



THE TALLOIRES *experience*

The Tufts European Center:

*a symbol of internationalism and a place where beauty
transforms ideas and opens young minds*

Talloires, France— It is late September and the last group of students, the eighth this summer, has bid farewell to this lakeside village surrounded by the majestic Alps. The inner garden no longer echoes with discus-

sions of Rousseau's political philosophy and is devoid of the easels of aspiring artists; the balcony that overlooks the lake

and mountains is empty of professors debating international economics; no shouts emanate from the volleyball court in the outer garden.

The students and faculty have gone and the 19th season of the Tufts University European Center has come to a close. The sun sparkles on the lake, but the only sound to be heard is the distant clanking of

the halyards slapping the masts of the small boats in the port. The Priory's ancient stone walls, which resonate all summer with the vibrant sounds of students, stand empty except for the occasional whisper of the Benedictine monks who once lived here.

From the balcony, I look out over the garden, a profusion of colorful flowers. Above in the trees, the birds are unusually



The Tufts European Center is located in the village of Talloires on Lake Annecy.

quiet. On most mornings, their singing is a symphony that competes with the liveliness of the small classes being held just below.

One of my favorite duties is to be on the bus on arrival day as students and faculty catch their first glimpse of Talloires. On its way from Geneva, the bus passes fairy-tale castles, charming villages promoting their patisseries and boulangeries, and blue skies dotted with confetti-colored paragliders soaring like eagles above the magnificent alpine peaks. As the bus begins its descent down the winding road leading into Talloires, first a hush . . . and then gasps: "Oh, how beautiful!" "Amazing!" "It's gorgeous!" I choke back tears because I don't want the students to see me like this. But I am touched, again, as they see the magnificent beauty of Talloires for the first time.

In the week that follows, there is a common refrain among students: "Why didn't you tell me it was this beautiful?" "I would have come earlier had I known Talloires was this awesome!" "Your pictures just don't do this place justice."

Critics accuse Talloires of being a "summer camp," a place where students have "too much fun" instead of taking their learning seriously. But many faculty—and most students—describe Talloires as "the best

thing I ever did at Tufts." Students and faculty are just as likely to learn from one another on a mountain trail or in the village café as in a classroom setting. Distinguished Tufts professors, along with Scholars-in-Residence, join in the before- or after-class activities: breathing in the mountain air, swimming in the crystalline waters of Lake Annecy, and hiking or running in the mountains. Talloires advocates say that the informal atmosphere contributes to a flow of information across disciplines and among students. It is a place that serves as a further catalyst to learning and discovery.

The esprit de corps that develops in Talloires, whether in the garden over a picnic lunch or in the teahouse after a swim, is the essence of what makes this place so special. The light may be magical when the sun sets in a purple glow over the mountains, but it is the intellectual atmosphere combined with the town's natural beauty that puts a certain light in the eyes of students and faculty when they describe the time they spent in Talloires.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Tufts campus in Talloires, France. Since its founding, the European Center in Talloires has served as an important meeting place, attracting students and conference

participants from around the world. The Priory has welcomed presidents and ambassadors, who have come to Talloires to discuss issues of health, nutrition, European integration, human rights, international law and world peace. In 1988 the presidents of 45 universities met at the European Center and issued the "Talloires Declaration," agreeing to support programs that explore the foundations of peace and conflict and to better "educate men and women who will lead our societies into the twenty-first century." In 1992, the Center served as the headquarters for U.S. Olympic team athletes competing in the Games held in Albertville, France.

Today, the European Center is a living symbol of Tufts University's commitment to internationalism. Heading into this anniversary year, the Center's faculty, staff and former students and friends will be looking back at 20 extraordinary summers in Talloires and looking forward to bringing the "Talloires experience" to many more lucky Tufts students in the years ahead.

—Sally Pym, administrative director, the Tufts European Center



Venerable House,
PRECIOUS TOOL

Over two decades, the vision for the Tufts European Center has grown into a vital and inspiring place for international study. BY LAURA FERGUSON



Nearly 1000 years ago, Benedictine monks con-secrated a monastery in the country of Savoie. Here, on the shores of an alpine lake, they found a natural enclave for contemplation and study. It would prove an auspicious site until the French Revolution, when angry mobs destroyed the Abbey's treasures and records. The Abbey and the Priory—Le Prieuré—would never regain their original purpose.

