

THE TUFTS DAILY

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Students become teachers through Perspectives and Explorations programs

BY JACOB PASSY
Contributing Writer

Initial course selection for freshmen is undoubtedly overwhelming, with hundreds of classes in over 40 departments to pick from and a freshman advising class to choose. Among those advising classes, the student-taught Explorations and Perspectives programs, run by the Experimental College (ExCollege), are among the most popular choices for incoming students.

According to Robyn Gittleman, director of the ExCollege and head of the Explorations program, peer teaching has been a focus of the ExCollege since its inception. This has manifested itself through Explorations, which is made up of seminars prepared and taught by upperclassmen.

"Peer teaching started in the second or third year — and then the Explorations program basically piggy-backed on that," Gittleman said.

The award-winning Explorations program, which celebrates its 40th anniversary next semester, began in the fall of 1972. The program became so popular that capacity was limited for interested students. It was out of this high demand, Gittleman said, that the Perspectives program was born in 1988, with the intent of creating a more focused program.

"We started out with something on the environment and then civil rights. We kept changing the topic [each year]," Gittleman said.

Finally, on the suggestion of Associate Director of the Experimental College Howard Woolf, the new Perspectives program gained a focus on film studies. But the programs remain similar in many ways, such as the active role the co-teachers take with their freshman students.

"We're thinking of them as role models and guides for the first year students. And if there's a problem — we talked about it and we made sure everyone was OK," Gittleman said.

According to senior Michelle Wilson, who taught an Explorations course last fall with senior Kismet Lantos-Swett, the learning experience is not only for the students taking the class. She described the difficulty associated with instructing students.

"You get a lot of insight into how a teacher feels," Wilson said. "It's time-consuming. You get an appreciation for how much time professors spend. We spent at least 10 hours a week doing class preparation."

Senior Travis Grodkiewicz taught a Perspectives course on independent film last fall and said that organizational skills were critical to teaching the class.

"If you get behind on your work for the class, it's sort of a downward spiral," he said.

He added that the ExCollege staff works closely with the peer teachers to help them prepare for teaching a course. The student teachers — many of whom participated in Explorations or Perspectives classes themselves — return to campus a week before Orientation for instructional training.

"We met with Howard Woolf and Cindy Stewart from the ExCollege and went over ways to get the kids involved and encouraging a comfortable atmosphere for discussion in the class," Grodkiewicz said.

According to Gittleman, student teachers often come with their own intuition as to what teaching methods work in a classroom.

"If they see someone who hasn't done the reading, they can catch them faster than anyone else," she said.

She added that the student instructors understand from their own experiences the stresses of preparing for midterms in graded courses. All student-taught classes are a pass/fail credit for the peer teachers.

"Because they're in classes themselves, they know the rhythm of the semester," she said.

The cooperative nature of Explorations and Perspectives,



JUSTIN MCCALLUM / THE TUFTS DAILY

Seniors Michelle Wilson and Kismet Lantos-Swett taught an Explorations course last fall.

unlike the other forms of peer teaching offered by the ExCollege, helps students better adjust to teaching a course, Gittleman said. Both Wilson and Grodkiewicz agreed.

"[My partner] and I tried to do a lot of the class preparation together and very rarely worked independently," Wilson said. "It seemed best for the team teaching aspect of it."

Still, Wilson felt that designing and leading the courses requires a large amount of effort.

"There's a good reason that the ExCollege doesn't let you take more than three other classes on top of this one," she said.

A lighter course load is just one of many requirements for Explorations and Perspectives leaders. They also must be sure that the courses they do take are not overly challenging and must demonstrate a higher GPA as an indication of the ability to manage academic demands.

Gittleman said that she stresses to her students that they must prioritize the class they teach.

"You can't skip out on teaching — or drop an Explorations course," Gittleman said.

According to Gittleman, the Experimental College makes an effort to accept as many applicants to teach as possible. She looks for dedicated students with good ideas for courses. As part of the application, peer teachers must include a syllabus, which she helps students to develop.

The course outline for Explorations courses tends to be more open-ended. Perspectives courses are more structured, according to Grodkiewicz. Each course first looks at the film industry and film techniques before diving into its specific focus. But Grodkiewicz said some flexibility is maintained.

"We blended our subject throughout the course," he said.

By the time peer teachers return for Orientation, the syllabi for all courses should be finalized. From there, Gittleman meets with students almost once a week to guide them through the process of teaching.

Despite the programs' popularity, Gittleman has noticed a decline in the number of students interested in teaching. She sees the program's hefty requirements, which can be difficult to balance with a senior-year schedule, as a possible reason.

"Tufts students seem to be overwhelmed with double majoring and triple majoring as well as [extracurricular] activities," she said.

The decrease in teachers notwithstanding, all of the students involved — those taking the courses and those teaching them — have much to gain from being involved, according to Gittleman. Wilson agreed, particularly when it came to her post-college ambitions.

"With regard to graduate school applications, the ability to develop curriculum and teach at the undergraduate level I thought would be a great strength," Wilson said.

"[Graduate schools] are looking for students and researchers, but also TAs and people considering going into academia."

Many peer teachers continue work in the education field. Many go on to apply to the Teach for America program and to master's programs in education.

Grodkiewicz said that although he may not go into teaching, he still gained a lot from his experience with Perspectives.

"Just getting up in front of people and leading them for two-and-a-half hours helped my confidence," he said.

The courses help their freshman students acclimate to college life. Senior Sarah Rebecca Gaglio said that she appreciated the gateway into college coursework when she took a Perspectives course as a freshman.

"It's a course that helps you navigate college academics, but it's also something fun, so it's less rigorous and helps you adjust," Gaglio said.

Gittleman echoed this sentiment, adding that she constantly receives positive feedback about the programs.

"People often come in to me to say it was one of the most valuable experiences they've had at Tufts," she said.

Tufts' sick time policies already more lenient than those proposed in bill

SICK DAYS

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basis with eligibility for overtime pay, whereas exempt employees are paid on a salaried basis, without overtime potential.

According to the proposed bill, businesses with more than 10 employees are required to allow each employee one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked, with a cap at 56 hours annually. Employees of businesses with staffs of six to 10 also earn one hour per 30 hours worked, and a business with fewer than six employees would earn up to 40 hours of unpaid leave annually.

"I think Tufts students would benefit from knowing that the person cooking at a restaurant isn't coughing into the soup," Jehlen told the Daily.

Jehlen pointed out that, given the employment demographic of the individuals who would be affected by the bill, supporting it is necessary.

"It's a public health issue," she said. "Most of the affected individuals are low-wage workers in human resources, food services, retail. People who don't get paid sick days go to work sick."

The original bill was proposed to the Labor and Workforce Development Committee in the Senate in January 2011 with Jehlen's approval and assistance, and then was agreed upon by the House of Representatives. In July, it was heard by the joint branches, and the new draft was assembled in the House last month.

Jehlen explained that the version of



DONNA GRAYSON VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

An act that would provide a minimum of seven paid sick days to all non-seasonal Massachusetts workers may become law in the coming weeks.

the bill currently in front of committees is a pared down version of previous editions and the result of the work of

countless individuals and research.

"We've been talking about these things and whittling them down," Jehlen said.

"I've been working on the issue of paid leave for 20 years, and this is the closest we've come, and the least we asked for," Jehlen said, noting that the bill was filed for the first time a year and a half ago. "There are lots of people on the outside who want paid sick days. There are many organizations, co-sponsorships, chairmen."

MPLC is one such organization, with union councils and branches among its membership organizations, including the Greater Boston Labor Council. On March 27, activists and allies rallied outside the statehouse in Boston to create more public awareness for the bill and garner public support.

Economists praising the bill's necessity and ingenuity, alongside laborers and local political figures, came out in support of the bill.

According to Crawford, the next step for the bill's passage into law is its success with the Healthcare Financing Committee in the senate.

