The Review - Fall 2004

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The Magazine for the Alumni and Friends of the Jefferson College of Health Professions
Thomas Jefferson University

JCHP Welcomes Dr. Barchi, the University’s 4th President
30 Years of Academic Nursing History at JCHP
On-line Giving Site Launched
The Review is published twice annually by the Jefferson College of Health Professions Office of Alumni Relations to encourage alumni interest and support for the Jefferson College of Health Professions.

For more information about the Alumni Association or activities, call 215-503-7709, email information to dorothy.grieb@jefferson.edu or visit our web site: www.jefferson.edu/jchp/alumni.

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Send correspondence to: Editor, The Review, 130 S. 9th St., Suite 705, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5233 or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 215-503-7709.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is always a pleasure for me to share with you information about the many good things that are taking place at Jefferson. Following a successful site visit in April 2004, the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association reaffirmed the University's accreditation for a full 10-year term. As detailed in this issue's featured article, however, the “big story,” as they say on Action News, is the investiture on October 5, 2004 of the University's fourth President, Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, distinguished scholar, researcher and university administrator. Dr. Barchi succeeds Dr. Paul Brucker, who stepped down after 14 years of distinguished service as Jefferson's President. In this issue, you will find a wealth of information on the investiture ceremony at the Kimmel Center, our new President's background and his vision for the future direction of Jefferson.

Regarding activities related specifically to Jefferson College of Health Professions, I will share with you a very brief summary of the most salient current events; however, for a more complete picture, I invite you to visit the JCHP home page (http://www.jefferson.edu/jchp) where you can access a detailed account in the College's recently published annual report.

Academic year 2003-04 marked another busy and productive period in JCHP history, and 2004-05 is off to an equally promising start. Enrollment in the 2004 fall semester increased over last year by more than 200 students, as the first cohorts entered new academic programs in the departments of nursing, physical therapy and radiologic sciences. At the same time that a new chapter opened in the distinguished history of nursing education at Jefferson with the implementation of the ASN program at Methodist Hospital and the Geisinger Medical Center, the JCHP Alumni Association and the Department of Nursing are preparing a gala celebration for the 30th anniversary of the first graduation of the College's history (DPT) further attesting to JCHP's continued dynamic response to the need to prepare future healthcare professionals at the full spectrum of academic levels.

Research awards and related scholarly activities of the faculty continue to grow at impressive rates. The $4.6 million in grants and contracts awarded in FY 04 is more than double the amount received in FY 00 and places JCHP among national leaders in research support for schools of allied health. In the most recent NIH statistical report, JCHP's nursing department ranked 29th among nursing education programs nationwide that receive NIH funding.

Increased collaboration between the College and other University and Hospital divisions continues to provide new opportunities for the Jefferson family. Dr. Laura Gitlin has helped to extend the linkages of the College through her collaboration with Dr. Sam Gandy in the Farber Institute for Neurosciences, who is conducting research on the biology of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. This past year JCHP's and TJUH's nursing departments hired two nurse specialists who will hold joint appointments in the two organizations. JCHP's nursing faculty also includes a neonatal nurse practitioner jointly appointed with the duPont Hospital for Children. Perhaps the most significant proposal for collaboration in the educational arena is the plan to develop truly interdisciplinary learning experiences for nursing and medical students, including clinical procedural skills, confronting simulated clinical situations as a team, and rounding together on several units in the Hospital.

Financial support for nursing students grew significantly over the past year as the number of service commitment scholarships with TJUH and other health systems hospitals increased from 38 to 66, with a total value of almost $1.7 million. Additionally, a graduate assistantship program for students in occupational therapy and physical therapy, sponsored by the University Office of Financial Aid, continues to grow.

Similarly, improvements have been made to facilities and equipment in the Edison building. A portion of the space on the first floor formerly occupied by the sports medicine department has been converted for use by the Department of Radiologic Sciences and is now furnished with state of the art diagnostic equipment. The University has also approved plans for the renovation of additional space on the first floor to accommodate the move of the JCHP Admissions Office to an ideal location for increased visibility and convenient access for prospective students and their families. A general “facelift” of the Edison lobby (improved lighting and appearance) is also underway, which, coupled with the creative and informative designs of Alumni Director Dottie Grieb in the glass display cases, continues to make this “gateway” to the College a brighter and more welcoming venue.

Although these improvements represent a good start, much work is still needed. Increasing the amount of funding available for general scholarship support remains a significant challenge. Constraints on capital funds over the past several years have curtailed the facilities and technology development necessary to remain competitive in the current higher education marketplace. President Barchi has set a high priority on determining the feasibility of addressing this issue through the construction of the proposed education/research building as a major component of a revised strategic plan for the University. Strategies to expand academic programs and increase philanthropic support to the levels necessary to promote growth and development are vital elements of future planning.

Clearly, Jefferson continues to achieve many accomplishments while also facing significant challenges. With the support of alumni and friends, and the renewed energy and commitment of faculty, students and administration to our shared institutional mission and vision of advancing as a premier academic healthcare center, we can all be confident that the future remains bright and promising.

James B. Erdmann, PhD
Dean
Special Occasions Make Special News

Please use the inserted form or e-mail us with all of your news. However, please keep in mind that we particularly want to highlight your big events with a photo!

**Weddings Are Wonderful. Tell Us About Yours!**

Please let us know about your recent wedding, so we can include your happy announcement in a future issue of *The Review*. Include with your announcement a picture we can print, and we will send you a Jefferson gift. You can e-mail us a picture or send us one in the mail. (Please clearly identify the picture.) Also, include your name at graduation, your year, your married name, your spouse’s name, the date of your wedding, and your address.

**We Bet You Had A Beautiful Baby!**

Please, tell us more, so we can include your baby announcement in a future issue of *The Review*. Include in your information, your baby’s name, date of birth, and any other information you would like to share about your joyous event. Also, please include your name, your spouse’s name, your name at graduation, your program, year and address. Baby pictures are extra special and a welcome addition to your announcement, so please send a photo by mail or e-mail. We have a Jefferson baby gift ready to send out to you!

**Send Us Your Special Occasion News, General News or Change of Address:**

- E-Mail via our web site: [www.jefferson.edu/jchp/alumni](http://www.jefferson.edu/jchp/alumni)
  or use the inserted card in this issue.

- E-Mail, Mail, Phone, or Fax:
  Dorothy Grieb
  Director of Alumni Relations
  Jefferson College of Health Professions
  130 S. 9th Street, Suite 705
  Philadelphia, PA 19107-5233
  (215) 503-7709 telephone
  (215) 503-9834 fax
  dorothy.grieb@jefferson.edu

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**Supporting JCHP Through Online Giving**

Thomas Jefferson University’s Office of Institutional Advancement has a completely redesigned web site ([www.jefferson.edu/giving](http://www.jefferson.edu/giving)) that offers many choices and possibilities for alumni of the Jefferson College of Health Professions who want to learn more about how they can support programs at JCHP both now and in the future.

The new web site includes:

- A secure way to make an immediate gift to JCHP with your credit card.
- An easy link to the JCHP web pages.
- A video presentation about Jefferson’s rich history and legacy of donor support.
- Extensive information about planned gifts — bequests, gift annuities, and more.
- GiftTree® — an interactive program to guide you in choosing the best ways to give.
- Printable documents with in-depth information.
- A Donor’s Bill of Rights.
- Our donors — how and why they support Jefferson.
- An easy way to request a personal illustration of how different types of planned giving vehicles can work to your benefit.
- A photo directory of the Office of Institutional Advancement staff.
- A gift calculator that shows how your gift can offer income and tax advantages.

New information will be added on a regular basis. Consider making [www.jefferson.edu/giving](http://www.jefferson.edu/giving) a “favorite” on your computer. A world of possibilities is waiting for you.
Check Out The New Jefferson Bookstore

Over the summer Jefferson Medical and Health Science Bookstore moved into the renowned Victory Building at 10th and Chestnut streets. The official grand opening was held the week of September 13, with festivities, discounts and give-aways planned for everyday.

Monday’s grand opening kick off had a Philadelphia theme, with a focus on local interest titles and Jefferson authors. The Fralinger String Band made an appearance in the middle of the day, and lots of famous Philly snacks were enjoyed by all.

On Tuesday several publishing representatives spent the day discussing new titles and raffling off books.

On Wednesday, representatives from 3M Littman and WelchAllyn demonstrated the latest diagnostic equipment. Free blood pressure screenings were provided by the Office to Advance Population Health at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Thursday was Technology and Stationery Day, with Jeff IT on hand to answer questions about technology and software products.

The week ended with Jefferson Spirit Day. Representatives from apparel, gift, class ring, graduation announcement and diploma frame companies promoted ways to show Jefferson Spirit!

On Wednesday, October 13, Commuter Services and the Security ID Center also moved into the new bookstore.

If you haven’t had a chance to stop by the new space, be sure to visit the website, where you can buy books online and receive a 10 percent discount off most titles! Visit www.jefferson.edu/bookstore and select "Buy Books Online."

Search the extensive database of approximately 75,000 print and non-print products from more than 300 publishers. Health science titles include selections on medicine, nursing, and all of the health-related professions.

Jefferson Medical and Health Science Bookstore
1009 Chestnut Street
215-955-7922
Toll free: 1-888-TJU-BOOK
Fax: 215-923-1844
www.jefferson.edu/bookstore

Dr. Barchi and Fralinger String Band

Fralinger String Band plays outside of Jefferson’s new bookstore.
Meet Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD
Thomas Jefferson University’s New President

Dr. Robert L. Barchi became the fourth president of Thomas Jefferson University on September 1, 2004. A formal investiture ceremony was held on October 5 at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. Prior to coming to Jefferson, Dr. Barchi was Provost of the University of Pennsylvania. As the chief academic officer of the University, Dr. Barchi was responsible for the oversight of Penn’s 12 schools as well as the institution’s research enterprise, academic policies and student activities.

ACADEMIC CAREER
Dr. Barchi received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Georgetown University, as well as a Doctor of Philosophy degree and a Doctor of Medicine degree, both from the University of Pennsylvania. Board-certified in neurology, he rose from assistant professor of biochemistry to become the David Mahoney Professor of Neurological Sciences within a decade. In 2004, in recognition of his many contributions to research, education and training at Penn, Dr. Barchi was named the Fairhill Professor of Medicine, one of the oldest endowed chairs at that University. President Barchi has been actively involved in academic leadership and administration throughout his career. He served as Director of the Mahoney Institute of Neurological Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania for more than 12 years, bringing that entity to national prominence as one of the world’s preeminent institutions for neuroscience research and training. He has also served as Vice Dean for Research in the School of Medicine, Director of the Clinical Neuroscience Track, and was founder of Penn Neurocare, a regional neurology network. He was the founding chair of Penn’s Graduate Group in Neuroscience and was a leader in the establishment of the Department of Neuroscience. While serving as that Department’s first Chair, he was also appointed Chair of the Department of Neurology, posts he held concurrently until his appointment as Provost in 1999.

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Dr. Barchi’s research has focused on the structure and function of voltage-gated ion channels. These complex molecular machines are found in the surface membrane of nerve and muscle cells and generate the electrical signals by which these cells process and communicate information. Dr. Barchi’s research team was among the first to characterize, clone, and functionally express these critical proteins and to identify channel genetic mutations that cause a variety of human diseases. He has been at the forefront of the design and implementation of important multidisciplinary advances in neuroscience research, medical education, and in the clinical practice of neurology.

Dr. Barchi is the author of more than 150 research publications and three books in his field. A highly respected researcher and scholar, his coedited text on the Molecular and Genetic Basis of Neurological Disease is now in its third edition.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES
Dr. Barchi has always maintained an active involvement in both civic and private external boards. He serves on the boards of a number of regional economic development institutions, including BioAdvance and the Ben Franklin Technology Partners, and is an overseer of the Wistar Institute. He is a director of Covance, Inc. and is a member of the medical advisory board of Cephalon, Inc.