So often old buildings such as the Priory end up as footnotes in travel guides. Antiquated, without purpose or amenities, they slip into picturesque decay. Donald MacJannet, A16, H79, and his wife, Charlotte, H79, lifelong teachers, however, saw potential where others saw ruins and purchased the Priory in 1958. "This venerable house with its harmonious high-ceiling room, its large hall, its walled gardens, its orchards with a view over the lake and mountain," MacJannet once said, "is a precious tool put into our hands."

Today, thanks to his gift of the Priory to Tufts in 1978, that tool is being put to good use, hosting academic programs and international conferences and meetings. Located in the lovely resort village of Talloires, steps from the purest lake in Europe, six miles from Annecy, the "Venice of France," the Tufts European Center offers a banquet for those with an appetite for a European experience. But it also carries on the MacJannets' love for the Priory, for France, for Europe, and especially, for fostering a sense of an international community.

Such ideas find fertile ground at Tufts—the college now runs nine study abroad programs, and international relations, the largest major at Tufts, has been ranked number one in the country for three years in a row.

Yet the notion of a "European Center," of a Tufts campus abroad, is one effort that could easily have failed. Antiquities like the Priory are costly to improve and maintain; accommodations for young people have to be found within a tiny village, and, after balancing the books, staff face the mounting urgency of an endowment.

Rob Hollister, dean of the Graduate School, a member of the MacJannet Foundation, oversees the Center, and says that in many ways the Center at its 20th anniversary stands as a symbol of sheer optimism and hard work. "The Center is an exciting expression of vision, of a commitment to global citizenship," he said. "Its success could not have been achieved without the extraordinary leadership on the part of staff, the dozens of faculty from each of the schools who have taught, led conferences, and also of key administrators. They built not only flourishing programs that sustain themselves, but a strong internal and external constituency."

At the same time, adds Hollister, they have all shared a dedication to a building whose ancient stone walls resonate with mystery, feeling, the history of Europe itself. "There is a soul to the place," said Hollister. "Its weathered facade and beamed ceilings, the way centuries of feet have worn dips in the stairways, all this makes the

Center more than the sum of its parts. Whether I am talking to an undergraduate who attended a summer program or a corporate executive who attended a three-day international conference, they say the Priory made a lasting impact on them. Its magic has certainly worked on Tufts."

"Wise Stewards"

On May 27, 1979, French Prime Minister Raymond Barre and a small group of academic, business and government figures joined Tufts President Jean Mayer in inaugurating the Tufts Center for European Studies. The 30-room masonry and stone structure, situated on an acre and a half of lawns and gardens overlooking Lake Annecy, prompted Mayer to emphasize Tufts' "special responsibility . . . to be imaginative and wise stewards of this historic and beautiful building, and of the tradition it represents." The atmosphere on that Sunday, recalls Professor Emeritus John Gibson, was "electric. We knew we were on to something very exciting."

Excitement, however, had yet to be felt back home in Medford. That job fell to three scholars with a passion for international learning. Seymour Simches, then the John Wade Professor of Modern Languages, was named administrative director of the Center (see "The Interview"). Gibson, founder of the Tufts International Relations program, and historian Pierre-Henri Laurent envisioned a modest four-week academic program with classes in history and international relations, combined with field trips to Geneva. A French woman and longtime friend of the MacJannets, Louise "Chevy" Gridel, agreed to teach French. Accommodations were found in a local hotel.

"When we first heard about the program in the winter of 1978, we had to work hard to recruit enough students to make a go of it," recalls Gibson, who eventually convinced some 16 undergraduates to go to Talloires. The next year enrollment doubled. "The students," said Gibson, "sold the program as much as anyone."

For Laurent, the Talloires program offered three selling points: exposure to a culture and its language, close study of international issues, and, unlike most conventional study abroad programs, community building and relations. "The students were coming to a little French village and they had to learn to be diplomats. It is a foreign program, but it is so different. It is short term, it has an incredible location, and it offers learning in a small community. This is why I was and still am very committed to the European Center—because it is a small program with an ability to provide intensive but worthwhile learning. It was a study abroad program plus more."

