

TEMPLE TIMES

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Temple's monthly newspaper for the university community

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Elizabeth Manning

TU talent on display in Capitol during Cherry and White Week

By Andrew McGinley
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Members of the Temple community traveled to the State Capitol in Harrisburg last week to showcase the many sides of Temple to Pennsylvania's elected officials as part of Cherry and White Week. The events were organized as part of this year's Stand with Temple campaign, and were designed to give elected leaders a better opportunity to get to know Temple.

On Monday, the university hosted Undergraduate Research Day in the East Rotunda of the Capitol. Eleven students selected by the Provost's Office presented research findings developed through their participation in the Creative Arts, Research and Scholarship program; the Diamond Research Scholars program; the McNair Scholars program; or the Summer Research Opportunities program. Each student met with members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and legislative staff and discussed the work they've done as Temple undergraduates.

During Student Advocacy Day on Tuesday, groups of students led by Temple Student Government went door to door in the Capitol to share their Temple story. The students stressed the affordability of a Temple education, the experiences they've had in Temple classrooms and their hopes for life after graduation. More than 70 students visited the office of each member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and State Senate.

The Capitol was filled with art, music, dance and athletics on Wednesday during Arts and Athletics Day. Tyler students showed their works in the Main Rotunda, while dance majors from the Boyer College of Music and Dance performed and Temple's co-ed

Talent continued on 3



Political science major Terez A. Varkonyi, right, discusses her research with Rep. Thomas P. Murt (Montgomery Co.) during Undergraduate Research Day in the State Capitol building in Harrisburg.

Joseph V. Labolito

Coming into Focus

By Vaughn A. Shinkus
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Temple University's 20/20 framework for campus development is coming swiftly into focus, with several major projects reaching milestones this semester.

Signs of progress are evident throughout Main Campus.

At the northern end, architecture students and faculty have been working in their bright new building on 13th Street since January. The move doubled the department's space from the home they had shared within the College of Engineering since the 1970s and gave both academic areas room to grow.

Further south, on Broad Street, the transformation of Pearson and McGonigle halls into a modern recreation center is nearly complete. The buildings' gleaming glass facade is a highly visible symbol of the university's plans to feed the energy of the city's northern thoroughfare.

To the east, a dirt lot has been cleared and leveled to make way for a modern parking garage. When complete in spring 2013, the structure will alleviate street parking in the neighborhoods surrounding campus and create retail opportunities along with increased pedestrian traffic in the area.

And at the southern end of Main Campus, the first floors of the university's new student residence hall complex have blossomed with the early spring. The mixed-use facility will offer students a first-rate living environment and create numerous avenues for social interaction and engagement.

Progress continued on 2

Above: Construction is well underway on new student residences on Broad Street at Cecil B. Moore Avenue, projected to open in summer 2013.



Students and faculty are already enjoying the new Architecture Building, on 13th Street at the northern end of campus.

Provost forwards proposals for academic restructuring

By Hillel J. Hoffmann
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The Office of the Provost's ongoing exploration of potential restructuring throughout Temple's academic enterprise has reached the next phase. After months of discussions with faculty following the distribution of a 25-page "white paper," Temple Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Richard M. Englert has released several specific proposals.

Among the recommendations submitted for consideration are the creation of a new Center for Fine and Performing Arts (consisting of two intact current schools, the Tyler School of Art and the Boyer College of Music and Dance, as well as the departments of Theater and Film and Media Arts); a more focused School of Communications (made up of the academic programs in the current School of Communications and Theater, except for the departments of Theater and Film and Media

Arts); and a School of Education (a restructured College of Education with three current departments streamlined into one). Englert also noted new guidelines on faculty workload that had been forwarded for comment from President Ann Weaver Hart as well as the approval of a move to online Student Feedback Forms.

"In light of declining state support and Temple's changing competitive environment, our mission is clear: We must do all we can to keep tuition

low, continue to focus on academic excellence and improve the Temple experience for all students," Englert said. "Our ongoing discussions with the Temple community have yielded a series of proposals and actions that have the potential to be more effective in achieving our academic goals while continuing to be more efficient in our administrative operations and structures."

Englert called the proposed Center

Provost continued on 2

Work is nearly complete on the \$58 million renovation and addition to Pearson and McGonigle halls.



Elizabeth Manning

Progress

From page 1

Other initiatives are drawing closer to a public debut. Construction will begin later this spring on a new seven-story Science Education and Research Center in the interior of Main Campus. And programming and design work will start soon for a modern library that will stand next to Pearson-McGonigle on Broad Street, taking its place as the center of academic life.

A similar planning initiative is underway at the Health Sciences Center, and university officials have been meeting with representatives of organizations throughout North Central Philadelphia to ensure efforts are integrated to best meet the needs of the community.

The plan represents an investment in Temple's future at a time when the university can take advantage of lower costs for construction services and materials. The projects are being funded through a combination of bond proceeds, private donations, state capital funding and university reserves.

"Temple 20/20 is really about ensuring that Temple optimally supports our students and faculty in their efforts to learn, discover and make a difference in the world," said James P. Creedon, Temple's senior vice president for construction, facilities and operations. "By improving the overall environment, we are creating a place in which people can learn from and about each other as part of the greater university community."

Below is additional detail on selected construction projects:

Architecture Building

Opened in January, this striking new \$12 million building supports the unique needs of architecture students and faculty by enabling collaboration and interaction in professional-quality space. An innovative glass curtain wall exterior "skin" allows daylight into interior studios and classrooms and provides dynamic views of the surrounding area. The open floor plan enables ample space for group work, especially important in a learning environment customized for design students.

Pearson-McGonigle Renovation

Work is nearing completion on the major addition and renovation of the university's dated recreational facilities to create one modern center. The facility includes new and renovated training and support spaces for recreation services and NCAA sports, practice and training facilities for men's and women's basketball, five full basketball courts for



Construction will begin this spring on the new Science and Education Research Center, to open in 2014.

students, rock climbing, a juice bar and new academic and advising space. The renovation has created a more vibrant and engaging presence for Temple student life by replacing the buildings' concrete facades with expansive areas of glass that allow views of Broad Street. The \$58 million renovation represents a commitment to the quality of experience for students, athletes, coaches and staff members by providing space for training, competing, learning or socializing.

New Student Residences

Construction work is well underway on the new residence life complex at Broad Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue. Projected to open in summer 2013, the facility will include student residences; shared lobby areas; all-glass, two-story lounges with views of Center City; dining facilities; meeting rooms and event spaces; a major open landscape area; a restaurant; and a coffee shop. The project will create a dynamic entryway to campus from the south, strengthening Temple's presence on Broad Street while allowing more residential students to live on campus — with incredible views of the city skyline. The \$216 million facility will be 660,000 square-feet, with 1,275 beds in a 26-story tower, plus a seven-story mid-rise.

Science Education and Research Center

Construction will begin later this spring on a new seven-story facility that will serve as a visible representation of Temple's commitment to science education and research. When opened in 2014, the building will support specialized research and instruction with technology-enhanced lecture halls, flexible classrooms and research labs that are designed to enable collaboration and hands-on exploration in science and technology. Located in close proximity to other research facilities in the Bio-life building and the College of Engineering, it will provide opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, further strengthening Temple's research capability. u

Faces of Temple

A series profiling students and the opportunities available to them at Temple, *Faces of Temple* features students sharing meaningful experiences that have shaped their perspective and career aspirations. The short video clips are published every second Monday on the Temple news center, news.temple.edu, and promoted in the daily *Temple Today* e-newsletter. Recent profiles:

Gustavo Garcia

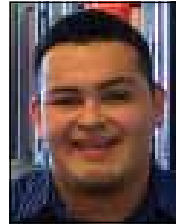
Year: Senior
School: Tyler School of Art
Major: Print-making
Home town: New Oxford, Pa. (Adams Co.)

