

JEFFERSON

i n n o v a t o r



SPRING
2020

THOMAS
JEFFERSON
UNIVERSITY



reimagine

The Campaign
for Jefferson

Reimagine is our commitment to raising the resources it takes to change the world, not in a small way or a single way, but in multiple, meaningful ways—swiftly and simultaneously. By focusing on four key themes, we're going to change the future for Philadelphia and beyond:

People Leading Optimistic Revolutions

Spaces that Heal and Inspire

Communities United for Health Equity

Discoveries that Improve Lives

This is your chance to make a difference.
This is your moment to say, **"i'm in."**

reimagine.jefferson.edu // [#iminforjefferson](https://twitter.com/iminforjefferson)





STEPHEN K. KLASKO, MD, MBA
President and CEO,
Thomas Jefferson University
and Jefferson Health

MARK L. TYKOCINSKI, MD
Provost and Executive Vice President

ELIZABETH A. DALE, EDD, MPA
Executive Vice President and
Chief Advancement Officer

LISA REPKO, JD
Vice President, Thomas Jefferson University
and Planned Giving

CRISTINA A. GESO
Associate Vice President, Alumni Relations

JEFFERSON INNOVATOR STAFF

Editor
MARK P. TURBIVILLE, Sr. AVP, Communications

Design
SHAE BERLER GOUDREAU, Creative Director
MEGAN PLESCHA, Assistant Creative Director

Senior Writers
CINDY LEFLER
PETER NICHOLS

Digital
EMILY BUTKUS, Video
NICOLETTE GASIEWSKI, Video
ALI LUBIN, Magazine.Jefferson.edu
HEATHER MAHON, Magazine.Jefferson.edu

Photography
ED CUNICELLI

Project Coordinators
LAUREN EVRON, Events
ALISON PAJONK, Communications



Check out videos and exclusives at
magazine.jefferson.edu

A Message from the President

When I was a teenager in the 1960s, I loved a show called *The Time Tunnel*. Every episode saw our heroes get trapped, escape, trapped again, and escape again. They never really got out of the Time Tunnel; they had to adapt and learn from one fantastic adventure to the next.

The workplace of tomorrow is looking more like the Time Tunnel: amazing, but you have to keep learning, or you’re stuck.

Earlier this year I served as a distinguished fellow of the World Economic Forum, charged with developing equitable and sustainable business models for what’s being called the “fourth industrial revolution.”

The fourth industrial revolution means the blurring of boundaries between the digital, physical, and biological worlds. It’s a fusion of artificial intelligence, robotics, genetic engineering, quantum computing, and the kitchen sink of exciting new technologies that will blossom in the next decade.

The impact of this shift—on higher education, on healthcare, on everything—will be immense.

For one, anything a machine can do better than a human, a machine will be employed to do. Let that sink in. The people you work with tomorrow will be increasingly diverse—geographically, culturally, and intellectually. The challenges workers will face will be new and complex—what got you out of the last time trap won’t help you escape the next.

Preparing students for the future of work means we’re preparing them to be more human. We’re helping them leverage the abilities that people possess, which machines can’t replicate.

We’re teaching students—whether they’re studying business, architecture, fashion, or medicine—to leverage their creativity, intuition, and communication skills. We’re fostering their ability to teach themselves, to engage in lifelong learning and be able to curate their own ongoing education.

Technology can make our lives better but only if we remember the human in the middle. That’s a lesson that’ll stand the test of time. 🍷



Stephen K. Klasko
President and CEO,
Thomas Jefferson University
and Jefferson Health



SPRING 2020

On the cover:
A look into Jefferson’s past, present, and future through the president’s lens.

Jefferson Innovator is produced by Jefferson’s Office of Institutional Advancement in-house design team.

Editor, Alumni Magazine
125 S. 9th St., Suite 700
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-955-8797
editor@jefferson.edu

Alumni Relations
Jefferson.edu/Alumni
215-955-7750

Postmaster: Send address changes to the aforementioned address.
ISSN-0021-5821

Copyright © 2020 Thomas Jefferson University. All rights reserved.



What you have here is something borrowed and something new, with a cover that's mostly blue.

For Textile and PhilaU alumni, this issue brings the same bold storytelling you love in *Innovator*, reimagined with the most dramatic look in its history, and one that, we hope, reflects creativity, curiosity, and connection.

For Jefferson alumni and friends, welcome to your new alumni magazine, the source for stories of alumni leading their fields, faculty members who challenge convention, and students who are redefining what it means to be designers, creators, and caregivers.

Our university has always been historically forward-thinking, bold to pursue meaningful progress in new and unexpected ways. Our first feature dives, sideways, into the archives to look at our combined history of tradition and transformation.

For a cover as important as this one, to inaugurate this redesign, we took a peek inside the mind of our reimagineer-in-chief, Stephen K. Klasko, and saw a nuclear fusion of optimism, empathy, and creativity.

Your story is our story. Let us know what you think of your alumni magazine and what you're up to at editor@jefferson.edu.

- 05** Message from the President
- 08** The Past Is a Prologue ▶
- 15** Shrinking World/Expanding Horizons
- 16** The Nexus: News at Jefferson
- 20** Jefferson Hits the Runway at NYFW
- 22** A Game Changer ▶
- 26** Binge Swatching ▶
- 30** Breaking Down the Walls
- 38** Coming Full Circle ▶

- 44** Question and Innovate
- 46** Designer Health ▶
- 50** The Site Is the Star
- 54** Transcend and Include
- 60** Reimagine ▶
- 64** Ram Roundup ▶
- 68** Class Notes
- 74** In Memory
- 78** Trivia

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

THE PAST IS A PROLOGUE

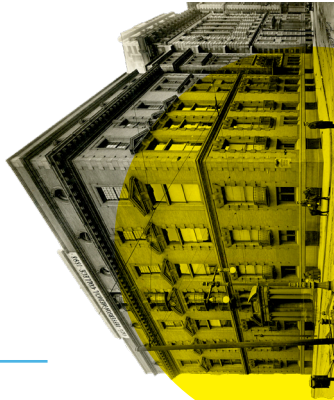
Jefferson was born (twice, or maybe three times) from a desire to rethink the status quo.

In 1824, its founders imagined a better, more human way to train doctors. So, they rewrote the book for healthcare education, for the first time anywhere putting students in the room with patients. Later on, in 1884, our Philadelphia University forebearers saw a gap in the quality of America's textiles. So, they established the nation's first school of textiles and apparel sciences, galvanizing the industry in the United States.

In 2017, the two institutions came together, a fusion of health and design formed to prepare students—and alumni—for the future of work. Whether it's designing smart fabrics or decoding cancer, reconstructing spines or reimagining the runway, the raison d'être of the new Jefferson is improving lives.

The Jefferson tradition has been transformation, and if the past is prologue, the possibilities are endless.





1824

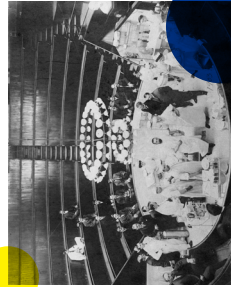
The trustees approve the request, and the Jefferson Medical College is established on January 1 in a rented theatre on Prune Street (now Locust Street). Classes officially start in March; two months later, the first free medical clinic in the country is established.

1849



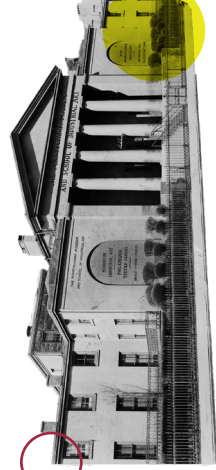
Cost of admission for seven courses at the medical college was \$105, with an extra \$5 matriculation fee and \$30 diploma fee. The price of boarding was \$3 a week.

1877



Thomas Jefferson University Hospital is established; Jefferson Medical College becomes the second medical school in the country with a separate teaching hospital.

1876



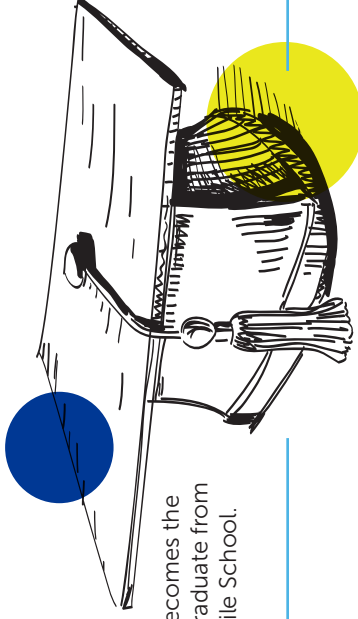
Theodore Search, a Philadelphia woolen manufacturer, compares the European textiles at the fair to America's and decides his country's products are inferior. He posits the reason—a lack of textile schools in the United States—and decides to establish one himself. The newly founded Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art (PMSI), which would become the Philadelphia Art Museum in 1938, offers him classroom space in its Spring Garden Street building.



1884

Search establishes the Philadelphia Textile School, and as its first and only professor, begins teaching business courses there three nights a week. The beginnings are humble—only five students in a cramped gas-lit room.

1886



Emily Uhlinger becomes the first woman to graduate from Philadelphia Textile School.

1946

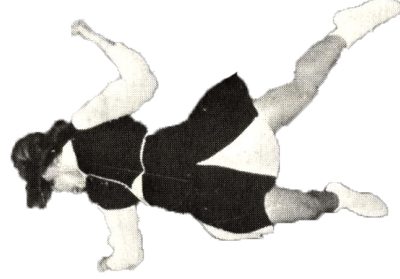
The Philadelphia Textile Institute begins looking for a new place to call home; it finds a 12.5 acre estate in an area called "East Falls," and separates from PMSI (now the Philadelphia Art Museum).

1953

In a harbinger of things to come, Jefferson Medical College orthopaedic surgeon Dr. James Hunter turns to the Philadelphia Textile Institute for help in developing artificial tendons.

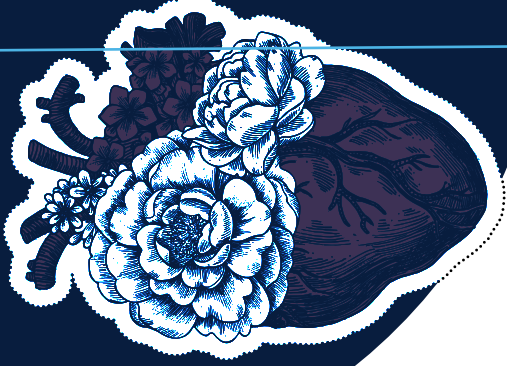
1950

Sonia Schorr makes history when she stands among 152 men to become the first female graduate of Jefferson Medical College, receiving a master's degree in bacteriology.



1865

Dr. Jacob DaCosta, class of 1852, is the first to describe "soldier's heart" during the Civil War. It is now known as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).





1960

The Philadelphia Textile Institute changes its name to the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science.



1961

Jefferson Medical College opens its doors to female students seeking an MD for the first time; eight women will graduate in the class of 1965.

1999

Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science is granted university status by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and changes its name to Philadelphia University on July 13.



1970

Computers are introduced into the classroom.



1992

Jefferson Medical College establishes JeffHOPE (Health Opportunities, Prevention, and Education), one of the largest student-run clinics in the country. With a staff of 60 medical student volunteers, it operates five weekly clinics at more than six locations throughout Philadelphia.



Kanbar College of Design Engineering and Commerce is founded and named for Philadelphia University alumnus and donor Maurice Kanbar.

2012

2014

The Sidney Kimmel Foundation bestows a \$110 million gift to Jefferson Medical College; the school changes its name to Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC).

2020

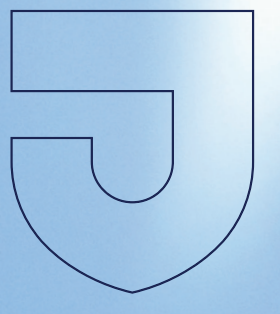


Jefferson is comprised of 10 colleges and four schools, with 160 undergraduate and graduate programs in healthcare, business, and industry. *U.S. News & World Report* ranks the university among the top national doctoral universities in the country and places the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at No. 55 in the nation for physician education, and *Fashionista* ranked Jefferson's fashion program as No. 3 in the U.S. and No. 7 worldwide.

2017

On July 1, the new Thomas Jefferson University is established as the result of the merger of the two universities.





Built from two legacies. Joined by one vision.

Built for a future that has yet to be defined, Thomas Jefferson University is crossing disciplines to bring unrivaled innovation and discovery to higher education. Through boundary-breaking collaboration, research, and hands-on, experiential learning, we equip graduates with leadership and analytical skills shaped for an accelerated job market – including architecture, business, design, engineering, fashion & textiles, health, science, and social science. At Jefferson, we are reshaping education for the 21st century.

Jefferson's Fashion programs are named among the world's best by *Business of Fashion* and *Fashionista*

Our graduates have a 97% employment and graduate school acceptance rate

Sidney Kimmel Medical College has awarded more than 31,000 medical degrees

10 colleges and 4 schools, including the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering & Commerce, comprise this national doctoral research university

Redefining Humanly Possible
Jefferson.edu/Possible

Follow us @JeffersonUniv



Shrinking World/Expanding Horizons

IS THE WORLD we live in getting smaller—or bigger?

Some would argue the world is getting smaller. Advances in travel and technology allow people from all over the world to connect and communicate both in person and virtually, bringing them ever closer together. Others would contend that it is getting bigger due to those very same advances. We can visit almost any place on the planet and interact with people from foreign locales and cultures to create opportunities for personal and professional growth.

At Jefferson we are dedicated to bringing people closer while at the same time expanding their horizons. That is our Global Jefferson initiative. By thinking and acting both locally and globally, we are preparing today's students to be tomorrow's citizens of the world—a concept Jefferson has embraced almost since its founding.

In 1860, three Japanese physicians traveled to Philadelphia to observe renowned Jefferson surgeon Dr. Samuel Gross perform surgery using a breakthrough anesthesia technique. Today, through Jefferson's Japan Center for Health Professions Education and Research, dozens of doctors, healthcare professionals, researchers, and students from Japan's leading hospitals and medical schools visit Jefferson every year.

A century later, in 1967, distinguished professor of medicine Dr. Joseph Gonnella reached across the Atlantic to create an affiliation between Jefferson and medical institutions in Italy. In 2018, Thomas Jefferson Uni-


versity built a permanent bridge of collaboration by partnering with Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome to launch a first-ever international dual MD program. Later that year, building on collaborations between Jefferson and a diverse set of Israeli academic institutions, the Jefferson Israel Center was formally launched.

Beyond the first set of countries where we are cultivating Jefferson Global Centers (Japan, Israel, Italy, India, and Ireland), Jefferson has also formed international partnerships with organizations in China, Finland, Great Britain, France, Australia, Canada, Portugal, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Germany, along with selected countries on the African and South American continents.

