

TWO CENTURIES OF EVOLUTION

JEFFERSON i n n o v a t o r

creating our third century

SUMMER
2024

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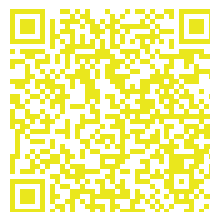
Make your mark on history.

In 2024, Thomas Jefferson University celebrates its bicentennial year. Join us in commemorating this milestone by contributing to the Bicentennial Fund.

The Bicentennial Fund will be a springboard into our third century, allowing us to fast-track innovative research, open doors for promising students, close equity gaps in the community, and much more.

Give Now

Jefferson.edu/GiveBicentennial





06



58



10

Innovation isn't about having the best idea, although that sure helps. It's about changing minds, opening them to new possibilities.

As Jefferson enters its third century, we reflect on how our students, faculty, and alumni have helped others see things differently.

Our advances have often been world changing. Explore our bicentennial timeline (page 32) and you'll marvel at the imagination and impact—from the first brain surgery to the invention of the ambulance to the first successful open-heart operation.

Philadelphia finds itself at the epicenter of the opioid crisis today. We need to look past stigma for solutions. Thanks to donors like

Sandra and Stephen Sheller, Jefferson clinicians are developing a new model to navigate a fragmented system of addiction care (page 40).

For Bryant Greene, MBA '96, chair of the Advancement Council of the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering, and Commerce, changing minds begins with opening your heart with kindness and empathy (page 58). He says, "You never know who's going to give you your last cup of water, so you've got to be kind."

Innovation has been integral to our mission from the start. But ultimately, we believe that doing the right thing is more important than doing the thing right.



54

32



- 06** A Message from the President
- 10** Time Machine
- 16** The Nexus
- 32** Our History
- 38** Weaving a Legacy of Excellence
- 40** Bridging the Gaps ▶
- 44** Harnessing the Qualities That Create Healthcare Heroes ▶

- 48** Question & Innovate ▶
- 52** Alumni Impact
- 54** Ram Roundup ▶
- 58** Be Kind ▶
- 62** Class Notes
- 68** In Memory
- 70** Trivia

▶ Check out videos and exclusives at magazine.jefferson.edu

Celebrating our legacy **Creating our third century**



Janus was the ancient Roman deity who simultaneously looked backward and forward, viewing both endings and beginnings. Today, Thomas Jefferson University stands at a Janus-like point: gazing back on 200 years of impact on education, scholarship, research discovery, and application, and looking forward, defining how we'll have a deep, meaningful impact for decades to come.

As we enter our third century, this is the overarching goal we have set for ourselves: We will build on our legacy of achievement in ways that ensure the value of a Jefferson education continues to grow — for both students and alumni — and the impact of our research continues to increase.

Toward that goal, we've been addressing a series of strategic questions that will help us set our path forward.

The three most important of those questions are:

- 1) What does the world most need from higher education?
- 2) What are the most significant emerging characteristics of the nature of work and employers' workforce needs?
- 3) What aspirations should we have regarding our comprehensive research programs, and how should we prioritize those aspirations?

Ultimately, our answers will be both multifaceted and interrelated and could be summarized this way: The world needs us to help improve human lives, fuel innovation, drive economic growth, develop and promote sustainable practices, and build broader understanding and equity. It needs us to continue nurturing our graduates' ability to recognize, navigate, and leverage the opportunities that economic, environmental, and technological change creates; to curate their lifelong learning; to identify problems; and to be creative, innovative, and collaborative problem-solvers. The world needs us to catalyze discovery of new knowledge and the application of that knowledge to benefit people, communities, and society at large.

Over the past year, university faculty and academic leaders — collaborating with leaders of the broader Jefferson enterprise — have been working hard to identify the specific strategies and tactics that will best enable us to meet those needs. That planning process continues, but I want to share with you several especially exciting initiatives.

NIH CTSA

Building on the National Cancer Institute's designation of our Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center as a Comprehensive Cancer Center (see the article on page 26), we are developing plans to become a National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) "Hub Institution." Applying for CTSA designation will require at least three years of assessment, program planning, budgeting, and partnership development. But if our application is successful Jefferson would be recognized as a national leader in translating research into improved patient care. The award would have significant practical benefits: increasing external funding, spurring new research across schools and departments, and fueling expansion of our professional training programs.

"Top 100" University


Over the past five years, Thomas Jefferson University and its individual schools have been climbing the various "Best Colleges and Universities" rankings. Those jumps are not an end unto

themselves, so much as a benchmark of our ability to communicate the Jefferson "value proposition" effectively to potential students and their families, to employers who are evaluating the resumes of both recent graduates and longstanding alumni, and to leaders of colleges and universities around the country. It is a way to ensure that the world knows that we deliver a high-value education with over 200 academic programs and that our graduates are prepared for the future of work and career-long success as leaders in their professions and their communities.

AI and Computation

Computational science and technologies are having an amazing impact across disciplines, professions, and sectors — and it's steadily growing. Jefferson has worked to prepare our graduates for a world of "ubiquitous computation," by enabling them to work with technologies like AI and machine learning and to balance technology's weakness with human empathy, creativity, and intuition. We are steadily expanding resources to support the use of computation and analysis in education, clinical care, and research. But those are down payments on essential long-term investments. Thus, for example, we anticipate launching academic programs in general computation and data analysis, and will enable

students to employ capacities such as "multimodal" large language models, data annotators, and the shaping of generative AI models in real time.

I consider those four initiatives as "jumping off points" for our third century. Here's my personal vision for what we will ultimately accomplish: Jefferson will elevate the world's expectation of what a professions-focused university should be, and be the dynamic and robust model for the future of higher education and research. 

Susan C. Aldridge, PhD

President

Thomas Jefferson University

Susan C. Aldridge, PhD Appointed President of Thomas Jefferson University

Susan C. Aldridge, PhD, an accomplished and widely recognized higher education leader, author, and strategist who has held executive leadership positions in some of the country's largest universities, has been appointed the first female president of Thomas Jefferson University effective May 7, 2024.

Dr. Aldridge has been serving as the University's interim president since July 2023.

"This is a pivotal moment in Jefferson's history and Dr. Aldridge is the best person to usher in a new era for Thomas Jefferson University," said Jefferson's CEO Joseph G. Cacchione, MD. "I've been thoroughly impressed with her dedication to our students, faculty, and staff as both interim president and a past member of Jefferson's Board of Trustees. Her extensive higher education administration experience and visionary leadership make her a natural fit to be our University's next president."

During her tenure as interim president, Jefferson undergraduate students continued

to achieve great success in employment and graduate school acceptance at the rate of 97%. The national average is about 86%. Jefferson's undergraduate and graduate enrollments have grown. Jefferson's medical and pharmacy student match rates exceeded the national average.

"Thomas Jefferson University is one of the most distinctive institutions I've been affiliated with, and I'm honored to have been asked to lead it into its third century," said Dr. Aldridge. "Today, we are a national doctoral research university, and we are part of an anchor organization that also includes Jefferson Health and Jefferson Health Plans. As a model for professional university education, we are uniquely positioned to educate tomorrow's leaders in an array of fields, from architecture and business, to medicine and health sciences, nursing, design, engineering, fashion and textiles, population health, and more."

This is a pivotal moment in Jefferson's history and Dr. Aldridge is the best person to usher in a new era for Thomas Jefferson University.

— JOSEPH G. CACCHIONE, MD
CEO, Jefferson



With a legacy like Jefferson's our students can go anywhere

For two centuries we've been a university of firsts in a city known for them: The first medical school in the country to open a free patient clinic, the first university in North America to join SMARTlab, a collective committed to igniting change, and so many more.

Today, as a professions-focused doctoral research university with an expanding global footprint, our legacy of innovation continues—with the real-world, cross disciplinary education we deliver, the breakthrough research we spearhead and the forward-thinking curricula we continually reinvent for 200+ undergraduate and graduate programs.

We are relentless in redefining possible – **a pursuit over two centuries strong and counting!**

Jefferson200.org



we are *the*

RAMS

as told by John Steen '59, "Mr. Ram"



PHIL THE RAM is more than a mascot. He is a thread in the rich tapestry of our university's history, weaving together the legacies of Philadelphia Textile School, Philadelphia University, and Thomas Jefferson University. As Jefferson celebrates its bicentennial, we reflect on how we became the Rams.



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GOALS

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GO!



Coach "Bucky" Harris



JOHN L. STEEN
295 Goffle Hill Road
Hawthorne, New Jersey

B.S. Textile Engineering
S.C.M. 1, 2, 3, 4 . . . Textile Engineer 3, 4,
Sports Editor 4 . . . Varsity Club 2, 3, 4 . . .
Intramural Sports: Bowling 1, 2, 3, 4 . . . Vol-
leyball 2, 4 . . . Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4 . . . Soft-
ball 1, 2, 3, 4 . . . Phi Psi 2, 3, 4 . . . Textile
Fellowship 1, 2, 3, 4 . . . Analysis 3, 4, Sports
Editor 4 . . . Chairman Intramural Volleyball
2 . . . Chairman Intramural Basketball 3 . . .
Commissioner Intramural Sports 4 . . . Var-
sity Basketball Manager 2, 3, 4

John Steen '59 was the basketball scorekeeper and clock operator alongside Bucky Harris. He attended all basketball games, where he witnessed how other teams mocked Textile's mascot, the Weavers. He recalls:

It was February 1958 and we were playing St. Joseph's at Hawk Hill for the first time. As Textile's official scorekeeper, I'm sitting courtside and listening to their cheerleaders chanting,

**"Knit one, purl two,
Textile yoo-hoo."**

Everyone's laughing and I had enough.

The next morning at 8 a.m. I went to see President Hayward. I told him the story and told him that we needed a stronger mascot. He asked me what I thought. Although I wasn't prepared for that question, I immediately said that we should be called the Rams. President Hayward replied that he thought that was a good idea. He said he always had respect for me and knew that I was sports editor of the school paper and reporter to the Inquirer and Evening Bulletin, and he told me, "John, go with it."

Today we have a big Ram in front of the school as a result of that one meeting with President Hayward. And that's how it happened!

BASKETBALL



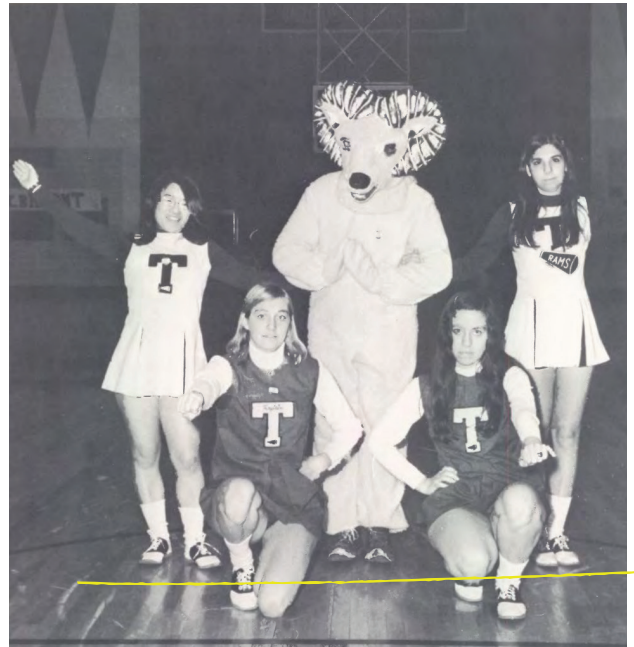
TEXTILE	OPPONENTS				
89	Eastern Baptist College	62	80	Susquehanna University	51
48	Villanova University	76	64	Quantico Marines	100
86	King's College, Pa.	90	78	National Agricultural	49
76	Delaware State College	73	85	King's College, Pa.	74
50	University of Baltimore	48	90	Glassboro State Teachers'	77
92	Trenton State Teachers'	78	98	Phila. College of Pharmacy	63
112	Phila. College of Pharmacy	57	60	Delaware State College	86
80	Lincoln University	68	97	New Bedford Tech	71
87	National Agricultural	75	117	Bradford Durfee Tech	72
85	Rutger's, S. J.	70	103	Rutger's, S. J.	71
			69	Wilkes College	83



Seated—L. Landgraf, R. Malmgren, L. Webb, R. Simoni, W. Miller. Standing—K. Harmi, mgr., Walter "Bucky" Harris, coach, R. Smith, E. Chruscinski, R. Kiley, D. Simanaitis, R. Seel, J. Steen, mgr., E. Diamond, mgr.

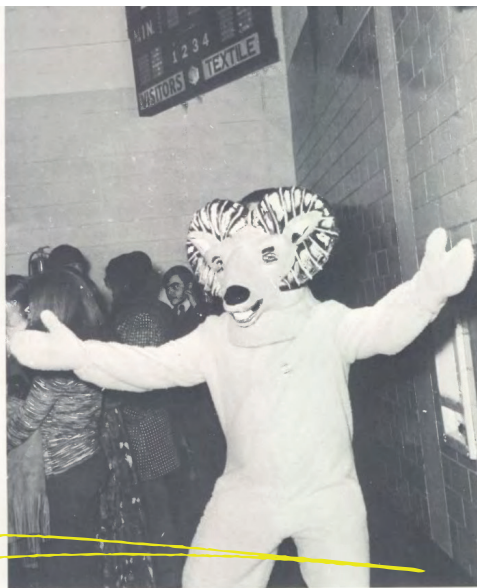


**First photo of the
Ram mascot**



As the mascot of an institution renowned for fashion and textiles, it is no surprise that Phil's "look" evolved over the years, but his unyielding school spirit, energy, and enthusiasm remained steadfast.







Scan the QR code or visit magazine.
jefferson.edu for the story behind the
new-and-improved Phil the Ram in a
special episode of the Nexus podcast.

FAST FORWARD TO 2024...

After a mishap at Ronson sledding hill, known throughout the East Falls community as 'the Nuts' because of its inherent dangers, leaving Phil with a broken horn, Jefferson enlisted Dave Raymond of Raymond Entertainment, known for his work with the Phillie Phanatic and Gritty, to reimagine our treasured mascot. With the collaboration of our medical, physical therapy, industrial design, fashion design, and occupational therapy students, Phil was nursed back to health, equipped with a sleek carbon fiber bionic horn, styled by fashion design students, and taught to utilize it by occupational therapy students.

