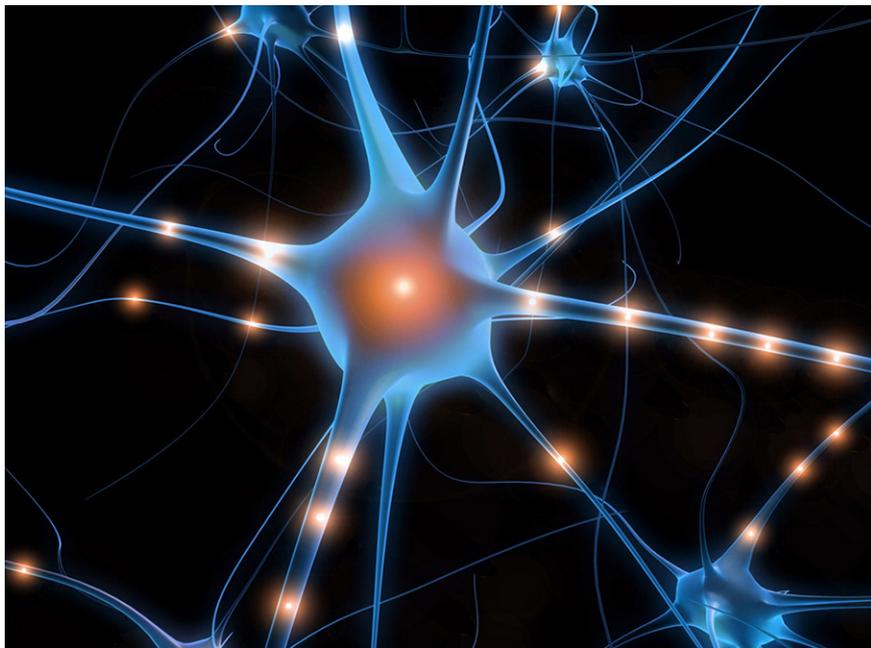


Synaptic Scholars



Senior Presentations

April 28, 2014
Crane Room, Paige Hall

Tufts
UNIVERSITY



THE INSTITUTE FOR
**GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP**

The Institute for Global Leadership's

SYNAPTIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Synaptic Scholars program is a leadership program, meant to provide a forum for students to take risks, pursue passions, and challenge assumptions in an intimate, supportive and collaborative environment. It is designed to cultivate a strong sense of accountability and responsibility, while encouraging scholars to enrich the University's intellectual life and programming.

Scholars meet weekly to examine a broad range of current events and global issues, organize community events, offer feedback and support for individual and group projects, and reflect on their evolving intellectual interests and personal goals. By moving beyond traditional departmental methodologies with a singular disciplinary focus, the group creates a framework in which intellectual juxtapositions, critical thinking and self-directed explorations can be realized.

Synaptic Scholars helped to found and co-sponsors the Tufts Idea Exchange (TEX). TEX is a one-day forum each semester, featuring speakers chosen from amongst students, faculty and alumni of Tufts University. Each presentation focuses on a new idea; there are no limitations on subject or field. The Tufts Idea Exchange is a TED-style forum for ideas—the seeds of innovation that grow into new projects and discoveries.

Synaptic Scholars also host Fireside Chats at the university, creating an informal setting for a discussion among faculty and students about a current idea.

PROGRAM

April 28, 2014

3:00pm

Welcome

Sherman Teichman
Director, Institute for Global Leadership

3:05pm

Student Presentations

Anna Troein
"Learning Cultural Intelligence through Interfaith,
Art, and Shifting Identities"

Gavin Murphy
"Technology and Innovation"

Christopher Yee-Paulson
"180 Degrees Consulting: Tufts University Branch"

Jonathan Wolff
"Bits: the Statue of Liberty and the Statue of
Responsibility"

Christina Goldbaum
"Living in Code"

Roy Loewenstein
"How I Got Here: How The Republican Party
Protects Whiteness and How I Learned to See It"

4:30pm

Closing Remarks followed by a reception

Christina Goldbaum



Christina Goldbaum is a senior, majoring in Political Science. At Tufts, Christina served as the Co-Director of the BUILD Program for Sustainable Development and as the Undergraduate Coordinator of the Empower Program for Social Entrepreneurship. She has also interned with community-based organizations in Tanzania and Bolivia, as well as the Centers for Disease Control's Health Reconstruction office. As a member of the Program for Narrative and Documentary Practice, she traveled to Bangladesh to investigate corruption in

the country's garment industry and produced a multimedia story on gang violence and incarceration in Providence, Rhode Island, which received the Digital Storymaker's Award Grand Prize in Undergraduate Short Form from the Atavist and Pearson Foundation. Christina has conducted research internationally on local perspectives on US military involvement in Uganda and was the recipient of the Anne Borghesani Memorial Grant from the Tufts International Relations Department to conduct research on the political involvement of individuals in the informal economy of Kibera, Kenya. In her senior year at Tufts, she received the Marshall Hochhauser Prize, the Presidential Award for Citizenship, and an Alumni Association Senior Award. Her interests include social entrepreneurship, non-fiction story-telling, and the political-economy of developing countries.

