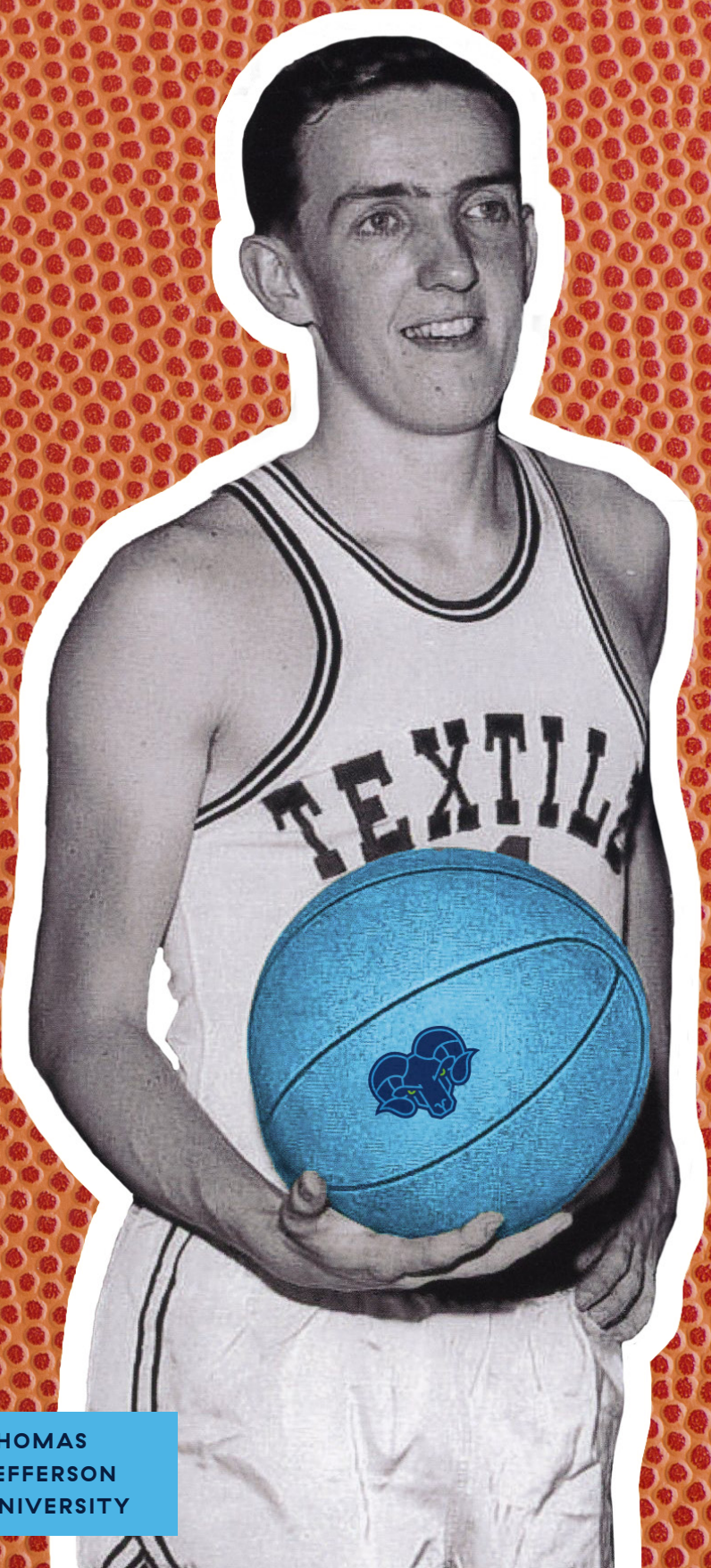


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SUMMER
2022

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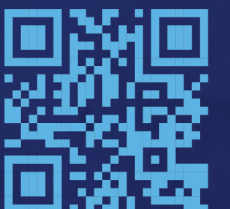
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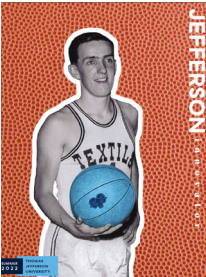
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Summer 2022

On the cover:
Herb Magee
from his time
as a student-
athlete (1959-
1963).

Jefferson Innovator is
produced by Jefferson's
Office of Institutional
Advancement 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

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The Provost’s Column

*The following is an adaption of
the latest “Fireside Chat” with
Provost Mark Tykocinski, MD.
Here, Dr. Tykocinski, shares
the vision and strategic plan for
putting Jefferson on the road to
preeminence. You can view the
Fireside chat at
Jefferson.edu/FiresideChat*

JEFFERSON HAS ALWAYS been
at the forefront of revolutionary
education.

In 2017, Thomas Jefferson
University and Philadelphia
University merged to establish
a future-focused professional
university that is keenly aware
of what today’s students need to
become tomorrow’s movers and
shakers in architecture, business,
design, fashion, health, and
science.

In order to remain at the
pinnacle of education and
research, an institution must
continually re-evaluate and
reinvent itself... we must
continually reimagine and
re-create the university of
tomorrow.

Our new Strategic Plan is
a blueprint for growth and
advancement over the next six
years. It projects what we want to
look like a decade from now.

Our three-pronged approach
centers on expanding the
aspects of a comprehensive
university... scaling up the
research enterprise... and further
extending our global reach and
approach to education and
medicine.

First—a comprehensive
university.

When Jefferson merged
with Philadelphia University,
we created multi- and cross-
disciplinary educational

opportunities for students on
both campuses. This provides
broader career options for all,
and molds well-rounded citizens
of the globe. Some of our medical
students have said that they
specifically chose the Sidney
Kimmel Medical College because
of the opportunities to work
across disciplines and explore
non-clinical ideas and inventions
that could help their patients.

Our students on all campuses
are addressing the complex
challenges of humanity and
finding ways to improve lives,
to be the healers and builders of
society.

Second—scaling up the
research enterprise.

It’s no secret that a top-notch
medical center needs a high-
caliber research infrastructure.
It elevates ranking. It attracts
the best and brightest faculty
and students. It brings in
funding and grants, and it
inspires philanthropy. And,
most importantly, it leads to
breakthroughs that result in
new treatments and cures for
diseases.

By broadening Jefferson’s
world-class research program
to include design, engineering,
business and industry, and
humanities and social sciences,
we are keeping our students
at the forefront of emerging
professions and supporting them
in exploring the “what ifs” that
lead to a brighter future.

That brings us to our third
focus—a global reach.

Technology has put the world
at our fingertips. We can get on a
jet and be anywhere in the world
in a matter of hours. We can see
and speak with people across
the globe, collaborate in virtual

laboratories, and log in to online
classrooms.

A professional-based
education requires an
international perspective
because today’s students are
global citizens and expect global
learning experiences.

With Jefferson’s eight Global
Centers across the world, our
students have unique educational
opportunities to learn and
connect with diverse people on a
multitude of topics.

Our international endeavors
broaden funding and
philanthropy potential, and
allows our students to experience
different cultures, fostering a
greater understanding of each
other.

In order to stay relevant,
we need to thrive in world of
perpetual change, become part of
the solution to global challenges,
and continue to be humanistic,
impactful contributing citizens of
global society.

Today there are no
boundaries—geographical or
otherwise. We are only bound by
our imagination, inspiration, and
collaboration. 🌐



Mark Tykocinski

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



12



08



48



34



22

Poet Shel Silverstein sang about scheming and dreaming, with wild eyes gleaming, to ride the perfect wave. He would've done well to talk to alumni Zachary Samalonis and Yuhan Zhang, who designed the Swell Surf Foot.

Perhaps perfection is in the pursuit. You can't count how many shots swished at the hands of Herb Magee, or under his tutelage, yet he continued honing his craft over 50 years, touching immortality.

Or maybe perfection's ineffable, like a song. In reaching for the perfect pitch, students (and alumni) in Jefferson's glee clubs find peace, kinship, and meaning.

Pragmatists tell us not to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. But as our recently retired president, Dr. Stephen Klasko, might say, the only way to create real change, real good, is to strive for something amazing, revolutionary, even perfect. Whether it's a chair for everyone or a built environment or a scholarship gift, at Jefferson we believe there are no limits. Perfect, like impossible, is just a word.

Correction: The fall issue of *Jefferson Innovator* mistakenly published two incorrect images of the Rams 1970 championship team. The article was corrected online. We apologize for and regret the error.

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JOHN K. MITCHELL'S

Automaton Chess Player

*Adapted from "Legend and Lore: Jefferson Medical College"
Chapter 12: Jefferson Vignettes by Dan Hanagan*

Back in the mid-19th Century, a Jefferson professor named John Kearsley Mitchell purchased a world-famous automaton known as the "Turk." The Automaton—an aloof, turbaned figure—toured far and wide, playing chess, defeating all comers, and baffling audiences (including one Edgar Allan Poe). When Mitchell bought it, the automaton's creator had just died in town, and the "Turk" had been seized to settle debts. Unfortunately, the machine was in pieces. Mitchell painstakingly reassembled it and had it displayed in a nearby museum. Years later, the museum caught fire. Mitchell's son, himself a Jefferson alumnus, attempted to rescue the Turk from the flames. He failed, but afterward published an obituary of the automaton that revealed the secret of its incredible chess prowess.

FROM 1841 TO 1858, John Kearsley Mitchell served as professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine at Jefferson, part of the school's then seven-man faculty. This group—which boasted the likes of Thomas Dent Mütter, the famed collector of medical artifacts, Robley Dunglison, the "Father of American Physiology," and later, Samuel D. Gross, the "Emperor of Surgery"—quickly established itself as one of the best faculties in the nation. Their lectures attracted not only large numbers of aspiring medical students, but many practicing physicians as well.

In an 1880 address before the Alumni Association, which was dedicated to the memory of the "Famous Faculty of 1841," John Hill Brinton, MD 1852, spoke of Mitchell's devotion to the students.

"He was the student's friend. In sickness and trouble, they turned to him, and never sought his aid in vain. Many a poor young fellow, struggling in the vortex of a great city's temptation, has he sustained by his wise counsel and kindly sympathy. Many a student has he helped from his own purse, and none the wiser."

Mitchell was something of a polymath, with a mind eminently poetical and susceptible of the beautiful. Perhaps the most unique object to attract Mitchell's curiosity was the famed Automaton Chess Machine, which he painstakingly reconstructed during the summer of 1840.

The device consisted of a life-sized model of a human head and torso, with a black beard and grey

eyes, and dressed in Ottoman robes and a turban. Known as the “Turk,” it had been originally built in Vienna in 1769 by Baron Wolfgang Von Kempelen, a brilliant mechanic employed by the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa.

For 84 years, the Turk toured Europe and the Americas, amazing onlookers and winning most of its games. The machine defeated such august challengers as Napoleon Bonaparte and Benjamin Franklin.

After the Baron’s death in 1804, another mechanic employed at the Court named John Nepomuk Mälzel purchased the Automaton from Kempelen’s heirs.

The Turk was a sensation when it arrived in New York City in 1826, making news in virtually every American newspaper.

It toured as far west as the Mississippi River. In Richmond, Virginia, the Turk was observed by Edgar Allan Poe, who was writing for the Southern Literary Messenger. Poe’s essay “Mälzel’s Chess Player” was published in April 1836 and is the most famous essay on the machine, although many of Poe’s hypotheses were incorrect (such as that a chess-playing machine must always win).

The Turk sat behind an enclosed four-foot-square table, like a cabinet. Theatrically, Mälzel would throw open every part of the box, showing the audience a spiderweb of machinery that connected it to the torso of the Turk. Then he’d

invite someone to inspect the Turk, showing no person was under or behind it.

Challengers would sit at a bench with a second table with an identical chessboard. Opponents didn’t play the Automaton directly because the chess pieces had to be placed precisely in the center of every square for the Automaton to grasp them.

After an opponent moved, Mälzel moved the corresponding piece on the Automaton’s board. The Turk gracefully would raise its left arm, capture and lay down the opposing piece, grasp its own piece, and carefully place it on the correct square. The game proceeded until the Turk brought some important piece of his opponent’s in check, which it invariably announced with the usual formality, pronouncing distinctly the French word “echeque.” The game usually ended in favor of the Automaton.

When Mälzel arrived in Philadelphia, he rented an exhibition hall on South Fifth Street, between Walnut and Prune (now Locust), directly around the corner from what was then called Jefferson Medical College (in the old Tivoli Theater at 518-20 Prune).

In 1838, following Mälzel’s unexpected death at sea, the Automaton was sent to an auctioning block in Philadelphia. The sale brought a response from a seemingly unlikely prospect: John Kearsley Mitchell.

Though he was one of Philadelphia’s most successful medical practitioners, Mitchell’s pockets were not deep enough to justify the purchase. Instead, Mitchell had the idea to make the Automaton the property of a “club.” Membership depended solely upon a personal acquaintance with

Mitchell and a predisposition, on that account, to part with five or ten dollars. George Allen humorously classified the membership of the club into three distinct groups:

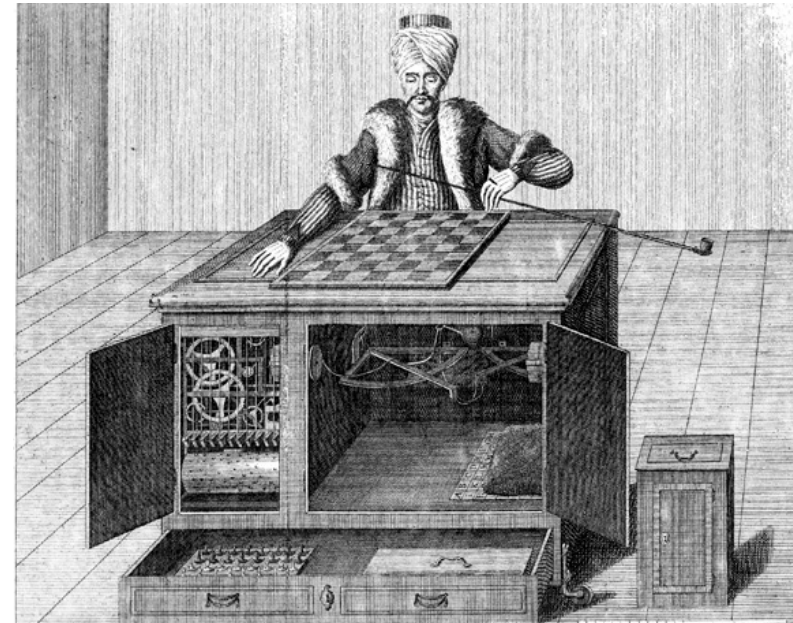
“Many subscribed their entrance fee to the club because they wished at the same time to know the secret and to please Dr. Mitchell; others because they wished to please Dr. Mitchell, without caring to know the secret; and some few, as in all voluntary subscriptions, subscribed because they could not refuse.”

