

**Kerry Biggs**  
**Class of 2009**  
**Welcome to the 2009 Reunion Classes**  
**Tufts University School of Medicine**  
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On behalf of the current student body at Tufts' School of Medicine I'd like to add my welcome to the many you've received already tonight. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come back to Boston—whether it meant a journey from across the country or a short car-ride downtown. I hope that the events of this weekend serve to renew your appreciation for the time you spent here as a student and also revitalize your commitment to the continued success of Tufts' School of Medicine.

Much has changed in the years since you've graduated—I know I can say that fairly because yesterday I was talking with a current 1<sup>st</sup> year who commented that even she couldn't believe how much had changed in just the past year. The Sackler building is in the final stages of an Extreme Home Makeover of sorts...nearly a complete redesign and renovation in order to better meet the needs of our student body. It is almost unrecognizable even to me—I already have to stop and ask 1<sup>st</sup> years for directions every now and then and I haven't even graduated yet! The opening of the new simulation center earlier this year and the debut of the new curriculum this coming fall are similarly welcome initiatives, and evidence of the strong support of alumni like you and of the commitment of the administration to remain at the cutting edge of medical education. Tufts' new partnership with Maine Medical Center, its plan to increase class size, and the appointment of a Dean of Multicultural Affairs and Global Health are sure signs of growth and a dedication to evaluate and meet the evolving needs of the world around us. And I can speak only to the changes over the past 4 years...I can only imagine the transformation evident to the Class of '59!

In the midst of all this change you might wonder if Tufts is at all the place you remember it to be... I assure you the spirit that has formed the foundation of this institution for years remains alive and well. You will continue to find the halls, classrooms, library and wards filled with students invested in becoming more than an M.D. This is a place where compassion is valued, assumptions are challenged, skills are refined, questions are heard, passions are nourished, and leaders are raised up. The students and faculty cherish their calling to be lifelong learners, healers and servants of those in need. The spirit of togetherness, friendship and cooperation that has pulled many a student through a tough season, and brought many an idea to fruition continues to inhabit the hearts and minds of our students, faculty, and staff.

I would be remiss if I did not thank you—both you and your families—for the many sacrifices you have made in becoming a physician, in advancing our field, and in choosing daily to put others before yourself. Your service is not lost on those of us who follow in your footsteps. I know the demands of our career are high as it is, so to those of you who have gone above and beyond to give back to the Tufts community—as mentors, teachers, role models,

innovators and financial donors—thank you. I encourage you to continue to support the work being done here, whether in big or small ways, as Tufts continues to produce physicians I believe you would be proud to call colleagues and fellow alumni.

I wish you the best as you take time over the next few days to look back and remember, to celebrate each others' achievements, and to look ahead to what we, as a community of physicians, can accomplish together in the future. I know I speak for both myself and my classmates when I say I am proud to be a part of the Tufts School of Medicine class of 2009, and I am both excited and honored to be joining your ranks as alumni of this institution. So on behalf of my classmates and fellow students I once again welcome you back to Tufts and, personally, I hope to see you all again in 5 years.