Research University – Very high activity
- 4-year Liberal Arts & Engineering undergraduate schools
- 5,048 Undergraduates; 4,980 graduate/professional students

Tisch College of Citizenship & Public Service
- Education
- Research
- Alumni
SOME BACKGROUND....
Tufts Mission

“Active citizenship”:

- Collective action
- All sectors involved in community solutions
- Results-oriented civic participation
- Integration
- Civic lives as a journey
Civic Engagement at Tufts

- Tisch College
  - Student programs:
    - CPS Scholars
    - Education for Active Citizenship course
    - Internships
  - Lincoln Filene Center for Community Partnerships
  - Faculty research and teaching
  - Alumni programs
What is the Tisch College Outcomes Evaluation?

- Designed as a longitudinal outcomes evaluation
- Assess the utility of the Scholars Program
- To understand how participation in various activities and programs at Tufts affects students’ civic and political attitudes
Scholars Program

- Multi-year, leadership development program
  engaging students as catalysts for change
- Academic
- Experiential
- Community
- Advising
Current Instruments

- **Tisch College Study - Civic and Political Activities and Attitudes Survey (CPAAS)**
  - Examines link between students’ experiences at Tufts and the development of their civic and political attitudes and activities over time

- **Senior & Sophomore Surveys**
  - Select civic engagement questions from CPAAS Survey were added beginning in 2003 with the Senior Survey and in 2006 with the Sophomore Survey

- **Standardized set of civic engagement survey items added by OIRE in 2006 to:**
  - Senior Survey
  - Graduate Exit Survey
  - Alumni surveys – Veterinary, Engineering
# Data Collection

## Table 1. Tufts Civic Engagement Data by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Undergraduate Students</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tisch College Study</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophomore Survey</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Survey</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Students</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exit Survey</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alumni</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering¹</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹: Note – Data is still being collected for the 2008 Engineering Alumni Survey
Senior Survey - Civic engagement data collection began in 2003
- Items were modeled after Tisch College Study questions
- Items measured include:
  - Satisfaction with service opportunities at Tufts
  - Attitudes regarding importance/value of service activities
  - Types of service/activities participated in
  - Reason(s) for involvement
  - Relationship of Tufts education to awareness of social problems and interest in effecting change
  - Plans for community and public service after graduation
Measuring Civic Engagement at Tufts – Sophomore Survey

- Sophomore Survey - Civic engagement data collection began in 2006

- Items were also modeled after Tisch College Study questions

- Items measured include:
  - Types of service/activities participated in
  - Attitudes regarding importance/value of service activities
  - Relationship of Tufts education to interest in effecting change
Standardized set of civic engagement items were added by OIRE to several instruments beginning in 2006.

Three categories of activities:
- Community-based service
- Issue-oriented projects
- Politically-based projects/activities

Includes quantitative and qualitative components:
- Frequency of participation
- Total hours of participation
- Description of involvement
Q#. How often in the last year did you participate in each of the following civic engagement or community service activities?

Active citizenship may be defined as participation in community service, issue-based initiatives, and political activities. Below are some examples of the types of activities associated with each element of active citizenship. Please respond to the questions that follow to the best of your ability.

**Community-based service** - e.g. domestic or international involvement in volunteer vacation or service trip, helping to raise money for a charitable cause, volunteering through a non-profit organization

**Issue-oriented projects** - e.g. outreach organizations addressing environmental issues, hunger relief, ethical aspects of stem cell research, energy, or civil liberties organization (ACLU), conduct community-based research or policy analysis, attending a town or city council board meeting

**Politically-based activities** - e.g. working or volunteering for a political campaign, lobbying, participating in a protest or march, participating in online political discussions, promoting voter registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Often</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Last year, how many total hours did you participate in these projects/activities?</th>
<th>Please briefly describe your involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community-based service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue-oriented project/activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politically-based project/activity</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Civic Engagement at Tufts

Preliminary Findings
Preliminary Findings - Undergraduates

- In 2006, 2007, and 2008 seniors reported having participated in community service projects more often than sophomores.

- However, the 2006 Sophomore Cohort demonstrated a significant increase in community-service participation when they were re-surveyed again as seniors in 2008.
Single instrument administered in winter
Dental Alumni are surveyed 2 and 5 years out
There were no significant differences between Dental alumni surveyed in 2007 vs. 2008

Scale: “4” = Very Often; “3” = Often; “2” = Occasionally; “1” = Never
Preliminary Findings – Veterinary Alumni

- 4 instruments administered in winter
- Veterinary Alumni were surveyed 5, 10, 15, & 20 years out
- Overall, Vet alumni participated less frequently in community service based project/activities when comparing 2008 to 2007 data

Scale: “4” = Very Often; “3” = Often; “2” = Occasionally; “1” = Never
Compared to other alumni cohorts, the Vet alumni 15 years out participated the most frequently in issue-based projects/activities in both 2007 and 2008.

Scale: “4” = Very Often; “3” = Often; “2” = Occasionally; “1” = Never
Preliminary Findings – Veterinary Alumni

There were no significant differences across alumni cohorts nor survey years when comparing alumni participation in politically-based projects/activities.

Scale: “4” = Very Often; “3” = Often; “2” = Occasionally; “1” = Never
## Preliminary Findings – Qualitative Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community-based</th>
<th>Politically-based</th>
<th>Issue-oriented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senior Survey</strong></td>
<td>- Alternative Spring Break</td>
<td>- Protest, march, or demonstration</td>
<td>- Raise awareness of particular issue (environmental, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Relay For Life</td>
<td>- Political campaign</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Tutoring</td>
<td>- Voter registration projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Exit</strong></td>
<td>- Jumpstart</td>
<td>- Protest, march, or demonstration</td>
<td>- Alzheimer’s Awareness Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- New Orleans Childcare Rebuilding Effort</td>
<td>- Political campaign</td>
<td>- Hosted Exchange Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dental Alumni</strong></td>
<td>- Community clinics</td>
<td>- Attend town/local government meetings</td>
<td>- Raise money for non-profits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Dental education for children</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Engineering Alumni</strong></td>
<td>- Relay for Life</td>
<td>- Political campaign</td>
<td>- Raise money for non-profits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Engineers without Borders</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Sign petitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vet Alumni</strong></td>
<td>- Volunteer at animal shelter</td>
<td>- Political campaign</td>
<td>- Animal Welfare Awareness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the Future

- Continue to standardize items across multiple instruments
- Development of comprehensive database of civic engagement data
- As we collect additional years of data, will be able to examine cohorts’ civic engagement as they progress through Tufts and later, as alumni
- Potential areas for additional analyses include gender & ethnicity differences
Tufts Contact Information

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Civic Engagement at Tufts

QUESTIONS???