One big plus was, and still is, Geneva. Frequent trips to diverse international agencies—from the United States Embassy to International Organizations, the Red Cross, the World Health Organization, and the International Labor Organization, among others—expose students to the very heart of international diploma-

cy. “Geneva is one of the greatest workshops in the world for studying international organizations, and, of course, the United Nations headquarters are there,” said Gibson. “It is a city that offers experiences you can’t get anywhere else.”

Garth Janes, A80, was among the first group of students. A history major, he was making his first trip to Europe. “Looking back, I would have to say it was a fascinating opportunity,” he said. “You had a small group of students with two professors descending on these small towns. It must have been as much a culture shock for them as for us.” Janes, now a lawyer in Springfield, Massachusetts, adds that he especially appreciated the close sense of history. “There was something about seeing barns with holes in them from shelling during World War II, that brings history home.”

Alpine Fitness



The Tufts European Center is situated in a summer resort area nestled at the foot of the French Alps.

At his commencement in 1916, Donald MacJannet told his classmates, “Tolerance, teamwork and mutual respect through sports and competition. These are the lessons that I hope we will take with us as we leave Tufts.” They were values he had learned as a premier distance runner on the Tufts track team and before that, at Medford High School. They were integral parts of his summer camps. MacJannet was undoubtedly pleased to see those values become an integral part of the European Center.

Tufts Athletic Director Rocky Carzo was instrumental in shaping that program for 15 years. “When I met ‘Mr. Mac’ it was like we were old friends; he really believed in the importance of educating the total person, that you couldn’t divorce the mind from the body,” recalls Carzo. “Professor Seymour Simches also had an appreciation for the role the European Center could play in education, and in an environment

The MacJannet Legacy

The story of Tufts in Talloires is not complete without telling the story of alum Donald MacJannet and his wife, Charlotte, a couple for whom education has played a central role in shaping unusual lives and whose legacy continues at the Tufts European Center and through the MacJannet Foundation.

A native New Englander, Donald MacJannet did not initially seem destined to be the friend and educator of world leaders, nor the donor of an ancient priory. The son of a fiery fundamentalist Scottish-born minister, Donald was orphaned at age 15 and his mother incapacitated by illness. MacJannet and his sister moved to Medford to live with a friend of the family, but she was a widow of modest means, and MacJannet became the sole support of not only his younger sister but of the woman and her son. He worked everyday after classes at Medford High School and succeeded in breaking the MHS mile record, becoming editor of the *Monthly Review*, and graduating valedictorian.

MacJannet attended Tufts, partly on scholarship, and partly through his own propensity for earning his keep. Ever resourceful, he worked after school as a church janitor and cookware salesman. He also spent summers waiting on tables at Lake Winnepesaukee, and it may have been in the White Mountains that he developed his love for outdoor recreation. “The people worked hard at sailing and swimming and boating and mountain climbing,” he wrote once in an autobiographical essay. “I had a great time there.”

MacJannet thrived at Tufts, and in many ways, the college became his family. He won a varsity letter for track, sang in the glee club, and took up languages—French, German and Latin. When he graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1916 with a degree in French literature, his classmates bestowed on him a rare distinction, voting him both Class Day and Commencement

Orator.

MacJannet had an insatiable desire to teach, and in 1924, after stints at the St. Albans School in Washington, DC, military service as a pilot in World War I and study at the Sorbonne, he founded his first school, the MacJannet School for Young Americans, just outside Paris. The following year he opened a second school in St. Cloud. He also acquired a piece of land on Lake Annecy in Haute Savoie where he opened the MacJannet Camps—Camp L’Aiglon for boys and Camp Alouette for girls. Camps such as these were then virtually unknown outside America.

MacJannet met German-born Charlotte Blensdorf in September 1932 in Nice. Charlotte was a disciple of Jacques Dalcroze, who developed the practice of eurhythmics, which stresses training in rhythm and music and movement. The daughter of Dalcroze’s first pupils, she trained with Dalcroze himself, then went to Sweden after World War I to start her own school of eurhythmics. After hearing Charlotte talk about her school, MacJannet invited her to see his own philosophy of education in operation at his camps, one that placed emphasis on individual achievement, the pursuit of individual interest, tolerance, teamwork and mutual respect. “I had never seen a camp, and I didn’t know what I would do in a camp, but . . . I decided to take a look,” Charlotte told the *Tufts Criterion* in 1985. “What I saw was a marvelous, natural way to educate children in happiness and simplicity. Around Mr. MacJannet, everyone worked with great joy.” Two months later, the MacJannets were married.