Phil reemerged from a lengthy absence sporting his bionic horn, and a mohawk, at a March 5 pep rally to celebrate Jefferson's bicentennial and cheer on the women's and men's basketball teams before the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference playoffs.

The university community was ecstatic about Phil's return to the sidelines. Dr. Aldridge, President of Thomas Jefferson University, welcomed him back to the public eye, saying "Phil represents strength and resilience. He's a champion for our teams, for all of us, and he's an ambassador to the community. For all the teams that really supported his recovery and worked to bring him back to great health, he can serve as a champion and ambassador for us." 🐾



It is hard to believe it's been more than 65 years since the PCTS Weavers became the Rams. The University has gone through two name changes since then, but the Ram is steadfast and strong. I'm very impressed with the new and improved "Phil the Ram" and proud to have him in the Jefferson RAMily! I am sure my dear friend and coach Bucky Harris would agree.

- JOHN L. STEEN '59



“


**Phil is our identity
in athletics...We are
the Rams.**

- TOM SHIRLEY
Women's Basketball Head Coach and
Assistant Vice President of Athletics

Jefferson Health's **HONICKMAN CENTER**



Launching a New Era of Medicine

 On March 13, 2024, after four years of construction, the Honickman Center, Jefferson Health's new flagship medical facility in Center City Philadelphia, made its debut.

And while they may not have hoisted the girders and beams or laid the concrete, patients throughout the Philadelphia region were involved every step of the way to create a seamless care experience not only for patients, but also their clinicians and care teams.

"The Honickman Center was truly designed by patients for patients," said Baligh R. Yehia, MD, MPP, MSc, FACP, President, Jefferson Health. "We spoke with hundreds of patients and community members who shared their perspectives and informed our design from concept through completion."

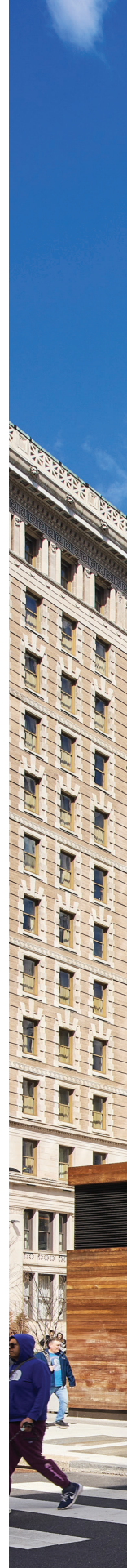
Standing 19 stories and spanning 462,000 square feet, the Honickman Center represents the future of healthcare by blending physical and virtual care while enhancing the human interaction between a patient and their care provider.

The Center welcomed its first patients on April 15, and houses a wide range of Jefferson Health's nationally ranked specialty programs, including Gastroenterology and Hepatology, General

Surgery, Hematology, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology, Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Perioperative Optimization, Rheumatology, and Urology.

Jefferson's renowned care centers include the Honickman Breast Imaging Center, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center; Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience, Nicoletti Kidney Transplant Center, Jefferson Heart and Vascular Institute, Jefferson Transplant Institute, and Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute – Jefferson Health and National Jewish Health also make their home in this new, pioneering facility.

The building includes more than 300 exam rooms, 58 infusion chairs, 10 operating rooms, six endoscopy rooms, an onsite lab, a pharmacy, radiology services, and more. Patients will have the ability to have multiple appointments in one day, in one facility. Through digital whiteboards, a Jefferson-developed proprietary technology, expert clinicians at distant sites can join appointments on the fly so patients can see a few of their doctors at once through interactive technology, providing a unique high-touch experience for patients where their needs are always put first. These digital whiteboards allow patients to invite their relatives to join appointments virtually.





Honickman Center

12th St

ONE WAY

ONE WAY

NO TURN ON RED



In addition to leading-edge technology, the Honickman Center offers accessibility for patients needing additional support and quiet spaces with sensory-friendly furniture designed with neurodiverse patients in mind.

Industrial design students and faculty from the University's Kanbar College of Design, Engineering, and Commerce teamed up with the Jefferson Center for Autism and Neurodiversity (JeffCAN) to research, conceptualize, and create forward-thinking, neurodiverse-friendly seating, resulting in the installation of 60 chairs situated throughout the building designed to provide comfort while helping those

with autism engage with the world.

Their work stands as a testament to Jefferson's signature Nexus Learning approach—which combines engaged, active learning with multidisciplinary collaboration to solve real world problems. It also illustrates Jefferson's commitment to its mission of improving lives with a multiyear effort addressing the specific needs of this vulnerable and underrepresented population.

The Honickman Center also displays multiple art installations, with a modern yet calming atmosphere for patients. Among them are projects from students at the Kanbar College through the "Liquid Horizons" installation, which comprises

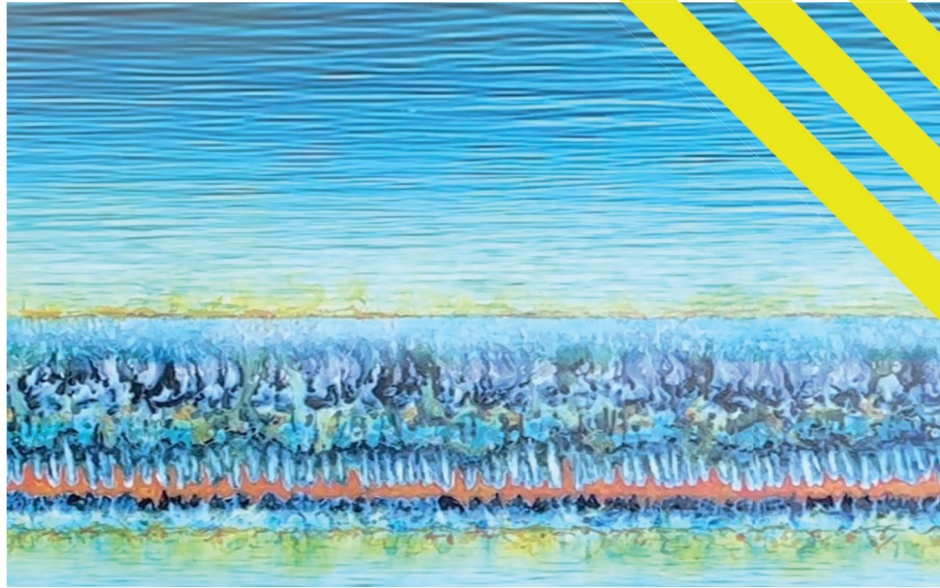
nine pieces of immersive art based on original watercolors with animation overlays through projection. The pieces are installed in nine different waiting rooms, creating immersive art experiences to promote well-being.

This design is the brainchild of Lyn Godley, industrial-design professor and director of the Jefferson Center of Immersive Arts for Health. "Research shows that art can have a positive impact on human health, specifically in healthcare environments," says Godley, noting that most existing research focuses on static art or virtual reality. "We believe similar outcomes could be achieved with dynamic or interactive art that could immerse the

patient in such a way as to deeply engage them and enhance the overall healthcare experience, resulting in an improved physiological and psychological impact.”

Godley notes that the installations will also be incorporated into research efforts. “It’s Jefferson designed, Jefferson installed, Jefferson printed, and Jefferson researched so it acts as a really nice model of what we do here,” Godley continues. “We take ideas from design through research and – after being able to justify or verify the results – take that back to design again to continue to iterate and improve. That’s just not happening anywhere else. This will be our third install, and each time we’re getting closer to the demographic that needs it. When the Honickman Center is up and running for three to six months, we’ll collect feedback on people’s reactions. I think this will lead us to great results.”

“We’re extremely grateful to the Honickman family for their generosity and to the more than 2,500 donors to this project, which is going to have an immeasurably positive impact on the community,” said Jefferson CEO Dr. Joseph Cacchione. “Opening this facility during our bicentennial makes it even more special, as we work to create our third century.” 🎨



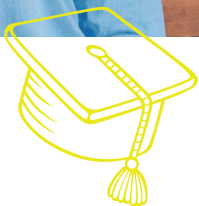
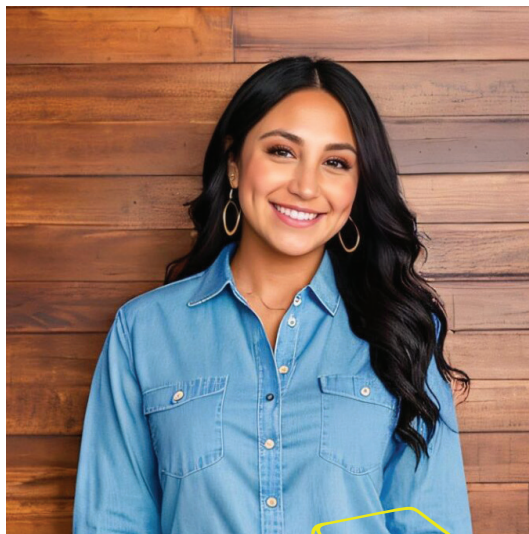
▲ Lyn Godley (middle), industrial-design professor and director of the Jefferson Center of Immersive Arts for Health, stands with Nathalie Bouchard and Jessica Jahnle in The Center for Excellence in Surface Imaging, where the art pieces were printed.

CELEBRATING THE

CLASS OF 2024

With bright futures, graduating students reflect on their time at Jefferson.

Thousands of world-changing Jefferson students graduated in May. Shortly before Commencement, nine members of the Class of 2024 reflected on their time here and what the future holds for them.



Natalie Kilkenny, BS in Business Management

After earning her associate degree in respiratory care and working for years as a respiratory therapist, Natalie Kilkenny realized she wanted a career change, one that better aligned with her schedule.

She returned to school in fall 2022 with her husband, a Marine veteran, to earn her accelerated BS in business management. Kilkenny graduated summa cum laude in December 2023 but walked in May, a few weeks after she started a position in logistics management at the Naval Supply Depot.

Jefferson's program provided valuable leadership skills and insights in statistics and supply chain management to propel her job search, she says. Kilkenny also thanked the University's continuing and professional studies faculty and staff for their guidance and support.

She can understand why some people may be reluctant to go back to college after being away for a bit. Her advice? Don't hesitate.

"A year will pass whether you're in school or not," Kilkenny says. "You might as well do it because you could be done by this time next year."

Auriel Lewis, Bachelor of Architecture

When Auriel Lewis started at Jefferson, she knew she wanted to study color theory and the psychology of architecture. So, along with her architecture major, she created a custom minor in human behavior, perception, and the built environment. This path allowed her to take courses in psychology, sustainability, ecology, textiles, and more.

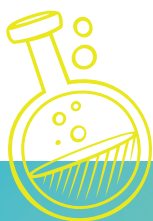
"I wanted to focus on the people aspect of sustainability and how spaces in architecture affect our mental health," says Lewis, winner of the Architectural Excellence Student Award from the American Institute of Architects Pennsylvania.

For her final (and favorite) architecture project, she used trauma-informed design to turn an abandoned school in Camden into a wellness and community center. "Materials and forms in a building can aid in reducing stress," Lewis says.

Among her other memorable experiences at Jefferson, she points to two study-away trips to Italy: a spring break in Milan and a full semester in Rome.

"It gave me a broader global perspective on architecture, design, and people and cultures in general," Lewis says. "I took that back with me, and my outlook on design changed. I became more interested in different international projects."

After graduation, she now works at the Washington, D.C.-based firm Studios Architecture.



Andrew Maksymov, BS in Health Sciences

Following graduation, Andrew Maksymov is continuing at Jefferson in the doctor of physical therapy program; however, he didn't exactly take a straight line to get here.

Maksymov entered school as a business student but switched to healthcare as a freshman. He debated between nursing, occupational therapy, and physician assistant studies until he shadowed physical therapists at Jefferson Moss-Magee Rehabilitation near the end of his second year.

"Helping everyone out, establishing a sense of trust and communication—it all felt so fulfilling and came so naturally," Maksymov says. "I liked the hands-on approach and lifting their spirits while they're recovering."

Outside the classroom and hospital, he spent much of his time working with the Office of Student Engagement as an orientation leader, student event coordinator, peer mentor, and building manager.

"Getting involved as a commuter student on campus was one of the best things I've ever done," Maksymov says.

Anna Morgillo, BS in Accounting

Women's tennis team captain Anna Morgillo calls Jefferson a second home. In fact, she has loved her time here so much she is pursuing her MBA with an accounting concentration.

"I couldn't see myself being done this year," says Morgillo, a tennis player since age 6. "I'm happy I'm staying another one."

Her acceptance to Jefferson marked the first time the Italian native visited this country, a potentially tough adjustment because she couldn't travel with her family due to pandemic travel restrictions. However, instantly connecting with her tennis teammates extinguished any jitters and cemented the fact that she made the right choice.

"That really helped," says Morgillo, who plans to work at a major accounting firm after grad school. "It was always a dream to come to the U.S. for college."



Tanisha Rutledge, BSE in Mechanical Engineering

For as long as Tanisha Rutledge can remember, she has loved solving problems and pushing toward the next challenge. These traits prepared her well for Jefferson's mechanical engineering program.

In one of her most memorable projects, Rutledge worked with a research team to see if mycelium—the root structure of mushrooms—could be used as a sustainable alternative to Styrofoam. When the team struggled to maintain consistent moisture levels with a humidifier that needed to be filled daily, she helped build a makeshift humidifier modeled after a toilet tank that only needed to be filled weekly.

Rutledge recently presented this mycelium work in front of state leaders at a Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development conference on innovation in manufacturing.

For her senior capstone, she partnered with the Philadelphia Water Department to develop a sustainable, affordable microplastic filtration system using hemp.

With this interest in sustainability, Rutledge has stayed at Jefferson to earn her MS in engineering and continue her research—and solve whatever problems that may lie ahead.



J. Scherer, MS in Adult-Gerontology: Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

During the pandemic, J. Scherer decided they wanted to advance their nursing career. Scherer began Jefferson's acute care program, but after a few semesters, they felt it didn't quite line up with their career goals.

Scherer's adviser suggested talking to Dr. Jeannette Kates, director of the adult-gerontology: primary care nurse practitioner program. That conversation helped Scherer discover their next passion in nursing.

"I felt lit up and excited to learn and see what the future held for me," they recall. "I want to encourage whole healthcare rather than fixing problems that already exist."

Scherer has stayed in the Philadelphia area after graduation, focusing on primary care in LGBTQ+ communities.

