

# TEMPLE TIMES

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## Real-world ready

Why are Temple students prepared for career success after graduation? Because they've done it before.

By Hillel J. Hoffmann  
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**T**his spring, *The Philadelphia Daily News* needed to hire a part-time copy editor. But where was Assistant Managing Editor Michelle Bjork going to find one with experience? She knew it wouldn't be easy to land someone who wouldn't need much training; copy editing is a skill few entry-level professionals have had a chance to acquire.

A search on LinkedIn turned up the solution, and it was in the same building. Temple senior Lauren Hertzler was working as a copy editing intern during the spring semester with the *Daily News'* sister publication, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Hertzler had leveraged a year and a half of front-line experi-

ence she had acquired as a copy editor for *The Temple News*, Temple's student newspaper, to land her *Inquirer* internship. Just like that, Bjork had found her battle-tested copy editor. And Hertzler had found post-graduation employment, getting her foot in the door at the *Daily News* at a time when newspaper jobs are increasingly scarce.

The key to the match: Hertzler had something few newly minted college graduates can offer — she hadn't just learned a skill in the classroom, she had already done the job in the real world.

"Copy editing is such a hyper-specialized skill," Bjork said. "There are very few people Lauren's age who have real

On-the-job experience as Temple students positioned Lauren Hertzler and Geoffrey E. Allen for full-time work upon graduation.

Ryan S. Brandenberg

Ready continued on 2

## Three will receive honorary degrees

Three distinguished leaders, including two of the university's most respected alumni, will be recognized for their outstanding contributions in the fields of law, education and science at Temple's 126th Commencement ceremony.

Patrick J. O'Connor, chair of Temple University's Board of Trustees and a leader in Philadelphia's legal community, will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. O'Connor is current vice chair and former president and CEO of Cozen O'Connor, which is



O'CONNOR

ranked among the 100 largest law firms in the United States. He was appointed chair of Temple's Board of Trustees in 2009 and has served on the university's board for a combined 25 years.

The university will also confer an honorary doctor of humane letters degree to Temple alumnus Pallam Raju M. Mallipudi, the cabinet minister of



MALLIPUDI

India for Human Resources Development, which oversees the national Department of School Education and Literacy and the Department of Higher Education. After earning an MBA from the Fox School of Business in 1986, he built a private-industry career as an entrepreneur in information technology, served on the boards of several successful publicly limited companies and as director on the boards of Indian Airlines and Air India.

The late Frank Albert Cotton, a Temple alumnus and preeminent figure in the field of inorganic chemistry, will be posthumously awarded a doctor of science degree. Cotton co-authored the field's standard text, *Advanced Inorganic Chemistry*, now in its sixth edition. He earned his bachelor's degree from Temple University



COTTON

in 1951, and his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1955. He passed away in 2007.

"As recipients of Temple's honorary degrees, Chairman O'Connor, Pallam Raju M. Mallipudi and Frank Albert Cotton exemplify the university's highest aspirations for its students," said President Neil Theobald. "We can all be inspired by their values and achievements, as well as their leadership and service." ♦

Temple University Commencement  
May 16, 10 a.m. Liacouras Center

## Boston bombings are a defining moment for podiatry grad

By Vaughn A. Shinkus  
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JARED MALAN  
DPM, Podiatric Medicine

As a boy growing up in rural Shelley, Idaho, Jared Malan could never have dreamed that circumstances might someday put him steps away from an unfolding national tragedy.

But that's where the graduating Doctor of Podiatry student found himself last month as he tended to runners in a medical tent 25 yards from the finish line of the Boston Marathon. Malan was one of 10 members of the Temple School of Podiatric Medicine's Sports Medicine Club volunteering at the race when twin bombs detonated a short distance away. In the moments

that followed, he and his classmates went from treating tired athletes with blisters and bunions to bandaging life-threatening open injuries.

For the next hour, the scene played out as if in slow motion, as victims were brought to the tent from the site of the blasts. Just weeks shy of receiving his podiatry degree, with coursework in traumatology and a background in psychology, Malan had an ideal combination of skills to stabilize and comfort

Boston continued on 2



Joseph B. Schaefer

## TEMPLE MADE



### Julian Terrell Otis

**Year:** Senior

**School:** Boyer College of Music and Dance

**Major:** Vocal performance

**Home town:** Chicago, Ill.

**Why I chose Temple:** “I had a relationship with Temple dating back to 7th and 8th grade through my participation in the Physicians Scientists Training Program. But Temple was on the back burner. I was looking for a liberal arts college. When I was trying to figure out where to go, I was thinking: ‘How am I going to pay for this?’ One of my best friends — Lawrence Ogunkua, who graduated from Temple last year — said: ‘This is a no-brainer, you should come to Philadelphia and be with me at Temple.’ From my previous experience here, I knew I would be comfortable.”

**Transformative moment:** “When I came to Temple, I wanted to be a physician-scientist. That was a passion for me. But I began to realize that science might not be what I was called to do. My freshman year, I tried lots of things. My roommate, who was a music major, inspired me to take a voice for non-majors class. The class lit a spark. It just seemed right. So in my sophomore year, I changed my major to music.

“Singing has always been part of my life. Being in front of a crowd. Making someone feel something. Connecting with people through music and words. It has been a comfort for me during bad times.

“I’ve always been a good student, but learning how to be a musician is so different. It’s a process. It doesn’t come overnight. You have to retrain your body and your muscles. It takes time. That was the hardest thing to learn. There’s no 100 percent on the test when you finish singing your aria, because there’s always something you can do better. It’s a humbling art.

“The other day, my teacher brought me into his office and asked, ‘Julian, could you sing the national anthem for me?’ A week later I received an email from the chair of the department informing me that I was the singer for the Commencement ceremony this year. I’m so excited to have an opportunity to sing in front of thousands of my peers in the Liacouras Center.”

## Boston

*From page 1*

stunned athletes and spectators with injuries to their lower extremities.

“All I could do was say ‘Hi, I’m Jared, I’m from Idaho. I’m going to try to take care of you,’” he recalled. “And then just give the best care possible in a tough situation.”

He and his classmates treated dozens of patients before being evacuated.

For Malan, the road to Boston began with the tale of a hometown hero. Throughout his childhood he was told the story of Raymond Curtis Brinkman, a Shelley resident who had lost both legs in a boyhood farming accident. Brinkman went on to become a pioneer among wheelchair athletes as the first non-runner to win the Boston Marathon.

Inspired by Brinkman’s story, Malan was determined to experience the excitement of the famed Patriot’s Day race.

“This was my chance,” said Malan. “This was the culminating event for me. To finally go to the marathon and be there in the medical tent, it was realizing a dream.”

The event would become an exclamation point at the end of his four years of podiatric training and the journey that brought him to Philadelphia. He and his wife, Chelsea, a pharmacy student at Thomas Jefferson University, moved to the city four years ago to become part of its medical community.

“I’d never lived on the East Coast — I’d never lived in a city larger than

20,000 people in my life,” said Malan. “To somebody from Idaho, Philadelphia is almost a foreign country.”