He has also served on the editorial boards of numerous professional journals, including *Journal of Neuroscience, Journal of Neurochemistry, Muscle and Nerve, Ion Channels, Current Concepts in Neurology and Neurosurgery, The Neuroscientist, Neurobiology of Disease,* and *inScight.*

AWARDS
Dr. Barchi is the recipient of many honors and awards in recognition of his contributions as a researcher, clinician, and educator. He has been elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, and the Association of American Physicians.

PERSONAL INTERESTS
An avid sports enthusiast throughout his life, Dr. Barchi played lacrosse and football at Georgetown, and was captain of the football team in his senior year. He started rowing in high school at St. Joseph’s Prep in Philadelphia and continues to row a single scull on the Schuylkill River today, where he has raced at the master’s level. He is also a recently converted tennis addict.

Dr. Barchi enjoys collecting antique clocks and watches from the 17th and 18th centuries. In addition to repairing and conserving these old timepieces, he designs and constructs his own clocks in his extensive basement machine shop.

For his excellence in research, Dr. Barchi has received the NIH Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award, the Senior Investigator Award of the American Heart Association, and the Distinguished Alumni Award of Penn’s School of Medicine. His reputation as a teacher of excellence has been recognized at Penn by the University’s prestigious Lindback Award.

He has also been named Fellow, American Academy of Neurology, Fellow, College of Physicians; and Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Barchi has also served on the Board of Councillors of the American Neurological Association.
The Investiture of Dr. Robert L. Barchi
As President of Thomas Jefferson University

Thomas Jefferson University held the investiture of its fourth president, Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, on Tuesday, October 5 at 10:30 a.m., at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, 260 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia. A reception followed in the Kimmel Center from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

The presidential investiture gave the Jefferson community an opportunity to celebrate its new president with a formal ceremony filled with academic traditions and protocols. Representatives of more than fifty colleges and universities joined Jefferson’s own faculty in a colorful procession, wearing the academic regalia of their own institution.

The ceremony included many greetings to the president, interspersed with musical selections performed by the Philadelphia Singers and a Brass, Organ and Percussion Ensemble. Representatives of the faculty, alumni, students, staff and government officials welcomed Dr. Barchi to his new role.

Jordan J. Cohen, MD, president of the Association of American Medical Colleges, was the keynote speaker. Rosemarie Greco, Director, Office of Health Care Reform, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, offered Dr. Barchi greetings from Governor Edward G. Rendell.

Speakers from the Jefferson community included:

From Alumni
Walter F Wrenn, III, MD, President
Jefferson Medical College Alumni Association

From Faculty
Janice P. Burke, PhD, Chair
Department of Occupational Therapy
Jefferson College of Health Professions

From Students
Kelly M. Champagne, Student
Jefferson College of Graduate Studies

From Staff
Brian P. Bowie, JD
Associate Vice President, Human Resources
Thomas Jefferson University

Following the greetings, Brian G. Harrison, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Thomas Jefferson University, formally inducted President Barchi and presented him with the University Charter and Presidential Medallion.

Following this presentation, Dr. Barchi made his inaugural address, titled “Shaping the Future of Clinical Care.” In his speech, Dr. Barchi explained why he chose to come to Jefferson:

[Keynote speaker] Dr. Cohen posed the question earlier: “why would anyone even want to consider becoming president of Thomas Jefferson University?” My answer, like his, is: who could pass up the chance to lead an institution that has provided so much to this nation and to the world? Who, when presented with Jefferson’s legacy, would not jump at the opportunity to continue to build on its outstanding record of science and service? This is the job of a lifetime.

As he continued his speech, Dr. Barchi outlined some of his goals for the University:

Working with Jefferson’s trustees, faculty, staff, and students, we can and will build on Jefferson’s greatness. Together, we can expand the university’s leadership in spawning new research, in broadening medicine’s horizons, and in shaping the future of clinical care.

I foresee a future in which Jefferson produces the quintessential academic symphony, through its many partnerships and through its maximal integration across disciplines.

Today, we celebrate an institution. We gather to rejoice in Thomas Jefferson University’s history, its traditions, its successes, and its rich potential.

• As a university dedicated to preserving health and advancing health care, we will continue to meet our mission of providing the best education to students at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

• As a university committed to medical research, we will continue to promote investigation that will improve both the health and the quality of life in this nation and around the globe.

• As a university devoted to excellence in medical practice, we will continue to prepare practitioners for the life-long learning that does not and cannot end with a medical degree.

• As a university with almost two centuries of devotion to patient care, we will continue to lead the way from a health care system based on episodic treatment to one predicated on continuous care.

• And as a university with deep roots in this city and state, we will heed Dr. Cohen’s words to “bridge” the diversity gap that plagues our health professions, working to ensure that the Jefferson of tomorrow truly reflects the public we serve.

Dr. Barchi continued by explaining that collaboration will be the key to the success of the University’s goals.

The Presidential Investiture was held at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts on October 5, 2004.
Jefferson Welcomes New President

In his Presidential Address, Dr. Barchi stated, "In order to fulfill our own expectations, Jefferson's future must be one ripe with collaboration."

In order to fulfill our own expectations, Jefferson's future must be one ripe with collaboration. We simply cannot accomplish our goals through individual effort alone. Collaborations strengthen us. Partnerships lead to shared goals and incentives. They provide immense leverage. They are fundamental to our future and to our success.

He went on to explain that collaborations include partnerships between patients and physicians, clinicians and researchers, academic institutions, and within the community. At the end of his speech, President Barchi shared his view of Jefferson's future.

Jefferson is ideally prepared to turn its dream into reality. We have a long history of clinical excellence, a rich educational tradition, an outstanding research component, an involved community, a committed board, and devoted faculty, staff, and alumni. We have all the elements of first-rate health care delivery on one compact campus. And we are ideally configured to build on Jefferson's rich past and to pursue a promising future of integrated health care.

A future in which far more people in this country have access to high-quality primary and preventive medicine.

A future in which we redefine the education we provide for doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals.

A future in which we recognize that collaboration in research can produce remarkable results that would have been impossible otherwise.

A future in which we maximize the impact of these advances on all levels of our society.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a signal honor to be part of an institution with such an august past; to be part of a university with such a vibrant present; and to be part of a team working to shape such a brilliant future for Thomas Jefferson University.

I look forward to joining all of you – faculty, students, and staff – in meeting the challenge of change as together we shape the future of clinical care.

Thank you.

Jefferson himself said that “a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.” Well, in health care, it’s time for a storm.

Older Adults: The Protective Role of Primary Control Behaviors. As described in the Symposium program, her presentation “provided data to support a novel approach to protecting against functional decline and the onset of frailty in older adults living in the community. Evidence from an NIA-funded randomized trial suggests that a multi-component intervention involving occupational therapy, physical therapy, and home modification affords important protection against fear of falling, near falls, home hazards, functional difficulties, and mortality.”

Other researchers who presented at the symposium included:

- Emad S. Alnemri, PhD
  Professor of Microbiology and Immunology
  Jefferson Medical College

- Jeffrey L. Benovic, PhD
  Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology and
  Professor of Microbiology and Immunology
  Jefferson Medical College

- Walter J. Koch, PhD
  Professor of Medicine and director,
  Center for Translational Medicine
  Jefferson Medical College

- Judith L. Ross, MD
  Professor of Pediatrics
  Jefferson Medical College

PAST TJU PRESIDENTS

1990 to 2004
Paul C. Brucker, MD

1977 to 1990
Lewis W. Bluemle Jr., MD

1976-1977
George M. Norwood,
Interim President

1969 to 1976
Peter A. Herbut, MD

The investiture was followed in the afternoon by a scientific symposium, A Vision of Science: A Look at Jefferson's Research in the Twenty-First Century, held at Bluemle Life Sciences Building. The symposium highlighted Jefferson's research accomplishments and work on the horizon. Marion J. Siegman, PhD, professor and chair of Physiology, Jefferson Medical College, presided. A reception followed.

JCHP's own Laura N. Gitlin, PhD, Professor of Occupational Therapy and Director of the Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health, presented at the symposium. Her topic was "Breaking through Frailty in..."
A new era began on September 1, 2004, when Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, became the fourth president of Thomas Jefferson University. From day one, he has demonstrated incredible energy, curiosity and enthusiasm for his new position and the University. The day after his October 5th Investiture, Dr. Barchi took time out of his busy schedule to grant an interview to The Review.

Editor: Dr. Barchi, on behalf of the Jefferson College of Health Professions Alumni Association, welcome to Jefferson. Your curriculum vitae indicates that you have led a life of scholarship and leadership and now a new chapter begins at Jefferson. At first glance, what do think your initial challenges will be as President?

Dr. Barchi: Jefferson today faces many challenges. We must capitalize on our long history of excellence in clinical care, education and research as we build a new strategic plan for Thomas Jefferson University. We must consider how best to grow and yet balance aspirations with reality. In doing so, we must take advantage of all elements of healthcare education and capitalize on them as we define new ways of delivering health care. Finally, we must realize that financial strictures are real and must achieve fiscal stability.

Editor: How do you initially view the Jefferson College of Health Professions and how it fits into future of the University?

Dr. Barchi: I am pleased and delighted to see what has been happening at the College. Recent progress under Dean Erdmann has been quite remarkable. The college now has a broad range of academic programs. There seems to be an incredible amount of creativity in presenting these programs, and I am very impressed with the leadership and the department chairs. I am sure that the College will further differentiate itself among its competitors using the many talents of its faculty and students. I look forward to the College playing an even larger role in the future of the University.

Editor: Your investiture day was a remarkable event. What stood out among the many highlights – what was the most meaningful?

Dr. Barchi: It was a wonderful opportunity to see the University community in one place, and to witness the collegiality among faculty, students and staff. Jefferson is clearly a tightly knot group of individuals who obviously have a great deal of affinity for each other and for the University. This feeling came through very clearly, and it was for me the highlight of the day.

Editor: During your acceptance speech, you used the term “collaboration” and spoke of a “true university with a rich wealth of subjects and a full spectrum of degrees.” There has been a perception among some of our alumni that the University divisions can be inches away, but miles apart. What are some of the strategies you might use to bring the administration together to provide unity and effective collaboration among its constituents?

Dr. Barchi: I intend to build a strong management team that will work together to solve common problems across the entire institution. This group will help me to create incentives and to track opportunities for partnerships among divisions. Our future lies in broadly based collaborations and partnerships that can cross organizational boundaries. We must avoid silos of knowledge and find novel ways to share and use new knowledge.

Editor: You also mentioned in your speech the term, “community of scholars.” How will this help attract, recruit and retain the best faculty?

Dr. Barchi: The community of scholars is the essence of any great university; it includes the faculty, the students and the staff who collectively interact to create a unique learning environment. I think faculty here have a feeling that they belong to such a community; they feel positively about being here and not somewhere else. This in turn helps them to recruit others to our community. The interaction among faculty, fellows and students provides a dynamic interchange that is beneficial to all constituencies, and is the real catalyst for learning.

Editor: Still referring to the term, “community of scholars,” our JCHP students are here for a short time, they concentrate very hard on their respective disciplines and leave here technicly competent. How can Jefferson further provide our students with a broader perspective, a more global view of intellectual curiosity?

Dr. Barchi: JCHP students should be knitted together with our other students on campus. Sharing educational facilities, learning in a central location with others can give a feeling of belonging and a broader perspective. This is one step in expanding their intellectual perspectives.

Editor: Is there a particular message you would like to give to our alumni?

Dr. Barchi: The alumni of each of our schools have equally important roles to play at Thomas Jefferson University. The alumni are critical to our future as they bring the wisdom of experience and provide valuable feedback to the University. Alumni need to be recognized as vital members of the University community along with the faculty and students.

Editor: Thank you, Dr. Barchi for taking the time to visit with me. I extend to you an invitation on behalf of our Alumni Board of Directors to attend one of their meetings.

Dr. Barchi: Thank you, I intend to meet with all of the alumni groups and am looking forward to it.
New Staff at JCHP

Three New Admissions Counselors Recruit Students

Three new admissions counselors are settling into the JCHP Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management.