The merger of Thomas Jefferson University and Philadelphia University in 2017 has amplified our collective global reach. The breadth of professions we now span—in architecture, business, design, engineering, fashion, medicine, science, social sciences, textiles, and more—translates into an even richer set of global partnership opportunities, in research and education alike.

Today, a world-class education system is defined by how well it prepares students for a rapidly changing universal environment. More than 40 million U.S. jobs are tied to international trade, and today's employers are looking for cross-cultural skills that allow employees to work in diverse teams and with clients across the globe. When our students are given the opportunity to better understand and experience the wider world—and

the diversity of the people in it—they gain a competitive edge in business and industry.

By acting locally and globally, we are leveraging international partnerships, investing in human capital, and encouraging innovations in science and professional training—and we are giving life to our mission, and our promise, to redefine humanly possible. 

Mark L. Tykocinski

Mark L. Tykocinski, MD
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Thomas Jefferson University
Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean
Sidney Kimmel Medical College



Community First: Park in a Truck

An idea born out of Jefferson’s Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity aims to reimagine the roughly 40,000 vacant lots dotting the city’s 142 square miles. Park in a Truck is the brainchild of Kim Douglas, program director of landscape architecture and the Anton Germishuizen-Stantec Term Chair, and Drew Harris, assistant professor in Jefferson’s College of Population Health.

Creating new parks in cities can be slow, expensive, and time-consuming. This new system lets neighbors quickly pick which elements they want, gets them delivered, and helps them install it themselves in a few days. Business magazine *Fast Company* called it “like Ikea but for building neighborhood parks.”

“We work mainly with under-resourced communities, and we kept hearing from people in these communities that they wanted more parks,” Douglas says. “The kit doesn’t require expensive excavation, and it doesn’t require permits. It’s all designed, built, and maintained by the community. We can do these parks for between \$10 and \$12 a square foot, as opposed to three or four times as much.”

For the first project, opening in spring 2020 at the corner of 38th and Melon streets, Park in a Truck teamed up with the Mantua Civic Association. For several hours every Saturday, a dedicated group of volunteers came together to make the park a reality.



▲ Jefferson students Surabhi Shroff, Hunter Dyson, Teddy Pickering, and Shelby Montes de Oca work on mockups of the first Park in a Truck in Mantua.

“It’s not Jefferson building a park for them. It’s not the city building a park for them—it’s theirs,” Harris says. “This is giving control back to the community.”

Taking Care of Our Own: Ramily Market and JeffSecure

Often called a “hidden crisis,” food insecurity continues to trouble campuses across the country. In fact, 45% of college students nationwide battled food insecurity in the prior 30 days.

“We’ve come to realize, like many universities across this country, that some of our students struggle with social determinants of health—housing instability, food insecurity, and poverty,” says Dr. Charles

Pohl, vice provost of student affairs. “We want to make sure our students are well and there are no obstacles in the way so they can be academically successful.”

Jefferson set up the Ramily Market in the Kanbar Campus Center three years ago to supply students with free non-perishable goods and hygiene products—all donated by the University community. Students can take as much as they want, as well as return as frequently as they need.

The University also raised money to create JeffSecure, an emergency fund to assist students with financial support for unexpected, unforeseen, and unavoidable emergency expenses. Even with the Ramily Market and JeffSecure, Dr. Henry Humphreys, dean of students, knows some students

may struggle with asking for or accepting help. He offers a simple message for them: Never feel guilty about receiving assistance, and if it’s ever financially feasible in the future, donate to the fund or market so others can benefit.

“The idea is to pay it forward,” Humphreys says, “not pay it back.”

If you’re interested in supporting JeffSecure, please visit Jefferson.edu/GiveJeffSecure.

Life-Saving Drugs on Craigslist

Without insurance, the cost of medications for diabetes and asthma can be prohibitively expensive. Insulin brands that sold for \$40 in 2001 now sell for \$289.

To understand more about unregulated marketplaces, like Craigslist, a research team led by Rosemary Frasso, PhD, program director of Public Health, took a 12-day snapshot of all of the albuterol inhalers,

insulin, and EpiPens being offered for sale across 50 states, in the summer of 2019. They compared the prices on Craigslist to the retail price of the medicine on Drugs.com and qualitatively explored the Craigslist posts to get a better understanding of this unregulated marketplace.

Their study was published in *JAMA Internal Medicine* on February 17, 2020.

“I see the value in using the tools of population health to find the stories hidden in the nooks and crannies of society,” says Frasso. “Sometimes we extract those stories from people; other times, as in this case, we look at artifacts of the modern world such as data from Craigslist to shed light on what it is like to live with a disease and deal with access to life-saving medication.”

In some cases, the retail cost of a medication was 10 times greater than what could be found on Craigslist. “This is another argument for why these drugs need to be

more affordable,” says Frasso. “Patients who turn to cheaper, unregulated outlets are taking risks, and may not be getting the same benefit of clinical follow-up.”

This Little Light

Synthesizing molecules that could help treat diseases like cancer, with the help of a little blue light

Proteins, fats, carbohydrates, and the very building blocks of all living things—DNA—are all organic molecules. These molecules occur naturally all around us—in the atmosphere, the soil, and the plants and animals we consume.

For years, chemists have tried to replicate the synthesis of these organic molecules in the lab.

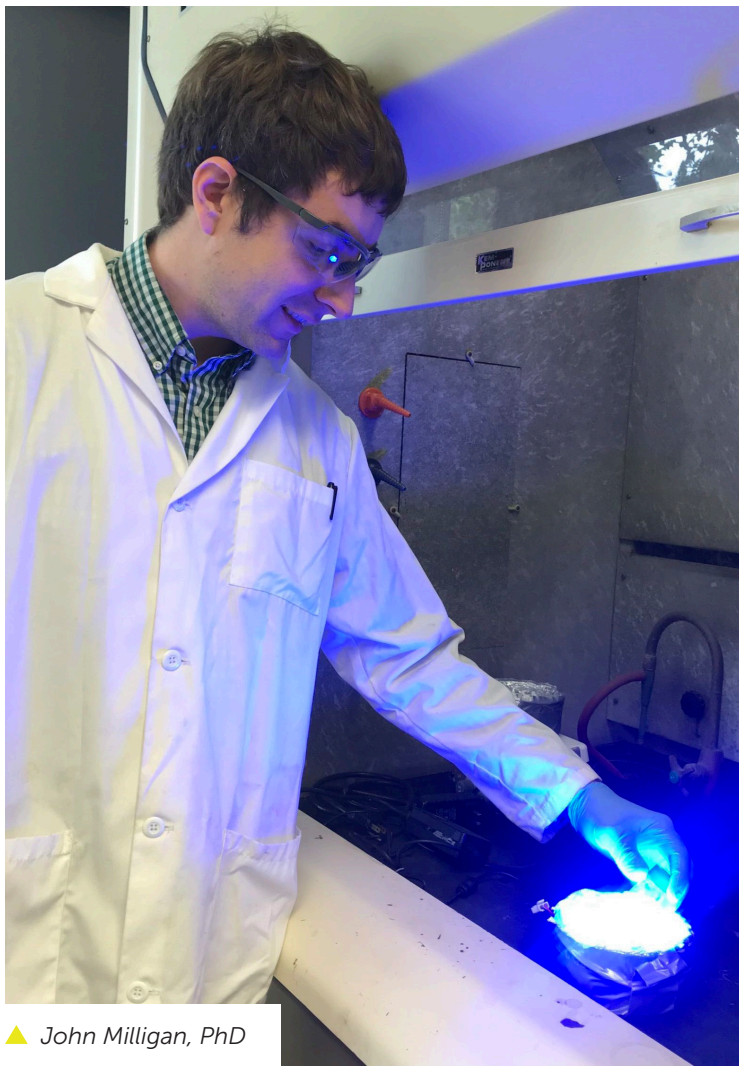
However, these processes sometimes use toxic and harsh chemicals that can produce harmful waste.

Jefferson’s John Milligan, PhD, assistant professor of



▲ Rosemary Frasso, PhD





▲ John Milligan, PhD

Chemical and Biological Sciences, is literally shedding new light on the effort.

Milligan and his colleagues have started a research program that involves using blue LED light to make organic molecules. “The goal is to use this approach to synthesize certain types of indole alkaloids, which are a family of molecules that can treat ailments ranging from cancer to neurological diseases,” says Milligan.

Blue LED light can activate innocuous catalysts to carry out reactions that used to

require harsh or toxic chemical reagents. One of the first questions Milligan’s team is trying to answer is whether copper salts can be used with the blue light to make amides, which are the groups that make the backbone of peptides and proteins.

“The reactions that we typically run are pretty easy to do,” says Milligan. “You just have to add all the ingredients in a vial, seal it up under a nitrogen atmosphere, and then let the light shine on it.”

Shaking Up the World

Ritu Jadwani MS ‘19 was lined up in the schoolyard with her sixth-grade classmates when the ground started shaking and stones began falling from the building. They had been waiting to sing the national anthem during the flag raising for India’s 2001 Republic Day. Now they were running and screaming.

The earthquake killed some 20,000 people in Gujarat State, destroyed about 340,000 buildings, and left millions without electricity, water, housing, jobs. During reconstruction, the skilled and enterprising women in villages near the quake’s epicenter began working together outdoors on hand embroidery and block printing on fabrics, creating unique products that were sold in cities nearby.

Jadwani admired the pluck and resourcefulness of these women as well as the quality of their craftsmanship. “I was too scared to venture into that

region as a child,” she says, “but when I was older and was studying fashion design, I really wanted to go and study these people. What are they doing, and how are they creating such beautiful pieces?”

The communities of women that formed after the quake evolved into nonprofit enterprises, and Jadwani, who had become a fashion design student, began volunteering to help the village artisans, many of them disabled, create designer products that would appeal to a wider market. It wasn’t long before she launched her own start-up, Namaste NYC, an ethical fashion label that sells colorful, one-of-a-kind items to stores, museums, and boutiques in the U.S., Canada, and France. Namaste NYC also offers

employment opportunities and fair wages to rural women and supports traditional handcrafts and textiles in India.

She recently completed Jefferson’s MS program in Global Fashion Enterprise and has been working at the university’s Blackstone LaunchPad, organizing eco-friendly and sustainability initiatives, and helping students realize their own entrepreneurial dreams. “Students are always coming up with ideas that can solve a social problem or are sustainable,” she notes. “I can coach them in terms of sourcing, supply chains, marketing, and storytelling for their start-up ideas.”

Last fall, the Clinton Global Initiative University invited Jadwani to host a session on social entrepreneurship in de-

veloping communities. “It was inspiring to meet change makers from around the world,” she says. “I got a chance to share my work, help other social entrepreneurs, and learn from them.”

Jadwani is looking to make a bigger impact now, perhaps by teaching at a university or working with larger nonprofit organizations that help artisans, women, and the disabled, who, she says, “are often neglected. It’s disheartening to see their situation. There are so many people around the world who need someone who can create a difference or hold their hands.”

Jadwani wants to be that someone, she says, “because there’s a need.”



▲ Ritu Jadwani MS ‘19



Designed by Robin Skodi

JEFFERSON HITS THE RUNWAY AT NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

Fashion design students Marquies Smith and Robin Skodi showcase socially conscious collections.

BY BRIAN HICKEY



Designed by Marquies Smith



▲ Jefferson fashion professor Katie Casano backstage with student designers Marquies Smith and Robin Skodi.

A pair of students in the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering, and Commerce captured the fashion world's collective eye during New York Fashion Week. Fashion design seniors Robin Skodi and Marquies Smith each showed their four-piece collections at the Emerging Designers Show in the Prince George Ballroom this past weekend.

Skodi's concept—a response to the whaling industry—had been percolating ever since she saw *The Cove*, a 2009 documentary about the slaughter of dolphins in the waters off Japan.

"My senior collection, 'Biological Rhythm,' highlights the delicate patterning found on the underbelly of the humpback whale," explains Skodi, who recently won first place in the Pennsylvania Ballet's

Dress the Dance Costume Competition.

"These rhythmic shapes are contrasted with the flowing, futuristic forms seen in stroboscopic photography through the use of unique pattern mixing and topstitching details."

Smith focuses his "Contamination" collection on the aftermath of the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. "The contamination caused a lot of unwanted, and still occurring harmful elements, which destroy living organisms, animals, habitats, and ecosystems," says Smith, the 2019 winner of the Evelyn and Paul Knudsen Red Dress Award for Excellence by a junior. "The collection of garments gives a clear description of the 28 days in which the oil spill occurred from start to finish. I wanted to design something



Designed by Robin Skodi

that captures attention and helps save the planet."

On being selected for the New York Fashion Week event, Smith says that "it's the highlight of the fashion program." Skodi notes that getting invited to show her work is "a driving force when you hear about it as a freshman."

Katie Casano, a professor in Jefferson's fashion design program, raved about Skodi's accomplishments. "Robin is a very special student with an extremely unique perspective in terms of her focus, aesthetic, and vision," she says. "She approached her collection from day one with a level of intensity and singlemindedness that's more typical of someone who has years of experience designing and creating. She took such a unique concept and created truly visionary and boundary-pushing clothing. I

have no doubt that Robin has a bright future."

Paul Heyne, Marquies' fashion design professor, was equally ecstatic about the student's accomplishment.

"Marquies is a true artist who has chosen fashion design as his medium to express himself," he says. "Through the use of textiles and manipulation, he successfully presents his concerns and awareness of social concerns and the negative effects which industry has played on our planet."

"By focusing on a massive oil spill, Marquies has clearly made a statement that shows both his concerns for the environment and his respect for the art of fashion. He's one of the unique individuals who not only designs clothing but realizes the value that fashion plays in the history of our society."



Designed by Marquies Smith

Athlete Kody Kasey clearly remembers the first time he strapped on the special cleat for his blade-style prosthetic, a unique attachment developed by two recent Jefferson alumni.

"I'd go, stop, and accelerate back off it," says the 24-year-old. "I could cut and keep going rather than sliding. I felt like I was on a high. It was so cool."

Several years prior, the football player for Kentucky's Georgetown College sustained a horrific on-field injury. He broke his leg, and the subsequent infections and complications led him to have his right leg amputated from the knee down.

Undeterred, Kasey aimed to play college football again, so once he fully recovered, he sliced the sole off a cleat and taped it to his blade-style prosthetic. The DIY approach allowed him to regain some of his explosive speed. He even returned to the field.

The uplifting story caught the attention of *Sports Illustrated*, which featured Kasey in an extensive 2017 profile. At this same time, Jefferson industrial design students Josiah Harris '18 and Weston Rivell '18—friends since their freshman year—had been tinkering with concepts that melded their interests (medical devices for Harris and sports for Rivell).

Their brainstorming and napkin doodles finally came into focus once they read about Kasey. He could play football in a limited capacity but still dealt with traction issues with his makeshift cleat.

