



A Comprehensive Study of Civic Engagement: Freshmen and Beyond

Presented by:

Dr. Dawn Geronimo Terkla & Karen Schreiner

Tufts University

Office of Institutional Research & Evaluation (OIRE)

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- ◆ 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



Civic Engagement at Tufts

SOME BACKGROUND....



◆ “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

Survey	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Undergraduate Students						
Tisch College Study	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sophomore Survey				x	x	x
Senior Survey	x	x	x	x	x	x
Graduate Students						
Exit Survey					x	x
Alumni						
Dental					x	x
Engineering ¹					x	x
Veterinary					x	x

¹: Note – Data is still being collected for the 2008 Engineering Alumni Survey

Measuring Civic Engagement at Tufts – Senior 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

Measuring Civic Engagement at Tufts

- ◆ 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

Standardized Survey Questions

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

	Very Often	Often	Occasionally	Never	Last year, how many total hours did you participate in these projects/activities?	Please briefly describe your involvement
<i>Community</i> -based service						
<i>Issue</i> -oriented project/activity						
<i>Politically</i> -based project/activity						

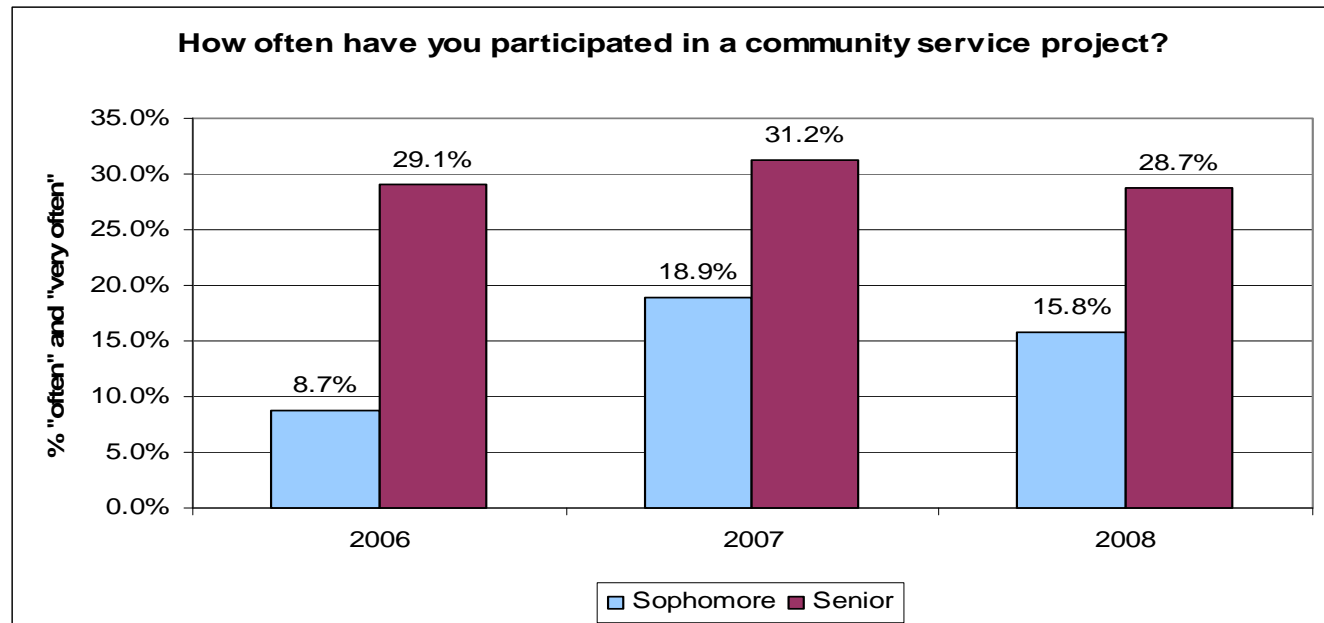


Civic Engagement at Tufts

Preliminary Findings

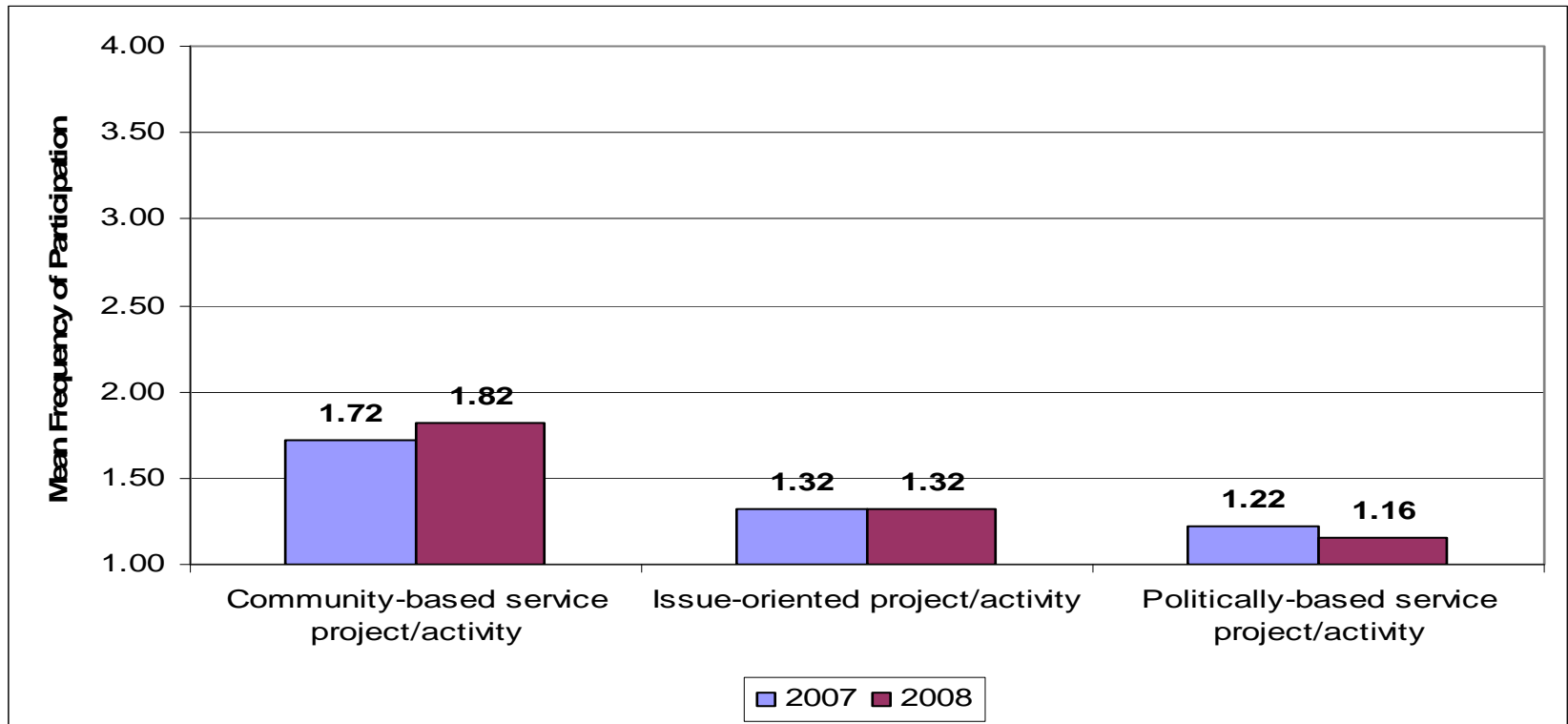
Preliminary Findings - Undergraduates

- ◆ 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



Preliminary Findings – Dental Alumni

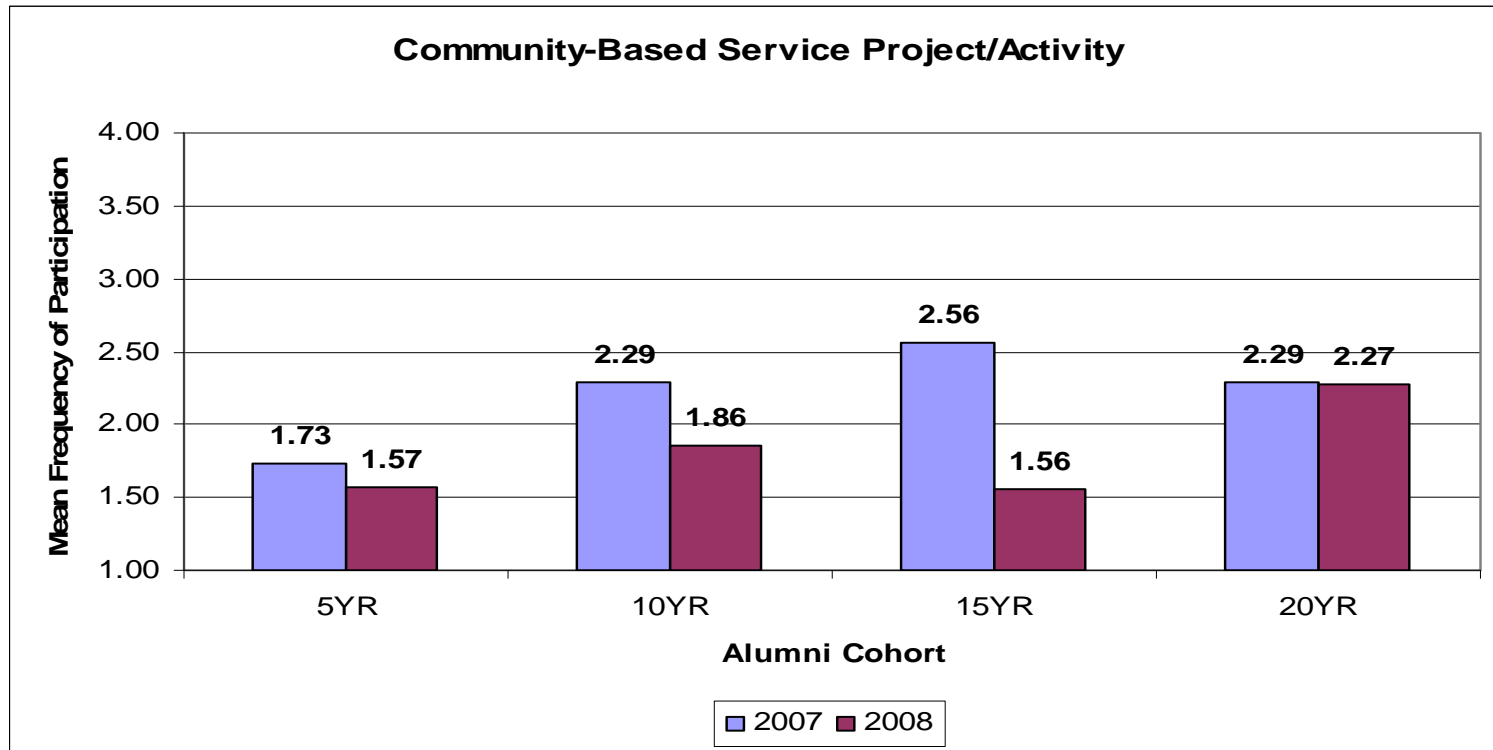
- ◆ Single instrument administered in winter
- ◆ Dental Alumni are surveyed 2 and 5 years out
- ◆ There were no significant differences between Dental alumni surveyed in 2007 vs. 2008