Satchel Smith, BS in Fashion Design

The past four years zipped by for award-winning student Satchel Smith. "It's crazy," he says with a laugh. "I feel like I just graduated high school."

The prestigious Fashion Scholarship Fund twice named Smith a Virgil Abloh Post-Modern Scholar, honoring him for his work. Last year's winning project—a sustainability-minded, gender-neutral streetwear collection—took on special meaning.

"It was personal to me," he says. "I had never tapped into that aspect of my life and my design capabilities."

The fashion design program's red dress project also became one of his favorites. It helped him better understand fit and marked the first time he made a dress and worked with satin.

This summer, Smith will intern at Centric Brands in New York City, working in boys' sportswear for Calvin Klein. He thanks the fashion faculty and his classmates for pushing him and creating an environment to thrive.

"We support each other," Smith says. "We're a tight-knit group."



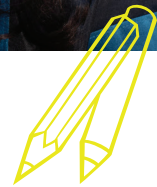
Alex Sosa, Doctorate of Occupational Therapy

For her capstone, Alex Sosa worked at the Hub of Hope to boost the emergence of occupational therapy for those in community health settings. Implementing trauma-informed care, she provided one-on-one services like goal setting, job searching, and anger management, as well as group programs on mindfulness, money management, and more.

"I loved working with the staff and clients," Sosa says. "I learned so much from them. I've always prioritized empathy in occupational therapy. Being there expanded that."

With one Hub of Hope project, she taught her clients how to make essential oil roll-ons for pressure points to reduce stress and manage pain. Growing up with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, Sosa says she knows how inflammation can impact a person's quality of life.

After passing the boards, Sosa hopes to work in community mental health or an inpatient acute setting. "They're very different," she says, "but I love them both in their own ways."



Silpa Thomas, MS in Health Data Science

After studying psychology and public health as an undergrad, Silpa Thomas decided she wanted to transition into the health technology space instead of the clinical field. She felt the University's health data science program would allow her to integrate her undergrad education and growing interest in the tech field.

"It was a great opportunity, and Jefferson was the perfect place that had all that packaged into one," says Thomas, a business data analyst at software startup Curasev.

For her capstone, Thomas built a dashboard for Curasev that helps durable and home medical equipment companies track inventory and expedite claims to payors so they can quickly get paid.

With the health data science program fully online, Thomas says she could balance her full-time job and school—and still be connected to both.

"I felt like I was practically on campus. The professors were always there for me checking in," says Thomas, stressing students shouldn't shy away from online courses or programs. "I'm in India right now, and I could still complete my work. I'm excited to get started and put into action everything I've learned at Jefferson. I'm grateful for my experience." 🙌

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JEFFERSON | 200



**NCI****Comprehensive
Cancer Center**

A Cancer Center Designated by the
National Cancer Institute

National Cancer Institute Designates Jefferson's Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center as a Comprehensive Cancer Center

As part of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Research Consortium, Thomas Jefferson University and Drexel University have partnered to transform breakthrough research into life-changing cancer treatments.

In April 2024, Thomas Jefferson University's Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) earned a National Cancer Institute (NCI) "Comprehensive" Cancer Center designation, the highest recognition awarded by the NCI.

This recognition places SKCC among an elite group of only 57 cancer centers nationwide, providing exceptional and personalized cancer care and superior outcomes, fueled by a robust clinical research program.

"We at Jefferson have always known that the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center is among the best of the best," said Joseph G. Cacchione, MD, CEO, Jefferson. "Now it's official, with

an important new designation that's shared with less than two percent of the nation's cancer centers. I couldn't be prouder of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center team, and now our patients will be treated at one of just 57 elite cancer centers in the country with this notable distinction."

This designation is a testament to Jefferson's work to save lives by developing, testing, and applying innovative approaches to improve cancer clinical outcomes. The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center has been recognized for its leadership and resources, in addition to demonstrating an added depth and breadth of basic science, clinical research, and population science.

The prestigious NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center designation is granted competitively to institutions characterized by the highest level of scientific excellence in cancer research and the ability to translate scientific discoveries into novel treatments. NCI Comprehensive Cancer Centers are also responsible for educating the public, training future healthcare professionals, and providing outreach to

underserved populations. Comprehensive cancer centers address the cancer burden unique to the communities they serve through tailored research programs and community outreach.

"Many people have been responsible for the success of the cancer center to this day," said Andrew Chapman, DO, FACP, EVP Cancer Research and Oncology Services, and director, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, Jefferson Health. "The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center's staff has worked tirelessly for years to make the comprehensive status a reality. We are the heart and soul of cancer care in Philadelphia and the communities we serve, and while this is an immense honor, it is also a tremendous responsibility. Comprehensiveness translates our commitment to cancer prevention, expertise, and leadership in delivering uncompromising care and breakthrough cancer research until every cancer is cured. We celebrate this milestone with our clinicians, support staff, patients, and their loved ones."

As the federal government's principal cancer research and training agency, the NCI awards designations based on excellence in cancer treatment, diagnosis, and prevention. Jefferson received an initial NCI Designation in 1996.

"The NCI Comprehensive designation is an important milestone in our commitment to reducing the cancer burden not only in Philadelphia, but across the United States and globally," said Dr. Susan C. Aldridge, president, Thomas

Jefferson University. "It is the culmination of Jefferson's continued dedication to research, education, and patient care. As partners in the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Research Consortium, Jefferson, along with Drexel University, is focused on transforming breakthrough research into life-changing cancer treatment."

Every five years, a peer review process occurs to assess the extent to which the center has promoted or is likely to promote excellence in research that may reduce the incidence, morbidity, and mortality attributable to cancer among persons within its service area and beyond. Reviewers evaluate how well the center's leadership, organization, and processes for development and evaluation facilitate scientific productivity, strengthen the institution's research capabilities, and enable its investigators to take advantage of scientific opportunities beyond what would have likely occurred at the institution without the Cancer Center Support Grants (CCSGs.) These grants predominantly support the research mission of the center.

"This prestigious designation recognizes our Center's excellence in cancer prevention, patient care, and clinical research," added Baligh R. Yehia, MD, MPP, MSc, FACP, president, Jefferson Health. "It also elevates our entire health system's capabilities to deliver cutting-edge care and innovative solutions to our patients right here in our community."

Serving more than 8,900 patients annually, the matrixed consortium cancer center provides the most advanced, research-based care by building upon the unique expertise, resources, and capabilities of two highly regarded Philadelphia-based institutions, Thomas Jefferson University and Drexel University.

"Drexel University and Thomas Jefferson University share a research-driven mission to make an impact in the Philadelphia region and beyond," said John A. Fry, president, Drexel University. "The partnership between our storied institutions allows us to optimize our respective research strengths and focus on the specific needs of the diverse communities across Southeastern Pennsylvania and South Jersey. This designation is a great win for the region, as it will strengthen the impact of scientific discovery across the consortium."


The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center offers advanced treatment plans, access to a wide breadth of clinical trials, and comprehensive supportive services for patients throughout the region via its advanced care hubs in Philadelphia, South Jersey, and Montgomery and Bucks counties. Patients can access local resources, backed by the NCI-designated academic medical center in Center City Philadelphia.

Enhancing the Patient Experience

Oncology patients will receive cancer care at the Honickman Center, Jefferson's new state-of-the-art outpatient care

center, which opened its doors to patients on April 15. The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center is on the 12th, 14th, and 15th floors, where patients will be surrounded by a calming environment with open sunlit spaces and a breathtaking view of the Philadelphia skyline. Fifty-eight infusion chairs offering privacy, recliners with massage features, comfortable spaces for family members, and carefully selected artwork in key areas are all part of the healing experience and patient-centric care.

Generous Gift

In recognition of this prestigious NCI designation, philanthropists Caroline and Sidney Kimmel generously matched every dollar raised for the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Innovation Fund, up to \$250,000, as part of Jefferson's annual Giving Day. Mr. and Mrs. Kimmel have been extremely generous benefactors to Jefferson, having given more than \$200 million over the years, including providing cornerstone funding to establish the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center in 1995, as well as transformational support for research into the prevention of cardiovascular disease, and Jefferson's largest-ever gift of \$110 million to name the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in 2014. With this latest NCI comprehensiveness designation, the Kimmels are the only family to have two comprehensive cancer centers in the country named after them. 



With NASA Internship, Nutrition Student Helps to Fuel Astronauts

The experience allowed Gabrielle Zimmerman to better understand the role of food and nutrition in a space mission's success.

A lifelong passion for food and nutrition inspired Gabrielle Zimmerman to pursue a career as a registered dietitian. This summer, the MS in nutrition and dietetic practice/RDN student took this interest to new heights, literally.

She interned at NASA's Nutritional Biochemistry Laboratory, where she designed special meal plans for astronauts, toured Mission Control, attended scientific symposiums, and more.

Zimmerman, also a published author, details her unique experience with The Nexus.

Why did you choose Jefferson?

The University's new and innovative Future Education Model satisfies the degree and supervised practice requirements to be eligible to sit for the national Registered Dietitian Nutritionist exam and become a registered dietitian. Aiming to assist others in navigating their unique dietary circumstances, I was immediately drawn to Jefferson because of the faculty's compassion

and support and the range of opportunities and connections available in the healthcare field.

What are the best parts of your studies?

I value the opportunity to expand my expertise and abilities by training under dedicated professional dietetic leadership and gaining hands-on experience across diverse settings aligned with the latest trends and demands of the dietetics profession. Notable moments from my studies include being the first graduate student in my cohort to intern with the Food and Drug Administration, the Broadway Dietitian, and NASA's Nutritional Biochemistry Laboratory.

Tell us about your rotation with NASA.

I actively contributed to diverse space nutrition projects within the Nutritional Biochemistry team. This involved presenting to NASA employees as part of a showcase on essential nutrients required to maintain astronaut health during spaceflight. I designed a 4,100-calorie meal plan aligning with space food system criteria while considering additional energy needs for surface EVAs (commonly known as "moonwalks"). I also conducted essential calculations on astronauts' adherence to International Space Station-based resistance exercise devices for astronaut bone health.

In addition, I attended scientific symposiums and interactive conferences featuring astronauts, lead flight surgeons, and other esteemed entities. My involvement in these special projects and events culminated in a more profound understanding of how crucial food and nutrition are in determining the success or failure of space exploration missions.

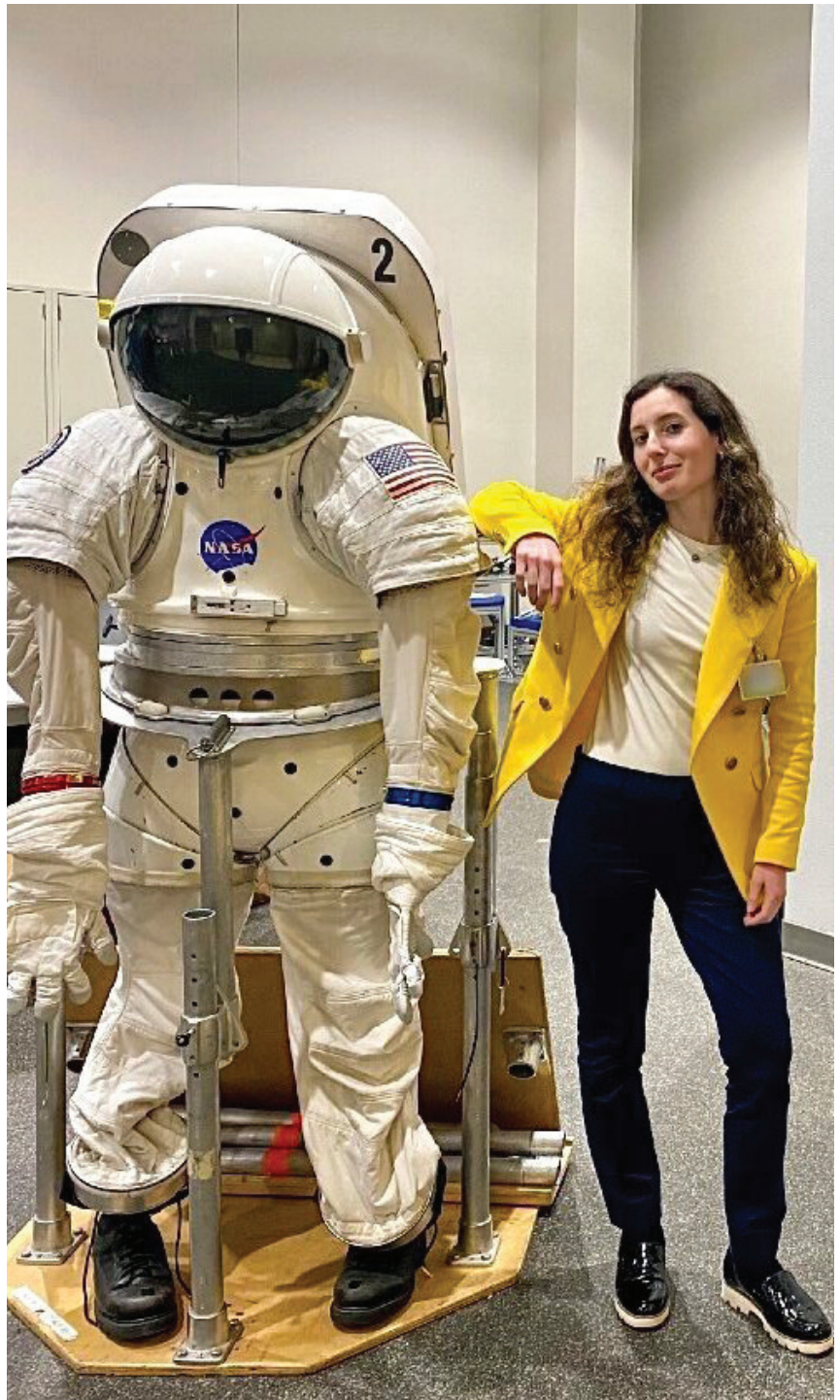
Moreover, I took a VIP tour of the Space Vehicle Mockup Facility and Mission Control Center led by my preceptor, the Nutritional Biochemistry Laboratory principal investigator, and the team's deputy manager. I also visited and engaged with key experts involved in NASA's year-long Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog study at the 1,700-square-foot 3D-printed Mars Dune Alpha Habitat. This immensely fulfilling rotation will remain etched in my memory forever.