"This shouldn't be happening," Harris says. "He's a talented athlete. He shouldn't be slipping out of his prosthetic. That was unacceptable, and it's a perfect market for putting something in place."

Adaptive athletes have attachment options for running on the road and track surfaces, but the students' research revealed no such device exists to help grip the ground in turf sports, such as football, soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse.

"Seeing Kody is when it became a real project," explains Rivell, now a grad student at the School of Visual Arts in New York. "This isn't just an opportunity in our heads. There's somebody out there who we can work with and design for."

BY MIKE BEDERKA





▲ Josiah Harris '18 and Weston Rivell '18 with Kody Kasey

A Friendship Born

Armed with mountains of research and renderings, Rivell and Harris reached out to Kasey over Facebook to gauge his interest in testing their project.

Their prep work and concept immediately impressed Kasey, and he agreed to try out the prototypes made from EVA foam, polyurethane, and nylon. The students drove to Columbus, Ohio—where Kasey lived at the time—to watch their product in action for the first time. “I was so nervous,” Rivell admits.

The jitters quickly subsided when they saw Kasey sprint, stop, and cut in them, slipping significantly less compared to his old makeshift cleat.

To inform their work, the students took inspiration for crampons—used for ice climbing—and the back-and-forth movement of skateboard trucks. In addition, at Kasey’s request, they added



We tested a lot, and I couldn’t tell you how many prototypes I broke. I put a lot of force on them. I don’t think they realized how fast I would go on it.



spikes on the cleat’s side to help with hard cuts and improve his ability to plant the blade.

“I was always honest with them and shared my experience of being an amputee,” he says. “We tested a lot, and I couldn’t tell you how many prototypes I broke. I put a lot of force on them. I don’t think they realized how fast I would go on it.”

The attachment pieces scattered across the Ohio grass didn’t deter the students; but rather, it served as a motivator to refine their concept and create a better product.

“We were ecstatic driving back to Philly,” Rivell says. “We couldn’t wait to make more.”

They met with Kasey two additional times for further testing—in Georgetown, Ky., and in Philadelphia right before Jefferson’s 2018 Celebration of Innovation, which Kasey attended. Meeting the University community and

personally modeling the design at the event became one of the early highpoints of their growing relationship.

“It was amazing to showcase the artistic abilities that create these innovations,” Kasey says. “Josiah and Weston came to me with this idea, and it blew my mind. They’re good friends now and amazing people.”

Next Steps

Following the successful showing of their senior capstone, Harris and Rivell continue to work toward bringing the newly named Apta Project (Latin for adapt) to market.

The alumni pitched the concept at the Reshape Competition in fall 2018 in Barcelona. They didn’t win the international wearable technology and product design contest; however, the pair made valuable connections at Adidas, which in turn, allowed them to access the company’s development lab for additional ideation.

Now with a provisional patent in hand (and full one planned), Harris and Rivell regularly talk to potential investors, as well as to suppliers and manufacturers on the best ways to cost-effectively produce Apta. They both attribute Jefferson with giving them the valuable design skills—and importantly, the real-world experience and business acumen—to pursue their dream. Ideally, they’d like to sell Apta themselves at the same price of an average shoe (no health insurance or prosthetist required). They also may explore a licensing deal with a company like Adidas.

Either way, getting the device out to those in need remains



paramount, says Harris, who walks with a permanent limp following a serious basketball injury that shattered his tibia. The two plan to reach out to veterans’ groups, special children’s camps and other segments with a high adaptive population to spread the word.

“We want to improve the well-being of this community,” Harris says. “They’re in the prime of their lives, and they still want to do a lot and get back on the field.”

Harris and Rivell hope to have the first run of Apta out by

fall 2020. Kasey says its release will be a “game changer” for adaptive athletes.

“It empowers people to continue to play and fulfill their dreams,” he says. 🏀

binge swatching

by karen brooks

Last year, Olivia Pagnotta

was shopping for holiday gifts at Anthropologie when a familiar pattern caught her eye. “Hey, guys,” she called out to her friends while examining the subtly sparkly multicolored sweater. “I think this is a color palette I made!”

Pagnotta, a senior in textile design at the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering, and Commerce, had done an internship in the knitting room at URBN—the Philadelphia-based retail corporation comprising popular brands like Anthropologie, Urban Outfitters, and Free People—the previous summer, choosing color combinations and knitting swatches for upcoming garment projects. She knew some of her work might make it onto the sales floor eventually, but that first glimpse still took her breath away.

“Of course, I bought it. I love a good sweater, which is probably one reason I enjoy knit design,” she says. “But it does feel a little funny to wear it.”

The Medford, New Jersey, native calls that internship a “direction translation” of the skills and techniques she has learned at Jefferson, where the textile design program prepares students for careers creating designs for printed, knitted, or woven

fabrics to be used in everything from apparel to wallpaper to furniture upholstery. As Pagnotta puts it, “We create things that other artists and designers then use to create other things.”

Pagnotta draws inspiration from the complexity of human emotions, using her designs to capture feelings that words cannot adequately define.

“I try to evoke strong feelings through color combinations and have always been intuitive when it comes to color,” she says. “If I’m sitting by a fire, I will pay attention to the colors around me and remember all of them. Then I can go create a palette that reminds people of the coziness of curling up by a fireplace on a cold day.”

Pagnotta’s fluency in the language of color helped her earn the top prize in the International Textile Alliance’s 2019 Showtime Cover Competition, hosted by Showtime Market, the largest home textiles trade show in the United States. Her winning design began as a class project where students were asked to create a print based on the works of an artist from a list provided by the instructor. Pagnotta picked contemporary abstract painter Moe Brooker, known for his bright and bold patterns and shapes.



“Brooker paints with these energetic brush strokes, and his motive is to convey joy and happiness,” Pagnotta says. “I related to that and wanted people to look at my design and feel joy. My design is traditional, with leaves and branches—but I made it fresh by using fun colors. It was incredible to start out doing it for a class assignment and then to find out it won this competition.” Pagnotta’s design will be featured on a future cover of *Showtime* magazine.

As impressive as her textile design accomplishments have been, Pagnotta spent her first three semesters at Jefferson as a health sciences major focusing on occupational therapy. Craving a more creative outlet, she tried to appease herself by pursuing art projects on her own time. A favorite medium since childhood, colored pencils were rarely far from reach; she used them to sketch her surroundings, her friends, and her cat, Honey.

At the time, she had one roommate studying fashion design and another studying textile design, and she found herself envying their assignments. The former would be experimenting with fabrics, bleaching or dyeing them to see how they turned out, and the latter was immersed in a live-model figure drawing class. “I want to do stuff like that,” Pagnotta thought. She ultimately transitioned into the textile design program, a move that surprised none of her loved ones—many of whom expressed relief that she was rerouting to a path that aligned with her longtime interest in art.

“‘Studio culture’ really appeals to me,” Pagnotta says. “You can be in there working on something, and people who are not even in your class will help you—both peers and faculty. We’re all so excited about and invested in what we are doing, we can’t help but look over at others and ask, ‘Oh, what kind of weave is that? What project is that for?’”

She points out, however, that she hasn’t left science completely behind.

“Chemistry is an important part of what we do, especially in color dyeing and finishing. We’re not just learning how to design for aesthetics, but how every single part of the process should be done—

She knew some of her work might make it onto the sales floor eventually, but that first glimpse still took her breath away.

like how to dye a fabric so it holds up and what techniques to use to prevent colors from bleeding or fading in the wash,” she explains. “Our program takes us all the way from the fibers to the final product.”

A byproduct of all of this knowledge, Pagnotta says, is greater mindfulness when purchasing items for herself. She can spot “fast fashion”—inexpensive, trendy clothing that copies catwalk or celebrity styles and is mass-produced cheaply at breakneck speed—wherever she goes.

“I can feel a fabric and know instantly how it was made and whether it’s good quality. Fast fashion is everywhere, and school has made me

more aware of it than ever,” she notes.

Although she now spends most of her days designing print and knit patterns, Pagnotta’s affinity for colored pencil sketching endures. In fact, she attributes much of her success to years of drawing with the medium because, like knitting, it’s one in which artists can’t create new hues.

“Colored pencils are not like watercolors, which you can mix together to make a whole new color,” she says. “Instead, you’re blending solids. With yarns, it’s the same—you’re not actually mixing them, but picking individual yarns that will convey a new color when put together. I think using colored pencils for so long gave me an edge when it comes to knit design.”

Set to graduate in May, Pagnotta is not sure what her future holds. She plans to stay in Philadelphia to pursue as many opportunities as she can find to hone her skills in different areas of textiles and design.

“I know I made the right decision by switching programs, and I know I don’t want to limit myself to just one thing. Right now, the possibilities are pretty endless.” 🍷



Video // magazine.jefferson.edu

BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS

Jefferson students are helping Philadelphia's refugee communities break through to a safer, healthier future.



BY THOMAS PARRY



Sunidhi Ramesh, a second-year medical student at Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC), knows a specific time and place where you can help someone in need.

When an individual flees torture in their home country and seeks asylum in the United States, there's a few hours set aside for an evaluator, should one be available. The evaluator, typically a volunteer physician, listens to the asylum-seeker's claims of torture and escape. The evaluator then weighs that story against the evidence left on their body or in their psyche.

For example, an asylum-seeker undergoing evaluation may point to a scar in his scalp. He may say a soldier cracked his skull with a rifle butt. The scar is L-shaped, the evaluator notes, and is consistent with the alleged instrument of injury. The asylum-seeker points to a bald patch of shiny, rippled skin. Soldiers then dragged him on the street, he says. Again, consistent, the evaluator notes.

What happened to those who were fleeing with him, the evaluator asks. Perhaps the asylum seeker can't find the words.

The evaluator will draw up a report in the form of an affidavit

that attests to the consistency between the asylum seeker's claims and the evidence. This affidavit will likely be the single most important document in determining the asylum-seeker's fate.

As recently as 2016, approximately 73,000 people applied for asylum in the United States, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. About 20,000 were granted protected status. Of that successful minority, roughly nine out of 10 had medical evaluators, according to the Philadelphia Human Rights Clinic (PHRC), a group that organizes and trains physicians to conduct this crucial step.

Ramesh, who volunteers as a training organizer with PHRC in addition to her studies at SKMC, has yet to conduct an evaluation. She's not a medical doctor yet.

"I want it to be part of my career," she says.

It's a warm October night, and Ramesh is at Puentes de Salud, an immigrant-focused health clinic at the southern edge of Center City, Philadelphia, founded by Jack Ludmir, MD, executive vice president of physician engagement and integration for Jefferson Health, and associate provost of community and global initiatives for Thomas Jefferson University.

Ramesh is helping organize a training session to introduce medical students from Jefferson, the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Temple University to PHRC's work. She booked the room, a kid's art studio and a library on a mezzanine at Puentes. She ordered the food, several aluminum trays of basmati rice, samosas, curries, chana masala, naan bread, and more,

all of which goes fast under the appetites of 55 or so medical students.

Ramesh sets up the projector for a slide show and hangs back in the room. A year ago, she attended a similar training session, saw the slide show, and decided to join PHRC.

The slides reach an image of the aforementioned asylum-seeker with an L-shaped scar on his scalp.

Alisa Gutman, MD, assistant professor of psychiatry at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, and PHRC's founder, conducts the training. She goes through more slides. One shows a strip of cigarette burns on an asylum-seeker's arm. The next shows glossy scars around the shoulders of a man who had been hung by ropes for several days. The slides reach the subject of female genital mutilation. Dr. Gutman, having

OUR GOAL IS TO IMPROVE THE GENERAL WELLNESS

mercy on the room, has chosen line drawings over photos.

"A lot of times we are scared to confront the terrifying parts of life," Ramesh says later. "But these are people who have done it," she says, meaning torture survivors.

Ramesh and Gutman choose the word "survivor" over "victim." They do so for the sake of accuracy. The overwhelming impression one gets when working with refugees, they say, is of resilience.

"It's humbling," Ramesh says, "that people have the ability to even put these things into words."

Ramesh's parents came to the United States from India a few years after she was born. They came from families that farmed coffee and coconuts. They came for a better life for their children. Her parents' sacrifice, the risk they took and the way they worked, instilled in Ramesh a certain belief in freedom.

"People have the right to exist wherever they go," she says.

Unfortunately, it's not that simple.

In October 2019, the U.S. approved zero asylum applications. The process, slowed by over two years of executive orders, memoranda, and orders from the Department of Justice, had ground to a halt.

The federal door to asylum has narrowed, yet Philadelphia remains home to several thousand refugees. Jefferson, perhaps modeling the altruism found in its students, is one of the largest single medical providers for refugees in the city and one of only four healthcare providers in the country recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a Center of Excellence in Refugee Healthcare.



Jack Ludmir, MD
Executive Vice President for Equity

Executive Director, Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity

In 2020, Jefferson will strengthen its commitment to refugee health by opening the Hansjörg Wyss Wellness Center in South Philadelphia. Made possible by a \$3.1 million gift from the Wyss Foundation, the center will form a hub

of clinical and educational outreach programs for the city's immigrant-dense southern neighborhoods.

The desire and means to help, however, is not enough to ensure positive results. Refugee communities come from all corners of the globe, and bring with them a correspondingly diverse range of languages, cultural practices, diets, norms, education levels, religious considerations, and health habits.



Marc Altshuler, MD
Director, Center for Refugee Health

To serve refugees, healthcare providers cannot presume a given community's needs. They have to partner with them.

"You can't go in saying, we're the physicians in the white coats and we're going to take the lead," says Marc Altshuler, MD, clinical leader of the Hansjörg Wyss Wellness Center and founding member of both the Jefferson Center for Refugee Health and the Philadelphia Refugee Health Collaborative.

"Our goal is to improve the general wellness, and if, for example, we don't know how to find culturally appropriate foods to help manage health conditions, then we need people

SO MANY OF US HERE ARE IMMIGRANTS OR FIRST GENERATION.

in the community to help," Dr. Altshuler says.

Jefferson's student groups are following this tack, partnering with mutual aid organizations, arts groups, religious organizations, neighborhood clinics, legal advocacy groups, and more.

"If you look at all the students' initiatives, they're motivated to help take care of these individuals," Altshuler says. "They work side by side with their partners."

Whereas Ramesh and the PHRC have identified an inflection point—a time and place where doors to asylum can open—Jenn Hsu, a third-year occupational therapy student, has learned an approach.

It begins with listening.

Last winter, Hsu completed an OT therapy fieldwork rotation with Innovative Supports Program for Immigrant and Refugee Empowerment (INSPIRE), a long-running partnership between the immigrant and

refugee support organization Nationalities Services Center and the Department of Occupational Therapy at Jefferson's College of Rehabilitation Sciences.

