



Office of the Trustees

September 9, 2015

Dear Members of the Tufts Community:

At the Commencement ceremony held on Sunday, May 17, 2015, six distinguished individuals received an honorary degree from Tufts: Commencement speaker Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State; Executive Director of Massachusetts' Children's Trust Suzin Bartley; entrepreneur and MIT Media Lab director Joi Ito; business and civic leader and Tufts Trustee Emeritus Joseph Neubauer; former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay; and dancer and choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar.

The Honorary Degree Committee of the Board of Trustees now invites all members of the university community to submit nominations for honorary degrees to be awarded in May 2016 and subsequent years. Traditionally, the address at the all-university commencement ceremony is delivered by one of our honorary degree recipients.

Each year, the university honors a number of distinguished individuals with honorary degrees recognizing their significant accomplishments. The conferral of honorary degrees has a long and distinguished tradition at Tufts University. The first honorary degree was awarded in 1858, one year after our first Commencement. Today, we confer honorary degrees to recognize extraordinary talents and contributions. Nominees should have a record of distinguished and sustained accomplishment. They may be honored for their contributions in the varied academic, scholarly, and professional fields represented at Tufts; business and industry; the visual, literary, musical, and performing arts; or public life. A significant contribution to the work of Tufts University itself may be an additional qualification.

The Honorary Degree Committee especially welcomes opportunities to recognize alumni of the university and those who have not yet received other recognition commensurate with their accomplishments. The Committee also seeks to reflect in its selection the diversity of the Tufts community.

To ensure timely consideration, nominations should be received by Friday, September 25, 2015. The nomination form with submission instructions and a list of previous honorary degree recipients is available at <http://trustees.tufts.edu/hondegree/degrees/>. You may address inquiries regarding honorary degrees to trustees@tufts.edu.

Our honorary degree recipients' presence on the Commencement platform provides inspiration and a model of accomplishment for our graduates and the entire community. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to nominate candidates for this high honor.

Sincerely,

Debra Knez
Chair
Honorary Degree Committee