Why I chose Temple: "When

I was a junior in high school, a Tyler representative came to my school. I liked the way he presented Tyler. He described the programs and the new building — at that point, all he could show was blueprints. A year went by and the Tyler rep came back. By then I knew I wanted to go there. I wanted to be an art teacher, but at that time I also had my mind set on being a painter. The Tyler program permitted me to be an artist and get certified to teach.

"After my portfolio review, I went to an open house at Main Campus. I thought, 'Wow, it's so huge.' It was my first experience in an urban setting (I was born in Mexico in a super-rural setting). It was crowded, but I was excited. Because we're here in the city, Tyler opens up accessibility to art galleries, connections to artists and great networking opportunities. We have courses that focus on the career aspect of being an artist, and we can visit artists' studios in the city and ask questions."

Transformative experience: "I decided that I wanted to study abroad for my



GARCIA

sophomore year at Temple University Rome. When I was looking at the courses that were offered there, I saw 'Digital Imaging.' I had started taking pictures with a point-and-shoot camera in high school, but it kind of died out. The more I learned in that course, the more I started to look at things differently. I started to think about how to frame images and how to tell a story. I took over 3,000 photos in Rome. Photography has opened up my eyes. I learned how to use the camera in a way that it became an extension of my hand. It has influenced my printmaking and helped me generate ideas. I use it as a research tool — a visual journal — and put those experiences in my prints. I always have a camera with me in my book bag.

"After I got back, I was approached about teaching a course at Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12, an agency in my hometown that supports migrant education and provides services for school districts. They asked me if I would teach a class for adults that blended English education with photography. A lot of them were migrant families. We've been developing a book that captures their stories through photography. It's a way of giving them a voice. Instead of speaking through language, they're speaking through images."

Akhila Vasthare

Year: Fourth year
School: School of Medicine
Home town: Marlton, N.J.

Why I chose Temple: "I was

looking for a school where I would not only receive a really great medical education, but where the university interacted with its surrounding community and really



VASTHARE

worked not only to improve health, but to improve social services and have a close-knit community. I really found that when I came to interview at Temple."

Transformative experience: "Medical school is such a dynamic four years. Your first year is overwhelming. Then it gets exciting. Serving in a hospital, you picture yourself as a physician in the future. I had decided I wanted to be a pediatrician. But by my third year, part of me was wondering what exactly we're doing in the hospital. People have a lot of chronic problems. It's like we were putting a Band-Aid on a wound and sending them back out into the community. I realized that if I was going to go on with medicine in my life, I needed to have a foot in the community and have an impact on people's lives outside the hospital. I wanted to create a project to understand more about the lives of middle-school kids in immigrant families and who they are. I applied for an Albert Schweitzer Fellowship and got a grant to work at Southwark, a K-8 school in South Philadelphia, a school whose makeup is extremely diverse — nearly 75 percent of students identify as Asian or Hispanic. Every Wednesday, I lead an after-school yoga class to help reduce anxiety and stress and promote physical wellness. After that, we work together to prepare a healthy snack. It's time consuming and challenging, but I love it. I've learned from the kids at Southwark that it's important to be invested in your community. That's why I'm here. That's what I hope to continue to do for the rest of my career." u

Success Stories Wanted

To nominate a student for *Faces*, please contact Hillel J. Hoffmann, assistant director, University Communications, at hjh@temple.edu.

Provost

From page 1

for Fine and Performing Arts "an outstanding opportunity to showcase and better support the arts at Temple." The proposed center would preserve the names and academic programs of Temple's highly regarded Tyler School and Boyer College while opening up new opportunities for interdisciplinary coordination and reinforcing Temple's growing reputation as one of the nation's top centers for education in the arts. The proposal calls for the center to be headed by a dean, to whom directors of Tyler and Boyer would report. The consolidation of deanships and some redundant functions would save the university about \$450,000 annually and provide better coordination among administrative functions, Englert said.

Proposals for restructuring schools and colleges were forwarded to all faculty and administrators in affected schools and colleges and posted at www.temple.edu/provost/news. Comments on proposals may be submitted, signed or anonymously, at www.temple.edu/provost/feedback.html. After the comment period ends on April 30, the provost will review suggestions and make appropriate changes before making final recommendations to President Hart. Presidentially approved proposals will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

Another proposed action to emerge from the white paper, the president's university-wide guidelines for faculty workload — a proposal to increase direct classroom contact that Temple students have with tenured and tenure-track faculty — was shared with faculty members for comment by April 13. Other proposals

put forward in the white paper have already been approved, including a university-wide move to online Student Feedback Forms (replacing paper forms effective Summer 2012) and the activation of a search for a new dean of University Libraries.

Other measures being implemented or already implemented include the consolidation of facilities at Temple's Fort Washington location, administrative streamlining within the Provost's portfolio and Temple's schools and colleges, reorganization of the recruitment and admission of international students and numerous academic initiatives to meet the needs of citizens, businesses and government throughout the region in line with Temple's mission and with the ability to generate new revenue sources.

Englert will continue to meet with faculty members and administrators to discuss proposals in the coming weeks. u

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Junior honors student captures rare twin win

By Hillel Hoffmann
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Talk about a good week. In the space of 148 hours, Temple junior Anne Preston — a double major in geography and urban studies and environmental studies from Silver Spring, Md. — learned that she had won not one, but two of the nation's most prestigious and competitive national scholarships.

On Wednesday, March 28, Preston was notified by President Ann Weaver Hart that she was one of only 54 students nationwide to be named a 2012 Truman Scholar by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation in recognition of her "leadership accomplishments and...likelihood of becoming a public service leader." Five days later, the Udall Foundation announced that Preston was one of 80 students across the nation to be selected as a 2012 Udall Scholar on the basis of her commitment to a career in the environment, her leadership potential and her academic achievement. (Temple student Yuan Huang also earned a Udall Scholarship — see sidebar story.)

Preston is the fifth Temple student to win a Truman Scholarship. No Temple student has ever won both a Truman and a Udall.

Both scholarships recognized Preston's work — both scholarly and with hands to soil — on community-based urban farming in Philadelphia. Preston runs a one-acre farm that she built as a freshman for the nonprofit Urban Tree Connection on a vacant



Junior Anne Preston has built a one-acre farm that produces thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables for the benefit of community members.



Courtesy Anne Preston

lot in Haddington, a low-income West Philadelphia neighborhood. Her farm produces thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables annually while engaging children, teenagers and adults in the community in all aspects of production, distribution and management.

"I'm interested in working solutions to concentrated poverty, food access and re-entry employment," Preston said. "A lot of people think the idea of urban gardens is nice and pretty, but it's harder to convince people that it's a powerful agent of change in the city. I see what we're doing with urban farming as something that can be a

part of community-led revitalization in cities around the world."

With a growing staff and a coalition of supportive community members, Preston's farm fed more than 50 families this year. But that success didn't come easily. Although the farm produced more than a ton of greens, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers and eggplants in its first year, she said its neighbors "didn't line up to eat the bounty" at first. To engage the surrounding community, she held free cooking classes in conjunction with Whole Foods to develop recipes using the farm's products, built a relationship

with a nearby church, canvassed the neighborhood, developed a gardening club, ran an after-school program for schoolchildren and recruited interns and employees, including several ex-offenders.

Ruth Ost, director of Temple's Honors Program, called Preston "an idealist with a pragmatic streak."

