

September 15, 2022

Dear Members of the Tufts Community:

At the Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 22, 2022, six distinguished individuals received an honorary degree from Tufts: Commencement speaker, historian Erika Lee A91; journalist Callie Crossley, artist Pablo Eduardo, research scientist Jane Frommer J76, Dean Emeritus of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and former Director of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases at the CDC Lonnie King, and President, COO, and CTO of BEI Technologies, and industry leader in micro-sensor technology Asad Madni.

When the Class of 2020 returned to campus for the Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 27, 2022, an additional six distinguished individuals received an honorary degree from Tufts: Commencement speaker, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Warby Parker Neil Blumenthal A02; Professor of Economics and International Relations at Michigan State University Lisa D. Cook; public health advocate Sandra Cotterell; community leader Ruth Moy; former Dean of the Fletcher School and retired United States Navy admiral Jim Stavridis; and businessman and philanthropist Jon Tisch.

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 2023 and subsequent years.

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 Monday, October 17, 2022. 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,

Lisa Anderson
Chair, Honorary Degree Committee