Ultimately, the names of 75 prominent Philadelphians appeared on the subscription list, including members of University of Pennsylvania’s medical faculty and three of Mitchell’s future associates on the 1841 Jefferson faculty: Charles D. Meigs, Joseph Pancoast, and Mütter.

When it arrived at Mitchell’s office, the Automaton was contained inside five wooden crates that had been packed by Mälzel shortly before his death. He neglected to leave any directions behind for Mitchell to follow, and reassembling the Automaton appeared near impossible.

Before long, Mitchell’s office took on the appearance of a machine repair shop as the contents of the boxes spilled out across the floor for sorting and identification. To make the task even more difficult, Mälzel intentionally added components to the storage crates which did not belong to the Automaton to confuse any would-be competitor attempting to pry into his trade secrets. Throughout the summer of 1840, Mitchell labored on the Turk’s restoration.

Finally, in September, after many “amusing failures,” Mitchell completed his work and invited the club members to his cramped and



▲ *The Automaton Chess Machine: This engraving first appeared in a 1783 pamphlet written by Karl Gollleib von Windisch and was based on drawings provided by the Automaton’s inventor, Bawn Wolfgang von Kempelen. (©The Library Company of Philadelphia)*

crowded office to demonstrate the Automaton’s mysterious method of operation. For several months, Mitchell conducted private exhibitions for the friends and families of the shareholders.

After providing the Automaton with office lodgings for nearly six months, the shareholders arranged to move it to a nearby museum on the northeast corner of 9th and Sansom Streets, which had originally been constructed to house Charles Willson Peale’s famous museum. In 1840, however, it featured a collection of rare Chinese figurines. Once installed in its new home, the Automaton was placed inside a glass-fronted display case, which did much to preserve the working order of his machinery but little to attract an audience.

On the night of July 5, 1854, a fire broke out in the National Theater at the corner of 9th and

Chestnut Streets. The blaze spread rapidly to the adjoining buildings and leaped across the narrow alley that separated the theater from the museum.

When Mitchell’s son, alumnus and the “Father of Neurology” Silas Weir Mitchell, MD 1850, arrived on the scene, the fire was raging out of control. In a desperate attempt to rescue the Automaton, he braved the inferno with some of the firefighters. But they found the flame had already engulfed the Automaton.

S.W. Mitchell would later recall, “It might have been a sound from the crackling woodwork, or the breaking window-panes, but, certain it is, that we thought we heard, through the struggling flames, and above the din of outside thousands, the last words of our departed friend, the sternly whispered, oft-repeated syllables... ‘Echeque! Echeque!’”

Three years after the fire, S.W. Mitchell commemorated the loss of the Automaton by publishing an obituary for the Turk in *The Chess Monthly*, revealing for the first time its secret.

Like most magic, it was all sleight of hand.

The Turk was in fact a mechanical illusion that allowed a human chess master hiding inside to operate the machine. The hidden player changed his position inside the cabinet to avoid detection, while the exhibitor opened the doors for inspection. Once inside, the player would remove a piece of lining in the cabinet to reveal a mounted chessboard, directly beneath the one seen by the spectators. Attached to the hidden chessboard were metal indicators which rose and fell according to the position of the opponent’s pieces. To execute the Turk’s moves, the player engaged a pantograph, which positioned the Automaton’s mechanical arm over the playing board and operated its grasping hand. In the center of each square of the hidden chess board, a hole had been drilled to receive the point of the pantograph. By inserting this point into the desired location, the player could execute his moves without being in visual contact with the actual playing board.

The earliest writer on the subject was Karl Gottlieb von Windisch, who witnessed the first exhibition of the Automaton in 1769. Though convinced that what he had seen was a trick, Windisch could not explain exactly how Baron von Kempelen had carried it out.

“Is it an illusion?” asked Windisch. “So be it. But it is, then, an illusion which does honor to the human mind.”

2022

CLASS OF

They entered Jefferson in different programs and with various career goals and aspirations, but they all share a common bond: they're members of the Class of 2022. Seven students look back at their time at the University and discuss what lies ahead.

BY MIKE BEDERKA

Cameron Craig, BS in Marketing

Marketing graduate Cameron Craig can't name her favorite Jefferson moment. "There are thousands," she shares.

Her time with the Student Government Association (SGA) was pivotal to her University career. "SGA provided me with a foundation to be a professional advocate. It taught me how much I love being a leader, sharing knowledge, and communicating with others. SGA helped me grow a network of people who want to create positive, meaningful, and long-lasting change."

After graduation, Craig will utilize the real-world skills she learned at Jefferson and as a management intern at Kohl's in the business management field.

For Craig and her classmates, the tight community they have built makes graduation bittersweet. "Jefferson is a piece of all of us, and we're all a piece of Jefferson."



congrats
grad!

Anjeanette Mathis, MS in Organizational Leadership

For nearly two decades, Anjeanette Mathis has worked at Inglis House, a specialty care facility for adults with physical disabilities. She started as a licensed practical nurse and eventually moved to the adult day program.

Following the advent of the pandemic, her job now centers on occupational health, overseeing COVID testing and prevention.

As the first graduate of Jefferson's new organizational leadership program, Mathis received the structure she needed to streamline testing, vaccine, and booster procedures, helping with planning, execution, and revision.

A year after receiving her BS in behavioral and health services from Jefferson in 2018, she was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. She has finished chemo, her hair has grown back, and she's in good health. "I'm feeling great," Mathis smiles. "No complaints."

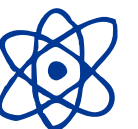
Jordan Mak, Doctor of Pharmacy

Jordan Mak worked at a neuroscience lab after earning his undergraduate degree in biochemistry at another school. While he always loved science, he didn't feel a sense of job satisfaction with bench research. "I felt a disconnect. It takes a long time for research to reach the patient."

After shadowing a pharmacist, Mak found his calling and enrolled in Jefferson's Doctor of Pharmacy program. "You can make a direct impact in patient care," says Mak, who will complete a PGY1 pharmacy residency at Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia.

Mak benefited from participating in Jefferson's interprofessional education programs and a national case competition with pharmacy and nursing students that sought to connect a refugee family with healthcare. This offered experience in social work and population health.

"I always knew I wanted to earn a doctorate degree, and Jefferson validated my decision to go to pharmacy school," he says.



Alicia Jensen, BS in Nursing

Throughout high school, soccer player Alicia Jensen experienced multiple concussions. Spending time over the years in doctors’ offices, she was inspired to learn more.

Jensen spoke at a United Nations panel ahead of the 2014 Super Bowl. Professional male athletes receive most of the attention on brain injuries and their aftereffects, and she wanted to change the narrative. “I was the only female and amateur athlete among a panel of professional athletes, she says. They were completely closed off about the reality of physical, mental, and emotional pain we feel after repeated head injuries. It gets brushed under the rug.”

She participated in media interviews and speaking engagements to promote concussion safety and earned an undergraduate degree in communications at another college, helping to fine-tune her message.

Jensen’s father’s diagnosis of brain cancer inspired her to return to school. “That exposed me to a whole other side of medicine and kick-started me to go into nursing,” she says. After completing Jefferson’s FACT-2 program, she has accepted a job offer in the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia’s emergency room, a place she visited often as a patient.

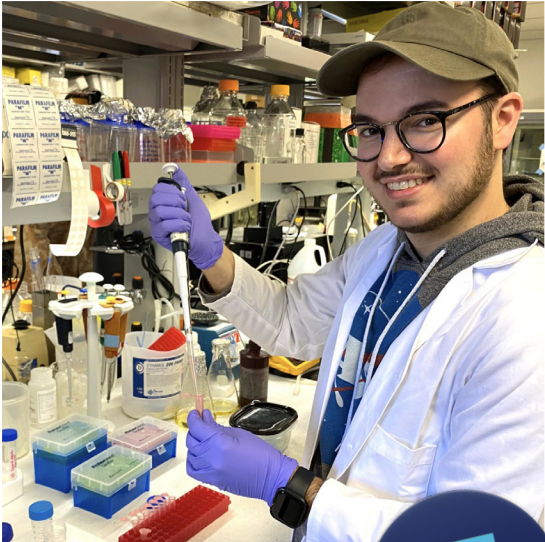


Nicholas Swanson, PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology

The community that Nicholas Swanson created became one of the most important parts of his time at Jefferson. Of all the organizations he participated in, No One Dies Alone (NODA) stood out. Here, volunteers offer support and compassion by spending time with terminally ill patients in their final days. “It’s incredibly powerful to connect with someone at this moment and be with them during their time of passing,” Swanson says. “It’s an experience everyone could benefit from going through. It helps you grow empathy.”

Making a difference in people’s lives drove Swanson at Jefferson. He was first author of a study with key therapeutic applications that examined how certain viruses could infect cells without having a tail long enough to do it. They learned the virus forms its own tail with an ejection mechanism. With this newly discovered feature, the “second” tail forms inside the cell membrane, allowing the virus DNA to infect the cell. “It was a mystery,” he notes. “This work is groundbreaking.”

Swanson is a post-doc associate at MIT, studying the HIV life cycle and how the virus can penetrate the cell nucleus. “It’s rewarding and fulfilling, and I’m using the skills I learned at Jefferson,” says Swanson, who plans to enter the pharmaceutical or biotech world after MIT.



Gillian Colwell, BS in Fashion Design

Gillian Colwell recalls that as young as age 5, they would sketch people they saw outside and put together their own mismatched outfits.

That love of fashion carried through to high school. When they visited Jefferson, they knew it was the perfect fit. “I could tell how close-knit everyone was, Colwell says. “The fashion design faculty and staff were like a family. They cared about us, our process, and helping us achieve our best forms.”

Colwell’s Jefferson designs focused on breaking traditions and catering to underserved communities. In two of their favorite collections, they designed looks for plus-sized trans people and created genderless pieces across the whole body spectrum.

Colwell is interviewing for tailoring jobs in New York City, hoping to design genderless suits and jackets. “Everyone, especially the plus-size queer community, deserves to feel great about themselves in their clothes,” they say.



Mallory Katen, BS in Interior Design

Jefferson interior design program grad Mallory Katen shares that the program enabled her to see all of the industry’s facets, from the creative side to construction documentation and code.

In one of her favorite projects, Katen used her adaptive-reuse skills to reclaim an abandoned church as a camera store. For another project, which made area headlines, she worked with St. Joseph’s University staff to build an autism-friendly residence hall for their school.

“We got feedback from the students, and that really drove our design,” she says. “It was an educational process to learn from the neurodiverse community.”

Katen gained more valuable real-world experience and connections through three interior design internships and will soon start working full-time as a designer at Meyer, the national firm where she was an intern. “I’m excited to collaborate with a team and see my projects come to life,” Katen says.



If you look carefully, you'll find that at the heart of every need, every challenge, every bit of change sits tremendous opportunity—opportunity to help someone, to heal someone, to create something, to do things differently, to identify and solve a problem, to make life better for one person, one community, or even one whole planet.

- H. Richard Haverstick Jr.
Interim President
Thomas Jefferson University

The future of this world is in great hands with you going out there!

- Mark L. Tykocinski, MD
Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs
Thomas Jefferson University





▲ Student Toni Feite works at the Afya Foundation, a New York nonprofit that's collecting and shipping pallets of critical medical and humanitarian supplies to Ukraine.

Occupational Therapy Doctorate Student Supports Ukrainian Relief Efforts

Toni Feite, a doctoral student in Jefferson's occupational therapy program, vividly recalls an occupational therapist visiting her childhood home to work with her younger brother, Paul, who was born with one hand after developing amniotic band syndrome in the womb. Years later, he now wrestles competitively in college. Feite saw the profound impact occupational therapy had on his life and knew where her career was headed.

"I want to develop that independence for people," Feite shared.

As part of her level II fieldwork arranged by academic fieldwork

coordinators Drs. Leigh Leonard and Amanda Lyons, Feite helps others with special needs while supporting relief efforts in war-torn Ukraine. She will soon complete a 12-week stint with the Afya Foundation, a Yonkers, N.Y.-based nonprofit that collects unused medical supplies and transports them to underserved communities and health systems around the globe.

The organization is currently focused on the crisis in Ukraine, where they're shipping pallets of critical medical and humanitarian supplies.

Many of Afya's volunteers have special needs. Feite first completes an occupational profile for the clients, conducts an assessment, and observes them in the warehouse environment to

identify strengths and interests, which she uses as a foundation to guide treatment. She utilizes this strength-based approach to support their independence and develop their life and employment skills as they sort, count, and bag the products in a real-world setting. She also provides quality checks on the bags before they are sent overseas.

Feite often assists volunteers in developing executive functioning, professional and social skills, sensory integration, and coping mechanism utilization. She also offers strategies to increase work tolerance and supports job readiness skills through résumé building, the application process, and interview prep.

"I love coming here," Feite shares. "I have developed my therapeutic use of self. I'm getting to know each client and making them feel involved, meaningful, and special. That's really important in healthcare and can sometimes get lost in a traditional setting."

After Feite graduates in June, 2023, she hopes to continue in the nonprofit world. She plans to collect and recycle prosthetics for those in need and provide occupational therapy services to help people maximize the equipment's functionality.

"Access to prosthetics can be hard," Feite says. "I want to support people like my brother and other amputees."

New Dean of College of Population Health



After an extensive national search, Billy Oglesby, PhD, MBA, MSPH, FACHE, has been appointed as Dean of Thomas Jefferson University's College of Population Health. A highly regarded population health administrator, educator, and researcher, Dr. Oglesby joined the University in 2016 and has been serving as the College's interim dean since 2019. He assumed his new position on May 1, and he will focus on program growth, evaluation, and reputation; enrollment management; faculty development and oversight; research expansion; alumni engagement, and student support services.

Jefferson Students Recognized by the Fashion Scholarship Fund

The prestigious Fashion Scholarship Fund (FSF) has named 12 Jefferson students as Class of 2022 Scholars. While the FSF received over 450 student submissions nationwide, Carly Kusy, Jefferson assistant professor of fashion design, reported



▲ The FSF named senior Kinley Lingenfelter a scholar for the fourth time.

that of the 45 participating programs, only one other school had more recipients than Jefferson.