"With Annie in charge, the Urban Tree Connection did shrewd fair trade, and was able to give away produce as well," Ost said.

Preston hopes to use the scholarship funds (a combined \$35,000) and the knowledge she gains from both the Truman and Udall experiences to fund her graduate education — she hopes to pursue master's degrees in business administration and social work — and eventually fuel her vision for urban farming's future around the world.

"I'm really hoping to work to develop an urban producers' cooperative in Philadelphia that would be able to aggregate produce from community gardens," she said. "For example, there are a lot of Philly producers who make peanut butter and jam, but getting them to market is more of a challenge. I'm hoping to pursue an MBA to get skills to develop that on a city-wide scale. If we're successful in Philly, I see that as a model we can develop elsewhere."

Preston's unprecedented double-win — or "Trudall," as Ost calls it — is symbolic of a recent surge in the number of Temple students earning prestigious and competitive national scholarships. For example, in the last five academic years, Temple students

More Udall success

The Udall Foundation had good news for two more Temple students on April 2. Geography and urban studies major Yuan Huang was announced as a 2012 Udall Scholar and environmental studies and political science double major Safya Anne O'Rourke earned honorable mention status.

Huang, who is studying abroad at Temple University, Japan Campus, is committed to creating new approaches to urban design, focusing on sustainable urban agriculture in underserved communities. At Temple, she pursued research on green roofs in Philadelphia with the support of a Creative Arts, Research and Scholarship grant. A former president of Temple Community Garden, Huang also spent a summer in China as a Diamond Research Scholar.

O'Rourke, who hopes to become an environmental attorney for a U.S. government agency, is a peer mentor and teacher at Temple's Sustainability Living Learning Community and co-president of Philly Eco Kids.

have won two Trumans, seven Udalls, three Marshalls and 20 Fulbrights — far more such awards than Temple students won in the previous decades combined. u

From top: OwlCapella performs; members of the women's volleyball and track teams show their stuff in the East Rotunda; artists and athletes pose on the Rotunda steps; students share their Temple story with legislators, going door to door in the Capitol.



Talent

From page 1

a capella group, OwlCapella, sang choral classics and pop favorites. In the East Rotunda, Hooter and representatives from the women's crew team, track and field and volleyball teams greeted visitors and taught elected officials how to use a rowing machine, throw a shot put and spike a volleyball.

Cherry and White Week was organized by the Office of Government Affairs and the Office of Special Events.

"These students who took time out of their schedules to make their voices heard remind us of what's at stake," said Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr., senior vice president for government, community and public affairs. "They are the future of the Commonwealth and our nation, and it's our job to help



prepare them by supporting their education."

Lawrence said that members of the Temple community can help make the case for support by contacting their legislators through TALON at www.temple.edu/talon.

Those who already have taken that step can help by referring five others who care about higher education in Pennsylvania to the site.



Ryan S. Brandenberg; Joseph V. Labolito

"Your voice makes a difference for our students and our university," said Lawrence. u

Grad programs shine in U.S. News rankings

By Hillel Hoffmann
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The release of the 2013 edition of *U.S. News & World Report* Best Graduate Schools rankings shined a spotlight on the continued ascent of several of Temple's flagship graduate and professional programs.

The full-time MBA program at Temple's Fox School of Business climbed 11 spots in the new rankings to No. 52 in the nation, joining the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School as the only full-time MBA programs in Greater Philadelphia ranked in the latest edition of the Best Graduate Schools guidebook. *U.S. News* ranked Fox's part-time MBA program No. 47, making it the region's top-ranked program of its type. In specialty rankings, Fox graduate programs offered by the Department of Management Information Systems were ranked No. 22.

Temple's Tyler School of Art earned a No. 13 rank from *U.S. News* out of 213 fine arts schools, cementing Tyler's reputation as a national leader. Up one slot since fine arts schools last were ranked in 2008 and eight spots since 2003, Tyler's overall ranking was by far the highest among Philadelphia-area fine arts schools. Five individual graduate programs at Tyler were ranked

among the nation's best: sculpture (No. 9), painting/drawing (10), printmaking (10), ceramics (13) and photography (20).

The Beasley School of Law also climbed in the 2013 *U.S. News* rankings, moving up three spots to No. 58 in the nation and maintaining its position as the second-ranked law school in Pennsylvania. Temple Law's overall rank has jumped 14 spots in only two years. Temple's part-time J.D. program was ranked No. 7, and its programs in trial advocacy (No. 2), legal writing (9) and international law (14) remain among the nation's most highly ranked.

U.S. News also ranked Temple's School of Medicine No. 47 in the nation in research, the second highest rank among Philadelphia's many medical schools. The School of Medicine's 2013 research rank has climbed nine spots in only three years.

Other Temple graduate programs on the rise in the 2013 edition of Best Graduate Schools include the College of Engineering (up 12 spots to No. 126), the School of Social Work (up five spots to No. 66) and the School of Pharmacy (up three spots to No. 58), as well as Temple's programs in speech-language pathology (up nine spots to No. 29), clinical psychology (up seven spots to No. 26) and occupational therapy (up two spots to No. 31). u

Temple again honored for dedication to community service



By Kim Fischer
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Temple has once again been honored as a leader in higher education community service by being named to the 2012 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest national recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to service.

This is the fifth year Temple has received this distinction from the Corporation for National and Community Service, which has administered the honor roll since 2006. The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll raises the visibility of best practices in campus-community partnerships by recognizing institutions of higher education that support exemplary community service programs.

In recent years, Temple has expanded its historic dedication to the community in a number of ways. Large-scale events such as FreshServe and the Martin Luther King Day of Service kick off each semester, bringing groups of students, faculty and staff into the community before classes begin. These large events are supplemented throughout the year with daily activities, such as serving food in local church soup kitchens, cleaning up recreation centers, planting community gardens and tutoring students after school in community centers and non-profit organizations. Additionally, approximately 1,000 undergraduates serve the community each semester through a range of academic community-based learning courses offered by Temple's Community Learning Network.

According to Temple's Office of Community Relations, which tracks and supports volunteerism across the university, each year more than 12,000 members of the Temple community volunteer for a wide variety of community organizations. In total, Temple volunteers contribute more than 65,000 hours of service annually. The office is constantly seeking new ways to connect students to the community and members of the community to the university.

"We are proud to be recognized again for our efforts at being a good neighbor and a center for service in the region," said Andrea Swan, director of community and neighborhood affairs. "The award is a reflection of our commitment to engaging in meaningful ways in service to our neighbors, and we will continue to build on this commitment in the coming years." u

Celebration showcases Temple's global presence

By Khoury Johnson
For *The Temple Times*

In an effort to showcase Temple's growing international presence, the university's Office of International Affairs hosted the second annual Celebration of Globalization last week in the Temple Performing Arts Center. At the event, dancers, musicians and artists took the stage to highlight the unique cultural attributes of their respective countries.

"The celebration provides the opportunity to underscore the progress made in internationalization

on campus," said Hai-Lung Dai, senior vice provost of International Affairs and dean of the College of Science and Technology.

Temple University President Ann Weaver Hart and Nancy Gilboy, president and CEO of the Philadelphia International Visitors Council, were presented with the Global Temple and Global Philadelphia Awards, respectively, for their outstanding work in expanding the international relevancy of Temple and the city at large.

"President Hart and Nancy Gilboy have spearheaded countless initiatives to bring the world to Philadelphia and

to introduce students and residents of Philadelphia to the world," said Dai.

As Temple president, Hart has implemented the Hart Passport Program, which subsidizes passport fees for Temple students traveling abroad for the first time, and the Diamond Ambassadors program, which provides eligible students a grant to help meet the expenses of a study abroad experience.