The couple has made the city home. They plan to stay in the region as Malan pursues his residency at St. Luke’s University Health Network in Bethlehem, Pa., possibly followed by a one-year fellowship in sports medicine.

Malan has always been committed to service. As an undergraduate at Brigham Young University-Idaho he had paused his studies to undertake a two-year mission in Guatemala. He continues to help others, even managing to find time to coach a youth basketball team while meeting the demands of medical school. And as a member of the Sports Medicine Club, he has treated athletes young and old at events such as the Penn Relays, charity walks, the Special Olympics and others. And then there was Boston.

“After I heard the first explosion, I immediately thought we were under attack,” he said. “I was ready to just run.”

“Something inside of me said ‘Call Chelsea, let her know that I’m OK for now, and that if not...’ I wanted to get my last I love you in to my wife.”

He left the message and ended the call. And then something clicked. “We don’t have enough doctors,” he thought. “I’m a physician — I’m weeks away.”

And so he took his place inside the medical tent as the first victims arrived.

“I think having been in medical school for four years, nothing can prepare you for that emotionally, but you to turn into a focused physician when the time comes,” he said. “What you’re taught, you use to the best of your ability.” ♦



Members of Temple Podiatry’s Sports Medicine Club wearing their Boston Athletic Association medical jackets in Boston before the race.

## Ready

*From page 1*

copy editing experience. That’s what drew me to her. I could bring her over here and she was able to do exactly what she needed to do.”

If there’s anything that defines Temple graduates, it’s that they haven’t been cloistered. As the “Temple Made” billboard on Broad Street proudly asserts: Temple students are “Real World Raised.” They’ve cut their teeth on coursework that emphasizes experiential learning. They’ve completed academic programs with live-fire professional capstone experiences, such as the Fox School of Business MBA’s Enterprise Management Consulting program. They’ve had internships on campus working with faculty or staff on projects directly related to their career interests through the Temple University Internship Program. They’ve studied abroad or participated in professional immersion experiences such as the School of Media and Communications’ Los Angeles Study Away program. They’ve been Diamond Peer Teachers and Diamond Research Scholars. And by making themselves what Temple President Neil Theobald calls “real-world ready,” they’ve earned

a competitive advantage in a tough job market.

Linda Lawton, associate director of Temple’s Career Center, says experiential learning, internships and other professional experiences are critical for students. In addition to absorbing job-specific technical knowledge, Lawton says students learn what employers call “soft skills”: professional etiquette, how to interact with colleagues, time management and more. When employers come to campus for job fairs, they aren’t just looking for students who have the right technical skills, they’re looking for people who can fit seamlessly into their organizations.

“We love it when students have been able to demonstrate at our company or another company the professionalism, the reliability and the understanding of interpersonal relations that are necessary to integrate into a corporate culture,” said Scott Bellamy, an IT systems development manager at Vanguard, a company that has hired 48 Temple students this year.

Geoffrey E. Allen, a senior in Temple’s College of Science and Technology, was an intern last summer at Vanguard’s headquarters in Malvern, Pa., where he developed a web-based application for the company’s fixed-income systems. When he returned to Temple in the fall, he began a year-long

information science and technology capstone course, which pairs teams of students with real campus clients to work on software development projects. Allen led a six-student team that developed an online scheduling system for Temple’s Writing Center. The experience replicated a professional software development cycle; they interviewed the client, analyzed the situation, designed a solution, coded the software, then tested, documented and implemented it.

“I learned skills — how to manage people, how to deal with personalities. And I learned technical skills. For my capstone, we were getting down and dirty with the code,” he said. “We really do have a competitive advantage when we go into the work world.”

The payoff: Allen has a position in Vanguard’s two-year Technology Leadership Program waiting for him after he graduates.

In the coming years, Temple will be increasing the number of hands-on experiential learning opportunities and internships available to students. Hai-Lung Dai, Temple’s new provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, sees it as one of Temple’s top academic priorities.

“In all we do, we should consider how the content of a Temple education benefits our students,” Dai said.

## ‘No limit on learning’ Class’s oldest grad realizes 25-year goal

*At 73 years young, Marie Meyer holds the distinction of being this year’s oldest graduate. As a young woman, Meyer never had the opportunity to pursue higher education herself, but she decided to enroll at Temple in 1988 after the passing of her eldest son Herbert Meyer, who had been a Temple student. “He never had the chance to graduate, so I decided to do it for him,” said Meyer, a native of Philadelphia. She took one course a semester, while maintaining full time employment and simultaneously caring for her elderly mother. Along the way, life’s events — a hip replacement, the wedding of her youngest son — threatened her ability to achieve her dream. But she persevered, taking the subway up Broad Street from her South Philly home several times a week, and in the end Meyer will graduate cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.*

**Temple Times:** What changes at Temple stand out most to you?

**Marie Meyer:** Over the years I have seen buildings on campus go up and come down. The campus is really different today than when I started. Another change I have noticed is in the ways students dress these days. Twenty-five years ago, there were maybe a few students with pink or purple hair, and trends like tattoos and multiple piercings were just beginning. Now that’s all common.

**TT:** What’s it like being the oldest student in the room?

**MM:** Sometimes during a class discussion a topic might come up that has to do with popular culture, and I will have no idea what they are talking about. But I don’t mind. I am always interested in learning about something new. And just as frequently a professor will lecture about an event that took place before most students in the class were born, and I will have lived through it firsthand. So in that case, I was at an advantage.

**TT:** How did the younger students respond to you?

**MM:** Most students were very supportive, as were all of my professors, TAs and advisors ... just incredibly supportive. And the students would say to me, “That’s so great you’ve gone back to school. My grandmother wants to do that, but she thinks she’s too old.” And I tell them, “Oh, no. You’re never too old.” How can you put a limit on learning; I want to keep learning until the day I die.

**TT:** What will you do now?

**MM:** I retired from my job in 2009 and now that I have completed my degree, I am looking forward to spending time with my son and my grandchildren.



**MARIE T. MEYER**  
BA, Psychology

— Kim Fischer

### Temple’s Career Center ready to help alums

Just because you’ve graduated doesn’t mean career resources at Temple are closed to you. Temple’s Career Center offers a wide variety of free online and in-person services and resources for alumni, including career coaching appointments, virtual office hours and resumé critiques, online assessment tools and tips on everything from networking to cover letter writing. At [alumni.temple.edu](http://alumni.temple.edu), Temple grads can search thousands of employment postings, find listings of career fairs and networking events and connect with other alumni via LinkedIn.

“After receiving a Temple education, can our students find good jobs and be effective citizens?...I would like to help our students acquire problem-solving and analytical skills by increasing opportunities for hands-on experiences. Employers want graduates who, when faced with a challenge, can analyze the situation and solve problems. To me, that’s ‘real-world ready.’” ♦

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### UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

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Ryan S. Brandenberg

## Graham travels toward the future of planning

By James Duffy  
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**LINDSEY GRAHAM**  
MS, Community and  
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It takes a certain confident “jump in feet first” attitude to apply for the coordinator position of Bike Temple when you have only rarely touched the pedals of a bike.

