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THE DEAN’S COLUMN

Knitting Two Institutions Together

Since the new Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University) debuted over the summer—and our first class of students matriculated into our Center City and East Falls campuses in the fall—we’ve been talking a lot about the reasoning behind this unique combination of one university renowned for excellent medical education and training, and one celebrated for its design, engineering, and fashion curricula.

You can practically see the question marks dancing over people’s heads when they first learn about it, but as we delve into the history of the two schools that make up our bold new institution, and how their respective strengths complement each other, those question marks disappear and are replaced by a light bulb—a modern, cool, energy-efficient LED light bulb, of course. Overwhelmingly, once people attend with an open mind, they agree that this merger just makes sense. In fact, it seems obvious when you really think about it—a revolution in education, yes, but even more so, an evolution.

Both institutions have a long history spanning two centuries in which they have been defined by growth, change, and innovation. They were both born to fill a need in education, and transformation—of students, professionals, Philadelphia, academia, the world—has been baked into them from the beginning. And over those many years there's been more overlap between medicine and design, even in the fashion world, than you might think.

In May, I gave a talk at the Greater Philadelphia Smart Fabrics Conference on “Medicine + Smart Fabrics” in which I described Medicine+, Jefferson’s cocurricular programs that are designed to prepare our students to think differently, and innovatively, across disciplines—not only to adapt to a changing healthcare landscape, but also to be agents of that change.

After my presentation, I heard from David Edman of VBID Health, and a longtime friend of Jefferson, who reminded me that this kind of synergy between disparate disciplines isn’t entirely new—in medicine in general, or in smart fabrics in specific—and drew an unexpected connection between medicine and PhilaU. David told me about his father, Thomas Edman, an alumnus of PhilaU’s first incarnation, the Philadelphia Textile Institute (PTI), and a pioneer in the field of smart fabrics. Back then, he went by a different name: Thomas Eidlitz. People, like many institutions, are constantly reinventing and redefining themselves to adapt to and thrive in our changing environment.

Thomas registered at PTI under the GI Bill in September 1947 for the four-year Knitting Degree Course. He describes his time there in a note to Alumni Affairs in 2009: “I knew more about knitting than the instructor. We were located at Broad and Pine, diagonally across the Jewish Y, and I was at the groundbreaking at Schoolhouse Lane and Henry Avenue for the new school.”
In fall 1953, he returned to the school for an open house and ran into then-president Dr. Bertrand Hayward, who listened with interest about his postgraduate, one-year Knitting Degree course at the Leicester College of Technology in Leicester, England. Hayward offered him a job in the Knitting Department, and in January Thomas arrived—to find that Hayward remembered him, but not his name, “because of the unusual spelling.” The following week, Thomas legally changed his name to Edman.

So, what does this walk down Memory Lane—and all this talk about knitting!—have to do with medicine? Quite a lot, as it happens. While the name Thomas Eidlitz may not ring a bell, or even Thomas Edman, here’s one you probably have heard of: Dr. Michael E. DeBakey. That’s the same DeBakey of the famous DeBakey vascular graft for replacing veins and arteries, grafts made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET)—better known as Dacron fabric. Again, it all lies in the name.

As DeBakey relates in *Heart to Heart: The Twentieth Century Battle Against Cardiac Disease*, upon experimenting with shaping tubes on his own—with his wife’s sewing machine!—and successfully using a homemade bifurcation tube (sterilized of course) on a patient in 1954, he needed a way to knit Dacron into the shapes he needed. His search led him to a socks-knitting factory in Reading, Pennsylvania, where someone directed him to an expert at the Franklin Textile Institute, “a Swiss immigrant” named Thomas Edman!

Thomas agreed to work for DeBakey, and with a grant from a former patient of DeBakey’s, the head of Stuart Pharmaceutical Company in California, Thomas developed a machine to create seamless Dacron tubes. DeBakey relates:

“I used these Dacron grafts on patients and even sent some to my colleagues who were also interested in working in the field. Ultimately, one of the companies in Philadelphia, I believe, bought the machine that Mr. Edman had developed, and that became the grandfather of all the knitting machines we have today.”

One of the major benefits of the cross-disciplinary curricula we are developing at Jefferson, and the upcoming changes to schools in both our Center City and East Falls campuses to reflect these new possibilities, is to foster pathmaking collaborations like this, which result in brand-new treatments, innovative technologies, and novel ways of looking at and solving problems in healthcare and other professional industries.

A primary directive for Jefferson is to seek mutually beneficial connections with complementary businesses, organizations, and institutions that share our vision and our mission. We want partners who can work with us to enhance and reinforce everything we do, from transforming education to reimagining healthcare, and improve more lives—of our students, alumni, patients, and communities of the world. Such collaborations are more than part and parcel of our history, but our key to becoming the preeminent professional university of the future.
“Living Electrodes” May Change Neurological Device Design

Research on biohybrid approach could improve brain-computer interfaces

As a clinician, Mijail D. Serruya, MD, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Neurology, understands the devastating effects of many neurological diseases and conditions. That awareness has driven his research interest at the Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience at Jefferson in brain-computer interfaces, neuroprosthetics designed to restore brain and nervous system function.

Scientists in the field have developed a few devices, such as deep-brain stimulators, that penetrate the brain with synthetic electrodes; however, overall progress has been slow because when a nonorganic device is implanted into living tissue, it is attacked by the body’s natural defense mechanisms. Moreover, the brain’s salty, warm, and wet environment destroys electronic components. “Everything you implant to the body has issues of biocompatibility and biostability,” Serruya says.

To overcome those problems, Serruya is part of a team that is going beyond the limitations of existing synthetic brain-computer interfaces. In research published recently in Advanced Functional Materials, he and co-authors from the University of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania State University described their work using a biohybrid approach that builds on their earlier development of microtissue-engineered neural networks.

By combining living neurons, biomaterial, and microelectrode technology, they have now created “living electrodes” for implantation in the brain and direct integration with the nervous system. These biologically based microstructures could provide more stable modulation of neural activity, enable greater function, and have more permanence than conventional nonorganic devices.

Living electrodes are built from neurons, held in column-like structures resembling threads with the thickness of a human hair. Various neuron subtypes can be used, so the interfaces would be able to stimulate, inhibit, or change neural circuitry. Cells may be modified in the laboratory for particular purposes before the columns are built.

Only the biological part of the construct penetrates the brain. Optical or electrical components sit on the brain’s surface. Keeping the synthetic parts out of the brain, the researchers reason, will reduce the foreign body response caused by contact with conventional materials.

Surrounded by a hydrogel, living electrodes are micron-
Living electrodes show some advantages over conventional electrodes and optrodes for neural modulation, including engineered axonal tracts, fully differentiated neurons, and a controlled 3-D cytoarchitecture—potentially improving survival versus delivery of cell suspensions.

Living electrodes are tiny, much smaller than synthetic devices, dozens could be implanted at one time to modulate a whole brain network.

Living electrodes are still in early development. The researchers have created them in the laboratory and implanted them in rats. Testing has shown that the biologically based interfaces make synapses, linking neuron to neuron. Upcoming work will explore how living electrodes function and see if behavior, such as movement, can be changed or controlled via the living electrodes. That process will allow researchers to change components, define how many neurons should be in each microstructure, determine how to engineer them for safe removal if needed, and refine them further.

Serruya continues to study synthetic brain-machine interfaces as well, to find approaches that can be used with current devices. That research also helps clarify his work with the biohybrids.

“Living electrodes are a platform,” he says. “This is a starting point, not a final product.”

—ROBIN WARSHAW
COLLEGE OF REHABILITATION SCIENCES
Jefferson will launch a College of Rehabilitation Sciences, to be led by its new dean, Steven R. Williams, MD. Williams is the Jesse B. Michie Professor and chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine for Sidney Kimmel Medical College and enterprise senior vice president, Post-Acute and Rehabilitation Services, for Jefferson Health.

The College will include occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic training, which presently exist under the College of Health Professions and the College of Science, Health and the Liberal Arts, and will optimize the academic experience for students.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Under the leadership of Dean Michael Dryer, PA-C, DrPH, the College of Health Professions will expand to add new programs, including:
• Community and Trauma Counseling, and Art Therapy
• Couple and Family Therapy
• Disaster Medicine and Management
• Medical Laboratory Sciences and Biotechnology
• Midwifery and Women’s Health
• Physician Assistant Program (Center City, East Falls, New Jersey)
• Radiologic Sciences

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES
Barbara Kimmelman, PhD, will become dean for the College of Humanities and Sciences. Kimmelman is currently the academic dean for Arts and Sciences at the College of Science, Health and the Liberal Arts; and professor of History. The College will include the following programs and disciplines that provide instruction in our Hallmarks General Education Program.

PROGRAMS:
• Biopsychology
• Communications
• Law and Society
• Psychology

DISCIPLINES:
• African American Studies
• American Studies
• Anthropology
• History
• International Studies
• Languages
• Philosophy
• Mathematics
• Physics
• Sociology
• Writing and Rhetoric

In addition, some Biology and Chemistry faculty will provide instruction in general education and foundation courses.

COLLEGE OF LIFE SCIENCES
The College will add biology, biochemistry, chemistry, and pre-med undergraduate programs to its current offerings. Gerald B. Grunwald, PhD, dean of the former College of Biomedical Sciences, will serve as dean as of July 1, 2018.
The Difference Alumni Make

As we approach the end of our first year as a new Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University), like many here I have been reflecting deeply on our history and our future—and especially about our alumni and the important roles they play in the Jefferson family.

This is a time of tremendous transformation in our institution and for our students, patients, and families, but Jefferson has always been defined by change. Through it all, for generations, our alumni have remained steadfast in their dedication to Jefferson, passionate in their interest, and generous with their support. As I looked through the memory books at Alumni Weekend (see page 14), and met many Jeffersonians who were excited to be back on campus, alumni pride in the education they received shone through their words, stories, and smiles. The strength of their connection to the place that made them the doctors and people they are today—and to each other—also comes across clearly in another, more tangible way—how they give back to Jefferson and pay it forward to those just starting their own careers.

This past year showed extraordinary generosity from our alumni family, with gifts large and small that have helped fund scholarships, professorships, lectureships, and programs. Their impact was multiplied through the Kimmel Matching Program created by the Sidney Kimmel Foundation, which has matched gifts from alumni to create 20 endowed scholarships and an endowed professorship since it was established in 2014. As just one example of the profound commitment of our alumni, Marie Pinizzotto, MD ’88, and Carol Ammon, BSN ’17, MBA, made a leadership gift to help launch our campaign for the new Alumni Center, as well as support an Alumni Center Scholarship. This scholarship will benefit generations of Jefferson students, and the Center will be a place to celebrate everything it means to be a Jefferson graduate and serve as a welcoming home for alumni to return to year-round.

Alumni Weekend alone brought in an astounding $3.4 million, with a large portion of that coming from the Class of 1967 as part of its 50th Reunion Class Gift Campaign fundraiser, which had the goal of at least 50 percent participation. They far surpassed their $50,000 target with a total of more than $2.1 million—which included a planned gift from Reunion Class Gift Chair Elliot Rayfield in support of the Elliot J. Rayfield, MD ’67 Scholarship, and a generous gift from Anthony Chiurco and his wife, Kim Jingoli Chiurco, to establish the Anthony Alfred Chiurco, MD Professorship in Neurosurgery at Jefferson.