Scale: "4" = Very Often; "3" = Often; "2" = Occasionally; "1" = Never

Preliminary Findings – Veterinary Alumni

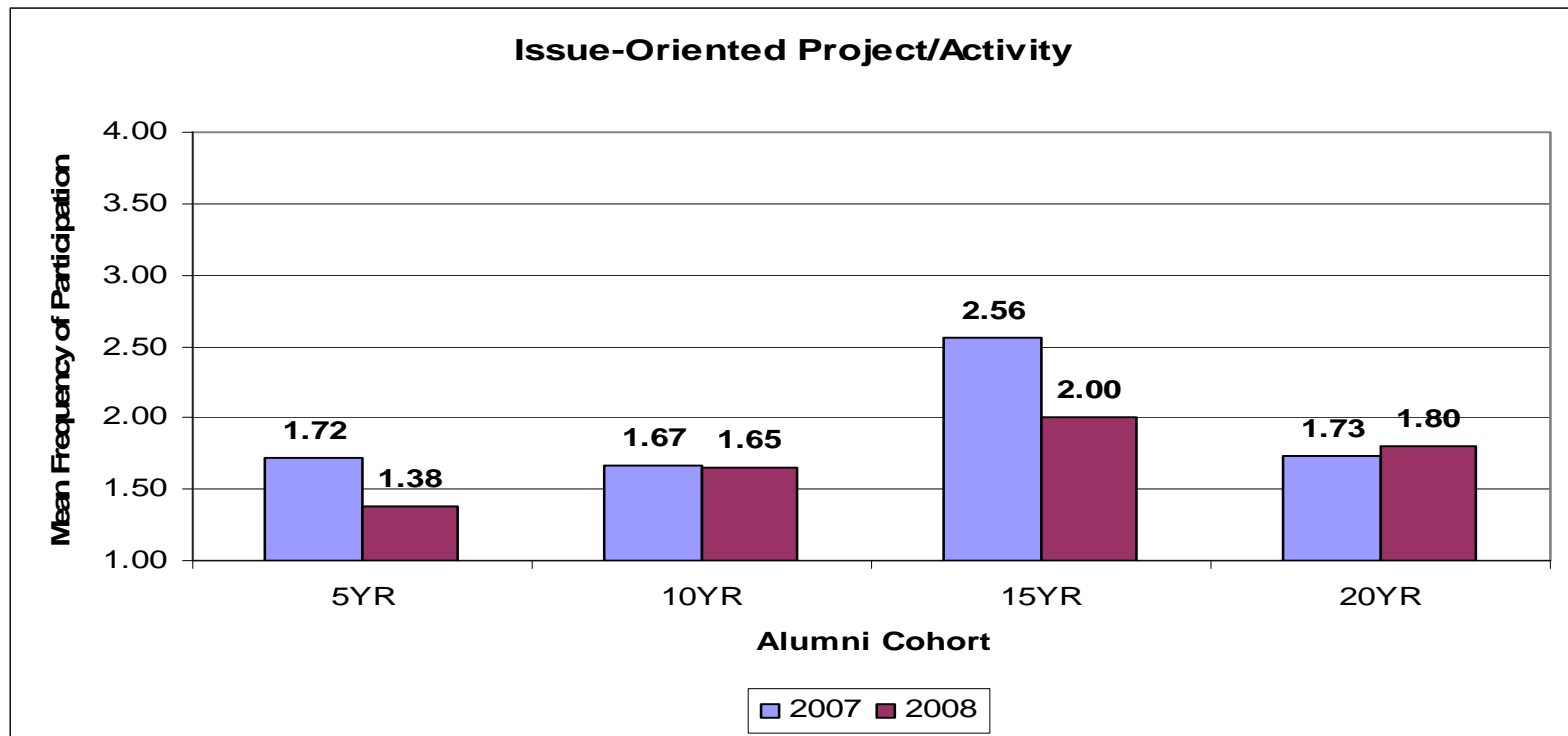
- ◆ 4 instruments administered in winter
- ◆ Veterinary Alumni were surveyed 5, 10, 15, & 20 years out
- ◆ Overall, Vet alumni participated less frequently in community service based project/activities when comparing 2008 to 2007 data



