
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

TuftScope Expands Production

Dear Reader,

TuftScope has received a great amount of support from you, our readers. Both within the Tufts Community and from our outside subscribers, we have seen an increase in submissions, website visits and student interest. Because of this increased interest, we have decided to expand our publication cycle and become a tri-annual publication. We are pleased to present to you the first evidence of our new, tri-annual status: the **Winter Edition**. We hope that you enjoy this new addition and look forward to the Spring edition which is just around the corner.

One of *TuftScope*'s greatest resources is the members of the surrounding communities of Medford and Somerville. Earlier this semester, *TuftScope* was privileged to host Joseph Curtatone, the Mayor of Somerville, MA and Tufts President Lawrence Bacow at an event to discuss initiatives to combat childhood obesity. A discussion with Mayor Curtatone appeared in the Fall 2010 issue of *TuftScope*, and the event was coordinated to correspond with the release of that issue. Mayor Curtatone and President Bacow shared their unique and valued perspectives on both Somerville's lauded Shape Up Somerville initiative, and on the underlying issues of childhood obesity in general. We hope to bring more events like this to the Tufts community in the future, and believe it is an important way for *TuftScope* to connect with the Tufts community besides the seasonal publication of issues.

With the expansion of our publication cycle and simultaneous hosting of campus events, *TuftScope* has also expanded its internal infrastructure. We have gained a co-Editor-in-Chief in the form of Mark Leiserson and a new Managing Editor in David Gennert.

This issue of *TuftScope* is especially notable in that it has a number of articles on both obesity and cigarette use. We believe this selection of articles reflects part of ongoing debate within the public health community about the nature and stature of the health challenges facing America in the 21st century. Cigarette use has consistently been a major focus of health programs for the last fifty years. However, this focus has diminished due in part to these programs' success—20.6% of Americans are smokers today, compared to ~42% 50 years ago—as well as the increasing prevalence and cost of obesity. While this issue does not make a point of examining how the differential use of resources to combat cigarettes and obesity could affect health in America, it does explore a number of issues and initiatives taking place within these two health challenges. These include Laura Corlin's examination of the new FDA-mandated cigarette packaging, Virginia Saurman and Priya Larson's debate over smoking by health care workers as well as Namratha Rao's history of dieting and Awesta Yaqubi's review of childhood obesity in the U.S.

We would also like to thank the *TuftScope* Editorial Board, our advisors for all of their supports, particularly Harry Bernheim, Mayor Curtatone of Somerville, President Larry Bacow, the TCU Senate, our staff and of course, our readers.

Sincerely,

Lauren-Elizabeth Palmer & Mark Leiserson