Living in Code

"What makes some countries rich and some countries poor?" During my time at Tufts, I have sought to answer this fundamental question in political economy. This journey has taken me to three different continents working in numerous fields, and tested my understanding of self as much as my academic intellect.

On Synaptics

"In the day-to-day business of student life, it's easy to neglect reflecting on your personal development – arguably the most important part of your college experience. Synaptic Scholars has provided me the space to do just that, and to do it with the support and guidance of brilliant Tufts students."

Roy Loewenstein



Roy Loewenstein is a member of the class of 2014 and is majoring in American Studies. His interests lie in systemic racism in American society, specifically on illuminating whiteness and privilege. Since becoming interested in issues of justice and power in the United States, he has been an active member of Tufts Pan-African Alliance and has been on the executive board since the fall of 2012. Additionally, Roy is a political junkie which led him to become the research intern for Governor Deval Patrick's legacy project in the summer of 2013. Roy's interest in travel and politics also led him to spend the fall semester of his junior year abroad in Brussels studying the European Union and interning

at CEJI: A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, an organization promoting interfaith cohesion and LGBT issues in the EU. He spent his time there researching hate crime legislation in the countries of the European Union and helping putting together a manual to help NGOs monitor hate crimes across the continent. In addition to his interests in racial justice, Roy is interested in the environment and in sustainability. In the summer of 2011, he spent a month in Nairobi, Kenya working with Groupshot studying how to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the Matatu bus system. On campus, he is a member of the Tufts Pan-African Alliance and is a choreographer for Tufts Dance Collective. Roy has previously been a member of the Tufts Quidditch Team, Tufts TURBO Breakdance Crew, and Tufts Club Soccer Team. In 2010 he was a member of The Institute for Global Leadership's 2010-2011 Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship (EPIIC) colloquium, *Our Nuclear Age: Peril and Promise*, which focused on nuclear issues. In his free time, Roy enjoys movies, pizza, blizzards, acting, and watching his Baltimore Ravens beat the Pittsburgh Steelers.

How I Got Here: How The Republican Party Protects Whiteness and How I Learned to See It

The product of my Synaptic experience is my capstone for American Studies, which examines the ways in which the Republican Party works to protect systems of white supremacy in the United States by constructing Mexican immigrants and American citizens of Mexican ancestry as ineligible for inclusion within the American nation because they are perceived to violate "American values." But my Synaptic project more generally is how my thinking on race and power in the United States has changed over the last three years and how I think about the role of a cisgender, straight, white man in helping destroy systems of power, privilege, and oppression.

On Synaptics

"Synaptics has been the perfect supplement to my college education. It has allowed me the framework to develop intellectually, emotionally, and personally beyond the normal social and academic life at Tufts. Many of the times I have been most challenged in the last four years have come from this program. Most of all, Synaptics taught me how to function as a part of a community that is constantly redefining itself and its members."

Gavin Murphy



Gavin Murphy is graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was born and raised in the small mountain town of Manitou Springs, Colorado. Gavin completed his first year of studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder where he also studied Mechanical Engineering before coming to Tufts to start his second year in the fall of 2011. His professional interests revolve around new technologies, innovations, and patent law. Gavin has interned for Fish & Richardson as a patent prosecution intern where he was responsible for

helping to manage client portfolios as well as file domestic and international patents. He has also spent the last year working as a Process Engineer for Prysm, a technology start-up that makes large format display systems. His extracurricular passions are history, Ultimate Frisbee, and the outdoors, which have led him to internships with groups from Historic New England to a restoration engineering firm, The White Company. He has also been fortunate enough to attend the Div. 1 National Championships in both 2011 and 2012 with the Tufts Men's Ultimate Frisbee team and lead a Tufts Wilderness Orientation Trip in 2013. Gavin is an avid snowboarder, downhill mountain biker, rock climber, and hiker.

Technology and Innovation

With a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a focus on technology innovation and management, Gavin has academically focused on how to generate new technologies and manage new innovations in the market. Professionally, Gavin's experience working for a large patent law firm as a patent prosecution intern and as a process engineer for a new technology start-up that is heavily dependent on its patent protection has given him a well-rounded perspective on successful utilization of patents in today's technology markets. Gavin's Synaptic project has been the sum of these experiences, the synthesis of experiences, and the pursuit of attending a premier law school.

