**Which aspects of the Tufts undergraduate experience prompt your application? In short, "Why Tufts?" (100-150 words)**

During my campus tour at Tufts, my student guide, Aliza Keegan, mentioned at Tufts you can explore whatever subject you want. This was only confirmed when I talked to other friendly students that took diverse classes and had a genuine passion for learning. This is when I knew at Tufts, my identity will be embraced in this supportive and collaborative community that brings out the best in all of us. In this community where interdisciplinary exploration is actively encouraged I can pursue economics while delving into social psychology and environmental science in order to create a positive impact to the community. As a passionate environmentalist and founder of an eco-NGO: Bumi Bersih, I was overjoyed when they had an entire college dedicated to civic engagement. In Tisch College I can access Tisch College Community Research Center to continue my research on rainwater-harvesting to solve problems related to water scarcity.

**Now we'd like to know a little more about you. Please respond to one of the following three questions. (200-250 words):**

Seeing the amount of waste from soap in hotels I created an organization to make our Earth more sustainable. Our first project: decreasing the waste in the hotel industry by recycling soap.

Scouring the internet, we found a method to recycle used soaps by boiling them. However, having only two stovetops made it unviable for large-scale recycling. Other methods required large machinery thus, I was constantly on the lookout for a different solution.

One day I was eating in a cafe specializing in hand-made chocolate bars. Curious as to how chocolate was made, I watched the process for the next 1.5 hours. They crushed cocoa beans, added sugar, water and milk. A thick liquid was formed and molded into bars of chocolate—a process perfectly applicable to soap! I excitedly contacted my friends and arranged to meet the next day.

I extrapolated the principles of making chocolate into recycling soap, just like crushing the cocoa beans, we grated our soap. We added chlorine and water to the gratings, just like they added sugar, water and milk to the crushed beans. Then we let it set in the sun after molding it with the layer cake press. The water/chlorine-to-soap ratio necessary to adjust its viscosity—which allowed the soap to set perfectly—all painstakingly determined through trial-and-error. After a week of experimentation, we emerged victorious, covered in soap gratings, with the perfect batch. Now that we weren’t dependent on the speed of 2 stovepots, we could produce much more.

The Intercontinental Hotel agreed to supply up soap and we even taught underprivileged women how to recycle soap so they could sell it for extra income.

To me, intellectual curiosity is being curious about everyday things, learning more about them and using that knowledge for something else. In this case, my curiosity about a chocolate bar allowed me to create a new solution to a problem and allowed me to contribute, however small, to a more sustainable future.