Community and regional planning master’s degree student Lindsey Graham simply saw it as another challenge.

“I had been on a bike maybe four times in my adult life — I was no bike rider — but I applied because I have a passion for transportation planning,” said Graham, 27, who will be the School of Environmental Design graduation ceremony student speaker on May 16. “In 2011, I decided to take a chance and really learn how to ride a bike in the city. I took Bike Temple’s “Urban Riding Basics” course and it truly changed my lifestyle. Now I try to influence all of my friends to get comfortable on the road — Philadelphia is a very bikeable city.”

Graham traces her fascination with transportation planning to family trips along I-95 from Connecticut to North Carolina, which ignited an interest in maps and cartography, and long commutes to North Carolina State University, which fueled a desire to fix transportation systems that needed a helping hand.

One day, she said, she woke up and wanted to live in a big city. New York? Too big. San Francisco? Too far away. Philadelphia, she said, “had the great history, culture and people” that she was looking for. It also was the perfect avenue to explore professional planning and urban transportation systems.

“When I discovered planning as a career, I recognized the real impact I could make on communities. Everyone uses some form of transportation — every community is facing transportation challenges,” she said. “People live in their cars — we’re a very car-oriented society — but there are so many other options to explore.”

During her time in Philadelphia, Graham said, she has seen a marked increase in bicycle commuting and public transportation use. At the same time, miles traveled in individual vehicles is also on the rise, she said.

“Transportation planning is a booming field and I’m ready to get my hands dirty. I’m looking forward to getting in there, shaking things up and working with people to solve their problems.”

Working to solve community problems is what Graham is most passionate about, she said. Her studio class — a mix of graduate and undergraduate students — worked with the Montgomery County Office of Aging and Adult Services to develop plans to help the elderly age in place — to live at home independently and comfortably at any age, income or ability level.

“This project has been a terrific experience as it’s allowed me to really step out of my comfort zone and explore planning from different perspectives,” she said. “This is a project that I feel could be taken and used to make a significantly positive impact on our communities.”

Graham was recently named a semi-finalist for the Presidential Management Fellows program, a prestigious two-year paid government fellowship that provides the opportunity to work with a variety of United States government agencies. The rigorous selection process includes hours of interviews, tests and assessments, which take place in Washington, D.C.

“I’ve been consistently impressed with Lindsey’s passion for planning and her commitment to developing her skills,” said Deborah Howe, chair of the Department of Community and Regional Planning. “She’s taken the initiative to really pursue every avenue to become an effective planner. She has a profound commitment to making a difference in society, and I know that she will.”

Graham was the third Presidential Management Fellows semi-finalist from Temple’s Community and Regional Planning program in three years — an almost unheard of accomplishment among planning programs in the country.

“My dream is to work in federal government; to become Secretary of Transportation. I want to aim high — maybe the head of a major authority or planning firm of a metropolitan planning organization like the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission,” she said. “You never take your eyes off of that dream. There are times you’re going to want to give up, times you question what you want to do, but as graduate students we are here because we want to be here. Stay calm, focused and always move forward.” ♦

# Medicine grad tuned in to love of science on tour with his band

By Eryn Jelesiewicz  
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With one semester to go at West Chester University, Chris Kleinberg told his parents he was quitting school. His rock band, “mewithoutYou,” for which he played electric guitar, had just been signed to a four-record contract. Thus began seven years of touring, during which Chris “lived the dream,” but also unexpectedly uncovered a deep love of science that would eventually lead him to medical school.

This week, Kleinberg, 33, will graduate from Temple’s School of Medicine bound for a residency in emergency medicine at Temple University Hospital.

His path to medicine was sparked by those seven years on the road, specifically by the 1974 Greyhound bus that band members gutted and turned into a tour bus.

“Through rehabbing the bus and converting it to run on used vegetable oil, I realized I loved problem-solving,” said Kleinberg. “Vegetable oil constantly clogs so I spent a lot of time figuring out where the clogs were and how to fix them. It made me fall in love with the diagnostic process.”

Kleinberg decided to explore science more earnestly to see if he really liked it as much as he suspected. He took chemistry and physiology textbooks on the road. Touring afforded a lot of down time so he could study. Within six to nine months, he knew that he wanted to pursue medicine.

He returned to West Chester to finish his bachelor’s degree, commuting by public transportation from Fish-town. He started gearing up for the strenuous medical school application process by taking pre-med courses and using his four-hour daily commute to build his study habits. For



Joseph B. Schaefer



**CHRIS KLEINBERG**  
MD, Medicine

hands-on experience, he volunteered at Thomas Jefferson University’s emergency room and a medical clinic near his house.

Meanwhile, Temple had just launched its post-baccalaureate pre-medical program, which offers well-qualified students in need of science prerequisites a supportive bridge into medical school. Kleinberg became part of the inaugural class.

In addition to the post-baccalaureate program, Temple offered Kleinberg the opportunity to continue serving North Philadelphia.

“I have a heart for this part of the city,” he said. “There are a lot of underprivileged people who’ve kind of been [cheated] in a lot of ways. I think that’s at the heart of Temple — serving this area.”

When Kleinberg envisioned himself as a doctor, he saw a jack-of-all-trades, someone who could fix and diagnose anything that came along.

This led him to decide to specialize in emergency medicine.

“You have to be ready for any type of medical complaint, whether it’s a woman about to deliver a baby or someone having a heart attack,” he said. “That’s appealing to me. I always wanted to be a well-rounded person. In emergency medicine, you have to be proficient in all areas of medicine, especially in an acute setting.”

Temple was his first choice for residency. Not only is it one of the best programs in the country, but it also allows Kleinberg and his family to stay in the area, which means his baby daughter, Jubilee, can grow up close to her grandparents.

True to his desire to be well-rounded, Kleinberg has stayed tuned in to his musical interests. During his first two years of medical school he occasionally toured with the band and, more recently, began writing music with his wife, Nikki.

“I feel really lucky,” he said. “I guess it’s a combination of luck and gratitude to be at the place I’m at now. I found my way and it feels good.” ♦

## From high school dropout to Harvard-bound

*Born and raised in South Korea, Jae Hyeon Lee came to America in 2007 as, essentially, a high-school dropout. After graduating from Plymouth Whitemarsh High School in suburban Philadelphia, Lee thrived at the College of Science and Technology (CST). He participated in the Diamond Research Scholars Program and CST’s Undergraduate Research Program, earned a Creative Arts, Research and Scholarship grant and was a speaker — along with some of the college’s top professors — at TEDxTempleU. This fall, Lee will head to Harvard University to begin his doctoral studies in physics.*

**Temple Times:** How did you find your way to Temple?

**Jae Hyeon Lee:** When I was in high school — I didn’t know what I was thinking — I applied to all Ivy League schools and to Temple. I lived near Philly, so I had so many resources in the area. I knew a lot of people who were here already. I didn’t get into any of the other schools as an undergraduate, but I did get accepted to many of them for graduate school. That felt good!