The confluence of philosophies made for a successful camp environment. The MacJannets drew campers from all over the world, including young people who would go on to be international figures, such as Prince Philip and Indira Gandhi. They were devoted to young people and during World War II, only

that students would love. If it hadn't been for his commitment to the total educational process, the athletic component of the Center might never have started."

Carzo gave students a chance to fully appreciate that environment in a morning alpine fitness class, where the final test was running a "pilgrimage" to the Church of St. Germaine, perched two and a half miles and some 2,500 feet above Lake Annecy. This event, said Carzo, "became a very strong incentive for fitness and it bloomed quite large. Even people who didn't train with us would walk or ride bikes up." This camaraderie was, in fact, one reason for the event's joyous spirit. "We were a group with a common objective, replicating a journey to the original hermitage of St. Germaine and doing it in modern times," said Carzo. Part of the post-event ceremony involved the curate telling the story of St. Germaine's pilgrimage, followed by donations to the restoration of the church. "No matter how

we got there, we all became immersed in the wonderful spirit of the site and the whole area," said Carzo. "Once the spirit became part of us, we were always moved to respond with the T-U-F-T-S cheer out over Lake Annecy and the entire Savoie region."

In 1983, Carzo developed another successful event, the MacJannet Games, a high-spirited relay competition that mixed athletics with fanfare. The village was swept up in the event, kicked off with a parade led by local children and an Olympic-style opening ceremony. The competition, which included walking, running and swimming, ended on Lake Annecy with a madcap race on paddleboats. "We wanted to use different skills, bring people together, and have fun," said Carzo. "It was sometimes just crazy . . . I was always thrown in the lake at the end; that was part of the ritual. We had a great time."

Spreading the Word

Mary van Bibber Harris took over directorship of the Center in 1982 and for the next seven years guided its evolution into a versatile fourth campus. At first, however, despite a favorable exchange rate that fostered steady improvements to the facility and an expansion of events, the Center faced an identity crisis.

"Jean Mayer always envisioned the Center as a university resource," said Harris. "I remember most vividly trying to get as many faculty as possible to teach there, to build a ground-level constituency that would make it not seem an exclusive Shangri-la, that only the privileged could use. I felt in my gut that the thing to do was to say to everybody, 'Come on over, we'll find a way to make this place work for you.'"

Rabbi Jeffrey Summit was one of several in the Tufts community who needed little convincing. Seeing the relevance of the

after securing the safety of campers, did the MacJannets flee Europe.

In the United States, their energy and social consciousness continued unabated. Donald was recruited by Tufts President Leonard Carmichael to help consolidate the college's medical and dental schools in a new campus on Harrison Avenue in Boston. Charlotte directed the William Saroyan play *Jim Dandy* at the Tufts Arena Theater, started a studio of eurythmics, and ran a Tufts-sponsored vacation school of French at the couple's home in Arlington. They also devoted their energies to raising funds for the MacJannet Colonies for Child Refugees, shelters for war orphans operated by the American Friends Service Committee at Lake Annecy.

As soon as they were able, they went back to Haute Savoie; the camps returned to normal operations in 1952, continuing until 1964.

Charlotte, however, was also looking for a facility where she could teach her movement classes. In 1958, she heard that the Priory was up for auction. She was impressed by the crumbling building's main hall, which she envisioned as an ideal classroom. But the Priory was an opportunity nearly lost. According to tradition, the auctioneer would light a candle, and as long as the candle was lit, bids would be accepted. The tiny candle had already burnt out by the time the couple arrived, but fortunately, no one had made a bid. Mrs. MacJannet eventually managed to secure the property for \$10,000.

Throughout the 1960s and into the 1970s, the MacJannets used the Priory to house educational sessions on eurythmics, as well as concerts and ecumenical conferences. Their promotion of international learning specifically extended to Tufts when they set up an endowment for an exchange program with the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.



