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# Strategic Leadership Newsletter: Volume 3, Number 1

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# Strategic Leadership

## Newsletter

Volume 3 Number 1  
February 4, 2017

*Strategic Leadership Newsletter* reports information relevant to the *Philadelphia University Doctor of Management in Strategic Leadership* program including personal and professional events and accomplishments, new practices, research and opportunities, and suggestions. You are encouraged to forward the *Newsletter* to friends and colleagues to expand awareness and to brand yourself as a community member. You are also invited to recommend people or organizations to be added to the mailing list. Contact *Strategic Leadership Newsletter* by emailing the Editor [starrl@philau.edu](mailto:starrl@philau.edu).

### Cohort 3

We are pleased to welcome Cohort 3 into our doctoral program. Seven new doctoral students have joined bringing our community to [21 students](#) and [14 faculty](#). As with all DSL students, Cohort 3 members become [Fellows in the Institute of Systems Wisdom](#) and part of the [Strategic Leadership Collaboratory](#).



**Valerie Andrews** is Associate Minister of St. Paul's Baptist Church, West Chester, PA, and Executive Administrator to the Senior Pastor

of the Bible Way Baptist Church. In this role, Val provides professional, administrative and personal support to the Senior Pastor, manages the office staff and is responsible for coordinating other tasks as assigned. She earned a B.A. in Liberal Arts/English and M.Ed. in Counseling Education from Millersville University, was ordained by the Pennsylvania Eastern Keystone Baptist Association and earned the M. Div. degree from the Palmer Theological Seminary.



**Travis Douglas** is Assistant Vice President for Residential Learning and Inclusion Programs at Rowan University; Chief Housing Officer for the University auxiliary housing portfolio; and he oversees the Office of Social Justice, Inclusion and Conflict Resolution, which he helped to create and which houses the campus Multicultural, Women's, LGBTQ+, and Spiritual Exploration Centers, as well as mentoring programs. Travis earned a B.A. in Political Science from Sonoma State University and M.Ed. in College Student Affairs Administration from University of Georgia.



**John Ervin** is Assistant Vice President of Surgical Operations at Virtua Medical Group, associated with Virtua Healthcare System of New Jersey. He earned a B.S. in Biology from

Excelsior University; B.S. in Nursing from Villanova University; M.B.A. in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from Northeastern University; Executive Certificate in Healthcare Operations from the T. C. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University; Graduate Certificate in Lean Healthcare Operations from Thomas Jefferson University; and Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Policy from George Mason University.



**Brittany Holton** is Category Manager with The Kellogg Company previously in Jacksonville, FL and now in Philadelphia. Britt has responsibility for the *Snacks and Morning Foods* portfolios at Wakefern Food Corporation, the largest retailer-owned cooperative in the US comprised of 50 member companies that own and operate retail supermarkets under the ShopRite, Price Rite and The Fresh Grocer banners. She earned a B.A. in Fine Arts from Saint Joseph's University, and an M.A. in teaching from Tufts University.



**Michael Molta** is Learning and Development Specialist at Thomas Jefferson University working with the VP of Talent Management. He is responsible for internal staff and leadership training, the organizational performance competency framework, and integration efforts including mission, vision

and values for the expanding enterprise including the merger with Philadelphia University. He is an honors graduate from Keuka College in Upstate New York earning a B.S. in Organizational Management and he earned an M.S. in Organizational Dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania.



**Paula Smith-Benson** is founder and Pastor at Reign in the Rain Ministries, Inc. in New Jersey and co-founder and Director of Leadership Development at the Women Veteran Command Center, an organization serving female veterans in the Philadelphia area. She is a retired Major, United States Air Force Nurse Corps, and has been Flight Commander, Family Advocacy Nurse, and Troop Commander in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She earned a B.S. in Nursing from Hampton University, and M.S. in Nursing specializing in Nurse Midwifery from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



**Teresa Wolfgang** is Strategic Planner for Axiologic Solutions working inside the U. S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). Having achieved the rank of Colonel, Teresa is also Chief of the Central Asian States Civil Affairs Planning for the 352 Civil Affairs Command. She has been Battalion Commander, Detachment Commander and Civil Affairs

Planner, and Operations and Program Manager in the US, Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, and Egypt. She holds a B.A. in Sociology from Methodist College; M.S. in Management from Troy University; and an M.P.A. and Post Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Villanova University.



from the Graduate School of Education in risk perception and communication, and an M.S. in Organizational Dynamics from the School of Arts and Sciences.