**TT:** Why physics?

**JHL:** Since I was little I’ve had a curiosity about math and science, although I wasn’t always good at them. When I came to America, I couldn’t enroll in high school for six months. I was in a new country, didn’t know the language and didn’t know many people. I went to the library and checked out a pre-calculus book and saw some of the work by the physicist Brian Greene about the marriage of quantum mechanics and the theory of relativity. That inspired me. Physics made me feel like there is something greater out there, something that binds society into a whole.

**TT:** Proudest moment at Temple?

**JHL:** One of my proudest moments was being a speaker at this year’s TEDxTempleU event. I’ve been speaking English for only about five or six years. I came a long

way to be able to give such a talk in front of such a large crowd. It was good practice for me, giving a public speech.

**TT:** Are you looking forward to graduate school?

**JHL:** Undergraduate life can be hectic, with all the requirements. You don’t always know what you are doing and where you are headed. In grad school it will be more well-defined. I’ll work with great physicists and focus on really understanding the material. I’m from a middle-class Korean family. I never thought I would go to Harvard. It’s very exciting.

**TT:** What’s the ultimate goal?

**JHL:** Life is long, so I want to do multiple things. I want my life to be defined not by a career but by a dream. For now, I want to become a good scientist. Then, maybe, go into business or education reform so that I can have a greater impact on the scientific community. You know... something in the real world.

— Greg Fornia



Paige Ozanoski



**JAE HYEON LEE**  
BS, Physics

## Student-athlete Jenni Abercrombie: 'Tell me I can't and I'll show you I can'

Jennifer Abercrombie, a member of Temple's track and field team, is a living example of the folly of stereotyping student-athletes. The off-the-field accomplishments of this theoretical linguistics major in the College of Health Professions and Social Work had graduate schools and employers competing for her (she was accepted to grad school programs at Harvard University and the University of California, Berkeley, and also was offered a prestigious post-graduate internship with the NCAA). Want to know what Jenni chose? Read on.

**Temple Times:** What's the most annoying stereotype you hear about student-athletes?

**Jenni Abercrombie:** The most common stereotype that I've encountered is the entitled dumb jock persona. That has always been one that I've wanted to make evaporate whenever possible. So many things can go wrong that can take sports away from you; you need something to fall back on. You need something to keep you sane when your coaches are driving you crazy. Education has always been my outlet.

**TT:** What have you learned from participating in intercollegiate athletics?

**JA:** Teamwork. People forget that cross country and track are team-oriented. It's not just me out there by myself. Members of teams learn to balance each other's strengths and weaknesses. You have one common goal. In a workplace environment, I'm going to depend on other people too.

**TT:** Looking back on your years at Temple, is there something that stands out as a defining experience?

**JA:** I think the one thing I'll hold on to most is my experience as president of our Student Athlete Advisory Committee. It was very rewarding. The NCAA mandates that institutions have a SAAC so that student-athletes have a voice on campus, and that athletics administration and student-athletes work together to make sure that the wellbeing of the student-athletes is being taken care of. Student-athletes needed to be more integrated into university culture. So we've branched out and done more community service projects. People see that we have brains, we have goals, we have initiatives and we want to do something to give back to our community, our fans and the university.

**TT:** Track and field coach Eric Mobley told us you originally came here as a distance runner, not a thrower. What happened?

**JA:** I originally ran cross country in the fall, and then during the outdoor track season I ran the 800 and 1500. In my sophomore year at practice, I was running downhill at Belmont Plateau [in Fairmount Park]; my foot got caught in an awkward position and my hips came out of alignment. For about two and a half months they stayed out of alignment. I eventually had to go through physical therapy for a month and a half. I was not able to lift, I wasn't able to run. I was barely able to walk or sit up straight in class. It was rough, especially being so far from home.



Mitchell Leif

**JENNIFER ABERCROMBIE**  
BA, Linguistics

**TT:** But you didn't leave the team?

**JA:** I worked my butt off and was able to practice with my team again by the end of my sophomore year. But it didn't feel right. I knew that I wasn't going to contribute to my team or score points in that condition. But one benefit of the injury was after I was able to do squats again, I was stronger than ever. I knew that if I wanted to be a part of the team, I needed to find another way to contribute. So I became a thrower. My main event is javelin. I also do hammer throw and shot put.

**TT:** What's next for you?

**JA:** I have decided to attend U.C. Berkeley in the fall and get my master's degree in their sport and education program.

**TT:** Do you have any long term goals?

**JA:** I'm taking over the NCAA! [She laughs.] I don't see why I couldn't. I already know some people after participating in an NCAA inclusion forum earlier this month. I want to stay close to student-athletes and impact their lives, so my long-term goal is to be an athletic director or dean of students at an institution.

**TT:** Speaking of inclusion, there aren't many African-American female role models nationally in those types of leadership positions.

**JA:** Tell me I can't and I'll show you I can. The fact that there are few women period, let alone African-American women, who are in the types of positions I want — that's a driving force. There's a saying: "Be the change you want to see in the world." If I don't try, how can I inspire someone else? How can I tell someone else they can do it, if I don't try myself?

— Hillel J. Hoffmann

## Career success is a slam dunk for motivated STHM grad

By Brandon Lausch  
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Colt Dorsey's senior internship with the Brooklyn Nets is a testament to networking.

He met 2008 Temple graduate Zachary James, the basketball team's manager of business development and premium all-access manager, two years ago and maintained contact. Thanks in large part to James, Dorsey stood out this semester among the team's 40 interns. He was one of only three or four full-timers, one of four from Pennsylvania — and the only one interning in VIP Services.

Originally from Fredericksburg, Pa., Dorsey attended Bloomsburg University his freshman year and went to Harrisburg Area Community College as a sophomore before transferring to Temple, drawn to the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management's sport and recreation management program. He and three classmates co-founded the Sport Marketing Association of Temple, now 30 members strong. But for Dorsey, that was just the beginning.

Dorsey interned during his junior year with Global Spectrum in business development and client relations. He has also interned with the Philadelphia Flyers hockey team in game-night presentation and with the Philadelphia Eagles football team in mascot marketing, which involved organizing



Ryan S. Brandenberg

**COLT DORSEY**  
BS, Sport and Recreation Management

community events and pep rallies featuring the Eagles mascot, Swoop; Eagles cheerleaders; and former players.

His Nets internship — which coincided with the franchise's first season in Brooklyn after moving there from New Jersey — included a senior project to explore the benefits and challenges of potentially implementing a paperless ticketing system for season-ticket holders.

Dorsey said the Nets staff welcomed him and his fellow interns from day one, pushing them to perform and welcoming them like family. Executives even hosted weekly lunch-and-learns.

"Hearing their stories makes you want to be in their spot even more," Dorsey said. "When talking to these people, it pushes me even harder."