When I look back on the last year, I see that Jefferson has been pushing boundaries, crossing lines, and blazing trails to create a bold new future for medicine, discovery, and higher education. All our successes, and future accomplishments, can be traced to a groundswell of support from our compassionate, committed alumni and other benefactors—a growing number of visionaries who trust Jefferson to deliver on our promise to improve lives.

No matter how much things change, I know we always can count on our alumni family to offer their insights and ideas, and both give and inspire giving that makes Jefferson a university to be proud of. Their unfailing generosity and belief in our mission empowers Jefferson to continue growing and evolving, and in turn change people’s lives—and the world—for the better.

Elizabeth A. Dale
Executive Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer
A FIGHTING CHANCE

ANDREW FOY

MD’08

By Elisa Ludwig
Andrew Foy, MD ’08, fell in love with the Rocky movies. As an eighth-grader, he took up boxing when his grandfather bought him his first speed bag, and for five years he competed at the amateur level. Now, the assistant professor of Medicine and Public Health Sciences at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center is helping to build a community around his favorite sport in the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, region.

“I always played other sports, but boxing was always the one I enjoyed most, even though a lot of people thought I was crazy for doing it,” he says. “It taught me what a win looks like, how to compete, and what it means to have courage.”

Foy stopped sparring during college and medical school but stayed a fan. Once he completed his cardiology fellowship at Hershey and became an attending physician, Foy looked for a cause or activity to add another dimension to his life. That’s when he encountered an article about a financially strapped boxing gym in Harrisburg that was struggling to stay open.

“I met with the owners and started donating money to help them stay afloat,” he says. “Then I started training at the gym myself. And then, the next thing you know, we were talking about putting on a professional boxing event, and what kind of backing they might need to get the licensing, insurance, and promoter’s bond required.”

Once Foy committed to providing the promoter’s bond and helping to organize the event, the natural next step was to create a small business entity, Titans Boxing Promotions LLC. The first event was held in June 2017, and Titans has put on two more since then. Foy does it as a side job, working around his teaching, research, and patient care schedule. The goal has never been to make money, however. He’s happy if he breaks even on the events, but he wants them to be high enough quality—with lights, sound, staging—to elevate the sport, draw fans, and create buzz.

“The attendance is growing, sponsorship is growing, and we’re creating more excitement around the sport,
which has always been my goal,” Foy says. “I’ve always loved the people who participate in boxing. Harrisburg has a strong amateur boxing culture, but the boxers are rarely promoted as professionals, and if you can’t be promoted in your hometown, then you don’t have much chance to make it as a career.”

When younger boxers see that there’s a venue for their passion outside of the gym, it gives them motivation to continue, he says. That will continue to bring in money—to the gyms, to help compensate the trainers who often work for little to no money, and to create a cycle of interest. There’s also the added benefit of keeping kids out of trouble with an activity that channels their emotions.

“Giving kids a sport like this is giving them a place to go to and a community to be part of. Boxing teaches kids so much about independence and resilience. Most of these guys grow up in conditions that are hard to imagine.”

Though Foy no longer competes himself, he does train for fitness, and he still spars with older boxers on occasion. He enjoys its unique challenges—its particular combination of endurance, hand-eye coordination, and bravery that the sport demands, as well as its emphasis on the individual as opposed to a team.

“To be really good at other sports, you might need one or two attributes, but for boxing it’s all of the above,” he says.

It’s also, he says, helped give him the competitive drive that pushed him through the challenges of medical school. Though he was admittedly bored at times by the intense
pace and the required memorization of medical education, Foy enjoyed Jefferson’s atmosphere and the camaraderie of his classmates. He found “invaluable” inspiration in his professors and mentors, including Joseph Majdan, MD, Sal Mangione, MD, Edward Filippone, MD, and Katherine and Dale Berg, MD, who modeled bedside manner, clinical thinking, and a commitment to ongoing learning and research that he continues to emulate. He stayed on for his internal medicine residency training and decided to specialize in cardiovascular science.

“By then, I wasn’t boxing, but I was still running and doing triathlons, and I became interested in cardiovascular and cardiorespiratory physiology, and the athletic performance aspects of it,” he says.

His current research concerns the comparative effectiveness of tests and treatments in cardiovascular medicine, looking for the best, safest, and most cost-effective disease management strategies for patients. In rethinking deeply entrenched approaches to care, Foy sometimes faces pushback—which he relishes. For instance, he has challenged the use of cardiovascular imaging in patients who come to the hospital for chest pain but are not found to have acute myocardial infarction.

“As a boxer, I’ve always been a fighter. In that way, my personality is perfect for this kind of work. It might be an uphill battle to question commonly used practices, or call for the adoption of new and less lucrative methods. To some extent, I have an adversarial nature that enjoys what I like to think of as intellectual combat.”
In her work looking at post-concussion headaches and facial pain, Stephanie Nahas-Geiger, MD, MDEd, assistant professor and director of the Headache Medicine Fellowship Program at Jefferson, often sees sports-related concussions, but rarely from boxing or mixed martial arts.

“More often, we see patients who come in after playing soccer, basketball, or ice hockey, and sometimes horseback riding,” Nahas-Geiger says.

However, that doesn’t mean that boxing doesn’t pose risks for participants.

“Logic would dictate that when the object in the sport is to hit the opponent in the head as much as you can, by nature, it’s going to be dangerous,” she says.

The American Academy of Neurology estimates that each year 1.6 to 3.8 million concussions result from sports and recreational injuries. The American Association of Neurological Surgeons has estimated that 90 percent of boxers suffer some kind of brain injury while playing.

“Without a doubt, the ‘fighting’ sports are causing concussion and traumatic encephalopathy as a consequence of repeated concussion,” she says.

In general, the attention the recent media has placed on concussion as related to the NFL, and the attendant long-term health risks posed to its players, has helped educate the public about sports concussions specifically and concussions in general.

“The conversation has changed over the past couple of decades,” Nahas-Geiger says. “People used to believe myths like you have to keep someone awake all night if you suspect a concussion or that someone who is concussed must be unconscious. Most people now know that these ideas are not true.”

In fact, she says, the concussed brain needs rest to restore function, and staying awake is likely counterproductive.

Researchers studying animal models have revealed that the brain continues to change for weeks and months after an initial injury, impacting neural processes, neurotransmitters, and neurosignaling. Traumatic brain injury can cause functional problems with thinking, sensation, language, and emotion processing. Over the long term, there may be increased risk of epilepsy, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and other brain disorders.

“There is much more work to be done in this area, but we know that there are disruptions caused by concussion,” Nahas-Geiger says.
For his part, Foy doesn’t see any contradiction in his desire, as a physician, to promote a sport that many people associate with injury. He strongly believes in the health benefits of all sports for children and adults, and he thinks boxing’s dangers have been vastly overstated. He has worked as a ringside doctor for amateur fights and never saw a serious injury. In the five years he sparred and competed in tournaments with professional fighters, he says he may have incurred one concussion, but he never had a definitive diagnosis. On the other hand, he broke multiple bones and got at least three concussions while playing football and once broke his nose while playing baseball.

“There are dangers involved with all sports. It’s my job as a promoter to take safety seriously and ensure that I’m not overmatching fighters where they might sustain a lot of punishment. It’s never going to be 100 percent safe, but you can do a lot to ensure that it’s as safe as possible. We’re lucky in Pennsylvania that our state commissioner does a great job of ensuring that only people who should have licenses to fight have them, so the risks are always minimized.”

At the same time, Foy says, boxing’s cardiovascular health benefits are significant both for training and competing.

“These guys are highly conditioned athletes. Training for and competing in boxing requires sustaining a high-intensity effort that combines aerobic and anaerobic exercise.”

Most of all, he says, it’s a sport that can help build character and confidence. He’s grateful for how it’s shaped his own life.

“Boxing taught me I could pretty much do anything I set my mind to,” he says. “I needed to prove to myself that I was brave enough to get in the ring. For a lot of other young people out there, it could be the encouragement and reinforcement they need to do something great.”

Nicholas Hernandez, of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and Roy Barringer, of Toledo, Ohio, battle in the co-main event, before a packed house, inside the Small Arena of the PA Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg on September 9. Foy’s second event was called Proving Grounds II: Crosstown Throwdown, because several bouts on the show featured fighters from area gyms squaring off against one another.

Luis “Mayhem” Morales, of Harrisburg, has his hand raised by referee Eric Dali after his professional debut victory on June 17 at Proving Grounds I: The Next Generation. After a successful amateur career, Morales has emerged as a top prospect and was the first fighter Foy signed to a long-term promotional contract.
Alumni returned to campus to reconnect with each other and Jefferson during Alumni Weekend, October 27–28, 2017. Events included student-led walking tours; a Philadelphia trolley tour; the 50-year Induction Ceremony; the annual luncheon with Dr. Tykocinski; class dinners for all 2s and 7s; and much more!

1. Grafton Sieber, MD ‘57, Navarre Meadows ‘18
2. Dr. Tykocinski, David Sall, MD ‘67, Barry Dorn, MD ‘67
3. Elliot Rayfield, MD ‘67
4. Anthony Chiurco, MD ‘67, Dr. Tykocinski
5. Rosemary Horstmann, MD ‘72
6. Rhonda Stein, Gerald Marks, MD ‘49, Scott Sein, MD ‘67
7. Maria Cirone Scott, MD ‘87, Patricia Curtin, MD ‘88
8. Members of the Class of 1967 at the 50-Year Society Pinning Ceremony

Save the Dates!
Alumni Weekend 2018
October 19–20
Eugene Morita, MD '62,
John O’Hurley, MD ’52,
Peter Haynitz, MD ’62,
Joseph Sloss, MD ’52, Nan
Sloss, Gloria Mantosantos,
John Sanabria, MD ’52
David Balling, MD ’67,
Peggy Balling
Class of 1967
Members of the class of
1992 enjoy the photo
booth
Matthew Keller, MD ’05, Dr.
Tykocinski, Elliot Rayfield,
MD ’67, Stephen Klasko,
MD, Elizabeth Dale
50-Year Society Pins
Guests listen to Dr.
Tykocinski’s State of the
College address
Joseph August, MD ’92,
David Fox, MD ’92, Stephen
Kuperberg, MD ’92,
Jennifer Naticchia Walls,
MD ’92, Corina Nahmias,
MD ’92, Marcia Liu, MD ’92,
Rita Nunag, MD ’92
James Wong, MD ’67,
Melvyn Wolf, MD ’67
Program for the Dean’s
Luncheon and Alumni
Achievement Award
Presentation on Saturday
afternoon
Barry Dorn, MD ’67,
William Crutchlow, MD ’67
Stephen Slogoff, MD ’67,
Class of 1967 Reunion
Committee, receives his
50-Year Society pin
Robert Hall, MD (1967),
Joel Grossman, MD (1967)
To see more photos from Alumni Weekend 2017, please visit jefferson.edu/bulletin.
Since 1974 Elliot J. Rayfield, MD '67, has been an endocrinologist and faculty member at Mount Sinai in New York, where he was originally hired to start a diabetes program. Apart from a tour of duty in the Army, he has spent his career there seeing patients in the hospital and as part of a successful private practice he runs in the city. In 2014, he received the Endocrine Society's Sidney H. Ingbar Distinguished Service Award.