Elizabeth Morris, an admissions counselor who works with the Associate of Science in Nursing and RN-BSN and RN-BSN/MSN populations, came to JCHP from Community College of Philadelphia where she was a Recruitment Coordinator.

“I like the challenge of working with a non-traditional population here at JCHP,” Elizabeth says. She travels throughout Philadelphia and to Danville, PA, where Geisinger Medical Center, one of the ASN program campuses, is located. Elizabeth has Bachelor of Arts degrees in Biology and Psychology from Lehigh University, and a Master of Education degree in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania.

Nora Bita, Assistant Director of Admissions, works with the prelicensure and PACE nursing students. Nora came to JCHP from Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, NY, where she was a case manager and counselor for a grant project, Opening Doors Learning Communities.

“I don’t like monotony!” Nora shares. “After spending most of my life in New York, it’s nice to be in a new city and to experience new challenges.” Nora has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Alfred University, and a Master of Arts degree in Counseling and a Master of Education degree in Psychological Counseling, both from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Byron Sample, Assistant Director of Admissions for the radiologic sciences program, is the newest addition. His previous experience includes running a microscope and imaging facility where he trained students, selling microscopes and imaging software for Olympus, and working as a mentor and assistant program director for “Reach to Your Youth Mentoring Project,” where he taught life skills, gave workshops on biotechnology and encouraged young people to pursue higher education.

“I like to interact with people and help improve lives,” Byron shares. “In this position, I have the opportunity to not only help students pursue higher education, but also to sell them on the value of choosing JCHP.” Byron earned a Bachelor of Science degree from North Carolina A&T (Agricultural and Technical) State University.

Changes in the Marketing and PR Department

This year has seen a shift in the Marketing and Public Relations department. New employees and marketing consulting firms are collaborating to lead the college forward.

In April, Jane A. Clinton was hired as the Marketing and PR Manager at JCHP. Her background includes a variety of jobs centered on writing and editing, starting with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and PR. After spending two years teaching English and writing and editing for English-language publications in Poland, Jane returned to the US and worked for a PR firm in Philadelphia. From there her interests turned towards education, and she spent several years writing curriculum, developing training and planning events for a non-profit K-8 program. The switch to higher education has been a welcome change. “Jefferson’s reputation is so strong throughout the region,” she shares. “I have enjoyed working with JCHP administrators to build on that reputation as we promote the College and its growing number of programs.”

In August, Kelly Carlucci joined the department as Publications/PR Associate. She graduated from Penn State University in May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications and a minor in business. During college she interned in the promotions departments of two Philadelphia radio stations and wrote for her school’s newspaper. She recently moved back to Philadelphia and is excited about beginning her career at Jefferson. “I’m looking forward to learning more about JCHP and all it has to offer,” Kelly says. “With two new people, now is a perfect time to bring innovative and fresh ideas to the table to support the promotion of the college’s distinguished reputation.”

Byron Sample, the new Assistant Director of Admissions working with radiologic sciences students

Jane Clinton and Kelly Carlucci, JCHP’s Marketing and PR gurus

Elizabeth Morris and Nora Bita take over the nursing program admissions
In late spring, when former Career Development Center Director David Westhart accepted a new position on the West Coast, he called a colleague at Saint Joseph’s University. “Do you know anyone who may want a job as Director of the CDC here at Jefferson?” he asked Dayna Dunsmoor, testing the waters to see if she’d be interested. After much consideration, Dayna applied for the job. Within weeks, she was offered the position, accepted it and started at JCHP.

Dayna Dunsmoor is not completely new to the JCHP family. Since 2001, she has been involved in occasional CDC events, including the Leadership Development Retreat and the Etiquette Dinner. “When I found out that this position would be open, it felt right,” Dayna shared. “I had been at Saint Joseph’s for five years, and I was happy there. But I felt like it was time to make a move.”

Dayna Dunsmoor, New Director of the JCHP Career Development Center

Dayna is a graduate of State University of New York at Binghamton and she has a master’s degree from the University of Delaware. Previous experience in the career development field includes positions as a counseling intern at the University of Delaware's Center for Counseling and Student Development and as an assistant director of Career Programs at Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Connecticut. She started working at Saint Joseph’s in 1999.

As she settles into her new position, Dayna has some thoughts about how she’ll add her mark to the CDC. “The current student population is spread out,” she said. “There is a good number of commuters, and the number of alumni is steadily growing. Our Web site has some great resources on it already, and I’d like to grow it, to allow students to get help from us even when they are not able to come in for a chat.”

Alumni are always welcome to use the Career Development Center’s resources. Contact Dayna for an appointment at 215-503-5805 or dayna.dunsmoor@jefferson.edu.

JCHP Dean Named Honorary Professor

Dr. James B. Erdmann, Dean of the Jefferson College of Health Professions, Thomas Jefferson University, has been named an Honorary Professor at the Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

“Receiving this honorary professorship is a great honor awarded to me by my respected colleagues in Buenos Aires,” shared Dr. Erdmann. “My visits to the University have been rewarding to me personally, and I hope they have been constructive in the planning for change that is occurring at the University. The Rector and University officials are very forward thinking and are committed to establishing the model for medical education in Argentina.”

During several visits to Argentina in the past ten years, Dr. Erdmann has consulted with the Universidad del Salvador regarding evaluation of its medical school. In response to his ongoing support, the University conferred the designation of Honorary Professor to Dr. Erdmann on March 4, 2004.

Dr. Erdmann developed a working relationship with the University in the early 1990s while visiting his mentor, Dr. Horacio Rimoldi, in Buenos Aires. The two men met at Loyola Psychometric Laboratory in Chicago in the 60s, where Dr. Erdmann earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in Psychological Measurement and Cognition. When Dr. Rimoldi returned to his native country in 1970, he established the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Mathematics and Experimental Psychology at the University of Buenos Aires. Forty years after their first meeting, Dr. Erdmann and Dr. Rimoldi continue to collaborate.
Jefferson’s Ever-Expanding Nursing Educational Horizon:
30 Years of Academic Nursing at Jefferson College of Health Professions

Remember the 70s? Hot fads included disco, pet rocks and platform shoes. Abba’s Waterloo, Bruce Springsteen’s Born To Run and The Knack’s My Sharona topped the radio charts. Annie Hall, Rocky and The Godfather Parts I and II won Academy Awards.

More relevant to the JCHP community, the 70s brought the dawn of the Thomas Jefferson University baccalaureate nursing program. In thirty years, the program has expanded to include a full spectrum of nursing education, from associate to master’s degrees.

THE 70s

In November 1970 the Board of Trustees of Thomas Jefferson University approved a proposal to develop a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. Jefferson already had a strong reputation in the field of nursing education, dating back to 1891 when the first two-year course in nursing education began at Jefferson Hospital. Diploma and practical nursing programs were both well-established when Jefferson added the BSN program.

In 1971, Charlotte Voss, RN, EdD, was named the first chairman of Jefferson’s Department of Baccalaureate Nursing. Dr. Voss and her faculty established an innovative curriculum, teaching health promotion and disease prevention in addition to traditional nursing knowledge and skills.

The first class of baccalaureate nursing students started at Jefferson in 1972, and 40 students graduated in 1974. From the start, Jefferson focused on providing top-notch clinical education for people of all ages and in a variety of clinical settings, from hospitals to senior citizen facilities to schools. The number of students increased each year, along with the strong reputation of clinically prepared Jefferson nurses.

“Jefferson has always been characterized by talented students, and our graduates are in demand by all the hospitals in the area,” shares Margaret (Peggy) Griffiths RN, MSN, a faculty member since 1981. “We do a good job at preparing nurses, and a big reason why we do so well is that we have a faculty who are committed to the clinical education of nursing students.”

The baccalaureate degree program first received National League of Nursing (NLN) accreditation in 1976. The maximum eight years accreditation was awarded from the beginning, and the program has been reaccredited for the maximum time allowed each time it was up for review. In 1998 accreditation came under the auspices of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Jefferson was awarded accreditation for a full ten years by CCNE in January 2001.

In 1978, Jefferson developed a two-year RN to BSN program, reaching out to registered nurses who wished to earn a baccalaureate degree. While other schools expected RNs to test out of coursework to earn the degree, Jefferson faculty designed the curriculum to fill in specific areas of knowledge that were not included in their basic nursing education program. These topics included computers in nursing, research, community health and leadership. The program has been popular since it was initiated, and now there are three RN options: RN to BSN, RN to BSN/MSN, and Accelerated Pathway to the MSN for RNs.

THE 80s

During the beginning of this decade, the number of students continued to increase. By the mid 1980s, about 160 BSN students were admitted to each class. However, as the decade waned, so did the number of BSN students. A nationwide trend of decreased interest in the nursing profession reached Jefferson, and the number of students dramatically decreased.

In September 1980, Mary D. Naylor, RN, PhD, became the second chairman of the department. One tradition that she established was the Visiting Scholar series, a popular event which still occurs every year. The nursing faculty selects and invites an individual to speak on a particular topic of interest for a one-day event. During her tenure as Chair, Dr. Naylor was awarded a National Leadership Fellowship by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

High standards of scholarship and leadership among Jefferson nursing students were acknowledged when the Delta Rho chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society, was established in 1980. At the first induction ceremony, 98 people were inducted to the society because so many nursing alumni qualified for membership.

Early on, the nursing faculty recognized a need for nurses to have a rudimentary background in using computers for such tasks as database management, literature searches, and professional presentations. In 1982, faculty began a five-year plan to integrate computers into the curriculum, and by 1985 “Computers in Nursing” was a required course for all nursing students. This focus on the importance of computer technology is still important: Nursing Informatics is one area in which students can now earn an MSN.

Nursing students, led by Peter Leporati, formed the Nursing Student Government Association (NSGA) in 1982-1983. With assistance from Bill Thygeson, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, the students wrote bylaws to form the student government. The NSGA aims to provide a forum for students to improve nursing education, facilitate communication between students, faculty, alumni, and university administration, and foster professionalism. Community service is a big part of the NSGA. Recent projects have

Departmental News

Nursing

Student nurses work together in the Edison building’s nursing lab.

THE 80s

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two academic years, and the MSN in a third course. A chance to earn the BSN within a year of completing prerequisite coursework was offered to second-degree non-nurses. The shortage was by offering an Accelerated Pathway program that enabled second-degree non-nurses to complete their education of nurses. When the healthcare industry began to suffer, the nationwide nursing shortage later in the 1990s. As the 90s started, interest in nursing education continued to attract students to the profession. The aging baby boomer population has increased the need for healthcare professionals of all kinds, especially nurses. The availability of nursing positions has evolved since its inception in 1986. One option where the graduate program has continued to grow is through the new program, the Department of Nursing has started to receive funding in support of a deep commitment to increase the number of minorities in the field of nursing. In 1994 the National Institute of General Medical Sciences issued a call for proposals for plans to prepare minority scientists for research careers. Under the leadership of Peggy Griffiths, Jefferson has received continual funding since then. The latest installment of funding was issued in January 2004 to last through December 2006. So far, $1,900,000 dollars have been granted to Jefferson's Project IMPART and almost 90 students have completed the project requirements. Many of them have continued their education to earn a BSN and/or an MSN. Other funding for promoting the academic mobility of minority nurses has been awarded to Jefferson by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Professions' Division of Nursing, and the Helene Fuld Health Trust.

THE 00s
The new millennium has brought resurgence to the nursing profession. The aging baby boomers have increased the need for healthcare professionals of all kinds, especially nurses. The availability of nursing positions continues to attract students to the profession. The Department of Nursing has had a renaissance of its own when Mary Schaal, RN, EdD took on the role of chairman in 2001. Dr. Schaal has led the department into the highest enrollment yet. In The 2004-2005 academic year, the College has enrolled more nursing students than ever before in Jefferson's history, with 292 total incoming students in all nursing programs, and a total enrollment of over 600 students. The caliber of students continues to climb as well as the number. In 2000, the nursing faculty established an honors program to recognize academically talented students and provide a supportive, creative environment where students are able to meet their individual potential. To join the program, students must have a 3.4 grade point average at the completion of the first two clinical nursing courses, submit a faculty recommendation, and interview with the Honors Program Coordinator, Peggy Griffiths. In the program, students develop a project of their choice, focusing on one specific topic. Participation helps students to develop leadership and presentation skills, and foster relationships with nursing faculty.