Thanks to years of pushing himself at Temple to gain real-world experience — going beyond the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management's requirement of junior and senior internships — Dorsey got his break in the business. He's secured a business development ticket sales position with the National Football League's Miami Dolphins starting in June.

"I'm really excited about this position since it's in the league that I ultimately wanted to work in, the NFL," Dorsey said. "And it's in South Beach, so I don't have too much to complain about." ♦

## Physical Therapy graduates leave behind gift for future students

By Ashwin Verghese  
ashwin@temple.edu

As they think back on their years at Temple, most 2013 graduates probably remember study abroad trips, nights out with friends or scoring an A on an important final.

But for many soon-to-be-graduates in the Department of Physical Therapy, the memory they cherish most is about giving back.

"Honestly, I have to say my favorite memory was when we presented a check to our school," said Jackie Davidson, president of the Temple Doctor of Physical Therapy Student Association for the class of 2013.

In November, Davidson and the 50 members of her class donated \$1,500 to the College of Health Professions and Social Work to support The Hyman L. Dervitz Scholarship, which provides financial aid for students in their program.

"It was a very emotional day for all of us," Davidson recalled.

The idea for the class gift began in late 2011 when faculty advisors met with the student association to talk

about the importance of scholarship fundraising and the financial challenges many students are facing. Davidson said the professors told them that several students who were accepted into the physical therapy program weren't able to enroll simply because of the cost.

The professors suggested that the student association try to find a way to help. There is a tradition in the physical therapy department of graduating classes leaving behind a class gift. In the past, the classes would often donate undesignated funds to the student association, Davidson said.

This year, with the rising cost of education high on everyone's minds, the class of 2013 decided to make its gift to a scholarship that will help students who follow them.

"We kind of brought the financial issues to light, and most of the students could really sympathize," said Assistant Professor Scott Burns, one of the faculty advisors. "We didn't really try to push them [to donate to the scholarship]. We just said this idea might be a good one to pursue and let them run with it."

Usually, class gifts in the physical therapy department are made with

whatever money the seniors have left after three years of fundraisers and other class events. When the class of 2013 decided to make its gift to the scholarship, the students made extra efforts to raise money, including holding additional fundraisers, bake sales and raffles.

"We had a really positive response from all of the students involved," Davidson said. "They were really on-board to do this. They put forth a great effort to maximize the gift and take it to the next level."

Davidson said the class chose to donate to The Hyman L. Dervitz Scholarship because it is one of the largest scholarships for physical therapy students, and because they wanted to encourage others to contribute to the fund.

Dervitz, who created Temple's Physical Therapy Department in 1967 and was its chair until 1986, said he was touched by the students' gift. "The fact that current students have made a donation particularly overwhelms me," he said. "I am speechless, other than to say thank you, thank you to all."

Burns noted that the Dervitz scholarship was a fitting choice for the class of 2013 because community service is one of the criteria for receiving the award.

"This class in particular is highly motivated to not only help themselves through their education, but to help the community at large," he said. "It's a wonderful class. I'm sorry to see them go, but I'm excited to watch them head out into the real world and make an impact on the patients and communities they serve." ♦



Becky Ferguson

Members of the Physical Therapy Department class of 2013 donated \$1,500 to the College of Health Professions and Social Work to support The Hyman L. Dervitz Scholarship, which provides financial aid for physical therapy students.

MEET MORE GRADS



**JAIMEE SWIFT**  
BA,  
Communications

When Swift started at Temple, she was unaware her journey would be so transformative. Feeling a lack of confidence her freshman year, the communication studies major decided to get involved on campus, and in the process found her purpose: empowering and leading other women as the president of Her Campus Temple.

news.temple.edu/TUgrads2013

**T** JOSEPH B. STONEY  
BSME, Mechanical Engineering



Ryan S. Brandenberg

## Student speaker has long, bumpy journey

For some students, the path through college is short, straight and pain-free. That's not how it worked out for Joseph B. Stoney, the mechanical engineering major chosen to be the student speaker at Temple's 126th Commencement Exercises. Stoney was a 23-year-old out of Northeast Philadelphia when he started his Temple journey almost a decade ago. Now, after overcoming a series of obstacles that would have defeated many students, he's ready to become the first person in his family to earn a college degree. As the Temple motto says, *Perseverantia Vincit* — perseverance conquers.

**Temple Times:** Your academic career was derailed a few times on the way to graduation. What happened?

**Joe Stoney:** Before I came to Temple, I was in the Navy. My dream was to be a naval aviator. About five or six years into my naval career, I was on my way. I was accepted into a commissioning program to become a naval officer. The program would send me to any school I wanted on a full scholarship, with flight school to follow. Temple is where I chose to go. But during my flight physical in 2004, just before I left for school, they found out I had testicular cancer. Unfortunately, I was medically disqualified from my flight program and [after being treated] I didn't meet the program's age requirement. My wind was completely taken out of me.

**TT:** How did that impact your academic career?

**JS:** I got an honorable discharge. I was out of the Navy, but I was still interested in engineering, so I decided to create new dreams and pursue a degree at Temple even though I no longer had the educational benefit from the Navy. But then my parents ended up moving away in 2007. I had been living with them. I just couldn't afford it, and my parents weren't in a position to help me. So I dropped out in spring 2007.

**TT:** But here you are, about to earn your degree. What happened in between?

**JS:** I found myself a nice one-bedroom apartment and a job at Home Depot. I found different dreams; I had aspirations of moving up in management. Then I met my fiancée, Sarah, in 2009. It took me meeting Sarah to realize what I wanted to do — and it wasn't Home Depot. I returned to Temple in 2011 determined, fully-charged and strong-willed.

**TT:** You'll be representing all Temple students at Commencement. What do you think makes Temple students different?

**JS:** Temple students are all about overcoming obstacles, overcoming adversity. My story is not unique. Most students here are making it on their own. Temple students are committed. It's a determination to overcome anything, whether it's financial burdens or the academic competition. We want to be the best.

**TT:** Graduation is a big milestone, but it's not your only major life event this month.

**JS:** On Friday night, May 3, Sarah and I got engaged. I had working so hard planning this surprise and it couldn't have worked out any better. It was the most amazing moment in my life.

— Hillel J. Hoffmann

# Recipe for creative energy: Mix @PhillyGrrl and @GinoTheFilipino, add law school

When Kishwer Vikaas Barrica and Gino Barrica get an idea in their heads, they don't delay — they make it happen. When they decided to get married, they tied the knot in less than a week. When they decided to launch the weekly interview podcast known as "Talkadelphia," they bought a microphone, plugged it into a laptop and they were off. We can't wait to see what this husband-and-wife team of Beasley School of Law graduates decides to do next.



**T** KISHWER VIKAAAS BARRICA  
JD, Law

**T** GINO G. BARRICA  
JD, Law

**Temple Times:** What brought you to Temple?

**Kishwer Vikaas Barrica:** I went to Temple as an undergrad, so I knew what Temple had to offer, from the city to the diversity. I chose Temple Law because it's a great value, and because it has a very good reputation for its focus on public interest law. I wanted to stay in my current job at Public Health Management Corporation, and Temple Law offered evening programs. I also wanted to explore Philadelphia more.