"If it passes, it goes to the Ways and Means Committee, then to the floor of the house," Crawford said.

Maria Colón, a Boston-area children's worker, was among those in attendance at the rally. Colón detailed the many cases of illness she has witnessed, often the result of contamination.

Colón told the Daily that, in years past, she was fired from a position as a short-order cook because she came in sick to work one day. Her place of employment did not offer sick days for regular employees.

"The claims of the bill are legitimate," she said. "This needs to be law."

Senators stress resolution does not directly respond to TCF incident

RESOLUTION

continued from page 1

students filed a complaint with the TCU Judiciary alleging that TCF's policy for selecting leaders requires these students to uphold specified religious tenets and that InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA (IVCF) wields undue influence over the group. IVCF is the national organization of which TCF is an affiliated chapter.

The students later rescinded the complaint pending the results of a still-ongoing investigation by the University Chaplaincy.

"I think the proposed resolution was obviously in light of the recent events that have been taking place with TCF," freshman senator Robert Joseph, who voted against the resolution, said. "I don't think the intentions were necessarily bad, but I don't think they were trying to accomplish something that I believe is in the interest of the students. I think it was trying to safeguard TCF from possible de-recognition."

Latino Center Community Representative Zoe Munoz, who voted against the resolution, also believes that the resolution was written as a reaction to the complaint against TCF.

"I think that [the resolution was] a reaction to the TCF incident and the dialogue that has been going on around that and the controversy having to do with InterVarsity's policies when it comes to selecting leadership — that there is the possibility that if a student that is part of the LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender] community wished to have a leadership [position] within Tufts Christian Fellowship that InterVarsity would be able to say no because of their sexual orientation," she said.

"I think that the intent of the resolution was to give a group a loophole that they could use to get around Tufts' non-discrimination policy and have their own leadership policy

and rules and regulations that wouldn't be subject to that Tufts-wide policy," LGBT Community Representative Grainne Griffiths, a sophomore who voted against the resolution, said.

Lesinski said that while the resolution was motivated in part by the incident with TCF, the resolution as a whole was not meant solely as a response to the TCF case.

"I wanted it to be broader than just TCF, even though that was the specific case," he said. "I wanted it to be protecting all religious groups and a broader statement in favor of freedom of religion and freedom of religious expression at Tufts."

"If there hadn't been a situation where I saw this trying to happen, this resolution probably wouldn't have come about, but ultimately even though it was motivated by the specific circumstance, it was more of an attempt to have broader protection of religious groups," he added.

A senator who voted in favor of the resolution but wished to remain anonymous thought that the resolution was phrased generally in wishing to not bar religious groups from choosing leaders who reflect their views.

"I don't think it would've been written if [the TCF] incident didn't happen, but in the end it's a pretty general resolution, which is why I voted for it," the senator said. "I think that was their way [of] bringing this incident back to light, and it was discussed in a broader sense. I felt like I couldn't vote against it because of the way it was phrased."

Two motions to modify or remove the last two clauses of the resolution also did not pass.

"The reason why those proposals [for modification] failed was because even if we were to take out those lines and just leave the rest of the resolution as it was, it was really an empty resolution," Joseph said.

Lesinski affirms that the



SCOTT TINGLEY / THE TUFTS DAILY
The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate at a meeting last month rejected a resolution that would have encouraged campus groups to interpret the university's non-discrimination policy in a way that does not prevent religious groups from choosing leaders who reflect their views.

resolution was not meant to support or endorse discrimination.

"It's debatable whether or not the TCF policy is discrimination — there are good arguments that it is, and good arguments that it isn't," he said. "However, the main issue in the debate over TCF is whether or not it is right to kick a group off campus and effectively silence them because they have different views from the majority of campus."

I hope they can sort out the issue of the Basis of Faith internally, but using the threat of de-recognition to make them change it is unhelpful and has implications that threaten many other groups on campus."

Lesinski said that there are

some groups that exist at Tufts, such as all-female or all-male a cappella groups, which he says are technically violating the non-discrimination policy but have not come under fire.

Munoz said she believes the resolution conflicted with Tufts' mission statement and the anti-discrimination policy.

"I thought it was interesting that there was language in the resolution that was just in direct contradiction to our written anti-discrimination policy that the university has," Munoz, a sophomore, said. "If you have read it, it says in there that regardless of your sexual orientation, regardless of your religious affiliation, gender, physical disability, race, ethnicity — you should be able to hold any leadership position,

participate in any club, take any class, etc."

The anonymous senator believes that once the Judiciary recognizes a group and decides that its constitution is valid, it must let the group do what it wishes.

"It's a group, they stand by what they believe in, and I feel like we have to stand for our groups," the senator said. "There are definitely different groups on campus, you may not believe in everything they say, but in the end they are their group, they are TCU-recognized, so we have to recognize their constitution the way it stands."

Menghan Liu contributed reporting to this article.

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For more information, please contact Dean Glaser at 617.627.4230



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TV REVIEW

'The River' brings found footage to small screen with a spooky success series set in the Amazon

BY AMEYA LELE
Contributing Writer

"There's magic out there."
That's Dr. Emmet Cole's (Bruce Greenwood), a Steve Irwin-esque

The River

Starring Bruce Greenwood,
Joe Anderson, Leslie Hope

Season 1 is over

explorer out to find all that nature has to offer, catchphrase. He captivated millions with his wildlife show "The Undiscovered Country" and last set out to find one more piece of magic, hidden deep in the Boiuna region of the Amazon. That is where he went missing.

"The River" chronicles the team of rescuers' journey to find Cole and simultaneously fight to survive the craziness of the mystical Amazon. Co-creators Oren Peli and Michael R. Perry employ the technique of found-footage filming, hoping to recreate the success of another found-footage phenomenon: "Paranormal Activity." Steven Spielberg is an executive producer, perhaps in an attempt to get over this seemingly hit-or-miss period of his career.

Once Cole's emergency beacon suddenly goes off, his determined wife Tess (Leslie Hope) and more reluctant son Lincoln (Joe Anderson) delve into the depths of the jungle to bring him back home. The one catch is that everything must be filmed. The crew includes the cynical producer Clark Quiteley



COURTESY OF ABC

The cast of ABC's new drama bring thrills to the small screen.

(Paul Blackthorne), the daughter of a missing cameraman, Lincoln's childhood crush Lena Landry (Eloise Mumford) and secretive head Kurt Brynildson (Thomas Kretschmann). But, perhaps the most intriguing

character on the show so far is the daughter of the ship's mechanic, Jael Valenzuela (Paulina Gaitan), the only member of the crew who doesn't know English. She has a certain psychic ability that allows her

to sense the dangers of the Boiuna, and sometimes speak to the spirits of the river.

It is the interactions between these differing personalities that make this show great. There is a

huge power struggle, with everyone trying to further his or her own agenda while simultaneously trying to seem genuinely concerned with

see RIVER, page 6

MUSIC REVIEW

Minaj's latest smoothly bounces between styles

BY JOSEPH STILE
Daily Editorial Board

Nicki Minaj aims to please all her fans with her latest release, "Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded." The first third of the tracks are

Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded

Nicki Minaj



Cash Money Records

Minaj in full "rap-bitch-nightmare" mode. She employs her "Roman" persona and her notorious rapid-fire verses that are original and strange in both their lyricism and delivery. This release is Minaj at her most compelling; she commands every second of the listener's time. The rest of the album is pretty evenly split between catchy euro-pop tunes and more standard pop ballads that wouldn't feel out of place on a Rihanna album.

The album opens with Minaj at her most schizophrenic and psycho with the song "Roman Holiday." She sing-talks in a British accent, swiftly raps aggressive attacks and sings in overly dramatic tones for no discernable reason other than to prove that she is crazy. The track is nothing short of exhilarating, even when she starts singing "Come all ye faithful" repeatedly.