*Donald MacJannet, A16, H79
and Charlotte MacJannet, H79: Pioneers in
camp programming and in international
learning*

After his 80th birthday Donald MacJannet began to think of the future of the Priory. Because of his strong allegiance to Tufts, he dreamed of seeing it as part of Tufts' educational mission. In 1976, when Jean Mayer was inaugurated as president of Tufts, MacJannet recognized an ally. Indeed, Mayer showed strong interest, received University support, and in May 1979, the priory was officially inaugurated as a Tufts University campus.

The MacJannets resided thereafter in Geneva, but visited Talloires frequently, taking pleasure in seeing the ancient building they had rescued from ruin being used as a facility for international higher education and for conferences. Said Donald MacJannet, "there is nothing more splen-

did than to see my university continuing there the same kinds of things that we took so much satisfaction in doing ourselves."

Donald MacJannet died in 1986. Charlotte, now 96, still visits Talloires regularly. Many who have benefited from their generosity—past campers and students—carry on their legacy through the MacJannet Foundation, which supports educational, arts and cultural organizations in the Annecy area and provides scholarships for study at the European Center.

One foundation board member is Rob Hollister, dean of the Graduate School, who oversees the European Center. He attended the MacJannet camp as a boy and remembers well MacJannet's capacity for work and for seeing his ideals take root in the hearts and minds of young people.

"MacJannet's idea of retirement was to fix up a crumbling building," he said. "The same kind of 'roll-up-your-sleeves' attitude created, in the European Center, something enduring. It's an extension of the MacJannets' philosophy of building community and international understanding by working hard together, and that may be the finest tribute we can pay them."

The book of nature

When I got off the plane in Geneva last summer, I had mixed feelings about the Tufts in Talloires program. Here I was, a biology major speaking no French, about to spend six weeks with a French family and take two liberal arts courses. Sure, a break from science courses would be nice. But why did I have to travel all the way from my home in Chelsea to a country where I was a total alien?

Six weeks later, I was spending my last hour in Talloires trying furiously, with my limited painting skills, to capture Lake Annecy, a site painted about a hundred years ago by Cézanne. I did not want to leave without something tangible.

What had changed? It is hard to say. I discovered so many things, like French customs and terrific food. But there was something else. It was the treasure of the French Alps. Many times we climbed the mountains led by our French guide who could name almost all the alpine flowers. I remember looking down on Lake Annecy and feeling empowered by the breathtaking scenery. Rings of clouds resting on the cliffs made the sky seem close enough to touch. And I remember the day my wonderful host family showed me the departure place for paragliding on the top of a majestic mountain. Hang-gliders soared out over the landscape that was beautifully green.

The list of my Talloires memories is endless, but if there is one thing I value most, it is that Talloires opened my mind to nature.

— Huy Nguyen, A99



Huy Nguyen, fifth from left, with fellow students on Mt. Bargy.

The joyous “pilgrimage” to the Church of St. Germaine, perched above Lake Annecy, has become a strong incentive for improving fitness.

Center to Jewish history, he developed a program called “Telling History: An Oral History Project with the Jewish Community of Annecy.” Students interviewed members of the Jewish community about their experiences during World War II as well as North African Jews who had immigrated in the 1950s and 1960s. Over the course of five years, students compiled an archive of recorded and transcribed interviews now housed in the Tisch Library.

In 1987, the program’s first year, recalls Summit, newspapers were following the Klaus Barbie trial in nearby Lyons, which students were able to visit. “It was amazing to have that going on as we were studying these issues of the Holocaust,” he said. Another year students spoke with French Protestants of Le Chambon, who rescued and saved more than 5,000 Jews during the war.

Thanks to the Center, the area “became a living laboratory to study the Holocaust: the ways the French reacted to the Holocaust and how they determined issues of national identity over subsequent decades,” he said. “Students’ experience of history literally jumped to life. For the Tufts students it was clearly a life-shaping experience.”

Another effort that attracted faculty interest was the Scholar-in-Residence program, conceived by Senior Vice President and Provost Sol Gittleman. Started in the mid-1980s, it drew faculty not only from Arts and Sciences but from all the professional schools. Walter Swap, now dean of the College, was chair of the psychology department when he was a Scholar-in-Residence in 1988. When not working on his own research in the Priory’s ancient tower, he participated in the Center’s cultural life, giving a small seminar in the garden, performing in a recital of art songs, and sitting in on classes and talking informally with other faculty. “I liked being involved in an intellectual community,” said Swap. “It really is a gorgeous spot and if you enjoy nature and community, it’s hard to beat.”

