encourage healthy snacking in children, and spearheading an initiative improving the selection of healthy food options offered at Avanti Market, a self-checkout kiosk serving the Tufts community. Additionally, under her leadership, she helped revive the Future of Food and Nutrition Graduate Student Research Conference as a co-chair. Going forward, Delphine wants to pursue a PhD to study the impact of community-based interventions on the health status of underserved populations using scientifically validated biomarkers.

Shumao (Simon) Ye

Simon has focused on community nutrition service and professional society development during his time as a student at Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. This has included leadership and involvement in International Chinese Nutrition Young Scholar Network (ICNYSN), Jumbo’s Kitchen, and Nutrition Discovery-organizations that promote nutrition agenda and public health through resource integration and nutrition education. As a co-founder of ICNYSN, Simon’s work helped this young society recruit over 900 nutrition scientists and practitioners worldwide, provided webinars on various nutrition topics, and shared career paths of some world-renowned pioneers in nutrition to help the new generation. Simon plans to pursue his PhD and to go into cardiovascular nutrition research with Professor Alice Lichtenstein after graduation at Friedman and become a Double-Jumbo.