While some have recently accused Minaj of becoming too "pop," the opening of the stellar track "HOV Lane" should prove them wrong. Minaj quickly rattles off sharp lines like "Zipping, I'm zipping, I'm zippin/ soon as they come out I'm dippin,/ big ass closet, I'm trippin big booty strippers, / I'm tippin." Her lyrical sass is unmatched.



CHRISTOPHER MACSURAK VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Fans won't be disappointed with Minaj's latest release.

Minaj has always been great at memorable and song-stealing verses over the course of her career and the album's earlier, rap-heavy songs attest to that skill. On the title track, "Roman Reloaded," Minaj employs her trademark hash tag rapping style with lines like "bite me/#apple sign" and "all you hoes crying/#Christopher Bosh" that she rattles off with the fierceness she is known for. They are quick and easily quotable in a way that great rap lyrics should be.

Lil Wayne plays off Minaj's energy on the same song and sounds fully awake for the first time in a while as he throws in killer lines like, "Kush on my breath, cocaine on my tongue/eat that p**sy make it numb/she can't feel herself cum." Lil Wayne proves that he is one of the few rappers that can match the insanity of Minaj, but also keep all the playfulness and humor that goes along with it.

Minaj is wise to limit the amount of wild "Roman" tracks on the album because they can become overwhelming after a while. They work best as just a quick jolt of vigor to get the album started and to display Minaj's amazing rap prowess.

The album abruptly moves into pop territory with the Chris Brown collaboration, "Right by My Side." Minaj's and Brown's voices blend well together and the song is catchy. It calls to mind Brown's hit track, "No Air" (2008), in its dynamism and tone. Lines like, "You own my heart/she's just renting" are pleasant though it still seems too soon after Brown's altercation with Rihanna to have him be a romantic lead on a song like this again.

Many of the songs that follow are produced by hit-maker RedOne, known for his

see MINAJ, page 6

Minaj proves her pop and rap versatility while mixing in well-known guest artists

MINAJ

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collaborations with Lady Gaga, who does a great job of adding even more oomph to Minaj's dance songs. Dr. Luke, who has worked with superstars like Katy Perry, Britney Spears and Rihanna on some of their biggest hits, also produces many of the more radio-friendly songs that have Minaj in full singing mode.

While these songs are great for dancing and partying to, many of them could have been sung by any generic pop-singer and really drain Minaj of her distinct sound. The beats overshadow her in many of the dance numbers, which is a shame because Minaj's biggest selling point is her over-the-top persona.

Minaj also attempts to get emotional on a few of the closing tracks of the album, including "Marilyn Monroe" and "Fire Burns," which do a commendable job of reminding the listener that underneath the heavy production, odd personae and insane delivery, there is a strong singing voice that can be subtle when it wants to be.

"Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded" ends on one of the album's, and the year's, best songs, "Stupid Hoe." Even by Minaj's standards, the beat and song are bonkers. The production features frantic "woots," whistles and Minaj hastily trying on tons of different voices. The song is paradoxically annoying and incredibly catchy all at once. It's hard to not smirk when Minaj says things like, "who's gassing this hoe?/BP?" and slips into some of her most appealing characters.

Nicki Minaj's new album is able to please both her pop and rap fans with an approach that isn't afraid to change its sound and direction. While Minaj gets drowned out by the production at moments, her unique style makes this a rewarding listen.



THE MUSIC.FM VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS
Minaj's vibrant personality defines her new album.

'The River' earns its place amongst big-screen thrillers

RIVER

continued from page 5

finding the good Doctor. Using any footage they have from Cole's earlier expeditions, they navigate the jungle while trying desperately not to get lost themselves.

The found footage truly gives the show its sparkle. While the present footage is usually dark and brooding, the show's directors really utilize "flashback" found footage to show the characters' brighter pasts. Previous filming of Cole's nature program really demonstrates the development of the characters and helps audiences get invested in them. This is a really smart way to build the dynamics of the current relationships, and creates a nice dichotomy between the nostalgia of the past and the pain of the present.

Peli and Perry also utilize the found-footage technique when forming different storylines, so that everything does not seem procedural. From the first two episodes, it is clear that members of the crew have different intentions for being in the search party. The intertwin-

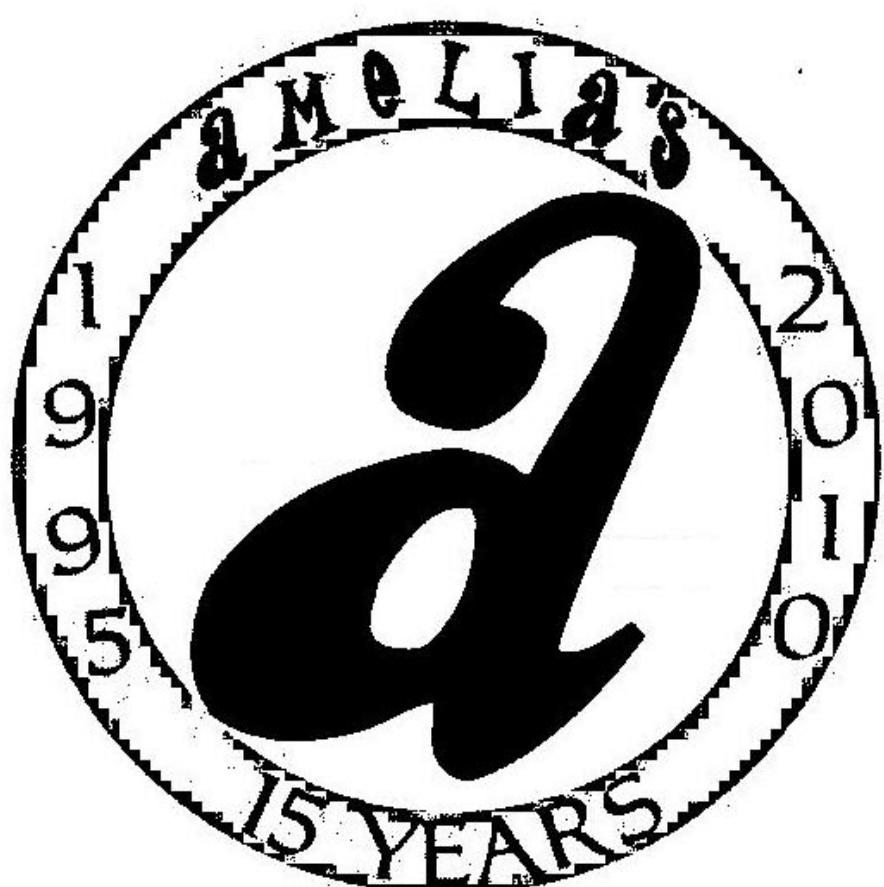
ing of the mysteries has not been completely mastered yet, but the foundation has been built for the rest of the season to be thrilling.

But where are the chills and terrors? There are plenty. All the signs are in the cameras: footage becoming grainy, odd shadows being cast along the river, and the classic night vision all come into play. Combining this aspect with the strong character performances drives the show, keeping viewers constantly on the edges of their seats.

When audiences heard of a small-screen "Paranormal Activity"-type thriller coming, the idea was very exciting, and in the beginning it showed: almost 8 million viewers saw the premiere. But the show has had a tough time keeping the viewers, with an average of 4.5 million watching weekly. With the first season only eight episodes long though, there is plenty of time for people to catch it online and fall in love with the show. "The River" utilizes the found-footage technique well, but also makes sure it's not just a gimmick.



COURTESY OF ABC
The River attempts to use the found footage technique for its program.