One of Hsu's home-visit clients, a young refugee mother and homemaker in South Philly, had to get on the bus. The woman, whose identifying details are omitted here, needed to get across town for doctors' appointments for herself and her baby, and wanted to go to English classes and run errands beyond the neighborhood. Life demanded that she go further.

But the city overwhelmed her. The sheer existence of city traffic—its heavy motion, screeching brakes, and blasting horns—acted as a barrier, confining her to her block. Even if she conquered the dangerous timing of crossing the street to wait at the bus stop, an act of faith for anyone, she'd have to read the route numbers on the sign and then match them to the

bus, that massive vehicle sailing down the street toward her.

Once on the bus, after handling the fare and finding a seat, the city would fly by the windows, setting her adrift in a vast and strange grid.

Hsu and an OT classmate met the woman in her home. She told them that she had fled her home country. She was from a remote village and had never learned to read, had never learned numbers, and had never before lived in a city.

To help this woman, Hsu and her classmate began by walking with her. Each time, they'd go a little further. They practiced reading numbers off the street signs and buildings. Block by block, they crossed the streets.

"What we do as OTs is break down the process so that the client can be successful," explains Stephen R. Kern, PhD, professor and director of the Master of Science program in Occupational Therapy. "We try to meet them at the level just beyond where they are, but that we anticipate they're going to be able to achieve. Challenge drives to the next challenge."

The client may be an Afghan living in Northeast Philadelphia, or a Congolese refugee out in West Philadelphia. They may have endured war and years in refugee camps, and so developed survival skills that would bewilder the average American. But they may have no experience with what counts for "standard employment." They may have never filed taxes, paid a cashier at a store, driven a car, decoded a column of street and parking signs, paid utilities, trouble-shot a misbehaving stove, and so on.

At first glance, these are banal tasks, but for a newly arrived refugee, they may be the friction points between shifting realities.

But, people are resilient, and by taking discrete and

challenging steps toward their goals, their realities can expand.

"Clients can make great strides, just by practicing the skill in the natural environment," Kern says. "The occupational therapist then backs out of that supportive role, and lets the client take the lead."

Recently, however, another kind of barrier has arisen.

In January 2017, Donald J. Trump was inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States. He had promised a border wall and a ban on certain kinds of immigrants. Soon, there were raids and rumors of raids.

Refugees are often the survivors of brutal regimes. In their lives, they've seen campaign bluster turn to massacre.

Kern recalls: "There was a lot of fear. A lot of trauma was resurfacing. People were isolating themselves and staying in their homes."

To break through the fear and isolation, the distance between neighborhoods, cultures, languages, education levels, and life experience, you need partners.

Refugee Health Partners (RHP), a Jefferson student group that's been running since 2009, has them in spades.

On a soft autumn night, a few dozen RHP volunteers get together for a brainstorming session at the first floor lounge of the Dominic and Michele Frederico Building, home of the Jefferson Accelerator Zone, on South 10th Street. After a quick dinner from several trays of Chipotle, the students form breakout groups amid the couches. Night descends on the windows. Ambulances roll by.

Outgoing RHP co-president Malika Madhava, SKMC 2020, steps around the ottomans and chairs to check in. Incoming

co-president Kaushal Desai, SKMC 2021, fills Madhava in on an "English for the Doctor's Office" class they ran for Arabic speakers through Mural Arts Philadelphia. Mariam Wanees, SKMC 2021, another incoming RHP co-president, tells Madhava about a planned "Rx" day with the Bhutanese American Organization. They'll help clients organize meds, check doses, and set schedules. Kendrick Go, SKMC 2020, outgoing co-president with Madhava, updates her on planned home health visits organized through the African



Sunidhi Ramesh

Family Health Organization and African Cultural Alliance of North America.

RHP coordinates two dozen-plus community groups with as many busy student volunteers. Madhava, Go, Wanees, and Kaushal have to sync up calendars and schedules, plans, contact info, neighborhood liaisons, complaints, needs and resources, strengths, and blind spots. They harmonize the students’ desire to help with the refugees’ need for support.

But why refugees? Why are so many students at Jefferson working to break down the barriers around these communities?

Wanees and Madhava tag team the answer.

“Wanting to help this population speaks to Jefferson’s diversity,” Wanees says. “So many of us here are immigrants, or first generation.”

“I’ve been thinking about this too,” Madhava adds. “I think it’s also a reflection of Jefferson’s culture of giving back.”

Among RHP’s mainstays is a collaboration with Pennsylvania’s Migrant Education Partnership (PMEP). Together they provide after-school tutoring and college preparation for immigrant and refugee students every Wednesday at Horace Furness High School in South Philadelphia, a few blocks away from the construction of the Hansjörg Wyss Wellness Center in the historic Bok Building.

On this Wednesday afternoon the PMEP educators, three energetic men who go by Mr. Thann, Mr. Kevin, and Mr. Kamal, have organized a “Thanksgiving” for the kids, albeit turkey-free. The school day’s final bell rings and over the next 15 minutes, a few dozen students filter into the library. They go for the stack of pizza boxes. One boy with a jean



jacket and dangling ear buds makes a mountain of potato chips on a paper plate.

The PMEP educators are themselves refugees. They know the kids well.

Mr. Thann patrols, lovingly busting chops. He raises a cheer for a boy sporting a black and orange T-shirt for the Furness Falcons. The boy hasn’t shown up for a few weeks, and he and Mr. Thann shake hands with mock formality.

“Very nice to meet you, sir,” the kid says, grinning.

“Que pasa,” Mr. Thann says. “No tarea? Read a book!”

By the barred windows facing east, Mr. Kamal helps a girl decode the fields of a FAFSA form on a laptop.

Mr. Kevin is handing out pizza slices and sharing tips on taking notes, a challenge for these English-as-a-second-language learners. Just listen in class, he says, but record the lecture on your phone, and make a quiz from it later.

Despite the 16 or so languages between them, including Vietnamese, Nepali, Khmer, Spanish, and Swahili, the kids mix easily. They’re high-schoolers, mostly clad in

sweatshirts and black jeans. They talk about crushes. They play games on their phones.

Jenn Hsu is there. In addition to working with the INSPIRE program, Hsu is a member of Refugee Health Partners. A few of the kids asked for help with SAT prep, and she’s ready to tutor.

For now, the kids are working on their pizza, and Hsu hangs back.

Her parents came to New Jersey from Shanghai in the 1980s. They left China voluntarily, Hsu is careful to point out. “But there are experiences that are the same,” she says. “Navigating a new culture, a different language, dealing with discrimination.”

In her third year studying occupational therapy at Jefferson, Hsu is at once in another world and close to these students.

Furness isn’t far from where Hsu, her classmate, and the young mother practiced walking the blocks, crossing the streets, and reading numbers.

“Coming to a new country is not always a happy story,” she says. “It feels good to help people find their way.”

➔ SUBSCRIBE



Keep up with the latest and greatest goings-on at Jefferson with our monthly university e-newsletter, which features news, articles, and events you won't want to miss!

JEFFERSON.EDU/NEWSLETTER



coming full circle

Jefferson Professor Trains the Next
Generation of Women's Health Professionals

BY CINDY LEFLER



As a young college student, Shawana S. Moore spent a winter break sitting by her mother's side at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. As her mother recovered from a serious illness, Moore took particular notice of the nurses who were there every day providing care and contributing to the healing of her loved one.

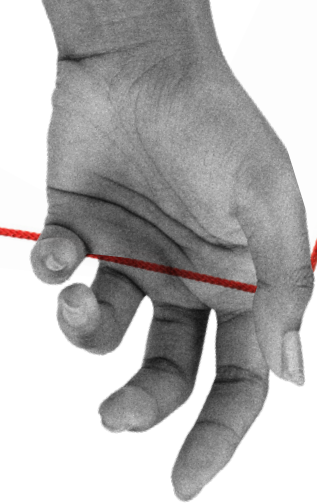
"That was my first direct observation of nurses and what they did. They provided not only the right (clinical) care, but education and counseling for both my mother and our family—from both a physical standpoint and an emotional and health literacy standpoint," she says. "From then on, I pledged that I would become a nurse."

She kept that promise in a spectacular way. Now she is Shawana S. Moore, DNP, MSN, CRNP, WHNP-BC—a nurse practitioner, researcher, advocate, mentor, and assistant professor and director of the Women's Health-Gender Related Nurse Practitioner Program at the Jefferson College of Nursing.

I knew what mentorship had done for me, and I always wanted to be able to give back in that same capacity.

Shawana S. Moore, DNP, MSN, CRNP, WHNP-BC

Director of the Women's Health-Gender Related Nurse Practitioner Program



It was an unexpected career shift—she was a planning on a career in biological research. But once she heard the calling, there was no turning back.

After graduating from Wilberforce University, a historically black university in Ohio, with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, Moore returned home to New Jersey to pursue a second bachelor's degree at Jefferson. She completed an accelerated program in one year; a year later, she earned her Master of Science in nursing and became certified as a women's health nurse practitioner. In 2013, she received her Doctor of Nursing Practice.

All along her path to becoming a nurse practitioner, there was never a question that she would put her studies, her energy, and her passion into women's health.

"Everything came full circle to me after my mother's illness," Moore says. "I witnessed firsthand from my own family system and in the community in which I lived how, as women, we put ourselves second—we care for everybody else first. So I said, 'Hey, I'll be that person in the room with a patient to educate them about the importance of taking care of themselves first so they can care for individuals within their family and their community.'"

In 2010, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education approved certification of Jefferson's Women's Health-Gender Related Nurse Practitioner program. Moore was in the first cohort at Jefferson.

The program prepares graduates in the care of women across the health-illness continuum in hospitals, labor and delivery units, outpatient clinics, and primary care practices. It focuses on clinical and mental healthcare for women of all ages, including those in underserved communities, as well as transgender patients.

"We were a small but mighty group of three individuals," Moore says of that first class. Since the time she progressed from student to teacher in the program, the number of students has steadily increased. This summer, Moore will be teaching an incoming class of 18.

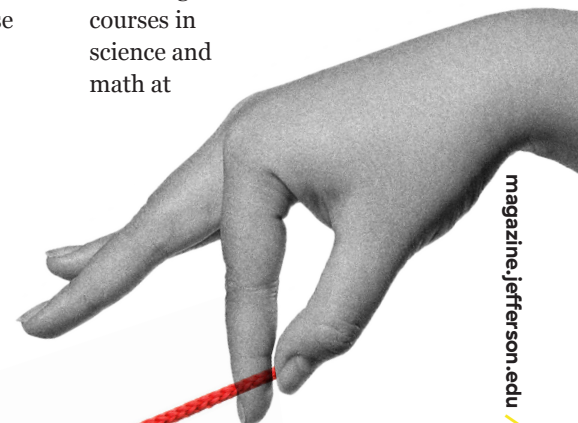
Her mission as an educator, she says, is to instill in her students the importance of understanding the people and communities they serve, and to teach them how to make a difference on a larger scale through advocacy and activism.

"Being in academia, we are in a really good position to train the next generation of nurse practitioners to go into communities and educate women on appropriate screenings and preventive care; to create community-based programs for women; and to be involved with policy and advocacy to make changes for women's health in general," says Moore, a member of the board of directors for the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Woman's Health.

Her passion for women's health has brought her full circle, back to Camden, New Jersey, where she was born and raised. Although she now resides half an hour north in Willingboro, Moore and some of her fellow Jefferson

alumni work at a family health clinic in Camden, ranked as the poorest city in the state.

Her upbringing in an underserved area, and the mentoring she received as an adolescent and young adult, fueled her dedication to education and mentorship. During high school, Moore was given the opportunity to participate in various enrichment programs, including two summer courses in science and math at



Rutgers University where she received guidance and encouragement from several faculty members.

Graduating as valedictorian of her class at Camden High School, Moore was set to attend North Carolina Central University in Durham on a four-year athletic scholarship for track when she had a change of heart—and college.

After speaking with then-Wilberforce vice president Marshall Mitchell during his visit to Camden High, Moore decided to take him up on his

offer of a four-year academic scholarship.

Mitchell and the university provided Moore with the support and education she needed to continue on her path to success.

“Mentorship made a huge difference in my growth and development as an adolescent female,” she says. “I knew what mentorship had done for me, and I always wanted to be able to give back in that same capacity.”

To do that, Moore applied for—and received—a few small grants to conduct research in, and create programs for, adolescent empowerment, specifically with females in underserved communities.

One grant allowed her to create a girls’ empowerment program at a middle school in

▼ *The Moore Family*



Somerdale, New Jersey, linking Jefferson nursing graduate students to mentees between the ages of 13 and 14 to educate the young girls about their health and well-being. The goal is to build self-esteem, self-awareness, and self-confidence, and provide role models in the mentors, all of whom are studying to be women’s health nurse practitioners.

“It’s my hope that some of these girls will have the desire to go into nursing,” Moore says.

The program was so successful last year that it has been renewed for 2020, and Moore has applied for another grant to expand the program into a school in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. Further, she is exploring creating a mentoring and leadership program for boys.

“While boys weren’t my focus in the beginning, being the mother of a 3-year-old boy

has opened my eyes to the importance of their education at an early age,” she says.

Moore continues to look for ways to improve the continuum of care for women throughout the region, and knows that her mission starts in the classroom. It’s where all of her passions—clinical care and emotional support for patients; advocating for change; and creating programs that inspire and enhance lives—converge to educate the next generation of nurse practitioners.

“In order to contribute to overall positive change,

nurse practitioners have to be involved in more than one arena because education, research, policy, and advocacy go hand in hand,” she says, adding that in the end, the goal is to impact society.

“And how do you impact society?” she asks. And she answers: “By being able to give your gifts to others. By doing good for other people. For me, it’s making sure Jefferson College of Nursing leaves an impact on all the communities we serve. That’s really all I hope for.”



how do you impact society?” she asks. And she answers: “By being able to give your gifts to others. By doing good for other people...”



RICHARD FLORIDA PHILADELPHIA FELLOW

Richard Florida, PhD, came to Philadelphia for an up-close and personal look at how our city's revival is reaching a tipping point, a "new urban crisis" brought on by success. Florida, one of the world's leading scholars and observers of cities, is university professor at the University of Toronto's School of Cities and Rotman School of Management, a distinguished fellow at NYU, and founder of CityLab. He is author of the best sellers *The Rise of the Creative Class* and *The New Urban Crisis*. *MIT Technology Review* named him one of the world's most influential thinkers.

Florida, who was the keynote speaker at the College of Architecture and the Built Environment's Smart and Healthy Cities Forum, is also the first recipient of the Philadelphia Fellowship, a collaboration between Thomas Jefferson University, Drexel University, and the University City Science Center focused on understanding the pressing issues facing the city today. According to Florida, Philadelphia is actually two distinct cities: one a city of affluence and opportunity with a highly educated creative class and the other a much larger city of persistent and racially concentrated poverty. His Philadelphia Fellowship report, "Philadelphia's Next Challenge: From Urban Revitalization to Inclusive Prosperity," describes the problem of Philly's new urban crisis and outlines a few solutions for working it through.