In 2002 Jefferson built on the success of the Accelerated Pathway programs and developed an even faster way to earn a BSN. The Facilitated Academic Coursework Track (FACT) is also for second-degree students who have completed prerequisite coursework. The difference is that FACT can be completed in one calendar year—an attractive option for many students, as the enrollment numbers show. There were 19 students in the program's first year; now in its third year, FACT students number 70.

Many nurses choose to continue their education and specialize in a particular area of nursing practice. That is easy to do at Jefferson, where the graduate program has continued to evolve since its inception in 1986. One option of several of the MSN programs is to earn Nurse Practitioner (NP) certification. NPs are becoming more common in today's healthcare system, because they have the ability to integrate nursing and medical care in providing comprehensive care, including prescribing medication and diagnostic studies. Today Jefferson offers nine MSN options: Community Systems Administration, Family Nurse Practitioner, Community Systems Administration/Family Nurse Practitioner (double major), Acute Care Advanced Practice Nurse, Adult Advanced Practice Nurse, Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse, Pediatrics Advanced Practice Nurse, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, and Nursing Informatics. MSN students can complete their degree in as few as 15 months of full-time study or as many as 5 years part time.
The newest degree program within the Department of Nursing is an Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) program, which was approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing in March 2004. The program was developed with a goal of contributing to the number and quality of nurses throughout Pennsylvania. It is offered on two campuses, Methodist Hospital in South Philadelphia and Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania. A strong emphasis on clinical experience will prepare ASN students to take the Registered Nurse licensure exam in two years. In September, 109 students started the program. In addition to being responsive to the critical shortage of nurse professionals, the ASN curriculum provides entry-level students an articulated program that can lead to both the BSN and MSN degrees supporting the Department’s philosophy of continual professional growth.

The past thirty years have been action-packed for the JCHP Department of Nursing. Dr. Mary Schaal, Professor and Chair of the Department, explains that support from the college administration and the faculty have contributed to success. “The Department of Nursing is fortunate to have the leadership of Dr. James B. Erdmann, Dean of the Jefferson College of Health Professions, and an outstanding faculty who are committed to insuring that we continue our preeminent position and reputation for excellence in nursing education,” Dr. Schaal shares.

What does the future hold? “The Department’s outstanding history lays the foundation for its future potential,” continues Dr. Schaal. “My vision is that the JCHP Department of Nursing will take the lead in establishing the model for nursing education based on integration and collaboration with nursing practice and medical education. This is a ground-breaking work in progress. We continually explore opportunities to meet the needs of the nursing profession in an ever-changing healthcare delivery system.”

What do you remember 20 years after Nursing School? Well, “84 got off the floor” and tried to remember. The Class of 1984 gathered to share good food, memories and great classmates on June 13. Due to graduations, vacations and miles of highways, there were classmates who were unable to attend, but who did respond to the Class of 84 e-mail address with fond memories and good wishes for all. Eighteen members of the class, along with friends and family, met at the Manayunk Brewery for a fantastic jazz brunch. They reflected on what they remembered most: the A & P lab that was gross and scary, Note Service, Luckman & Sorensen, injecting oranges, classes in auditoriums, favorite teachers, teachers’ habits and styles, study groups in the library, “critters” in the community rotation, studying on a Friday night, our peds rotation, our psych rotation, end of semester parties at Doc Watson’s, the Edison building, post clinical conferences, falling asleep in class, coming out of a long daze at Graduation, Jeff Alumni Hall, the nursing lab and practicing skills on each other, Scott Plaza, care plans, preparing for clinicals, studying, memorizing, the Martin dorm, More Than Just Ice Cream, our pinning ceremony, graduation at the Academy and our keynote speaker fainting on the stage.

There were lots of laughs and lots of chatter! There was networking, sharing of 20 years of experiences and hearing about what’s going on at Jefferson today. Thanks to the support of the Department of Nursing and the Alumni Office, the group enjoyed a causal and inexpensive get together while listening to great jazz music and spending time with friends.

The classmate who traveled the farthest was Joyce Johnson-Kelly who drove all the way from New Hampshire; so, she was presented with a travel friend to keep her safe on the ride back home. All classmates received a new Jefferson t-shirt, a carry bag and assorted goodies, compliments of the school.

As the event was coordinated, it was inspiring to see and hear all the activities that everyone has accomplished. There are classmates living and working in many diverse areas; a classmate even lives in Italy! Classmates have excelled in so many different roles and specialties in nursing and other complementary professions. A huge sense of pride is felt in the Class of 1984. “84 is off the floor and dancing!!!” If anyone would like information about our class or a current address on a classmate, please contact the class email account at nurs1984@yahoo.com.
Peggy Griffiths Awarded Nightingale Award for Research

On October 22, 2004, Margaret Griffiths, RN, MSN, professor at Jefferson College of Health Professions, won the Nightingale Award for Research at the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association Annual Summit. Her colleague, Elizabeth Speakman, EdD, RN, nominated Ms. Griffiths for the award because of her work fostering diversity in the nursing profession.

“Peggy’s work in fostering diversity in our profession has established model strategies for the nation as well as our region,” shares Mary Schaal, RN, EdD, Chair of the Department of Nursing. “She has developed strategies that have enabled our department to establish an outstanding record in fostering success among minority and disadvantaged students.”

Through Ms. Griffiths’ efforts, the Department of Nursing has established an outstanding record in fostering success among minority and disadvantaged students. She has acquired almost two million dollars of funding from a diverse group of funders, including the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Professions’ Division of Nursing, and the Helene Fuld Health Trust.

The Nightingale Award is given to outstanding Pennsylvania nurses in six categories: Clinical Practice LPN, Clinical Practice RN, Advanced Practice RN, Nursing Education, Nursing Research, and Nursing Administration. All nominations are coded and screened for names or titles which may give unwanted clues to reviewers. Once they are determined to be anonymous, they are judged and scored by a panel of nurses from across the state.

The judging criteria for the research category includes: conducts research that enhances nursing practice, utilizes research findings in practice, assists others in the utilization of nursing research findings, inspires/supports others in conduct of nursing research, communicates and publishes research findings, acquires research grants. The three individuals with the highest cumulative scores are identified as finalists, and the finalist with the highest score wins the award at a banquet during the annual summit.

JCHP Grad Student Wins Award In University’s Sigma Xi Research Day!

In the spring, a graduate student in biotechnology took the spotlight at Thomas Jefferson University. Kwabena Frempong, known around campus as Kobe, won an award in the poster presentation competition at Sigma Xi Research Day at TJU’s Jefferson College of Graduate Studies. Such an award at this annual event had never gone to a JCHP student before the March 18th competition.

Kobe competed against all other TJU master of science students, and won for his poster, “Cloning, expression and characterization of DnAB Helicase of Bacillus Anthracis.” Regarding the subject of his research, Kobe says, “My advisor and I chose this topic because anthrax remains a continued threat to human life because of limited knowledge of its molecular biology and its mechanism of replication. I believe there is a need for extensive knowledge, awareness and education.”

Kobe’s advisor is Esther Biswas-Fiss, PhD, Associate Professor in the Bioscience Technologies Department, Director of Departmental Research Programs, and Program Director of Biotechnology. “Student involvement in research is an important aspect of their education, and offers them an opportunity to put into practice what they are learning in the classroom,” Dr. Biswas-Fiss shares. “Jefferson provides an opportunity for students to engage in ongoing research projects.”

“Kobe was also fortunate to be the recipient of a Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Fellowship from NIH,” continues Dr. Biswas-Fiss. “Kobe’s work clearly demonstrates that given the opportunity, students can conduct meaningful research, thereby making this aspiration a reality.”

In addition to studying the structure of anthrax, Kobe is interested in the ability of bacteria to develop resistance to drugs. He believes that anthrax may grow resistant to Ciprofloxacin, the main drug used to fight it. He says, “Studying the helicase activity of anthrax will definitely pave the way for a drug development with different target site and different mechanism of action (MOA).”

Kobe’s research has had some interruptions in the past year. In addition to being a full time student, he is in the US Air Force Reserves, where he usually serves one weekend every month and two weeks every year. Due to the ongoing conflict in Iraq, his squadron was activated to spend a few weeks in the Middle East between semesters.

Fortunately, his time away didn’t prevent him from preparing for his award-winning presentation. Kobe’s thorough knowledge of the topic made him a tough competitor. “The hardest question during the competition was trying to explain gene cloning without being too technical,” he says.

Kobe hails originally from Ghana, West Africa. His mother, two brothers and some cousins live in the US, but the rest of his family live in Ghana. Currently he is furthering his goal by working as a researcher at the pharmaceutical company Centacor. After gaining additional experience on the job, he hopes to continue his studies and work towards a doctoral degree.
Summer Science Camp Called a Success

While most high school students would prefer to spend their summer sleeping late and wasting the days away, this past season, seven 15- to 17-year-olds opted to participate in Thomas Jefferson University’s first Summer Science Camp, held from June 28 through July 23.

Commuting to the Edison Building in Center City Philadelphia from other parts of the city, New Jersey and the surrounding areas, students came to learn about a variety of scientific techniques and principles. The camp was a joint venture between Jefferson Medical College and Jefferson College of Health Professions brought together by the Department of General Studies of Jefferson College of Health Professions.

Most heard about the camp from family, friends or school and applied as if they were trying to get into college. They submitted applications, essays, transcripts and recommendations.

Dr. Hazem Hallak, assistant professor in the Department of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology at Jefferson Medical College, and principal and instructor for the science camp, said the selected students were of very high quality.

“These seven students were very interested in and already very knowledgeable about the subject matter. They were extremely mature and intelligent and they took the program seriously,” Dr. Hallak said.

The beginning of each week introduced a new topic of focus including Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Cellular Pathology and Cancer Biology. Dr. Hallak set the curriculum. He intended for the program to be 100 percent hands-on, for the students to be very involved and for the lectures to be set at a minimum. Every morning and afternoon brought a new lab with breaks and lunch in between. The students toured the cadaver lab, used the bio-science equipment and dissected animals at a college level.

“I tried to make the classes informal so I could get to know the students and explain as much as possible,” Dr. Hallak stated.

“I taught them many of the same concepts I teach my graduate students and they were able to understand. I was very impressed by what they knew compared to others their age.”

Khevna Shukla of Upper Merion High School was the youngest student to participate in the program. She heard about it from her biology teacher. “The Summer Science Camp is a great stepping stone for college. I was able to find out more about my areas of interest and decide which aspects of medicine I enjoy,” Khevna shared. “I thought I would have a hard time being 15 and the youngest, but the professors were very understanding and made the students feel comfortable. Dr. Hallak was very patient and explained everything. We were able to handle very expensive equipment that most of our high schools can’t afford, so not only did we learn scientific techniques and skills, but we learned responsibility.”

“The Summer Science Camp was a tremendous success!” stated Lee Bryant, the Science Camp’s Director and the Academic Coordinator for the Jefferson College of Health Professions Department of General Studies. “We couldn’t have asked for a better group of students!” 

Mr. Bryant, along with Dr. Hallak, hopes to increase the number of students for next summer’s program and to expand the curriculum to other fields of medicine in the future.

Other faculty who participated in the Summer Science Camp included Esther Biswas, PhD, Shirley Greening, JD, CT (ASCP), CFIAC, Christopher Marcucci, BS, all from JCHP, and Bruce Fenderson, PhD, Eleni Anni, PhD and Hector Lopez, PhD, all from JMC.