A Beloved Building

Harris also worried about attracting faculty and students in view of what she calls the “building/program conundrum,”

or the challenge of running programs alongside renovations. “You were always trying to work around smashing up the dining room floor while running a conference or a class,” she said.

Indeed, providing the practical amenities was just one part of a multifaceted effort. The Priory’s rebirth had started with MacJannet, who, although nearly 70 at the time of the purchase, dug hundreds of years of accumulated dirt out of the crypt, replaced the roof, and improved floors and ceilings. In the tower, previously accessible only to bats, he built two attractive rooms; he enclosed an open space in the abbey garden and created a peaceful marble-floored “meditation room” furnished with ornate pews salvaged from a nearby convent.

When Tufts officials were handed the Priory keys in 1978, they were confronted with further dilemmas. Jack Grosslein, A82, a graduate of the Talloires program, had loved the Priory as a student in Talloires, and oversaw the Priory’s building and grounds from 1982 to 1985. The challenge was to modernize the facility and meet safety codes, yet preserve historic authenticity. With grants from the French Historic Monuments Ministry, Tufts was able to do both. Workers restored wooden floors and ceilings and the rare 15th-century caisson ceiling in MacJannet Hall. They replaced the entire roof using original terracotta tiles from old farmhouses, and restored much of the building’s quicklime covering.

“We had to decide how to renovate in such a way as to respect local building styles, as well as its architectural character, without making it look like we did anything,” said Grosslein, who now uses his French buying and selling integrated circuits overseas for a Peabody, Massachusetts, company. “We were trying to bring it up to the best usage we could without destroying the fundamental feel of the building.”

That atmosphere remains a vivid memory for many who visited the Center. John Kodis, A81, a French major with summer experience at the Tufts Conference Bureau, started out after graduation as a cook at the European Center and rose to assistant director, overseeing meeting planning and operations for three years. “Our work became our life and our lives became our work, and we did it for the love of the

building," said Kodis, a trade show manager for a Natick, Massachusetts, company. "There was an aura about the place . . . when I used to think of its history, I'd think, 'My God, people were living here almost a thousand years ago.' I always wondered how many historically important people had been here."

"I think that Le Prieuré really fostered the art of discussion," he added. "Here in America, everyone plunks down in front of the TV. We had no TV, and the Europeans are a more discussion-oriented culture than we are: you talk, you debate. We would sit under one of the most beautiful caisson ceilings in France, or out on the balcony and talk for hours."

Olympic Moment

A pivotal point for the Center came during the 1992 Winter Olympics when it served as the central administrative office for the US Olympic Committee and ran a program for 200 parents of US athletes. The athletes were also processed at the Center. Bonnie Newman, director from 1989 to 1994, remembers how that event catalyzed important improvements.

"When we realized that we were 30 minutes away from the Games and that we were the premier American organization in the area, we saw it as a wonderful opportunity," she said. "But we had a building operating only in the summertime, primarily because there wasn't enough heat, and we needed to do a lot to meet the technologically sophisticated requirements of the Olympics."

Thanks to a fund-raising project led by Howard Cook, president of the MacJannet Foundation, \$125,000 was raised to make those changes. The funds helped pay for, among many projects, modernized bathrooms, insulation and heat, an internal wall to create two usable spaces out of a large workshop area, and an internal staircase, which for the first time eliminated the awkward necessity of going outside to go upstairs. Telephone lines, satellite dishes, and computer networks were installed, some temporary, others permanent.

Looking back, said Newman, taking full advantage of the Olympics was well worth the effort. "The excitement for all of us was the opportunity to be an integral part of the Olympics, to give publicity to Tufts, and also to make possible permanent changes that enhanced the use of the building," she said. "We so rarely have the chance to be part of something as large as this, and it

gave the Center the means to grow."

