



Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
SMFA at Tufts

February 2018

Dear Parents and Families,

Greetings from Tufts! It's hard to believe we are already a month into the spring semester. I'm writing to you from the [School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts](#), where our walls are filled with work from students, faculty, alumni, and exhibiting artists. I joined the SMFA community in the fall of 2016 after nine years in the [Office for Campus Life](#) on the Medford campus. It has been a tremendous learning experience and a pleasure to become part of the creativity and hard work of the SMFA campus, and I'd like to share with you some of the current happenings and ongoing improvements taking place at 230 The Fenway.

After nine years on the Medford campus, it took a little time for me to truly grasp what it meant to be a part of an artistic community as imaginative and focused as the SMFA at Tufts. A defining moment came for me last spring when I went to check out the work of our senior thesis students. They had spent a week converting our third floor studios into gallery space, and when I paid them a visit, I noticed everyone was walking around shoeless, in socks or bare feet. As a staff member responsible for students' safety and well-being, my first instinct was to ask everyone to put their shoes back on. But I quickly learned that there was a practical purpose for taking your shoes off in a gallery: the floors were freshly painted in anticipation of the show, and everyone was trying diligently to avoid making scuff marks while they worked. So I took my own shoes off, and I joined our senior thesis students to get a personal tour of their sculptures, paintings, photographs, performances, and other work. I have such an appreciation and respect for the uniqueness of each day here at the SMFA at Tufts, and I continue to learn more and more about how this addition to the University can help us shift our perspective and enhance the entire Tufts experience.

Energy and enthusiasm are high at the SMFA as we navigate our second year as an official part of Tufts University. The atrium is buzzing with students, faculty, and staff. We are currently featuring *Light in the*

230 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115
TEL: 617.627.0050 | smfastudentaffairs@tufts.edu

Basement: Photography from SMFA at Tufts. Tufts Dining recently opened their newest retail space on our campus, the [SMFA Café](#), which features breakfast, lunch, and dinner options. We have also enhanced [shuttle transportation](#) between 230 The Fenway and the Medford campus, and we've added a shuttle between 230 The Fenway and our SMFA residence halls on Beacon Street in Brookline. To help students plan ahead, all our shuttles feature GPS trackers that are available through a mobile app and projected onto a large screen in the atrium.

In addition to the new dining and transportation options at the SMFA at Tufts, [SMFA Student Affairs](#) continues to support all BFA and combined degree students. We work closely with the [Division of Student Affairs](#) on the Medford campus to provide resources, make connections, and develop programs that enhance the student experience on both campuses. There are departments with offices on both campuses, and we encourage all students to explore the opportunities of a renowned arts school and a student-centered research university.

If you are in the area, I invite you to [visit](#) some of the spring exhibits and collaborations from the Tufts Art Galleries. Come experience color at the SMFA in Joanne Greenbaum's [Things We Said Today](#), which features oversized canvases, sculptural pen drawings, painted ceramics, and the artist's books (the exhibit was recently featured in [The Boston Globe](#)). We are leaning and lounging on Jillian Mayer's [Slumpies](#) while we scroll through our phones at the SMFA and on the Medford campus. And [A Decolonial Atlas: Strategies in Contemporary Art of the Americas](#) is on display at the Tisch Family Gallery in Medford.

The SMFA at Tufts is a truly vibrant community that continues to evolve each semester. I invite you to reach out to us any time to learn about the ways we can support your student.

Sincerely,

Laura DaRos
Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
SMFA at Tufts