The 2005 Summer Science Camp will be held June 27 to July 22. For more information contact the JCHP Department of General Studies at 215-503-8414 or visit www.jefferson.edu/sciencecamp.
Occupational Therapy Department Helps Children with Sensory Integration

During the course of a day we are bombarded with thousands of noises and sensations, most of which we deal with or block out effectively. But to children with sensory processing disorder, these typical, everyday sounds, sights, smells and touches can be intolerable. The sound of a flushing toilet or a loving touch from a parent might send the child running. The typical fabric of clothing or the tastes of usual foods might be so bothersome that the child cannot participate in meal time or play time.

To try to understand these extreme sensory preferences and to help these children and families lead more meaningful lives, Dr. Roseann Schaaf, Vice Chairman and Director of Graduate Studies at JCHP's Department of Occupational Therapy, is directing research to further our knowledge regarding the physiological and behavioral manifestations of these children.

In occupational therapy, using a sensory integrative (SI) approach is a key component in the development of children with sensory processing disorder. For some children, like Aiden Stevenson (pictured), using a sensory integrative approach takes place in a large room that looks like a play room.

Throughout the session, a variety of activities are used to help Aiden increase his body awareness, improve his motor planning, increase language, fine motor and gross motor abilities during play. He swings in a Lycra swing suspended from a hook in the ceiling and crawls up a wooden ramp while laying on a scooter board, turns himself around, pushes off and crashes into a pile of foam blocks and beanbags. Although this may sound like fun and games, Dr. Schaaf structures the activities to allow Aiden to regulate his arousal and attention to the tasks at hand and to participate in daily activities including play.

Using a sensory integrative approach is common in private clinics, schools, and hospitals. While there is evidence suggesting that sensory integration is an effective intervention, researchers such as Dr. Schaaf hope to increase the amount of knowledge by studying children who have sensory processing disorders. One group of children who have difficulty processing sensation is children with autism. Dr. Schaaf and her research assistants hope to better understand ways in which children with autism respond to sensations. They are using the Sensory Integration “space ship” lab to obtain data.

The “space ship” is actually a room set up in the occupational therapy lab in the Edison building, complete with solar system painted walls and a pretend control panel where the child sits. The child is wired to the computer through small finger and chest pads, and once he or she is comfortable, the computer measures heart rate responses and electrodermal activity (sweat gland activity) as the child smells wintergreen oil, is tickled by a feather, looks at a series of blinking lights, listens to an audio tape of a siren and is tipped back slowly in the chair.

“Many children with autism have atypical responses to sensation, also known as sensory integration dysfunction,” Dr. Schaaf explains. “They may severely over- or under-respond to sensations. They can be extremely sensitive to food tastes, sounds, various textures and smells.” Imagine the difficulty that these children—and those accompanying them—have when attempting usual activities like going to the grocery store, a play group or school.

“We are trying to understand the basis of their atypical responses to sensation and its relationship to engagement in daily activities,” Dr. Schaaf continues. “This knowledge will help us develop and test treatment strategies aimed at reducing abnormal responses to sensation that will help children play, learn, and participate in childhood activities.” In addition, Dr. Schaaf notes that not all children with atypical responses to sensation have autism, and that severe reactions to sensation are also seen in some children with attention deficit disorders, developmental delays, or children with no other diagnosis. Occupational therapy can help all of these children.

Dr. Schaaf earned her PhD in neural and behavioral sciences at Bryn Mawr College. While doing her dissertation she worked at Denver Children's Hospital with Lucy Miller, PhD, a pioneer in the field of sensory integration dysfunctional testing. Dr. Schaaf, in addition to coordinating the graduate programs in occupational therapy at JCHP, teaches neuroscience courses in the curriculum and the content related to pediatrics. Many Jefferson OT graduate students work in the space ship lab, administering the procedures and studying aspects of atypical sensory responsiveness in children with a variety of disorders.

Teal Wisniewski Benedivesi, a third year graduate student and research assistant who works in the space ship lab, explains how the project will proceed. “The first step of our research is to understand the responses of the children with sensory integration dysfunction,” she says. “We look forward to comparing our research with the work of other sensory integration research centers. The hope for the future of this study is to broaden knowledge of sensory integration dysfunction beyond Autism.”

So far, 52 adult subjects have participated in a preliminary study that tested typical behavioral responses. Jefferson hopes to recruit 200 children and their caregivers to continue the project; 120 children with autism, 40 children with developmental delay and 40 children who are typically developing. The children will begin taking their space trips this fall.
Jefferson Debuts DPT

Like many other physical therapy programs around the country, JCHP has shifted to a 3-year Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program in place of its master’s degree program. The Class of 2007, the first group of DPT students, started the program this fall.

“In the last few years the scope of physical therapy practice has expanded rapidly,” shares Penny Kroll, PT, PhD and Chair of the JCHP Department of Physical Therapy. “In numerous states PTs have achieved direct access, which means that a patient can seek physical therapy services without a physician’s referral. This shift requires PTs to have a broader knowledge base.”

To better prepare graduates to practice as PTs, courses such as Pharmacology and PT Diagnosis have been added to the curriculum over the past few years. With the additional courses, the number of credits required to graduate started to resemble those of professions which award a clinical doctorate. The switch to a DPT program awards students with a degree appropriate to the number of professions which award a clinical doctorate. The program to JCHP graduates have always had high job placement rates and 97% of 2003 PT graduates found a job. In addition, last year’s average JCHP pass rate on certification exams was above the national and state average, as it is in most years.

Jefferson’s family atmosphere is also appealing to students. “We’re a small department,” shared Dr. Kroll. “The faculty—including me—has an open-door policy and students are always welcome to stop by for advice or a chat. I think they really appreciate that.”

There are two pathways for new students to enter the DPT program. Students with a baccalaureate degree can enter as graduate students. High school students can apply for admission to a partner institution—Villanova University, Saint Joseph’s University, Penn State Abington or Elizabethtown College—through a specialized 3+3 program, which prepares students to complete the DPT in six years.

JCHP PT faculty are currently developing a Transitional DPT program that will enable US-licensed physical therapists to “fill in” any gaps between their professional baccalaureate or master’s degree PT education and the current entry-level professional DPT degree education. The program, which has just been approved by the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies, has been designed for students who work full time, so the program will combine online and weekend course work. Up to nine credits will be waived for students who have documented clinical practice as a physical therapist. MSPT students will be able to complete the course work in one year of part-time study; BSPT students will require 1 1/2 to 2 years to complete the degree. The department will begin to promote the program to JCHP PT alumni in the spring.

SAVE THE DATE
Save the date of February 4 for a daylong interdisciplinary professional development workshop: “Dementia Management: New Directions in Providing Care to Patients and Their Families,” sponsored by the Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and the Farber Institute for Neurosciences. A panel of nationally recognized experts will provide an overview of current scientific and applied research related to the topic.

Contact Sandy Schinfeld, MPH at Sandy.Schinfeld@jefferson.edu or 215-503-2124 for additional information.

Radiologic Sciences Student Takes First Place At Sonography Conference

Michelle Senteneri, a second-year sonography student, won first place for a paper presentation at the annual conference for the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, held in New Orleans in October. Michelle’s presentation was titled “The use of high frequency sonography to determine the diagnosis of carpal tunnel syndrome.” The topic is appropriate for a sonography student — Michelle says that many sonographers end up with the disorder.

After I finished the presentation, I felt great about it,” Michelle shares. “At first I was really nervous, but once the other speakers started the session, I realized that I would be fine because I had done all my research and I knew what I was going to say.” In her presentation, she explained that ultrasound was an easy, quick and inexpensive way to diagnose carpal tunnel syndrome. One benefit of using ultrasound is the ease with which a sonographer can make a comparative study of a patient by taking images of both wrists.

“Presenting at the conference was a great opportunity and wonderful learning experience,” Michelle says. “I would do it again, even though it was a lot of work! Every student should attend the national conference if they have the chance—even just attending the seminars and meeting the speakers is such a great experience!”

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Radiologic Sciences Students Benefit From New Sonography Equipment

The radiologic sciences department purchased six new GE Logiqbook ultrasound machines over the summer, offering students in the sonography program more opportunities for hands-on experience with the latest equipment.

“This lab provides students with new state-of-the-art multi-modality ultrasound equipment,” shared Nandkumar M. Rawool, MD, RDMS, Program Director for Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Cardiovascular Technology. “Students now have access to the lab all day and can practice and reinforce the skills that they learn in regular classes.”

“This hands-on practice will enhance students’ cognitive and psycho-motor skills,” Ms. Gilman added. “Students will have experience with scanning people, and they will be better prepared to work as team members with staff at their clinical rotations.”

Ms. Gilman voiced appreciation for the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Division of Ultrasound, which has provided JCHP students with tremendous support, allowing them to utilize hospital equipment to practice their scanning in the evenings.

GE has provided applications training for all faculty and students who are involved in using the machines.

During Ultrasound Awareness Month in October, the Department of Radiologic Sciences held a small reception to showcase the new equipment. “We held the event specifically to let people know about this new lab,” explained Fran Gilman. “I am sure that there are many ways the lab could be used by the College and the Hospital, and I want to make sure people are aware that it is here. We are proud of this new equipment, and we are grateful that we had the opportunity to purchase it for the

College. All of the faculty and students are excited about it.”

“I have visions of the lab being used as an interdisciplinary space, where nursing or PT students can come to see how ultrasound works,” Ms. Gilman continued. “This is part of the whole College, and I hope that other departments will find ways to use it to benefit their students.”

Radiologic Sciences department faculty previewed the new equipment in early September. (from left to right) Sharon M. Davis, RDMS, RVT, RT(R), Clinical Coordinator, Diagnostic Medical Sonography; Frances Gilman, MS, RT(R)/CT(MR)(CV), department chairperson; Nandkumar Rawool, MD, RDMS, Program Director, General and Cardiac Ultrasound, Vascular Technology and Cynthia Shillingsburg, BA, RVT, RVS, Clinical Coordinator, Cardiovascular Technology.

A GE representative provided training on the Logiqbooks for all full-time and adjunct faculty in the Radiologic Sciences department.
**NEW FACULTY**

**CENTER CITY CAMPUS**
Ksenia Zukowsky, CRNP, PhD
Assistant Professor and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program Coordinator

Kathleen Higgins, MSN, CRNP
Nursing Instructor and Acute Care Program Coordinator

Jacqueline Sullivan, RN, PhD
Research Associate Professor

Cheri Barber, MSN, CRNP
Nursing Instructor

Kathleen Jackson, MSN, RN, AN, C
Nursing Instructor

**METHODIST HOSPITAL CAMPUS**
Sandra Kraft, RN, EdD
ASN Program Site Coordinator and Professor

Dennis G. DeSilvio, RN, MSN
Nursing Instructor

David Jack, RN, MSN, CPN
Nursing Instructor

Mary Antonucci, RN, MSN, C
Nursing Instructor

Miriam Bermudez, RN, MSN
Nursing Instructor

Denise R. Brown, CRNP, MSN, RNC
Nursing Instructor

Miriam Keeley, RN, MSN
Nursing Instructor

Linda Leggieri, RN, MSN
Nursing Instructor

Donna L. Miller, RN, MSN, CPNP
Nursing Instructor

Helen Toutkoushian, MSN, CRNP
Nursing Instructor

**GEISINGER MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS**
Margaret Mary West, RN, DNSc
Associate Professor and Site Coordinator for Geisinger

**Nursing**

Gina Leucci Bross, RN, MSN
Nursing Instructor

Bonnie L. Heintzelman, RN, MSN
Nursing Instructor

Darlene Kuchinski-Donnelly, RN, MSN
Nursing Instructor

Kathleen Rine, RN, MSN
Nursing Instructor

**AWARDS AND GRANTS**

Joseph T. DeRanieri, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor won the 2004 JCHP Fred & Sadye Abrams Award for Excellence in Clinical or Laboratory Instruction.