Gilboy's record includes the nationally acclaimed AudioWalk and Tour of Historic Philadelphia, as well as Discover Philadelphia, a program which introduces foreign

LL.M. and M.B.A. candidates to young professionals in Philadelphia.

The evening included a fashion show and dance performances by both students and professional entertainers. Groups clad in the traditional garb from 27 countries took the stage before an audience of 700.

The Globalization celebration is yet another example of Temple's growing international presence, said President Hart. "We have made giant strides in teaching, research and outreach through internationalization, and as a result Temple is known around the world." u

Students use spring break to explore faith



Vikki Psomiadis (center), a senior Temple biology major, makes bread with a group of students from Haverford College and St. Joseph's University at Mishkan Shalom Reconstructionist Synagogue during interfaith spring break last month.

By Eryn Jelesiewicz
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A group of Philadelphia college students skipped the surf and the slopes to immerse themselves in different faiths and religions over spring break last month. The trip, now in its seventh year, was sponsored by the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia (ICGP). Students from Saint Joseph's University, Haverford College and Temple spent the week visiting different places of worship, including Catholic, Baha'i and Buddhist, while serving the community through work with Heeding God's Call, a faith-based movement to end gun violence.

For Vikki Psomiadis, a senior biology major at Temple, the Interfaith Spring Break was a way to experience diversity she didn't find in her hometown of Perkasie, Pa.

"I'm Greek Orthodox and I grew up in a town where there wasn't a lot of diversity and people didn't understand diversity," said Psomiadis. "Through this experience, I have a chance to say, 'This is my faith,' and to learn about other people's faiths."

Musu Jackson-Buckner, an academic advisor in Temple's Honors Program who accompanied the students, said the goal is to foster understanding of other religious backgrounds so students are comfortable having a dialogue with people who are different from them.

On Saturday, the students arrived at Mishkan Shalom Reconstructionist Synagogue in

Roxborough, their homebase for the week, and jumped right in with workshops on how to navigate interfaith experiences. They discussed how to have positive interfaith dialogue, how to ask questions in a curious, non-judgmental way and most of all how to handle discomfort.

"This is not a trip that's warm and fuzzy; it will challenge your comfort zone," said Rev. Nicole D. Diroff, director of outreach and innovations at the ICGP. "The experiences might evoke different kinds of feelings, so we invite the students to balance caring for themselves (by not participating in an activity if they don't want to) with risk-taking. We encourage them to try on something new and see what it teaches."

Each day, the students visited another faith or religion, either attending a service or meeting with followers. Activities ranged from mass at St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, to the Gaura Purnima festival at ISKCON Radha Krishna Temple, to Shabbat services at Mishkan Shalom and a meeting at the Bawa Muhaiyadeen Mosque.

Psomiadis found the experience so rewarding last year that she participated a second time.

"What stuck with me the most was not only being able to see the beauty in other faiths, but having that turned around on my faith and people seeing the beauty of my faith," said Psomiadis. "Why can't everyone see that there are so many similarities and differences among the various faiths, and that's what makes this world beautiful?" u

Other alternative Spring Break trips

n Through Alternative Break 2012, an international service immersion opportunity sponsored by University Housing and Residential Life, students traveled to Costa Rica. Assistant Director of Residential Life Elizabeth Spohr Russinko and Resident Director Marguerite Moore led this year's trip. To prepare, the group started meeting in January to fundraise, learn about Costa Rican history and culture and explore and examine eco-tourism and philosophies of service.

n The Cardinal Newman Student Association has been partaking in alternative spring break trips for the past six years. This year, the group worked with DeSales Service Works, a Catholic organization devoted to serving the poor and underprivileged of North Camden, N.J. The students worked with elementary school students, residents in rehab centers and shelters and the poor of a tent city.

n Hillel at Temple worked with City Year to help paint and repair underfunded schools in Los Angeles. The Temple students joined students from around the country in this project.



Philadelphia 76ers CEO Adam Aron speaks with students following an Executive in Residence presentation at Temple's School of Tourism and Hospitality Management.

Jim Reese Photography

Sixers CEO feels like a kid again

Philadelphia 76ers CEO Adam Aron tells Temple School of Tourism and Hospitality students about the joy of running a successful sports franchise.

By Brandon Lausch
blausch@temple.edu

Minutes after stepping to the podium to address 150 Temple University students, Philadelphia 76ers CEO Adam Aron told the crowd, "I'm younger than all of you."

That's because, five months into pumping up game-night entertainment, cutting ticket prices and increasing the popularity of a team he grew up rooting for, Aron feels like he's 14 again.

"This is absolutely the most purely, unadulterated joyous thing I've ever done," the 57-year-old said during his Executive in Residence presentation last month at Temple's School of Tourism and Hospitality Management.

While Aron joins an impressive list of School of Tourism executives in residence — Eagles President Joe Banner and Hyatt Hotels CEO Mark Hoplamazian to name two — the way his visit developed was a first. It started with a tweet.

Known for his fan engagement, particularly via Twitter, Aron (@SixersCEOAdam) was asked by a student via the social networking site to speak at Temple. Almost instantly, he accepted on one condition: an invitation had to come from a faculty member.

Less than 24 hours later, Gregory L. DeShields, managing director of business development for the School of Tourism and Fox School

of Business, tweeted at Aron asking where to send his invite.

That was November 28. Aron arrived on campus less than four months later, a rapid turnaround compared to prior presentations, which can take more than a year to orchestrate.

A Philadelphia native who attended Abington High School, Aron earned his undergraduate degree and MBA from Harvard. From there, he joined Pan American World Airways as a young marketing staffer and helped pioneer frequent flyer programs. After six years at Pan Am, he served in executive positions at Hyatt, United Airlines and Norwegian Cruise Line, among other leading travel companies. Most recently, he spent a decade as CEO of Vail Resorts in Colorado.

In discussing his career trajectory, Aron also relayed 15 tips, including: be interested in other people, have a sense of humor, always take the high road and treasure your reputation.

Approaching the playoffs in a tight Eastern Conference race, Aron said "running a professional NBA team is just a blast." The new Sixers ownership group, which is led by billionaire Joshua Harris and includes actor Will Smith, bought the team for approximately \$280 million.

So how much more intensely does he watch Sixers games compared to his childhood days in Abington? "Two hundred and eighty million times more intensely," he quipped. u

Student financial literacy is goal of new website

Temple's Bursar's Office has launched a new website to help educate students on a range of financial issues. Students can use the site, Money Matters, to learn about Student Financial Services, Diamond Dollars, consumer credit counseling, the Career Center, the Bursar's Office and other financial concerns.

Launched March 1 at www.temple.edu/bursar/financial-literacy, Money Matters is part of an effort to expand the office's services beyond traditional debt management to improve financial literacy among members of the university community. The site was developed by a cross-functional work group, which hosted a focus group of Temple students to determine their financial literacy

needs and incorporated many of the ideas into the site design.

"Understanding and being able to make choices about money is a skill," said Assistant Bursar Celeste Roberts. "Those who live within their means, plan for their financial futures, and make wise choices about money are less likely to create financial chaos for themselves."

The goal, says Roberts, is to help students avoid financial mistakes.

"The goal of the Financial Literacy website is to educate Temple students and provide them with the ability to understand money and how to manage it, which will empower them to make financial decisions that will benefit them as students and well into the future," she said. u

Classroom companion helps writing students understand non-human emotion

By Kim Fischer
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A new participant enters Dan Featherston's First-Year Writing class and takes a seat at a desk near the front of the room in Gladfelter Hall. She looks up at the professor, glances over her shoulder at the rest of the students and moves on to her next activity... sniffing a shoe.