Why did you choose Jefferson?
When I was young, a lot of the doctors that were my family’s doctors were giants at Jefferson, the luminaries of the medical profession. They had a real impact on my desire to go to Jefferson. So that was part of it, but I also felt that I had a calling to help people, and the medical college was the vehicle or the platform that allowed me to fulfill that calling.

How did Jefferson impact your philosophy of patient care?
Basically, when you're a doctor, when you're anything in life, you've got like three minutes to make an impact on someone to make them say, “Oh, that person really knows what they're doing.” As a doctor, you've got a small window to capture them and make them think that you're going to really help them with their problem. That's part of why I have that picture in my office that says, “No patient too difficult.”

What made you give back to Jefferson?
When I was at Jefferson, I got a scholarship my senior year. I was really very appreciative because it was a big help. I was going through some of my paper records to get ready for the reunion, in order to see what I have from when I was in school. I realized that when I was in the Army, that was the first time I decided that I was going to leave money to Jefferson in my will.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was created this year by the SKMC Alumni Association to recognize alumni posthumously for a lifetime of distinguished and outstanding achievements and contributions to their profession and/or field of interest, and for contributions benefiting their community and humanity.

Sumner W. Jackson, MD '14, a native of Maine, exemplified the highest ideals to which we all strive.
He volunteered with the British Medical Corps at the beginning of World War I and served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps upon the American entry into the war. Following the war, he returned to Philadelphia, and after a short period returned to serve at the American Hospital in Paris. Eventually he became the chief physician at the hospital.
With the coming of World War II, many Americans left France. Dr. Jackson and his family remained and became part of the French Resistance.
For his participation in the Resistance, he and his family were eventually arrested and sent to concentration camps. With only days remaining in the war, Dr. Jackson was tragically killed.
His work saved many lives before his capture, and he continued to care for his fellow prisoners until the end.
For his life of courage and service, the Sidney Kimmel Medical College Alumni Association awarded him the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award.
The Campaign for the
PINIZZOTTO-AMMON
ALUMNI CENTER

a place to reconnect

a place to reminisce

YOUR HOME AT JEFFERSON

"The more we learned about the plans for the center, the more Carol and I knew this would be a special gift ... Jefferson has such a rich history, we see this as a place that will bind and pay homage to the long line of illustrious Jefferson alumni."

—Marie Pinizzotto, MD ’88, MBA
President and CEO, Carol A. Ammon Foundation

Jefferson.edu/AlumniCenterCampaign
Each year at the Jefferson Gala, alumni, donors, clinicians, families, and friends gather to celebrate our shared success; honor the best and brightest Jeffersonians; and recognize leaders in discovery, innovation, clinical care, and philanthropy—all while raising funds to support our mission to improve lives.

The 15th Annual Jefferson Gala on November 28, 2017, was bigger, better, and more boundary-breaking than ever, setting new records for attendance (1,050) and funds raised ($2.1 million—bringing our 15-year total to more than $15 million). Proceeds from this year’s Gala will benefit Jefferson’s Department of Surgery Research and Education Fund and the launch of the Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity (see sidebar).

This year’s Gala honored Charles J. Yeo, MD, FACS, Samuel D. Gross Professor and chair of the Department of Surgery at SKMC, with the Achievement Award in Medicine, and Alex Gorsky, chairman and CEO of Johnson & Johnson, with the Award of Merit.

To see more photos from the 15th Annual Jefferson Gala, please visit jefferson.edu/bulletin.
A Collaboration of Caring

Jefferson leads coalition to improve lives in Philadelphia’s communities

Less than six miles separates Society Hill from the Fairhill section of Philadelphia, but there is a stark difference in lifestyle—and life expectancy—between the residents of ZIP codes 19106 and 19133.

In Philadelphia, where you live can determine how long you live. While the city boasts areas of great wealth, it is also home to regions of extreme poverty, which has an overall adverse effect on the health and longevity of residents; in fact, life expectancy can vary by 10 to 20 years from one neighborhood to the next. In a bold, new initiative, Jefferson is helping to establish partnerships across the city aimed at better serving Philadelphia communities. This initiative is the Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity (PCHE).

“There is deep poverty in Philadelphia, and the challenges are similar to the ones I witnessed in my work in the developing world,” says Jack Ludmir, MD, Jefferson’s associate provost for Community and Global Initiatives, executive director of PCHE, and co-founder of Puentes de Salud (“Bridges of Health”), a volunteer-run health clinic in South Philadelphia that treats undocumented and uninsured immigrants. “But this is the start of a movement, and I’m thrilled we have this opportunity.”

Philadelphia is the poorest city in the United States—25.7 percent of its residents live below the poverty line. It has the highest obesity, smoking, HIV, low birth-weight babies, and maternal mortality rates of any of the country’s 10 major cities. In addition, more than 20 percent of the population—approximately 320,000 people—do not have access to a sufficient quantity of inexpensive, nutritious food.

Joseph Hill, Jefferson’s chief diversity officer and associate executive director of the Collaborative, likens the conditions to those of an
underdeveloped country. “When I was in South Africa, in Soweto, Johannesburg, I looked at the HIV and AIDS and infant mortality rates. When I look at the data in Philadelphia, it is similar,” Hill says. To make matters worse, affordable healthcare is lacking in the lower socioeconomic areas of the city.

“The goal of PCHE is to leverage health as a catalyst for success to help every family reach their full potential,” Ludmir says. Using a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach, the Collaborative will employ the Collective Model Impact, a method of tackling deeply entrenched and complex social problems through an alliance of government, business, philanthropic and nonprofit organizations, and citizens. The tactic, designed to achieve significant and lasting change, is based on the premise that no single policy, program, or entity can solve society’s increasingly complicated problems; to find comprehensive solutions and enact change, all members of society must work together.

To that end, PCHE will bring together a multitude of entities throughout the city to mobilize resources and address the challenges posed by poverty. Ludmir and Hill are in talks with many nonprofits, as well as religious organizations, government, and educational groups. However, the most important group in the equation, Ludmir points out, is people in the community.

“There are three key points to remember: We must keep to our principles, we must stay humble, and we must remember to listen to the community,” Ludmir says. “We need to build trust in the communities and hear from the people as to what they need, not what we think they need. If we don’t listen to them, we will fail,” Hill says, adding, “We can’t have an ivory tower mentality and expect to succeed. Similar initiatives throughout the country have failed over the years because they were designed from the top down.”

“This initiative is from the ground up, not top down. This is not a pyramid with leaders up here,” Ludmir says raising his hand above his head. “It should be more of a circular model with the community at the center. We can’t come in with an agenda because we don’t have all the answers.”

One of the most important pieces to putting together this complex puzzle is inviting other large healthcare, government, and community entities in the city to join the effort.

“This does not belong to Jefferson—it belongs to Philadelphia. As a major player in the city, we can be the backbone; we have the responsibility to do this for the residents. But we are inviting other major players to join us,” Hill says.

Jefferson added early support to the Collaborative by making it a beneficiary of a portion of its 2017 Gala proceeds in November.

“Jefferson is here to help make a difference for Philadelphia,” says Ludmir. “This is the start of an important movement.”

For more information on the Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity and how to become involved, contact Erin Morton, associate director of development, Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity, at erin.morton@jefferson.edu or 215-955-9418.
25 YEARS AGO ... 1993
The student-conceived JeffHOPE proposal becomes a reality with the January opening of the student-run, faculty-supervised primary care clinic in an underserved area of Philadelphia.

50 YEARS AGO ... 1968
James M. Large, chairman of the Board of Trustees, announces to the public its plan “...to create a medical university” in which Jefferson Medical College will become a component of the newly coined Thomas Jefferson University.

100 YEARS AGO ... 1918
Jefferson Medical College Hospital reports on the success of its recently opened Ivycroft Farm and Convalescent Home for Men in Wayne, Pennsylvania. The first of its kind in the United States, Ivycroft accepts patients who require long-term, post-treatment recovery and also chronically ill or malnourished men who are listed under “preventive convalescence.” Patients are referred from area hospitals and private physicians and treated at no cost.

150 YEARS AGO ... 1868
A Board of Trustees meeting appoints a “committee of five... to ascertain the state and condition of the College (building).” Headed by financial genius A.J. Drexel, the committee ultimately advises the construction of a new “clinique hospital” separate from, but adjacent to, the College edifice. The teaching hospital is a novel idea to expand the clinical opportunities of students and opens its doors in 1877.

150 YEARS AGO
Designed by Frank Furness, the JMC Hospital was located on Sansom Street between 10th and 11th streets. It became the nurses’ residence when replaced by the 1907 Main Hospital.

From the Jefferson Archives

*Designed by Frank Furness, the JMC Hospital was located on Sansom Street between 10th and 11th streets. It became the nurses’ residence when replaced by the 1907 Main Hospital.*
TIME CAPSULE

25 YEARS AGO
JMC students Kurt M. Heil ’95, Michael S. Weinstein ’94, and Lara M. Carson ’95 unload equipment for the inaugural JeffHOPE program.

50 YEARS AGO
Proposed campus development plan for the new university status, 1967–68

100 YEARS AGO
Treatment at Ivycroft rehabilitation facility included some of the earliest occupational therapy practice in the Philadelphia area.
Although historic materials documenting Thomas Jefferson University have been kept at our institution from its founding in 1824, the Archives and Special Collections was only established in 1986 with the hiring of a professional archivist. Its educational mission is to preserve, collect, and make available documents and artifacts which describe nearly two centuries of Jefferson history.

Ninety percent of the items are paper-based and include:
- 11,000-plus rare medical books dating from 1484
- Thousands of photographs
- Manuscripts and personal papers
- Publications: yearbooks, newsletters, course catalogs, and theses
- Jeffersoniana collection, a nearly complete set of faculty publications since 1824
- Biographical files of alumni and faculty
- Institutional records: Board minutes, departmental reports, deceased faculty files

In addition to serving the Jeff community, historians, students, and genealogists are among the external users who study at the Archives located in Scott Library in Center City.

Web: library.jefferson.edu/archives/

@JeffArchives
The Shot Doc
One day in 1982, Jefferson University men’s basketball coach Herb Magee walked into a gym where kids were seated at midcourt. They were attending a summer basketball camp, and Coach Magee was the guest speaker. Known as “the Shot Doctor,” he was already coaching NBA stars on the fine points of shooting. Magee never looked at the campers; he just started taking jump shots while instructing them on the mechanics of what he was doing. He talked for 45 minutes and never missed. Then he strode to mid-court and threw the ball up into the rafters. It bounced once on the court before swishing through the basket, ending the lesson with an exclamation point.

As a player, Herb Magee rarely missed a shot. After half a century as a basketball coach, he’s still at the top of his game.
s a basketball standout for the Philadelphia Textile Institute, Magee was a two-time All American and finished his college career in 1963 as the school’s all-time leading scorer, with 2,235 points. He was drafted by the Boston Celtics but decided to become a coach at his alma mater instead. Three years later, he led the Rams to an NCAA national championship.