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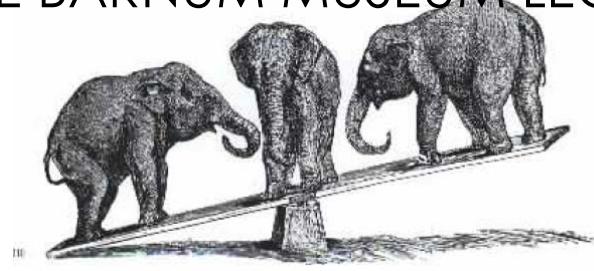
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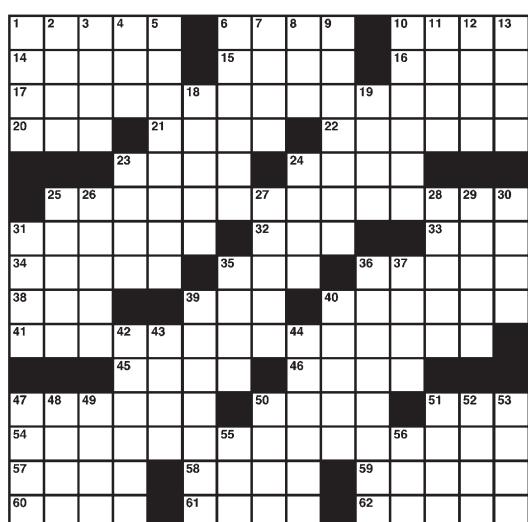
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- "It Wasn't All Velvet" autobiographer
- Caustic stuff
- Goal
- Blew up
- Actress failing to live up to expectations?
- Gives support to
- Toon wisecracker
- center
- Get useful material from
- Lyric poem
- Bit of style in one's blood?
- Venetian arch shape
- City SSW of Moscow
- Toss out
- Goes after
- Unlikely track winners
- Hamburger helper's reward?

DOWN

- Out-of-favor sunscreen ingredient
- Lingerie size
- Robin's digs
- Sonya's uncle, in an 1899 Moscow premiere
- Maker of some drivers
- Muslim leaders
- "Casablanca" actor
- Strawberry, e.g.
- Pigeon tail?
- Range rover
- English court attire
- Lock inserts
- Big-eyed birds
- Words that replace details
- Place to relax
- Coquette's asset
- Rare clock number
- Govt. notes
- Fiscal execs
- Milan meat sauce
- "So that's how it is"



By Jack McInturff

4/6/12

TUESDAY'S SOLUTION

L	A	T	I	N	F	R	E	E	E	L	M	S
A	L	I	V	E	R	A	G	U	S	O	A	P
C	O	P	Y	E	D	I	T	O	R	T	O	G
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4/6/12



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SUDOKU

Level: Finding the afikomen in a matzo factory

		2		7		1		
	8	7			6	2		
3			8			7		
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			5					
	8	7				3		
7			4			2		
	3	6			4	5		
	9	1		7				

LATE NIGHT AT THE DAILY

Thursday's Solution



Craig: "Is that Carter?"
Ethan: "Ummm ... that's Tiger Woods."

Want more late-night laughs?
Follow us on Twitter at @LateNiteAtDaily

7	1	4	5	9	2	8	6	3
8	5	9	6	7	3	2	4	1
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1	7	2	4	8	9	6	3	5
9	3	6	7	2	5	4	1	8
4	8	5	3	1	6	9	7	2
3	4	7	2	5	8	1	9	6
2	6	1	9	3	7	5	8	4
5	9	8	1	6	4	3	2	7

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Softball team rides Cooprider's first career homerun to victory

SOFTBALL

continued from Back

good, so there is still a lot for her to accomplish moving forward."

The Jumbos would plate the only run they needed in the third inning on a two-out RBI single from Clair, and sophomore first baseman Chrissie Massrey gave them an insurance run in the sixth inning on an RBI single. Babson junior Megan Brain, who did a good job holding the Jumbos' lineup at bay, took the loss despite throwing six innings and allowing just two runs. Unfortunately for Brain, her counterpart was on a different level.

While the first game was a classic pitcher's duel, the second quickly turned into a slugfest. Babson grabbed a third-inning lead on a three-run homer by junior shortstop Catie Funk, but the Beavers' advantage did not last long. The Jumbos, who have rarely trailed this season, exploded for seven runs on seven hits in the home half of the inning, taking control of the contest for good. Junior second baseman Emily Beinecke, senior center fielder Lizzy Iuppa and Massrey each contributed run-scoring singles in the frame.

But Babson would not go away easily, tacking on two more runs in the top half of the fourth to cut the deficit to 7-5. Unfortunately for the Beavers, though, the Jumbos' offense was too much to handle. In the bottom of the fourth, freshman outfielder Michelle Cooprider

launched her first collegiate homerun, a three-run shot to give the Jumbos an 11-5 lead, which would turn out to be the game's final score.

"Our freshmen have contributed to some of our biggest wins this year," senior first baseman Lena Cantone said. "They've all stepped up and added to our depth."

Sophomore left fielder Sara Hedtler also had a great game in the leadoff spot, going 4-for-4 with an RBI.

While the Jumbos' pitching was not as sharp as in game one, it was still effective. Sophomore Lauren Giglio and junior Rebecca DiBiase combined to hold the Beavers to five runs. DiBiase, who allowed all five of the Babson runs, picked up the victory and improved to 6-2 after throwing just 3 1/3 innings. Giglio earned her first save of the year.

With two more wins under their belts, the Jumbos will now turn the page to this weekend's three-game series against conference opponent Trinity. The 8-6 Bantams enter the series as winners of their last two games and have a 2-1 NESCAC East record.

"It's going to be important for us to keep the same intensity in every game regardless of who we play," Cantone said. "We want to go into every game expecting to win, but that doesn't mean we can take any opponent lightly, because we know we are going to get their best game."

NESCAC ROUNDUP

Each week, the staff at NESCAC Insider, the Tufts Daily's NESCAC blog, will compile a roundup of the top news throughout Div. III's top conference. For more up-to-the-minute analysis and comprehensive coverage of the NESCAC, visit blogs.tuftsdaily.com/nescacinsider or follow on Twitter @NESCACInsider.

Women's Basketball | Stedman named WBCA Player of the Year

In the culmination of one of the finest careers in Amherst women's basketball history, senior Caroline Stedman was named the State Farm/Women's College Basketball Association Player of the Year on Monday evening. The honor was announced during the organization's awards show.

A two-time NESCAC Player of the Year, Stedman averaged a career-high 14.1 points per game, third-best in the NESCAC, and was named All-NESCAC for the third straight year. During her time with the Lord Jeffs, Amherst reached the NCAA Final Four in all four seasons and won the national title in 2011.

Jaci Daigneault, a 2011 graduate of Amherst, won the award last season.

Women's Tennis | Alotta earns 100th career win

Kristin Alotta wasn't fooling around.

On April 1, the Williams senior secured her 100th career singles victory, becoming just the second player in Ephs history to reach the milestone, and helped her squad to a 5-4 win over national No. 2 Amherst.

Williams, which entered ranked No. 1 in the country, fell behind 2-1 after doubles, but took four out of six singles matches to beat its longtime rival. Alotta and Kathleen Elkins were the Ephs' lone winners in doubles, and Alotta took down Jordan Brewer at No. 1 singles, 0-6, 6-3, 6-3, to eclipse the century mark.

News | Fisher moving on to Landmark Conference

Long the NESCAC's assistant director for conference operations, Dan Fisher has been appointed as the newest commissioner of the Landmark Conference, an association of eight mid-Atlantic Div. III conferences. Fisher will take over his new position on July 1.

"I am excited and honored to have been selected as the next commissioner of the Landmark Conference," Fisher said in the press release on NESCAC.com. "During my discussions with the presidents and athletics directors of the conference, it was apparent that the members of the Landmark are committed to working together and fostering an environment of success for all participants in athletics."

Fisher has been with the NESCAC since 2005, managing the conference's daily operations and, among other duties, manning its Twitter account.