How did you share what you gained from the NASA rotation with the Jefferson research community?

At the recent Jefferson Nutrition and Dietetics Graduate Research Symposium, I presented research inspired by the rotation, focusing on astronaut gut microbiota, space nutrition, and health. The session covered how to interpret gut microbiota research and the current research on potential changes of the astronaut gut microbiota in microgravity. Plus, I covered the specific dietary components that positively impact the gut microbiota and its implications for space food and nutrition.

What's something people would be surprised to find out about you?

I published the book "When Food Can Kill You: What the World Needs to Know" in 2020. It provides a constructive framework for managing and dealing with food allergies and diet-related diseases like celiac disease in different contexts and helps to improve the quality of life for those who suffer from them daily. 🍷



▲ Gabrielle Zimmerman poses next to an astronaut model in the Human Physiology, Performance, Protection and Operations Laboratory at NASA's Johnson Space Center.



How a Textile Product Science Alumna Stepped Into a Career in Nike Footwear

Real-world learning helped grad Devon Willard land her dream job as a material developer.

When people would ask textile product science alumna Devon Willard what she wanted to do with her Jefferson degree, she often used Nike as an example.

"Many people would have a hard time understanding what I was studying, so I would say, 'Maybe one day I could work as a footwear material consultant for a company like Nike,'" remembers the 2018 grad.

A few years later, Willard hopped on a flight to Portland, Oregon, to turn that idea into a reality.

Day in the Life as a Material Developer

Willard joined Nike as a material developer for their footwear department in July 2022. When she started at the company, she worked on footwear for Nike SB (skateboarding) and Nike ACG (all conditions gear). She recently transitioned to the women's lifestyle team, working on products for everyday comfort and wear.

In her role, she works directly with Nike's material vendors to bring a design to life. "For example, my team may be asked to redesign an 'upper' — the top part of a shoe—with directions to make it comfortable and breathable while also meeting our sustainability targets," Willard explains. "We'll take that design intent and go back and forth with our vendors, reviewing material submits and providing feedback until we

perfect it. Along the way, we test the materials' performance properties to ensure they fit Nike's standards and our consumer aesthetic."

Willard enjoys this iterative process and collaborating with cross-functional teams, like Nike's product developers, footwear and material designers, merchandisers, and business partners, to brainstorm ideas.

"It's great to work with a group that brings a variety of ideas and perspectives to the table," she says. "I'm constantly learning and finding new ways to solve problems."

The Path to Nike

While not in footwear, Willard says her previous experiences helped her learn more about the textile industry, which ultimately led to Nike. She started her career at Mountain



▲ At Jefferson, Devon Willard worked at Brooklyn Shoe Space, a shoemaking workshop. Here, she created this footwear that ended up in a collaboration at New York Fashion Week.

Hardware, an outdoor company in California's Bay Area, as a material researcher for products like tents, backpacks, sleeping bags, and gloves. She then joined the biotechnology startup MycoWorks developing a sustainable leather alternative derived from mycelium.

"I think my combined experience at these companies, along with my interest in sustainability and innovation, stood out to Nike," Willard shares. "Although I didn't have an exact background in footwear, I had R&D experience with a variety of materials used in the industry."

Applying Jefferson's Real-World Learning

Willard credits the University's hands-on learning with preparing her for her career. In one class, they went to the Brooklyn Shoe Space, a shoemaking workshop, to

design and create footwear that ended up in a collaboration on the New York Fashion Week runway.

She attended Brooklyn Shoe Space again during her senior project, where she and her thesis partner made two pairs of shoes using scrap materials recycled from local textile companies. They added their own style to the shoes by transfer printing custom artwork onto the textiles.

Another time, Willard spent three weeks at New Balance with Pensole Footwear Design Academy acting as a material designer. "That's what really piqued my interest in the footwear industry," says Willard, who thanks Jefferson faculty for bringing their real-world industry experiences into the classroom.

"We had the opportunity to form strong relationships with our peers and teachers," she

says. "They gave us the freedom to explore our interests and shared their insights into the field, which was valuable."

Willard advises current textile students to stay open-minded and curious rather than worrying about landing the perfect job right out of school.

"You don't have to have it all figured out," she says. "Focus on accumulating different experiences and learning as much as you can. Jobs are stepping stones to figuring out what you enjoy. As long as you stay open to learning, feedback, and different possibilities, you will build your own path." 📌



Our History

Jefferson's 200-year history includes intrigue and innovation that started with \$550 and a bold idea that would forever change medical education around the world. From medical pioneers and many medical firsts to productive mergers, Jefferson Medical College — now Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University — continues to build on that history, boldly shaping the future of medicine and education.

1820s to 1830s

1824

Jefferson Medical College becomes just the fifth medical school in the U.S. after George McClellan, MD, approached Jefferson College in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, to start a new medical school. He rode on horseback from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, and went to the floor of the Senate to lobby the Senators to convince them that Jefferson was a legitimate school and should be giving medical degrees.

1825

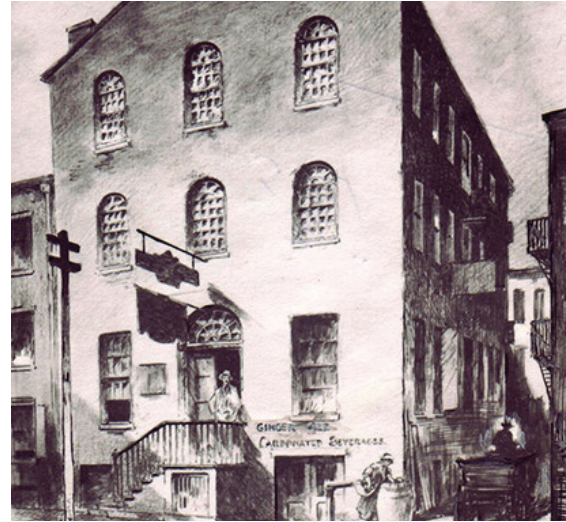
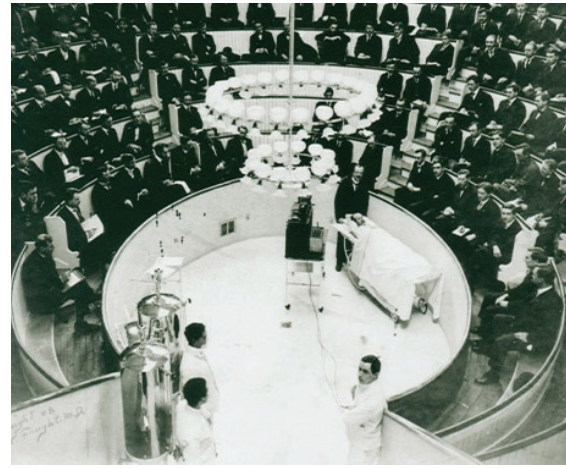
The Hall of the Jefferson Medical College, located at 518-520 Prune Street (now Locust Walk, just east of Washington Square), opens. An infirmary offered free medical and surgical care, making it the first clinic established by a college in the country.

1826

The charter granting Jefferson Medical College to confer degrees is granted. Twenty gentlemen receive their diplomas in the College's first commencement exercises.

1828

Samuel D. Gross receives his MD from Jefferson. Gross goes on to become a pioneer in combining clinical surgery, teaching, and research in an academic setting; the founding president of the Jefferson Alumni Association in 1870; and founder of the American Surgical Association in 1880.



Did You Know:

In 1836, Robley Dunglison, MD, the "Father of American Physiology," is appointed chair of Jefferson's Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence. During his career, he served as the private physician to U.S. Presidents Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe.



1840s to 1870s

Did You Know:

In 1870, the Jefferson Alumni Association is organized, making it the first of its kind. Samuel D. Gross, MD 1828, becomes its founding president.



1846

Thomas Dent Mütter, Jefferson's third chair of surgery, operates on an etherized patient while removing a tumor, making this the first surgical use of anesthesia in Philadelphia.

1862

Ninian A. Pinckney, MD 1833, designs the first U.S. Navy hospital ship, the USS Red Rover, and serves as its medical director (precursor of Surgeon General) and commodore of the Union Navy.

Jonathan Letterman, MD 1849, created America's first organized and coordinated ambulance service.

1875

Artist Thomas Eakins paints the renowned "Gross Clinic," set in Jefferson's amphitheater.

1877

Jefferson Hospital opens with 125 beds on Sansom Street between 10th and 11th streets, making it the second medical school in the country with a separate teaching hospital.

1880s to 1890s

1884

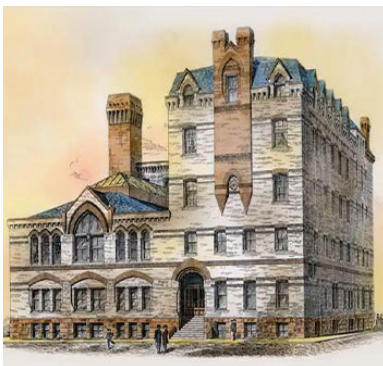
A school is added to the curriculum of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art to provide training for those entering the textile trade. Founded by Theodore C. Search, the Philadelphia Textile School becomes the first textile school in the United States.

Phineas S. Connor, MD 1861, performs the first complete gastrectomy on a human.

Jacob DaSilva Solis-Cohen, MD 1860, professor of laryngoscopy, performs the first complete laryngectomy in the U.S.

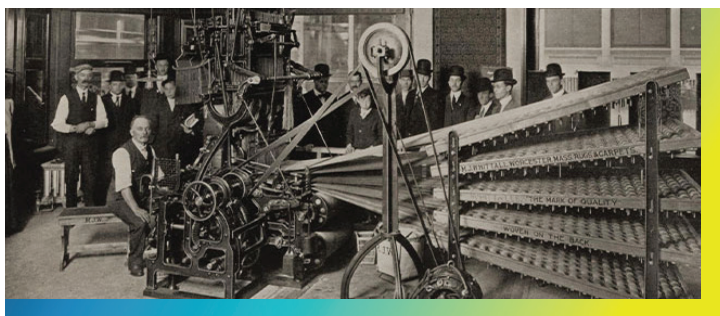
1891

Jefferson College of Nursing is founded as the Jefferson Hospital Training College for Nurses.



Did You Know:

Jefferson had a football team in 1896. Over the next decade, rivals included Princeton, Maryland Medical College, Fordham, and local teams: University of Pennsylvania, Haverford, Swarthmore, Ursinus, and Philadelphia Dental College.



1900s to 1920s

1901

Algernon Brashear Jackson, MD 1901, becomes Jefferson's first African American graduate. He goes on to co-found the first African American fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi, also known as The Boulé. It creates opportunities for other Black physicians and continues to do so today.

1902

The U.S. Army turned to Textile to develop an alternative to dark blue and light-colored khaki military uniforms. By blending ground quail feathers with wool, Edward France, director of the school, and his team developed the Army's now-ubiquitous olive drab.

1929

Samuel Parsons Scott bequeaths the bulk of his estate, which was valued around \$3 million (about \$50 million in today's dollars) to Jefferson. This is for the foundation and creation of the Scott Memorial Library. Mr. Scott made the bequest in grateful acknowledgement of the service rendered him by an unknown Jefferson physician who relieved him of hay fever.



Did You Know:

The Women's Auxiliary of the Jefferson Hospital group is started in 1909. Today, the Auxiliaries are an active and strong support group for the Women's Board and hospital.

1930s to 1950s

1941

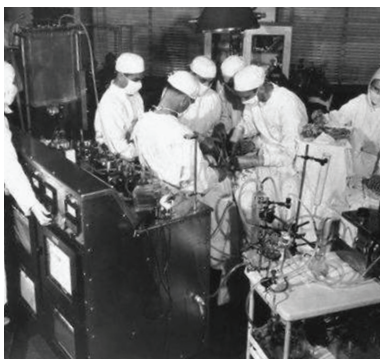
Philadelphia Textile School undergoes a name change to Philadelphia Textile Institute and is licensed to award bachelor's degrees. A 1948 analysis shows that approximately 70% of graduates that year were pursuing degrees or diplomas in textiles, the rest in chemistry, dyeing, and printing.

1953

John H. Gibbon Jr., MD '27, was known as the Father of Cardiac Surgery. In 1953, Gibbon performed the first successful open-heart operation on a human patient, using his latest heart-lung machine design, the Model II.

1959

Textile changed its mascot, originally nicknamed the Weavers, to the Rams during the '58-'59 academic year.



Did You Know:

In 1949, a graduate program in various basic medical sciences is organized. This later leads to the formation of the College of Graduate Studies. Today, Thomas Jefferson University has over 200 graduate programs in fields such as architecture, business, design, engineering, fashion and textiles, health medicine, nursing, science, and social science.

1960s to 1970s

1960

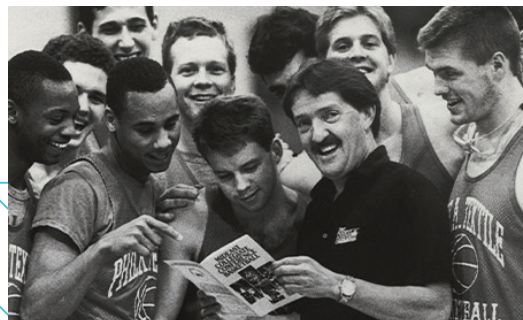
In 1960, the Board of Trustees votes to admit women into the medical college. The first woman accepted is 21-year-old Nancy Szwec Czarnecki, who also wins a scholarship. In 1961, Czarnecki and eight other women are admitted and matriculate.

1970

In Coach Herb Magee's third season as the Rams' head basketball coach in 1970, Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science wins the school's first NCAA College Division National Championship. In all, the team has reached the NCAA Tournament 37 times.

Did You Know:

In 1965 James M. Hunter, MD '53, invents the artificial tendon for hand rehabilitation in collaboration with faculty at Philadelphia Textile Institute.



1980s to 1990s

1984

In 1984, the first successful liver transplant in the Delaware Valley is performed at Jefferson. Between 1984 and 2016, 1,000 liver transplants are performed.

1991

In 1991, the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center is established thanks to a groundbreaking gift from the Sidney Kimmel Foundation. By 1996, the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center receives National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation.

1999

Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science receives university status and changes its name to Philadelphia University.



Did You Know:

In 1982, Leah M. Lowenstein, MD, becomes the first female dean at Thomas Jefferson University and at any coeducational medical school in the United States. Lowenstein built a reputation as a gifted teacher, clinician, and researcher in renal and metabolic diseases.