The Department of Nursing received a grant to form a Neonatal Education Consortium to address the shortage of culturally diverse Neonatal Nurse Practitioners and high infant mortality rate in the tri-state area. The Department of Health and Human Services/Health Research and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, Division of Nursing funded the program for a total of $650,997 over three years. Mary Bowen, CRNP, DNS, JD, CNA, Associate Professor, Vice Chair and Director of the Graduate Program in the JCHP Department of Nursing, is the Principal Investigator of the project.

Ksenia Zukowsky, CRNP, PhD, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of JCHP's Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program, is the Neonatal Education Consortium Project Director.

**Occupational Therapy**

E. Adel Herge, MS, OTR/L, received the prestigious Advocate of the Year Award from Montgomery County Mental Retardation Committee for her work with adults who have developmental disabilities.

Janice P. Burke, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Associate Professor and Chair, is a co-investigator in the research project, Tailored activity to improve affect in dementia at home, funded $588,750 over three years by the National Institute on Mental Health. Laura Gitlin is the Principal Investigator and Laraine Winter is also a co-investigator.

**Physical Therapy**

**NEW FACULTY**

Christine K. Wade, EdD, PT
Associate Professor

**AWARDS**

Paul D. Howard, PT, PhD, OCS, Cert. MDT and Associate Professor, won the 2004 JCHP Dean's Faculty Achievement Award.

**Radiologic Sciences**

**NEW FACULTY AND STAFF**

Jacqueline Chmiel, BSN, RT(R)(T)
Program Director and Clinical Coordinator for Radiation Therapy

Nandkumar M. Rawool, MD, RDMS
Program Director for Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Cardiovascular Technology

Sharon Davis, RT(R), RDMS, RVT
Clinical Coordinator for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

Blanche Ramsey Riggs
Administrative Secretary

Jennifer Krout, BA
Education Coordinator

**AWARDS AND GRANTS**

Indra Balachandran, PhD, SCT(ASCP), Assistant Professor, won JCHP's 2004 Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Esther Biswas, PhD, Associate Professor, received an additional two years of funding ($100,000 direct costs) for her NIH/NEI AREA grant “Bimolecular Analysis of Visual Disease.”
Alumni Association Stays Active

Alumni Help Open Door at Open House. JCHP alumni were represented at the Spring Open House, held on March 27, 2004. Among the gathering of prospective students, faculty, administrators and current students, the Alumni Table was prominent on the floor. Rachel Wagner, OT ’00, a member of the JCHP Alumni Board of Directors and the Chairman of the Jefferson Alumni Volunteering for Admissions (JAVA), cheerfully gave out information and Jefferson water bottles to those who stopped by. One prospective student was the recipient of an OT volunteer experience which Rachel arranged through her professional contacts.

OTs Navigate the Network. OT students had an opportunity to hear an outstanding panel of OT alumni who presented at a Network Night sponsored by the Career Development Center in March. Included on the panel were Teri Cantone, ’99, Sue Cohen, ’94, Nancy Pulaski, ’01, and Alessandra Versace, ’98. The panel, which was preceded by a buffet dinner, answered many questions for students and provided insight into the daily life an OT at work.

Fifty Large, Please. Most welcome of our recent alumni-sponsored traditions is the annual Pizza Day for JCHP students, held on April 19, 2004, during the last week of classes. The 18th floor of the Edison building was turned into a mini-pizzeria with students lined up for free food. Fifty large pizzas and twenty cases of cold drinks later, the day was declared a big success!

Meet Us in Atlantic City. On Tuesday, April 20, the Alumni Office sponsored a buffet lunch for our RN to BSN students at the Atlantic City Medical Center. The lunch, prepared by the Medical Center, was a welcome treat for the students and their instructor, Brenda Holtzer, MSN, RN. Robin Begley, RN, MSN, CNAA, BC, the Chief Nursing Executive at Atlantic City Medical Center, joined them for lunch. Everyone received Jefferson mementos. It was a great way to end the semester.

Meanwhile, Back in Atlantic City. On May 13, 2004, the Alumni Office returned to Atlantic City to sponsor a lunch at The Leading Edge in Diagnostic Ultrasound Conference for Jefferson’s Diagnostic Imaging Alumni. This year’s conference was held at the new Borgata Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City. Over 60 Jefferson alumni and clinical preceptors attended the luncheon. Dr. Barry B. Goldberg, Clinical Professor and Medical Director of General Sonography and Director and Professor, Division of Ultrasound/Department of Radiology at Thomas Jefferson University, greeted the guests and thanked them for their continuing support of Jefferson.

Greetings to Our New Alumni. Class Night, a festive and meaningful transition from student to alumni was held on May 18, 2004. Once more, our alumni were out in force to speak to the graduates in the various disciplines. Official welcomes to the Alumni Association were offered by Thomas Loveless, MSN, CRNP, ’02, Lisa Strohl, RS, ’93, Jill Carroll, BT, ’96, and Jennifer Palko, OT, ’98. Dottie Grieb, Director of Alumni Relations, greeted and welcomed the graduates of the Department of General Studies. Each graduate was provided an alumni card, a handsome blue portfolio and an alumni decal.

A Jazzin’ Good Time for the Nursing Class of ’84. Twenty years out of school, Class of ’84 nursing graduate Patty Paul-Berkes did not want to miss the opportunity to celebrate this milestone with her old classmates. She requested support from the Office of Alumni Relations in the spring and quickly organized her class, collected addresses and got ready for a great time. Classmates gathered for brunch with live jazz at the Manayunk Brewery and Restaurant. Yearbooks were passed around, making the stories and conversation even more lively and fun. Patty and Bonnie Laube, ’84 collaborated on an accompanying article about their reunion see page 14.

Summertime is Orientation Time. A new summer orientation schedule offered more opportunities to welcome new students to JCHP. Orientations were held on June 29 and August 4 on-campus for bachelor’s and master’s degree students, August 18 for our new associate’s degree students at Methodist Hospital and August 25 for our new associate’s degree students at Geisinger Medical Center. Each student received one of the blue Jefferson commuter-style mugs designated as the official drinking container at the Scott Library. This traditional gift to students was augmented by pretzel sticks and Twizzlers®, which were devoured by the incoming students and their families!
**BIOSCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES**

Karen E. Woods, PhD, BT, ‘77, is living in Richmond, Virginia and has two daughters, Jordan, 15, and Meredith, 4. Karen also works part-time for Henrico doctors Hospital-Parham (HCA Hospital).

Joanne Stroud, BT, ‘84, lives in Summerville, SC and graduated with a master's degree in Health Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina in May, 2004. In August, she began an administrative fellowship at the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg in Orangeburg, SC. She is very excited about taking a new direction in her life after spending the good part of the last 20 years in the laboratory.

Peter Lehman, BT, ‘92, is living in Bingen, Germany and is employed as a cytogenetic technologist for Bioscientia, in Ingelheim, Germany.

Craig Evans, BT, ‘86, is currently living in Little Marsh, Pennsylvania with his wife, Cindy, and their four children, Christopher, 16, Caleb, 14, Curtis, 12, and Corrine, 9. Craig is the Chemistry Supervisor and LIS Coordinator for Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital, Laurel Health System in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

Matthew Finley, BT, ‘04, has been elected to a three-year term as a member of the JCHP Alumni Board of Directors. Matt began a PhD program in Molecular Biology and Genetics at Temple University in September. As a member of the Fels Institute for Cancer Research, cancer tumorigenesis will be his research area.

Noreen Guido, BT, ‘85, lives in Washington Township, New Jersey with her husband, Rick, son, Ricky, 16, and daughter, Theresa, 11. She reports that she would love to hear from her classmates.

Karen E. Woods, PhD, BT, ‘77, is living in Richmond, Virginia and has two daughters, Jordan, 15, and Meredith, 4. Karen also works part-time for Henrico doctors Hospital-Parham (HCA Hospital).

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**GENERAL STUDIES**

Luel San Diego, GS, ‘03, has been elected to a three year term as a member of the JCHP Alumni Board of Directors. Luel lives in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania and works in the admissions office of Jefferson Medical College.

**NURSING**

Lucy Gordon, BSN, ‘92, lives in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania and is the Director of Case Management at Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia.

Joyce Gosciniak, BSN, ‘97, lives in Philadelphia and is a psychiatric nurse practitioner at the Livengrin Foundation, Inc in Bensalem, Pennsylvania.

Rick Green, BSN, ‘02, is living in Carlsbad, California and is a registered nurse at the Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, California.

Michael Seeley, BSN, ‘83, has enjoyed living in Portland, Oregon for the last 14 years. He is the Executive Director of the Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank, an organ procurement organization based at the Oregon Health and Sciences University. He also was appointed, by Tommy Thompson, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, to serve on the Advisory Committee on Transplantation (ACOT).

Mt. Holly Family Dentistry for 24 years. She is also a risk management and documentation consultant for registered dental hygienists and dentists.

Lisa Maria Prego Rustemeyer, DH, ‘90, is living in Rahway, New Jersey and is a faculty member and administrative coordinator at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

Anne Sorling, BT, ‘88, lives in the Fox Chase area of Philadelphia and has a daughter, Victoria, 14. Anne is suffering from RSD, now known as Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Type II. She would like to hear from classmates and students from the Fox Chase Center when she was the Clinical Instructor from 1993 – 1997.

**DENTAL HYGIENE**

Lisa Vaughn, DH, ‘90, lives in Burlington, New Jersey and enjoys traveling, decorating and spending time with family. She recently spent two weeks in Italy with six friends, touring eleven cities. Lisa has worked at Mt. Holly Family Dentistry for 24 years. She is also a risk management and documentation consultant for registered dental hygienists and dentists.

Lisa Maria Prego Rustemeyer, DH, ‘90, is living in Rahway, New Jersey and is a faculty member and administrative coordinator at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.
Nancy McLaughlin Richmond, BSN, ‘87, recently moved to Irvine, California and is looking forward to the expanded role of the advanced practice nurse in that state. Nancy has received advanced degrees as a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist and as an adult nurse practitioner.

Judith Westervelt-Long, BSN, ‘87, has lived in Mendon, Vermont for seven years. She reports having two wonderful children, Derek, 14, and Emily, 11, a 16 year old cocker spaniel, Sandie, a 3 year old beagle, Abbey, and a year old kitten, Mittens. She is thoroughly enjoying her nursing career as the head RN at Integrative Cardiology, a Cardiology Center offering Regular and Dobutamine Stress Tests, Stress Echos, Echos, EECP, coagulation therapy testing, halter and event monitoring. Her primary MD, George Field, is an alumnus of Jefferson Medical College and they often talk about their great years at Jefferson. In her spare time, Judith enjoys hiking and walking in the Green Mountains, sewing, reading and traveling. She most recently took a cruise to Grand Bahama Island.

Brenda Ingraham-Cucukov, BSN, ‘78, and her husband, Naran, live in Millville, New Jersey and are the proud parents of their daughter, Naia, who graduated from Brown University in 2004 where she majored in Modern Culture Media.

Regina Gentlesk Green, BSN, ‘01, and her husband, Harry, live in Haddon Heights, New Jersey. They had their first son, Harry Michael, in February 2002, and their second son, Jacob, in October 2003. Regina received her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania in the summer of 2002 and is currently a clinical nurse specialist in mental health.

Eric Notkin, BSN, ‘89, lives in Canton, Massachusetts and has been working in the OR at MetroWest Medical Center in Framingham, Massachusetts for the past 12 years. In June 2004, he was named the Urology/Cystoscopy Specialty Nurse.

Debbie Weinrich, BSN, ‘93, reports that her husband, Michael, daughter, Nicole, 13, sons, Andrew, 9, Avery, 8, and Austin, 6, were all cheering as she graduated from Rutgers University School of Law on May 21, 2004. Debbie will be putting her years of labor and delivery nursing experience, as well as her certification in inpatient obstetrics, to use as an attorney in the Philadelphia office of White and Williams, LLP, in their Healthcare Department, where she will be doing medical malpractice defense work.