Director's Cup | Four NESCAC programs among top 10

Four NESCAC schools rank in the top 10 in the latest Director's Cup standings following the 2011-12 winter season. The Cup awards points based on national success in each individual sport and then adds them up to demonstrate a school's relative, aggregate achievements.

Middlebury held onto second place, trailing Washington University in St. Louis for first by 17.5 points after the Panthers won the NESCAC women's ice hockey title and had three other sports place in NCAA competition.

Amherst, meanwhile, remains in third place after capturing three conference championships this past winter, while Williams is stuck in sixth place. The Ephs have won the past 13 Directors' Cups.

Tufts slid into 10th after finishing the fall season in 24th place, thanks in large part to its women's basketball

—by Alex Prewitt

SCHEDULE | April 6 - April 10

	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Softball	vs. Trinity 4 p.m.	vs. Trinity 12 p.m. vs. Trinity 2:30 p.m.			
Baseball	vs. Trinity 3 p.m.	vs. Trinity 12 p.m. vs. Trinity 3 p.m.			
Women's Lacrosse		vs. Williams 1 p.m.			
Men's Lacrosse		at Williams 1 p.m.		vs. Endicott 7 p.m.	
Women's Tennis	at Wellesley Invitational	at Wellesley Invitational	at Wellesley Invitational		
Men's Tennis		vs. Bowdoin 12 p.m.			
Women's Track & Field		at George Davis Invitational 10 a.m.			
Men's Track & Field		at George Davis Invitational 10 a.m.			
Women's Sailing		at President's Trophy 11:30 a.m.	at President's Trophy 11:30 a.m.		
Co-ed Sailing		at Marchiando/Fris/ Admiral Alymers Trophies 9:30 a.m.	at Marchiando/Fris/ Admiral Alymers Trophies 9:30 a.m.		



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NESCAC cellar-dweller Williams can't be underestimated

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

continued from page 11

the skills to beat them."

The Ephs' record is not indicative of their true ability, and their last three games were one-goal losses to Conn. College, Bates and Bowdoin. Accordingly, Williams will be desperate for a win, a fact not lost on the Jumbos despite the Ephs' poor record.

"[The message has been] to make clear that Williams is as good as any team in the league and that they've lost all one-goal games," Rappoli said. "To think that they're struggling would be a mistake."

The key for Tufts will be shutting down junior attacker Sam Weinstein, who has scored 17 goals on the year. Despite their 3-5 overall record, the Ephs have outscored their opponents by an average of 12.05-9.91, a sign that Tufts' defense will have to be on its toes if the Jumbos want to boost their NESCAC record to 3-3.

"What we've been working on in the past few days [is] being dynamic all over the field, our transition, cutting to and from ball, [and] checking on the catch," Lotz said. "[Those] are all things that will definitely be essential aspects of the game when we play Williams on Saturday."

"We always get pumped to play Williams. They're a big rival for us," Hyland added. "We're not paying attention to their record at all because the league is so crazy. We take it one game at a time, and we know not to take them lightly."

Regardless of the specific strategies, the Jumbos know that they will have to come out of the gates fast against the Ephs and avoid the slow starts that have plagued them at times.

"We need to come out strong," Rappoli said. "In the last few years against Williams we've come out very strong, and that's been the difference in the games."



CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY

Senior midfielder Emily Pillemer scored two first-half goals against Endicott on Tuesday to help the Jumbos establish an 8-1 lead and earn a much-needed 14-7 win.

Homecoming game will be emotional for Griffith

GRIFFITH

continued from Back

she just knows exactly what needs to be done."

Griffith may know exactly what to do when she plays field hockey, but Griffith is the first to admit she may be even better at soccer. Upon choosing Tufts, though, she chose to focus on her self-proclaimed lesser sport.

"Basically, when I was being recruited I was being recruited for both, and talked to both coaches at almost every school I was looking at," Griffith said. "I was burnt out with soccer, and when I met Tina and the team here I knew it was something I had to be had to be a part of. I totally would've played both if I could have."

Griffith credits her knowledge of soccer with giving her a unique perspective on field hockey.

"They're very similar games, so how I see the game developed playing soccer because I started playing at such an early age," said Griffith, who began playing in competitive travel leagues when she was five. "I just had more practice seeing the field and finding open players in that arena."

Unsurprisingly, finding open players became her claim to fame in collegiate field hockey. As a captain this season, the mid-fielder stepped into the role of quarterback for the Jumbos and led the offense with 10 goals and three assists. Though Tufts didn't finish the season in ideal fashion — the Jumbos lost in the second round of the NCAA Tournament against NESCAC rival Middlebury — Griffith took on a robust vocal and physical leadership role this year after the graduation of a talented Class of 2011.

Griffith's dominance on the field was recognized throughout the conference and Div. III, too, as she picked up her first All-NESCAC, First Team All-New England and NFHCA Senior All-Star nods this fall, with each organization citing



ALEX DENNETT / THE TUFTS DAILY

Senior Lindsay Griffith, who was a First Team All-New England selection in the fall, will bring strong field hockey instincts and knowledge of the NESCAC to the Amherst coaching staff next year.

her playmaking abilities as the reason for her selection.

But Knerr saw more in Griffith than just stick skills and a distinctive field sense. Knerr cites Griffith's role as a NESCAC insider as another reason for her selection.

"The fact that she's coming from a NESCAC team helps her understand the demands that are placed on a student athlete at a top-level academic and athletic school," Knerr said. "She will understand what the athletes are going through and will be able to relate to the players and they will have respect for her because they know she's been in their shoes."

In some ways, Griffith still will be in their shoes as a full-time student. As part of her Graduate Assistantship, Griffith will be taking classes at partner institution UMass Amherst. Generally, the program is only offered to those pursuing a degree in sports management, but Griffith wanted to stay open to other potential career plans — namely, teaching — and UMass Amherst obliged.

"I considered sport management, but what I really wanted to do was education. There was

no set program for it, but people had done it before," Griffith said. "I chose [higher education administration] because I'm still considering teaching in the future, but it was a program that I could really shape to my interests. ... It allowed me to shape it towards teaching and coaching rather than either-or."

While ecstatic about the opportunity, Griffith recognizes that coaching against her alma mater will be an interesting adjustment — especially because the Lord Jeffs will play the Jumbos at Tufts' Homecoming next year — but is excited to be on the other side of Bello Field.

"I didn't see that coming, but I'm ready to kick Tufts' butt," Griffith said jokingly. "I think it's going to be hard playing Tufts, but I'm at a new school and I'm excited to become a Lord Jeff. I think it's an advantage that I've played against all these teams for four years because I know their style of play."

Is she worried about her historically vocal fellow Tufts field hockey alumni giving her flak from the sidelines?

"We'll let the scoreboard do the talking," Griffith said with a laugh.

Jumbos look to complete perfect homestand

MEN'S TENNIS

continued from Back

match, but we tried to amp it up like it was every other match and put that out of our minds."

The Jumbos took care of business, winning the two contested doubles matches to set the tone with University President Anthony Monaco in attendance.

In the first doubles match-up, junior Andrew Lutz and sophomore Matt Pataro found themselves in an early 3-0 hole but managed to quickly turn the match around to win 8-5. Then, the Jumbos hit their stride and the pair rolled off point after point, its confidence noticeably rising with each captured game.

"It looked like we were going to get crushed for a little while," Lutz said. "But we were positive and we did start turning it around and letting our opponents cool off as we hoped they would."

In the second doubles pairing, Laber and junior Mark Westerfield took care of business in a straightforward 8-3 victory, meaning that the Jumbos headed into the singles portion only needing one more win to take the match.

"It was nice to have that under our belt knowing that we only needed one more match to clinch," said Lutz, who helped seal that win with a 6-4, 6-2 victory in the No. 2 spot.

All of the Jumbos who came away with wins did so in straight sets, with the lone smudge on the score sheet being a loss from Laber, 7-5, 6-2, against Merrimack's No. 3 player Vince Bellino.