What makes you interested in cities?

Richard Florida (RF): I first became interested when I saw my hometown of Newark experience economic decline and erupt into riots. But today, cities have come back. They are the greatest engines of innovation and economic growth in the world. That's why the fight to keep cities equitable, diverse, and affordable is so important.

You spent a year studying Philly. What exactly did you do?

RF: My team and I looked at Philadelphia from a variety of angles and on a number of demographic and economic metrics in comparison to the 50 largest cities in America. We mapped the city according to these data points and compared neighborhoods. We also hosted a series of roundtable discussions and events about Philadelphia's agenda for inclusive prosperity. Based on this research and these conversations, we outlined a blueprint for inclusive prosperity led by the city's anchor institutions and supported by city government.

In the report, you wrote, "There's no better way to take the pulse of a city than to ask a bartender, waitstaff, cabbie, or ride-share driver." Did you do that in Philly?

RF: Yes! It happened in Philly, one night when I was grabbing dinner at Vernick Food and Drink off Rittenhouse Square. I remarked to the bartender that

there were so many young people around—more, it seemed, than in New York or Toronto. He replied in that quintessential bartender way: "That's easy, bro. It's actually affordable here." People like bartenders and cabbies are the eyes and ears of the city. It's essential for bird's-eye-view policy people like me to seek out this kind of folk knowledge.

You have called the "new urban crisis" a "crisis of success." What do you mean?

RF: The old urban crisis was a crisis of economic failure. The new urban crisis is a crisis of the economic comeback and success of cities, which has made them less affordable and more unequal. Cities have not mounted a commensurate response to these challenges. So while by some measures American cities like Philadelphia are more prosperous than ever, by others they are more unequal and unjust than ever.

What is Philadelphia's new urban crisis, and how is it related to the old one?

RF: Philadelphia today is a tale of two cities. There is a city around the urban core and universities that is thriving. But many more areas of the city never recovered from the old urban crisis characterized by crime, disinvestment, intergenerational poverty, and a lack of economic opportunity. It was one thing when these problems afflicted the entire city, but now, with some neighborhoods so prosperous, these divides

have become all too visible and dramatic. Solving the new urban crisis is about bridging these divides and connecting all neighborhoods and all Philadelphians to the opportunity that exists here.

You say you're optimistic about Philly's chances of achieving inclusive prosperity. Why?

RF: First of all, I've seen Philly at its lowest points. The revival of Center City, University City, and other areas is remarkable. There's a lot of success to build on in terms of urban development. Philadelphia is also unique in terms of its powerful and civically engaged anchor institutions, which are ready to innovate in the field of inclusive prosperity and to make an impact beyond their immediate neighborhoods.

What is the role of anchor institutions like Jefferson in addressing this crisis?

RF: Already, anchor institutions are providing high-quality jobs; building housing; supporting entrepreneurship; and offering workforce training, education, and healthcare programs. These efforts can and should be scaled. Just as importantly, anchors are in a position to serve as urban labs to pilot innovative programs before they're adopted across the city. And they can advocate for more inclusive policies like raising the minimum wage and increasing funds for affordable housing. Better yet, they can lead by example.

designer health



BY KAREN BROOKS

In 2018, a *New York Times* story highlighting the nation's opioid epidemic famously dubbed Kensington, a neighborhood in North Philadelphia, “the Walmart of Heroin.” The area is, in fact, the largest open-air drug market on the East Coast and the epicenter of the region's overdose crisis. But where most onlookers see hopelessness, Bon Ku, MD, sees hope.

An emergency medicine physician and the Marta and Robert Adelson Professor of Medicine and Design, Ku is chronically discouraged by the stigma associated with Kensington as a whole. Rather than demeaning its residents, he wants to extend better care to their community—so he and his Jefferson Health Design Lab colleagues partnered with various organizations to develop CoLabPHL, a 1964 Airstream trailer reimaged as a mobile healthcare platform that brings resources directly to the places that need them most.

“Kensington is only associated with poverty and drugs, but there are beautiful people there who are trying to live their best lives, and the opioid crisis does not define them,” says Ku, Health Design Lab director and assistant dean for health and design. “Unless we change the narrative, we will not have a successful intervention in the crisis. You can draw parallels between opioids today and AIDS in the 1980s. Until we reduced the stigma, we couldn't make a dent.”

Funded by the generous support of the TD Charitable Foundation, the Wawa Foundation, and the Community Design Collaborative, CoLabPHL offers services like health screenings and nutrition education, but Ku cites an art installation as its most impactful initiative. The interactive exhibit invites residents to take selfies that are incorporated into a digital mural, then answer a series of questions about their dreams and goals. Their responses print out on strips of receipt paper that are hung like party streamers.

“Rather than coming in with premeditated solutions, we really listen to these people,” Ku says. “By engaging with them, we elicit hope and demonstrate that they are much more than just opioids and poverty.”

The most important ingredient in developing meaningful interventions like CoLabPHL—which received the 2019 Impact Award from DesignPhiladelphia, an annual celebration of design innovation—is empathy, according to Ku. “User-centered research” drives every initiative born in the Health Design Lab, a collaborative makerspace where students and professionals across widely varying disciplines confront healthcare challenges using design thinking.

“We think of ourselves as a test kitchen for the hospital. We explore new technologies and apply our imaginations to find ways to make experiences more efficient for both patients and providers,” he says.

His favorite definition of the term “design thinking” comes from Ellen Lupton, curator of contemporary design at Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum (and co-author of Ku's book, *Health Design Thinking: Creating Products and Services for Better Health*, to be published this spring). She describes the method as employing a set of creative tools to generate ideas and solutions that meet human needs; using physical prototypes and storytelling to help teams build empathy and actively engage with a situation; and keeping an open mindset that invites people to rewrite the rules of business as usual.



▲ Robert S. Pugliese, PharmD, BCPS (left) and Bon Ku, MD (right)



To us, design is a verb that means approaching the world with creativity to create a path to a better future, starting with understanding the needs of others.

“When people hear the word ‘design,’ they typically think of an object, like a piece of furniture or an artifact in a museum,” Ku says. “To us, design is a verb that means approaching the world with creativity to create a path to a better future, starting with understanding the needs of others.”

The Health Design Lab is home base for students in Jefferson’s Scholarly Inquiry Design track, launched by Ku six years ago as the nation’s first four-year design program for medical students. Enrolling in the program—which pushes students to revamp healthcare facilities, services, and devices—“is like majoring in medicine and minoring in design,” he explains. “Our students learn to apply human-centered design to real problems in healthcare.”

Those problems are rampant, from the most complex, like the dearth of resources in poor neighborhoods such as Kensington, to the most basic, like skimpy hospital gowns that leave patients feeling overexposed.

“There are exam rooms set up so a provider is physically unable to look at the patient, who stares at their doctor’s back as they type into a computer,” Ku says. “This is not OK, and we can use design to come up with solutions.”

Ku’s determination to infuse creativity into medical education stems from his own unsatisfactory medical school experience. Uninspired by traditional science courses, he pursued an undergraduate degree in classical studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Exploring the humanities stoked his imagination in ways the hard sciences could not while cultivating the writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills he considers fundamental to connecting with patients. Once he entered medical school at Penn State, he felt stifled.

“It was mainly rote memorization, a complete creativity killer. Making people healthier is a creative pursuit, but we had no opportunity to apply our imaginations to problems,” he says. “You don’t learn how to be a better doctor

from traditional pre-med classes. Many future doctors are sitting in a lecture hall right now. Is that what we want?”

The key to design thinking is learning by doing. Design track students prototype their ideas using simple tools such as paper, glue, Legos, and Play-Doh. If they were conceptualizing a new check-in kiosk for a medical practice, for example, they might build a cardboard model and do a role-playing skit to identify potential shortcomings with its design.

They also collaborate with experts from other fields, like industrial and graphic design. A recent research project involved Philadelphia’s KieranTimberlake architecture firm, whose team helped students evaluate how the layout of Jefferson’s emergency department influences behavior. They tracked physicians, nurses, and other providers and identified ways physical spaces could be modified to foster better interpersonal interactions.

“The problems in healthcare are so complex, the solution

does not always lie within a biomedical framework. It benefits us to co-create with people who think differently than we do, especially those who look at things more visually,” Ku notes. He also draws insight from some unlikely sources—like professional chefs, who have more in common with physicians than it might appear. Both work grueling hours in service industries, and both experience high rates of burnout. The biggest difference, as he sees it, is that chefs use their imaginations in ways most physicians don’t.

“They need technical skills but also use their creativity with recipes and restaurant design to ensure a great experience for their patrons. Why don’t we value that creativity in healthcare?” he wonders. He pays close attention to cooking-related podcasts, particularly “The Dave Chang Show,” in which the head of the acclaimed Momofuku conglomerate of restaurants dissects his and his guests’ creative processes.

Ku challenges his students to tackle issues across the healthcare spectrum, but the timeless problem of caring for underserved populations resonates with him the most. His parents, South Korean immigrants who worked at a flea market, did not have health insurance when he was a child—so when Ku had a knee injury, his father had to pay an orthopedic surgeon out of pocket.

“He literally pulled out his wallet and paid cash, probably most of my family’s weekly income. I felt very guilty, even though no kid should feel guilty about getting medical care,” Ku remembers. “That experience helped form what type of doctor I became—the kind who will provide care irrespective of a patient’s ability to pay. Living and working in poor immigrant communities is 100 percent the reason I went into my field.”

Three years after joining Jefferson and nearly a decade before devising its design curriculum, Ku felt he was burning out in trying to fix a

system that seemed irrevocably broken. He took a leave from practice to pursue a master’s degree in public policy at Princeton, where he learned about healthcare economics and policy—more lessons that had been absent from his medical education and that bolstered his commitment to social justice. He hopes that by imparting both this knowledge and design thinking skills onto students today, he is preparing a new generation of physicians to change the future of healthcare.

“I’m seeing inklings of change already, but the incubation phase of a physician is so long—our first cohort is still in residency now. But those who go through our design track consistently report that it was their best experience in medical school and that it made them think differently about healthcare,” he says. “Design matters to all of us every day, from the design of our most comfortable shoes to our favorite café. It’s time we realize it matters in our healthcare, too.”



GIFT CREATES ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IN MEDICINE & DESIGN

Earlier this year, Thomas Jefferson University received a generous gift from trustee Robert Adelson and his wife, Marta, to establish a cross-disciplinary professorship in medicine and design. The Marta and Robert Adelson Professorship in Medicine and Design supports innovative educational initiatives to apply human-centered design to modern healthcare challenges. The inaugural holder of the Adelson Professorship is Bon Ku, MD, MPP, the assistant dean for Health and Design and the director of the Jefferson Health Design Lab.

“Behind every breakthrough, every advance in health, are forward-thinking innovators—people like Marta and Bob Adelson, and Dr. Bon Ku,” said Mark Tykocinski, MD, Provost, Thomas Jefferson University.

the site is the

star



Architect Sean Lockyer '99
Brings the Great Outdoors Indoor

BY PETER NICHOLS



Being an architect, you'd expect Sean Lockyer, an alumnus of the College of Architecture and the Built Environment and the founding principal of Studio AR&D Architects, to think of buildings as playing the starring role. But it's not that simple, especially when you slow down to take a close look at the site for a new construction project.

"We survey each site and spend time there getting to know it and the surrounding landscape," he says. "We get very deeply involved. It's even more helpful if we draw the site. When you do that, you start to see little bumps and oddities that you hadn't realized were there."

Taking time to stop and sit within the big vistas and to notice each tree and rock and ripple of earth promotes a kind of intimacy. That personal knowledge, or maybe it's a feeling—more poetry than science—complements the survey measurements and starts to intimate the way a building might inhabit the landscape and how the scenery might be brought into the structure too.

"Oftentimes," Lockyer notes, "we find that the site becomes more of the star of the show."

That's especially true with sites in Palm Springs, where he and Studio AR&D Architects do much of their best work. The desert terrain is captivating and can look more than a little otherworldly. It would be a shame to build walls that hide what's outside from the inhabitants inside.

When it comes to architecture and landscape in these spaces, Lockyer invariably finds himself reaching for expressions like "blurring the lines" and "flow and bend into each other." In many of his projects, the words "inside" and "outside" have to be applied with a light touch.



“The landscape is integral to the architecture of the building,” he says, “so they’re not separated in our office. Those two things should be thought about simultaneously and integrated from the very beginning of a project.”

A good example of how this works is the Schnabel Family Retreat, which is one of Lockyer’s favorites. Studio AR&D handled all design as well as construction, handcrafted much of the detail, and designed the landscaping.

The building site is an acre of land on a hillside with views of the San Jacinto Mountains rising on one side and the Coachella Valley falling away on the other.

“The site was 100 percent covered with boulders,” he recalls. “We exported about 6 million pounds of them, and then each boulder that remained, we either picked it up, rotated it, reset it, or moved it to the other side of the property. We’re control super freaks. The site doesn’t look

manipulated, but what that provides is a building that flows into the terrain in some places and launches off the hillside in others.”

From the inside, sliding glass walls and doors as well as windows and glass panels frame views of boulders and desert shrubs and trees, or open wide onto big vistas of mountains and valleys. In some indoor spaces, there are narrow-framed views while in others sliding glass opens onto patios and gardens. Even the 4.5 bathrooms, either through glass or literally, open to the outdoors while still providing privacy. The long glass living room wall is penetrated by massive rocks that are both inside and outside the home and support a giant fireplace.

Roof gardens help the building blend into the land, but all the glass makes the structure dematerialize, despite the stone and concrete and steel. It’s a style of architecture that brings the great outdoors indoors and erects a building



When it comes to architecture and landscape in these spaces, Lockyer invariably finds himself reaching for expressions like “blurring the lines” and “flow and bend into each other.”

that’s completely at home in the landscape.

The project earned an American Architecture Award in 2016.

Each year, the prestigious recognition singles out the best new buildings and highlights new and creative directions in design thinking.

Lockyer sums up the direction that he and his team are looking:

“We strive for simplicity in materials and form, and then maybe frame something outside like a water feature, a tree, or the terrain itself—or sometimes we make a space that’s open to the sky. The building allows those things to sing a bit more and really complement the architecture itself.”



transcend *and* include

By Thomas Parry

For a moment, professor Rob Fleming has lost the room.

He's just revealed to his students that there are secret lists. These lists detail the materials and building components that meet the criteria of various sustainable building standards.

"Wait," says a student from the back of the room, "why are they secret?"