## New DSL Faculty Mentor



We are pleased to welcome [Syd Havelly](#), Doctoral Research Faculty Mentor. Syd has been practicing public relations and issues management for over 25 years, 20 of which have been in corporate public relations and five as a consultant specializing in crisis communications and toxic tort litigation communications in the chemical industry. He co-authored *Getting Traction—The Subaru Story and the Entrepreneurial Mindset* with Harvey Lamm, founder and former chairman/CEO of Subaru of America; and *Eight Dollars and a Dream—My American Journey* with Raj Gupta, CEO of Rohm and Haas Company. Syd regularly works with legal, engineering, and health scientists in constructing group process-based models; and community resolution group work in arbitration proceedings and in tolling agreement/community-based work group processes. He holds two University of Pennsylvania degrees: a Ph.D.

## Call for Papers

Dear EDBAC Colleagues,

Your journal, [Engaged Management ReView \(EMR\)](#), is pleased to announce a call for papers for a special issue, titled, "***Charting a New Territory: Practitioner-Scholarship in Action.***"

The special issue will be managed by the Editor-in-Chief of EMR. The review board for this special issue will include Jean Bartunek; Richard Boyatzis; Richard Boland; Dipankar Chakravarti; David Cooperrider; Lars Mathiassen; Emma Parry; Denise Rousseau; Paul Salipante; and Pierre Volle.

The submission deadline is February 26, 2017. Reviews will be completed by May 27, 2017, and final submissions are due by August 19, 2017. Submission details are included in the [Call for Papers](#).



## Merger Update

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY



**Date:** January 31, 2017  
**From:** Stephen Spinelli, Jr., Ph.D.

I am more excited today than the day we signed the agreement with TJU about the enormous opportunities that lie ahead for our community and of the impact we will have on higher education. Most important, I am excited that this combination will serve to greatly enhance our value proposition for our students, their employers, and society. **Once we receive all necessary regulatory approvals (anticipated for March/April), we expect our combination will become effective in summer 2017. All current PhilaU and TJU academic programs will continue to be offered through the combined university on two primary Philadelphia campuses in Center City and East Falls, and on our satellite campuses. Conferral of degrees will be from what currently is known as Thomas Jefferson University.** For more information visit the [merger website](#).



## Thomas Jefferson University News

In October 2016, Temple University's Lewis Katz School of Medicine and its Center for Substance Abuse Research and [The Lambert Center for the Study of Medicinal Cannabis and Hemp](#) at Thomas Jefferson University co-presented the 2016 Carolina Cannabinoid Collaborative Conference. Over 100 of the country's leading cannabinoid researchers gathered in Philadelphia to address recent developments and discoveries.

The Lambert Center for the Study of Medicinal Cannabis and Hemp at Thomas Jefferson University is the nation's first comprehensive resource for expert-developed, unbiased information about the medical uses of marijuana and cannabinoid focused-therapies to be housed within a major US health sciences university. Funded entirely through philanthropy, Lambert Center has received a combined **\$1.5 million** from six Pennsylvania organizations: The Tuttleman Family Foundation, PharmaCannis, PA Options for Wellness, Commonwealth Alternative Medicinal Options, Keystone Wellness Research Fund, LLC, and Oha Wellness. The Center adopted its name following receipt of a **\$3 million gift** from Australian philanthropists, Barry and Joy Lambert.



## Dr. Klasko Interview



**Dr. Stephen Klasko**, President of Thomas Jefferson University, [sat down with Jared Shelly](#) of *BizPhilly* to answer some questions about health care in America and Jefferson's recent growth. Dr. Klasko believes the [Affordable Care Act](#), though well-intentioned, is problematic. He explained that the goal of increasing access and quality, while decreasing cost but not fundamentally changing the system is not sustainable.

Dr. Klasko also described the recent announcement of Jefferson and Philadelphia University signing a Letter of Intent to Integrate as "the biggest no-brainer." "When you think about the two places where health care needs an 'extreme makeover' it's academics and health care. So, my ability to partner with arguably one of the best — in *U.S. News & World Report* they're the No. 10 design school — made it an easy decision," he said. "Design is patient experience, and that's what it's going to be all about. For millennials, it's no longer, 'this is my hospital.' It's patient experience — that's design." [Read more here.](#)



## National Academy of Inventors Honors Two Jefferson Researchers

The selection committee of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), comprising more than 200 U.S. and international universities, and governmental and non-profit research institutes, elected [D. Craig Hooper, PhD](#), and [Mathew Thakur, PhD](#), of Thomas Jefferson University to Fellow status, indicating a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society. [Read more here.](#)



## Institute of Integrative Health Established

Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health announced the establishment of the **Marcus Institute of Integrative Health**. The new institute will greatly expand the research, education and clinical care profile of the integrative medicine program, the roots of which date back to 1826. The

institute is named in recognition of the Marcus Foundation, Inc. which has provided nearly **\$25 million** since 2010 and was established by Bernie Marcus, Co-Founder of The Home Depot. [Read more here.](#)