Academics at the Core

Today the European Center serves not only Tufts undergraduates, but college students from around the country, high school students, alumni, and professionals from around the world. Seven academic programs were organized last year—two more than in 1996—bringing 115 students to the Talloires campus. Between opening day on May 6 and closing day on October 2, European Center staff oversaw the running of these programs, and organized and coordinated major conferences. In addition, they arranged a series of concerts, evening lectures, field trips, and excursions. "I have an extremely dedicated staff that makes it possible to run six programs simultaneously," said Sally Pym, current administrative director.

Academics remain the core of the Talloires campus. The Tufts in Talloires program, the six-week summer school, still attracts college students with a combination of courses relating to French, European history, literature, arts and political science, all taught by Tufts' year-round faculty.

Accommodation with local French families is still a requirement, and is consistently called a favorite aspect of the program. "Living with a French family was the most important part of my experience in Talloires," said Stephanie Baker, J98. "Mealtimes and family outings were some of the highlights of my stay in France. My French parents, brothers and sisters gave me an entry point into French culture and a comfortable way to speak French that would not have been possible in an academic setting. They really made me feel like part of the family."

Faculty take full advantage of the academic setting in France, particularly in a French village. Martine Loutfi, a professor of French, has gone to Talloires for 20 years and teaches popular courses in French cinema and contemporary French literature. In Loutfi's film course, students watch French masterpieces from the 1930s to the 1960s at the local cinema, and follow up with discussions at a café with local villagers.

"Everyone gets involved, and, of course, they are all talking in French," she said. "So the students have the academic view and then they get the outside, popular response. It's a very lively course."

A similar experience unfolds six miles up the lake, where the Center has runs Tufts in Annecy, an intensive language immersion

Talloires Programs

Each summer the Tufts campus in the French Alps opens its doors to undergraduates, selected high school students and adult learners interested in a variety of exceptional programs.

Tufts in Talloires

Open to college students from Tufts and other universities, this six-week summer school offers a combination of courses taught by Tufts faculty.

France Before France: Archaeology

The centerpiece of this six-week program is participation in an archaeological excavation of an ancient Roman town.

French in Annecy

For four weeks in July, students are immersed in French language and culture in small classes in nearby Annecy, the "Venice of France," with its flower-lined canals, traditional open-air markets, and medieval landmarks.

Tufts Summit

High school juniors and seniors are introduced to international relations as a field of study as well as a profession while studying French language and culture.

International Internships

Two sophomores from Tufts College of Engineering, both fluent in French, were the first to participate in an internship launched last year. The two students worked in the research department at Ugine Savoie, a stainless-steel processing plant.

L'Anglais American d'Aujourd'hui (ESL)

Designed for local French nationals, this intermediate conversation class in English brings French students ages 18 and up to the Center to perfect their English skills and interact with young Americans.

Landscape Drawing and Painting

Artists and aspiring artists experiment with new techniques in an inspiring mountain setting in this non-credit program taught by George "Bud" Guzzi, A56, and his wife, Rita.

For more information, call the Center at (617) 627-3290; or e-mail queries to france@infonet.tufts.edu.

Words ring true

The glacial ice of the Mer de Glace on Mont Blanc, western Europe's highest mountain, is hundreds of feet thick. Mary Shelley was there almost 200 years ago with her husband, the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. She had Frankenstein's monster stumble across that glacier, now just an hour's bus ride from the Priory in Talloires. English lecturer Morse Hamilton and I took our literature students there several summers ago. Some of us explored a sparkling blue ice cave, while others walked gingerly across the glacier's surface with a guide, avoiding crevasses where one would be lost forever.

We also took field trips to the castle at the end of Lake Léman, where students sat in the dungeon as we read Lord Byron's description of it in his *Prisoner of Chillon*: "There are seven columns, massy and grey / dim with a dull imprisoned ray . . ." And we visited Voltaire's chateau Ferney on the French-Swiss border, where he could escape the authorities of whichever country was unhappiest with him at the time. We were amazed to find inscribed in the philosophe's chapel the words *Deo erexit Voltaire* —"Voltaire erected this to God."

Many mornings we read Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who spent years living in Annecy and the Haute Savoie. In the afternoon, we'd walk with him, within sight of the Priory. For me, as for many students, the words of his *Confessions* rang particularly true as we absorbed the land, the literature, the feelings of this beautiful region: "I dispose of all Nature as its master. My heart, as it strays from one object to another, unites and identifies itself with those which soothe it, wraps itself in pleasant imaginings, and grows drunk on feelings of delight . . . I need torrents, rocks, firs, dark woods, mountains, steep roads to



climb or descend, abysses beside me to make me afraid. I had these pleasures, and I relished them."