On Synaptics

"Synaptics has given me a wonderful peer group that challenges, comforts, and pushes me to succeed by showing me what incredible things my peers and I can accomplish. Synaptics has also given me a lifelong friend, teacher, and mentor in Sherman Teichman to whom I owe a great deal of gratitude."

Anna Troein

Anna Troein is a Swedish-born, English-raised major of Art History of French. Before coming to Tufts, Anna obtained a foundation degree in fine arts at Chelsea College of Art and Design, London. Her love for art has continued to be a passion throughout her career at Tufts, working at the Tufts Art Gallery, continuing painting and most importantly researching art, with particular interests in 19th century French and British art and the functioning of museums. She has supplemented this with internship and volunteer experiences,



working as a tour guide at Saint Eustache church in Paris, at Bonhams auctioneers in London, Jiq Jaq Gallery in London, Galerie Éric Mircher in Paris and at the Arts of Europe department of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She spent her junior year in Paris, studying solely art history and French. During her university career, she has also striven to learn from others from around the world and the Tufts community through her participation in CAFE, an Interfaith Dialogue group. During her presidency of CAFE, she has been an active participant of the Interfaith Student Council, assisted the Chaplaincy as a student voice and organized various interfaith events on campus, culminating in the Difficult Dialogues Retreat which she created and ran with Chaplain McGonigle. This, along with the many other events she helped plan and run, her interactions with Tufts students and especially her connection with other Synaptic Scholars helped develop her Cultural Intelligence, understanding why people approach situations as they do. Most recently, she spoke at TEX about "Why you should stop saying you are busy" and her artwork was hung in the Slater Concourse Gallery.

Learning Cultural Intelligence through Interfaith, Art, and Shifting Identities

Anna's Synaptic project has aimed to create cross-campus dialogue, in particular religious dialogue, through both having the conversations and teaching others how to approach those conversations. This culminated in the Difficult Dialogues Retreat: A Toolkit for Leading Conversations across Culture, Politics, and Religion. The retreat brought together various campus leaders to discuss and explore differences, communities and how to work together in the future.

On Synaptics

"Synaptic Scholars has allowed me to meet such a diverse group of passionate students that I know that I would never have otherwise met. Other Synaptics have forced me to question my beliefs, push myself and constantly aim to be better because of their inspirational actions, motivating talks and, most of all, their friendship."

Jonathan Wolff



Jonathan Wolff is a senior from Jerusalem, Israel pursuing a B.S. in Clinical Psychology. His extra-curricular activities have included a year-long internship at the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind-Body Medicine at MGH, an internship in Kashmir, India with the mental health NGO Healing Kashmir, and working on the Neuroscience and Conflict Resolution initiative with Beyond Conflict and MIT's Saxelab. Prior to his studies at Tufts, Jonathan served in the Israeli Defense Forces.

Bits: the Statue of Liberty and the Statue of Responsibility

Each semester and summer I pursued an interest of mine outside of the classroom. These pursuits included interning and working for Healing Kashmir, The Benson-Henry Institute for Mind-Body Medicine at MGH, The Peace Appeal Foundation, Beyond Conflict, Benjamin Pogrund, etc.

On Synaptics

"My best friends in college are from Synaptics; they will forever be in my heart and I will always be there for them."

Christopher Yee-Paulson

Chris Yee-Paulson is a senior at Tufts University majoring in economics and political science. Born and raised in Brookline MA, Chris has focused his studies on political economy and finance, combining his passion for economics and policy. After graduation, Chris will be applying his studies at Sun Life Financial in their rotational leadership development program as a strategy and underwriting consultant for the first rotation with plans for an MBA later. In terms of non-academic activities, Chris is a nationally ranked archer, avid skier, and rock-climbing enthusiast.

