

## Investiture of Dr. Trina Thompson as the first Victor Heiser, MD Professor of Population Health

*Excerpt from Executive Vice President  
and Chief Development Officer, Elizabeth  
Dale's speech.*

We are truly honored to welcome a great American, a narrator, and historian Mr. David McCullough. Mr. McCullough has been called America's greatest storyteller, which is really just a way of saying he's a national treasure. I'm a huge fan! My favorite quote – a timeless bit of McCullough wisdom – "history is a guide to navigation in perilous times."



*Mr. David McCullough*

*The Johnstown Flood*, which was Mr. McCullough's first book, is among my favorites. What's fascinating is, the disaster of the Johnstown Flood of 1889 that was recounted in his great book is now bound, in perpetuity to Jefferson.

Perhaps the most famous survivor of the flood was Dr. Victor Heiser, Jefferson class



*Left to right. Stephen Klasko, MD, MBA; David Nash, MD, MBA, Mark Tykosinski, MD, Trina Thompson, DrMPH, BSN; Susan Mann; and Elizabeth Dale*

of 1897. Dr. Heiser went on to circle the earth 17 times between 1903 and 1934 on public-health missions to combat malaria in the Philippines, hookworm in India, and disease in Egypt and China.

Dr. Heiser's name is now associated with Dr. Trina Thompson who is now invested as the first Heiser Professor, a professorship endowed by the 1889 Foundation. Congratulations to Dr. Thompson and

behalf of Jefferson, I extend our deepest appreciation to the 1889 Foundation for their gift of \$7.5M to improve lives in Johnstown.

That gift, like every gift to Jefferson, was born out of a bold vision to improve lives. That vision owes a great deal to Dr. David Nash who founded the first College of Population Health here at Jefferson 10 years ago.