Mazzy, the pit bull companion of Featherston and his wife Rachel McCrystal, was visiting the class as part of a unique exploration of human-animal interaction.

"Giving students the opportunity to see how a non-human animal interprets the space of the classroom is part of the point," said Featherston, assistant professor in Temple's First-Year Writing program. "One of the topics we have been talking about is animal capacities, such as the ability to have emotions, and I wanted to try out these theories and show an animal in the classroom."

First-Year Writing is a required writing-based course that introduces students to the demands of writing academic essays as well as reading scholarly writing. The course is part of the General Education program at Temple and fulfills the analytical reading and writing requirement.

Students in the course learn to organize ideas in a coherent and logical manner; connect multiple texts through an issue or an idea; identify authors' key arguments; create and defend arguments; and demonstrate correct grammar, syntax and acknowledgement of sources.

The theme of Featherston's three sections is human-animal relations. His classes read about, discuss and construct arguments regarding a number of topics, including theories of animal ethics; animal capacities for pain, emotion and consciousness; the intersectionality between human exploitation and animal exploitation; eating animals; cultural constructions of the animal; and animal law/activism.

"I thought it was important to have a dog in the class at least once because what we are discussing — non-human animals — is conspicuously absent otherwise," said Featherston. "When a class discusses other issues related to humans, such as ethnicity, race or



Joseph V. Labolito

Mazzy, the pit-bull companion of First-Year Writing professor Dan Featherston and his wife Rachel McCrystal, visited a writing class to help students explore the nature of human-animal interaction.

class — things that pertain to humans — humans are present in the room. But when we talk about animals, they are often absent."

Featherston and McCrystal adopted Mazzy after she was found left behind in a crate in the basement of an abandoned house in South Philadelphia. She's comfortable visiting classrooms, although the students she sees are usually much younger than college age. McCrystal, who works at Best Friends Animal Society, brings Mazzy to elementary schools to teach humane education.

"Mazzy got into the habit of sitting at the little desks during those visits. And of course she responds to the smiles and laughs she gets for doing so," Featherston explained.

His students are encouraged to consider their experience with Mazzy in the context of their current assignment — to write a persuasive argument about an ethical issue

involving companion animals, such as breed-specific discrimination, puppy mills or feral cats. The students are free to incorporate their experience with Mazzy into the essay just as they would use material from a secondary source.

While Featherston's sections of First-Year Writing are the only classes to use human-animal relations as its theme, the course is part of a growing trend in universities nationwide. Across the academic disciplines, there's been increased interest in studying the connections between humans and animals.

"Scholarship in the humanities in recent years has expanded beyond the species boundary to study ethical issues involving animals," said Featherston. "I am excited to be part of an interdisciplinary process where people investigate that relationship between the human and the animal." u

UCCP program earns Philly IMPACT award



Courtesy Philadelphia Community Access Media

Last week, POPPYN and the University Community Collaborative of Philadelphia at Temple were honored with the second annual PhillyCAM IMPACT Award from Philadelphia Community Access Media. The award acknowledges exceptional work of members who create programs that inspire Philadelphians to improve their communities.

POPPYN is a youth-produced news show that presents perspectives and contributions of youth often missing from the mainstream media. The

show, which was launched in 2010, seeks to include youth in the conversations about issues that affect them. POPPYN airs every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. on PhillyCAM (Verizon 29/Comcast 66).

Above, (left to right): Jasmine Gibson, Temple; Natalia Smirnov, POPPYN media and communications manager; Nysir Bouldin, Tacony Academy Charter School; Lynsey Graeff, Temple; Terence Lewis, Interboro High School; and Saeed Briscoe, Community College of Philadelphia, accept the award at the March 29 ceremony.

Researchers focus attention on renewable energies

By Preston M. Moretz
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Since the first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, the United States has slowly tried to wean itself off of traditional, fossil fuel-based methods of providing energy toward greener, renewable energies.

From geothermal to solar to wind power, Temple researchers are engaged in a variety of projects to develop new renewable energy technologies and to make them more efficient and more cost-effective.

Nicholas C. Davatzes, assistant professor of earth and environmental science in the College of Science and Technology, is involved in about a dozen projects exploring the use of natural and abundant heat below the Earth's surface to generate electricity.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, geothermal energy systems have potential to generate nearly 600,000 megawatts of electric power, but the technology to tap these resources is

still largely underdeveloped. Each megawatt of geothermal-generated electricity can power approximately 1,000 U.S. households.

"Most of the technology for making electricity involves converting heat into work and then work into electricity," said Davatzes. "Usually we burn things like fossil fuels to make the heat, but with geothermal, Mother Earth provides the heat."

Davatzes, who has received more than \$3.5 million in geothermal research funding since joining Temple in 2008, said geothermal doesn't get as much attention as it should, but one of its key advantages is that it provides a constant output. "It doesn't show the daily variation in power output that most of the other renewables show," he said.

As with all energy technologies, the cost of producing the energy relative to its return plays a key role in its development. Davatzes said that drilling success in geothermal is relatively low, but the cost to drill wells is high, so it can take more

than a decade to realize a return on investment. That's why he is working with geothermal industry leaders like ORMAT, AltaRock and Nevada Geothermal Power, as well as the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Navy, in places like Nevada and Oregon to figure out how to successfully drill geothermal wells.

In addition to where to drill the wells, Davatzes is also studying ways to get water to flow better through the fractures in the hot rock below the surface — a key component in successful geothermal systems — by enhancing existing fractures or creating new pathways to circulate the fluid through these natural systems.

"A couple of these projects are pretty close to demonstrating that the technology is there to turn huge volumes of the rock below the surface of the western United States into clean, sustainable energy," he said.

Svetlana Neretina, assistant professor of mechanical engineering and director of the renewable



Assistant Professor of Earth and Environmental Science Nicholas C. Davatzes has traveled to geothermal fields in Iceland to study the potential of natural and abundant heat below the Earth's surface as a source of energy.
Courtesy Nicholas C. Davatzes

energy laboratory in the College of Engineering, is looking at a better way to harness the power of the sun through the development of next generation solar cells which combine thin films and nano-materials.

She and her research group are using laser technology to develop solar cells using cadmium telluride thin films and nanostructures.

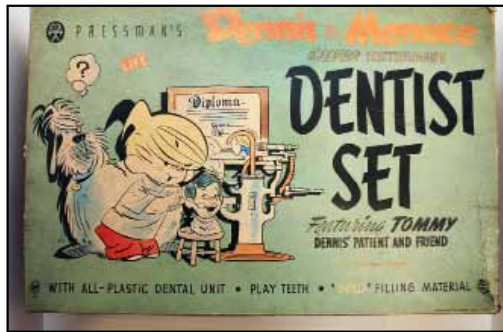
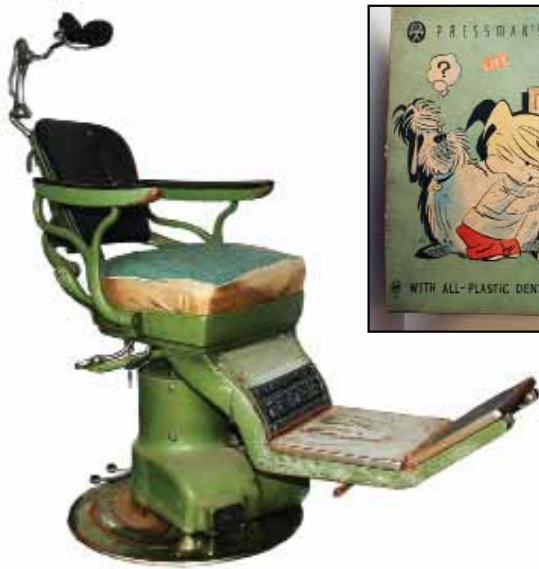
Mechanical Engineering Professor Shih-Jiun Chen's research is focused on how the design and pitch control of wind turbine blades can make the turbines more efficient and less noisy.