## Jefferson Health Gift

[Jefferson Health](#) announced a **\$2.5 million** gift from the Robert V. Nicoletti Family Trust to establish a new kidney transplant center with a special focus on living donor transplantation. The Nicoletti Kidney Transplant Center at Jefferson brings together research, education and clinical care in one space. [Read more here.](#)

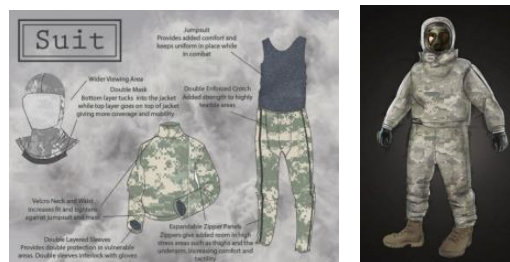


## Philadelphia University Students Win Top Prize in U.S. Department of Defense Challenge



A transdisciplinary team of Philadelphia University students led by [Professor Les Sztandera](#) (right) and advised by [Michael Asada DSL '18](#) (left) has [won the \\$55,000 top prize in a U.S. Department of Defense challenge](#) to redesign protective chemical-

biological suits for military troops. The [Proof Challenge](#) by the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD) sought innovative ideas to increase mobility, dexterity and tactility of these suits, allowing troops to complete their tasks, such as running and climbing, in a fast and comfortable manner.



Professor Sztandera reported, “The challenge came to my attention in August 2016, as I actively seek projects for my courses. DR Widder concluded that it might be a prelude to the [DoD University / Industry Consortium](#) that PhilaU and TJU have joined.

Michael noted, “I approached this requirement with my previous experience having served on Source Selection panels which is a critical phase of the pre-award process of procurement contracts. Source selection is a key phase of the acquisition life cycle of programs and for the source selection to be successful, the precursor phases such as need identification, market research, requirements definition, solicitation development and proposal solicitation must be thoroughly vetted. Therefore, I accepted my responsibility seriously with the thought that my advising/questions/suggestions would assist the students gleaned from my past as an acquisition career program manager. [Read more here.](#)





## DSL Professor Helps Penn Students Redesign Student Assembly



The Arts + Business Council of Greater Philadelphia created a dynamic **Business on Board** (BOB) program that focuses on the unique needs of the Philadelphia region's arts and culture sector and its board member placement and board member development. [Eugene deKlerk DSL '18](#) (left) supervised by [DSL Professor Joseph Sweeney](#) (right) will help the BOB leadership by completing a research project with three components: (1) to assess BOB graduate training and its contribution to non-profit arts and culture board effectiveness; (2) to assess BOB graduates' contribution to leadership capacities and competencies in non-profit arts and culture organizations; and (3) to assess BOB graduates' leadership contribution to their employers' organizations. [Read more about BOB here.](#)

A new graduate class at the University of Pennsylvania taught by [DSL Professor John Pourdehnad](#) will give students the chance to redesign their student government — the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA). Graduate students often become pigeonholed in their own departments and research, such that they seldom regard their graduate student community on a grand scale.

Because GAPSA is celebrating its 10-year anniversary, this seemed a fitting time to re-assess the effectiveness of its structures that have been in place a decade.

Professor John Pourdehnad, leading this project, stated that the course could involve more students in following GAPSA, the government that's supposed to work in their interest. [Read more here.](#)





## Conference and Workshop Presentations



[Professor Les Sztandera](#) presented “Intelligent quality compliance system for textile and apparel businesses” at the [International Conference on Innovative Engineering Technologies](#) in Krakow, Poland in January, 2017.

He will also present “Self-augmenting knowledge base for informed decision making” at the [17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Knowledge Engineering and Data Bases](#) at University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK in February, 2017.



For the Arts + Business Council of Greater Philadelphia’s Designing Leadership program on March 22, 2017, [Dr. Larry M.](#)

[Starr](#) will present a workshop, “Decision making in the VUCA world.” The interactive session will describe and evaluate the capacity for complex problem solving and decision making by assessing participants’ paradoxical behavioral and non-linear thinking styles, and will present the methodology of 3<sup>rd</sup> generation design thinking for addressing organizational problems and opportunities. [Read more about Designing Leadership here.](#)



**Arlen Specter Center  
for Public Service**

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The Arlen Specter Center for Public Service at Philadelphia University facilitates and promotes public service and civic education in a cross-disciplinary, nonpartisan setting. One example is the *Knowledge Exchange*, a forum where research by the PhilaU community is shared. Open to all, please join the presentation on [February 24 at Roxboro House from 12 noon to 1 pm by Dr. Larry M. Starr, “What You Think about Survival from Sudden Cardiac Arrest is Wrong: Reframing This Complex Problem.”](#)

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