2000 to 2023

2003

In 2003 Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience opens as the only dedicated hospital for neuroscience in the region. The Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience is also established, thanks to a generous gift from the Farber Family Foundation, Inc.

2010 and 2011

Coach Magee, who became the “winningest coach” in NCAA men’s basketball history in 2010, is inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2011.

2014

Jefferson Medical College is renamed Sidney Kimmel Medical College after a \$110 million gift is made by the Sidney Kimmel Foundation. It is the largest gift in Jefferson’s history.

2017

In 2017, Philadelphia University merges with Jefferson to become a professions-based, national doctoral research university. 📖

Did You Know:

In addition to celebrating Jefferson’s bicentennial, the state-of-the-art, patient-focused Honickman Center opened in March 2024. Designed for and by patients, it is an innovative, multi-specialty outpatient care center that makes the most of each patient’s healthcare experience, offering greater accessibility for patients who need additional support, on-site valet parking, and care services like a retail pharmacy, lab services, radiology, and more to support over a dozen medical specialties—all in one convenient location.

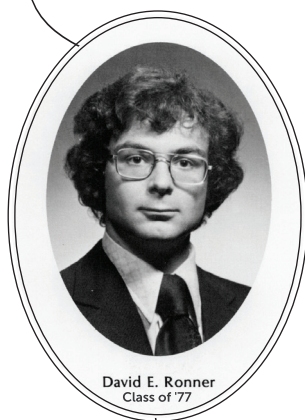


View the full timeline at Jefferson200.org

weaving a legacy of excellence

one alum at a time

BY IRISA GOLD



Jefferson's legacy as a leader in textile technology education was born in 1884 with the addition of a school to the curriculum of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art to provide training for those entering the textile trade. The Philadelphia Textile School, founded by Theodore C. Search, became the first textile school in the United States and is the foundation of the innovative, transdisciplinary university of today.

One hundred forty years later, Jefferson's Engineering Program continues this

illustrious tradition, preparing students for success in the rapidly changing global textile industry. The program's Textile Engineering Concentration employs a curriculum designed to help students develop a vital understanding of the latest developments in the field, including traditional and nontraditional textile processes, through the increased use of electronics, automation, as well as novel materials. Through hands-on and classroom study, students learn about modern textile applications in areas including automotive, aerospace, geotextiles, and more.

"Textile engineering is taking fibers, yarns, fabrics, and finishes and making them into different products," explains Brian George, associate professor and director of Jefferson's Engineering Program. "It could be apparel, but most of the time textile engineers are working in high-performance materials." Textile engineers may also perform research to develop new uses for these materials to improve current products and create new ones.

For Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science alumnus and owner of ICF

Mercantile David Ronner '77, a comprehensive education prepared him for a lifetime in the textile industry. "When I was at Textile, the industry was very robust," he shares. "I've been in the business for the last 47 years. I knew that pairing a business degree with textile engineering courses would make me more marketable. I started my career with a yarn manufacturer and launched ICF Mercantile in 2008. We have two facilities in New Jersey, where we are manufacturing, warehousing, and engineering technical textiles."

Hiring fellow alumni for his company was imperative — and inevitable. "I have a high degree of loyalty," he says. "My wife, who is a 1979 Textile graduate, and myself have visited Jefferson (formerly Textile) for project development over the last number of years. It was natural for me to go and look at my alma mater first to see if we could find the type of people and the resources we needed. We were seeking textile technologists and textile engineers. Our products require knowledge and that kind of background."

"We have 50 employees, of which six are from Textile,

Philadelphia University, and Jefferson,” Ronner says. “We’re poised to hire at least one, possibly two, more people from Jefferson this year.”

Janet Moisey, a 1991 graduate of Textile’s MBA program, was the first alum hired in 2017. “I’m working with ICF’s customers,” she says. “I think meeting professors, and talking in terms of the business world with a textile slant, was helpful to me.”

Ronner continues, “After we started our Warren facility, we realized we required more engineering assistance, so we hired Carly Ragan as a process engineer.”

“I graduated from Jefferson in 2019 with a degree in general engineering with a concentration in textiles,” Ragan says. “It was great to see the Jacquard looms, the rapier looms, and the non-wovens equipment—everything that I would get to work on. My education taught me to look at the larger picture and to learn for myself how to approach technical challenges.”

As the company continued to expand, Ronner asked Ragan for a recommendation on a new hire. She recommended classmate Morgan Dunn, a 2020 textile engineering graduate who is also appreciative of the hands-on experience available at Jefferson. “Seeing the equipment on the floor is a lot different than just getting a picture in your textbook,” Dunn shares. “I knew that I wanted to be hands-on with machinery and

involved in process engineering. That was my favorite aspect.”

Plant engineer Adnan Hashmi graduated from Textile with a master’s degree in textile engineering in 1997 and joined ICF just two years ago. “People will come in and say, ‘Can you do this? How can you do this?’” Hashmi says. “The ‘How Factor’ is what Jefferson brought to me. It was an incredible experience. I was exposed to every single aspect of textiles that you can imagine—knitting, nonwovens, dyeing and finishing, and weaving. You name it and they had it. Through the master’s program, I met people with different experiences coming from different parts of the world. I still have connections with them throughout the international community.”


ICF’s latest Jefferson addition, process engineer Simran Bains-Shepard, graduated in 2022 with an undergraduate degree in textile product science. “I chose Jefferson because of their small class sizes,” she shares. “I saw that you could connect with every one of your professors and had a relationship with almost all of them. I’m still in contact with a lot of them today.”

“I think my favorite piece of advice about going into the textile industry was that textile is an art that’s a science,” says Ragan. “But what we do goes so much more beyond the clothes that you’re wearing—the rug that you’re standing on—anything like that. There are so many important applications, and I don’t think

people realize that products they use every day involve textiles.”

Ronner concurs. “This is an important opportunity for Jefferson. There is such a deficiency, and a severe need for people who are educated in textiles today. We won’t be able to sustain all of the industrial and strategic applications that are required today without the level of knowledge that Jefferson provides.”

No matter the name of the school or the year they attended, there is a common thread connecting these devoted alumni. As Bains-Shepard shares, “When I first joined ICF, I didn’t know anybody here, and I instantly had a connection with everyone. We all had very similar experiences that we could connect on, and that was really helpful.”

“Jefferson graduates are highly valued because they are all quality people,” says Ronner. “The camaraderie of all educated from the same school is just an extra bonus. They’ve all done a really good job here. We try to continue to promote them into higher level positions as the company grows. We’re going to continue that with Jefferson going forward.” 



BRIDGING THE GAPS

ADDRESSING THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS IN PHILADELPHIA

BY IRISA GOLD

The addiction and overdose crisis in Philadelphia is an escalating public health emergency.

Beyond the sobering statistics (see callouts), the city's healthcare system is often fragmented, with issues like housing, language, and transportation causing barriers to services.

Most overdose deaths involve opioids, usually illicitly manufactured fentanyl, a highly potent opioid that has replaced heroin as the most common drug involved in fatal overdoses. However, two major shifts have eclipsed the ongoing concerns about fentanyl: the marked rise in polysubstance overdose and the unexpected emergence of xylazine (also called tranq).

In January 2023, The New York Times focused on Philadelphia in a report on the rise of the use of xylazine, which in humans can cause severe circulatory changes with devastating effects on tissue, leading to painful open lesions, necrosis, and potentially limb loss. Now over a year later, it's not unusual to have three or more patients suffering from the drug's effects at any given time in the Jefferson Multidisciplinary Addiction Service (JAMS), Jefferson Health's multidisciplinary inpatient consultation program. It's also common in Jefferson's clinics to see patients trying to navigate life on the street with new disabilities from losing limbs due to xylazine use.

As the region's largest health system and safety net

hospital for two-thirds of all Philadelphians—and with an institutional commitment to health equity—Jefferson is uniquely positioned to reimagine the standard of addiction care through a multi-pronged approach designed to holistically address the issue from every angle via both the health system and the university.

According to the National Library of Medicine, opioid use disorder affects over 16 million people worldwide and over 2.1 million in the United States. Addiction care was historically delivered in siloed drug and alcohol programs outside the standard medical system. However, hospital admissions for patients with associated medical conditions are at an all-time high. The system was not developed to support these otherwise younger and healthier patients with substance use disorder (SUD), leaving them extremely vulnerable to the challenges of acute hospitalization.

People who use drugs face withdrawal, stigma, and isolation while in the hospital, all of which increase their risk of leaving the hospital early before their treatment is complete. Upon discharge, many patients with SUD are unable to access care in a highly fragmented system, leaving people at risk for recurrence or death before even reaching the next site of care. Revisits and readmissions for persistent or worsening conditions are the rule rather than the exception. The JAMS program facilitates comprehensive and patient-

centered addiction care. It guides patients and medical teams in addressing acute pain in patients undergoing withdrawal, starting lifesaving medications for opioid use disorder, and collaborating on discharge planning. The program begins in the emergency department with advanced withdrawal treatments and initial engagement with a certified recovery specialist while hospitalized.

In May 2023, Jefferson Health received a \$1.5 million gift from the Sheller Family Foundation to establish the Stephen and Sandra Sheller Consult and Bridge Pilot Program. Made possible by the generosity of Stephen and Sandra Sheller, the gift greatly enhances the work of JAMS, functioning as a vital safe harbor for discharged patients to improve patient engagement and

**From 2018
to 2022, the
number of
overdose deaths
increased among
non-Hispanic
(NH) Black
individuals (347
to 649, or 87%)
and Hispanic
individuals (147
to 210, or 43%).**

success starting in the earliest stages of medical and substance use stabilization and joining them in their ongoing journey of recovery initiation and active treatment.

The first of its kind in Philadelphia and a new model of care, this relationship-centered, personalized program serves as a critical intermediary between acute hospital treatment and ongoing outpatient substance use disorder treatment and programs for the most vulnerable and in-need patients.

The Bridge Program supports patients through all care transitions following hospitalization (subacute nursing facility, inpatient rehab, etc.), welcoming them into ongoing outpatient care via in-person and telehealth services through the Bridge clinical site. Bridge services include medication for opioid use disorder initiation/continuation, wound care, integrated primary care, HIV and hepatitis C screenings, treatment, prevention, and specialty follow-up.

“There are a lot of factors already working against people fighting substance use disorder, and care can become fragmented between what happens in and outside a hospital setting,” said Rebecca Jaffe, MD, associate professor of medicine and division director of Hospital Medicine. “The Sheller Bridge Program is about engaging the patient when and where they need help, weaving together an array of services and providers both at Jefferson and in the community.”

The Bridge Program connects the services of tertiary care hospitals, starting in emergency

rooms, with community systems designed to address long-term medical, behavioral, and social needs such as housing, legal assistance, and food insecurity, facilitating a compassionate handoff and transition into the community.

Earlier this year, Jefferson received a \$250,000 two-year Venture Grant from the Pew

**By contrast,
the number of
deaths among
non-Hispanic
White individuals
declined slightly
(612 to 537,
or 12%).**

Charitable Trusts to support the Bridge program, enabling it to respond more quickly to emerging concerns and expand service reach to aid in post-discharge follow-up and recovery. The grant will also enhance the work of JAMS.

“Jefferson is grateful for the generosity of the Pew Charitable Trusts,” said Lara Carson Weinstein, MD, professor of family medicine and co-lead of the Center for Supportive Healthcare. “Their vision and leadership will enable the Stephen and Sandra Sheller Consult and Bridge Program to establish the gold standard in outpatient complex care for people who use drugs

for the Philadelphia region, offering hope for marginalized populations whose needs are not well met by the existing systems.”

Many people who leave the hospital before their treatment is complete because of intolerable withdrawal symptoms find it difficult to re-access care because of stigma and siloed systems. The Bridge Program services are designed to better meet the complex mental, behavioral, and physical health needs of people with substance use disorders, building on treatment initiated during acute hospitalizations and improving patient engagement and success in recovery following discharge.

Certified recovery specialists provide critical patient engagement benefits and care for each patient, providing peer support and patient stabilization.

“Once we get the referral, I’m usually the first person to see them in the hospital,” says Bobbie Deo, a certified recovery specialist. “I introduce myself, my role in peer support, and then the Bridge Clinic.”

“To be a certified recovery specialist in Pennsylvania, you have to have lived experience,” she shares. “I completely understand the emotions people are going through, so I try to go in and relay that I’m here for them. Sometimes—most times—this population is ignored. I’m their advocate. I try to get them engaged and to know that they’re not alone. It is more meaningful for them to speak to someone who knows where they’ve been.”

Deo sums up the power of the Bridge Program. “I’ve gone into patients’ rooms, and you can literally see a brick wall around



▲ *Celebration of the Opening of the Stephen and Sandra Sheller Consult and Bridge Program on May 2, 2024*

them—then I start talking about my experiences and my life, and through their body language you can just watch it literally fall in front of you,” she says. “They will start sitting in the seat and being more engaged and wanting to talk to me.”

Deo offers both empathy and an example for a way out. “Addiction is such a lonely and miserable place, and just to have somebody stick their hand out to say, ‘Hey, I know what you’re going through’—I wish I had had somebody to do that for me,” she says. “That’s why I take my job so seriously and I try so hard to help people—because I didn’t have anybody, and somehow, I was able to find my way out. If I can help somebody not struggle, why not?”

Researchers at Thomas Jefferson University are also focusing on addiction treatment in Philadelphia. Utilizing geographic information systems (GIS) mapping and focus groups, a new study made possible by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts, “Mapping the Opioid Use

Disorder Crisis in Philadelphia,” has found that navigating the city’s drug treatment program offerings deters many people with opioid addiction from getting the care they need.

Study data was collected between November 2022 and August 2023, with the goal to provide insights into the factors that contribute to patient engagement, early exit from care, and retention.

The research team used study findings to develop policy and practice recommendations around treatment access and retention with the goals of reducing overdose deaths in Philadelphia while supporting the development of a more just and equitable system of care. Study findings illustrated that individuals living with substance use describe several social determinants of health that create barriers to care, including transportation, housing, comorbid mental and physical health conditions, wounds, language issues, and childcare. In addition, there are

distinct patterns of accessibility related to race/ethnicity, as most inpatient and outpatient facilities are in census tracts with high proportions of people who are non-Hispanic Black.