Magee is now in his 51st year as head coach. He’s turned down numerous offers to coach pro and Division I teams. He is one of only two NCAA men’s basketball coaches to record 1,000 career wins and has brought the Rams to 29 Division II tournament appearances. Coach Magee is enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame, the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame, and the halls of fame for his alma maters, West Catholic High School and Philadelphia University, among others. He holds a slew of Coach of the Year awards. The Philadelphia Sports Writers Association named him a "Living Legend" in 2012. On Jefferson University’s East Falls campus, the Rams play home games on the Herb Magee Court, where his retired number 4 is on display. You have to pass a bust of Magee to get there—as well as an overstuffed trophy case dedicated to him and his teams.

Ed Malloy, one of Coach Magee’s former players and now an NBA referee, was a camper at the gym where the Shot Doctor was talking and shooting baskets in 1982. “I don’t remember what he was saying,” Malloy recalls. “I just remember watching and thinking, ‘Is this guy ever going to miss?’”

You’re a small person by NBA standards. What made you think you could be a successful basketball player?

I grew up in West Philly. The only thing I ever wanted to do was to make the team at West Catholic High School. Back in the day, that was the place. I went to St. Francis de Sales Elementary School. My only thought the whole time was, “Soon, I’m going to be at West.”

I was a little skinny guy, so I figured the only way I could do this was to become a guy who could really shoot. I knew by watching college teams, high school teams, and the Philadelphia Warriors that the most important aspect of the game is shooting, so I taught myself how to do it. I’d go to Warrior games and watch how Tom Gola and Paul Arizin, guys who later became my friends, released the ball. I would then go practice—and by “practice” I mean I’d shoot 600–700 shots a day. We’d sneak into St. Francis’ gym—it was a dungeon, but it was a gym—and we’d just shoot constantly. That’s all I did.

When you were drafted by the Boston Celtics, why did you decide to go into coaching basketball instead of playing?

I got a letter from the Boston Celtics telling me to report to training camp. The week before, I broke two fingers on my right hand. They were all splinted. I couldn’t go to tryouts without being able to shoot, because that’s what I did. I wasn’t a rebounder and wasn’t going to play defense. So my Textile coach, Bucky Harris, notified the Celtics that I wouldn’t be coming. I don’t think it broke their heart because I was the 62nd draft pick.

Then at the same time, Bucky arranged a job for me at Textile. My job was JV basketball coach, an assistant to him, and I was also coaching the cross country team and the tennis team, and teaching phys ed classes. As it turned out, if I’d made the Celtics, I probably would have made the same amount, which was like $5,000. The honor of being drafted is huge, but I wish I’d been able to go just to see how I could have competed.

When you’ve had offers to coach Division I and pro teams, but you’ve turned them all down. Why?

All the jobs would have involved moving, and I didn’t want to leave the area. My family is here, and my friends are here. Coaching here in Philadelphia is the same as coaching at Penn State or Boston College, so to me, the lure would have been simply money. I don’t have a lot, but I have enough.
What do you enjoy about coaching?

Working with young kids and helping them not only with their game but teaching them about life. Just now, I had a meeting with the team before we started practice. We lost a game the other night that we had a chance of winning. I was explaining that when they get older and come back to watch Jefferson play, they won’t talk about how many points they scored or other individual achievements. What they’ll talk about will be how much fun they had and how well their team did. What they’ll remember is being on a winning team and the pride they felt playing in the NCAA tournament or winning a conference championship. What players remember is always about the team.

You’ve been through four name changes: Philadelphia Textile Institute, Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science, Philadelphia University, and now Jefferson. What do you make of it?

Actually, there were five name changes. After we won the NCAA national championship in 1970, President Burt Hayward changed the name to Magee College of Textiles and Science for a day. They also named every building on campus after one of the players on the team, which was great. Then we had a motorcade down to City Hall, where Mayor Tate gave us all replicas of the Liberty Bell.

How’s the team look this year?

We put together a team this year that we thought was going to be a powerhouse. Then we got a couple bad breaks. We had two kids injured, both out for the year. Another kid left just before school started because he invented this coffee drink and was hired by some entrepreneur to work on new innovations. I’ve lost players to torn ACLs and rotator cuffs, but I’ve never lost one to coffee. It really set us back. Fortunately for us, it’s our turn to host the conference playoffs. We’re getting better as the season progresses, and I like our chances now.

Is there anything you’d like to say to Jefferson’s medical students and alumni?

Welcome aboard. I know you’ve never had an athletic program before, and I can’t imagine how much work you have to do. I have a lot of pride in what we’ve been able to accomplish over the years, and I hope you would have the same amount of pride. I know it would be tough to come from downtown to watch us play, but we have a great basketball team, and I’d like to see that happen sometime—maybe on a Saturday. —PETER NICHOLS
Caring for 1,000 patients in three days among Nicaragua’s remote mountains—long hours, organized chaos, and good conversations—taught students what it means to bring compassion into the clinic.

**TAKEOFF**

Global Health Brigades (GHB) at Jefferson was born out of a series of relationships.

Stephanie Kahn, the group’s founding vice president, had spent two years between undergrad and medical school working as an educational coordinator and research assistant with Jefferson Pediatrics/Nemours duPont Philadelphia.

“I got to know Stephanie pretty well,” recalls Esther K. Chung, MD, MPH, professor of Pediatrics and GHB faculty co-advisor. “So when she was accepted to Jefferson, I floated the idea of creating a student-led global health initiative.” Kahn’s response was a resounding “Definitely.”

Global Brigades, the parent organization of GHB at Jeff, was founded in 2007 and maintains a permanent presence in each country where it is active (Honduras, Panama, Ghana, and Nicaragua). It plays the role of connector, bringing together visiting medical volunteers and native caregivers to enable long-term engagement with the needs of host communities. Typically, trips to a given community occur every three months and last for about a week, encompassing aid areas like engineering, law, and microfinance, in addition to health.

It just so happened that one of Kahn’s fellow first-years, Emily Bollinger, had volunteered with the organization in college and relished the opportunity to continue serving, this time as president of Jefferson’s Brigade. Together, the two set about pulling together bylaws, talking to global health experts at Jefferson, and recruiting.

“Your big time to do research or to do something that’s not medical school is between your first and second year,” says Kahn. “You get about 10 to 11 weeks, but there aren’t a lot of abroad programs that offer a short-term option. GHB is a great opportunity for students who still want to travel but also want to do research.”

Bollinger and Kahn cast their net wide in an effort to attract an interprofessional group of
medical, OT/PT, and pharmacy students, as well as a cohort from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. On the alumni side, Kahn’s mother, Michele Christie, MD ’84, and Frank Konzelman, PharmD ’13, also accompanied the group as clinical supervisors.

Among the experts whose advice they sought was Nick Leon, PharmD, associate professor of Pharmacy and co-chair of Jefferson’s Global Health Initiatives Committee, who had been a part of past Brigades, volunteering as a kind of free agent whenever his schedule permitted. As it turned out, he had time to serve as a faculty co-advisor with Dr. Chung for the Jefferson chapter.

“This is not helicopter medicine,” he says. “GHB will only go somewhere if they think they can offer continuity of service to the community.”

By the time spring 2017 rolled around, the group had done its homework and TJU officials gave their blessing to GHB. Planning began in earnest.

There were funds to raise—to cover airfare, living expenses, and buying medicines in-country—and a long list of supplies for care packages: 1,800 toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps, shampoos, and other items. Brigade members solicited local businesses, friends, and family in order to meet their goals, receiving the full complement of essential supplies by the time GHB at Jeff was ready to go wheels up.

**TOUCHDOWN**

On June 4, the group flew into Managua, Nicaragua’s capital and only major city, and got oriented for their time in the country—organizing medicines, meeting their Nicaraguan counterparts, and acclimating to the heat. Work started early the next day.

Each clinic day began before dawn with a bus ride from their base in Estelí over the narrow roads leading to Puertas Azules and El Cebollal, the communities where the Brigade saw patients until well into the evening.

“The first day we went out into the country to Puertas Azules, there were hundreds of people waiting for us when we arrived,” says Bollinger.
“Some had walked for hours just to be seen by our team.”

Business hours were a frenzy but provided ample opportunity for hands-on learning and meaningful patient interaction.

“I don’t speak any Spanish beyond some medical vocabulary,” Bollinger says, “but I was still able to build relationships with my patients through translators and by just taking time to be present.”

Every student managed a carefully delineated piece of the puzzle, from triage to dispensing medicines, rotating through each station to gain a wider perspective on their work.

“The whole thing is highly choreographed,” says Leon. “It’s set up so that after families have been seen and received their scripts, they go to a public health talk given by someone in the community, while our pharmacy team organizes the medications.”

This routine repeated every half hour and ultimately enabled the Jefferson Brigade to see 980 patients over three days. Evenings, after the dust settled and the Brigade was back at its base, were for reflection. Did you keep running into particular challenges? What kinds of illnesses were we seeing?

Among the most frequently heard complaints were respiratory illnesses and GI issues—caused by dirt floors and limited access to clean water. “Seeing all these cases and talking to the people, you quickly make a connection between health outcomes and social factors,” says Kahn.

Using Global Brigade’s in-house EMR system, students will be able to spot the signs of success such as a shift from acute-type illnesses to more chronic problems that can be effectively managed. As other volunteers work to provide better access to clean water and housing, Brigades like Jefferson’s bridge the gap between this wider context and the concrete behaviors—like dental hygiene and nutrition—that create a healthy community.

As Chung describes it, the disparities students are encountering in Central America are of a piece with what’s happening in Philadelphia’s underserved ZIP codes—the product of a complex mixture of poverty and a lack of resources. (See sidebar on the Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity on page 21.)

“They’re seeing how family and community matter to people who have very few material comforts,” says Chung. “And maybe more importantly, they’re learning ‘soft skills’ like humility and how to ask

GHB faculty co-advisor Esther K. Chung, MD, MPH, is a professor of Pediatrics and director of JeffSTARs (Jefferson Service Training in Advocacy for Students and Residents) program, a multi-organization advocacy and health education initiative offered in conjunction with the Department of Family and Community Medicine. She brings her years of experience as a pediatrician and physician advocate to her work contributing to the health science systems and population health portions of the JeffMD curriculum.

What does a health science systems perspective entail?

It’s understanding things like economics, policy, urban planning, and a host of other issues as they pertain to physicians and their patients. It involves a lot of the same methods and theories that we see in population health. I think we often lose the individual agent when we look at things in terms of these vast, impersonal systems, which are essential to care delivery. It’s my hope that our students, as future practitioners, will be able to see themselves as an active part of these large organizations and will be able to better advocate on behalf of their patients and themselves. I don’t envision every doctor as a lobbyist, but I do believe being able to understand and affect these systems is an increasingly necessary piece of medical practice.

How are you building these skills and perspectives into the curriculum?

With JeffMD, everyone has to do a scholarly inquiry project, which is about choosing an area of interest and really digging into it over the course of a couple years with knowledgeable advisors and mentors. This can be done on any number of different topics and isn’t just limited to pop health. The idea isn’t necessarily to get some sort of conference paper out of the effort, though that would be awesome. We want students to engage with a question that they’re passionate about, so they can immerse themselves and really appreciate the layers of complexity that surround even a very narrowly defined issue.

Can you give an example of how a systems approach might inform the way a student or general practitioner approaches a particular health issue?