Fleming explains. Suppose that you're an architect and you have to put a water heater into a building that you've guaranteed will meet the Living Building Challenge, the most rigorous of all sustainable building standards. It's a headache. The water pump will contain myriad pieces, epoxies and alloys and more, that might off-gas or corrode. The wrong pump will jeopardize the project's integrity.

"The lists are secret because it's valuable information," Fleming says. "Architecture firms don't want to hand that out to their competitors."

The students mull it over, then rebel. This is a class on sustainable design, the practice of steering humanity away from climate cataclysm. The firms should share what they've discovered.

"But the firm put all that time and money into making that list," Fleming says, smiling at the piqued energy of the room.

Fleming looks to his teaching assistant, Abhiri Khisty, perhaps for rhetorical support. Khisty came to Jefferson all the way from India to pursue a master's degree in sustainable design after Fleming visited her university west of Mumbai. Today, however, she appears unwilling to join him in playing devil's advocate.

The students, who are from around the world and the region—Egypt, Bangladesh, West Philadelphia, to name a few—appear united. To safeguard the future, altruism and cooperation must prevail over greed.

"There're things more important than money," says the student from West Philly. "I mean," he says, laughing, "what are we doing here?" As an expert in building with the climate in mind, Fleming obsesses on the future. As a professor and director of Jefferson's sustainable design program within the College of Architecture and the Built Environment, he's consumed by how to best educate students. The twin obsessions come together in his latest book, *Design Education for*



a *Sustainable Future*, a title that serves as both a description and a demand.

His operative framework in teaching for the future is “transcend and include.”

“You don’t want to destroy the past,” Fleming later explains. “You want to both transcend it and include it. You pull forward what’s useful. It’s part of a continuum.”

Fleming’s lecture is future-minded, replete with a colorful array of digitized information and online components. But the heart of it is Socratic. Fleming challenges the students. The students challenge Fleming. Together, they coax knowledge out of information, and wisdom out of experience. Education occurs.

In Fleming’s class, as in university classes across the country, the continuum of learning moves along. There are, however, certain problems of the present that threaten the whole endeavor for students and schools alike.

Cost, for one. Tuitions have nearly doubled in the past generation. For students, the burden often results in real poverty.

On the second floor of the Kanbar Campus Center, a few hundred feet from Fleming’s class, Jefferson students who struggle to afford food stock up on donated mac and cheese, ramen, and more from the Ramily Market, a free food pantry.

The hunger goes far past Jefferson, of course. Roughly one-third to one-half of college students at four-year institutions report food insecurity, according to two major surveys. When students soften the burden of tuition with loans, the problem then rolls over into the country’s ever-darkening crisis of student debt, a tally that’s topped \$1.6 trillion.

The cost crisis is not confined to students and their personal futures. As they glimpse the storm clouds of debt and poverty, more and more students are deciding against college, foreshadowing a dire future for academia. As of spring 2019, college enrollment declined across the U.S. for the eighth year in a row. The seats that these dissuaded students leave vacant, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, are mostly in the classrooms of small, private universities.

band together

When Thomas Jefferson University and Philadelphia University merged in 2017, dozens of small, private, tuition-reliant colleges were in the midst of shuttering due to declining enrollment and rising costs.

In banding together, TJU and PhilaU entwined the strengths of their institutions, giving the new Jefferson unique footing in the competition to attract students.

With its intersection of medicine, design, and engineering, Jefferson is niche. Lots of students, however, see college as a time for variety and exploration, a time to grow the soul before settling on a profession. Rather than surrender these seekers to the “all-around” institutions—large public universities and endowment-rich private

schools—a new initiative at Jefferson could turn its particularity into a portal.

Mark L. Tykocinski, MD, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Thomas Jefferson University, envisions a network of exploration.

“We are positioning Jefferson as an outward-looking enterprise,” says Dr. Tykocinski. “By 2024, we want to have among the most extensive university pool partnership networks in the nation.”

Under Tykocinski’s vision, admission to Jefferson could mean entry into as many as two dozen other universities.

“Students would be able to take individual courses, semesters, or whole years at one of 20 institutions with no tuition-negative consequences,” he says.

Ron Kander, PhD, Dean of the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering, and Commerce and associate provost for applied research at Jefferson, offers an example: “We could have a student who wants to take a semester away at Haverford, because Haverford has Russian language classes and we don’t.”

To create this open network, participating institutions will have to drop the standard use of that small but mighty bureaucratic detail, the credit hour.

At present, universities use the credit hour to mercenary advantage. As 36 million Americans with college credit but no degree can attest, the credit hour keeps students captive to the institution and on the hook for the tuition bill. In contrast, credit hours in a Jefferson higher ed network would become free-flowing, informative, and compatible bits of information that empower students to explore.

Ditching the territorial model of credits for an open network is a big ask, but for many universities, the future is at stake.

“As the number of butts becomes less than the number of seats, universities have to do something creative, or we’re just going to see more schools closing,” Dr. Kander says.

On the other hand, collaboration, especially by schools that hold different strengths, can multiply the value of those skills. In other words, niche—such as medicine plus textiles, or public health and sustainability—is good.

“We’re in an interesting position,” says Kander. “We’re a very unique kind of professional school. We don’t look like very many institutions.”

crossing boundaries

Dr. Tykocinski is the son of Polish Jews who survived Auschwitz, made it to America, became chicken farmers, and sent him to Yale University. The farm boy studied philosophy and went to Boston, where, by his telling, he happened down a hallway that had but one open door. In that room was a man named Bernard Lown, a medical doctor who would later win a Nobel Prize for fighting the threat of nuclear war. More immediately, Lown befriended Tykocinski and set him on the path to becoming a doctor.

With this personal history, this sequence of improbable steps—borders crossed, expectations defied, chance encounters—it’s no wonder Tykocinski believes in the benefit of unlikely partnerships.

The results, he says, can save lives. He has evidence.

Loud noise in neonatal intensive care units stresses medically fragile babies. At certain levels, it can halt their lungs.

“The people who’ve tried to deal with this problem have used all these crazy contraptions,” Tykocinski says.

At JeffSolves 2019, a collaborative program between Sidney Kimmel Medical College and the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering, and Commerce, industrial design student Colin Lew and medical students Alex McCullough, Mohammad Rasool, and Alison Romisher developed a cozy, breathable headband with earmuffs containing four sound-dampening layers.

Calling their product Earpeace, the medical and design students fashioned an inexpensive, comfortable, and simple solution that could reduce NICU decibels by half for infants.

Dr. Tykocinski points to another JeffSolves prototype.

Problem: Nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologists suffer elevated rates of spontaneous abortion and cancer due in part to anesthetic gases that leak from masks and collect in their bodies over time.

Solution: Medical students Cary Hess and Jonathan Karp and industrial design students Cory Jameson and Delara Kiani created Respiro, a simple anesthetic mask overlay that traps gases. It’s simple, cheap, and poses no interference for the anesthesiologist.

“Essentially, they’ve solved the problem,” Tykocinski says with no small measure of pride.

To foster more experimental, unlikely, and beneficial partnerships akin to JeffSolves, Jefferson is building a “creative core curriculum” in which each discipline, from architecture to fashion to medicine and more, will include “creativity intensive” courses.

“We’re not talking about whether you can draw or sing,” says Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA, president of Thomas Jefferson University and CEO of Jefferson Health. “We’re talking about whether you can think differently. Can you create change? Can you enjoy change instead of being afraid of it?”

To cultivate an appreciation of creativity in, say, public health, nursing, or construction management, students will take courses that ask them to reflect on how creative problem-solving could transform their disciplines, careers, industries, and lives for the better.

Meanwhile, the curriculum will stitch these reflections to reality with experimental workshops

that require student teams to work together across disciplines to solve problems.

“Transdisciplinary, cross-cutting collaborations work,” says Tykocinski. “But they only work when students learn to communicate.”

Each discipline and profession implies a way of seeing the world, a mental model of reality. At times, these models clash.

“You’re sitting there, facing a problem with people of a different discipline,” Tykocinski says. “How do you talk their language? How do you relate?”

digital building

On the second floor studio of the East Falls campus’ Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, and Design (SEED) Center, master’s degree students are flexing some expertise.

With each at their own butcher block table, they work on individual designs to repurpose Fort Miles, a former Army base in Cape Henelopen, Delaware, that once stared down German U-Boats prowling the American Atlantic coast.

Niranjan Patil adjusts the computer rendering of a staircase on his laptop. A few years back, Patil set out from undergrad and made a successful start of his own architecture practice in Kolhapur, India.

“The firm was doing well. We had work,” Patil says, “but I needed more knowledge.”

He wanted to deepen his command of design, construction, cost, time, and quality. He wanted structures at peace with their natural surroundings.

There are no secrets. Patil, a digital native, could have scoured the internet alone, but knowledge and information aren’t the same. He closed his firm and came to Jefferson to pursue a double masters in sustainable design and construction management “Everything I’m learning here,” he says, “it all applies.”

At the next table, Jeffrey Zarnoch is not only reimagining Fort Miles, he’s making a home for his own future.

Zarnoch and his partner are moving to southern Arizona to be close to family, and they’ve bought a plot of land that looks onto the fearsome mesa of Gold Canyon.

“It’s shaped like a basset hound,” Zarnoch says with a smile.

Zarnoch has decades of design experience.

He’s earned his LEED credentials and completed advanced studies in business. He’s even clocked over a dozen years teaching design at Jefferson. But he’s become a student once again so that his new home, which he’s having built in modules, will maximize its solar capacity, put use to cross breezes, and even harness the rare but torrential rains that sweep the desert valley.

Plus, a Jefferson MS in sustainable design will put him higher in the running for university teaching jobs out West.

For now, he works at the Henelopen project on paper. As befits a professor of technical drawing, his lines are flawless.

Under Tykocinski’s vision, admission to Jefferson could mean entry into as many as two dozen other universities.

At the third table, Abhiri Khisty, Fleming’s teaching assistant, works the Henelopen project on both paper and screen. Khisty is soft-spoken and easygoing, but she has velocity, the sort that comes with increasing mastery of skill.

Within a little over a year at Jefferson, she’s already interned with a playground designer, a real estate developer, and an environmental consulting firm. She’s taught high school kids how to design a sustainable building for their own campus. On the way she’s amassing experience, connections, potential partners, and new opportunities for the future.

Elsewhere in the SEED studios, undergrads are working toward the independence and capability of Patil, Zarnoch, and Khisty.

Numbering 24 in all, they gather in groups at shared tables. Each student has their eyes on their

own laptop, though they’re all looking at the same thing.

The screens depict a proposed building at 10th and Chestnut. The parameters and purpose of this project are set: It’s to be a multilevel meeting and workshop space for Jefferson Center City and East Falls students. The lot and neighboring structures are determined. The building must reach net-zero carbon emissions, or get damn close. And it must be beautiful.

The students come from different disciplines: sustainability, engineering, construction management, interior design, and architecture. They look up from their individual screens and begin talking with one another. They begin the project of creating—at least virtually—a building that exists within its limits, fulfills or even exceeds its purpose, and creates a meaningful experience for those who enter.

It’s not easy work. Each of the students represents a different discipline, and each brings the pressures and vision of their discipline upon the group.

Students of sustainable design, for example, might sweat the interior architecture’s students desire to add another floor. The size of the roof is fixed, and its solar array cannot expand to meet the energy draw of another story.

Compromise: Light shelves could bounce more sunlight deep into the interior and cut down on the need for electric lighting. The shelves, the architecture student might object, attach to the outside of the building and interrupt the grace of its exterior line.

Gears may grind, but the students go on. They learn about each other’s priorities, each other’s way of seeing. They learn that these ways of seeing all exist at once, and at times they align and synthesize. They communicate. They come up with new solutions.

What about beehives on the roof to promote pollination of urban food systems? What about a cistern with an ultraviolet light chamber to purify collected rainwater?

Between the tables of collaborating groups, three professors patrol.

Laura Baumbach, professor and director of Jefferson’s interior design and interior architecture program; Brian Johnston, adjunct professor of architecture; and Rob Fleming make rounds, checking in with the students.

The professors operate both as avatars of their disciplines, reminding the students what they have learned, and as stand-ins for reality.

Each professor is deep in their own professional career, and have all dealt with unforeseen problems, unforgiving sites, and tough projects.

Sometimes you get a bad batch of drywall. Halfway through building, a client might revise their demands. Costs balloon. When digging geothermal wells in Philadelphia’s historic core, who knows what you’ll find?

These buildings exist on the digital plane. The students render them with luminous, hi-def glass. They create lightwells several stories tall, curved walls draped with leaves, digital pedestrians entering the lobby, and birds in the computerized sky.

The human lessons, however, are real: Keep your creativity alive. Communicate and collaborate. Share, listen, assert yourself, cede the floor, and keep an open mind.

They’re learning to work together. 🤝

Scholarship Students Empowered to Think, Innovate, and Create Change



▲ Valez Jackson '19



▲ Jiayuan Xu '19

"I think it's cool that they use different majors to collab, and they really like integrating everyone into one big family."



▲ Claire Puhalski '22

The college experience at Jefferson is as unique as the students who proudly call themselves Rams. Our students may have different goals in mind when deciding to come to Jefferson, but they all find themselves staying for similar reasons. From our wide array of majors to our small class sizes, work study opportunities, ever-expanding alumni network, and much more, our students happily call Jefferson their home away from home. Regardless of major or career path, paying for college is no easy feat. Our generous benefactors and alumni know

this as well as anyone, and have chosen to support students throughout Jefferson as they prepare for careers in the design, textile, and healthcare industries. Here are just a few of our exemplary students who fully embody Jeffersonian values: Erin Bray is a senior Occupational Therapy major and recipient of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Scholarship. While her position as chapter president in her sorority, Theta Phi Alpha, put her on the radar, it was her

leadership skills, community involvement, and commitment to education that earned her the scholarship. Erin says that this support has not only relieved some of the financial burden, but has also made her transition to grad school easier as she pursues a career in pediatric OT. Sarah Doelp, a senior Medical Studies major, is planning to make the jump to medical school next year to pursue a career as a medical examiner. She received the Gerda L. and Frederick T. Cundell Scholarship, and is thankful for the financial support and the freedom to focus on her studies to

become the best doctor she can possibly be. Our students come from far and wide to pursue careers in medicine and design. One such student is Skylar Penrose, a junior Graphic Design major and Textile Technology and Materials minor, who is the recipient of the Carolina Alumni Scholarship, which provides support for textile students from the Carolinas. Jiayuan Xu, a senior Fashion Merchandise student, made the trek all the way from Beijing to study at Jefferson. She received the Florence Stewart Scholarship, which supports international students who have demonstrated dedication to their studies. In 2017, Jefferson and Philadelphia University came under one roof in an unprecedented merging of the creative and the clinical. From developing better football helmets to designing maternity clothes with function and flair, our designers and clinicians are bringing the best of both worlds together.