Eight students were named FSF Scholars, each earning \$7,500: fashion merchandising and management (FMM) sophomore Adriana Cameline and junior Sydney Amster; and fashion design juniors Lyla Duffy, Hailey Nicchi, Lauren Schuler, and Carly Vlachos. Fashion design seniors Danielle Davis and Kinley Lingenfelter won for the fourth time.

Four students earned the \$7,500 FSF Virgil Abloh Post-Modern Scholarship. Established by the late fashion industry luminary, the scholarship supports the next generation of Black fashion industry leaders. Winners included: FMM senior T'yanna Neely and fashion design juniors Jamesether Koigbli, Kierra Lee, and Samuel Stern.

"This accomplishment speaks volumes about our incredible fashion programs, but more importantly, about our students' talent, dedication, and passion," Kusy says. "The faculty were blown

away by their submissions, and they all should be proud."

For consideration, students completed a written case study in one of four key areas: Merchandising, Design and Product Development, Marketing Analytics, and Supply Chain.

"Students researched real problems that the fashion industry and consumers face today and stepped up to the challenge," says Camille Avent, FMM visiting lecturer. Case studies included sustainability and diversity for Free People, a new knitwear line featuring Asian artists for Heaven by Marc Jacobs, and an inclusive and diverse skincare line for Kate Spade. "All the projects exhibited resiliency, innovation, and creativity."

The students were honored in February at a gala in New York City. Along with providing career advice, mentoring, and internships to scholars, the FSF awards over \$1 million each year to support students in all sectors of the fashion industry, including design, merchandising, analytics, marketing, and supply chain.

With New Course on Virtual Fashion Design, Jefferson Embraces Industry's Future

When the pandemic hit, the fashion world came to a standstill. Runway shows—the long-time lynchpin of the industry—went on an unsettling hiatus.

“The seismic shift caused by COVID-19 forced the industry to adapt and evolve to survive,” says Farai Simoyi, director of Jefferson’s fashion design program. Designers wondered how they could present and sell their collections without audiences being able to touch the garments.

The answer came by looking into technology and another, perhaps surprising, industry. “The gaming world has been developing avatars and clothing in 3D for such a long time,” Simoyi says. “As fashion designers, we were sitting on the sidelines looking at it.”

“Our program has been built on a willingness to explore fashion beyond just making clothes,” Simoyi remarks. “How can we incorporate fashion and technology?” Thanks to new software, fashion designers can create virtual pieces such as dresses, shoes, suits, and more. Jefferson embraced this trend with a new course in the spring semester, “3D Virtual Fashion Design.”

With virtual fashion, designers can create fantastical looks that will never exist in the real world. People can buy the rights to a virtual design as digital fashion non-



▲ The pandemic forced the fashion industry to adapt to survive. With new software, designers now can create virtual looks such as these pictured above. (Images/courtesy of CLO Virtual Fashion)

fungible tokens (NFTs), a trend seen frequently among social media influencers.

Others may lean toward more practical applications, Simoyi says. The same software allows designers to develop realistic looks, right down to the stitches and buttons.

This digital innovation also improves the industry’s overall environmental impact. Virtual fashion eliminates the need to ship patterns overseas for manufacturing, reducing the timeline to develop a collection. There is no need for travel to showcases or printing programs.

Using CLO software, students create avatars, develop sketches, design a whole garment, and showcase it in 3D. “When customers and consumers look at it, they can see what that garment looks like from every angle,” Simoyi says. “Once students finish this course, they will be able to develop and literally sell collections through this 3D design.”

The course will prepare students for the future of fashion design. Employers look for people who can help streamline processes and cut design time; and they also want students who know how to use 3D design software.

Simoyi shares that only a handful of universities offer virtual design courses, reinforcing Jefferson’s status as a top fashion design school. “We’re really leading the way with how academia applies itself to what’s happening in the industry. Our students will be some of the first students out there, especially in the Philly area, who will be able to use this software.”

For Senior Hannah Holton, “It will help us to stand apart from other job applicants, and it opens the door for more technical design positions. The course will add value to my degree.”

“We’re developing the future fashion leaders who are innovative and forward thinking. They will change the game,” says Simoyi.

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The Nexus allows us to share inspiring Jefferson stories.

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as told by our students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Jefferson.edu/NexusInnovator



EMPOWERING AMPUTEES TO

conquer the seas

BY IRISA GOLD



Many may recall the story of 13-year-old surfing virtuoso Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm due to a shark attack. She relearned how to surf, returning to the water not even a month later. One might say her success could be attributed to her philosophy, “I don’t need easy. I just need possible.”

Industrial design alumni Zachary Samalonis and Yuhan Zhang have made it their mission to provide the “possible” for leg amputees who dream of surfing the perfect wave.

Born of a shared interest in sports and medicine, their collaboration began with their year-long graduation capstone project. Motivated by adaptive sports for people with disabilities, inspiration struck after watching videos

of adaptive surfers on social media. “We did a lot of research about how adaptive surfing is helping people recovering, because to get out in nature helps physically and mentally,” Zhang says.

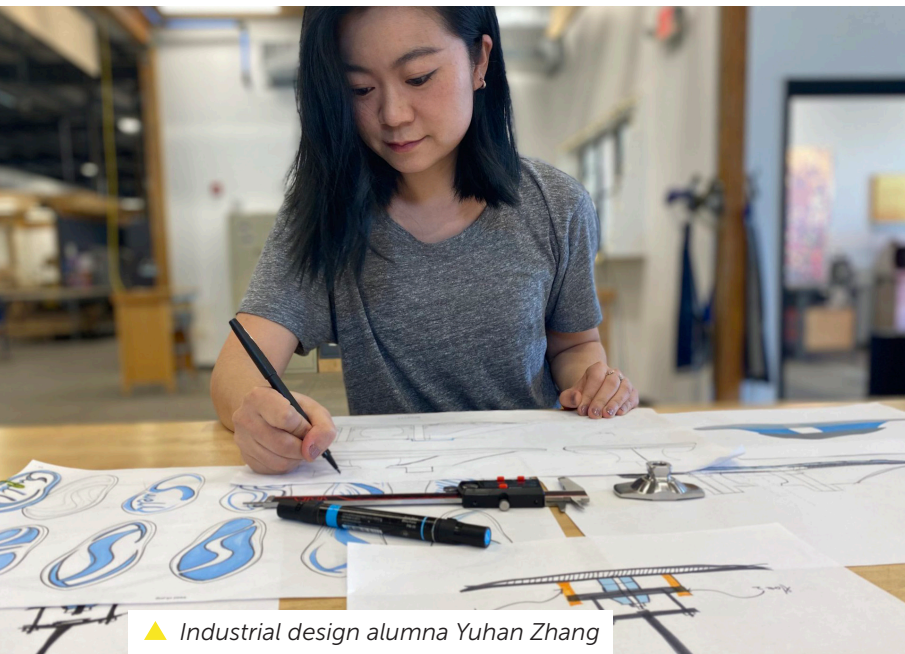
“There were surfers in wheelchairs and amputee surfers, and they were riding these waves. We both felt incredibly inspired and drawn to this topic of waves as a healing mechanism from all sorts of trauma,” says Samalonis. “We explored the different struggles that this group of individuals was experiencing, and landed on adaptive surfing for amputees.”

“They have a need and it is a problem we can solve,” Zhang says. “Their current prosthetics are getting broken down in ocean water. This is very expensive equipment and not

covered by insurance, so they are really struggling with it.”

Zhang and Samalonis spent their senior year developing a low-cost, waterproof prosthetic, the Swell Surf Foot.

The team began by surveying surfers about what was and wasn’t working for them, the kind of equipment they were using, cost implications, and accessibility. Samalonis explains, “We took their feedback and started making all sorts of prototypes. We went through like 20 rounds of prototype feet. In the beginning they were low-fi. It was just wood. We went to PetSmart and got a bunch of dog toys that were squishy that could simulate the ankle movement. From there, we built what we called an empathy rig that allowed us to test some of these early concepts ourselves to see



▲ Industrial design alumna Yuhan Zhang



▲ Industrial design alumnus Zachary Samalonis

what was working as well as validate if they were safe to use.”

Once they were able to zero in on ideas that worked, they began to work closely with a local amputee, who tried some of the prototypes and provided feedback. They also performed a lot of testing on a balance board to aid in simulating and analyzing the ankle movement they were trying to achieve.

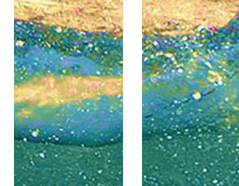
Many existing prosthetics are stiff and made from carbon fiber. While this allows them to be very light, it offers the ability to flex in only one direction. However, when one walks on the beach or when the foot is on a surfboard, it must be able to flex 360 degrees. Not only did the prosthetic need to move left, right, forward, and back, it needed to withstand saltwater.

There was nothing in the market that met these criteria. Some amputees were forced to modify their own prosthetics that were made with materials that would rust and corrode. Samalonis says, “The only solution available to them was to wrap it in duct tape and hope for the best.”

The Swell Surf Foot’s unique waterproof design features a dual urethane bushing system and sole that closely replicates the grip, movement, and flexibility of a human foot. This innovative concept enables surfers to move in ways current prosthetics prohibit, with improved ankle mobility.

The pair submitted the initial design for award consideration, receiving glowing accolades. They placed first in the sports and recreation student category of the Core77 Design Awards, a prestigious competition honoring excellence across the design field. They were in esteemed company, with other winners hailing from companies including Microsoft, Google, and Johnson & Johnson. Additionally, the design earned gold in the student category of the eminent Industrial Designers Society of America’s International Design Excellence Award (IDEA). Previous IDEA winners include the Tesla Model S and Apple’s original iPhone.

Due to the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, there had been no opportunity to perform ocean testing. Many beaches were closed, and the surf network dispersed. Following graduation and with the ease of restrictions, it was time to test Swell in the water.



Swell is like night and day compared to any of my traditional prosthetic feet. It is lighter, flexible, has grip, looks cooler...

► Ty Duckett, Swell Surf Foot tester



Samalonis explains, “Once we graduated, we did a revision of the whole project, brought it up to be surf-ready, and made a handful of Swell models at home together. From there we created a little package that we would send out to a handful of surfers that we’d been working with throughout the project.”

The team has four surfers testing Swell today. “The community has just been great. I don’t think we would have been able to complete this project if they hadn’t been open to giving us their feedback, thoughts, and concerns. Now Swell is actually being tested and used in the ocean, and it’s awesome to see the difference that it’s making compared to what they were surfing with before,” Samalonis says. “Yuhan and I were ecstatic to see Swell flexing and working how we intended.”

Ty Duckett, a Philadelphia native who is now in California, is one of the testers. “It doesn’t compare. Swell is like night and

day compared to any of my traditional prosthetic feet. It is lighter, flexible, has grip, looks cooler,” he shares.

Zhang and Samalonis proudly report that Duckett wore his Swell foot at the International Surfing Association World Para Surfing Championship in Pismo Beach, California in 2021. Following the competition, he provided additional feedback that will be incorporated into the next revision.

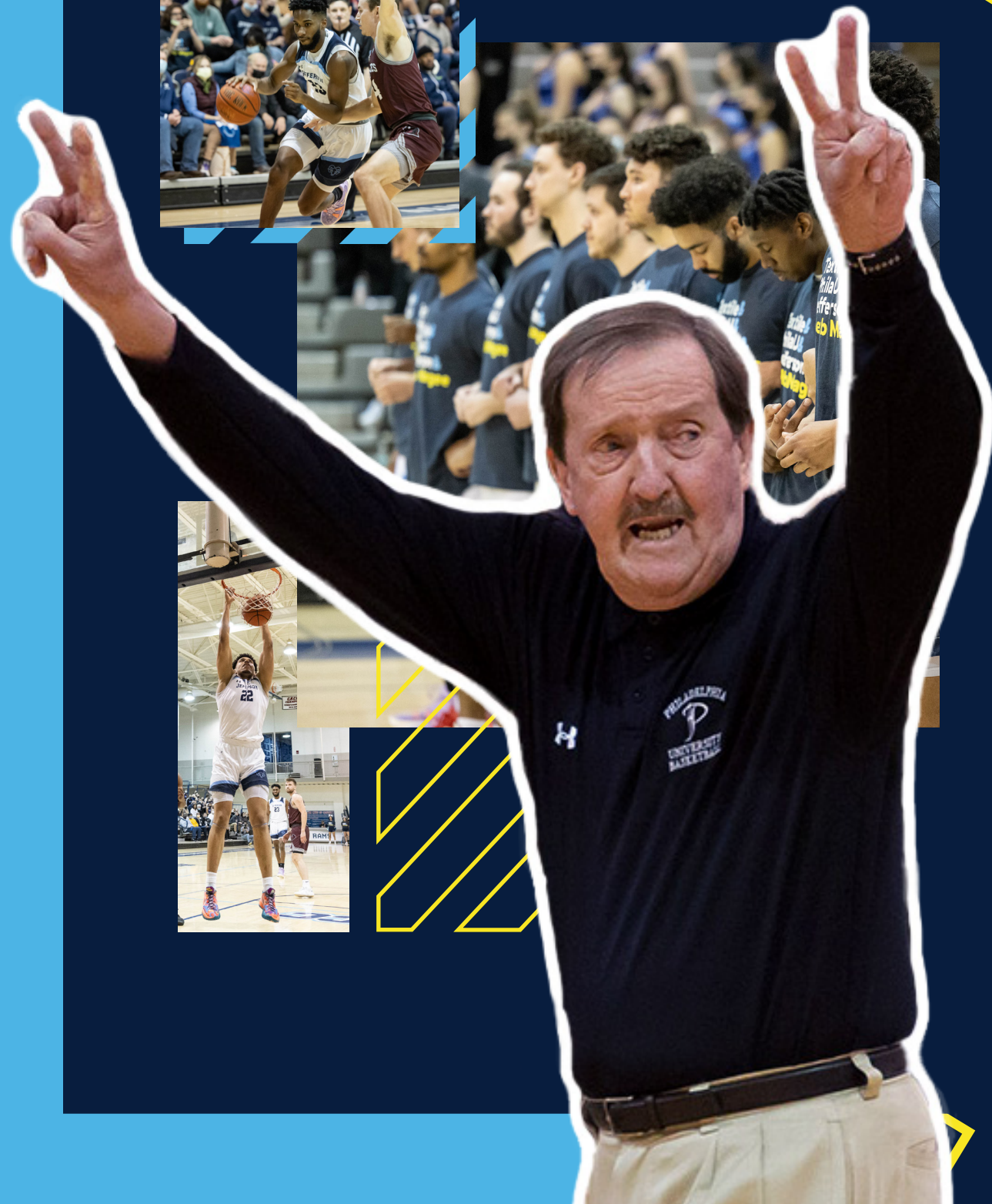
Samalonis remarks, “A lot of the existing ones that we’re currently sending out, we made 3D printed molds and we cast in our garage. So that’s been exciting. But at the same time, that can only take us so far. We’ve put together a package to send out to some preliminary manufacturers to get pricing to see what it would actually cost to make a handful of these to send out.”