Let’s take childhood obesity for example. There are so many different factors, but let’s take one, maybe less obvious, factor—transportation. Well, people are no longer walking to school. They’re taking buses, they’re getting rides, and getting less exercise as a result. But how does transportation affect something like fresh produce? It’s actually pretty straightforward—imagine a big delivery truck trying to get through the corners of North or South Philadelphia. Why would they drop off five apples at a corner store? And similarly in rural areas, where you won’t see a store for miles and miles, why would a large produce truck go there? So they’re going to go to the suburbs, where there are big produce stores, and they’re going to drop off their hundreds of boxes and go on their merry way.

An obvious solution doesn’t come ready-made with this understanding, but now you can begin to effectively address the underlying causes of a given health problem. Ultimately, it enables you to think critically and flexibly in whatever context you find yourself treating patients.

To learn more about JeffMD, please visit jefferson.edu/bulletin.

Thinking BIG(GER)
Thinking BIG(GER)

open-ended questions, which really prepare them to work in situations—the real world for instance—where patients are the best teachers.”

RETURN

The week sped by, but the team’s experiences made the flight back home with them.

The people they met and the connections they made are shaping how Jefferson’s Brigade members think of themselves and their future as doctors. They are more attuned to the systems that empower—and hamper—their work and are more sensitive to the impact a single person can have in delivering care or just brightening the day.

For now, Bollinger and Kahn are in the midst of prepping for Step 1 Board exams and will be handing over the reins of GHB at Jefferson, but not without helping to set the agenda for future Brigades.

“We want to have our members undertake a year-round engagement with these issues through speakers and other volunteer work,” Bollinger says, “It’s important to prepare, so we can hit the ground running.”

Visit jefferson.edu/bulletin to watch JCP student Nicholas Paulson’s video diary of Jefferson’s 2017 Nicaragua trip, and learn how to get involved with Global Health Brigades at Jefferson.
JEFFERSON HEALTH – NORTHEAST WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

Steven G. Littleson, FACHE, has taken the helm of Jefferson Health – Northeast (formerly Aria – Jefferson Health).

Littleson, who became president of Aria on February 1, 2018, brings a strong mix of community health leadership and system integration experience to help advance growth strategies across Northeast Philadelphia and Bucks County. In addition to his role at Jefferson Health, Littleson will also have executive responsibility for the enterprise-wide ambulatory strategy and operations.

Littleson was formerly president of the Hospital Services Division and chief operating officer at Hackensack Meridian Health, leading the operation of 11 acute care hospitals. Prior to that, he served as executive vice president and COO of Meridian Health, and as president of Jersey Shore University Medical Center, a 649-bed academic medical center in Neptune, New Jersey.

A fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Littleson also serves as chair of the board for the New Jersey Hospital Association and is an officer on the board of directors for the NJ Council of Teaching Hospitals.

JEFFERSON AWARDED NIAID CONTRACT TO DEVELOP EBOLA/HEMORRHAGIC VIRUS VACCINE

Jefferson has been contracted by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to prepare and test a vaccine to protect against the Ebola, Sudan, Marburg, and Lassa fever viruses.

If successful, this would be the first vaccine to offer protection from four hemorrhagic fever viruses, which can damage blood vessels, cause internal bleeding, and result in high mortality rates, as seen in the West African Ebola outbreak.

“Our approach is to create a broad scope of coverage with a tetravalent vaccine—one that covers four of these deadly viral diseases,” says principal investigator Matthias Schnell, PhD, professor and chair of Microbiology and Immunology and director of the Jefferson Vaccine Center at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Jefferson. Schnell, who also is director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Neurovirology, will lead the project team.

The tetravalent vaccine, which also protects against the deadly rabies virus, has the potential to be safe for all populations since it will be an inactivated, or killed, virus formulation.

NIAID, part of the National Institutes of Health, awarded about $2.6 million to the University with further funding of up to $30 million available over the five-year contract. The goal is to complete a Phase 1 clinical trial of the tetravalent vaccine.

NEW BURN PROGRAM GETS EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

William B. Hughes, MD, has been named director of Jefferson’s new Burn Center and clinical associate professor of Surgery in SKMC. Hughes comes to Jefferson from Temple University Hospital, where he served as director for the Temple Burn Center for nearly 20 years.

The Jefferson Burn Center will be among only a few in the Delaware Valley to be located in a Level 1 Trauma Center, where emergency cases can be transported around-the-clock from the scene of accidents and disasters or from other hospitals. Under Hughes’ leadership, Jefferson’s Burn Center will provide everything from skin grafts and rehabilitation services to psychological counseling.

Following medical school and residency, Hughes practiced at St. Agnes Burn Center; in July 1999, he left that facility to establish the Temple University Burn Center. He is board-certified by the American Board of Surgery, with expertise in critical care, trauma, burn, and general surgery.

Hughes’ wife, Michelle, an experienced burn nurse, will assist in both the outpatient and inpatient settings of the program. The Burn Center has been created with the intent to build a nationally verified program over the next few years.

NEW PROFESSORSHIP HONORS LONGTIME TRUSTEE RICHARD HEVNER

Jefferson has honored Richard Hevner, emeritus chair of its Board of Trustees, by establishing a professorship in his name.

During Hevner’s tenure as Board chair, Thomas Jefferson University and Thomas Jefferson University Health were reunited, creating One Jefferson. In addition, he led the organization through a period of immense growth—overseeing mergers with Abington, Aria, Philadelphia University, and Kennedy—and spearheaded its efforts to embrace technological solutions to the challenges of 21st-century medicine, education, and research.

The inaugural holder of this professorship is Isidore Rigoutsos, PhD, a thought leader in the field of computational genomics, who has led the Computational Medicine Center since joining Jefferson in 2010.
Rigoutsos holds appointments in the departments of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology; Cancer Biology; and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He has more than 20 patents on novel analytic techniques and algorithms used to automatically identify molecular structures.

The Richard W. Hevner Professorship in Computational Medicine was created through gifts from the Methodist Hospital Foundation, Dr. Stephen K. Klasko and Ms. Colleen Wyse, and other generous contributions from Jefferson’s executive team and management. The investiture ceremony will be held on April 6, 2018.

THE JANE AND LEONARD KORMAN RESPIRATORY INSTITUTE — JEFFERSON HEALTH AND NATIONAL JEWISH HEALTH GETS ITS FIRST CEO
D. Jesse Roman, MD, FACP, FACCP, has been named the first CEO of the Jefferson-National Jewish Health Korman Respiratory Institute.

Roman previously served as chair of the Department of Medicine and professor of medicine, pharmacology, and toxicology at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. His specialties are interstitial lung disease, pulmonary fibrosis, and sarcoidosis. He began his post February 1.

Jefferson Health and National Jewish Health, a renowned respiratory hospital based in Denver, Colorado, created the Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute in Philadelphia. The Institute is supported by the Jane and Leonard Korman Family Foundation, and defines best practices for treatment and research of pulmonary and related diseases, including COPD, asthma, interstitial lung disease, sarcoidosis, infectious respiratory diseases, and lung cancer (in coordination with the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center).

JEFFERSON DOC STUDIES NEW MIGRAINE MEDICATION
People who suffer from frequent migraines might soon find relief—thanks to the research being done at Jefferson. Two new drugs that have shown promise in easing the pain are currently in stage 3 of clinical trials; one of them is being studied at the Jefferson Headache Center at the Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

In a pair of large studies, two drugs that tweak brain circuits involved in migraine each showed they could reduce the frequency of attacks without causing side effects, according to Stephen D. Silberstein, MD, principal investigator of the HALO CM trial and professor of Neurology and director of the Jefferson Headache Center at the Farber Institute.

Silberstein’s study gave monthly or quarterly injections of an antibody called fremanezumab to more than 700 patients who have chronic migraines. Nearly half the people who got

Each year, SKMC students have the opportunity to participate in a microbiology and immunology art contest at the completion of the second-year course Immunity, Infection, and Disease (IID). The goal of this student-run initiative is to allow artistic expression of the course material to help students learn, understand, and remember it. Submissions in past years have included visual art, songs, videos, and cartoons.

“We all see things differently and learn differently,” says David Abraham, PhD, associate dean for Academic Affairs and professor of Microbiology and Immunology, who is the course director for IID. “Some learners are visual, some are auditory. The concept was someone who has visual strength would see the material differently from someone who has other learning strengths, express what they saw visually, and others would still learn from seeing that art, and remember.”

This year’s winning submissions were “The Creation of Adaptive Immunity” (above) by Leslie Mark and “Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Ribbon on H&E” (left) by Anthony Vu, SKMC Class of 2020.
the drug experienced fewer migraine attacks; in some people the attacks all but vanished. In the other study, conducted in London, a different antibody called erenumab produced similar results in patients who had up to 14 migraines a month.

“This therapeutic approach offers new hope for people whose migraines cannot be treated with existing medicine,” Silberstein says. “Our worldwide effort to evaluate this novel therapeutic approach has shown positive results and was safe in patients.”

**ANDREW E. APLIN, PHD, HONORED WITH NEWLY ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP**

One of Thomas Jefferson University’s premier cancer researchers, Andrew E. Aplin, PhD, has been named the first Kalbach-Newton Professor in Cancer Research.

Aplin is associate director for Basic Science and leader for the Cancer Cell Biology and Signaling Program at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center. He recently received a $1 million grant from the Dr. Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust to continue his studies on both skin and ocular melanoma. Nationally, Aplin is a member of the grant review panel for the Melanoma Research Alliance, and a member of the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) for the Melanoma Research Foundation.

This honor recognizes Aplin for the numerous discoveries he has made in the melanoma field, along with his significant leadership, education, and mentoring roles at Jefferson over the years.

The newly endowed professorship was made possible through generous donations from the estates of Raymond B. Kalbach and Caroline Newton, and will support Aplin’s research.

**DEAN TYKOCINSKI WINS PRESTIGIOUS STRITTMATTER AWARD**

SKMC Dean Mark Tykocinski, MD, has been named the recipient of the 2017 Strittmatter Award from the Philadelphia County Medical Society (PCMS). The Society’s most prestigious scientific award honors a PCMS physician who has demonstrated valuable contributions to the healing art—surgical or medical. The award has been given since 1923 and is named for Isidor Strittmatter, MD 1881. Previous winners include noted physicians John Gibbon, MD, who developed the first successful heart-lung machine; Joseph Pancoast, MD, a pioneer in plastic surgery; and Baruch Blumberg, MD, who won the Nobel Prize for the discovery of hepatitis B.

Tykocinski’s research contributions have been in the fields of molecular and cellular immunology, cell-surface engineering, and biologics innovation. He has pioneered new categories of fusion-protein pharmaceuticals, with applications to cancer and autoimmune diseases. He serves as scientific advisory board chair for KAHR-Medical, the Israeli biotech company he founded in 2007 for fusion-protein pharmaceuticals. Tykocinski’s scientific contributions also extend to the development of novel cell therapy strategies and the engineering of a novel class of mammalian gene expression vectors now distributed worldwide. He holds a series of research patents in the fields of molecular and cellular immunology, and is a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

**INNOVATING IN INNOVATION**

Last summer, Jefferson launched the Office of Strategic Business Development and Partnerships, which seeks to “spin in” new technologies, devices, and services throughout the institution. The Office aims to create a real-world laboratory for external partners, helping them develop, test, implement, and distribute impactful products; improve existing processes; and apply novel processes to healthcare within Jefferson’s 13-hospital system. The ultimate goal is to apply the technology to other sites and settings across the United States and beyond.