▲ Erin Bray '19

Logan Czachowski, a junior Fashion Merchandise major and recipient of the Allen Sirkin Scholarship, was attracted to Jefferson for just this reason. "I think it's cool that they use different majors to collab, and they really like integrating everyone into one big family," she says. Another added bonus that resulted from the merger was the addition of 17 collegiate sports teams. Our students work just as hard in the classroom as they do on the field—and our supporters recognize that. Valez Jackson, a senior Communications major, was awarded the Bucky and Lorraine Harris scholarship for her athletic and academic achievements. This generous scholarship offers financial support as well as a work-study position to aid in career development. While Jefferson is central to the greater Philadelphia area, we provide our students ample opportunities to immerse themselves in cultures from around the world. Kellyn Kemmerer, a senior Textile Technology and Materials major, received the Peggy Goutmann Scholarship while studying abroad in Rome. This news allowed her to truly take in Italian culture and focus on



▲ Skylar Penrose '20

her studies knowing there were people supporting her. Claire Puhalski, freshman Fashion Design major and recipient of the Christopher Rondeau Scholarship, experienced fashion in other countries during her semester abroad in Paris. While she still has a lot of schooling ahead of her, Claire is already looking toward the future to leave her mark and is planning to get involved in combatting "fast fashion" and by utilizing economic and environmentally friendly designs. The support of our illustrious sponsors, benefactors, and alumni is paving the way for the next generation, by allowing our students to confidentially pursue their studies without the overwhelming financial burden of college tuition weighing them down. From the emergency room to the runway, our students are redefining what it means to be a Jefferson graduate as they share their excellence and passion with the world. 📺



▲ Kellyn Kemmerer '19

People and Legacy

AMONG THE MYRIAD traditions at Jefferson, our celebrations of graduates’ 50th anniversary really stand out.

The Diploma Nurses hold a luncheon and call out the 50th anniversary class in their annual Bulletin. The Sidney Kimmel Medical College presents a gold pin to the 50th anniversary class at Alumni Weekend. Alumni of Textile and Philadelphia University are recognized as Golden Rams at a special ceremony.

I’ve worked in alumni relations for two decades, and it seems like every year, the 50th anniversary class gets younger.

Last fall during Homecoming, we welcomed the Class of 1969 into the ranks of the Golden Rams. The warmth in the room reminded me of Proust: “Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”

I met so many fascinating people, and learned so much more by reading the class Memory Book. It gave me enormous satisfaction knowing that Textile’s legacy, and now Jefferson’s legacy, includes such accomplished graduates.

I read about alumna like Carol Beck, who opened the doors for many women in the design programs today.

And David Gingras, who after a successful career at Burlington Industries and in financial services was put on active duty as a colonel in the New York Guard after 9/11.

And Edward Belcak, who started three different manufacturing businesses, all with

products that were 100 percent “Made in America.”

I also enjoyed reading the fun details, like Arthur Master’s story about a food fight in the dorms that made the evening news.

Later on, the room was held rapt by Class of ’96 President Eddie Willis. You could hear a pin drop.

Willis has an amazing story about how he rose to become head of the Structural Design Department at the Container Corporation of America at age 19. When he learned that his lack of a college degree stood in the way of further advancement, he enrolled at Textile on a full scholarship, was elected class president in his senior year, and graduated at the top of his class. He worked closely with President Bertrand Hayward to develop a diversity plan for the college.

He was the first alumnus from Textile to attend Harvard Busi-



ness School, where he earned an MBA in computer-based information systems and finance, and set off on a successful career in the financial industry. Willis was also an adjunct professor at Penn’s Wharton School for 12 years, where he created and taught courses on entrepreneurship and served on the taskforce that established an entrepreneurship center.

“I attribute a lot of my life success to the foundation established at Textile,” Willis said.

Homecoming weekend is about people and legacy. Our first enterprise-wide campaign, Reimagine, is also about people and legacy. It’s about generating support for people who will change the world. It’s about creating a legacy of creativity and careers for the future.

I hope you’ll take time to learn more about Reimagine, and that the projects we’re launching will capture your imagination or stir your spirit. You’re a part of our shared story, and you can help us design a brighter future. 🍷

Elizabeth A. Dale



Elizabeth A. Dale, EdD, MPA
Executive Vice President and
Chief Advancement Officer
Office of Institutional Advancement

215-503-5138
elizabeth.dale@jefferson.edu
[@elizabeth__dale](https://twitter.com/elizabeth__dale)

Please contact me if you’d like to learn more about the doors you can open and lives you can change. I’d love to hear from you.



GET
CONNECTED
with Alumni Relations on Social Media!

 /ThomasJeffersonAlumni
 @jeffersonalumni

RAM → ROUNDUP

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

Rams Are Winners On and Off the Field

Student-Athletes Recognized for Volunteer Work

The student-athletes at Thomas Jefferson University are winners—but their victories have nothing to do with scoring on the basketball court, soccer field, baseball diamond, or any other field of play. They've put notches in the "win" column for their work on behalf of their communities.

During the fall of 2019, Rams student-athletes participated in the NCAA Team Works and



Helper Helper Challenge, a community-service mission.

Over the course of the two-month challenge, which ran from September to November, Rams student-athletes logged 3,583 total hours of community engagement, according to Pat Horvath, the university's Coordinator of Community Engagement and head baseball coach.

The baseball team alone averaged 32 hours per student-athlete, logging nearly 1,500 hours collectively. In doing so, the team topped the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (and was second among all DII conferences) in the NCAA Team Works and Helper Helper Challenge.

Overall, Jefferson cracked the Top 10 in participation. Horvath says the ranking is

emblematic of increased community engagement levels each year since 2015.

"We have built great relationships with Athletes Helping Athletes, Special Olympics Pennsylvania, Beats for Bella, Team IMPACT, and Erving Youth Basketball Experience," Horvath says. "With these partnerships, our athletic department has been able to have a greater impact on the youth in our area."

He credits the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) for an outstanding job of hosting and organizing the community engagement events and encouraging involvement from student-athletes.

Some of the highlights of participation include:

The Jefferson Rams women's basketball team volunteering (for the fifth year in a row) at the annual Beats for Bella golf outing at Jeffersonville Golf Course in September 2019. Beats for Bella is a non-profit organization that strives to create awareness for Congenital Heart Defects (CHDs).

The Jefferson Rams women's volleyball team raising more than \$1,200 for the Sideout Foundation during its annual "Dig Pink" game.

The Jefferson Rams women's basketball squad teaming up with Julius "Dr. J" Erving at the hoops legend's Youth Basketball Experience at the Sixers Training Complex in Camden, N.J.

The Jefferson Rams women's soccer team participating in their annual "Vs. Cancer" match designed to raise awareness and funds for childhood-cancer research. The event raised more than \$2,000 for the organization.

Alumni Spotlight



Alumni Spotlight Abe Almonte, BS '16

Growing up, Abe Almonte BS '16 wasn't a standout baseball player. But he worked at it hard enough to earn baseball scholarships to help pay for college—and to catch the eye of major league baseball scouts.

Almonte, who earned an undergraduate degree in accounting while pitching for the Jefferson Rams, was a 26th round draft pick for the Arizona Diamondbacks. He pitched in the team's minor league system for two seasons, but was let go in March of 2019.

Almonte is currently working on his MBA at Jefferson while coaching Rams pitchers and doing off-season training to play for the Evansville Otters in the Frontier League, an independent pro baseball league.

The son of Dominican Republic immigrants, Almonte credits his parents with teaching him a good work ethic and serving as his inspiration. "I just want to make them proud—every time they see me."

R A M S RISE UP C H A L L E N G E

On November 12–13, Jefferson athletes, students, parents, faculty, staff, family, friends, and alumni rose up to the challenge to collect donations in support of the university's 17 Division II teams. In just 24 hours, the Rams Rise Up Challenge raised \$44,079 thanks to the support of 869 benefactors—more than double the original 400 donor goal.

Student-athletes from all programs played important roles in the

event, with the women's rowing team topping the charts by rallying 330 donors and raising a whopping \$15,446. The men's golf team had the highest donor percentage, surpassing their original goal by 1,300 percent.

Special thanks to the 87 advocates who spread the word online about the Rams Rise Up Challenge. They generated more than 2,500 clicks to the site that resulted in a grand total of \$18,487 in donations.

Highlights from the two-day event include:

A kickoff celebration where supporters could donate in support of their favorite Jefferson team

A dance party with Phil the Ram and the Phillie Phanatic, with a special guest appearance from Dr. Stephen K. Klasko, president of Thomas Jefferson University and CEO of Jefferson Health

A 24-hour erg-a-thon by the women's rowing team

A 5-0 victory over Dominican (N.Y.) by the women's soccer team in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference quarterfinals, securing them a spot in the semifinals versus the Goldey-Beacom Lightning

While the challenge may be over, donations can still be made in support of the Jefferson Rams. Thank you to all of the athletes, advocates, volunteers, and donors who made the first-ever Rams Rise Up Challenge a roaring success.



SMART INVESTING. SMART GIVING.

Making the IRA Charitable Rollover Work For You

The SECURE Act increased the RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) age from 70½ to 72. However, you can still make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) at 70½.

Why make a gift to Jefferson with your IRA?

- Rollovers can qualify for your "required minimum distribution."
- You can reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.
- You can designate your gift to any area or program at Jefferson.

How it Works

- The gift must be made on or before December 31 of the tax year.
- You must be age 70½ or older at the time of your gift.
- Transfers must be made directly by your IRA administrator to Jefferson.
- You can transfer up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA to Jefferson; spouses can transfer up to \$100,000.
- Gifts must be outright. The rollover must be from a traditional IRA, not a 401(k), 403(b), or other retirement plan.

Jefferson does not provide tax, legal, or financial advice.

Please consult your own advisors regarding your specific situation.

When we realized our IRA's required minimum distribution would put us in a higher tax bracket, we were glad to discover we could make a distribution from our IRA directly to charity. What a win-win: no taxes for us and Jefferson gets the entire distribution! It's such a great way to support the students at Jefferson!

— Den Cullen, '74

Questions? | We're here to help.

Lisa Repko, JD
Vice President for TJU and Planned Giving
Lisa.Repko@jefferson.edu
215-955-0437

Michael S. Molloy
Assistant Vice President for Major Gifts and Planned Giving
Michael.Molloy@jefferson.edu

Reimagine.Jefferson.edu

1967

BARRY C. DORN, MD
Medicine

Dr. Dorn recently published the leadership book *You're It: Crisis, Change, and How to Lead When It Matters Most*.

LOUIS L. KEELER, JR., MD
Medicine

After completing his residency in 1967, Dr. Keeler stayed on staff until 1980, rising to the faculty position of clinical assistant professor. He writes: "God rest Paul Zimskind, MD '57."

1974

JOHN J.S. BROOKS, JR., MD
Medicine

Dr. Brooks will be retiring as chair of the Department of Pathology at Pennsylvania Hospital in June 2020. He reports he is looking forward to travel and spending time with his grandkids. He sends best wishes to fellow 1974 classmates.

1975

L TADD SCHWAB
Apparel Marketing and Management

Tadd and his wife, Sandy '77, have four grandchildren and are living happily in Delray Beach, Florida. He serves on the Jefferson Academic Board and works hard to preserve the school's Textile heritage. He recommends that everyone "take time and visit campus, and see one great 21st century university!"

1979

TIMOTHY FREI, MD
Medicine

Dr. Frei has been practicing in Ahoskie, North Carolina, as a hospitalist for the past nine years. Before that, he had a private practice there for 28 years.

1983

MARCIA (MEYERS) WEISS
Textile Design

Marcia is happy to say that she has been teaching her wonderful students at Textile since 2006. As program director the Textile Design BS and MS programs, she gets to collaborate with incredibly talented faculty every day. She emphatically states: "To all of our alums, please come back and see us. We'd love to have you visit campus!"

1990

IDA BROPHY, RN, BSN
Nursing

Ida has been a registered nurse for more than 28 years. She and her husband Rob have three daughters: Gina (28), Lindsey (26), and Alyssa (23).

1996

JENNIFER (FRANK) RHODES
Textile Design

After graduating from Textile, Jennifer worked at Automotive Interiors, Contract Textiles, Drapery & Bedding, and Memory Foam Sleep Products. She began teaching at PhilaU in fall of 2015, and in July of 2018 became the assistant program director of the Textile Design Undergraduate Program.

1997

KEVIN M. CREGAN, MD
Medicine/Fellowship

Dr. Cregan recently retired from George Washington University's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery after 46 years—28 as department chair. He is now professor emeritus, and spends at least one day a week at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center seeing patients with shoulder injuries. During his career, Dr. Cregan served as president of the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons and Western Trauma Association. He served as editor-in-chief, editor, and contributor for numerous publications, and has authored five books. He was honored with the first Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mid-Atlantic Shoulder and Elbow Society for contributions to orthopaedic education. He received the Unsung Hero Award from the Lacrosse Foundation, and was named a pioneer in shoulder and elbow surgery by the International Board of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery and a distinguished emeritus at New York Orthopaedic Hospital. Dr. Cregan has traveled the world as a visiting professor and presidential guest speaker.

2005

DESPINA TWYMAN
Business Administration

Despina worked at Lockheed Martin for seven years after graduation, then at Client Solution Architects for three years under GDIT. She's currently working for McKean Defense at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania, as a program analyst. She's been married 13 years and has four children; the oldest graduated high school and the youngest graduated kindergarten.

2006

COLLEEN RABBITT
Nursing

Colleen is working as a certified registered nurse practitioner at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in the Division of Nephrology. Her daughter is also a registered nurse at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2008

TARA (MAYER) SCHWAB
Textile Design

Tara is currently working as a colorist for a swimwear company, and is also highly involved in product development and sourcing for new swim fabrics for a variety of brands within the company.

2009

ANDREA ROSE PARLAPIANO
Textile Design

Andrea works at Bryant Industries, an outdoor casual company located in New York City. Over the past seven and a half years, she has worked her way up from junior stylist to senior print designer and woven director.

2013

LAUREN CHRISTI GATTO
Textile Design

Lauren has been in product development for 10 years, and is currently a product developer for Resident Home, a home goods company that makes the Nectar, DreamCloud, and Awara mattresses. She works on new sleep products from concept through to production.

2013

LUKE VAN METER
Industrial Design

After graduation, Luke began a full-time position as a senior consultant at Doblin, the innovation strategy practice at Deloitte Consulting. He recently finished an MBA at the Tuck School at Dartmouth while doing contract work for IDEO. He says, "My MSID from Jefferson/PhilaU has been an incredibly important catalyst for this career path."

2014

BEN DELAWARE
Construction Management

Ben is still living in his hometown of Haverhill, Massachusetts, working for the City of Haverhill as the recreation director. He runs numerous athletic programs for all ages, a Summer Day Program for kids, and special events throughout the year. He occasionally plays Men's Lacrosse, and coaches the program he runs.