“We did several focus groups with people who have accessed the opioid use disorder treatment system in Philadelphia,” said Erin Kelly, assistant professor. “And while many had great experiences, many had experienced a lot of barriers both to getting into treatments and staying in treatment.”

In addition to its recommendations, study authors note that while it is also important to acknowledge the existence of numerous ongoing local and city-led initiatives designed to meet the needs of this rapidly evolving crisis, and that initiatives to coordinate services continue, significantly more resources and support are needed.

Still, Deo expresses optimism and real hope for the future. “Obviously the opioid epidemic is not going anywhere,” she says. “It’s getting extremely out of control, and so many times, people just slip through the cracks. I slipped through the cracks plenty of times. Our whole goal is to be there for the patient that doesn’t have anybody—and that’s so important—because that’s a lot of them. We’re going to make this something memorable, and I can’t wait. We’re growing every day, and this time next year, we’re going to be telling a whole different story.”



▲ Dean Marino and her son Thomas, a U.S. Army captain

Harnessing the Qualities That Create Healthcare Heroes

Program Supports Military Members in Quest to Become Nurses

BY CINDY LEFLER

It was early in his nursing career, and his deployments to war zones in Iraq were still fresh in his mind.

Angelo DeFeo was caring for a fellow veteran back home in Philadelphia when the patient in the room next door suffered cardiac arrest and the rapid response team went into action.

The noise, the commotion, the lights, the flurry of activity, sent his patient into an acute episode of PTSD.

“He began exhibiting symptoms of severe anxiety, reliving traumatic events he experienced in Iraq,” DeFeo remembers. “I moved him into a quiet area and stayed with him. Though there wasn’t much for me to say, I just listened to his story and provided confirmation that he was

supported and that I understood what he was going through.”

It’s that kind of knowledge, empathy, and life experience that makes a great nurse, says Marie Ann Marino, EdD, dean of the Jefferson College of Nursing.

“Students who have served, or are currently serving, add strength and value to the field,” Marino says. “They’re used to crisis management and problem solving, so they’re very resilient; they can handle high-pressure situations and changing demands; they’re comfortable with time-sensitive decisions; they are able to lead as well as collaborate; and they have high cultural competence.”

When Marino took the helm of the Jefferson College of Nursing as dean in 2018, she decided to

put an emphasis on recognizing its veteran and service-connected students. Last year, to help existing military students, and to draw more into the program, she applied for a grant from the Independence Blue Cross Foundation (IBX) to establish the Service Scholars Program.

The program is designed to provide supplemental funding to bridge the gap between Veteran’s Administration-provided benefits of the GI Bill and the Yellow Ribbon Program, a national plan that helps with tuition costs that exceed the maximum Post-9/11 GI Bill reimbursement.

In March 2024 the college was notified it received the \$80,000 grant. It will help students like DeFeo, a former U.S. Army staff

sergeant, who joined the military right out of high school.

“I really had no idea or direction at that time in my life,” he says, noting that enlisting gave him the time to figure out what he wanted to do, while at the same time making him eligible for the GI Bill to help pay toward any future college costs.

He joined in 1998 as electronic warfare technician, but soon transferred to a position as a medical specialist and medic. He had found his calling.

After serving as a medic with the infantry for a year, he reclassified to flight medic, where he stayed for the remainder of his enlisted time. During that period, he was deployed overseas multiple times, including two tours in Iraq.

“It provided me with the skills and passion to continue in that profession,” he says.

After leaving the military in 2006, he earned his RN at Community College of Philadelphia, then went on for a BSN at Jefferson in 2010.

“I knew that I wanted to get my BSN quickly after I graduated (with the RN) and Jefferson was the first program that actually allowed me to apply prior to graduation and prior to having

my license. When I thought about going back for my MSN, Jefferson was my first choice.”

DeFeo, who currently works in the trauma ICU at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, completed the MSN in May 2024. He credits his military service for making him a better nurse, equipping him with the ability to handle the fast-paced nature and challenges of the job, as well as giving him the empathy to provide compassionate care.

Jefferson College of Nursing Steps up for Veterans

For Marino, putting a focus on students with a military background came as second nature to her as a dean, a former Nurse Corps Officer in the Navy Reserve, and the mother of a child who recently served as an officer in the U.S. Army.

Her first initiative at the school was in 2019 with a Veteran’s Day program that featured Leashes of Valor, an organization that pairs service dogs with veterans with PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI). Through that program, Jefferson welcomed Maggie, a yellow Labrador retriever that

now serves as a facility dog, working with students, faculty, and staff across the Jefferson enterprise.

It was during that time that a personal experience shed even more light on the need for support for service-connected students and veterans.

Her son Thomas, a U.S. Army captain, was virtually working on his Jefferson MBA during his deployment. He ran into a series of technical glitches, but the university was eventually able to provide the help he needed, making it easier for him to finish his studies.

From there, Marino determined that a program to help the students transition into college life and beyond would be a priority, and that the support would have to go beyond just financial assistance.

“There’s also academic, emotional, and mental health support, campus and community-wide resources to make their transition into academic life and post-graduation life. These are a lot of transitions for an individual to go through, so we want to be there every step of the way, connecting them hand in glove with each other,” she says.



The program itself includes a peer support network to help students with service backgrounds connect with each other and with mentors, as well as crossover work with other veteran-specific programs across the enterprise, such as PTSD counseling, physical and occupational therapy, and for traumatic brain injury (TBI) treatment.

Currently, there are eight students in the program. However, Marino says the College of Nursing is always looking to expand funding opportunities to service-connected students. Aside from the IBX grant, Jefferson awards the Robert and June Eyerly Scholarship to students who have served in the military or are descendants of veterans.

Marino herself knows the importance of tuition assistance, as she received financial aid while pursuing her doctorate at Teachers College — Columbia University. It was later in her service that she realized her love for teaching and how beneficial a nursing career could be for those with a military background.

“When you’re a nurse in the Navy Reserve, you work with corpsmen who are 18, 19 years old, and you’re teaching them how to take care of patients, how to start IVs, how to draw blood, how to dress wounds, how to provide lifesaving care,” she explains. “These individuals have skills that can be leveraged. They are going to not only care for (civilian) patients, but they’ll be better able to care for prior service patients. After all, who better to care for our nation’s veterans than somebody who has served?”

For Ana Brunal, a staff sergeant in the United States Army Reserve, and current Jefferson nursing student, having a health professional understand the special needs of military personnel is important to getting appropriate care.

“I’ve gone to the doctor myself and realized that it’s hard for me to explain how I’m feeling, and hard for them to understand where I’m coming from,” she says, noting that being a veteran herself gives her unique insight into the needs of members of the military.

It also gives the skills needed to better care for civilians.

“We’re used to being thrown into unknown situations and scenario ... we’re used to that fast-paced environment. We’re also used to working with people from all parts of the world. The Army is kind of like a melting pot of cultures, so we’re taught to understand their background, where they’re coming from.”

Like DeFeo, Brunal, 26, also enlisted upon graduating from high school and plans to “do the full 20.”

She chose nursing after serving as an EMT for three years and seeing how the nurses worked, how they interacted with patients, how the one-on-one, hands-on care impacted the patients’ lives.

She already had a bachelor’s degree in psychology, and decided to move on to a BSN at Jefferson. She will graduate next year—a little later than she had originally planned, due to a one-year deployment to Iraq.

“I went into the program knowing I was going to have to take a break because of an upcoming deployment,

but Jefferson set me up for success,” she says. The college administration worked with her to allow her to start the semester, then take up where she left off when she returned.

Easing the Return to Civilian Life—and Finding a Career

Kathy Gray, DNP, associate professor of the DNP Program and director of the Doctorate of Nursing Practice, Executive Leadership (DNP-EL) Program, conducts research that focuses on the particular needs and challenges of veterans, including mental health issues and homelessness.

The original objective was to increase the knowledge of veterans’ needs at both the college’s leadership level and in civilian healthcare providers. Now, an additional goal is to support the veteran student, too—a population that is growing.

Some of her research centers on the reintegration process of veterans post-deployment.

“Coming back to civilian life is a big change for them,” Gray says. It can be particularly difficult for women, who make up about 15 percent of the demographic.

“In the military they had important jobs, important roles,” she says. “But many enlisted right out of high school so they don’t have college degrees, don’t have opportunities when they come out. So, they may suffer from role identity, maybe depression or anxiety, until they find their niche in the civilian world.”

Service Scholar Program is one way to help fill that niche.

However, Brunal says a lot of veterans are hesitant to go back to school. Between navigating the military benefits available and finding programs, the process can be daunting.

“When you come out, you’re just thrown into the world without knowing what to do,” she says. “Jefferson has been super helpful with directing me in using my benefits.”

She advises her fellow veterans to just “go for it!”

“It’s your future,” she says. “Reach out to your schools. Reach out to your battle buddies because they’ve probably been through it. Take it one day at a time.”

DeFeo agrees, saying that finding support can be difficult, but it’s out there and the Service Scholars Program is a promising step along the way to reintegrating into civilian life.

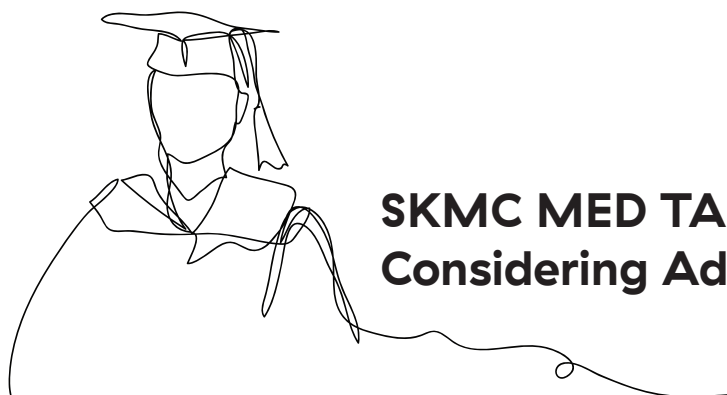
“A lot of us had a rough time over there,” DeFeo says of serving in the Middle East. “It can be a very challenging time and I always feel for the guys that come back and they’re kind of lost. These programs definitely help people get on their feet and center themselves to where they’re doing something productive and positive in their life.”

Marino admits that transitioning from the service to civilian life can be hard, but the Service Scholars Program is in place at Jefferson to help.

“Anything that we can do to make that transition easier is something I believe that we owe to this group of incredible individuals.” 🍷



To support the Service Scholars Program, scan the QR code or visit Jefferson.edu/givejcn



SKMC MED TALK Considering Additional Degrees

On February 1, Sidney Kimmel Medical College students and young alumni were invited to connect and network with distinguished Jefferson alumni and faculty via an interactive webinar examining the myriad of possibilities available to physicians interested in exploring different paths through the acquisition of additional degrees such as MD/MBA, MD/PhD, MD/MEd, MD/MPH, etc.

► Visit magazine.jefferson.edu to view the full webinar!

SPEAKERS

Andres Fernandez, MD, MEd

Assistant Professor Neurology; Intensivist Program NICU Gibbon

David Nash, MD, MBA

Founding Dean Emeritus, Dr. Raymond C. and Doris N. Grandon Professor of Health Policy, Jefferson College of Population Health

John W. C. "Trey" Entwistle III, MD, PhD

Professor, Cardiothoracic Surgery

Douglas Elwood, MD '05, MBA

Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at NYU Grossman School of Medicine; EnSage Health Co-Founder and CEO

Adam C. Mueller, MD, PhD

Instructor, Radiation Oncology

Mary Stephens, MD '94, MPH, FAAFP, FAADM

Associate Professor, Family and Community Medicine

MODERATORS

SKMC Student Ambassadors Elijah Hoffman and Shane Kozick, Class of 2027



What led to your decision to explore new career paths and acquire additional degrees? What lessons have you learned through this experience?

■ David Nash, MD, MBA

Healthcare is America's biggest business, 20% of the annual gross domestic product, or \$4 trillion annually. Now, all doctors are leaders. And the most important challenge that we face in medical education is if all doctors are leaders, and we're in the biggest business in America, most of our students are woefully unprepared to take a leadership role. And that's because even at a great medical school like Sidney Kimmel Medical College, the actual training on how to do any of this doesn't exist. I use my MBA training every day, and it's been a real privilege to be on the faculty for more than three decades. I'm all about training leaders for the future, and I bristle when I hear people say there's the business side and the medical side, because they're inextricably connected. The punchline is, the only way you'll get that training is with a second degree.

■ Douglas Elwood, MD '05, MBA

The real benefit of earning dual degrees is that it introduces a way of thinking that medical students typically do not receive. It provides a broader approach and a deeper understanding of interactions. A significant challenge in business, especially startups, is translating clinical knowledge into a viable business model. For instance, with the shift to value-based care, understanding and implementing it is complex. A dual degree helps bridge clinical and business realms, enabling effective communication and strategy development. It's not about recalling specific lessons from economics classes, but rather applying a different perspective to bridge conversations between these fields.

This integration is crucial for commercializing healthcare products and overcoming challenges. The process of making a clinical concept into a larger enterprise is intricate and requires diverse experiences and insights.

■ Mary Stephens, MD '94, MPH, FAAFP, FAADM

I started in private practice to focus on patient care, though I always had an interest in teaching. After a few years, I felt a strong drive to teach, especially with the growing emphasis on evidence-based medicine. I pursued a master's of public health in North Carolina, funded by a HRSA grant for medical education. After completing my MPH and fellowship training at Carolina, I integrated my public health knowledge into teaching residents about risk, evidence, and applying current news to patient care. In 2011, my daughter was born with Down syndrome, which exposed me to significant biases in her care. This experience, combined with my background in public policy and public health, led me to start a Down syndrome consultation program at Christiana. I later joined Jefferson in 2018 to establish the FAB Center for Complex Care, focusing on teens and adults with complex conditions. I think it's most important to be curious and know what you love. An extra degree is extra work after the end of a long day. So, if you're just trying to check a box, I wouldn't do it.

■ Andres Fernandez, MD, MSED

Being a good clinician doesn't automatically make you a good educator. There's a science to education that isn't covered in medical school. During my master's program, I discovered the qualitative methodologies akin to psychology, which are often overlooked in the quantitatively focused medical training. Master's programs in medical education have emerged over the past decade, designed to be practical and relevant to the work of early faculty members. These programs encourage applying new knowledge directly to one's current role, enhancing leadership and practical skills over time. Balancing education and work is manageable when you integrate learning into daily tasks. At academic institutions with medical schools,

applying master's principles is straightforward. In my roles as clerk director and in the scholarly inquiry track, I use these educational principles daily. Collaborations with other medical schools also allow me to apply this training regularly in my research and administrative duties.