Its growing team includes Philip D. Green, interim executive vice president; Rajesh Aggarwal, MD, PhD, senior vice president and professor of Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health; Robin Sheldon, JD, MPIA, senior vice president for Strategic Business Implementation; Amy Kidane, MHSA, project manager; Scott Johnson, MBA, Business Development manager; and Jennifer Garcia, BA, executive associate.

The goal of forging partnerships is to think differently about and innovate in healthcare and higher education. Achieving the goal will improve patients’ care and experience, generate fresh sources of revenue and reduce costs, enhance Jefferson’s reputation as a leader in transforming lives, and drive new opportunities for philanthropy. To date, the Office has launched major initiatives with Lifeguard Health Networks (digital health, connected care), Livongo (chronic disease management), and InTouch Health (telemedicine).

For more information about the Office of Strategic Business Development and Partnerships, email rajesh.aggarwal@jefferson.edu or robin.sheldon@jefferson.edu.
Jefferson’s IRA rollover program offered me a simple way to give back to my alma mater. They condensed a complicated process into one step, helping me to save on my taxes and support a great community resource.

– Leonard Erdman, MD ’50

To learn about making a gift through your IRA and other planned giving opportunities, contact:
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Jefferson Doctor Moves from Board Room to Exam Room

Stephanie Moleski, MD ’05, Chose Medicine over Marketing
Medicine wasn't Stephanie Moleski's first career choice—but it was always her first love.

Moleski, a physician in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Jefferson, spent four years in advertising and marketing before deciding to follow her passion for healing.

Although she had a strong interest in medicine throughout her high school years, Moleski says she was wooed by the other fascinating subjects in college at Duke University. “Growing up, I wanted to be a doctor. But when I got to Duke, my eyes were opened to many other interesting areas of study,” Moleski explains. “I majored in history and picked up marketing as a minor.

After four years of working for a small fashion advertising firm in New York City, she decided "it was a fun way to spend my 20s, but it wasn’t the best use of my life; I wanted to help people, to feel personal connections."

That is when she decided to return to school to become a physician. After a year of prerequisite science courses at Temple University, she came to Jefferson Medical College (now Sidney Kimmel Medical College). She graduated in 2005 and stayed on for her residency and fellowship. “It was all Jefferson all the way. I never had a reason to leave—Jefferson is the best med school and hospital in the city,” she says enthusiastically.

Although she entered a medical career a little later than most, she doesn’t feel her time in advertising and marketing was detrimental to her goals—in fact, she believes it has helped her become a better doctor. “The marketing education gave me a lot of exposure to public speaking and presentations, which has been helpful in teaching and academic medicine ... and having different work experience has helped me to relate to patients better—I have had more exposure to people of different backgrounds.”

It also fed her interest in women’s issues and inspired her to steer her work in that direction. “At the fashion-advertising firm, I did a lot of retouching of photographs. I was conflicted by creating an image of women that could never actually be achieved,” she said. She felt that women’s issues in general—and particularly in medicine—were important. Much of her work centers on how GI disorders, including celiac disease, affect women. In 2012, she received the ACG/Radhika Srinivasan Gender-Based Research Award for a study that showed women with celiac disease are more likely than other women to have difficulty with conception and pregnancy, including a greater chance of preterm birth.

Moleski works with the Jefferson Celiac Center, Philadelphia's first adult center for the diagnosis and management of celiac disease, and is currently involved in a study on nonceliac gluten sensitivity (NCGS). Patients with NCGS do not have a diagnosis of celiac disease or wheat allergy, but experience symptoms of celiac disease when they ingest gluten—such as abdominal pain, bone or joint pain, rash, etc.—and get relief from a gluten-free diet.

Aside from treating patients and conducting research, Moleski is an assistant professor of Medicine and associate GI fellowship program director at Jefferson. In 2014, she received the Teaching Attending Award – Internal Medicine Teaching Award. She says she enjoys her dual roles of physician and teacher because they give her the opportunity to help people throughout the day—“patients with their health concerns, and students with their medical practice.”

Moleski said she couldn’t do it all without the support of her husband, Charlie, who she describes as “an amazing husband and dad” to their two young sons. She also credits her parents, in-laws, and a very close neighbor who help with the children when her schedule is too crazy.

When she looks back on her life so far, Moleski says she is grateful.

“Medicine is a fabulous career, it is such a privilege to have people open up to me. I’m an idealist and always want to help others. I am so lucky to be able to do that every day.”

—CINDY LEFLER

It was a fun way to spend my 20s, but it wasn’t the best use of my life; I wanted to help people, to feel personal connections.
CLASS NOTES

‘46
Harold Meyer writes, “I’ll be 96 years old January 21, 2018, and am still active, going to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra and theater in Philadelphia and New York. My first great-grandchild was born recently. Try to keep up with modern medicine—but need a teacher to explain the basic biology.”

‘57
Penn Shelley recently made a donation to the Jefferson Annual Fund, in recognition of two of his classmates who attended their 60th Reunion with him, Abraham Hostettler and Grafton Sieber. He notes, “We were all inspired by the exciting speeches about the present and future of Jefferson Medical College education by Dr. Tykocinski and Dr. Klasko and Elizabeth Dale, EdD. I was not able to attend the Saturday evening Reunion Dinner. It is unfortunate that there were not more of our classmates in attendance.”

‘58
Barry Altman has been an active participant in many visual art shows for over 20 years (since retirement from urology). He has won several awards in New Jersey and New York, including one best in show! He is married to Lois and has three children from a previous marriage.

‘59
Ramon “Ray” Molina retired after 50 years in family practice in Northeast Pennsylvania. He reports that other Jeffersonians in his area include Mark Pliskin ’62, Bill Kesselring ’79, and Peter Haynicz ’62. “Progress continues!”

‘60
Thomas Howard reports that he is enjoying retirement.

‘61
Allen Chandler writes, “Cora and I spend the winters in Florida (Kissimmee) and summers in Northern Virginia (Woodbridge). I had a four-level (L3 – S1) spinal fusion following laminectomies with five titanium screws and bone graft on June 20. Completed physical therapy and doing great.”

‘63
Donald Shearer reports, “Our family now includes five sons, 16 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.”

‘64
Charles Thompson retired at age 77 and has moved from California to Arizona.

‘66
Roger Raymond writes, “Retired from practice on 50th anniversary of my Jefferson graduation. But am still working one day per week in our fellow’s clinic. The young trainees are very capable and it is reassuring to know our patients are in great hands.”

‘68
Russell Perry writes, “Retired from medicine. Raising Black Angus in East Tennessee. Would love to see any classmates. Charlie Ligett, where are you?”

‘74
William J. Gibbons reports that he is still working full time in Meadowbrook, Pa., as internist, but he anticipates going part time in August.

John Lubicky is still in full-time practice as chief of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery at West Virginia University. He recently attended his 50th high school reunion at Archbishop Wood High School in Warminster, Pa.
‘76
Ira Brenner continues in his practice of psychiatry and psychoanalysis in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. In July 2017, he received the Elise M. Hayman Award from the International Psychoanalytical Association for his work related to the study of the Holocaust and genocide. It was presented at the Biennial IPSO Congress in Buenos Aires.

‘78
Carol A. Love is enjoying retirement and bought a small property in Crystal Springs, Florida, for all her husband’s tropical plants!

‘79
J.D. Cunningham is still practicing otorhinolaryngology and sleep medicine in Goldsboro, N.C. His daughter Erin Cunningham Toto ’08 is practicing GI medicine in Radnor, Pa., and his daughter Jessica is a second-year at the Jefferson College of Pharmacy.

‘84
Suresh Nair writes, “I am indebted to my Jefferson Medical College education and partial scholarship support with Penn State/ Jefferson Program from 33 years ago. I have been in two community academic urology practices in Pa. over the past 27 years and am currently physician-in-chief, Lehigh Valley Health Network Cancer Institute, Allentown, Pa. I started a heme/oncology fellowship at LCHN and have co-authored 60 papers, including NEJM and Lancet (lead oncology immunotherapy trials).”

‘88
Gerard DelGrippo continues to work as a family physician in Maryland. In addition to his clinical duties, he is the president of Frederick Primary Care Associates, a 50-plus provider group in Frederick, Md. In January 2015, he received a subspecialty certification from the American Board of Preventive Medicine in the newly created subspecialty of Clinical Informatics.

David Williams writes, “I retired after a 24-year career in the Air Force and am now chief of staff for the VA Nebraska – Western Iowa Health Care System.”

NEW BOOKS

Dreams of Troy
Richard P. Wenzel, MD ’65
Published November 2017

In Wenzel’s third book and second novel, an explosion at the main railway station in Barcelona rattles the city, the first strike in a complex and increasingly devastating terror plot. When scores of patients with no physical trauma require hospitalization, MI-5 agent Elizabeth Foster turns to trusted colleagues Jake Evans, a Stanford University epidemiologist, and Christopher Rose, an Oxford microbiologist and technology expert, to reveal the true nature of the threat: cyber terror. The team of experts chase clues and conspirators through Barcelona’s beaches and back alleys. But will they successfully dismantle the plot before it brings down Spain’s medical infrastructure, threatening visiting dignitaries, innocent civilians, and peace throughout the Mediterranean?

Living in Limbo: Creating Structure and Peace When Someone You Love Is Ill
By Claire Zilber, MD ’88, and Laura Michaels, MA, JD
Published August 2017

Written for the many people who feel trapped in a state of limbo while they shepherd a loved one through a period of illness, this book weaves together a personal story and a clinical perspective, combining individual experience with professional insight. The story centers on Michaels’ first-person account of the process of learning about and responding to her husband’s grim medical diagnosis, and wisdom learned along the way. Zilber’s accompanying psychiatric and philosophical commentary provides an intellectual framework for the adaptation strategies offered in the story, incorporating elements of cognitive-behavioral and mindfulness-based therapies.

Let us know about your new and recent books and novels by emailing a high-resolution cover image, publication information, and a brief description to alumni@jefferson.edu.
Aaron D. Bannett, 93, of Philadelphia, died March 22, 2017. Bannett was an expert in organ transplantation and vascular surgery who mastered vascular grafting before its pioneering surgeons Michael DeBakey, MD, and Denton Cooley, MD. In the mid-1960s, Bannett performed one of the first kidney transplants in the Philadelphia area at Albert Einstein Medical Center. He established the Organ Transplant Program at Einstein in 1966 and served as its director until 1989, as well as Einstein’s chairman of surgery from 1972 to 1979.

With Clyde Barker, MD, in 1974 Bannett co-founded the Delaware Valley Transplant Program, now called the Gift of Life Donor Program. A year later, Bannett created the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. In 1984, he established the Transplant Institute of Philadelphia at Einstein and did early work in the transplantation of ABO incompatible kidneys. Bannett also was chairman of surgery at Episcopal Hospital and a clinical professor of surgery at Temple University Hospital, and he taught at Jefferson Medical College until the age of 80. After retiring in 1989, Bannett taught surgery and developed transplantation workshops in Sumatra, Thailand, Japan, and Israel.

Bannett was predeceased by his first wife, BettyAnn, stepson Daniel, and a sister. He is survived by his wife, Joy; sons Michael and Jonathan; stepchildren Ben and Nancy; 10 grandchildren; and a sister.