"These days, the wind turbines are bigger, so they rotate slower," said Chen, an expert in aerodynamics. "Normally, you need winds of about 15-20 miles-per-hour to make a turbine rotate, but with better design and pitch control, you will only need about a 7-10 miles-per-hour wind. By making them more

efficient, they will turn easier in less wind, which generates more power."

Chen, who took a study leave in spring 2010 in Taiwan to research wind turbines, has been looking at blade designs that mimic a bird's wing and a whale's fin.

Other Temple projects involving renewable energies include Chen and Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor Michel Boufadel's collaboration with industry on the development of a geothermal heat pump; Electrical and Computer Engineering Associate Professor Li Bai's study of the efficiency of solar- and wind-powered LED street lights; and Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Parsaoran Hutapea's study of the performance of polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cells, which use hydrogen to produce electricity to power vehicles. u



From left: A green 1920's-era chair manufactured by Ritter Dental Manufacturing Company; a 1960's children's dentist set which includes a tooth, toothbrush, rinse cup, dental unit and chair; a replica of a 19th Century Victorian dental office housed within the Kornberg School of Dentistry.



All courtesy Kornberg School of Dentistry

New online database highlights Kornberg dental museum collection

By Preston M. Moretz
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Step off the elevator onto the third floor of Temple's Kornberg School of Dentistry and you will be standing amongst a display of dental antiquities that is commonly referred to as the "Temple Dental Museum."

But this display features only a fraction of the dental collection that highlights the proud history and legacy of Temple's dental school. And now, thanks to a new, searchable online database, the entire Temple Historical Dental Museum Collection can be viewed by the public.

When Amid Ismail arrived at Temple in 2008 as the new dean of the Kornberg School, he discovered a fund that had been set aside for the museum. Since only a portion of the collection was on public display, he hired a collections management consultant and assistant, who worked for two-and-a-half years to photograph, catalog and archive the vast collection.

Some faculty volunteered their time on weekends to assist in cataloging the collection, as well as weeding out pieces that had no value or relevance. Once the cataloging and archiving had been completed, photographs of each of the collection's 4,000-plus pieces have since been put into a searchable, online database.

"We were founded in 1863 and we are the second oldest dental school in continuous existence," said Sally Gray, associate dean for graduate education at Kornberg, who helped oversee the project. "We have this marvelous collection and I think it's wonderful that people will now be able to enjoy it, particularly our alumni."

"Our alumni who graduated 40 or 50 years ago will be

able to look at photos of some of the older pieces in the collection and say, 'Hey, that's what I used to use,'" Gray said. "They will love to see these pictures and know that we have this wonderful hidden gem."

Every photograph of the collection's pieces is watermarked, so that the Temple Kornberg School of Dentistry will be credited if someone downloads a photo for use, said Gray.

"When I look at some of the old photographs of the school — I graduated from here in the 1980s — I think, 'That's what the clinic looked like when I was a student here,'" she said. "It really brings back that nostalgic feeling."

Gray said that having the collection online can also be an important resource for faculty to use in their classes.

"If they are teaching students about dentures, they will now be able to show them pictures of actual dentures through history," said Gray. "Or they can put in a request, and since everything is now archived, I can retrieve it and they can take the actual pieces to their class."

Gray believes that a significant portion of the items have been donated by alumni over the years. In addition, pieces left behind by faculty when they retired also found their way into the collection. Now, she said, a piece must have historical significance or value to be accepted into the collection.

Gray said that the current Temple Historical Dental Museum Collection database web page will likely be redesigned when Kornberg's main website is redesigned in the near future.

To view the Temple Historical Dental Museum Collection online database, go to temple.pastperfect-online.com. u

Study shows how high-fat diets increase colon cancer risk

By Preston M. Moretz
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Epidemiologists have long warned that, in addition to causing obesity, eating too much fat and sugar puts a person at greater risk for colon cancer. Now, researchers at Temple have established a link that may explain why.

The findings, "Epigenetic Differences in Normal Colon Mucosa of Cancer Patients Suggest Altered Dietary Metabolic Pathways," were published in the March issue of the American Association for Cancer Research's journal, *Cancer Prevention Research*.

"There have always been questions about why things like diet and obesity are independent risk factors for colon cancer," said Carmen Sapienza, professor of pathology in the Fels Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Biology at Temple's School of Medicine, the study's lead author. "This study suggests how and why high fat diets are linked to colon cancer."

The researchers compared colon tissue in non-colon cancer patients with normal colon tissue in patients with the disease. In the normal tissue from patients with colon cancer, they found that epigenetic marks on genes involved in breaking down carbohydrates, lipids and amino acids — abundant in the fatty Western diet — appeared to have been retrained. Epigenetic marks are chemical modifications that serve as on/off switches for many genes.

"These foods are changing the methylation patterns on a person's insulin genes so that they express differently, pumping out more insulin than the body requires," said Sapienza. "In people that have colon cancer, their glucose metabolic pathways and insulin signaling pathways are running at completely different levels than people who don't have colon cancer."

Sapienza said that cancer cells love insulin, and studies have shown that tumors feed off of insulin. "Insulin is only supposed to be expressed in your pancreas, so having this extra insulin



Preston M. Moretz

Carmen Sapienza, professor of pathology in Temple's Fels Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Biology, is studying the link between high fat diets and colon cancer.

is bad," he said.

Sapienza pointed out that people don't usually get colon cancer until the age of 50 or older, so it is unclear when the epigenetic modification of the genes begins.

"The hypothesis is that the changes in the metabolic pathways happen first and once they occur, if any kind of mutation happens that causes a cancerous polyp, you are going to feed it through this excess insulin," he said.

Sapienza said this study provides the first evidence of widespread epigenetic modification of metabolic pathway genes occurring in healthy colon tissue.

The researchers theorize that if modification in healthy tissue could also be found in other healthy tissues in the body, they might be used to diagnose or determine the likelihood of colon cancer through a saliva or blood test in addition to a colonoscopy.

In addition to Sapienza, the researchers included Matthew L. Silveira, Brian P. Smith and Jasmine Powell of Temple's Fels Institute.

The study was funded through the National Institutes of Health and Temple's Fels Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Biology. u

Gifted saxophonist is comfortable as the only girl in the band



Saxophonist Maria Mirenzi (left-center) and former Temple Jazz Band trombonist Kate Rhoda (right) are among a rare group of women jazz instrumentalists. Mirenzi performed with the Temple Jazz Band at the premiere of a new documentary focused on women instrumentalists.

By Jazmyn Burton
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In a genre traditionally dominated by men, it can be difficult for women jazz musicians to gain a foothold and build a career. But despite the odds, countless women have forgone the traditional rules of the game and forged ahead.

“There may not be many women instrumentalists in jazz, but that doesn’t mean they haven’t made great contributions to the music,” said Maria Mirenzi, a saxophonist and the lone woman member of Temple’s Jazz Band. “They’re definitely there as singers, composers and performers.”

At a sold-out April 2 performance and screening held in the Franklin Institute’s Franklin Hall, Mirenzi and members of the Temple Jazz Band payed homage to unknown

women instrumentalists prior to the Philadelphia premiere of “The Girls in the Band,” a documentary that looks at the history of women in jazz.