■ John Entwistle III, MD, PhD

As my career progressed, I found it challenging to balance being a cardiac surgeon with conducting PhD-level research. Partnering with someone to run a lab didn't work out for me. While I enjoyed my PhD, I never directly applied those skills. Later, I became interested in ethical issues related to end-stage heart failure, particularly managing patients with left ventricular assist devices. This interest led me to pursue a master's in bioethics around age 50. This degree not only fascinated me but also facilitated my promotion in academic medicine. In academic medicine, promotion requires regional or national recognition and publications or educational contributions. My bioethics degree helped me join ethics committees and national societies, and to deliver lectures on bioethics, aiding my advancement at Jefferson. Your undergraduate degree doesn't constrain you; medical schools recognize your ability to learn. Choose a second degree based on your interests, not just for the credential, as genuine interest will drive your success.

■ Adam C. Mueller, MD, PhD

Balancing two degrees is a significant challenge for any physician-scientist. The primary difficulty is utilizing both trainings effectively and excelling in two distinct roles: managing a lab and providing high-quality patient care. Competing with full-time PhD researchers for grant funding and maintaining high standards in patient care are demanding tasks that must be met simultaneously. Clinical care, being both rewarding and time-consuming, often encroaches on research time, making schedule control essential. It involves saying no to certain responsibilities to prevent clinical duties

from overwhelming research commitments, while ensuring colleagues don't perceive you as neglecting departmental standards. From a financial perspective, physician-scientists generally fare better than their PhD counterparts, but they must also secure their own salaries. This is easier for physicians in less procedural specialties. However, those in high-earning roles face pressure to maximize their valuable time and need more grants to cover higher salaries. Balancing these demands remains a fundamental career challenge. 🍷



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REDEFINE POSSIBLE

LEGACY IN ACTION

University Celebrates Five New Endowed Positions

Endowed positions are among the highest honors faculty receive, an acknowledgement of the esteem in which the institution and academic peers hold them. Jefferson currently has **119 endowed positions**. An investiture ceremony officially bestows the named position, honoring the recipient as well as the benefactor whose generosity makes the appointment possible.

As part of Jefferson's yearlong Bicentennial celebration, the university recently held five investitures celebrating new endowed positions.



▲ Keith L. Leaphart, DO, MBA

Alexander and Johnston Family Endowed Clinical Directorship

In January, post-grad alumna **Marlana Orloff, MD RES'12, FEL'15**, associate professor of medicine, was named the **Alexander and Johnston Family Endowed Clinical Director of Uveal Melanoma**. The Alexander and Johnston families endowed the position to express their gratitude for the compassionate care they've received at Jefferson over the years. Orloff's research focus is on primary and advanced melanomas and investigating the epidemiology of rare melanoma subtypes.

Humana Chief Health Equity and Community Impact Officer

In February, **Keith L. Leaphart, DO, MBA**, was named the **Humana Chief Health Equity and Community Impact Officer**. The position was created as part of a transformational \$15 million gift from Humana Inc. to advance health equity and population health initiatives. Leaphart also serves as an executive vice president for the Jefferson enterprise and oversees the Jefferson Collaborative for Health Equity, which fosters partnerships to reduce health disparities.



▲ Marlana Orloff, MD

William A. Finn '67 Directorship

In April, **Dana Scott**, associate professor, was named the **William A. Finn '67 Director of the Design, Engineering, and Commerce Core Curriculum**. An alumnus of the textile engineering program at Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science and past trustee, **Bill Finn '67**, made history with this gift in establishing the first donor-endowed position on Jefferson's East Falls campus. Scott, an internationally recognized multidisciplinary artist, also serves as director of assessment of Student Learning Outcomes.

William C. Rowland Jr. Professorship

In April, **Tsao-Wei Liang, MD**, division chief of Movement Disorders, was named the **William C. Rowland Jr. Professor of Neurology**. The late William Clift ("Bill") Rowland Jr., an entrepreneur and avid outdoorsman, endowed the position with the goal of advancing scientific breakthroughs that would one day lead to a cure for Parkinson's disease. Liang also serves as medical director of the Jefferson Comprehensive Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center.

Nicholas J. Maiale Distinguished Professorship

In May, **Abdolmohamad Rostami, MD, PhD**, chair of the Department of Neurology, was named the Nicholas J. Maiale Distinguished Professor of Neurology. Maiale, an acclaimed, accomplished attorney, has led a diverse and successful career in Pennsylvania. Rostami's research interest is on the immunopathogenesis of multiple sclerosis and finding better therapies for this disease.



▲ Abdolmohamad Rostami, MD, PhD



▲ William A. Finn '67



▲ Tsao-Wei Liang, MD



To learn more about Jefferson professorships and other endowed positions, please visit Jefferson.edu/professorships

RAM



For the latest news and updates, subscribe to the Ram Roundup newsletter at Jefferson.edu/Newsletter

ROUNDUP

ATHLETICS



Tom Shirley-Associate Director of Athletics and Women's Basketball Coach

Tom Shirley Steps Down As Athletic Director

Shirley will remain head coach of the women's basketball team

BY BRIAN HICKEY

Tom Shirley, the assistant vice president for athletics at Thomas Jefferson University, will be stepping down as athletic director in August. However,

from his expertise. We'll miss his leadership across all Jefferson athletic teams, but we're incredibly happy that he will continue to coach our women's basketball team."

Shirley started at the school in 1989 as the associate director of athletics and head women's basketball coach after an eight-year stint as the director of athletics and head women's basketball coach at DeSales University, his alma mater. In January 1992, Shirley was promoted to director of athletics, succeeding H.R. Ted Taylor.

On July 1, 2017, Philadelphia University integrated with Thomas Jefferson University, with Shirley navigating the athletic department through the transition.

"I have witnessed 'the three names' of the University during my career to date. Each one brought a different vantage point and a different mode of operation, but all three brought fulfillment and satisfaction," Shirley says. "The common denominator was always the student-athletes and what an outstanding group they have been."

Coupled with the transition to Jefferson, Shirley created the current landscape of Jefferson Athletics with the addition of women's volleyball in 1997, men's and women's cross country in 2005, women's rowing in 2006, men's and women's track and field in 2012, and women's golf in 2016.

he will remain on as head coach of the Rams women's basketball team.

Shirley is the winningest active women's basketball coach in Division II history and the fifth winningest amongst all divisions (record: 881-378).

Susan Aldridge, PhD, the University's president, shared that Shirley's impact goes beyond athletics. Under his leadership, the Rams have earned the NCAA Division II President's Award for Academic Excellence in 11 of 12 years, achieving a four-year academic success rate of 90% or higher in those years, which means that the student-athletes graduated within six years of original enrollment.

"Coach Shirley's remarkably successful career has not only been on the courts or the fields. He has influenced generations of students who perform exceptionally well in class and in athletics," she says. "Coach Shirley leaves a legacy of coaches and students who have benefitted



In 2019-20, Shirley helped elevate the head coaching positions of men's and women's cross country/track and men's and women's tennis to full-time status, giving 11 of the Rams' 17 sports full-time coverage and increasing the number of full-time staff to 16. He then guided Jefferson Athletics through the COVID-19 pandemic, with 12 of the Rams' 17 sports able to compete during the 2020-21 academic year.

In the time since the school joined the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference in 2005, the Rams have won 43 conference titles, including an unprecedented six during the 2008-09 season.

Shirley also established in 2008 the Kathleen and Thomas R. Shirley Sr. Scholarship—which is need-based and earmarked for a resident of Roxborough, Manayunk, or East Falls as the first-choice recipient—in memory of his parents. The scholarship has raised more than \$403,000.

Shirley is one of the most successful coaches in the history of the women's game. In his 35 seasons at the University, the Rams have won at least 20 games 26 times. In 2022-23, Jefferson advanced to the NCAA East Region Final (Sweet 16) for the first time since 1986 and closed the year with a 28-5 record.

Jefferson concluded their 2023-24 season with a historic run, winning 32 games on the year and ending on a 23-game win streak, both school records.

The campaign earned Shirley recognition as a finalist for WBCA Coach of the Year. He won his fifth CACC title as the Rams had the least amount

of points given up in a championship game when Jefferson beat Chestnut Hill 61-39 in that matchup. The Rams made the NCAA Tournament, making it to the East Region Title game for the second straight season.

Shirley had four career 1,000-point scorers on his squad this past season, with senior point guard Morgan Robinson breaking a 40-year-old career assist school record (see sidebar).

Junior Sam Yenchu was listed on the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Division II Coaches' All-America Honorable Mention team. For the season she averaged a double-double with 15.6 ppg and 11.6 rpg on the year. Yenchu was second in the nation with 22 double doubles on the year. Yenchu was named CACC Player of the Year; made All-CACC First Team, D2CCA First Team, and CACC All-Tournament Team; and helped the Rams win the CACC Tournament and make their second straight NCAA Division II Tournament East Region Championship Game.

"While I will pass the torch as director of athletics, I am extremely excited to continue at the University as the head coach for women's basketball," he says. "It's been a terrific experience. If I was able to do it again, I would do it at the same institution, in the same career. I had the opportunity to do something I thoroughly enjoyed."

Thanking former and current student-athletes, University administration, and department colleagues for all their support and quality work through the years, he also looked toward the future.

"My best wishes go out to my successor and know that you will have my steadfast support," Shirley says. 🍀



Robinson Sets Assist Record

Morgan Robinson, a dynamic and lightning-fast point guard, made history at Jefferson by becoming the Rams' all-time leader in assists, surpassing a record that had stood for 40 years.

Head coach Tom Shirley, known for his wit, joked with Robinson throughout her career about the improbability of breaking the longstanding record. "Relax, Marybeth Rogers has it, she's going to keep it," he would say, referring to Rogers' career total of 654 assists set in 1984.

The 5-foot-9 Robinson began her senior season with 545 assists, ranking third on the all-time list and within reach of the record. On January 6, she surpassed Rogers' mark in a victory over Dominican. She finished her collegiate career this season with a total of 826 assists.

Robinson led Division II for assists per game this season with 8.3. Despite coming from a family of shooters, Robinson always prioritized passing. "I'm happy when my teammates are scoring, and I want to put

them in a position to score," she says.

Beyond her playmaking, Robinson averaged 8.9 points, 6.1 rebounds, and 2.2 steals this season. She also joined the 1,000-point club and ranks third in career steals at Jefferson with 297.

Coach Shirley shares that Maribeth Rogers '84 sent a congratulatory email to Robinson after she broke her record. He adds, "Now I got to say, 'Morgan Robinson has it, relax.'" 



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SEPTEMBER 28, 2024



Thomas Jefferson
University

HOME OF SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE

BY CINDY LEFLER



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Service to Humanity

**Be
KIND**

BRYANT GREENE, MBA

'96, says he lives his life based on the advice of his great-grandmother: "You never know who's going to give you your last cup of water, so you've got to be kind."

And so, Greene has made it his life's work to honor his beloved "Big Grandma"—from owning and operating a senior home care agency to volunteering with a myriad of community organizations that work on behalf of young and old, human and animal.

Now, he's taken on an additional role—chair of the Advancement Council for his alma mater, the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering, and Commerce.

Greene, who earned his master's degree in business management with a minor in international business at Kanbar, sees the position as a way of passing the baton to the next generation and promoting a school he believes "has the right model from an educational standpoint to empower our next generation of leaders."

As chair of the council, Greene works with the faculty and students to create the best collegiate experience possible.

"We're staying on top of trends, connecting with students to see what's on their minds, and working on communicating better to meet their needs," he says. "It is really a transformational period in life when you're trying to figure out what you want to do. You have to learn how to navigate and network, and you realize how important it is to be the master of your own brand."

Of particular interest is supporting first-generation college students who might need a little more guidance, and mental health outreach for a population feeling more and more stress.

He also wants to foster more recognition of the excellent education Jefferson provides, noting, "while a lot of people know the campus is there, they don't know all the campus has to offer."

Circle of Life

A native of Philadelphia, Greene is a graduate of Central High. After earning a degree in accounting and finance from Virginia State University and starting a position at Chrysler Financial, he decided to get an MBA from what was then called Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science.

He then went on to a few different corporate leadership positions before landing at Comcast, but when the economy took a downturn in 2009 he found himself laid off and looking for a job.

"The only opportunity that presented itself was buying into a franchise. The one that appealed to me most was senior care," he says, noting that his love for senior citizens and for caring for others struck a chord with him. And so, in 2010, he bought into Always Best Care Senior Services, which operates in Philadelphia and surrounding counties, as well as Delaware.

"I grew up around hospitals," he says. "My mother, my grandmother, and a few of my aunts worked in hospitals and in places that provided care

in the community. I was also a caregiver for a long time because I had the blessings of grandparents and great-grandparents. I recognize what it is to have to care for a loved one and still go to work. To turn that into a business has been a wondrous ride."

The official name of Greene's LLC is BMG Circle of Life.

"That's how I see it—being able to learn from every generation. There's nothing better than to see the synergy between people just getting started in life and people that have been here for a while—to see them coexist and trade off of each other." For example, he says, when a young person shows a senior how to use social media, or an older person encourages someone who aspires to enter what was once their field.

"We do a lot to match people from a caregiver perspective to the people that they're taking care of [at Always Best Senior Care]," he says.

"It's really uplifting when you see a nursing student taking care of a retired nurse," he says. His own grandmother, Elizabeth "Chubby" Greene, currently a client of her grandson's senior care services, was a nurse and loves talking to her caregivers about their curriculum and sharing her experiences in the profession.

Melding generations to promote shared knowledge and experience is something that is in the back of his mind for Jefferson, perhaps through a career placement program.

"There is nothing more beneficial to learning than speaking with someone

I just want people to really be kind. I'm trying to leave a legacy of giving from my heart. And when you do things from the heart, it's not labor-intensive. It just feels right.

who has firsthand knowledge of history," he says. "When you get a chance to talk to a centenarian—someone who has lived through many conflicts, through wars, through the civil rights movement ... someone who can talk about when women had to take up a lot of the jobs that men did during World War II, or who can remember when women were not able to vote—it's different than reading it on Google."