Even after such a convincing win, Lutz noted the Warriors' effort and their attempts to stave off what seemed like a

certain defeat.

"We were especially impressed with Merrimack, that they came to play despite starting the match at a very big disadvantage," Lutz said. "That's something that we can definitely learn from."

In their last four matches, though, the Jumbos haven't had to worry too much about the pressure of fighting from behind, as they have won by a combined record of 34-2. The competition hasn't been the stiffest the NCAA has to offer, but the team has certainly been locked in over the past two weeks.

"Our coaches have been trying to get into our heads that every point counts, and that we need every point for every doubles and singles," Lutz said. "We've been trying to get everybody to focus on [their] match and act as if [they] are the one that has to win."

After practicing that mindset in the last couple of weeks, the time has come for the Jumbos to put it to the test in an environment where every point will be needed: Saturday afternoon's showdown at home against Bowdoin.

The Polar Bears were voted 10th in the nation in a recent poll, while the Jumbos have fallen out of the top 30; a victory could vault Tufts back into the rankings.

"Just playing Bowdoin will give us that edge back because they've got a target on their back," Laber said. "We've had close matches with them, and we know we can beat them."

The atmosphere will be far different on Saturday than it was against the Warriors, but the Jumbos are hoping that the momentum gained from the last four matches will be enough for them to continue their roll and finish off a perfect homestand.

After 30 years, a new national diving champion emerges at Tufts

SCHMIDT

continued from page 1

"Coming off of a high, you would think it would push you to do better, work on a lot of dives. But I was just a little down, didn't really want to train," Schmidt said. "I had no one else there, no one else to practice with, and I just was like, 'Whatever, I don't want to go to practice, I just want to go to nationals and do my dives.'"

Schmidt's goal was to make the top eight on both boards, and although Tufts diving coach Brad Snodgrass had slightly higher aspirations — his goal was for Schmidt to place in the top three — winning it all was never a topic of conversation. Schmidt had seen the top divers last year. He wasn't as good as they were.

But even without first-place aspirations, the pressure was overwhelming. A few times, when it was just Schmidt and Snodgrass at the pool, Schmidt cracked.

"He would tell me to do stuff, tell me to make corrections, and I wasn't making corrections," he said. "I wasn't getting better, I was actually getting worse. I just couldn't handle it."

But Snodgrass knew Schmidt's potential, and he felt Schmidt owed it to himself to maximize it. So he pushed him.

"There's a lot of gifted athletes that really never realize their potential," Snodgrass said. "We had many conversations this season where I had to remind him that, in exchange for his gift, he had to work a little bit harder. That was the price to pay."

At the same time, Snodgrass knew Schmidt was emotionally drained, and he didn't want to push him too far. Some days, he let Schmidt end practices early, and at times he took a step back and let his assistant coaches do the talking.

"He knew that I had had enough of him and couldn't stand him," Schmidt said with a laugh.

At the time, it didn't seem so funny.

"It was easy to get tired of each other after a long season and an additional month with just the two of us, but I knew we were going to get through it," Snodgrass said. "I didn't know whether we were going to get through it on friendly terms or on unfriendly terms, but I knew we would get through it one way or another."

In those final weeks, Snodgrass was part coach, part psychologist — or, as he put it, "a sponge for negative vibes."

"It's not rocket science," he said. "It's feeling a positive attitude — 'I can do this,

I belong here' -- and de-emphasizing the things that don't go well."

With his coach guiding him, Schmidt managed to clear his head, work hard and get back to having fun. Once he arrived in Indianapolis, the pressure he felt had all but disappeared.

Still, it wasn't the last time he'd have to battle his mental demons. On his final dive, he'd be tested once more.

Just like that. One dive.

Up until the final week of training for nationals, Schmidt struggled to perfect the technique of the dive that would ultimately determine his championship fate. It was a reverse one-and-a-half somersaults with one-and-a-half twists, and while Schmidt often held it off until the end of practice, Snodgrass made sure he worked on it each day — you know, just in case he might need it.

"We continued to make changes as much as we could without totally derailing him and starting from scratch, to improve it, to make it a better dive," Snodgrass said. "Those changes could have gone the other way, could have messed him up. But it didn't."

For Schmidt to win, just about everything had to go right. He had placed first in the preliminaries in the one-meter, putting him in great position to at least fulfill his coach's goal of a top-three finish. But one slip-up, one mental lapse, and his shot at victory would vanish.

Before the last dive, he had a brief moment of weakness — or, perhaps more accurately, humanness — imagining himself falling off the board. But with everyone watching, waiting to see whether he'd choke or rise to the occasion, visualization and instincts took over.

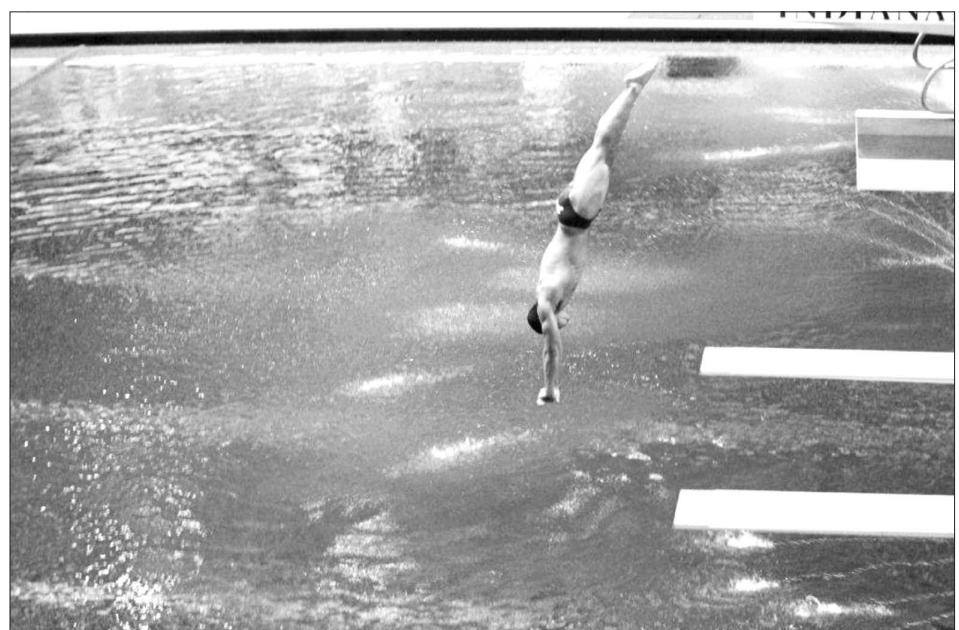
"I cleared my mind, I went on the board, saw myself doing the dive, and then just nailed it," Schmidt said. "And it was over, that was it. Just like that. One dive."

He needed a great effort, but this — well, this was one of his best. Forty-seven points would have been enough. Schmidt scored almost 70.

The dive hadn't come easily in practice, but he pulled it off when it mattered most.

"It can be real discouraging when you've tried something 25 times and 25 times it doesn't work," Snodgrass said. "But finally for him, on the 26th time, it did work. That was pretty cool."

After Schmidt won, he cried. He had cried several times while training for the meet, but these were very different tears.



COURTESY JOHANN SCHMIDT

To win the one-meter competition at nationals in Indianapolis on March 23, sophomore Johann Schmidt needed to pull off a dive that had given him trouble all season long. He nailed it.

Schmidt had embraced the challenge, and in doing so, he had reached new heights.

"It was the most amazing accomplishment, because I just had no idea it was coming," he said. "I think that's the sweetest part about it."

I wouldn't say I'm amazing at what I do'

The last time a member of Tufts' men's swimming and diving program became a national champion was back in 1982, when Jim Lilley (LA '82) won the 100-meter butterfly and Keith Miller (LA '82) won the three-meter dive.