Zhang confirms, “We’re still in the testing phase now and trying to send as many as we can put

out to surfers to test in the water. We’re going to probably do a couple of revisions and change the design a little bit; then start to think about patenting when we have the final design ready.”

This dynamic duo hopes to ride the wave of Swell’s success. Its application is not limited to surfing. “I think we could explore a lot of other areas. This mimics a real foot, so it probably will benefit walking or other sports like skateboarding and snowboarding,” Zhang says.

“Through our research, we found that doctors suggest amputees and people who have experienced trauma go into the ocean, whether it’s to surf or just to relax,” Samalonis says. “There’s just something empowering about the ocean and the fact that you can just get up and try again on the surfboard. That makes it really accessible.”



THE LEGEND

Coach Herb Magee '63, HOF '11

After a career that saw him become one of the greatest college basketball coaches in history and all-time NCAA Division II wins leader, Naismith Hall of Famer Herb Magee has retired as head men's basketball coach for the Thomas Jefferson University Rams.

Over the course of 54 seasons, Magee's teams posted a 1,144-450 (.718 winning percentage). He is second all-time in NCAA victories trailing only Duke's Mike Krzyzewski

(1,202), who also retired this past season. Magee is also the only basketball coach to have achieved that many wins all at his alma mater.

"Coach Magee is one of the greatest coaches in the history of Philadelphia basketball. He is an educator on and off the court, as well as a legendary winner," said Jay Wright, Villanova Head Men's Basketball Coach and two-time national champion. "Coach has also mastered teaching the art of shooting like no one else in the game. Through the years, he has done it all with incredible

integrity. No one in coaching has combined teaching, mentoring, winning, and class as proficiently as Coach Magee."

Magee led then-Philadelphia Textile to the 1970 NCAA College Division National Championship. He received the ultimate honor in his sport, with his 2011 enshrinement in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Magee has been the face of Rams basketball since his time as a student-athlete started in 1959. In addition to his accomplishments as a coach, he remains one of the best players

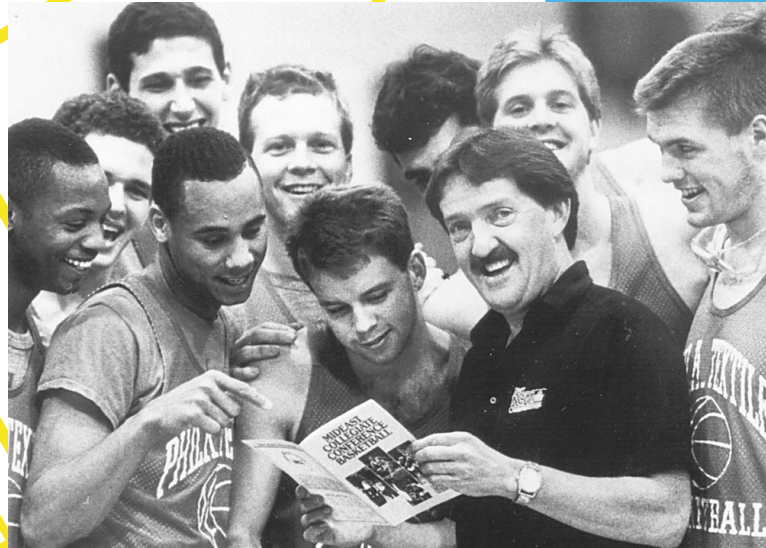
Coach Magee is a cornerstone of Rams basketball

to suit up for Jefferson, totaling 2,235 points (all before the introduction of the three-point shot) and earning All-America honors twice over his four years. Magee was inducted into the Jefferson Athletics Hall of Fame as a member of the 1984 inaugural class.

Magee was drafted by the Boston Celtics with the 62nd pick of the 1963 NBA Draft, but chose not to sign with the

team. Instead, he returned to East Falls to join Walter “Bucky” Harris’s staff. After four seasons as an assistant, Magee was promoted to the head job in 1967.

“Coach Magee is a cornerstone of Rams basketball,” said Mark L. Tykocinski, MD, executive vice president and provost of Thomas Jefferson University. “Although he may not be on campus every day after



When the name ‘Coach Magee’ is mentioned, it is generally treated as a second name for the University

this season, his impact will certainly be felt in perpetuity by his colleagues, opponents and, of course, the players he has influenced throughout his seminal career.”

Magee guided the Rams to 13 conference championships and 31 NCAA Tournament appearances. His teams reached 25 wins on 12 occasions, including a school-record 30 victories during the 1992-93 campaign. Magee’s teams have boasted a winning record in each of the past 24 seasons.

On February 1, 2007, Magee became the all-time Division II wins leader after picking up his 829th victory to pass another Naismith Hall of Famer, Clarence “Big House” Gaines. On February 23, 2010, Magee won his 903rd career game to pass Hall of Fame Coach Bobby Knight for first on the all-time list across all divisions at the time. He recorded his 1,000th triumph on February 7, 2015.

Assistant Vice President for Athletics Tom Shirley says it’s



difficult to put that long history of success into words.

“When the name ‘Coach Magee’ is mentioned, it is generally treated as a second name for the university. If you do not know him personally, you have at least heard of him,” Shirley said. “We can never thank Coach enough for all the contributions he has made to the university over his 63 years. His retirement celebration will,

of course, acknowledge his basketball expertise, but more importantly, it will salute a man who dedicated his life to the education of young people. We wish Coach Magee a great final season and a long and healthy retirement.”

COACH MAGEE'S LEADERBOARD

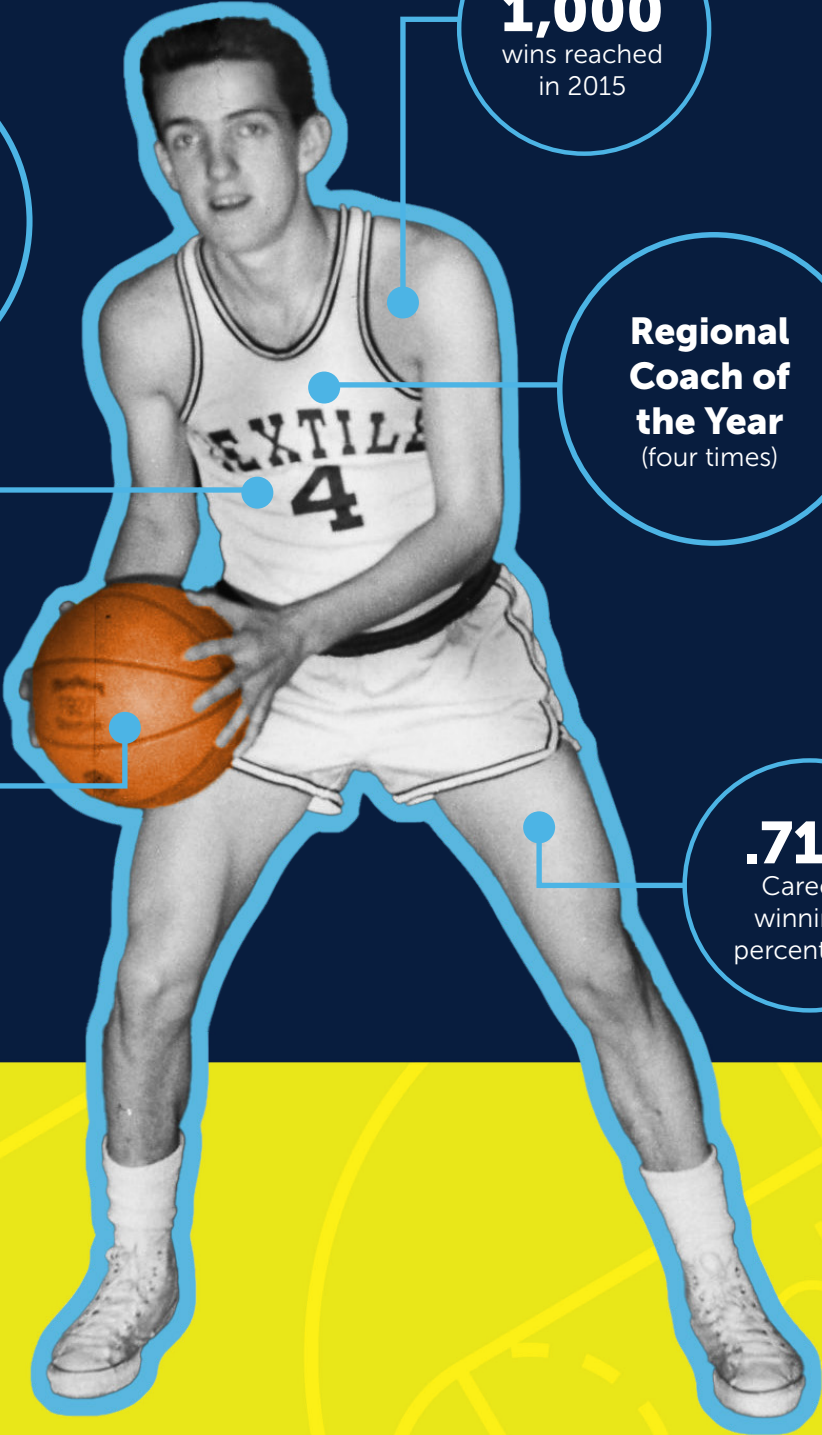
1,144
victories
second most ever

1,000
wins reached
in 2015

**Regional
Coach of
the Year**
(four times)

.718
Career
winning
percentage

**National
Coach of
the Year**



Hall of Fame Inductions and Coaching Awards

Naismith Memorial Basketball
Hall of Fame (Class of 2011)

NABC Guardian of the Game
(2005)

Joe Lapchick Character Award
(2016)

NCAA Pat Summit Award
(2022)

NABC Division II East District
Coach of the Year (1971, 1973,
1989, 1993, 2020)

Kodak District Coach of the
Year (1993)

Central Atlantic Collegiate
Conference Coach of the Year
(2008, 2010, 2020)

New York Collegiate Athletic
Conference Coach of the Year
(1993, 1994, 2004)

Mideast Collegiate Conference
Co-Coach of the Year

Pennsylvania Sports Hall of
Fame (1979)

Philadelphia University Athletic
Hall of Fame (1984)

Coaching Highlights (1963 — 2022)

NCAA Division II All-Time Wins Leader

NCAA College Division National Championship
(1969-70)

50 winning seasons

37 seasons with 20+ wins

12 seasons with 25+ wins

31 NCAA Tournament appearances

3 Regional Championships

13 Conference Championships

1 of 3 coaches in NCAA basketball history to
record 1,000 career wins



What They're Saying About Coach Herb Magee

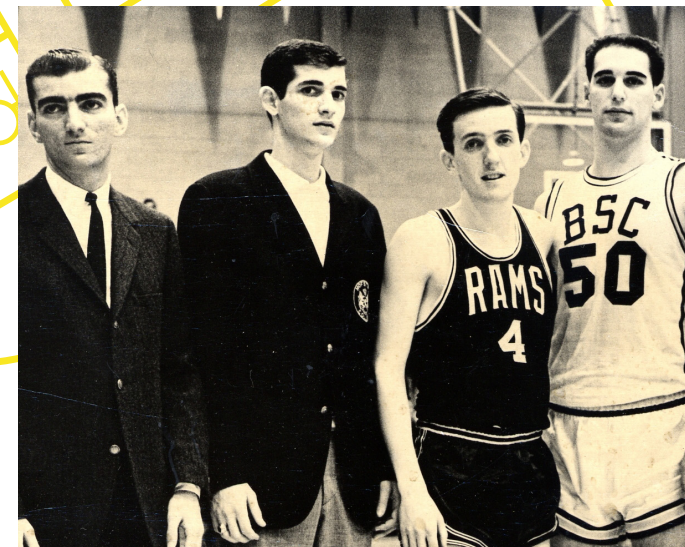
"Coach Magee and I go way back, all the way to my time as a player. We played Herb's team and naturally, they won. We also coached together with USA Basketball in Colorado. It was at that time with USA Basketball that I really saw what set Herb apart. He worked harder than anyone, treated people right and with respect, and no one had more fun than him. He and I shared a lot of laughs that week. It was there that I realized this guy is a Hall of Famer. He built a program and a culture at Thomas Jefferson that is second to none and I wish him nothing but the best in retirement."

- John Calipari, Kentucky Head Men's Basketball Coach, 2012 National Champion, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2015

"Coach Magee is one of the greatest coaches in the history of Philadelphia basketball. He is an educator on and off the court, as well as a legendary winner. He has mentored countless young men as players and coaches. Coach has also mastered teaching the art of shooting like no one else in the game. Through the years, he has done it all with incredible integrity. No one in coaching has combined teaching, mentoring, winning, and class as proficiently as Coach Magee."

- Jay Wright, Villanova Head Men's Basketball Coach, two-time national champion, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2021

"Herb Magee is synonymous with Philadelphia basketball, and I was so fortunate to have learned from him. While he has a wealth of knowledge about basketball, the lessons that I



took from him span from family to the importance of truth to the value of being on time—true life lessons. On the court and in the locker room, he is a true wizard. He's imparted his knowledge to so many basketball players and coaches that his legacy will live forever. He is the greatest of all-time and Philadelphia hoops will not be the same when he steps aside."

- Jesse Balcer, Chestnut Hill Director of Athletics and Recreation, Philadelphia Textile Men's Basketball 1992-96

"In a city that prides itself on having incredible basketball coaches, Coach Magee is the greatest of all of them. His ability to relate to young people and motivate and inspire them to be the best version of themselves separates Herb from so many others who have coached this game. Coach Magee has always been one of the most innovative offensive coaches in the country. The

game never passed Coach Magee by; in fact, I think the game is just starting to catch up to him."

- Steve Donahue, University of Pennsylvania Head Coach, Men's Basketball

"Coach Magee has elevated basketball in this great city for decades. He is a true institution and has stewarded his gifts on a high level. So many have benefited from his passion for coaching. His influence is beyond the records and Hall of Fame recognition. He has given multitudes of young coaches their first opportunities and has selflessly promoted them along the way. He has been an example of loyalty to former players and coaches. It's an honor to have learned from him both on a basketball and personal level. Much respect and congratulations to one of the best to ever do it."