Sleepless in South Jersey

Greene credits his great-grandmother and two grandmothers for teaching him the importance of being kind and serving his community, noting that "Chubby" served meals to the homeless at her church every week until she couldn't physically get there anymore.

That is why he supports several organizations that give aid to the homeless and veterans, and is on the board of the Alzheimer's Association, where he has been a top fundraiser for the past 11 years. He works with Philadanco, as well as several cancer societies, and supports the Overbrook School for the Blind, his daughter Bria's alma mater. He has also donated to a menstrual hub for young women who are not able to afford feminine hygiene products, and works with a prisoner re-entry program for women who are looking to make a fresh start.

Greene has also created scholarships for business students at his two alma maters—Jefferson and Virginia State University.

And then there's his "dream-come-true"—his animal rescue farm.

"I've always loved animals, and have always wanted to manage a rescue," he says. "When you have an animal that's been mistreated and doesn't trust humans, and when you're able to bring them out of whatever difficult situation they've been in and they start to trust you all over again ... It's a special kind of feeling."

Uncle Beez Rescue Farm in Sewell, New Jersey, houses horses, donkeys, ponies, alpacas, sheep, and goats that have been abused, surrendered, or neglected, or that were slated for the slaughter house. The "herd"—as he calls them—shares the farm with Greene's three senior dogs and 11 barn cats.

The nonprofit not only helps the animals. He opens the farm for visits from various groups, including children, those with

disabilities, and civic groups to promote "zen."

Greene's other side gig—also as a volunteer—is hosting a local radio and television program called the "Did You Know Show," which focuses on connecting people to home, community, and business resources. In addition, he has just broken ground for his newest business venture—Uncle B's Greeneries, a legal cannabis dispensary in South Jersey. Its motto, he says with a chuckle, is, "The grass is always Greener at Uncle B's!"

How does he get it all done? "I'm the world's biggest insomniac," he says, admitting that he will be up sending emails at 3 a.m. "But when you like what you're doing, it doesn't feel like work."

As long as he has the energy, the fifty-something-year-old says he'll keep doing what he's doing to follow his great-grandmother's words of wisdom.

"I just want people to really be kind," he says. "I'm trying to leave a legacy of giving from my heart. And when you do things from the heart, it's not labor-intensive. It just feels right." 🍵





Explore, Learn, and Experience the World with Jefferson Alumni!

As part of our commitment to lifelong learning, the Office of Alumni Relations offers opportunities for group travel for Jefferson, Textile, and Philadelphia University alumni, friends, and families. Our varied itinerary of travel destinations combines educational forums, unique adventures, and excursions to places of historical and cultural interest, with opportunities to discover nature's majestic landscapes and incredible wildlife. These trips offer the highest-quality travel experience through our partnerships with experienced travel providers.

- ▶ **ACA Enchanting Gems of Austria**
August 21–30, 2024
- ▶ **African Expedition by Train**
August 30–September 13, 2024
- ▶ **Northern Lights and Wildlife of Northern Manitoba**
September 7–12, 2024
- ▶ **Paris: Featuring the African American Experience**
September 7–15, 2024
- ▶ **Autumnal Allure of Canada and New England**
September 15–26, 2024
- ▶ **Chilean Wonders: Lake District and Patagonia**
January 20–31, 2025
- ▶ **Antarctica Discovery**
January 18–29, 2025
- ▶ **The Galapagos Islands – Western Itinerary**
February 11–18, 2025
- ▶ **Great Trains and Grand Canyons**
April 4–11, 2025
- ▶ **Cuba and its People: Havana**
March 9–15, 2025

For detailed trip information and to join our Travel Interest List, visit [Jefferson.edu/AlumniTravel](https://jefferson.edu/AlumniTravel) or contact Alumni Relations at 215-955-7750 or alumni@jefferson.edu.

1972

William Jackson, Chemistry, began his career working for major chemical manufacturers in the Philadelphia area. He went on to join the Philadelphia Gas Works chemical laboratory to achieve a management position. He was gifted with two daughters and five grandchildren.

1974

William Reeve Archer, Business Management, retired from Cooper Hospital in November 1997. He is a volunteer with the Historical Society of Moorestown, New Jersey, where he has served as the town crier since 2011 and performed a variety of activities in this capacity.

1978

Diane Brown Raver, Textile Design, has had so much happen over the years! She segued into the commercial television business and was the first woman president of a commercial production company in New York City. She later moved back to New Jersey and founded the Garden State Film Festival, which held its 22nd annual event in March. Recently she accepted the position of director of the New Jersey Film Academy, where she creates the workforce development program in the film and TV sector for the state.

1979

Karen Kaufman, MSOD, Marketing, was recently named an officer on the 2024 Governing Board for the Independence Historical Trust.

1982

George Smith, Marketing, is approaching retirement. He spent 42 years in a career in aviation, from his first eight years flying for the United States Air Force to his last 34 years as a commercial airline pilot for Delta Air Lines. He retires as an international B767-400 captain. The plan didn't start out that way, and it's a long way from his days on the soccer field, but it's been a dream career!

1985

David Stephen Capelli, Business Administration, relocated to Washington, D.C., in 2013 and spent five years working for the Department of Justice (DOJ) Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), where he was a member of the digital forensic laboratory. In addition to examining electronic evidence for countless drug-related investigations, he traveled to U.S. embassies all over the world to train U.S. federal agents on how to seize and examine digital evidence. In 2019, he was able to transfer to Philadelphia and return to his hometown where he has been working for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigating fraud, waste, and abuse concerning federal government employees and programs.

1994

Christy (Meehan) Brady, Accounting, recently ran for office and was elected as Philadelphia city controller. "It's an incredible honor to serve our community in this capacity, and I'm eager to make a positive impact in our great city."

1996

Sandra Redguard-Revers, Finance, is currently working as a freelance senior instructional designer and technologist building educational environments for in-house and customer-facing professionals. After her position at GlaxoSmithKline as an operations director over 15 years ended, she continued working for eight years as an adjunct professor at Thomas Jefferson University. Prior to the pandemic, she accepted a position as a university professor of translation and interpretation in Mianyang, Sichuan Province, China, for two years educating graduate and doctoral candidates. After, she returned and obtained her PGCertED in instructional design and technology.

1998

Kathryn Caucci Gates, Physical Therapy, moved to California after graduation in 1998 and resides in Sacramento. She obtained her board certification as a clinical specialist in orthopedics in 2001 (recertified 2011 and 2021) and in sports in 2015. She is currently a senior PT/PT3 with UC Davis Health at the Edwards Family Athletic Center in Davis, California. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Mike, their dog, Chloe, and grandson, Edison (10). She stays active through triathlons and is an active member, past president, and board member of the Sacramento Triathlon Club. She completed Ironman California in 2022 and Ironman 70.3 Oregon and Santa Cruz in 2023.

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2004

Jacqi (Pagenkemper)

Kernaghan, PA Studies, is a physician assistant (PA) practicing in bone health. She was recently named America's Top PA in Bone Health. She is also a distinguished fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, where she volunteers as a delegate from Pennsylvania as well as the sergeant-at-arms of the House of Delegates. She is also a national speaker on osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease.

2005

Allyson Fleischman,

Masters Physical Therapy, recently presented in a platform presentation at the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) combined sections meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, on "Same Day Discharge from the Ambulatory Surgery Unit on Post-op Day 0 for the Orthopedic Patient."

2011

Juan Ramirez, Occupational Therapy, moved to Seattle, Washington, after school, where he worked in acute care in Virginia Mason and University of Washington. He decided to return to school to obtain a PhD in geography, studying occupational changes within migrant communities. He hopes to defend in fall of 2025.

2012

Alisha (Rickert) Ciavardone, Fashion Merchandising, now owns her own bridal boutique! The shop, a bridal consignment boutique, opened six years ago and is doing well. It was an idea

she had just before coming to the University!

Nicole (Di Toro) Petrozzo,

Architecture, completed her MS in construction management and currently works as the director of preconstruction for Scott Long Construction.

2013

Louis Ferri, Nursing Informatics, started his own independent nursing informatics practice, RN Informatics, in 2019.

Jen Milano, Graphic Design, has led a creative team for Homeland Security Investigations for the past five years. She is designing a family of web and mobile apps that feature analytical tools to help field agents build their cases. When she's not working, you can find her on a golf course (battling her husband for bragging rights, of course) or at home, in Frederick, Maryland, with a baby on each hip!

2014

Trad Bawayan, Construction Management, went back to his home country of Saudi Arabia, where he worked with AECOM as a project engineer. Within three years he shifted his position to stakeholder manager within the organization. He later moved on to Jeddah Central Development. He is very grateful to all of his professors and classmates. "I have learned a lot, and that helped me for sure on my career path."

Shaker Katu, Sustainable Design, is currently working at a nonprofit organization as a sustainability manager in

Mohammed BinSalman City. He manages all the green building certification goals in the city. He also worked previously in one of the biggest, most ambitious projects in Saudi Arabia, Diriyah Gate, where he managed all sustainability activities at multiple master plans. He is currently pursuing a PhD in urban and regional planning, studying the resilience of water.

2015



Brittany Rae Buckmire,

Fashion Industry Management, summited Mt. Kilimanjaro safely on January 10, 2024.

2019

Jon Lauro, Medical Laboratory Science, moved to Florida in 2021 and married his husband at Walt Disney World in 2023! He now works at a biotechnology company analyzing flow cytometry data.

2021

Jack Whalen, Architecture, has been hard at work developing himself as a professional and giving back to his local community. He passed his final Architectural Registration exam last year in October and



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received his license, making him the youngest resident architect in the State of Delaware currently.

2022

Michaela Day, Fashion Design, is an associate designer at Fownes Brothers, running an independent project for a new brand Fownes acquired that will launch in 2025. She took her first work trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has already seen some of her work selling at Anthropologie, Teva, and 2 Blind Brothers. "I love what I do and the people I work with. I look forward to seeing where else I will find myself."

Meghan Gallogly, Nursing, worked as a transplant nurse in Boston, Massachusetts, for five years while she finished her MSN as an adult-

gerontology acute care nurse practitioner. Since graduating she has transitioned to a new role as a nurse practitioner on the liver transplant team at Massachusetts General Hospital, where she evaluates and manages patients on the transplant list. She started her career in transplant as a nurse extern on the liver/kidney transplant floor at Jefferson while in the BSN program. She is so grateful to Jefferson for her incredible education, and the opportunities it provided her!

Loewe Kasprenski, Project Management, received an unbelievable offer from a top-notch clinical research facility. This program changed her life and fueled her dreams to reach for more. Currently she is in the thralls of the

pursuit of a doctorate degree. She must thank Jefferson for being accepted and excelling. "I encourage anyone wavering on the idea of enrolling to take the plunge!"

2023

Shannon Bower, Fashion Merchandising & Management, is excited to announce that after months of hard work and dedication, she's accepted an intern position at Tiffany & Co. She will be interning in Product Development and Sourcing within the Home and Accessories Department.

Angela Diebler, Occupational Therapy, has worked at an elementary and middle school for four months as a school-based occupational therapist.



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You can also use your IRA to fund a once-in-a-lifetime gift that makes a big impact at Jefferson, pays you income, and defers tax on a portion of your required minimum distribution!

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**1946**

Laura (Maurer) Pollack, MD

1947

Marie (Baloga) Peters

1948

Helen (Tratch) Guthrie

1949

Harold Strause Jr.

1951

Phyllis (Gerhard) McClure

1953

Madelyn (DeLong) Hanratty

1955

John Marchesani, MD

1956

Marjorie (Arnold) Cook
Marguerite (Johnson) Domenick

1957

Phillip Marone, MD
Georgann (Jacobs) Miller
John Murray, MD

1959

Thomas Holder, MD

1960

Gary Carpenter, MD
Bette (Reaver) Light
Robert Stine, MD

1961

Mary (Gravish) Cushing
Carolyn (Doorly) Vizzard

1962

Alan Freedman, MD
Jerome Rudnitzky, MD

1963

B. (Stabile) Ambruso
Linford Gehman, MD
Bruce Leinweber, MD
John O'Mara Jr.

1964

David Capuzzi, MD
John Parsons, MD

1965

Edwin Cohen, MD

1966

Thomas Green, MD
Donald Molineux Sr.
Walter Moran Jr.

1968

John Gericke

1969

Victor Tuma, MD

1970

Leonard Cerullo, MD

1971

Jeffrey Borish

1972

Dolores (Welke) Obert-Thorn
Ralph Ragan

1973

Joanne (Beyer) Bergquist

1974

Thomas Forsyth Jr.

1975

David Azar, MD
Thomas Mizianty, MD

1977

Marc Medway, MD

1978

Paul Abate

1979

Joan DiPalma, MD

1980

Brian Cole
Vasanth Orocovsky, MD
Susan Sullivan

1984

Larry Bosh
Paula Watts

1986

Mary Johnstone

1987

Gregory McNutt

1993

Mary Matta
Mary Nyce

1994

Rita Young

1995

William Thompson III

1998

John Wulko

2000

Margaret Rastiello

2001

Susan Fredericks-Kots

Einstein Resident Alum

Edward Weiss

JEFFERSON INNOVATOR Magazine

TRIVIA

Give our open-book quiz a shot!

HINT: All of the answers are in this issue!

1. **After a mishap left him with a broken horn, Jefferson's mascot Phil the Ram was nursed back to health, reimagined, and equipped with a new bionic horn made of what?**
 - A. A strong knit of fabrics including velvet and tweed
 - B. Plastic made from recycled bottles
 - C. Carbon fiber
 - D. Aluminum

2. **Jefferson recently celebrated new endowed positions as a result of the amazing generosity of our donors. How many new endowed positions did we celebrate and how many positions do we currently have in totality?**
 - A. 3 new positions; 110 total
 - B. 5 new positions; 119 total
 - C. 2 new positions; 99 total
 - D. 6 new positions; 115 total

3. **Jefferson Women's Basketball player Morgan Robinson surpassed Marybeth Rogers' record set in 1984, finishing her collegiate career with a total of how many assists?**
 - A. 776
 - B. 699
 - C. 901
 - D. 826



Submit your answers at Jefferson.edu/InnovatorTrivia or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera by August 30, 2024. A perfect score will enter you in a drawing to win a Jefferson T-shirt.



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