Miller, who has now been coaching diving at Harvard for 21 years, was a senior that year and, according to him, arrived at nationals having placed second in each of his previous three NCAA tries. In the one-meter as a senior, he placed second yet again. The three-meter was his final chance.

If ever there were a time for mental toughness, this was it. After three straight years of being second-best, Miller had one last shot at glory. And the rest, of course, is history.

"Mentally, [winning a championship] is a hard thing to try to do on purpose," Miller said. "You do all this work for a number of years, and if you happen to feel good and feel relaxed on that day, sometimes things fall into place. They did for me that day, and they did for

Johann on his day."

In diving, one transcendent performance is all it takes.

"I know I'm not the best Div. III national diver, but on that day I definitely was," Schmidt said. "I was the most consistent, I did the best that day, and that's what matters in diving. For a year, I guess I can say I'm the best Div. III national diver."

The next time Schmidt goes to NCAAs, the competition will be even tougher, and he will be fighting to defend his crown and hopefully add a three-meter trophy to his mantelpiece. With two years of college diving still ahead of him, Schmidt knows he's not done yet.

"I still wouldn't say I'm amazing at what I do, because I can still put in more time, more effort, and there's a lot of guys out there who work really, really hard," he said.

While his words may sound like a typical champion's stab at humility, the scary part is that they just might be true.

"The thing about Johann is that he's just beginning to tap his potential," Snodgrass said. "In my eyes, he's still a relative beginner."

A beginner, yes, but one who's now proven himself on the biggest stage.

No matter what happens next year, or the year after that, Johann Schmidt is a national champion.

He can say that for the rest of his life.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Tufts downs Endicott to halt losing streak at three

BY DAVID MCINTYRE
Daily Editorial Board

The No. 12 women's lacrosse team just needed a win. After suffering defeats in their last

WOMEN'S LACROSSE (5-3 Overall, 2-3 NESCAC)

at Beverly, Mass., Wednesday

Tufts	8	6	—	14
Endicott	1	6	—	7

three games, all to conference opponents, the Jumbos were hovering close to the .500 mark, a line that the team is desperate not to cross. But against Endicott on Wednesday, Tufts managed to right the ship, building an 8-1 halftime lead before taking the game 14-7.

"It's been steady improvement," coach Carol Rappoli said. "Those [losses] were within nine days against very good competition. Those teams are just at a different place than we are right now. But we focused on two or three areas and made a few changes, and that made a big difference."

As the score suggests, Tufts dominated the flow of the game and bested the Gulls in nearly

every statistical category. The game also marked an offensive turnaround for Tufts, which had been held to just over seven goals per game in its last three contests.

"The difference was that we translated what we worked on in practice into the game and really executed," senior attacker Kelly Hyland said. "On offense, it was about spreading out and keeping the lanes open so we could get a lot of shots on goal."

Not only did Tufts score 14 goals, the team's third-highest total of the season, but the scoring was also evenly distributed, with six players tallying at least one goal and seven players scoring at least one point.

"[Wednesday's] win felt great after all of our hard work the past few weeks," senior tri-captain defender Katie Lotz said. "I think the main thing we improved on was being dynamic all over the field. On attack and defense we were being so conscious of moving the ball and being aware of our surroundings, and I think that really made a difference in our play."

The first half was about as lopsided as a collegiate lacrosse game can get, with the Jumbos

dominating the Gulls all over the field and outshooting them 19-5. Endicott turned the ball over 13 times, allowing Tufts to assert control of possession on the offensive end. Sophomore attacker Gabby Horner and senior midfielder Emily Pillemer scored two goals each in the half, and after 30 minutes the game looked almost out of reach.

"In lacrosse it's all about the draw and winning the loose balls," Rappoli said. "If you can get the loose balls you'll have more opportunities on attack, and I thought that was the difference in the first half."

The performance was a great sign for the team, which now heads into the final six games of its schedule, five of which are against conference opponents. First up is Williams, which will come to Bello Field tomorrow looking for its first NESCAC win of the season.

"Williams has always been a big rival of ours," Lotz said. "Especially after our past three games, we know that it is especially important this year — every NESCAC game is now. The team understands the importance and also knows that we totally have

see WOMEN'S LACROSSE, page 10

MEN'S LACROSSE

Tufts to take on Williams tomorrow

On Saturday, the Jumbos will travel to western Mass. to face the Williams Ephs, whom they defeated 12-6 last March. This season, the Ephs, who finished last in the conference in 2011, again sit at the bottom of the league with a 2-5 record that includes just one conference victory against Bates.

The Ephs lost 14-6 to a Trinity Bantams squad that defeated the Jumbos 9-8 in overtime last Saturday, and Tufts has the leg up going into tomorrow's contest. But it has been a wild year in the NESCAC, and the Jumbos, who have already shown weaknesses in two losses, cannot discount head coach George McCormack's squad.

Still, the numbers are certainly in Tufts' favor.

The Ephs are 10th in the NESCAC in points per game, averaging just 9.29 to Tufts' league-leading 17.71, and Tufts has three players ranked among the top 10 in the conference in scoring. Sophomore attackman Beau Wood leads the NESCAC in points per game, averaging 3.71.

Meanwhile, senior co-captain Kevin McCormick and freshman attackman Cole Bailey have also had sensational seasons for the Jumbos thus far, teaming up with Wood to create one of the

NESCAC's most menacing offensive trios.

For Williams, senior attackman Sam Hargrove is the top scoring threat. Hargrove leads the team with 18 points and is the most accurate shooter, boasting a .400 shooting percentage. Junior Evan Dedominicis, who notched two goals against the Jumbos in last year's contest, ranks second for the Ephs in scoring with eight goals and 10 points and is also a capable scoring threat.

Recently, the Jumbos' veteran defense has held its own, even in Tufts' two losses to Stevenson and No. 19 Trinity. In its first eight games, Tufts held opponents to just 66 goals while racking up 93 of their own, and sophomore goalkeeper Patton Watkins has been excellent behind the junior trio of Sam Gardner, Matt Callahan and John Heard.

Because Williams has few real offensive threats beyond the duo of Hargrove and Dedominicis, Tufts' defense will likely find ways to cut them off from feeders and lock down on the Ephs' offensive series. Forcing turnovers and creating fastbreak opportunities will, as usual, be central to Tufts' gameplan.

—by Kate Klots

Sports

tuftsdaily.com

FIELD HOCKEY**Amherst embraces Lindsay-nity: Griffith to join Lord Jeffs' staff**BY CLAIRE KEMP
Daily Editorial Board

Senior Lindsay Griffith has always had two things in her blood: the NESAC and coaching. Her parents were both dual-sport athletes at Bates. Her father, William, played soccer and skied, while her mother, Tracey, played field hockey and ran track. William — or Will Da Beast, as he is lovingly called — would go on to coach a young Lindsay in soccer, while Tracey would coach her two former sports on the middle- and high-school levels for 10 years.

Now, Lindsay has caught the coaching bug: She will join the Amherst field hockey staff next season as a Graduate Assistant while pursuing a master's degree at UMass Amherst.

"Before I even went to college, [my mom] said, 'You know, you should teach and coach — it's something that you would be really good at. You're passionate about sports and teaching and it's a really great living,'" Griffith said.

And while the idea may have been subconsciously instilled in her since childhood, Griffith didn't consider it an immediate possibility until January.

"[Tufts field hockey coach] Tina [McDavitt] emailed me the link to the NFHCA posting over winter break and said she thought it would be something I'd be interested in," Griffith said. "I had talked to Tina before winter break about what I wanted to

do next, and she suggested I really consider coaching. So I had it in the back of my head, and when I saw the posting at Amherst I knew I had to go for it."