- Billy Lange, St. Joseph's University Head Coach, Men's Basketball

"It is with emotion that I learn of Herb's retirement. It is a loss for the coaching profession and our Philly basketball community. At the same time, I am very happy for him and Geri to have more time and fewer restrictions to enjoy life. Herb is as good as they come as a family man, colleague, friend, teacher, and basketball strategist. I do not believe that we will see another career like his."

- Dr. John Giannini, Director of Athletics, Rowan University

common threads

Celebrating Women Designers in the Textile and Costume Collection

BY IRISA GOLD

Even some students and faculty at Jefferson's East Falls Campus may not be aware that just footsteps away in the Goldie Paley House is a hidden treasure trove of historical and educational significance.

Thanks to an online event in March hosted by Jefferson's Office of Alumni Relations celebrating International Women's Day and Women's History Month, alumni, students, faculty, and supporters were treated to an insider's peek into Jefferson's renowned Textile and Costume Collection.

Curator and adjunct professor Jade Papa oversees this amazing repository, which has been growing since the founding of the East Falls campus in the late 19th century. Currently, the collection houses 100,000 items, ranging from the oldest fabric from the year 234 when Egypt was ruled by the Byzantines, to a dress dating from the early 1990s.

Papa shares that this collection is incredibly important and unique. Titled a study collection, it offers students the opportunity to handle the contents, which is quite different from a museum-going experience where they

would be separated from the items by Plexiglas or other barriers.

She explains, "There is great value in up-close and personal interaction with objects. Being able to touch evokes visceral response; and you see details

that you might not have ever seen from a distance. Allowing students to interact with objects gives them the agency to uncover the stories they are interested in learning—stories of time, place, changing technology, and cultures and peoples different from their own."

The presentation illuminated two women of the mid-20th century who are well-represented in the collection and have made significant contributions to the world of textiles and fashion—fashion designer Claire McCardell (1905-1958) and textile designer Dorothy Liebes (1897-1972). Papa notes, "While the impact of the two women was widely acknowledged during their lifetimes, somehow their names and work have fallen into a bit of obscurity."

Papa says that there are stronger connections between the two than just being contemporaries. "Not only did both of these women have to advocate for themselves in a design world largely dominated by men, they also advocated for other women. The most common thread that connected them was how similar their design philosophies were—they believed that design should be for everyone, not just the elite few who could afford it."

Claire McCardell revolutionized women's fashion and is credited with being the mother of American sportswear. She designed clothes focused on affordability, practicality, and comfort that were appropriate for a wide range of activities. McCardell felt strongly that the average woman deserved to wear attractive clothes at a reasonable price.

She gravitated to natural fabrics including cotton, denim, and wool, incorporating thoughtful, comfortable design details including full-size, functional pockets inspired by menswear, and zipper placement on the side seam, easily accessible for a woman living on her own. She is also remembered for working with the iconic ballet flat, as all of her designs were intended to be worn with flats, never heels.

McCardell graced the cover of TIME magazine in 1955, where she said, "I've always designed things I needed myself. It just turns out that other people need them too." She was part of the Fashion Walk of Fame in New York's Garment District in 2000, and was memorialized in bronze in her hometown of Frederick, Maryland, in 2021, with a statue in her honor.

Textile designer Dorothy Liebes' impact goes beyond fashion. Dubbed the "First Lady of the Loom" at the time of her death, Interiors magazine named her "the greatest modern weaver and the mother of the 20th-century palette."

After learning to weave, Liebes worked in Paris as a textile designer. She returned to San Francisco, where she produced architectural textiles for interiors including wall hangings and upholstery fabrics commissioned by architects, including Frank Lloyd Wright. Her work, later called "The Liebes Look" was known for its rich colors, lush textures, and unconventional combination of materials, including metal, sequins, glass, leather, yarn, cellophane, and bamboo.



Allowing students to interact with objects gives them the agency to uncover the stories they are interested in learning—stories of time, place, changing technology, and cultures and peoples different from their own.



Following World War II, man-made, synthetic textiles were more common and widely available. Companies like DuPont hired Liebes as a consultant and used her name to sell their products. After moving her studio to New York City, her work shifted from custom design to mass production. She strived toward a new goal—making good design accessible to the average American, offering everyone the opportunity to be part of the modern design movement.

Papa shares that Liebes was one of the few women involved in the auto industry, reporting that she recently uncovered fabric samples in the collection that illustrate a real possibility that Liebes' design could be seen in the fabric of the seat covers of the 1957 Plymouth Fury.

Dorothy Liebes continues to inspire Jefferson students, and samples of her textiles are some of the most requested items in the collection. As sustainability has become an important part of fashion and textiles today, her work is viewed as a wonderful example of using materials around you to create beautiful fabric. [👉](#)

For more information about McCardell, Liebes, and other inspirational, iconic women whose work is featured in the Textile and Costume Collection, visit [FollowTheThreadBlog.com](#). Take advantage of the amazing resources available through the Jefferson Office of Alumni Relations at [Jefferson.edu/AlumniLearning](#)

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— Den Cullen, '74



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Pitch PLEASE

FROM BACH TO BILLIE EILISH,
JEFFERSON GROUPS SING IT ALL

BY MOLLY PETRILLA

No matter what else is going on in her life, for an hour and a half on Tuesday nights, Grace Denfeld isn't just a student in the occupational therapy master's program at Jefferson. In fact, "as much as I love OT, I'm not going to think about it," she says. "I'm just going to be Grace, and Grace really likes to sing."

As president of the Arrhythmias—Jefferson's acappella group for women—Denfeld is one of many in the Jefferson community who spend some of their limited free time bursting into song. Among the university's five singing groups, you can hear PhD students, future doctors and nurses, hospital employees, undergrads, alumni, professors,

and even patients making music together.

And unlike the aca-battles that drive Pitch Perfect, Jefferson's groups are all about collaboration and mutual support, and each has its own niche.

The Arrhythmias

It's easy to spot an Arrhythmia when she's dressed to perform. She'll be in all black with a self-selected pop of bright color: orange lipstick or chunky earrings or striking heels. But the group is about more than expressing personal style, and even about more than singing. "It is a safe space," Denfeld says. "I never feel judged by them."

Similar to Pitch Perfect's all-female Barden Bellas, the Arrhythmias mostly stick to songs made famous by women

artists. Destiny's Child, TLC, Amy Winehouse, Sara Bareilles, and Kelly Clarkson have all been in their concert repertoire over the years.

"Even though we're all women, we have some [who can hit] the highest soprano notes and then we have women who get down into the low tenors, which is traditionally a male voice part," Denfeld says. "We create a really rich, interesting sound with just women."

The members themselves are equally varied. "Traditionally it's been mostly med students," Denfeld says, but the current group also includes OT students, nursing students, a PhD student, and a doctor who works in a Jefferson-affiliated hospital.

Up until the pandemic, the Arrhythmias organized



There are things you learn from Haydn and Bach that you simply cannot learn from an anatomy book.



Jefferson's annual Music in Medicine concert, which featured the Center City campus's three a cappella groups, along with other local med school singing groups. They'd also sing at the Jefferson Gala—again with the school's other two groups—and go caroling in Thomas Jefferson University Hospital during the holidays.

Denfeld hopes to see those traditions come back in soon. Last December marked the group's first live performance since early 2020. They sang at Jefferson's surgery party, "and it felt so good," she says.

The Testosterones

The Testosterones are the Arrhythmias' male counterparts—although their vice president Casey Konys says the group is open to those of any gender identity who sing tenor and bass parts. (Denfeld says her group strives for inclusivity as well.)

It was actually groups like the Testostertones and the Lymph Notes, in which he's also a member, that prompted



Konys to choose Jefferson for medical school. "I picked Jefferson because people did things outside of school," he says. "That was really important for me."

Still, if you walked into a Testosterones rehearsal, it would be pretty obvious who these singers are. With members who range from first-year medical students up through residents, it's not unusual to see scrubs. One of Konys' classmates once showed up to rehearse with an anatomic model of a heart in tow. "He was like, 'I just need to keep studying after this, so here's the heart,'" Konys recalls.

You'll find the group singing songs from the Beatles, the Beach Boys, the Temptations—and Konys's personal favorite, "Stacy's Mom" by Bowling for Soup. "Being in a cappella at Jefferson has been the number-one creative thing that I've done during medical school," he says. "I feel like I would go insane without it."

Jefferson Singers

Across the city in East Falls, the Jefferson Singers have been making music for over 15 years. They're considered a chamber choir rather than an a cappella group, and their concerts span everything from early classical works to recent pop songs.

"I always say it's a musical feast," says John M. Grecia, who became the group's director in 2015. "I really try to program that way, so there is something for everyone."

At their fall concert last December—the group's first in-person performance since the COVID-19 pandemic began—they sang "Ave Maria" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," along with songs by Sara Bareilles and Stephen Sondheim, plus a few modern classical choral works.

"I'm trying to program at a level that will challenge the person that's used to singing, but also be welcoming enough to someone who just enjoys singing at a certain level," Grecia says.

Auditions aren't required to join, and membership is open to students, alumni, faculty, and staff. "We have had all three as members," Grecia says. He estimates that the current group is about 70% students, most of them undergrads.

Choir rehearsal "was kind of the original social media, in a way," he adds. And as students' lives become increasingly busy and digital, singing groups offer "this kind of historic fulfillment that humans are able to gain from music: the ability to sing with other lovely humans."

Thomas Jefferson University Choir

Robert Sataloff, MD '75, who is now an adjunct professor at Jefferson's Sidney Kimmel Medical College, founded the University Choir in 1970, which makes it the oldest





singing group on campus by several decades.

It's also the largest, with a membership that ranges from about 50 up to over 100 singers depending on the year. "I take anybody connected with Jefferson, even loosely, who has an interest in singing," Sataloff says. That includes students and alumni, along with faculty, staff, and even patients—plus spouses.

The group has been on hiatus since March 2020, but traditionally they present a spring and winter concert each year, performed with a full orchestra and several professional singers to bolster the group's sound. They sing major classical works (part of Handel's "Messiah" is an annual tradition) but also rock, jazz, and other more recent songs.

As an otolaryngologist who specializes in vocal professionals and has written extensively on performing arts medicine, Sataloff is deeply aware of the value his group offers the entire university community. That's why he doesn't require auditions

or restrict the number of rehearsals a singer can miss.

"There are things you learn from Haydn and Bach that you simply cannot learn from an anatomy book," he says. "And those things are very relevant to the art of medicine."

That's also why the choir's concerts have always been free. "I don't want anybody missing the opportunity to hear great music," says Sataloff, who is already planning the group's first post-COVID-19 appearance: a December 2022 concert, complete with "Messiah" selections.

The Lymph Notes


Jefferson's newest—and coed—a cappella group formed in 2017 thanks to "five friends who really wanted to sing together," Konys says. Not only that, they specifically wanted to sing "Can't Help Falling in Love with You."

Now the group starts off every year by learning that song together. "Then we go stand in one of the stairwells, which has a really great echo, and sing it

all together," Konys says. "It's a really beautiful moment."

Beyond that special song, "we don't really have a specific sound or specific theme," says Lymph Notes' president Michal Norry. Members can suggest any songs that are on their current to-sing wish lists. "And if we can find an arrangement or if someone is able to write an arrangement for it, then we'll learn it," she says.

Norry, who also sings with the Arrhythmias, says that Jefferson's a cappella groups let fledgling med students meet upperclassmen, who they probably never would have crossed paths with. And because Jefferson's a cappella groups are mostly run by med students, for med students, they aim to keep things low-pressure.

"Anytime someone apologizes to me when they can't make it to rehearsal, I tell them that it's not supposed to be something that you get stressed about missing," Norry says. "It's supposed to be something that you do for fun." 

Redefining Humanly Possible

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.



Ten colleges, four schools and multiple campuses comprise our National Doctoral Research University that offers everything from traditional undergraduate programs to programs for professionals who want to advance their careers.

- College of Architecture and the Built Environment
- College of Health Professions
- College of Humanities and Sciences
- College of Life Sciences
 - Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- College of Nursing
- College of Pharmacy
- College of Population Health
- College of Rehabilitation Sciences
- Kanbar College of Design, Engineering and Commerce
 - School of Business
 - School of Design and Engineering
- School of Continuing and Professional Studies
- Sidney Kimmel Medical College



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NATASHA A. TRICE '14

FOUNDER, THE NOMAD CREATIVE STUDIO
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

Through her professional work and by instructing the next generation of architects, alumna Natasha A. Trice wants to change how people experience architecture through animation.

Now living in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, Trice owns and runs her own company, worked for two leading architecture and urban design practices, and teaches a Jefferson course that challenges students to design through moving imagery.

The Class of 2014 graduate shares how the university launched her career, and discusses her path.

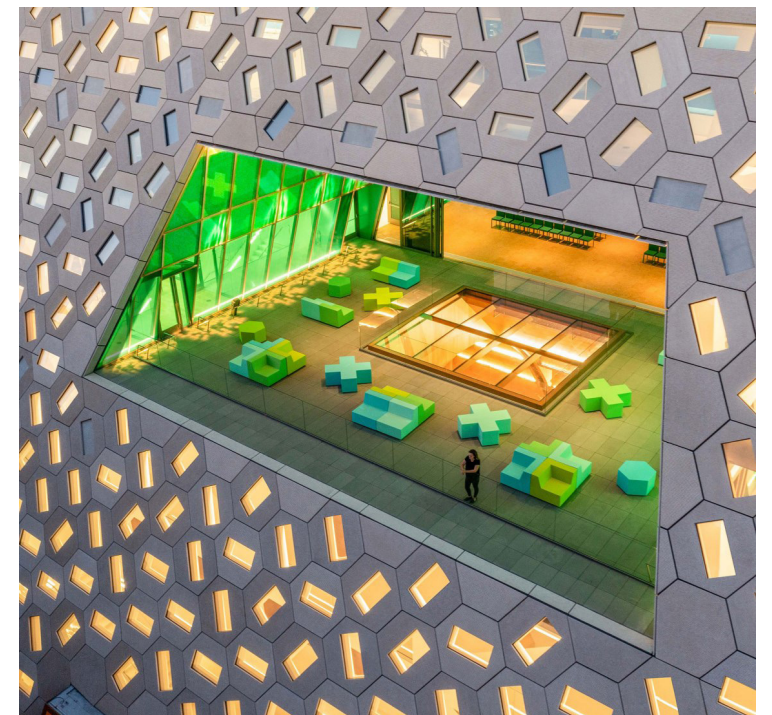
What was the best part of your time at Jefferson?