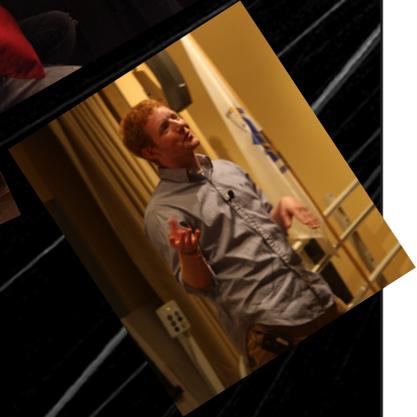


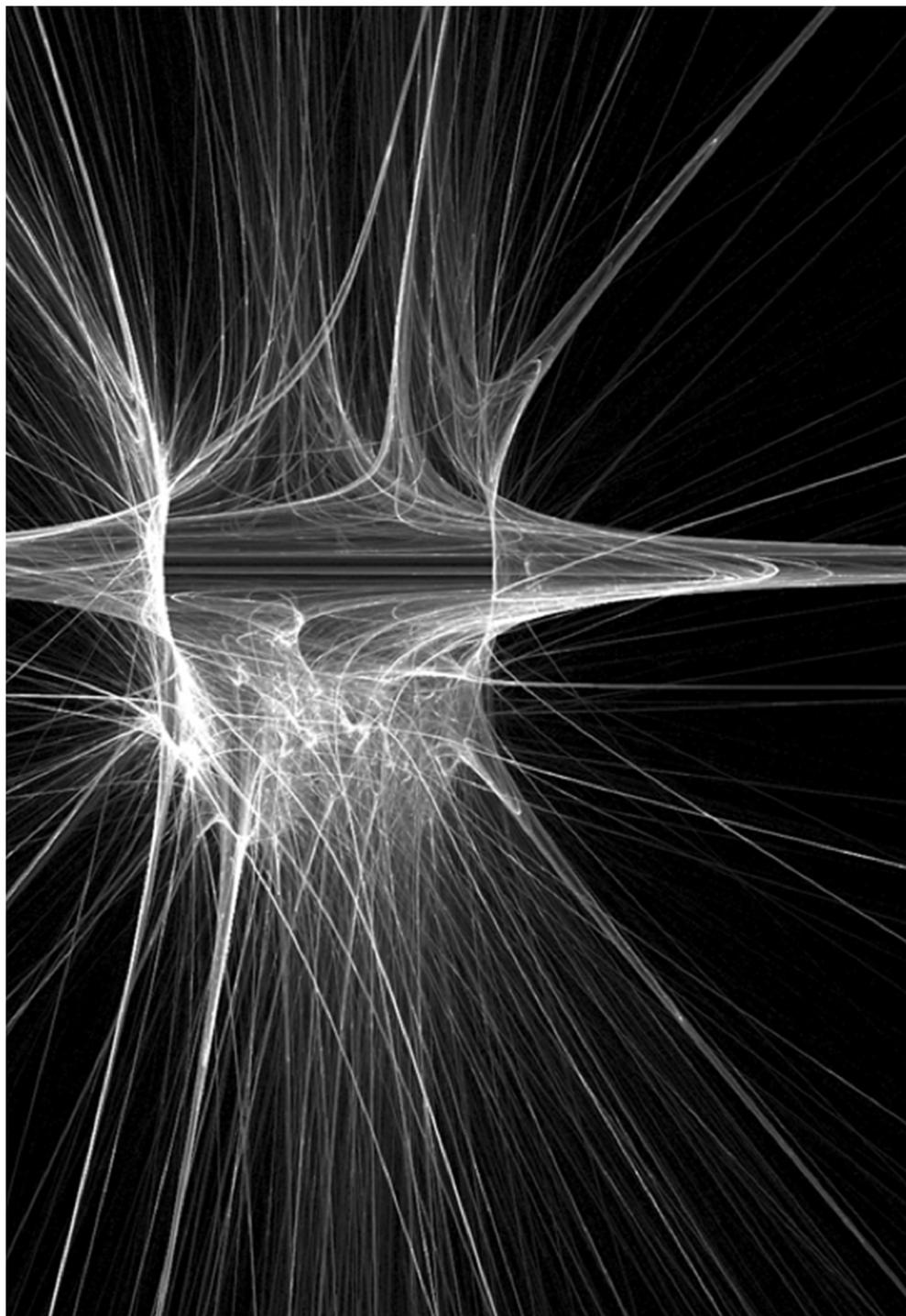
180 Degrees Consulting--Tufts University Branch

My project's goal was to find a way to bridge the gap between the business and social justice communities at Tufts. To accomplish this, I worked with 180 Degrees Consulting, originally an Australian company, to establish a branch of the firm on campus. We provide pro-bono management consulting to non-profits and are the premier student consultancy on campus and soon to be a key player in the Boston market.

On Synaptics

"Bringing talented students from diverse backgrounds together is the key to creating unique solutions to complex problems while expanding your own intellectual horizon."





**The Institute for Global Leadership
and the Synaptic Scholars Program
would like to thank**

The Office of the President
The Office of the Provost
The Office of the Dean of
Academic Affairs for Arts and Sciences
The Undergraduate Research Fund
The IGL External Advisory Board
The Merrin Family Fund
The International Relations Program
The Summer Scholars Program
Tisch College for Citizenship and Public Service
The Experimental College

for their support of the Synaptic Scholars
and their projects



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