Nearly a century ago, Mirenzi may not have had an opportunity to sit in with an all-male ensemble. In the ‘30s and ‘40s, very few women were granted the privilege of playing side-by-side with their male counterparts. Instead, hundreds of women musicians were relegated to glamorous all-girl bands, performing in sequined gowns and flirtatious costuming.

The women endured sexism, racism and diminished opportunities for decades, yet continued to elevate their talents in a field that seldom welcomed them. By the mid-‘50s, female big band and jazz musicians had literally disappeared; their names and contributions to music forgotten.

Produced and directed by Judy Chaikin, “The Girls in the Band” reveals the untold stories of these women and their groundbreaking journeys from the late ‘30s to the present day. The film features contemporary artists like Geri Allen, The Diva Jazz Orchestra and Esperanza Spalding, a gifted bass player and singer who was named new artist of the year at the 2011 Grammy Awards.

Although Mirenzi is the only woman in Temple’s award-winning jazz ensemble, which is led by Director of Jazz Studies Terell Stafford, she doesn’t feel out of place.

“I used to feel a little left out among a group of boys,” said the Mountaintop, Pa., native. “But the other musicians in the jazz ensemble are great; they always make me feel like I’m part of the team. The fact that I’m a woman is never an issue.”

Site preserves history of fight for rights for the intellectually disabled

By Eryn Jelesiewicz
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In the 1950s, Eleanor Elkin adopted a baby boy, Richard, whom — it soon became clear — had intellectual disabilities. It was a much different era then and the adoption agency offered to take him back.

“But no, I said, you don’t send babies back; you don’t turn them in like cars. We had had him then probably about two weeks and by then he was my son...there was no doubt...and no way were they going to get him back,” Elkin recalled.

The story of Elkin, who is 95 and a leader in the intellectual disability movement in Pennsylvania and across the country, is now documented and preserved through Visionary Voices, a new site that was recently launched by Temple’s Institute on Disabilities (IOD).

Visionary Voices came to be about a year ago when Celia Feinstein, co-executive director of the Institute on Disabilities, and a group of colleagues became concerned that the stories and experiences of Elkin and others like her would be lost if they weren’t soon captured. Their field now faces budget cuts that threaten the hard-fought freedoms for people with intellectual disabilities.

“If people don’t know the history of the struggle, we are destined to relive it,” said Feinstein.

The creation of the website came at the perfect time, as the IOD had also just received the personal papers of Dennis Haggerty, a Philadelphia-area attorney, respected disability rights advocate and parent of a child with an intellectual disability. Haggerty’s papers, video interviews with Elkin and others and historical photographs

comprise the rich content of the site, which is a work in progress.

Three more individuals are in line to donate their papers, and 50 people will be interviewed for the site, which is designed to give scholars, people with disabilities, students of all ages, the public, legislators and policy makers the history of the movement going back to the 1960s.

It’s fitting that the site, which appears to be the only one of its kind, was created by a Pennsylvania-based university. Pennsylvania played a key role in the creation of public policy that has changed the way people with intellectual disabilities live in the community, said Feinstein.

When Elkin began her work in the 1950s, there were no services, no education and no early intervention for children with intellectual disabilities.

“The expectation was either you institutionalized your child, which most people were advised to do, or did what you could at home,” said Feinstein.

Elkin and other parents fought for access to schools, which led to the Right to Education Case, or PARC v. the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The resulting PARC Consent Decree opened Pennsylvania’s schools to children with disabilities.

Other hard-won battles that are chronicled on the site include deinstitutionalization and the movement toward self-determination for individuals with disabilities.

“There is much to be learned from a generation of advocates who risked so much to ensure the safety and freedom of people with disabilities,” said Feinstein. “If their memories and stories are not preserved, they will disappear forever.”



Temple student Katie Adkins performs with dancers from the Leah Stein Dance Company.

Outdoor dance performance celebrates the Philadelphia Experience

By Brianna Bosak
For *The Temple Times*

Can you imagine someone playing the metal barricades separating Liacouras Walk like a xylophone or the wall of the Cecil B. Moore subway station like a washboard? Would you use the skate park at Cecil as your stage?

In “Across the Grid,” performed on March 22, students watched as the Leah Stein Dance Company did just that, transforming seemingly everyday objects into an artful expression. Sponsored by Temple’s GenEd program, and organized by faculty members Deborah Block and Ken Finkel, the performance was held to celebrate the city of Philadelphia as a place of learning and interaction.

“We chose Leah Stein because her company specializes in pieces that highlight the interaction between people, their culture and the physical environment,” said Julie Phillips, associate director for the GenEd program.

The Stein performance was sponsored alongside another GenEd event, “Place x Promise = Philadelphia,” held Tuesday, March 20, featuring Witold Rybczynski, architect, urbanist and professor at University of Pennsylvania. In his recent book *Makeshift Metropolis*,



Leah Stein, left, rehearses with Temple student dancers Sarah McWilliams, Kailey McCrudden and Katie Adkins.

Rybczynski argues that after a century of big ideas that falter, cities may actually thrive best on a multitude of smaller ideas.

One of GenEd’s most innovative features is “The Philadelphia Experience,” an official theme of the program, offering students unprecedented opportunities to explore Philadelphia and integrate the city and the region into their coursework. Nearly half of GenEd courses take students out of the classroom and into the Philadelphia metropolitan area to visit museums, work in schools, attend arts performances, investigate

non-profits, observe battle re-enactments, photograph murals, study the engineering of bridges, visit community gardens and more.

“Together, the events were meant to highlight GenEd’s focus on place-based learning in the city Philadelphia,” said Phillips.

Students from the Boyer College of Music and Dance also performed along with dancers from the company. Three students, Katie Adkins, Kailey McCrudden and Sarah McWilliams danced in the first performance; the second performance featured dancers Julie Mahon, Cynda Rella and Emma MacDonald.



Pam Scoggins Abbott and her sister Laurie Scoggins, who were interviewed for the new website Visionary Voices, got a first peek at the website’s launch party.

New Tyler venue encourages thinking inside the box

By Khoury Johnson
For *The Temple Times*

It may look like a childhood clubhouse, but a plywood shanty erected at the front entrance to the Tyler School of Art building has fast become a novel venue for the free exchange of ideas and interests among Temple students, faculty and community members.

The brainchild of students Tyler Buchinski, Amy Borch and Elisa Mosely, the modest structure was borne of Occupy Philadelphia events held earlier this year. The venue's creators had successfully created a space for discussion within the Occupy encampment, and brought the idea to Temple to become the focal point of Tyler's AKA project.

"With Occupy Philly, we really wanted to provide another way for people to interact and connect in ways they haven't done before," said Borch. "After seeing the positive responses and feedback we received from a few of the visitors that came over, we decided

A plywood shanty outside of the Tyler School of Art is a place for students, faculty and community members to have meaningful discussions, seminars and workshops.



Courtesy Tyler Buchinski

to bring [it] back to our community on campus."

The inspiration for the space can be traced back to a community arts class the trio took at Tyler.

Pepón Osorio, a professor at Tyler School of Art described how it works. "I see two different kinds of education, the formal via academic practice and the other, which is the one you personally owe to yourself. In your college career,

academics are important, but once you are finished with that the personal kicks in. This creative project is radical because it creates a communal platform for bridging both. It is really about asking students to begin connecting the dots before they graduate."

The project has seen consistent increases in size and popularity since it began, thanks to the efforts of an expanding group that has pitched in to

anchor the project.

All of the furniture and decor have been donated by patrons, passersby and students.