—The Rev. Scotty McLellan, University Chaplain

The Rev. Scotty McLellan hiking Le Roc de Boeuf.

program affiliated with the French Institute of Annecy for the past four years. In addition to 20 hours of classtime a week (equivalent to a full semester's credit), students can take various workshops, from cooking, wine tasting and folk dancing to excursions to Lyon and mountain hikes.

Academic director David Pauling, a lecturer in French, applauds the programming offered by the institute, and adds that location and living accommodations also make a difference. While Annecy is a major city of the old Savoie, with a population of some 100,000, "you find a lot fewer people who speak English" than in more metropolitan areas, he said. Especially important is the Tufts requirement that all students live with French families. "We insist on the students speaking French with their families, and if the family does speak English, we say, 'Please, don't use it,'" said Pauling, who also requires all students to keep a journal in French, and review entires in one-on-one meetings. "This helps their written French enormously," he said, "and, by the end of the month, they have a wonderful record of what they've done."

Yet as a true "Center," the Talloires campus has also evolved into a versatile resource for the Tufts community at large, as well as other groups. The Office of Alumni Relations has also used the European campus, hosting two Alumni Colleges there, in 1985 and 1995. Plans are now under way for "Talloires 2000" in June of that year.

"Our Alumni Colleges have been magical experiences," said Ron Brinn, A58, director of alumni relations. "We only spend a week in Talloires, but alums say they have had indelible bonding experiences there. We were delighted that so many of our 'graduates' came back for a reunion on Ellis Island two years ago, and we hope to see even more at our upcoming reunion in Boston in April. These events are a real testimony to the holding power of the Talloires experience."

Seeds of an Endowment

As the Tufts European Center celebrates its 20th anniversary this spring, Tufts is taking steps to ensure that the Talloires experience continues. Toward that end, the celebration planned for this spring plants the seeds of an endowment to maintain the building and reduce program costs to attract additional students. The endowment campaign, said Pym, cannot be underestimated.

"The most serious problem facing the Center continues to be the absence of assured endowment income to supplement revenues from programs," said Pym. "We hope that this 20th anniversary draws attention to the vital role of the Center and

will ensure its longevity."

Pym is encouraged, in the meantime, by growth in interest and support. Inquiries rose 35 percent last year, reflecting new marketing strategies and scholarship support. The MacJannet Foundation, for instance, recently increased scholarships to \$20,000 annually. In addition, a \$100,000 gift from Elaine Kaufman, J46, and her husband, Richard, also generated income for scholarships.

"Tuition costs, by necessity, have to help us cover the expense of running the Center in a resort area of France that has a high cost of living," said Pym. "Every gift goes a long way to strengthening programs."

Finally, and perhaps most important, there is the question of what it means to educate. On one level, the Center is an attractive option for students who can't afford a year abroad but want a taste of Europe to make new connections with people and with nature. Yet there is another, more philosophical dimension of the Talloires experience, said Loutfi.

"Talloires has two major dimensions that we seldom find here: time and space, time in terms of centuries, and space in terms of the harmony of the landscape. I think it's a blessed area. You can get a personal sense of those two major dimensions of our lives, of our spiritual life. I think that Talloires is a capsule form of these things, and in an incredibly diverse form, a very varied experience of what Europe is."

Talloires, adds Laurent, can also provide the immediacy that students are seeking as they widen their knowledge of the world. "Through the Center the students not only have the European living experience, they have a means of learning about historical and contemporary affairs that is channeled as much as possible to local resources." The Geneva field trips, for instance, ground them in the world, not only in terms of international diplomacy, but in terms of person-to-person diplomacy. These are lessons they will have for the rest of their lives."

Garth Janes concurs. "Looking back, I don't remember specific classes I took at Tufts as well as I remember Talloires. I developed a closeness with people I wouldn't otherwise have developed, a rapport with faculty that in a traditional lecture setting wasn't available, I saw an area of the world I hadn't seen before, and I saw it all under the umbrella of the university I was attending. What could be better?"