▲ Louisa Befumo '14

2012

Alumni Build a Relationship, Business

Graduates are Partners in Design—and Life



Vincent Murphy and Emily Manera met in 2008 as freshmen at Philadelphia University and started their relationship the only way the architectural design students knew how—first, by laying a strong foundation of friendship. Throughout the years, they built on that friendship brick by brick—studying together, bouncing ideas off of each other, and hanging out together on campus. Two years after graduating—and after both had moved to California—their friendship was remodeled into love. They put the capstone on their story in September 2018 when they said: “I do.”

Vincent and Emily, owners of V&E Collaborative, a design-build firm in Joshua Tree, California, are 2012 graduates of the College of Architecture and the Built Environment. Both had planned on attending other schools in the heart

of Philadelphia, but ultimately ended up at the bucolic Philadelphia University.

Born and raised in the small dairy farm community of Nicholson, Pennsylvania, Vincent says when he pulled up to the beautiful lush campus in East Falls, “it was a feeling of almost being home.” Emily, from Mount Laurel, New Jersey, says she, too, was taken by the verdant open spaces—and also by the affordability of the tuition.

“We both fell in love with PhilaU,” Vincent says. Subsequently, they fell in love with each other. They credit the university for bringing them together because at other schools their majors would never have intersected, and they would not have crossed paths.

“It’s so diverse in its curriculum that you end up spending a lot of time working with people not in your base,” he explains. For example, graphic

design majors will find themselves working with landscape and architectural designers; interior design majors often collaborate with fashion and science students.

While they never collaborated on projects during college, the two had classes together, and were always in the studio together trading ideas for individual projects.

“We gravitated towards each other from the beginning,” Emily says.

Vincent, who has a degree in architectural studies and construction management, moved to Los Angeles six months after graduating to join a high-end developing company there. Emily, whose degree is in interior design, remained in Philadelphia, working for some of the top designers in the area. The two stayed in touch, and in 2014, Emily decided to make the move across the country to join Vincent.

“I did it mostly for my career—and a little bit for him,” Emily admits, quickly adding, “But mostly for my career.” She took a job with a design firm specializing in hotel design both nationally and internationally.

She and Vincent started dating immediately—and began collaborating on projects soon after.

V&E Collaborative grew out of a side job the couple took in 2016 to help one of Vincent’s

coworkers who was having trouble finding a contractor.

“She had purchased a dirt yard and was looking to turn it into a usable space,” Vincent explains. “So, we gave her a design. She loved it and asked if we wanted to do the work.”

The couple worked nights and weekends on the project while working their regular jobs during the week. “And we kicked butt!” Vincent says proudly.

After that, the referrals came rolling in, and the couple’s side jobs turned into a part-time business. They decided to take the leap of faith and leave their corporate positions to open V&E Collaborative full-time in January of 2019. The couple has since moved the business—and themselves—from the Los Angeles area to Joshua Tree (near Joshua Tree National Park).

In the future, the couple hopes to increase the size of their business, to add employees, and to become bi-coastal so that they can spend more time with their families in the Delaware Valley.

For now, they both say they are grateful for PhilaU—and their love of architecture and design—for bringing them together.

“We knew from college we were always able to feed off of each other and be creative,” Emily says. “We knew that together we just worked.”



MEGHAN L. KELLY
Textile Design, MS

Following graduation, Meghan joined a small yarn distribution firm developing hand knitting yarns. She worked with several international mills, giving her the opportunity to travel the world visiting mills, textile manufacturers, and trade shows. She also designed for several knitwear collections, and recently had patterns published in knitting magazines. She is now back at Jefferson teaching knitting design full time.

RACHEL ROBINSON
Textile Design

Rachel is currently working as a men's print designer at Ralph Lauren in New York City.

LOUISA BEFUMO
Textile Design

Louisa is currently in a position that she loves with Printfresh Studio. She is an artwork consultant, and travels the country with original print designs to meet with top brands.

2015
BRITTANY KUHL
Textile Design

Brittany is currently a designer at Under Armour on the graphics, print, and pattern team. Prior to that she was with Printfresh Studios as a print designer.

EMILY PAPPA
Textile Design

After graduation, Emily moved to New York City to work as an assistant men's print designer at Uniqlo. She is now the children's print designer for Canadian clothing brand Joe Fresh.

2016
MORGAN WALDORF
Textile Design

Morgan has worked with both startups and well-established businesses, soft home, and currently, fashion. She has been with Full-beauty Brands for the past year and a half, and is an assistant CAD designer for Roaman's and Jessica London, two amazing plus-sized fashion brands that truly want to make sure women of any size feel beautiful, sexy, and confident in what they wear. She also does some work with swim, lingerie, and a sister brand, Woman Within. While at PhilaU, Morgan focused on print design, but working at FBB has allowed her to use her full range of skills in print, weave, and knit. Of her company, she says, "We are a close and small group, but we're a powerhouse and I am very proud of the team I get to work with every day."



▲ Designed by
Morgan Waldorf '16

2017
ALISON ERVIN
Textile Design

Alison found her job at Bed Bath & Beyond through Design Expo, starting as an assistant designer two weeks after graduation. Since then, she has been promoted to associate designer, and has had the opportunity to travel to China and India. She designs everything from decorative pillows to kitchen textiles to bedding. Alison says, "I use skills from my PhilaU education every day in my design work!"

BECKY FLAX
Textile Design/MS

Becky is teaching in Jefferson's Textile Design department, as well as conducting research on Sustainable Dye Practices with Invasive Plant Species with Dr. Anne Bower in Biology.

MORGAN JEFFERSON
Textile Design

Since graduating, Morgan has been working as an Assistant Sweater Designer for Free People. In her position, she knits on machines, and comes up with new ideas for sweaters that represent the Free People brand. She ended 2019 with the number one style—the "BFF Sweater." She found a new love for fashion design this year when she was challenged to create two garments, and is enjoying expanding her skill set.

Outside of work, she has a passion for crocheting, and recently created a sweater coat for a model who was attending New York fashion week. It was a show

stopper, was featured in several blogs, and was listed under best NYFW street styles in *Essence Magazine*. She says: "My job is so much fun and a dream come true. It is exactly what I went to school for. I am taking the skills I learned in my knit design classes at PhilaU and applying them to my job every day."

Visit [Magazine.Jefferson.edu](https://magazine.jefferson.edu) for a Q&A with Morgan.



◀ Morgan Jefferson '17



2018
BAYAN ABDOH
Textile Design

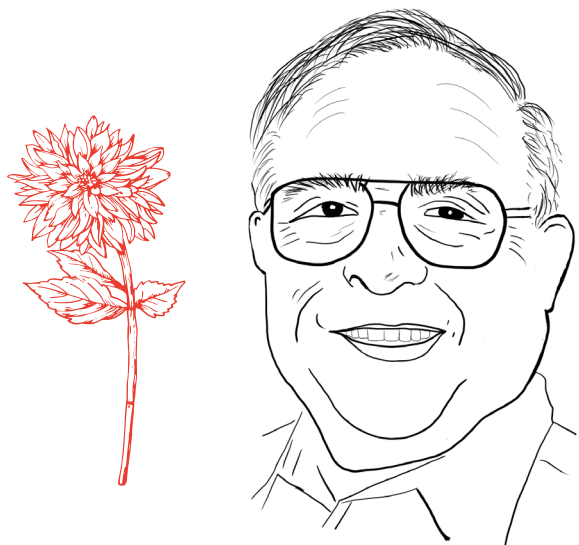
Bayan is a professor in the textiles and clothing department of Taibah University in Medina, Saudi Arabia.

SAVE
THE
DATE

—
**Homecoming
Weekend**
October 2-3



Learn more or register at
Jefferson.edu/AlumniEvents



Lawrence N. Field

Jefferson friend and benefactor Larry Field passed away on January 28 at the age of 89.

The only child of immigrants who fled the chaos in Hungary following World War I, he worked in their tiny Bronx grocery store and served in the U.S. Army. After becoming the country's top salesman of Dove soap, he worked briefly in a New York City real estate brokerage company. In 1965 he moved to Los Angeles, where he started building houses and buying commercial buildings, eventually founding the real estate development and investment firm NSB Associates.

Field was among the first developers to repurpose industrial properties into creative, high-performance office spaces, which attracted many of the area's digital media, hi-tech, and entertainment companies, including Google, Oracle, Time Warner Cable, and others. Early in his LA career, he befriended architect Frank Gehry, and the two teamed up to transform cavernous warehouses and industrial spaces into airy, sometimes quirky, work environments.

Field was a generous supporter of educational, arts, and healthcare organizations. In 2014, he made a gift to Jefferson naming the Lawrence N. Field DEC Building.

Jefferson is grateful to be a part of his legacy.

1939

John P. Rudolph, MD

1942

Robert T. Fox, MD

1943

Ruth I. Sunderland

1944

J. David McGaughey, III, MD
Henry S. Wentz, MD

1945

Elizabeth M. Greenwood
Christine W. Park
Mrs. Jennie E. Rule

1946

Jeanne M. Burkins
Jeanne L. Lebkicher
Betty Y. Zehner

1947

Joseph M. Corson, MD
Stanley A. Goldenberg
Joanne L. Koelle
Mary P. Swan

1948

Otto P. Durheimer
Charles G. Francos, MD
Elinor G. Hays
Eugene P. Hughes, Sr., MD
Richard M. Landis, MD
Phyllis M. Szewczak

1949

Elizabeth H. Carrick
Richard A. Ellis, MD
Allan J. Gluckstern
L. Roy Newman, MD
Edward H. Robinson, MD

1950

W. J. Jacoby, Jr., MD
Marian L. Koerner

Nancy A. Konstanzer
Richard L. Rovit, MD
Sonia Schorr Sloan

1951

Norman R. Cerino
George Morell

1952

Arthur N. Avella, MD
Robert A. Ebersole, MD
Bernard W. D. Fong, MD

1953

Norman C. Crill, MD
George A. F. Lundberg, Jr., MD
Janet E. Meredith

1954

Julian L. Ambrus, Sr., MD, PhD
G. Russell Atkinson, MD
Maxine B. Feldman
Ann W. Jordan
Edward Tober, MD
John D. Werley, MD

1955

Dolores H. Heckenberger
Gwendolyn Reese

1956

John J. Gostigian, MD
John W. Holdcraft, MD
Ann F. Kneidel
Patricia A. Rable
Joseph P. Ravin, MD
Stephen Kerr Williams, MD

1957

Robert S. Brodstein, MD
Margaret J. Haines
Charles L. Knecht, III, MD
Morton J. Robinson, MD

1958

Barry L. Altman, MD
Guy J. Carnabuci, MD

Jean Ecker
Nancy E. Griggs
William J. Warren, MD

1959

Lewis C. Druffner, Jr., MD

1960

Sherman W. Everlof, MD
John N. Giacobbo, MD
Edward J. Habernern, MD
John M. Hess, MD
Phyllis M. Hirst
William J. West, Sr., MD

1961

Barbara A. Birney
James A. Brecht, MD
Joseph J. Cirotti, MD
Ernest J. Montgomery, MD
Barbara C. Obin
Irma T. Pereira
William B. Pratt, MD
James Vorosmarti, Jr., MD
James A. Walsh, MD
Ellen K. Warren
Fay H. Wuchter

1962

Richard Seiple Crumrine, MD
Laird G. Jackson, MD
James T. Kauders, MD
Anthony J. Macri, MD

1963

Theresa R. Cooke
Robert M. Glad, MD
Robert L. Prince, MD
William Eric B. Scott, MD

1964

Anthony M. Harrison, MD
Joseph A. Riggs, MD

1965

Donald Comiter, MD
James R. Dingfelder, MD

Earl Jason Fleegler, MD
Dale H. Krum
John H. Sherrod, MD

1966
Robert Livingstone Erdman, MD
Jerome Hecht
Henry H. Hood, Jr., MD
Suzanne B. Levine
Richard A. Ulrich, MD

1967
Robert G. Altschuler, MD
Joseph J. Giombetti, MD

1968
Vincent J. Giuliano, Jr., MD
Donald H. Stock, MD

1969
Richard A. Grunwald

1970
Thomas J. Devers, MD
Christine Reed
Edward L. Urofsky

1971
David M. Goodman

1972
Stephen Brumberg

1973
Alan T. Benjamin
Joseph L.J. King, MD

1974
Domenico Falcone, M.D.
William J. Gibbons, MD
Richard P. Wallace, MD

1975
Judith A. Flannery
David O. Thayer, MD

1977
Hemant J. Desai, MD
Sheik M. Tarawaly

1978
Carol Packer

1979
Anthony J. DiElsi
John D. McGill
Theodore J. Segletes
Joseph L. Spaar, MD

1980
Robert M. Epsten, Jr., MD
Patricia S. Nasuti
John R. Starynski, MD

1984
Laurie E. Spence, MD

1986
Luisa E. Lehrer, MD
Andrea B. Magen, MD

1987
Fredda S. London, PhD

1989
Michael Tatarko, MD

1992
Debra P. O'Hara
Sharon Schwartz

1993
Marian Conrad

1995
Philip Cronin

1999
Ketaki Datta, PhD
Roberto Delgado
Robertson B. Tucker, MD

1998
Geoffrey K. Seidel, MD

2000
James Ives

2002
Teresa A. Markward

2003
Emilee Z. Banks

2005
Thomas P. Gallagher
Roman J. Knihnicky

2006
Wyniqua T. Ridgley

2008
Joseph E. Hewitt

2011
Suzanne L. Volz

2012
Katherine A. Burns

2016
Ethan R. Sellers, MD

2018
Bryan D. Lerner, MD

THE NEXXUS

POWERED BY JEFFERSON



Jefferson proudly introduces The Nexus to help us share the
inspiring stories that exist throughout the University. Learn
what “redefining humanly possible” really means as told by
our staff, faculty, students and alumni.

nexus.jefferson.edu



JEFFERSON INNOVATOR Magazine

TRIVIA

Give our open-book quiz a shot!
HINT: All of the answers are in this issue!

1. What year did Philadelphia Textile Institute relocate to East Falls?
A. 1824
B. 1946
C. 2012
2. What year did Jefferson Medical College open its doors to female students seeking an MD?
A. 1950
B. 1961
C. 1969
3. Where can I learn more about supporting the Ram Pantry?
A. Jefferson.edu/GiveJeffSecure
B. Call 215-955-0437
C. All of the above

BONUS Identify any three of the people or monuments on the next page for bonus points!

Submit your answers at Jefferson.edu/InnovatorTrivia by June 1, 2020.
A perfect score will enter you in a drawing to win a Jefferson t-shirt.



125 S. 9th Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Change Service Requested

SHARE YOUR STORY

Let fellow alumni know what you've been up to by sharing your news in Class Notes! Send us your news to editor@jefferson.edu.