Joseph T. DeRanieri, PhD, BSN, ‘92, is an Assistant Professor in JCHP Department of Nursing. In May 2004, he was the recipient of the Fred and Sadye Abrams Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching. In February 2004, Joe was featured on the cover of Advance Magazine for Nurses for his work on the impact murder has on families, and in April 2004, he co-authored a feature article for The Journal of School Nursing called “War, Terrorism and Children.”

Colleen Carey Merrell, BSN, ‘94, married Scott Patrick Merrell on Saturday, June 19, 2004 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. After a honeymoon in Saint Lucia, the couple is residing in Marlton, New Jersey. Colleen was recently awarded the Top 40 Under 40 Award by the Philadelphia Business Journal. The award honors individuals under the age of 40 for their professional accomplishments, excellence in their chosen field, and their community service. At the award ceremony on April 28, 2004 in Philadelphia, Colleen was recognized for her work as the Director of the Breast Care Program at Fox Chase Virtua Health. In addition, she has also recently authored a comprehensive guide to breast cancer care.

Jennie R. Platt, BSN, ‘93, is living in Croydon, Pennsylvania. She reports that after working at Jefferson as a neurosensory nurse, she left the hospital to find adventure as a clinical research associate, performing monitoring activities for pharmaceutical companies. She traveled all over the United States and was even sent to Amsterdam. She then became a CRA manager and quickly moved up from there. She is now the Director of Clinical Affairs for a privately owned pharmaceutical resource organization. Jennie enjoys the fast pace of the industry, the interaction with the researchers and monitors and the creation of programs and projects. She says, “It is a different way of helping people. I get to see drugs in the pipelines that won’t be available for up to 12 years and see how our lives will be changed in the future. It is also exciting to be a part of drug development that may help so many. Nursing was my gateway to this rewarding career, and I enjoy recruiting other nurses to the cause.”

Kathryn M. Shaffer, BSN, ‘97, is living in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania and works as a clinical nursing instructor. She and her husband, Michael, have a daughter, Sophie, 4, and twin boys, Sam and David, born in 2003, on their father’s birthday, December 12.

Lynda Zuber Murray, BSN, ‘93, lives in Turnersville, New Jersey with husband, Scott, and is happily raising Scott Jr., 5, Rebekah, 3, and Brandon, 1. Lynda is currently working casual relief for Virtua Memorial Hospital in Mt. Holly, NJ in Maternal/Child Health.

Kerri McGahey Jeminey, BSN, ‘86, and husband, Bob, have a daughter, Kelly, 3. Kerri has worked at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in the Med ICU Unit for five years.

Deborah Dobrota Moyer, BSN, ‘86, lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania and reports that she married the love of her life on May 8, 2004. She and her husband, Braxton, have four children. Debbie has been promoted to Personal Care Coordinator for Heartland Hospice in Allentown.
Mark Donati, BSN, ‘86, is living in Audubon, New Jersey. He serves as the Regional Vice-President for Renal Care Group, a national operator of kidney dialysis centers. Mark is responsible for the operation of the company’s dialysis center on the East Coast. He is also a past president of the Jefferson College of Health Professions Alumni Association.

Kate O’Neill, BSN, ‘84, lives in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania and is the Senior Editor for the journal, Pediatric Emergency Care. She has been nominated as an ENA clinical expert in Pediatrics Emergency Nursing and has also been nominated to the ENA National Advisory Board for Pediatrics for 2004-2005.

Maryanne Burnett, BSN, ‘93, lives in Philadelphia and is employed as a certified school nurse in the School District of Philadelphia. She earned an MSN in public health from LaSalle University in 2003.

Cathleen Baldwin Stanziale, BSN, ‘02, is living in Voorhees, New Jersey and is the new mother of son, Ryan, born on April 23, 2004.


Fran Kuber-Schaffer, BSN, ‘78, lives in Philadelphia and reports that son, Matt, another “mini-tkb-er,” is off to Japan for a year to teach English. He is a recent graduate of Drexel University.

Tiffany Taylor Johnson, BSN, ‘98, is living in Seattle, Washington. She is employed as an RN at the University of Washington Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

Barbara Little Worgan, BSN, ‘93, reports that she has moved around a great deal and has lost many connections. She is currently living in South Burlington, Vermont.

Anne Malin Markham, BSN ‘93, lives in Center City and is now working full-time as an Oncology Clinical Educator with GlaxoSmithKline, as well as per diem staffing on the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Jefferson. Anne and her husband, Chris, are pleased to announce the birth of their first daughter, Madeline Cecilia, born September 30, 2004, at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Gloria Oppong-Manu, BSN, ‘93, is living in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania and is employed as a nurse at Delaware County Memorial Hospital.

Ellen Davis Freed, BSN, ‘82, lives in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and works at West Chester University as a nurse practitioner in the Student Health Center.

Sheryl Poulshock Cutler, BSN, ‘88, lives in Boca Raton, Florida. She and husband, Rick, have been married for 10 years and have two girls, seven and three years old. She is the Director of Marketing for a home health company that specializes in only Medicare. Sheryl reports that she keeps in touch with some of her former classmates.

Carol Rodio Mongeluzzi, BSN, ‘84, lives in Villanova, Pennsylvania. She is married with two children, Devon, 15 and Andrew, 13. She enjoys her time with her family, two dogs and horse.

Charlotte Morley Thomas-Hawkins, BSN ‘82, has her doctorate and is an assistant professor at the College of Nursing at Rutgers. Charlotte presented her research at the National Congress on the State of the Science in Nursing Research, “Nursing Science-Working toward a Healthier Nation.” She presented a poster entitled, “Representations of Elders with Chronic Kidney Failure: In Their Own Words.” The conference was sponsored by the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science, and the National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health.

Denise Houghton, BSN, ‘84, lives in Ardmore, Pennsylvania and is an attorney with the law firm, Cozen O’Connor. She is in the firm’s health law practice group and concentrates her practice in healthcare litigation as well as regulatory and other corporate issues affecting the industry. For the last 15 years, she has represented major international pharmaceutical manufacturers in cases involving immunization litigation, tissue baking and the drug, Baycol. She represented medical devices manufacturers in cases including cardiac guidewires, stents, intraocular lenses and orthopedic implants. Denise also serves as both national coordinating and trial counsel to an orthopedic device manufacturer in cases involving knee implants. She is also an adjunct professor at Drexel University where she teaches school law and politics and is active in many community organizations.

Rebecca Grasso, BSN ’99, MSN ‘03, lives in Philadelphia and is a staff nurse at Jefferson and recently started working as an adjunct faculty member at Drexel University School of Nursing.
Alumni News

Valerie Valle Gelovich, BSN, ’95, and her family have been living in Florida for three years. She and her husband, Stephen, have two daughters, Alyssa Ann and Kayla Maria, who arrived on March 28, 2004. Stephen is with a Family Practice Group in Lake Mary, Florida.

Karen Blasciak Feldman, BSN, ’84, is living in Waldorf, Maryland with her husband and two sons, John, 11 and Alec, 7. Karen reports that after 20 years as a NICU nurse, she has branched out to school nursing. Two days a week she is a school nurse at one of her son’s schools and also substitutes at other schools. She also works as a weekend alternative in a level 3 NICU.

Margo Owen, BSN ’82, lives in Philadelphia and completed her master’s degree in Health Education at St. Joseph’s University in May 2004.

Dolly Manning Baumann, BSN ’86, lives in Springfield, Pennsylvania and is working with the Nurse-Family Partnership Program at Lutheran Children and Family Service in Philadelphia. She was married in July 2002, and she and husband, Bill, are enjoying sailing, traveling and spending time with their families. Dolly passes on warm hellos to all of her classmates.

Michele Gaguski, BSN ’98, lives in Somers Point, New Jersey and is the recipient of the 2004 Oncology Nursing Society Pearl Moore Making A Difference Award. Michele was presented with this award in recognition of being an oncology nurse who makes a difference at the local and regional levels of oncology nursing care.

Ilisa Weisman Sparkler, BSN ’83, lives in Langhorne, Pennsylvania and has worked in Managed Care at Independence Blue Cross for the last 16 years. Ilisa underwent an Islet Cell Transplant in 2003 and has been off insulin for almost one year. She reports that life is good!

Wilma O. Lewis, Diploma, ’38, is living in McAllisterville, Pennsylvania and reports that June, 2004 was an eventful time as she moved to a small apartment after living at Brookline Retirement Village in Mifflintown for seven years. She is still enjoying life in spite of medical problems and extends her best wishes to all Jefferson friends.

Terri Koch Martin, Diploma, ’80, lives in Fairview, Pennsylvania with her husband, Terry, and reports that their son, Steven, is a sophomore at Penn State, and their daughter, Lindsay, is a junior in high school. Terri is teaching nursing and is enrolled in an MSN program.

David Chialastri, Diploma, ’82, is living in Norristown, Pennsylvania with his wife of 20 years, Lynn Marcolina Chialastri, Diploma, ’81. David left ER nursing four years ago and now works for i3Research as a regional clinical monitor in clinical research out of his home.

Barbara Symons, Diploma, ’77, BSN, ’85, MSN, ’96, and post-masters ’98, is happily working as an NP-C at Jefferson in the University Health Services Department. As a 27-year employee of Jefferson, she took advantage of the great benefit of tuition reimbursement.

Patricia Ellis Pagano, Diploma Nursing, ’75, is living in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She is employed as an RN site nurse at the Amergen Energy Company, Three Mile Island, Unit I, in Middletown, Pennsylvania.


Our condolences to the family of John Hudrick, BSN ’94 who passed away in February 2004.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Monica Sarno, OT, ’94, lives in Malvern, Pennsylvania and is employed as an occupational therapist at Austill’s Rehabilitation Services.

Emily van Eeden Peters, OT, ’97, lives in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania and was married in June 2002 to Scott Peters. Emily worked at a rehab hospital for three years and has been working in a school district for the past three years. Her area of interest is autism and she is starting course work to obtain a master’s degree in Occupational Therapy.

Lorraine Calhoun, OT, ’88, is working in long-term care and breast cancer rehab/lymphedema treatment, as a certified lymphedema therapist on a part-time basis. She has her own coaching business to help people improve health and happiness by integrating key concepts of mind/body principles into daily routines. She’s been studying this work for the last six years, and now has reached out to teach journaling and stress reduction classes, based on the book, Creating Health by Deepak Chopra, and is an assistant instructor for Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction classes.

Leigh Ann Bliss, OT, ’95, reports that she is living very happily with boyfriend, Mark Bolcavage, in Marlton, New Jersey. In spring 2003, she began working at Children’s Rehabilitation Hospital (formerly
Alumni News

Jessica Urso Adams, OT, ’01, married husband, Greg, on May 15, 2001. They are currently living in Coal Township, Pennsylvania.

Amy Spence Elgin, OT, ’97, lives in Johnstown, Pennsylvania and married husband, Tim, in 1998. They have a son, Andrew, born in August 2000. Amy has worked for a contract company in the school system for over six years and was a co-presenter at last year’s National Autism conference at Penn State.

Michele Devine, OT, ’99, is living in Voorhees, New Jersey and recently became engaged to Chad Miller, a chemist for Merck Pharmaceuticals. They are planning a wedding on Sanibel Island, Florida on April 1, 2005. Michele works as an OT for Kingsway Early Intervention. She reports that since her graduation she has always worked in pediatrics and loves it.

Anastasia Sakelaris Maguire, OT, ’98, is living in Beverly, New Jersey. She and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their son, Sean Thomas Maguire, born on January 22, 2004.

Christy Myers Lorenzo, OT, ’95, married Francis P. Lorenzo in September 2003 and is living in Dresher, Pennsylvania. Christy is currently a pediatric occupational therapist at Holy Redeemer Pediatric Rehabilitation Center. She also reported some news on another classmate, Kelly Eckhardt Dein, listed below.

Kelly Eckhardt Dein, OT, ’95, married Brian Tood Dein in October, 2002. They live in Williamstown, New Jersey and celebrated the birth of their son, Jacob Kramer Dein, on September 8, 2003.