Gabriel Tatarian, 91, of Moorestown, N.J., died November 17, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; children Christine and Gabriel; and grandchildren Gregory, Alexander, Madeleine, and Matthew.

Edgar T. Gibson, 102, of Maine, died July 16, 2017. A graduate of Villanova and Jefferson Medical College, Gibson went on to the Cleveland Clinic for his surgical residency program before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1943. He served in the closest MASH unit to Berlin when Germany surrendered; upon returning from Germany a year later, he began his medical practice in southern New Jersey serving Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital and multiple divisions of West Jersey Hospital in Camden, N.J. He served as chief of surgery at West Jersey and as president of the Camden County Medical Society.

Gibson was a past commodore of the Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club, a board member of the Boothbay Region YMCA, and a member of the trustees advisory board of Bigelow Laboratories for Ocean Sciences. During his retirement, he served on the crew of two sailing trips across the Atlantic without navigational equipment. He joined several friends in the Camden, Maine, toboggan race when he was 96 years old.

Gibson was predeceased by his wife, Helen; three brothers; and two sisters. He is survived by his sister, Alice; daughters Ann, Barbara, Helen, and Jeanne; grandsons Dan and Alex; great-grandson Zachary; and many nieces and nephews.

Talbot “Tod” Fort Parker, Jr., 90, of Goldsboro, N.C., died December 30, 2017. He served as a Hospital Apprentice 2nd Class in the U.S. Navy during the tail end of World War II. After graduating from Jefferson, Parker interned at Jefferson-Hillman Hospital with the University of Alabama in Birmingham, then completed an OB-GYN residency in 1952 at Watts Hospital in Durham. The next year, he reenlisted in the Navy as a lieutenant and was transferred to Subic Bay Naval Base, Olongopo, Philippines, and was its chief of obstetrics until he was honorably discharged in 1955.

Parker continued his obstetrics training at NC Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, before opening his private practice in Goldsboro, which eventually became Wayne Women’s Clinic. He retired from private practice at age 65, but continued to work part time until 2009. He was a member of many professional organizations, including the Robert A. Ross Society.

Parker was preceded in death by his first wife, Willie Elizabeth Drummond; and sisters Jane and Matilda. He is survived by his second wife, Elizabeth May Shannon; children Robert, Nancy, Richard, and Charles; stepchildren Richard and Sunny; grandchildren Harrison, Jordan, Molly, Amy, Thomas, and Virginia; and step-grandchildren Lindsay, Richard, Morgan, and Timothy.

Daudery was preceded in death by his first wife, Gloria, and son, Joseph Armao, III. He is survived by his children Cherie, Frank, Gene, Diana, and Christopher; stepchildren Frank and Susan; 12 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Joseph J. Armao, Jr., 94, of Springfield, Pa., died April 24, 2017. He lived and practiced family medicine out of his home office for many years. Armao was preceded in death by his wife, Gloria, and son, Joseph Armao, III. He is survived by his children Cherie, Frank, Gene, Diana, and Christopher; stepchildren Frank and Susan; 12 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Charles V.R. Dauerty, 93, of Jonesborough, Tenn., died December 8, 2017. After a semester at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., he served in the Army Medical Corps from 1943 to 1946, participating in the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of Central Europe.

After World War II, he returned to Lafayette College for his BA degree. After graduating from Jefferson Medical College, he completed a rotating internship at St. Joseph’s College in Syracuse, N.Y., in 1955, then opened his own office for the general practice of medicine. Dauerty completed a two-year anesthesiology residency at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse in 1964, where he was appointed assistant professor of Anesthesiology. He was also on the staff at Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital and the VA Hospital.

In 1975, Dauerty went into private practice at the A.L. Lee Memorial Hospital in Fulton, NY, until his retirement in 1987.

Dauerty was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Dr. Henriette Walker, and his sister, Joy. He is survived by his wife, Joan Goss; his stepchildren Christine and Cheryl; step-grandchildren lan, Emilia, Salvatore, and Enzo; his brother, James; and his nephews Jimmy, David, and John.

Frank Dorman, 87, of Elizabeth, Pa., died February 28, 2016. He graduated in Jefferson’s class of 1953 and interned at Lancaster General Hospital. During his residency in the OB-GYN department of Geisinger Memorial Hospital in Danville, Pa., he was drafted into the United States Air Force, where he served as a flight surgeon in the Strategic Air Command and remained in the Reserves until 1972. Dorman established his family practice in Elizabeth, Pa., and was on the staff at McKeesport Hospital until he retired from private practice 36 years later. He then worked for the Social Security Administration in Greensburg, Pa. Dorman is an alumnus of Juniata College (Class of 1949) and McKeesport High School (Class of 1946).
Dorman was board-certified in family practice and was an avid gardener in his spare time.

Dorman is survived by his wife of 63 years, Virginia (Wesley), a graduate of Jefferson Nursing School ’51; his children Kathryn and Frank, Jr.; and grandchildren Krista and Frank, III.

Manuel “Mike” Fernandez, 84, of Gainesville, Fla., died December 24, 2013. Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Fernandez came to the U.S. mainland at the age of 14 alone and entered Amherst University. He graduated from Jefferson Medical School at the age of 21. He did his internship and residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, and upon completion of his residency, he went into the U.S. Army, where he served in the Army Medical Corp. and attained the rank of captain. He was on active duty from 1955 to 1957, then in the reserves from 1957 to 1964, released with an honorable discharge. Fernandez practiced OB-GYN for 35 years in Miami and Dunnellon, where he delivered approximately 34,000 babies. After retiring from his medical practice, he was a real estate broker associate at Dunnellon Real Estate for 20 years.

Fernandez is survived by his wife, Linda Dugan; children Richard, Cynthia, and Michael; stepchildren Keith and Jimmy; and grandchildren Christopher, Kelly, Kathryn, Ryan, Sean, James, Krystalyn, Brandie, and Kalie.

Malvin “Mal” J. Dougherty, 89, of Winchester, Mass., died October 17, 2017. Dougherty served as an Air Force captain and flight surgeon in Greenland, and then completed his residency in ophthalmology at Wills Eye Hospital before his career in private practice and surgery at Wills Eye and Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital.

Dougherty was predeceased by his parents Thomas and Janice; brother, Thomas, and son, Thomas. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; daughter, Patricia; and grandchildren William, John, and Scott.

John J. Hoch, 93, of Nazareth, Pa., died November 7, 2017. He saw the world with the U.S. Navy in World War II, where he took part in the Normandy Invasion on an LCT (landing craft, tank). He was on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Hoch practiced medicine in Nazareth for 35 years and retired in 1991.

He was a member and past president of the Northampton County Medical Society and served on the board of directors and as president and then trustee of the Nazareth YMCA. He was a church council member and Sunday school teacher at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Nazareth. He also volunteered at the Nazareth Area Food Bank.
MAY 19, 2018

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Join Philadelphia Eagles players, alumni, coaches, executives, cheerleaders, and SWOOP for the Eagles Autism Challenge, a one-day bike ride and family-friendly 5K run/walk. 100% of participant-raised funds will go directly to autism research and programs at our beneficiary institutions.

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Hoch is survived by his wife, Louisa; children Eric, Tamar, and Krista; grandchildren Stephen, Aaron, Lindsay, Jennifer, Elijah, and Jonah; and great-granddaughter, Danica.

Kenneth "Ken" Beers. 87, of Dayton, Ohio, died September 20, 2017. Beers served in the United States Air Force from 1958 to 1978, achieving the rank of colonel in 1971. In the Vietnam War, he served in Wolf Pack, the famed 8th Fighter Wing, and he received the Legion of Merit, the USAF's second-highest award of achievement for his work with NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center. At NASA, Beers served as flight surgeon to the Gemini/Titan Program, team leader of the Gemini Recovery Medical Team, and Apollo Mission surgeon, Mission Control for Apollo 8, 9, 10, and 11.

After retiring from the USAF, Beers joined the faculty at Wright State University School of Medicine, where he instructed in Community Health and Family Practice and was associate director and training coordinator of the Aerospace Medicine Residency Program. Beers was an avid moviogehr, a music lover, and a self-taught musician who played in various high school and college bands, including one that performed at the inauguration ceremony of President Harry S. Truman.

Beers is survived by his wife, Cecil Mae; children Kenneth, Jr., Richard, Jeffrey, and Heather; stepchildren Sharon, Charlotte, David, and Denis, as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

Thomas G. Doneker. 87, of Germantown, Pa., died in November 2017. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1956 to 1967, and completed his internship and residency at the Naval Hospital of Philadelphia. After a cardiac anesthesia fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Doneker became chief of Anesthesia and director of the anesthesia residency program at St. Albans Naval Hospital.

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, he was deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In 1967, Doneker entered civilian life as an anesthesiologist at Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, Pa. He later joined the staff at St. Luke’s Hospital, Bethlehem, Pa. He joined the Navy Reserve in 1981 and served in various capacities. In January 1991, he was recalled to active duty during Desert Storm, stationed at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Doneker retired from the Navy as a captain in September 1992. He was an active member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Pennsylvania Medical Society, and many other professional and local organizations.

Doneker was predeceased by his parents, George and Lottie, and sisters, Irene and Miriam. He is survived by his wife, Beverly; children Thomas, Kimberly, Robert, and Sarah; grandchildren Juliana, Kai, Eric, John, Anthony, Dominic, and Tonya; and nieces and nephews.

Robert J. Maro, Sr. 87, of Cherry Hill, N.J., died December 22, 2017. He practiced family medicine for more than 50 years in Cherry Hill and was active in the American Academy of Family Medicine, serving as president of the association in 1991. He loved being a physician and was named “Family Physician of the Year” in 2002; he also was placed on the “Wall of Fame” in Cherry Hill for his contributions. Maro was known by his patients as “Dr. Christmas” for his extravagant Christmas decorations and for playing Santa Claus for more than 60 years in Barclay Farms. He and his wife, Doris, were Philadelphia Eagles fans and season ticket holders for more than 45 years.

Maro was predeceased by his daughter Kathleen. He is survived by his wife; children Robert J., Jr., Pat, Mike, and Joe; 14 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; his brother Joseph; and many nieces and nephews.

Gaylord Wayne Bennett. 85, of Spokane, Wash., died August 25, 2016. In the words of a Peoria, Ill., colleague, “Gaylord was one of my favorite people. Lawyers really get to see who are the best doctors, and he was an amazing neurologist! I recall a case where it took him all but 10 seconds to diagnose the location of an aneurysm in a patient with a difficult presentation. I always felt privileged to know him and also felt our medical community suffered a loss when he left, albeit to do the great and unselfish work he did after.”

Departing Peoria and his pediatric neurology practice, Bennett continued general practice in Belcourt, N.D., serving Indian Health Services. With retirement, Bennett and his wife moved to Boring, Ore., and then finally to Spokane.

His conscience and humility guided Bennett to be a superior physician, friend, and father. Within weeks of his death, Bennett lamented losing an infant patient to meningitis early in his pediatric residency, with his self-critique, “I acted too slowly.” The baby girl inspired him to be his very best.