NT: I traveled to South Africa for the eNtokozweni Community Study with Chris Harnish, associate professor of architecture, during the summer of my fourth year. While in Joburg, I realized as designers, we have a unique opportunity—and I would argue responsibility—to improve lives through innovative, intentional design. This experience pushed me to earn my Master of Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation to learn the tools needed to do so at a larger scale.

How did Jefferson prepare you for your career?

NT: The university exposed me to various types of challenges by offering diverse classes. These opportunities helped me figure out my natural talents, like hand drawing. For example, I enjoyed my art classes and even worked as a teaching assistant at one point. I was simultaneously learning about the built environment, technically, and how to see and document it, physically. This came to fruition during my study abroad in Rome as I started to hand sketch and began to think differently about documentation and narrative.

Learn from your mistakes and always give 150%



▲ Natasha A. Trice served as a key member of the Audrey Irmas Pavilion project in Los Angeles. With the Audrey Irmas Pavilion project, Natasha A. Trice focused on the "void" portion.



▲ As an architect for the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, Natasha A. Trice worked on Virgil Abloh’s “Figures of Speech” exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston.

What was your path to land in your current position?

NT: In 2015, I began working at the Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA), led by Rem Koolhaas, in its New York, Hong Kong, and Rotterdam offices. I served as a key member of the Audrey Irmas Pavilion project in Los Angeles, a built community center that houses cultural, event, and religious spaces for Wilshire Boulevard Temple and its surrounding community. Other significant projects include the Sotheby’s Auction House renovation in New York City and Virgil Abloh’s “Figures of Speech Exhibition” at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston.

I joined MVRDV (named for founders Winy Maas, Jacob van Rijs, and Nathalie de Vries) in Rotterdam as an architect in 2020. Under Winy Maas, I was the lead designer for a winning

competition for a confidential mixed-use residential tower in Dubai.

I currently run my own creative design company called The Nomad, which focuses on animation and research of the built and unbuilt environment. I established the collaborative to explore my passion for storytelling through discovering and creating regionalist expressions and examining design impacted by its cultural contexts. Designing in different contexts generates unique questions that promote and require exceptional innovation. I believe this innovation is the keystone of great design.

Tell us about the course you teach at Jefferson.

NT: Besides architecture, I really enjoy animation if you couldn’t tell. My class,

a second-year architectural animation studio at Jefferson, and my company focus on how to explore and experience architecture in nontraditional forms through story and moving imagery. Design can come to life, have meaning and be easily understood—it’s about how you explain its story. I think it’s a disadvantage that we rely so much on 2D representation in a 3D profession. I hope to change that within the profession and our educational techniques.

What advice do you have for current or prospective students?

NT: Learn from your mistakes and always give 150%. 🙌

SHARE YOUR STORY

Jefferson Innovator: Class Notes

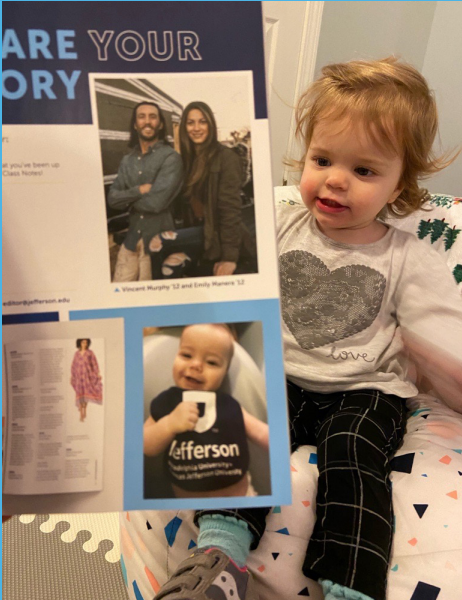
Let fellow alumni know what you've been up to by sharing your news in Class Notes!

- ▶ Achievements
- ▶ Milestones
- ▶ Accolades
- ▶ Events
- ▶ New Additions

Send us your news to editor@jefferson.edu



▲ Vincent Murphy '12 and Emily Manera '12





"THE
FUTURE
IS NOW!!!"



Upon being named President of Thomas Jefferson University and CEO of Jefferson Health in 2013, Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA, said, "The future is now!"

He once told *The New York Times* that his passion for science fiction allowed him to imagine (or reimagine) a future without limits. "When I really need to think strategically, I turn to Yoda and the Doctor (from *Doctor Who*) for guidance."

Over eight transformational years, Dr. Klasko, the recently retired president of Thomas Jefferson University and CEO of Jefferson Health, channeled the Force and

seemingly traveled into the future. Along the way, he helped design a new kind of university and one of the fastest-growing health systems in the U.S.

"Dr. Klasko is a giant in innovation and leadership," said Scott Becker, founder of Becker's Healthcare. "He has done an incredible job leading Jefferson to a completely different level than when he started there."

In 2017, Dr. Klasko oversaw the merger of Jefferson and Philadelphia University, creating a novel, professions-focused university that prepares students for the future of work.

An obstetrician and gynecologist by training, Dr. Klasko led Jefferson Health into a growth spurt

from three hospitals to 18, with revenues rising to from \$1.5 billion to over \$8 billion. But the Jefferson mission—improving lives—was always his bottom line. As a fierce advocate for health equity and justice, he established the Collaborative for Health Equity, which aims to narrow health disparities in Philadelphia.

He helped secure the biggest and second-biggest philanthropic gifts in Jefferson's history, and launched its first comprehensive campaign, Reimagine, which has raised \$1 billion, and counting.

Here are some of the highlights of Dr. Klasko's presidency:



2014



Thomas Jefferson University and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital merge.

Jefferson receives \$110 million gift from the Sidney Kimmel Foundation to name the Sidney Kimmel Medical College.

Jefferson creates JeffConnect, one of the largest specialty telehealth services in the nation.

2015

Merger with Abington Health.

\$14 million gift from the Marcus Foundation creates the Marcus Institute for Integrative Health.

A seven-figure gift launches the Nicoletti Kidney Transplant Center.



2016

Merger with Aria Health.

\$20 million gift from Vickie and Jack Farber toward the Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience.

\$7.5 million gift launches the 1889 Foundation-Jefferson Center for Population Health.

Opening of the Dominic and Michele Frederico Building on the Center City Campus.

2019

Public launch of the Reimagine Campaign.

\$70 million gift from the Sidney Kimmel Foundation to build the Caroline Kimmel Biomedical Research Building.

Kay and Harold Ronson Health and Applied Science Center opens on the East Falls Campus.

\$5 million gift from Sharon and Syd Martin launches Philadelphia Prostate Cancer Biome Project.

\$20 million gift from the Marcus Foundation establishes the first academic Department of Integrative Medicine and Nutritional Sciences in a medical school.



2018

Merger with Magee Rehabilitation.

The Asplundh Cancer Pavilion at Jefferson Abington Hospital opens.

Launch of the Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity.

With a \$2.5 million gift from two alumnae, the Marie E. Pinizzotto, MD '88, MBA and Carol A. Ammon, BSN '17, MBA Alumni Center opens.

2017

Mergers with Philadelphia University and Kennedy Health.

Leadership gift establishes the Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute.

Launch of JeffMD curriculum.



2020



\$5 million gift from Andréa and Ken Frazier to launch the Frazier Family Coalition for Stroke Education and Prevention, a partnership between Jefferson Health and Temple Health.

Groundbreaking for the Specialty Care Pavilion.

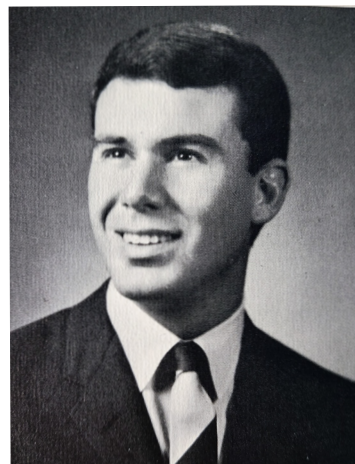
2021

Merger with Einstein Healthcare Network.

Acquisition of Health Partners Plan.

With a lead gift of \$3.1 million from the Wyss Foundation, the Hansjörg Wyss Wellness Center opens in South Philadelphia.





A Father's Life Inspires a Son's Giving

Michael Nissman '64 has been supporting Jefferson ever since he had "a couple extra dollars" to spare. Today he's the donor behind numerous big gifts, including the Ruth and Morris Nissman Scholarship and a new endowment for the Ramily Market.

BY MOLLY PETRILLA

When Michael Nissman '64 launched his textile business in 1976, he just wanted to pay the rent while trying to make it as an actor in Los Angeles. But more than 50 years later, his M & N Company is still going strong—and in fact, its success is the reason he's been able to support Jefferson over the years. "Life is not about going after money," he says. "Never ever did I want to make a lot of money. When I started my career I just wanted to make a living. Having a lot of money was not a goal, but helping others was a desire. I did this by participating in marches and by supporting causes that were important to me."

But once he had a little extra, he donated some of it to Jefferson. As his business grew, so did his support. Today he's the donor behind the Ruth and Morris Nissman Scholarship and a new endowment for the Ramily Market, among numerous other gifts to the university.

"I try to promote the idea that we're all brothers and sisters," Nissman says. "When you can help others, you do. That is the focus of my life: helping others."

His philosophy isn't tied to any religious beliefs, but rather a result of his dad, Morris's, example. Growing up in North Philly in the 1950s, Nissman heard his father, an immigrant from Belarus, talk about traveling to the South

for his textile work. Morris didn't drive, so he brought along a driver who was Black. When local motels told Morris that his driver couldn't sleep there, Morris slept in the car with him. When restaurants wouldn't let his driver inside, Morris took his food to go and they had a picnic.

"He just knew it was the right thing to do," Nissman says. "Obviously that was a powerful example and had a deep effect on how I wanted to live my own life."

After a "joyful" four years as a textile design and textiles and materials technology major at Textile (now Jefferson)—"where I was an average student at best," Nissman says—he went to law school and became an attorney for the

American Civil Liberties Union in the early 1970s. He'd already been joining peace marches, including the historic Poor People's March to D.C. in 1968. Nissman became immersed in a world he knew he would be involved with the rest of his life.

Nissman believes cross-fertilization of ideas and cultures is extremely important as it builds empathy. He points to a Native American aphorism: Do not criticize another until you walk a mile in their moccasins. Thus, Nissman says, "A life that is well lived, is a life that most definitely is involved with others."

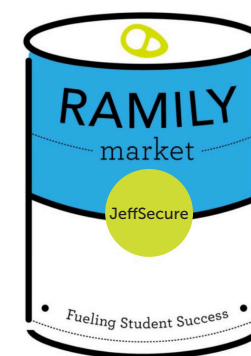
That's part of why he supports Jefferson, a vibrant cross-disciplinary community in which students are always exploring new passions and feeling out possible career paths. In 2003, with M & N Company, a deeply established and successful business, he created the Ruth and Morris Nissman Scholarship, named after his parents. (Nissman says he specifically avoids naming things after himself.) Awarded to incoming freshmen of any major who "demonstrate creativity and empathy for others," it's now one of the

largest scholarships that benefit undergraduate students.

Last fall, he committed a large sum from his estate to support undergraduate programs at the university. He also made a donation that will endow the Ramily Market—a food pantry for Jefferson students who are struggling with food insecurity. Nissman's gift will provide a dedicated funding source for the market, allowing staff to plan ahead and buy what the pantry needs, rather than relying exclusively on donations.

"How would you like to wake up in the morning and not have food?" Nissman says of his decision to endow the Ramily Market. "How can you allow a fellow brother or sister to go without food if you can help them? If you can share, you must do that—you must."

"When I can help somebody, that gives me the greatest joy," Nissman says. "That's what life is all about. We put our arms around one another and we get through this thing together. And if somebody falls or trips, you don't continue without helping that person. You stop, you pick them up, and *then* you continue." 🍷



To ensure student well-being and academic success, JeffSecure was established to provide financial support to students with unexpected, unforeseen, and unavoidable emergency expenses that arise, such as food insecurity, travel during a family crisis, safe housing, and more.

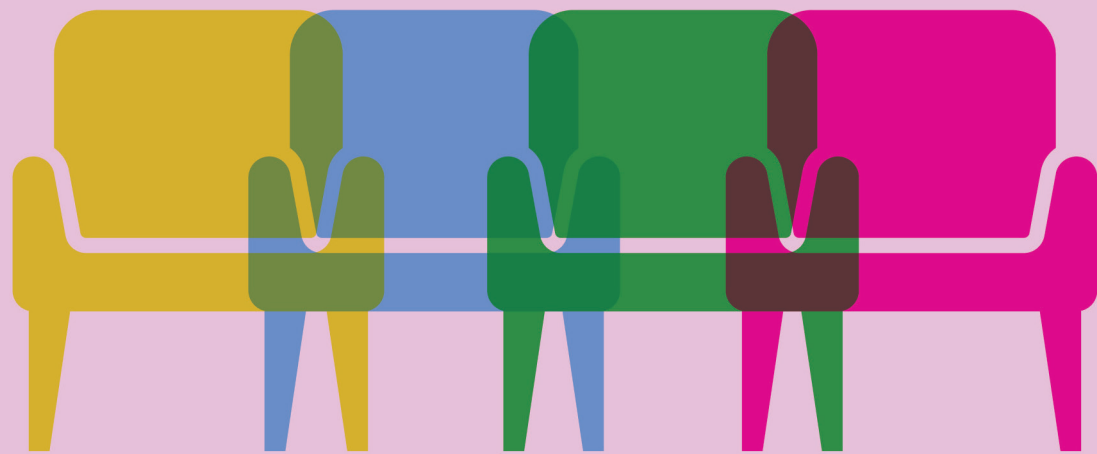
To learn more, please visit Jefferson.edu/JeffSecure

**When I
can help
somebody,
that gives
me the
greatest
joy.**

A Seat at the Table

Jefferson's Specialty Care Pavilion is Redefining the Patient Experience for the Most Vulnerable

BY IRISA GOLD



6,500 pieces of steel... Check.

19 stories... Check.
Three levels of parking... Check.
300 exam rooms, 10 operating rooms, imaging, and lab services... Check. Check. Check.
Specialized seating to meet the needs of the neurodiverse community... CHECK.

When Jefferson Health opens the doors of the state-of-the-art Specialty Care Pavilion in 2024, it will offer cutting-edge, convenient, and centralized access to care for the majority of signature medical specialties.