"The whole story behind the box is basically an idea that built upon another idea," said Borch. "It's a project that never ends. Even when the structure is physically gone, there'll still be this sense of collaboration and developing new ways to spread ideas to others."

But many students weren't sure what to think when the structure appeared unannounced at Tyler's front door.

"At first, I thought, 'It's pretty neat; it reminds me of the forts I used to build growing up,'" said junior metals major Jessica Stellan. "But one day I did lunch there and I was surprised; it felt very relaxing."

In addition to open forum discussion, the venue has hosted a variety of seminars and workshops focusing on an extensive breadth of subjects. Within the same week, visitors could join in poetry and music slams, professor-orated discussions on traditional and alternative styles

of learning and even a silent bike tour through untouched sections of Philadelphia — all free of charge.

Word of the structure has spread among students outside of the art school and beyond to members of the community.

"It's cool that they're having this place for people to come in and drop ideas and knowledge," said Charles Martin, a junior theater major. "But I think it's even more interesting that they kind of combined this interconnectedness between art and science that's neglected in most of academia. What people don't realize is, you can never really separate the two."

Borch said that after the physical project comes down, she and her team will continue to expand on freedom of learning, but beyond the confines of wood, art and vintage frat house furniture.

"We're going to continue to keep building connections and promoting avenues for open learning," she said. "The only difference is we won't be in a box." u

Sustainability Week focuses on learning by doing

By Laura Kuserk
For *The Temple Times*

Have you ever wanted to try yoga or learn how to can or jam your own preserves? Maybe you want to try going vegetarian, but need more guidance. During Campus Sustainability Week, April 9-14, you can learn these skills and more.

This year's recognition of green living is centered around a simple call to action: "learn by doing." Many of the week's events include workshops and demonstrations that offer staff, students and faculty an opportunity to develop useful pursuits that can lead to a more sustainable lifestyle.

Kathleen Grady, sustainability coordinator in the Office of Sustainability, says the week is about making personal decisions that will ultimately impact the greater good.

"This semester's Campus Sustainability Week is focused on educating the Temple community about what they can do at the



individual level," she said. "We really want to give people the skills they need to make a difference, so our programming includes a number of workshops during which attendees can learn hands-on skills to affect change in their own homes."

Grady says the focus is on teaching sustainability on the individual level before tackling world problems such as global warming.

"So much of sustainability is learning to live within the balance of nature and yet so often humans forget that they are part of the natural system," said Grady. "This week, we really want to highlight how individuals can find the balance in their own lives and then work toward finding a global balance." u

Selected Campus Sustainability Week events

n Greening Philadelphia: From the Ground Up

Monday, April 9, 5:30-7 p.m.
Gladfelter Hall, room 107

Leaders from the fields of urban design, education, urban agriculture, media and government will discuss how sustainability can drive a holistic approach to community development.

n Canning and Jamming Demonstration

Tuesday, April 10, noon-1 p.m.
Anderson Hall, room 1221

Temple Alumna Liz Bada will teach participants how to can and jam preserves.

n Wake Up Yoga

Wednesday, April 11, 9-10 a.m.

Bell Tower
Find your center before class or work and you'll feel inspired, creative and grounded all day.

n Urban Riding Basics

Wednesday, April 11

Ambler Campus, Bright Hall Lounge, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Ritter Hall, room 303, 1-2 p.m.

n Sunset Yoga

Wednesday, April 11, 6:45-7:45 p.m.

Bell Tower

Unwind from your hectic schedule and share a sunset with the Temple Community at a free Sunset Yoga class. (Geared toward beginners — mats will be provided.)

n Basic Bike Maintenance

Thursday, April 12, noon-1 p.m.

Tyler School of Art, B004

Learn how to care for your bike, including fixing a tire flat, bike cleaning and maintenance. Attendees receive a free Bike Temple water bottle.

n Veg Out: Taking the Stress out of going Vegetarian/Vegan

Thursday, April 12, noon - 1 p.m.

Ritter Hall Annex, room 941

Tips and strategies for how to be a healthy vegetarian or vegan.

For more information and to view the entire schedule, visit the Office of Sustainability website at sustainability.temple.edu/sustainability-week.

Alumni Weekend offers many opportunities to 'Get Your Owl On'

Temple University's annual Alumni Weekend events will be held April 20-22 throughout the university's Philadelphia campuses and Center City. The weekend offers a three-day celebration of all things Temple, with more than 45 events for the entire TU community.

Temple students are involved in many of the activities, and students, faculty and staff members are entitled to special savings on the Owl Pass and individual event tickets.

Below is a selection of the activities planned for the weekend. Temple's schools and colleges also will offer a variety of events and activities for graduates. Registration is required, and all events have limited space and could sell out.

For a complete schedule of events and registration details, visit www.myowlspc.com or contact Alumni Relations at 215-204-7521 or alumrel@temple.edu with questions.

n "You Know You Went To Temple If..."

Alumni Relations is holding a "You Know You Went to Temple If..." contest through April 13. Alumni are invited to share their favorite Temple memories via email; the top three winners each week will receive a



prize. On April 16, all weekly winners will be entered into a grand-prize drawing for a new Apple iPad 3. Entries can be submitted via email to owlpride@temple.edu.

n Templeadelphia

Friday, April 20, all day

Experience "insider" views, from exclusive Stephen Starr tastings to visits to PECO's eco-friendly rooftop garden and Comcast's record-breaking LED screen.

n Rolling out the Cherry Carpet reception

Friday, April 20, 7:30-10 p.m.

Stroll down the Cherry carpet and join fellow alumni for a lively reception to kick off Alumni Weekend featuring food, drinks, dancing and "Temple celebrity alumni photo-ops."

n Street fair

Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Main Campus becomes a festival with food and fun for everyone,

including games, hands-on crafts, a beer garden, sports clinics, children's readings, a moon bounce and more.

n Decade trolley tours

Saturday, April 21, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Take a trip down memory lane as University Architect Margaret Carney and Owl Ambassadors host interactive "by the decade" (1970s-2000s) trolley tours that discuss the past, present and future of Temple's campus.

n Back to the Future exhibit

Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The past, present and future of Temple comes to life in the Temple Performing Arts Center.

n An Evening with John Legend

Saturday, Apr. 21, Doors open at 8 p.m.



Nine-time Grammy award-winning recording artist John Legend will perform at the Liacouras Center. Tickets

can be purchased at the Liacouras Box Office or through comcastttix.com.

More upcoming events

For the latest Temple events, visit calendar.temple.edu

Spring Fling

Temple's annual celebration of spring, Spring Fling, will take place on April 18, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. More than 200 student organizations, university departments and vendors will set up booths along Liacouras Walk, 13th Street and Pollett Walk. Spring Fling offers games, giveaways, music and more for Temple students. Rain date is April 19.

Featured Events

Philadelphia Science Festival

Temple will be sponsoring, co-sponsoring or participating in a number of events around the city as part of the 2012 Philadelphia Science Festival, April 20-29.

Events that will feature Temple faculty and/or students include the Science Carnival on Logan Square and Science Night at the Ball Park with the Phillies, both on April 28; "I Smell You, You Smell Me," 6:30 p.m. on April 20; "Silly Sounding Science: The Importance of Basic Research,"

1:30 p.m. on April 21; "Truth, Trust and Fracking," 2 p.m. on April 22; "Digging History: The Science of Excavation," 3 p.m. on April 22; "Science Cabaret," 6 p.m. on April 24; "Great Gigs," Noon on April 25; and "Superheroes of Science," 7 p.m. on April 25.

Some events are free and some require tickets, but most events require registration. For more information on these and other Philadelphia Science Festival events, or to get tickets or register for events, visit www.philasciencefestival.org/calendar.