Bennett was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley. He is survived by his children William, Kathy, Bruce (JMC ’97), and Wayne; 11 grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Samuel James Mackall. 84, of Ft. Myers, Fla., died November 19, 2017. He attended Culver Military Academy and graduated from Beaver High School, Allegheny College, and Temple University School of Medicine. He did his internship and neurosurgical residency at Jefferson Medical College. Board-certified in 1963, Mackall was the first neurosurgeon to practice in the Wyoming Valley of northeastern Pennsylvania. He was a member of the American Medical Association, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, the Philadelphia Neurosurgical Society, the Mid-Atlantic Neurosurgical Society, and the Pennsylvania and Luzerne County Medical Societies. He retired in 1994.

Peter J. Mancino. 85, of New Castle, Pa., died December 17, 2017. He graduated from Westminster College in 1954, and after graduating from Jefferson Medical College, he did his internship at St. Vincent Hospital in Erie, Pa., and received a fellowship in internal medicine at the Cleveland Clinic. Mancino retired from private practice in 2002. During his career, he served on many committees at Jameson Hospital. He also was affiliated with the former St. Francis Hospital of New Castle, where he served as president of the medical-dental staff. He was also a past president of the Lawrence County Medical Society and was certified in 1973 by the International Graphoanalysis Society. He served many times as an expert witness for the Lawrence County Courts and was on the teaching staff at the Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts.

Mancino is survived by his wife, Elizabeth "Betsie" Moyer; his children Beth Ann, Denise, Lynn, Charles, and Jonathan; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Gilmore M. Rothrock. 85, of York, Pa., died November 17, 2017. Rothrock began his surgical practice with Dr. W. Stick and then formed a private surgical practice at Brockie with Dr. Thomas Bauer, and subsequently retired in 1999 from Apple Hill Surgical Group.

From youth, he was a standout tennis star, earning him scholarships as well as numerous titles. In his career, he won 14 York city/county tennis titles, and he continued to enjoy the game until the age of 77. Also active in the American Medical Tennis Association, he enjoyed the camaraderie of doctors around the world and won the title of the tournament held in Monaco.

He was inducted into the York Area Sports Hall of Fame in 2007 and into the Athletics Hall of Fame at Hill School in 2015. He will be inducted into the Middle States Hall of Fame in the coming year.

Rothrock is survived by his wife, Sally.

William J. Warren. 84, of St. Pete Beach, Fla., died September 27, 2017. He was board-certified in anatomic and clinical pathology. After residency, he volunteered in the military and served two years at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital. From 1976 to 1997, he served...
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as department chair at Nazareth Hospital in Philadelphia as well as medical director of its School of Medical Technology. During that time, he also was an inspector for the College of American Pathology Laboratory Accreditation Program for several years. He retired in 1997. Prior to his move to Florida, he owned and lived on a farm in Bucks County, Pa., where he raised registered Black Angus cattle for 34 years.

Warren is survived by his wife, Donna, children David and Susan, and three grandchildren.

Norman Charles Jablon, 82 of Philadelphia, died December 4, 2017. Jablon grew up in West Philadelphia and graduated from West Philadelphia High School, Ursinus College, and Jefferson Medical College. He subsequently served in the U.S. Air Force as a medical flight surgeon, practiced psychiatry for more than 40 years, and founded the Tel-E-Help crisis hotline. Jablon loved tennis, was captain of his octogenarian tennis team in Delray Beach, Fla., enjoyed bridge, and dabbled in sculpture. He shared interests in art and travel with his wife of 60 years and shared the joy of raising their family. He was known by family and friends for his kindness, wisdom, sense of humor, and unconditional love.

Richard Thomas Padula, 81, of Overland Park, Kan., died February 8, 2017. He was very proud to have done his surgical training at Jefferson Medical College with John H. Gibbon, Jr., MD, inventor of the heart-lung machine, and he credited the many talented surgeons there with helping him develop his outstanding surgical skills. During his surgical residency lab year, Padula devised a way of filming moving heart valves in a live dog, and he was invited to show his movies and speak at the American Association of Thoracic Surgery in 1965, while a third-year resident.

Upon finishing his training, Padula joined the staff at Jefferson, where he practiced surgery, did research, and taught; in 1969, his students named him Outstanding Faculty Member. In 1971, Padula and his family moved to Galveston, Texas, where he was named chief of Thoracic Surgery and continued his research and teaching, and had a clinical practice. After Research Medical Center (RMC) recruited him to develop a new heart surgery program, he began practicing in Kansas City in 1976. He also designed and developed the Vascular Lab at RMC. In 2001, five years after his retirement, RMC gave him the Distinguished Service Award.

Padula was predeceased by his parents and brother, Bill. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Marta; children Marta Jardon, Rich, Tom, Ben, Rob, and Bill; 12 grandchildren; a great-grandson; and other family.

Joseph W. Sokolowski, Jr., 81, of Medford Lakes, N.J., died December 31, 2017. Prior to graduation from Jefferson Medical College, Sokolowski began his career in the U.S. Navy and served on active duty until 1971 and in the Reserves until 1985, including a stint as senior medical officer on the U.S.S. Fulton, which tended the first nuclear attack submarines. He began his pulmonary medical practice in 1971. Throughout his career in private practice, he was on the medical staff of Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center, serving as director of Respiratory Care and as division chief of Pulmonary Diseases. He also served on the Board of Directors of the American Thoracic Society.

At Thomas Jefferson University, Sokolowski served as clinical professor of Medicine, as well as on the Executive Committee and as a Class Agent for the Class of 1962.

In retirement, he continued to serve medicine through the Knights of Malta, participating in mission trips to Haiti and Lourdes, France, and as an EMT for the Medford Lake Emergency Squad.

Sokolowski was preceded in death by his son Michael. He is survived by his wife, Maureen; children Sheila, Clare, Joseph, Robert, Daniel, Kathleen, Matthew, and Maureen; and 19 grandchildren.

Bruce Warren Weissman, 77, of Aventura, Fla., died September 23, 2017. After his internship and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, he spent his life caring for patients as an ENT and facial plastic surgeon in Miami Beach, Aventura, and Hallandale. Weissman served as president of the Miami-Dade County Medical Association and a major in the United States Air Force. He was an active member of Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center and a respected member of the community. His passions included wood-working, travel, tennis, dancing, and spending time with his family.

Weissman was predeceased by his parents, Meyer and Estelle. He is survived by his wife, Annette; brother, Arthur; children Richard, Pete, and Jason; grandchildren Michelle, Ryan, Hannah, Brandon, and Aubrey.

Robert Fisher, 89, of Baltimore, Md., died December 31, 2017. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 and participated in its aviation electronics program. After 10 years as an electrical engineer with his BA from LaSalle College, he took his medical training at Jefferson Medical College. He began his medical career at Taylor Manor Hospital in Ellicott City and Spring Grove Hospital in Catonsville, Md., before going into private practice. He was board-certified in both psychiatry and internal medicine.

Fisher was preceded in death by his parents, Mary and Ralph Fisher; wife, Laura; and brother David. He is survived by his brother Jack; children Art, Madeleine, and Jeffrey, and grandchildren Lucas, Logan, Rachel, Michelle, and Allison.

Daniel Joseph Mizak, 77, of Trumbull, Conn., died December 3, 2017. He earned his premedical degree at the University of Bridgeport. He took a year of special work in the Department of Immunology at the University of Buffalo before graduating from Jefferson, where he was a member of the Sims Obstetric and Gynecologic Society. In Philadelphia, he served his internship at Methodist Hospital and two residencies in internal medicine and cardiology at Jefferson Medical College Hospital. He also served a residency in family medicine at Bridgeport Hospital.

From 1970 to 1972, Mizak served in the U.S. Army at Fort Monmouth, N.J., then opened his family practice office in Huntington Center in Connecticut in 1973, where he cared for area families until his retirement in 2012. An avid sportsman, he was an active rifle, pistol, and shotgun shooter. While in the Army, he was a member of the Fort Monmouth Marksmanship Unit. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and snowmobiling in New Hampshire.

Mizak was predeceased by his wife, Heide, and brother-in-law, Vincent. He is survived by his children Andrea, Michelle, Linda, and Heide Rose; grandchildren Jacqueline, Sydney, and Aubrey; sister, Monica; and several other relatives.
Jefferson is mourning the loss of members of its Sidney Kimmel Medical College family. Mitchell M. Weiss, MD ’94, and Leslie Levin Weiss, MD ’93, along with their two children, Hannah, 19, and Ari, 16, died on New Year’s Eve when their single-engine plane crashed into a hill while traveling to San José, Costa Rica.

Formerly of Montgomery County, the Weiss family relocated to Florida in 2005. Both Mitchell and Leslie were affiliated with Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater, Florida—Leslie as a neonatal pediatrician, and Mitchell as head of interventional radiology.

Kris Hoce, president of Morton Plant Hospital, said in a statement that Mitchell’s and Leslie’s “lives and medical skills have touched so many in and around our community, and we are forever grateful to them.”

A statement issued by the Radiology Associates of Clearwater described Mitchell as a “skilled interventional radiologist who will be sorely missed by his partners, his medical team, and the patients whose lives he touched.”

Douglas Koppang, director of operations at the health solutions group, MEDNAX, said in a statement: “No words will ever express how much we will miss Leslie’s compassion and talent she displayed as she served others. Her loss has left the company grief-stricken.”

The Weisses were described by friends and colleagues as a caring family, passionate about their community, and devoted to their Jewish faith.

“The family was a group of caring, talented, and smart people who all looked out for each other and cared so deeply about each other,” Jillian Axelrod, a friend of Hannah’s, told PEOPLE magazine. “They were very involved in all of their communities, and especially the Jewish community.”

Hannah and Ari were both active in the southeastern chapter of United Synagogue Youth, a Conservative Jewish organization. Ari was serving as the southeastern chapter president. Hannah participated in social justice projects and helped to raise more than $100,000 for those in need.

A student at List College, the undergraduate school of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, Hannah was in a program that allows students to pursue two bachelor’s degrees simultaneously in coordination with Columbia University. She was involved in environmental sustainability studies, and Jewish thought and ethics.

“This is a great loss to the medical community, and to the Jefferson community,” says Dean Mark Tykocinski. “Our hearts go out to their loved ones.”

The plane crash also took the lives of five members of the Steinberg family of New York, two crew members, and a tour guide.

To make a donation to Jefferson in memory of the Weiss family, please visit Jefferson.edu/WeissScholarship.
WHO ARE WE?

30,000+ employees

Our Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center is NCI-Designated.

one thousand three hundred RESIDENTS & FELLOWS

Our Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center is NCI-Designated.

BY THE NUMBERS

4.3 million patient interactions

8,300 Students* | 63,500 Alumni

49

Jefferson Center for Urban Health EST. 1998

Jefferson Center for Refugee Health EST. 2007

Clinical partners with Project Home/Stephen Klein Wellness Center and more

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Dedicating more than $264 million in charitable care and community benefit

Contributing more than $6.5 billion to the region’s economy; supporting an additional 28,000 jobs in the region

Jefferson Center for Urban Health EST. 1998

Clinical partners with Project Home/Stephen Klein Wellness Center and more

Jefferson Center for Refugee Health EST. 2007

Over $122 million in public/private research funding

* indicates full and part time

All data is FY17

Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University | 49
As part of our commitment to lifelong learning, the Office of Alumni Relations is excited to offer Jefferson alumni an opportunity to see and experience the world through group travel programs. A varied itinerary of travel destinations has been selected for 2018 that combines educational forums and excursions to places of historical and cultural interest, with the opportunity to enjoy unplanned experiences and unique adventures.

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