May 2, 2018

Dear Members of the Tufts Community,

It is with mixed emotions and sincere gratitude that we are announcing the retirement of Jane Etish-Andrews, the Director of the International Center since 1983, on October 15, 2018. As Director of the International Center, Jane has overseen a team providing immigration and student services to over 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students and close to 300 faculty and research scholars at AS&E, the Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine.

Because of her unwavering commitment to meeting the needs of international members of the Tufts community, Jane has done much more than provide visas and immigration support to international students, faculty, scholars and staff. She has been a “rock” to international students, in the words of one international alumnus, and a community builder. Unlike at many colleges, under her leadership, the International Center has also provided much appreciated social, emotional and personal support to international students, faculty and scholars as they adjust to life in the United States and at Tufts, as well as advocacy on behalf of the international community to create a campus climate that respects cultural differences.

Jane created several new programs in response to the increase of international students, such as Global Pre-Orientation, an Intercultural Conversation Program, the spring Intercultural Festival and Parade of Nations, an annual spring event now sponsored by the International Club (I-Club), among others. One of Jane’s many significant contributions to the experience of international students at Tufts has been the establishment of the Oliver Chapman Fund, which helps international students cover expenses that cannot be met by their Tufts financial aid. Jane also oversaw and grew the Laila Moshiri Yazdi Fund established in 1983 which has continuously provided international students with short-term emergency loans supporting them through unpredictable times. In addition, she has been a dedicated team player within the Division of Student Affairs at AS&E and with the Group of Six.

In addition to her work at Tufts, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Irish International Immigrant Center (a non-profit organization in Boston that assists and advocates for newly arrived immigrants), is an Adjunct Faculty member at Lesley University in the International Higher Education and Intercultural Relations program and has held national and regional positions with NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

Jane has been a leader at Tufts and in her field. In 2001, she was awarded the Sally M. Heym (NAFSA) Award for her outstanding contributions to the field of international education as a mentor, as a source
of information and wisdom, and as a leader in promoting international education in the region. She was awarded the Tufts Faculty/Staff Multicultural Service Award, given to faculty and staff members who have made significant efforts to define Tufts as a multicultural environment, in 2014. And in 2018, Jane and her staff at the International Center were nominated for a Tufts Distinction Award for their dedication and tireless work in responding to the recent travel ban and other immigration-related orders to ensure that all in our international community who need assistance receive it and feel welcome and supported by the University.

Over 35 years working with Tufts’ international community, Jane has developed and sustained deep connections within the Tufts community. She will be sorely missed. Please join us in thanking Jane for her service to Tufts and to Tufts’ international community, and in wishing her well in her retirement.

Deborah T. Kochevar
Provost and Senior Vice President ad interim

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