Each detail... every nuance... was deliberately conceived and built with the needs of the patient squarely in focus. The facility, which will open on the

corner of 11th and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia, is designed to break down the barriers to receiving personalized care and provide a truly exceptional patient experience for ALL patients and the communities Jefferson serves under one roof.

One in 54 children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, which

When we program for the most vulnerable of us, everybody benefits. Everybody deserves a chance to belong.

affects three areas of development—social skills, communication, and behavior. Neurodiversity encompasses not only those on the autism spectrum, but anyone who may experience communication difficulties, which could include the population as it ages.

However, in today's healthcare environment, the needs of the neurodiverse community are often not addressed. As each child will grow up to become a neurodiverse adult, it is critical to take a closer look at available services for this vulnerable and underrepresented population, for whom the average healthcare setting can be overwhelming and inaccessible.

As the Specialty Care Pavilion's construction began, Wendy J. Ross, MD, director of the Jefferson Center for Autism and Neurodiversity, also started

from ground up, speaking with neurodiverse individuals and the aging population to learn what features they would like to find in a building designed to provide for their care. She examined both physical design, which encompasses lighting, colors, acoustics, and textiles, and processes, in order to incorporate programs

to make it easier for these patients to receive medical care that encourages comfort and healing.

Dr. Ross then approached Robert Melville, an adjunct professor in Jefferson's Industrial Design department, about an innovative multidisciplinary project around creating special



We are reimagining what healthcare could look like and reimagining medical care for everyone.



“neurodiverse furniture” for the Specialty Care Pavilion. Students Isaac Savinese, Rachael Hannah, Nick Galie, and Elijah Jones spent seven weeks in the summer of 2021 on this collaborative effort.

“This is a growing demographic, that at present is not being catered to in healthcare furniture design,” Dr. Ross shares. “When we program for the most vulnerable of us, everybody benefits. Everybody deserves a chance to belong.”

The team took field trips to local design shops and met with people on the autism spectrum to help guide their ideation process. They worked to conceptualize, research, and fabricate a chair that could offer comfort for neurodiverse and other anxious patients. The aim was that this would be different

from typical open seating, thereby providing privacy and catering to the needs of the neurodiverse patient as well as those who may feel overwhelmed in sensory environments or simply need a moment of respite in a crowded or stressful space.

The properties of this seating innovation are beneficial for everyone, and could be ideal for populations including nursing mothers, bariatric patients, and the elderly. The design also has the potential to expand into other environments, including the education space.

The students’ work is a wonderful example of the benefits of Jefferson’s signature Nexus Learning approach, which combines engaged, active learning with multidisciplinary collaboration to solve real-world problems. Additionally,

it beautifully illustrates Jefferson’s mission that “we improve lives” for this unique population.

The Americans with Disabilities Act currently does not adequately address the alteration of public spaces to accommodate those with less visible disabilities like autism and other neurodiverse conditions. As Dr. Ross concludes, “We are reimagining what healthcare could look like and reimagining medical care for everyone. It is critical that when we think about diversity, inclusion, and equity, we consider the population affected by disabilities like neurodiversity. Everyone matters, everyone belongs, and everyone deserves a seat at the table. We’re designing that seat now.” [J](#)

Masters in Real Estate Students Tour Specialty Care Pavilion

Jefferson Health’s new Specialty Care Pavilion is a vital part of the more than \$1 billion development of Philadelphia’s revitalized East Market Street corridor. At 19 stories high, it is not simply a significant addition to the skyline—it stands poised to transform healthcare for the citizens of Philadelphia, as well as the city itself.

During an intensive, two-day educational residency event held on April 21, students in Jefferson’s Master of Science in Real Estate program were treated to a presentation and tour of this groundbreaking project. Spearheaded by program director Troy Hannigan, the event welcomed students hailing from throughout the country who journeyed to Philadelphia for this unique, in-person educational opportunity focused on building knowledge in different aspects of real estate.

“The presentation enabled students to see firsthand the project that Jefferson is advancing and learn more about how it will shift the campus dynamic,” said Tony Bracali, senior director of Planning, Design and Construction.

Speakers introduced the origins of the project, walking students through the early development, site acquisition, construction, financing, and planning to illustrate all the steps involved in its conception, progression, and eventual completion.

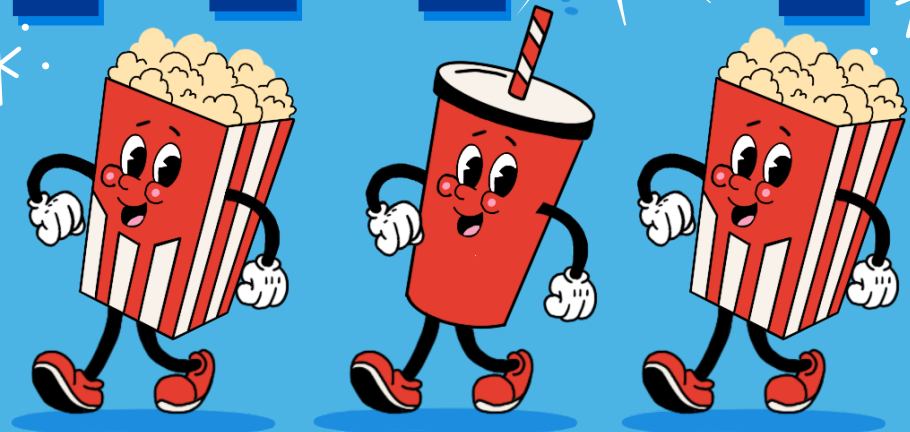
The day concluded with a tour of the construction, complete with hard hats, offering an exciting window into the building’s progress and mission to raise the bar, reshape and revitalize healthcare in local communities. Program student Alberta Tracy Benn, director of Housing Programs and Compliance at the Community Investment Group, was an enthusiastic participant.

Benn, who, prior to her current position had a long career in banking and a woman-owned general contracting business, was

impressed and inspired by many aspects of the building, including how it will benefit the entire community. She says, “Seeing the building gave me a level of comfort knowing I can get the services I need as I age into retirement. I was impressed with the design, where rooms look like you could be home. I am looking forward to how outpatient care will be a human interaction, not so systematic.” She reports that following the tour, she immediately scheduled appointments with Jefferson physicians. [J](#)



GIVING *in in* DAY



one day.one purpose.

I LOVE HAPPY ENDINGS. In movies, a happy ending can be the romantic couple finding love against all odds; the underdog prize fighter going the distance; or the superhero arriving in the nick of time to save the day.

At Jefferson, happy endings can mean a student receiving a scholarship to continue their education in order to become a pioneer in business, arts, or industry; a scientist receiving funding for groundbreaking research; or a patient finding a program to enhance their health and wellbeing.

Those kinds of happy endings require financial

support—philanthropic gifts from alumni and benefactors who believe in Jefferson’s mission to improve lives.

On April 7, we celebrated a happy ending to our third annual Jefferson Giving Day, the 24-hour fundraising event that funds student scholarships, cutting-edge research, and patient, community, and employee programs. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of Jefferson alumni, students, staff, and friends, we raised almost \$2.2 million!

Giving Day isn’t a new concept, but Jefferson gives it a creative twist every year. This year, our theme was

“Going to the Movies.” There were on campus and online festivities, entertaining videos that got the Hollywood treatment, and movie-themed snack packs from Wawa. It was fun, it was engaging, and it was successful. And it is the essence of Jefferson.

We take a creative, innovative approach to everything we do.

By thinking outside the box, we have reimagined and redefined higher education. We’ve combined medicine with design to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration where medical students work with architects, engineers, and

fashion students to design better spaces, utilitarian equipment, and innovative fabrics. We have partnered with universities and institutions across the world to establish a global presence and provide our students with international opportunities for learning. We’ve even gone to space.

Being imaginative and thinking differently are part of our core values. By daring to ask and daring to answer, we have created a university that literally offers our students the world—and beyond.

Alumni make it all possible. Your generosity ensures big ideas will be supported and revolutionary concepts can become reality.

This year’s Giving Day was the most successful yet. But we’re already looking ahead to next year and how we can make it bigger, better, bolder, and even more successful. Because, after all, who doesn’t love a great sequel? 🎬



BOX OFFICE NUMBERS!

190+
VOLUNTEERS

\$2,142,054
RAISED

3,261
GIFTS

Elizabeth A. Dale

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

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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.

RAM ROUNDUP

For the latest news and updates, subscribe to the Ram Roundup newsletter at [Jefferson.edu/Newsletter](https://jefferson.edu/Newsletter)

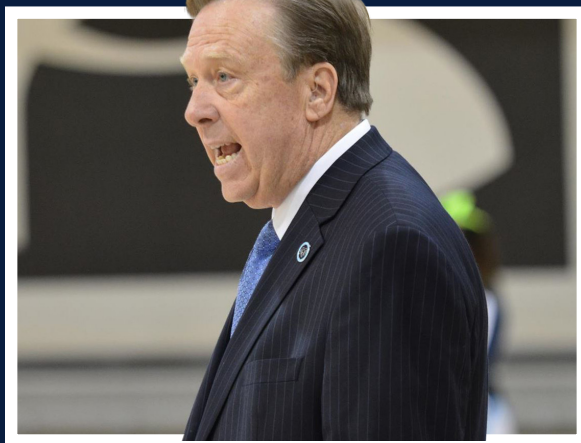
Tom Shirley's 800th Career Win: Facts & Figures

Thomas Jefferson University head women's basketball coach Tom Shirley recorded his 800th career victory on November 17, 2021, when the Rams defeated Shippensburg, 76-65 in non-conference action.

Shirley is the 17th coach in NCAA women's basketball history to reach the milestone. He has an 800-362 career record for a .688 winning percentage over 40 seasons. He is the winningest active coach in Division II by victories and ranks third all-time. Shirley's teams have posted 20-plus wins on 28 occasions, which is second-most in Division II history. His squads have advanced to the NCAA Tournament 11 times.

Out of the 16 fellow coaches with 800 career victories, eight of them are enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame (Tara VanDerveer, Geno Auriemma, Pat Summitt, Barbara Stevens, C. Vivian Stringer, Sylvia Hatchell, Muffet McGraw, Jody Conradt).

Shirley came to the Rams after eight seasons at the helm of his alma mater, DeSales. In his 32 seasons with Jefferson, he has amassed a 651-289 record (.693). Shirley has led the Rams to six conference titles, including four in the CACC, and 10 NCAA Tournament appearances.



\$82,121 Raised for Jefferson Athletics

Thank you to our 931 donors who have supported our 17 Division II sports teams! We raised \$82,121 from alumni, students, parents, and fans. The funds raised will be put to use immediately, fulfilling equipment needs and helping each player train and perform their best.

We are so thankful for our RAMILY! Thank you to the teams and student-athletes who rose to the challenge and played a role in spreading the word and encouraging participation. The Rams Rise Up Challenge isn't possible without you!



Alumni Spotlight Jason Madden '93

Jason Madden was a member of the 1990 Baseball Team, which was inducted into the Jefferson Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016.

What does being a Hall of Fame member mean to you?

JM: It truly was an honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. It was even more special for me that I got to share that honor with my teammates from the 1990 team that reached the College World Series.

What is your fondest memory of life on campus?

JM: Intramural flag football, living the townhouse life, and meeting so many friends along the way.

What is your fondest memory as an athlete?

JM: Playing in the 1990 College World Series tournament alongside my teammates against the best Division II programs in America.

Describe a time that a coach/teammate/mentor inspired you.

JM: I have to thank my dad for always being there for me. He helped me understand what level of effort was needed to reach my goal of playing baseball at the collegiate level. He spent thousands of hours throwing me batting practice, driving all over the tri-state area for games and showcases, and always giving the best advice

along the way. He is my mentor, and I can't thank him enough for motivating me to reach all my goals in life.

Do you have a message to share with current student-athletes?

JM: Enjoy every minute of the experience. Four years will go by in the blink of an eye. Ninety-nine percent of student athletes do not play professionally in the sport that they participate in college. It is very important to maintain a strong GPA and build a solid network of contacts for when you are ready to enter the working world.

What are you up to now? (career, family, hobbies)

JM: I am currently living in Warrington, PA, with my wife, Kimberly, and our three children, Rachel (18), Ryan (16), and Jake (14). I work for Vanguard in Malvern, PA, as a Project Manager. I have enjoyed coaching my children throughout the years in field hockey, basketball, and baseball for Warrington Township. I am excited to watch my sons play baseball for Central Bucks South this spring along with my daughter playing field hockey for Immaculata University this coming fall.

How do you stay involved in Jefferson athletics?

JM: It's always important to come back and support your home team! My sons and I attend some games during the baseball season and it gives me a chance to talk with them about setting goals for themselves to play at the next level. We are proud to support Jefferson Athletics... Go Rams!!



Nichols Makes History As First Jefferson Entrant in CACC Hall of Fame

The Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference on Wednesday announced the six members of the CACC Hall of Fame Class of 2021. The official announcement was made by CACC Commissioner Dan Mara.

The Class of '21 consists of five individuals and one team, including former Ram Libby Nichols, who is the first-ever Jefferson entrant into the CACC Hall of Fame. She is also the first CACC Hall of Fame selection in the sport of women's lacrosse. The CACC Hall of Fame was established in 2015 to honor the legendary individuals and teams in league history.

Nichols is one of the finest all-around student-athletes in conference history. On the lacrosse field, she was a 2014 IWLCA All-American and the CACC Player of the Year while leading the Rams to the conference championship. Philadelphia finished 17-1 in 2014 and Nichols was named the CACC Tournament's Most Valuable Player for leading the Rams to the league title. She ranked third in the NCAA in draw controls per game and fifth in caused turnovers per game.

As a junior in 2013, Nichols earned First-Team All-CACC honors while also being crowned the NCAA Division II statistical champion in caused turnovers. She was the 2014 CACC Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year and earned a Fulbright Scholarship. Nichols was named a CoSIDA First-Team Academic All-American and was the Philadelphia Inquirer Academic All-Area Overall Female Performer of the Year. She won the 2013 IWLCA Community Awareness Award and was a top-30 finalist for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

The CACC Hall of Fame Class of 2021 also includes John Brennan (Felician University Cross Country Head Coach), Angie Casado (Georgian Court University Women's Volleyball Student-Athlete), Garret Kerr (University of the Sciences Men's Basketball Student-Athlete), Daniele Piludu (Concordia College Men's Tennis Student-Athlete), and the 2011-12 Wilmington University Men's Golf Team. Each of the honorees will be recognized with an official hall of fame induction ceremony at either their respective campus or CACC Championship event during the 2021-22 season.