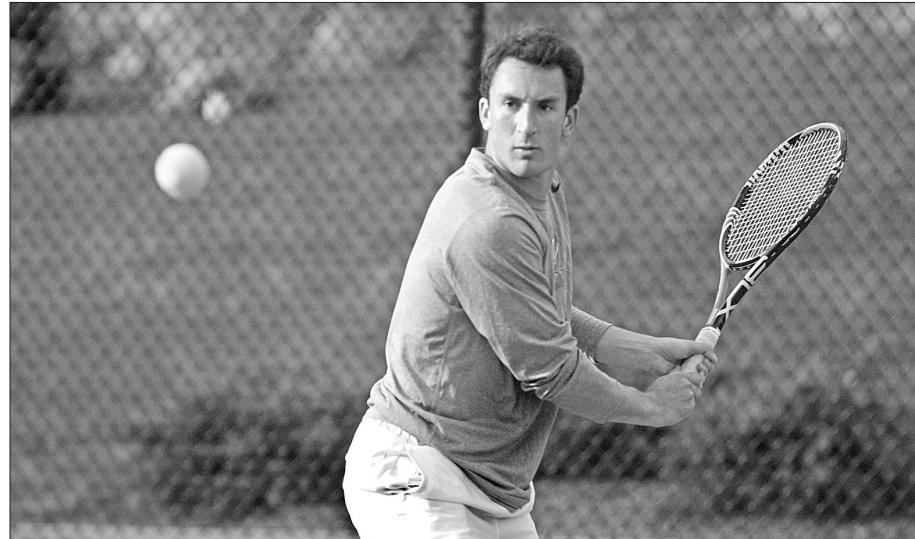
On a whim, she did. Within two weeks of seeing the listing, the next two years of Griffith's life were planned, as Amherst head coach Carol Knerr chose the Jumbo from a pool of candidates across all divisions to help her lead the Lord Jeffs.

"I've seen her play for four years and I've always been impressed with her play," Knerr said. "She's a great overall athlete and clearly has a strong understanding of the game. I also know she's well coached and comes from a strong program. Tina had great things to say about her and I trust Tina's opinion."

McDavitt's confidence in Griffith's coaching potential comes from Griffith's unique combination of field hockey and soccer experience. Throughout much of the country, the two sports overlap in the fall season, but in Griffith's home state of Delaware she was able to focus on soccer in the spring.

"She played soccer growing up and I think that really helped with her visualization of the passing [in field hockey] and where everyone needs to be," McDavitt said. "She is such a smart player and sees the field really well and she understands the game completely. When I'm talking she's nodding her head because

see **GRIFFITH**, page 10

MEN'S TENNIS

JOSH BERLINGER / THE TUFTS DAILY

Junior Andrew Lutz (pictured) and his doubles partner, sophomore Matt Pataro, fell behind 3-0 to their Merrimack opponents on Wednesday before coming back to win, 8-5.

Tufts rolls over shorthanded Merrimack squadBY MARCUS BUDLINE
Daily Staff Writer

Before the men's tennis team's match against Merrimack even began on Wednesday, the Jumbos were handed

**MEN'S TENNIS
(8-4 Overall, 2-1 NESAC)**

Voute Courts, Wednesday

Merrimack
Tufts

1

8

two victories as a result of the Warriors' incomplete roster. Missing one player who was set to play both doubles and singles, Merrimack had no choice but to forfeit the two matches, giving an already confident Tufts squad an early lead that it did not relinquish on its way to an 8-1 victory.

"It put a different level of intensity on the match," said senior co-captain Sam Laber, about the missing players. "It didn't feel as much like a usual

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SOFTBALL**Underclassmen carry softball to doubleheader sweep**BY ZACHEY KLIGER
Daily Editorial Board

The late Hall of Fame coach Vince Lombardi famously said that winning is a habit. Good

**SOFTBALL
(16-3 Overall, 3-0 NESAC)**

Spicer Field, Tuesday

	R	H	E
Babson	0 0 0 0 0 0	0	2 0
Tufts	0 0 1 0 0 1	X	- 2 8 0
Babson	0 0 3 2 0 0 0	-	5 12 2
Tufts	0 0 7 4 0 0 X	-	11 12 0

teams don't just beat their opponents but also go into every game expecting to do so. In essence, they forget how to lose.

At the moment, it looks like the softball team has reached that point. Winners of five in a row, the Jumbos have seen their overall record climb to 16-3, and 3-0 in NESAC play.

Tufts' most recent victories came on Wednesday afternoon, when the Jumbos swept a doubleheader against the Babson Beavers at Spicer Field. Strong performances from several rookies helped the Jumbos claim both games.

Freshman pitcher Allyson Fournier dominated in the first game, hurling a complete-game shutout while recording a mind-boggling 17 strikeouts. In her short career, Fournier has made a habit of embarrassing opposing lineups. The Beavers, who were unable to advance a runner past second base in



SCOTT TINGLEY / THE TUFTS DAILY

Sophomore left fielder Sara Hedtler went a perfect 4-for-4 batting in the leadoff spot in the second of Tufts' two victories over Babson on Wednesday.

the opening game, managed just four hits against the first-year pitcher, who improved to a team-best 8-0 on the year.

"Allyson has definitely

exceeded expectations," sophomore catcher Jo Clair said. "But we knew she was going to be

see **SOFTBALL**, page 9

MEN'S LACROSSE**Too close for comfort: Jumbos survive scare against Panthers**

The No. 12 men's lacrosse team nearly let one slip away at Middlebury yesterday. The Jumbos, who led by five goals in the third quarter, allowed the host Panthers to claw back in the third and fourth quarters and close to within one goal in the waning minutes of regulation.

In the end, however, the Jumbos' cooler heads prevailed, and Tufts managed to run out the clock and clinch a 10-9 victory after Middlebury threatened to tie with less than a minute remaining. The Jumbos improved to 4-1 in the NESAC and 7-2 overall.

Middlebury junior midfielder Brian Foster played sensational at the X, securing 15 of 22 faceoffs. Penalties also proved costly for the Jumbos, as the Panthers capitalized on three of five extra-man opportunities to stage their second-half comeback.

The Jumbos outshot the Panthers 18-11 in the first half, capitalizing on 14 Middlebury turnovers to jump out to a 5-2 lead at intermission. While Middlebury dominated at the X, Tufts took advantage of strong play from senior midfielder Geordie Shafer and sophomore attackman Beau Wood, who netted two goals apiece in the first half and combined for eight points on the day.

Wood and Shafer opened the second stanza by each scoring a goal to push the Jumbos' lead to 7-2 at the 10:09 mark. But just as the Jumbos appeared to have found their footing, the Panthers cashed in on a penalty to end the 4-0 run.

Freshman Chris Schoenhardt then buried a blistering shot stickside high to regain the Jumbos' five-goal lead, but the good feelings were short-lived as the Panthers responded with a three-goal run of their own to pull within two.

With 11 seconds remaining in the third, Wood sent a slicing shot past goalkeeper Nate Gaudio to make it 9-6, but the Panthers were not done yet. In the fourth, sophomore midfielder Bucky Pierce cashed in on a man advantage to make it 9-7 at the 10:34 mark, and in the following minutes, Middlebury had several golden opportunities. Finally, senior attackman Tim Cahill grabbed a rebound off the post and capitalized, pulling the hosts within one.

With Tufts' comfortable lead seemingly vanishing into thin air, freshman attackman Cole Bailey completed a perfectly executed feed from behind to Schoenhardt, who cut in with a goal to push the Jumbos' lead back to two. The Panthers rallied yet again, though, as junior midfielder Andrew Metros scored to make it 10-9.

As the Panthers looked to tie, Bailey turned the ball over behind the cage. Middlebury head coach Dave Campbell called two timeouts in the final 30 seconds, but ultimately, his team could not muster the equalizer. The Jumbos forced the ball loose at midfield, and when time expired, Tufts had earned a thrilling, one-goal victory.

—by Kate Klots