**Gino Barrica:** After I graduated from Millersville with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2006, I ended up in the insurance industry for five years. I moved to Dallas. The contrast was dramatic. I realized how much I wanted to be in Philadelphia.

**TT:** That wasn't the only good match that happened at Temple. You met and got married here. How did that happen?

**GB:** We first got to talking via Twitter. A classmate, @JoeRoss, gave each of us the other's Twitter handle during orientation. She's @Phillygrrl. **KVB:** And he's @GinoTheFilipino. The truth is, while we met during orientation, we didn't really remember each other's faces — only each other's Twitter handles.

**GB:** Who knew she was the Twitter queen of Philadelphia? [Kishwer was recently named one of Philadelphia's 15 "most influential people on Twitter" by *Philadelphia Magazine's* "The Philly Post" blog.]

**KVB:** He was always tweeting about music. That was the subject that brought us together.

**GB:** We started dating in our second semester at Temple Law. And we eloped in November 2011. That was our first wedding.

**TT:** Your first wedding?

**GB:** By graduation, we'll have been married three times. The first time was an impulse. We had never even discussed marriage. I came over to her apartment one day at lunch and she said "We should just get married." So we did.

**KVB:** We went to City Hall. They said we needed \$80 cash and three days notice. The following Tuesday we got married. One of my professors, Judge Ida Chen, married us in the law library of Family Court. Our second wedding was when Mayor Nutter married us on "Talkadelphia," and

our third wedding — that's the real one, with guests and our families — will be on May 18, a few days before Temple Law graduation.

**TT:** What's "Talkadelphia"?

**KVB:** "Talkadelphia" is our podcast interviewing people in Philly who fascinate us. It started when I was listening to NPR's "Fresh Air." I thought, "Why doesn't Philadelphia have a show like that about Philadelphians?" I had been blogging a lot, but I felt limited. I wanted to get Philadelphians to tell their stories in their own words. So in the fall of 2010, I tweeted that I wanted to start a podcast and asked if anyone knew how to do it. Gino called me a minute later.

**GB:** I said, "I know how to do a podcast! Let's do it." I ordered a mic on Amazon, and we were off. The first one was an interview of my roommate, a DJ. That was episode one of 73.

**TT:** Of all the things you've done at Temple Law, what has most defined your Temple experience?

**KVB:** Last semester I took a class with Sarah Katz. She led the "Temple Legal Aid Office: Family Law" clinic. We had to work on all aspects of custody, paternity, support and adoption cases, including interviews, counseling clients, negotiating settlements, trial prep and court appearances. I went from being in a classroom to standing in an actual courtroom — right from the first week of the class.

**GB:** Temple has a great integrated trial advocacy program. You focus on criminal trials one semester and civil trials the second, one case each semester. You learn so much; it's real-world trial advocacy experience. And it helped me get a job. I have accepted a position with Nationwide Insurance as a trial attorney.

**TT:** You work full-time. You go to law school.

**You're married. You do a podcast. How do you pull off that balancing act?**

**GB:** The key is variety. You need variety. That's one of the reasons we did "Talkadelphia." Kishwer needed a creative outlet; I needed something to distract me from law school.

**KVB:** Our marriage has really helped. It's given me a routine. We work together to make things happen. Gino keeps me balanced.

— Hillel J. Hoffmann

## Entering unfamiliar territory, Poland native builds a Temple family

By Kim Fischer  
fischerk@temple.edu

As a high school student at an English school for European immigrants in Spain, all of Katarzyna (Kasia) Tomasik's classmates wanted to go to England for university. But Tomasik, a native of Poland, wanted to come to America.

She chose Temple for its reputation for multiculturalism and because a cousin who had previously attended the university as a pre-med student gave her a positive report.

But when Tomasik arrived on Main Campus, she felt like she had been plopped headfirst into unfamiliar territory.

"It was very scary to come here alone, not knowing anything or anyone. I was even unsure of my major," said Tomasik, who started out in political science.

To connect with other international students, Tomasik joined Temple's International Students Association (ISA), which at the time only had a handful of members. The group's mission — to promote multiculturalism on campus and help form bonds among multicultural students — was one Tomasik was happy to support.

That small group of international students became a close knit family. Now, three years later and with Tomasik at the helm, ISA is still a family — but a bigger one, boast-



Joseph V. Labolito

**T** KATARZYNA TOMASIK  
BA, Economics

ing 130 official members, with many more than that attending the organization's popular events.

This year, ISA hosted an ice skating party and a flash mob-style performance of "Gangnam Style" in Alter Hall followed by a Free Food Fun Friday event held at the Student Center. A whopping 20 teams participated in ISA's soccer tournament held at Geasey Field, and 240 students representing 47 nationalities attended the first-ever International Grand Ball held this spring in Mitten Hall.

For Tomasik, helping international students make connections and form bonds was the main point. "When I looked out across the dance floor at the ball, and everyone was having such a good time, it was very gratifying to see that my efforts had brought so many people together," she said.

As this year's president, one of Tomasik's priorities has been to ensure that the growth ISA witnessed

under her leadership will continue under the organization's incoming executive board. To that end, she has spent many sunny spring afternoons in the ISA office making plans for a smooth transition.

But, Tomasik — who finally settled on economics as a major — also found many academic opportunities at the university she chose for its cultural diversity. At the suggestion of Economics Professor William Stull, Tomasik applied for several departmental honors, and as a result she has been inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and was named the recipient of the Norman and Ruth Sun Memorial Award in Economics. Established in memory of Professor Norman Sun and his wife, Ruth, the Sun award is given to a College of Liberal Arts student majoring in economics in recognition of his or her outstanding scholastic record and strong leadership qualities.

Her time at Temple will culminate in the delivery of the commencement address for the College of Liberal Arts. She says that the significance of all she has achieved at Temple probably won't hit her until she stands on that podium.

"I came here not even knowing anything about America or college — I didn't even know what a credit hour was. And now I am speaking to my graduating class. I feel truly Temple Made." ♦

## MEET MORE GRADS



**T** AMY OPPONG YEBOAH  
PhD, African American Studies

Yeboah, who previously received her bachelor's degree in sociology and master's degrees in sociology and African American studies at Temple, will end a 10-year stint as a TU student when she receives her Ph.D. in African American Studies.



**T** FABIEN NAVIDI-KASMAI  
BA, Media Studies and Production

Navidi-Kasmai worked through entire weekends at his job delivering pizza, but his planning and hard work have paid off. He graduates from Temple debt-free at only 20 years old and is moving to Virginia to start work as project manager.



**T** BRANDON HUBER  
BS, Horticulture

During his time at Temple, Huber figured out how to combine his passion for plants with his passion for connecting with other people. He's given talks to garden clubs and other organizations on a variety of horticultural topics.

