The news of Boryana’s death has been a tremendous shock to those of us in the IR Program. She will truly be missed, not just by her fellow students and faculty, but by the entire Tufts community.

Boryana declared her IR major in October 2003. Because of her interests in international relations and economics, Boryana chose to focus on International Finance. She also joined the Institute for Global Leadership (IGL) her freshman year and stayed actively engaged with their many programs. Director of IGL, Sherman Teichman, knew Boryana well and recently described her death as devastating and her loss to the community truly significant.

Boryana also volunteered to be a leader within the IR major as a senior IR Mentor. IR Mentors serve as a guide to new or prospective IR majors. They help advise these students through their major, with an emphasis on the student experience. In her mentor profile, Boryana spoke of her interest in finance and her internship experiences. Not only did she spend a semester in Washington D.C. through the Tufts-in-Washington program, but she also held internships at Century Bank in Medford, NBC News, the Democratic National Convention in Boston, and General Electric, where she worked on international law and policy.

IR Staff Assistant Elizabeth Gottlieb frequently communicates with IR students about administrative matters, and had lately been in touch with Boryana concerning her IR major. Gottlieb was touched by how Boryana was always “very gracious and was very appreciative of [the IR office] help.” Boryana frequently signed emails with “kind regards” or “all the best” and thanked Gottlieb throughout for her help.

Boryana was truly an exemplary person, striving not only to be the best she could be as a student, but also to be a citizen of the world. While we can never bring Boryana back into our lives, her contributions to Tufts and to the world around her will forever be remembered.