Scale: “4” = *Very Often*; “3” = *Often*; “2” = *Occasionally*; “1” = *Never*

Preliminary Findings – Veterinary Alumni

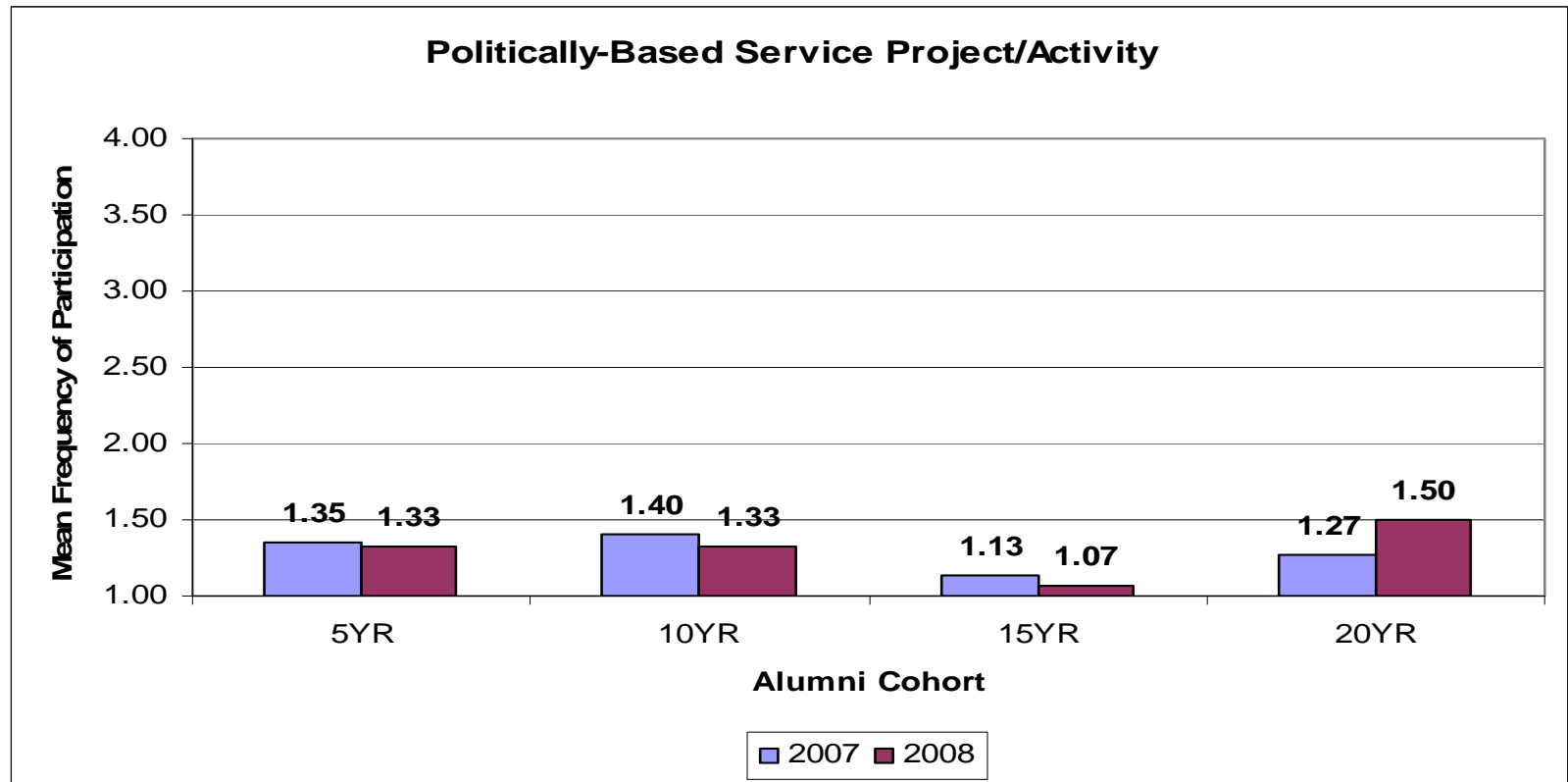
- ◆ Compared to other alumni cohorts, the Vet alumni 15 years out participated the most frequently in issue-based projects/activities in both 2007 and 2008



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

	Community-based	Politically-based	Issue-oriented
Senior Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alternative Spring Break - Relay For Life - Tutoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protest, march, or demonstration - Political campaign - Voter registration projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise awareness of particular issue (environmental, etc.)
Graduate Exit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jumpstart - New Orleans Childcare Rebuilding Effort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protest, march, or demonstration - Political campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alzheimer's Awareness Group - Hosted Exchange Student
Dental Alumni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community clinics - Dental education for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend town/local government meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise money for non-profits
Engineering Alumni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relay for Life - Engineers without Borders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise money for non-profits - Sign petitions
Vet Alumni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer at animal shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political campaign - Attend town/local government meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animal Welfare Awareness

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

- ◆ Dr. Dawn Geronimo Terkla, Associate Provost of Office of Institutional Research, Assessment & Evaluation, dawn.terkla@tufts.edu
- ◆ Karen Schreiner, Research Analyst, Office of Institutional Research & Evaluation, karen.schreiner@tufts.edu

QUESTIONS???