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## Army officer shores up planning skills at Temple Ambler

By James Duffy  
duffy@temple.edu

Temple community and regional planning graduate student Terrence Harrington came to urban planning from a decidedly atypical angle, receiving inspiration from the unlikely of sources — George Costanza.

“I was watching an episode of ‘Seinfeld’ where George was pretending to be a city planner. It was the first time that I thought about urban planning as a career,” said Harrington, a career military officer with more than 17 years of service to his country. “At the time I was being redeployed to Iraq, but I knew that city planning was my future.”

It’s a future firmly rooted in his military career, which has incorporated planning in some aspect at nearly every turn. While a television comedy helped Harrington’s planning seed germinate, his dedication to ensuring the safety, security and well being of his fellow soldiers at home and abroad in locations such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and South Korea is no laughing matter.

“I think my interest in planning first started at Fort Stewart, in Georgia, where I was a facilities officer and began to understand the facilities planning process,” said Harrington, a U.S. Army major currently serving as a brigade engineer in Afghanistan. “Later while I was serving in Iraq I was an ‘FOV major,’ which is similar to a city manager. I felt like someone was trying to tell me something.”

That “voice” was clearly speaking to Harrington from the very beginning. In South Korea, for example, he coordinated logistical support, physical security and administration for a 100-member unit. In 2004, he was an assistant brigade operations officer, coordinating facilities and housing for a 900-person unit. In Baghdad, Iraq, he was a company commander and base camp manager, man-



Courtesy Terrence Harrington



aging \$400,000 in construction projects.

From 2009 to 2010, as director of engineering and housing, Harrington was responsible for all U.S. base camps in Kuwait during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Overseas Contingency Operations.

In Kuwait, Harrington was involved in developing stormwater management plans for base camps to allow for some normalcy of life during the rainy season, and he worked with the director of public works to develop a power distribution plan during the summer months, when temperatures reach 115 to 130 degrees and outages are common.

Currently, he is helping to supervise the planning and execution of U.S. troop withdrawal and base closures out of Afghanistan while also being responsible for the planning and execution of all engineering missions — both combat and construction.

And while continuing his military service, Harrington worked toward a master’s degree at Temple University Ambler.

“I think my military training has helped greatly in the program and vice versa,” Harrington said. “In the military there are a lot of opportunities for analytical thinking — how to resolve problems based on current facts while managing your assets. Temple’s planning program provided me with the technical understanding and the theoretical processes that I needed to explore a broad spectrum — economic, environmental, societal, geographical — and see how they interrelate.”

Seven years and several overseas tours later, Harrington is about to complete the long journey to finishing his degree. While thousands of miles — and one ocean — will prevent him from attending graduation personally on May 16, he’ll certainly be there in spirit.

“It’s such a great sense of accomplishment. I think in my situation, a lot of people would have quit, but the institutional and faculty support I’ve received has been awesome,” he said.

Harrington’s advice to fellow active duty service men and women who might be thinking about higher education is simple:

“Do it.” ♦

## Hands-on community service drives med school grad

By Eryn Jelesiewicz  
dobeck@temple.edu



As a little girl, Crystal Brown thought that the community health fairs she went to with her mother in the Watts section of Los Angeles were just a big party. Nearly two decades later, on the cusp of graduating from medical school, she can see that they were the foundation on which she’s built a personal commitment to community service.

Brown’s mother was a faculty member in the physician’s assistant program at Charles Drew University and gave a lot back to the poverty-stricken community surrounding the school through health fairs and other activities for the neighborhood.

“When she worked in the community, she’d always have me out there with her,” said Brown. “At the time, I didn’t realize I was volunteering — I thought it was just fun — but it always stuck with me and as I got older realized it was something I wanted to do as well.”

As an undergraduate at Pepperdine University and a medical student at Temple, Brown extended her community work to serve many different populations.

In her junior year, she traveled to Nicaragua to work with the citizens of an impoverished village that had no infrastructure, no roads, no sanitation and no source of medical care. In addition to building outhouses, the students helped run medical clinics out of people’s houses.

Being one of the “less squeamish” students, Brown got to do a lot of hands-on work with the patients. At that point she knew that she wanted to pursue medicine. She chose Temple because of its location in an urban area and its mission to care for the underserved.

While at Temple, Brown made sure to stay in close touch with her adopted community in North Philadelphia. For two years, she worked

with her fellow medical students to bring an annual health fair to the nearby Kenderton Elementary School, teaching the children about everything from nutrition to the dangers of alcohol. And as the community service chair of Temple’s National Medical Association student chapter, Brown launched a new program to address the high rate of hypertension in African-American men.

For this program, she needed to partner with a barber shop, and she found one near Temple’s Main Campus: Mecca, on Cecil B. Moore Avenue. On Saturdays, Brown and her fellow medical students would visit the shop and offer free blood pressure screenings. It was a way to reach African-American men, some of whom hadn’t been to see a doctor in decades, in an informal, relaxed setting. Brown found the work fulfilling because the students got to know the men over time and could help them get follow-up treatment if they needed it.

For her residency, Brown chose to specialize in emergency medicine at the University of Southern California. She loves the variety and pace of the ER and the opportunity it affords her to work with her hands. She feels good about the fact that USC serves a population similar to Temple’s. And although she’s glad to be returning home to spend time with her grandparents and growing nephews, she’ll miss the people in Philadelphia.

“Initially, I was a little intimidated by the East Coast’s reputation for rudeness, but I found that people here are so willing to interact. And I really appreciated that. People in L.A. can tend to keep to themselves,” said Brown. “Everyone has been very friendly, from the patients to the employees at the medical school. That’s what I’ll miss most.” ♦



Joseph B. Schaefer

## TSG president fosters his passion for politics, Temple

David Lopez’s passion for politics began in high school. At just 17 years old, he was working for Sen. Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign. While attending Temple, the political science and philosophy major interned in Washington, D.C., three times, most recently for the White House, and has worked for the Democratic National Committee. But at Temple he is best known for his service this year as president of Temple Student Government.



**Temple Times:** What has been your most memorable experience at Temple?

**David Lopez:** The day that the election results were announced for Temple Student Government. After having spent several weeks investing time and energy into the campaign, it was great to get the results announced. I had a great team I was working with the entire time, and to know we were going to have a chance to do what we were campaigning for over the course of the next year was, by far, the most rewarding thing you could ask for.

**TT:** In addition to your work as TSG president, you’ve served the university as an Owl Ambassador. Why are you so committed to Temple?

**DL:** So much was presented to me within the first few weeks that I was here. So many people had a pride and passion for this institution and it made me want to convey that message to others. So that’s part of the reason I took on the job. Looking back on it, it was the optimal way to put myself out there and convey to other people that Temple could be the right school for you. My commitment has been here since day one and it will always be here, even 50 years down the road.

— Joseph B. Schaefer



Joseph B. Schaefer

**TT:** What has driven your interest in public service?

**DL:** Part of it is growing up in a fairly small city [Hazleton, Pa.], where things were difficult at times. It had a huge problem as far as the race demographics are concerned. People would often question how someone with the last name ‘Lopez’ could ever accomplish something. It motivated me to prove them wrong. Things don’t just get handed to you; you have to work hard for them no matter who you are or where you come from.