Reimagine Scholarships

You have the power to change the course of the future, one student at a time.

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A Fashion Renaissance

Fashion Design alumna Jennie Fear’s timeless artistry honors the past, celebrates the future, and unites generations.

BY IRISA GOLD

Fashion icon Ralph Lauren once said, “I don’t design clothes. I design dreams.” Jennie Fear ’97 has created a fashion renaissance that makes dreams come true for families in her own backyard—and across the nation. Her work is transformational. She not only designs dresses, she helps to restore, create, and pass down treasured heirlooms—forging new memories from old garments.

From a young age, Fear loved clothes, and loved making clothes. “I have been behind a sewing machine since I was seven years old. I would make clothes for my dolls, and I made my first prom dress. I like textures and I have a strong love for tailoring.”

Her creativity thrived as a fashion design major at PhilaU, now Jefferson. “I loved it there. I loved spending my nights in those sewing labs and drafting patterns in studios and putting together my collection. It was a wonderful space with great professors who really helped encourage my love of all areas of fashion.”

After graduation, Fear worked in all areas of design in the industry—as a design coordinator, a sweater designer, and a stint working freelance. Following

the birth of her son, Noah, inspiration struck.

He needed a christening gown. “I wanted to cut up my wedding gown and my mother refused to let me. It was all this amazing silk, and I was like, ‘What am I going to do with this? It’s been sitting in a box.’” She then learned that a friend’s nephew needed a christening gown, her sister-in-law donated her wedding dress, and Willow Bean Studio was off to the races.

“We’re not a society anymore where you would buy a wedding gown and all your sisters would wear it and you may pass it down to your child. It is very green to recycle them.”

It’s an emotional process for both Fear and her clients, whether she is meeting an infant and their mother to take initial measurements for a christening gown, or allowing an excited little girl to make the first cut into her mother’s wedding gown on its way to becoming her communion dress. She is humbled that she can be a part of a family’s special journey and aware that the wedding gown’s transformation process requires a leap of faith and trust on both parts. Through it all, Fear works to connect the gown to the past

and the future, adding to the story and the memories.

“It’s moments like that I can’t get anywhere else. This feeds my soul.”

Fear adores working on communion dresses. “Eight is a magical age. My house is filled with laughter from January

communion frock. “They bring such joy into my home when they come in and twirl in their dress.”

Fear’s great-grandmother fed her love of fashion. “She just would bestow these little things on me every now and then, so she really gave me a love and an

appreciation for things from the past, which definitely connects to this. She inspired my love for all things old and showed me how to connect generations through fashion.”

The business has continued to evolve in new directions, from transforming gowns into keepsakes like Christmas tree skirts, to showcasing her creations at fashion shows, including New York’s upcoming Fall Fashion Week, where Fear will debut a collection of junior bridesmaid dresses inspired by the butterflies in a story her beloved mother told her throughout childhood. Sharing her multi-generational journey, her 13-year-old daughter, Willow, will model in the show and walk her down the runway.

Fear treasures this inspirational legacy. Clients tell her that their daughters have requested sewing machines and are confident in trying to make something on their own. “And that’s amazing.”

to mid-April.” The mothers and daughters have an initial consultation, design meeting, and three fittings, followed by a dress reveal fit for a queen. Fear throws open the doors, and there, proudly displayed on a dress form, is their magical



JEFFERSON ALUMNI NETWORK



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The brand-new **Jefferson Alumni Network** is an exclusive virtual community where you can connect and reconnect with Jefferson alumni!

Search by name, class year, major, college, specialty, or geographic region, and begin connecting today.

Make the connection now at alumninetwork.jefferson.edu or scan the QR code with your smartphone!

1975
L. TADD SCHWAB
Textile

Schwab reconnected with his classmate, Zafriia Berkowitz '75, over lunch in Tel Aviv in March 2022. "We had a fun time talking about our time at Textile and our families and friends."

2010
ERIC HOLZER
Industrial Design

Holzer recently accepted a position as Senior Industrial Designer with SharkNinja on the Ninja motorized kitchen electronics team located just outside Boston.

2021
FELIX WARREN
Architecture

Warren joined The Lighting Practice as a Designer in 2021 after graduating with a degree in Architecture and a custom minor in Lighting Design. He is also an active member of NOMA Philadelphia.



As with many special events, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the postponement of annual alumni traditions at Jefferson, including the recognition of exceptional graduates with Alumni Awards. Many of those honorees—along with some of the 2022 recipients—have received their due honors at in-person programs held in recent months.

Jefferson is proud of the exceptional achievements of these honorees who shine as brilliant examples of the best of the university.

Sidney Kimmel Medical College

The Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC) Alumni Association presented its 2020 and 2021 Alumni Awards during SKMC Alumni Weekend in October 2021.

Alumni Achievement Awards were presented to Ronald J. Wapner, MD '72, vice chair of Research, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and director of Reproductive Genetics at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, and Sarah Sundborg Long, MD '70, professor of Pediatrics at

Drexel University College of Medicine, and chief emeritus at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

Rodger J. Winn, MD '63 (1938-2007), was posthumously presented with the SKMC Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Win practiced medical oncology for 15 years at Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, St. Barnabas Medical Center, and Overlook Hospital. He served as president of the New Jersey Oncology Society from 1983-87, and was on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's



▲ Pictured (L-R): SKMC Alumni Awards Committee Chair John Kutz, MD '93, Residency '98; Dr. Shroff, Dr. Long, Dr. Remy, SKMC Alumni Association President Patricia Curtin White, MD '88, Fellowship '00, FACP, CMD, Dr. Wapner, and former SKMC Alumni Awards Committee Chair M. Dean Kinsey, MD '69, Residency '72, Fellowship '73



▲ Pictured (L-R): JCLS Dean Gerald Grunwald, Dr. Cundell, Dr. Owens, Dr. Powell, Dr. Martinez, Joanna Mercado, Stephanie Dobak, and JCLS Alumni Association President Nicholas Siciliano, III, PhD '15

Oncology Drug Advisory Committee.

The inaugural SKMC Early Career Alumni Award was presented to Rachna T. Shroff, MD '04, MS, associate professor of Medicine and chief of GI Medical Oncology at the University of Arizona Cancer Center. The 2021 award was awarded to Kenneth E. Remy, MD '04, MDSC, MSCI, FCCM, associate professor and NIH-funded physician-scientist, departments of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Pathology, and Biochemistry at Case Western University.

Dr. Wapner, Dr. Long, Dr. Shroff, and Dr. Remy also delivered lectures during the Alumni Weekend program.

College of Life Sciences

The Jefferson College of Life Sciences (JCLS) Alumni Association presented its 2020, 2021, and 2022 awards at JCLS Alumni Day on April 30, 2022.

The 2020 and 2021 JCLS Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to De'Broski R. Herbert, PhD '01, presidential associate professor and associate professor of Pathobiology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, and to Daniel J. Powell, Jr., PhD '02, associate professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; director, PENN Tumor BioTrust, director of Education, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, and scientific

director of Immunotherapy, Division of Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine.

Marcell Vasquez-Almonte Martinez, BS '08 Biochemistry, PharmD '15, Walgreens Health Outcomes pharmacist, received the inaugural JCLS Early Career Alumni Award; Joanna Mercado, MS '19 Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling, specialty genetics counselor at Genome Medical, received the 2021 award.

The 2020 and 2021 JCLS Alumni Award recipients previously delivered virtual lectures on their careers and work that are available to watch on the Jefferson Alumni website.

This year's honorees included Nafeesa Hunt Owens, PhD '05, assistant director, STEM Education, and senior policy advisor at the National Science and Technology Council of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, who was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award and shared a lecture with guests participating on campus and attending online. Stephanie D. Dobak, MS '12 Biomedical Science, RD, LDN, CNSC, clinical dietitian at the Jefferson Weinberg ALC Center, received the Early Career Alumni Award, and Pre-Medical Studies Program Director, Diana R. Cundell, PhD, was presented with the 2022 JCLS Alumni Association Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.

College of Nursing

Marie Ann Marino, EdD, RN, FAAN, dean and professor at Jefferson College of Nursing (JCN), and vice president of Nursing Academic Partnerships and Innovation at Jefferson Health, presented the JCN Distinguished Alumni Award to Col. Margaret "Meg" Lockhead Carey, BSN '85, ARNP, USAF Ret., patient experience manager, AdventHealth, during a virtual event honoring the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife on November 18, 2020.

During its celebration of National Nurses Week on May 12, Dean Marino presented the 2022 award to Mary Beth Edger, DNP '18, MSN '09, MHA, RN, NEA-BC, senior vice president of Patient Care

Services, and chief nursing officer, Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, Inc.

Alumni Awards

The recipients of the 2020 and 2021 East Falls Campus Alumni Awards, which are traditionally presented during Homecoming, were recognized at events and gatherings in the spring.

Harold R. Ronson, BS '51 Chemistry of Textiles, was honored with the Graham J. Littlewood, III, '42 Time, Talent, and Treasure Award during a virtual event celebrating the dedication of the Kay and Harold Ronson Health and Applied Science Center on the East Falls Campus on April 3, 2020.



▲ Pictured (L-R): Connelly Foundation Chief Nurse Executive Officer Kate FitzPatrick, Dr. Edger, and JCN Dean Marie Ann Marino



▲ Pictured (L-R): 2021 Young Alumni Achievement Award recipient, Eric Tompkins, and Chancellor McKether at the Class of 2022 Toast

James P. Cass, BS '90 Finance, senior vice president and managing director, Alternative Investment Fund Administration, SEI, and Marylyn "Peggy" Goutmann, emerita professor of Textiles,

were presented with the 2021 Time, Talent, and Treasure Award during a special dinner hosted by East Falls Campus Chancellor Willie McKether and Senior Vice Provost Matt Baker, PA-C, DHSc.

Eric T. Tompkins, BS '16 Pre-Medical Studies, associate scientist at WuXi AppTec, was presented with the 2021 Young Alumni Achievement Award and shared remarks with graduating undergraduate students during the Class of 2022 Toast on April 29.

Steven M. Spivak, PhD, BS '63 Technology Engineering, former chair of the Department of Fire Protection Engineering at the University of Maryland, was the recipient of the 2020 Frank L. Giese Award. 2021 winner Didier Barjon, BS '14 Law and Society, technology legislative assistant to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY), will be honored at a later date. 🇺🇸



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

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

- ▶ **Kenya Safari**
August 5-15, 2022
- ▶ **Canadian Rockies by Rail**
August 10-16, 2022
- ▶ **Greece—Athens and Kalamata**
September 2-11, 2022
- ▶ **Flavors of Northern Italy**
September 10-18, 2022
- ▶ **Wonders of Peru**
October 6-17, 2022
- ▶ **Florence in the Serene Season**
October 14-22, 2022
- ▶ **Toronto to Vancouver by Rail**
October 18-24, 2022
- ▶ **Galapagos Islands—Western Itinerary**
October 25-November 1, 2022

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





- 1945**
Florence Howanitz
- 1946**
Emilia Hayman
M. Koch
- 1948**
Hazel Barkdoll
Sister Rose Kershbaumer
C. Rominger, MD
Barbara Schuler
Lillian Van Hoy
- 1949**
Albert Gelb, MD
Doris Schuman
- 1950**
Donna Gearhart
Richard Murtland, MD
- 1952**
Christine Germano
Joyce Simpkins
- 1953**
Robert Poole, MD
Raymond Seckinger
Nancy Webster
- 1954**
Dr. Anthony Marturano, PhD
- 1955**
Patricia Albright
Robert Berry, MD
Robert Brown, MD
Margaret Deming
John Shoener, MD

- 1956**
Marilyn Glauber
Rodney Moyer, MD
Malcolm Sitkoff, MD
James Zangrilli, MD
- 1957**
Stanley Kocot, MD
Stanley Rosenazweig, MD
Donna Stiffler
- 1958**
Julian Feldman, MD
Morren Greenberg, MD
- 1959**
Dr. Charles Nicholson, Jr.
Nancy Wandschneider
James Wiant, MD
- 1960**
Gavin Barr, MD
John Galgon, MD
Joseph Kaplan
Dean Mergenthaler, MD
Seymour Shlomchik, MD
Dr. James Thomas, Jr.
- 1961**
Dr. Herbert Butler, Jr.
J. Cohen, MD
Robert McLaughlin, MD
Eugene Shuster, MD
- 1962**
William Gottfried, MD
Sandra Laudadio
- 1963**
E. Kotchick, MD
Murray Moliken, MD

- 1964**
James Fox, MD
Marion Yoder, MD
- 1965**
Joseph Dwoskin, MD
Margaret Keller
- 1966**
Frances Freed, MD
Judith Gries
- 1967**
J. Laucius, MD
David Williams, MD
- 1969**
Joseph Beaty
Kathleen Cook
Robert Egdell, MD
Walter Finnegan, MD
- 1970**
Robert Hand
James McGilvery
Gini Scott
- 1971**
Thomas Brasitus, MD
Joseph Seltzer, MD
- 1973**
Dr. Victor Celani
Albert Gallelli
- 1974**
John Brown, MD
- 1975**
Wesley Kerschbaum, MD
Paul Wall, MD

- 1979**
Michael Guarino
Karen Kuntz
- 1982**
Martin Fazio
- 1983**
Ferne Gold
- 1984**
Rosanne Cech, MD
Dr. Steven Smith, DO
Karen Tipka
- 1988**
William Kutrzyba
- 1999**
Walter Frueh, MD
- 2004**
Patricia Cole
- 2006**
Karen Craig
- 2007**
James Airoidi, MD
- 2016**
Stephen Codella, MD
- 2018**
Shavon Murrell
- 2019**
Patricia Lane
- 2021**
Karigen Emig
Lindsay Johnson

JEFFERSON INNOVATOR Magazine

TRIVIA

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

1. What year did Coach Magee lead then-Philadelphia Textile to the NCAA College Division National Championship?
A. 1968
B. 1970
C. 1979
D. 1990
2. Jefferson alumnus Michael Nissman '64, made a donation that will endow a food pantry for Jefferson students who are struggling with food insecurity. What is the name of the food pantry?
A. Ramily Market
B. Phil's Pantry
C. Jefferson Market
D. Ram Pantry
3. Where is Jefferson's renowned Textile and Costume Collection located?
A. Goldie Paley House
B. East Falls Campus
C. The Design Center at Jefferson
D. All of the above



Submit your answers at Jefferson.edu/InnovatorTrivia or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera by August 19, 2022. A perfect score will enter you in a drawing to win a Jefferson T-shirt.



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