Bernard L. Aurellado, OT, ’01, lives in San Francisco, California and is the clinical leader with Rehab Care Group in San Mateo, California. He happily reports that on May 8, 2004 he became engaged to Rowena Regala, OT, ’00, in New York City. Roe has accepted a position as lead therapist with Kindred Rehab in San Francisco. Their 2005 wedding will be held in San Francisco as well.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Katrina Wollam Brow, PT, ’90, is living in Tilton, New Hampshire and works as the clinical coordinator at Orthopaedics Plus.

Angela Herrider Riker, PT, ’95, lives in Potomac, Maryland. She married her high school sweetheart, David Riker, and they have two sons, John, 4, and Jeffrey, 2. Angela is busy at home raising her boys!

Cynthia Thornton Slafka, PT, ’97, lives in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania and is a physical therapist at the UCP of Philadelphia.

Chris Dahm, PT, ’95, lives in Holly Springs, North Carolina. He and his wife, Linda, added their first child, McKenna, to their family on May 1, 2003. Chris is a staff physical therapist at Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital. He has also received his CSCS (Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist).

Randall Cope, PT, ’87, lives in Des Moines, Iowa with his wife, Denise, BSN ’96, and daughter Amaura, 14. Randall, now Dr. Cope, has graduated from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine and began his residency in Internal Medicine at The University of Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, in July 2004. Denise is a prenatal nurse practitioner and CNM.

Arden Wilkins, PT, ’99, is living in Washington, D.C. He has started a private sports and orthopedic physical therapy clinic in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. His practice, In Touch Physical Therapy, LLC, is growing nicely and he hopes to expand to other locations over the coming years.

Susan Vaughn Schweizer, PT, ’85, lives in Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania with husband David, and their three girls, ages 13, 5 and 3. Susan continues to work part-time as an outpatient therapist for David Bowers, PT ’86 at Bowers Rehab Services.
Nicole Mc Hugh Noone, PT, ‘01, and John Noone, PT, ‘01, are living in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania and are both currently employed by Pinnacle Health System. Nicole and John welcomed their new son, Brendan James Noone, on October 3, 2003. Brendan was born 7 pounds, 8 ounces and 21 inches long.

Suzanne Syed, PT, ‘98, and husband, Zubair, live in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. They are very proud parents of daughters, Jennah, 6, and Anisa, 4. The whole family was excited to welcome their first boy, Adam, on October 15, 2003.

Carla Graham Staack, PT, ‘98, lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania. She and husband, Josh, are the new parents of a baby girl, Sarah Carol, born on April 22, 2004. She was welcomed home by big brother, Matthew, 2, and brings a lot of joy to the whole family.

Ronald Matthews, PT, ‘02, lives in San Diego, California and was commissioned as a LTJG in the United States Navy in December 2003. He serves as a physical therapist and division officer of outpatient and inpatient physical therapy at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. Ronald adds, “Go Navy, beat Army!”

Katrina Wollam Brow, PT, ‘90, got married in 2000 and moved to Tilton, New Hampshire in 2001. The Brows have a dog, Maya, and a cat, Angel, and report that they are childless by choice. Katrina is the Clinical Coordinator at an off-site orthopedic clinic. She has completed two years of a Norwegian manual therapy residency and also specializes in post-op breast cancer therapy and lymphedema treatment.

Christopher Lauretani, PT, ‘00, is still living in New York City and is about to move into a new apartment on the Upper West Side with his wife, Maria Ragno Lauretani, who is a former Director of the Career Development Center at JCHP. Chris and Maria announce the birth of their son, Christopher John, Jr. (CJ), born on July 19, 2004 at 5:27 am. He was 7 lbs, 9 oz and 20.5 inches long. In September, 2003 Chris opened his own physical therapy practice, Symmetry Physical Therapy and Athletic Enhancement in Pelham Manor, New York. Symmetry is an outpatient orthopedic practice as well as a sports performance training center.

Lori Levengood Schlegel, PT, ‘97, lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania. She and her husband welcomed another son into their family, Nathan Daniel, who was born on January 28, 2004. He joins big brother Matthew, 2, who loves his little brother! Lori is current working per diem.

Lisa Cardillo Towsen, PT, ‘96, lives in Harleysville, Pennsylvania. She and her husband welcomed their second son, Christopher Craig, on May 15, 2004. Lisa works part-time as a site manager for Chestnut Hill Healthcare.

Karen Malinowski, PT, ‘98, is living in Brooklyn, New York and is managing admissions for rehabilitation of the Luther Medical Center there. Karen is also the current district chairperson in the New York Physical Therapy Association.

Lori Levengood Schlegel, PT, ‘97, lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania. She and her husband welcomed another son into their family, Nathan Daniel, who was born on January 28, 2004. He joins big brother Matthew, 2, who loves his little brother! Lori is current working per diem.

Debbra Christoforetti Hunt Soffer, RS, ‘80, is living in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania and is the National Technical Director for a staffing agency that employs all diagnostic pagers. She has been selected for the Nominating Committee of the SDMS Election for the summer of 2004.
Alumni News

Christine Buchanan Walton, RS, ’02, of Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, married Michael Walton in May 2004. Christine currently works as a cardiovascular technologist in the cardiac catheterization laboratory at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Heidi M. Gay, RS, ’00 is still living in Elkhart, Indiana and is working at Goshen Hospital which is a 113-bed facility in Goshen, Indiana. It has a Regional Cancer Center as well as a Bariatric Treatment Center. Off-site there is a Women’s Health Center and an Outpatient Imaging Center. She reports that a big percentage of their clients are Mennonite and Amish so special parking is provided for their horse and buggies. Heidi also is proud to announce that her daughter, Mia, at ten months old was featured in the Anne Geddes Web Site as part of its monthly “baby photo quest.” Mia appeared during the month of May, 2004 as one of “Anne’s Gallery of Stars.”

Anne Marie Baxter Lawler, RS, ’93, is living in Gulf Breeze, Florida. In 1999, she married her husband, Sean, a major in the United States Air Force. They have a son, Ethan, who was born on in July 2002. Anne Marie is working at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida performing high risk obstetrical ultrasound.

Catherine Zdziarski Canna, RS, ’78, is living in Claymont, Delaware, and has been married to Anthony Canna for five years. Catherine has also has worked at Papastavrous Associates in Wilmington, Delaware for five years.

Petruzza Grande Mazzone, RS, ’84, lives in Sewell, New Jersey. She is employed as the Administrative Director of Diagnostic Imaging/Cardiopulmonary at Taylor Hospital, in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania.

Maureen McGee Karchner, RS, ’93, is living in North Wales, Pennsylvania with her husband, David Karchner, RS, ’92. They welcomed their son, Brian Patrick, on May 9, 2004 who joined siblings, Brooke, 6, David, 4 and Dana, 2. Maureen works part-time at Abington Memorial Hospital and Chestnut Hill Hospital. Dave is a marketing manager at Siemens in Malvern.

Stefanie Carulli Travetti, RS, ’95, lives in Boothwyn, Pennsylvania. She and her husband, Greg, welcomed the arrival of their beautiful baby girl, Emma Nicole, on August 28, 2003.

Our Next “BLOCKBUSTER” Issue of The Review Will Be “POPPING” With Alumni News

Send us your news, and we’ll treat you to a movie and popcorn! The first 50 alumni who send us news will receive a Blockbuster gift card and a pack of Paul Newman’s microwave popcorn. This promotion is courtesy of Newman’s Own, Inc, Blockbuster, Inc. and the Office of Alumni Relations.

See page 4 for details on how to submit your news and photos.
The healthcare industry is predicted to add nearly 3.5 million jobs between 2002 and 2012, and a large majority of these new jobs will be in nursing and the allied health professions. This is good news to us at JCHP, where we are preparing students to enter that growing workforce!

During Allied Health Professions Week 2004 JCHP honored the current and future healthcare workers in our midst with a variety of activities from November 8 through 12. Local businesses joined in the celebration by donating gift certificates for daily raffles.

The JCHP Alumni Association and Career Development Center sponsored a Student Snack Break on Monday. Students enjoyed soft pretzels and sodas and networked with some alumni who stopped by during the afternoon.

On Tuesday Dr. Barchi visited the Edison building to chat with students and faculty about key issues that are important to them, including increasing diversity at Jefferson, building a stronger sense of community across all three colleges, and maintaining safety on campus and in the city.

JCHP students, faculty, and admissions and marketing staff spent the commuting hours at Market East train station on Wednesday. They spread out through the station to hand out granola bars, healthy living brochures, and information about JCHP.

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day featured a gourmet coffee bar for the hard-working people who keep JCHP running.

The week ended with Student Appreciation Day, where students received JCHP “bottle jerseys” and Smarties candy.
PT Student Wins Student Life Award
At PT Convocation

The Physical Therapy Class of 2004 gathered at the Independence Seaport Museum on April 30 for the PT Closing Convocation. A total of 44 students participated in the ceremony, which is typically held before students begin the final clinical rotations which complete the requirements of their combined BS-MS degree program over the summer.

Guest speaker James Dunleavy, PT, MS, and Director of the Board of Directors, American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), addressed students and guests.

This year's PT convocation had an added surprise: Megan Gibbons, a PT student, won the Achievement Award for Student Life. This award is one of only two College-wide awards given to a student. It is presented annually to a graduating student who has made an outstanding contribution to student life at Jefferson. Megan is the third PT student in six years to win the award. She was recognized for her contributions to the College and her strong leadership.

While at JCHP, Megan was a member of the University Committee of Student Advisors and the College's Orientation Committee, and she worked with the Admissions Office as a Student Ambassador. She served as the coordinator of Hands of Hope, a student-managed physical therapy clinic at a local men's shelter, and, as a co-coordinator of Bridging the Gaps, she organized the efforts of students from health-related universities throughout the area to provide service at Philadelphia-area community centers. Highly respected by her fellow students, faculty and administrators, Megan was asked to serve on the University's Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee and was invited to participate in the College's annual Leadership Development Retreat.

All PT graduates conducted their graduate research presentations on April 29, the day before Convocation. They made the presentation before an expert review panel consisting of Ann E. Barr, PT, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, College of Health Professions at Temple University; Sandy G. Ganz, PT, MS, GCS, Dr. Sci. Candidate, Director of Rehabilitation at Amsterdam Nursing Home, New York, NY; and William M. Susman, PT, PhD, Associate Dean of Rehabilitation Sciences and Director, Division of Physical Therapy at Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY.
JCHP Commencement 2004
Ms. Andrea E. Higham, Director of Johnson & Johnson’s Campaign for Nurses, Received Honorary Degree

Members of the Jefferson College of Health Professions’ Class of 2004 marched across the stage at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts to receive their diplomas on Wednesday, May 19. During the ceremony, Andrea Higham, Director of Corporate Equity, the Campaign for Nursing’s Future and New Ventures at Johnson & Johnson, received an honorary doctoral degree from the university.

A total of 343 students graduated, including 325 Bachelor of Science degree recipients in the disciplines of nursing, occupational therapy, radiologic sciences and bioscience technologies; six post-baccalaureate certificate recipients in bioscience technologies; and 12 associate’s degree recipients. Also included in the totals are physical therapy students who completed their combined BS-MS degree program during the summer.

University Board of Trustees Member Douglas J. MacMaster, Jr., Esq. presented Ms. Higham the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Ms. Higham has directed Johnson & Johnson’s Campaign for Nursing’s Future, a pioneering strategy to promote the profession of nursing. In helping to raise more than $5 million for nursing scholarships, faculty fellowships and nursing school grants, the Campaign has had a positive impact on the recruitment and retention of nursing professionals nationwide.

University President Paul C. Brucker, MD, conferred the student degrees. JCHP Dean James B. Erdmann, PhD, addressed students and their families. Janice Burke, PhD, OTR/L, Chairman and Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy, served as the Grand Marshal.

Andrea E. Higham, JHCP’s 2004 honorary degree recipient.