**TT:** What are your plans after graduation?

**DL:** Ideally, it would be to work for maybe two or three years within the federal government and then attend law school. After that I would like to start to get involved more directly with public service, maybe in a public defender’s office in a big city. One day somewhere down the road, I wouldn’t mind running for public office.

**TT:** What legacy have you left at Temple?

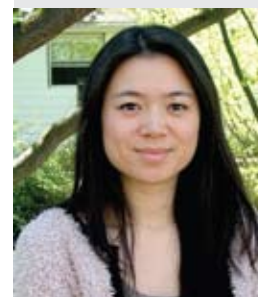
**DL:** I’ve always lived off one mantra, and it came to me during my sophomore year: When you come to Temple you can either be a fish in the ocean or a shark in a pond. The more you put yourself out there, the more people you’re willing to meet, the more faces you’re trying to put yourself in front of, the more opportunity you’re going to have. Starting as a freshman who really didn’t know what I wanted to do and falling into different roles over time made me figure out exactly where I want to be.

## MEET MORE GRADS



**JESSICA K. JACKSON**  
BSEE, Electrical Engineering

After pushing through family struggles, the death of a close friend and financial difficulties that forced her to drop back to part time, Jackson is excited to finally be finishing her undergraduate journey after seven years.



**YINQUI DAI**  
BS, Landscape Architecture

For her talent in creating landscape designs that are both beautiful and functional, Dai received the John Collins Drawing Award, named after legendary landscape architect John Collins, the creator and first chair of Temple’s Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture.

news.temple.edu/TUgrads2013

# Engineering graduates will spend summer in NASA robotics program

By Preston M. Moretz  
pmoretz@temple.edu

As sophomores, engineering students Vadim Linevich and Andrew Powell both became involved in the NASA-funded Student Space Exploration and Environmental Systems Laboratory (SSEESL) in Temple's College of Engineering. The lab offers students a chance to work on diverse projects involving robotics, quad-copters, sub-orbital payload design and high altitude ballooning.

As a result of their experience, the two graduating seniors applied and were accepted into the prestigious and highly competitive NASA Robotics Academy and will spend 10 weeks this summer at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. NASA holds robotics academies at two of its facilities: the Marshall Space Flight Center and Ames Research Center in California. Typically, only a dozen students are accepted into each.

"This is almost unheard of for two undergraduates from the same school getting into the robotics academy at the same time," said Temple Electrical and Computer Engineering Associate Professor John Helferty, who is also director of SSEESL.

Although Linevich and Powell worked in the same laboratory, the

**VADIM LINEVICH**  
BSME, Mechanical Engineering

**ANDREW POWELL**  
BSEE, Electrical Engineering

two took different routes to landing the NASA internship.

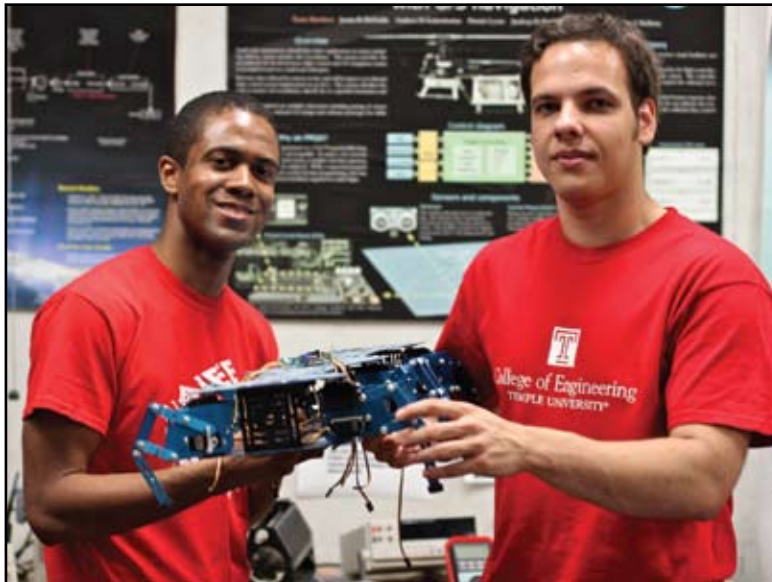
Linevich, 21, a mechanical engineering major, spent three years on the lunabotics team, which competes in a NASA-sponsored competition to design and build a lunar mining robot.

"During spring break, I had the opportunity to participate in this online career fair exclusively for lunabotics team members," said Linevich, who was born in Belarus and moved to northeast Philadelphia nine years ago. "I was very fortunate to speak with someone from NASA who told me about this amazing internship."

"The competition was very fierce," Linevich said. "I was over the moon when I heard I was one of the few people who got admitted. If I didn't have the lunabotics experience, I don't think I would have been considered."

Powell, 22, learned about the internship at the last minute through a forwarded email from the National Society of Black Engineers.

"I saw the email and took the initia-



Engineering degree candidates Andrew Powell and Vadim Linevich.

tive right away," said Powell, an electrical and computer engineering major who helped design and build a quad-copter through SSEEL and is part of a senior design team building an autonomous lawnmower. "I spent the whole weekend preparing my application, which included a letter of recommendation, resume and two essays."

He was surprised when he got a phone call from NASA in early March telling him he had been accepted.

"Something I said in one of my es-

says obviously got someone's attention," said Powell, who is from Bethlehem, Pa.

At the NASA Robotics Academy, Linevich and Powell will work as part of the same team on a research project titled "Next Generation Solar Sailcraft." In addition to lab work, they will take part in special seminars and workshops and visit off-site aerospace companies and other research facilities. The two are looking forward to gaining more knowledge and hands-

on experience in the emerging robotics field from top researchers.

"One of the aims of the robotics academy is to help young people gain technical experience in a world-class laboratory," added Powell. "We'll be getting robotics experience in an environment where a lot of important researchers have already made their mark."

While neither knew that the other had applied, both Linevich and Powell believe that having someone they are familiar with in the academy will be a big advantage. They will also be carpooling while in Huntsville.

"(Andrew) is a very smart and talented individual," said Linevich. "I'm sure we'll make a great team because we know each other."

Following the summer internship, both graduates will return to Temple in the fall to pursue advanced degrees.

Powell has received a Temple Future Faculty Fellowship to pursue a Ph.D., while Linevich is part of the five-year master's program in which he has already taken graduate courses that apply to both his undergraduate and graduate degree.

But if the internship were to lead to a job at NASA, Linevich admits he would be unable to say no.

"That would be a dream come true, because I love what NASA does," he said. ♦



Courtesy Rachel Aistrop

## Immersion program is a window to the world for Spanish major

By Kim Fischer  
fischerk@temple.edu

While cave diving in Mexico, Temple senior Rachel Aistrop had an epiphany.

"I was in pitch black darkness; I was scared and uncomfortable. Then I started listening to the tour guide's description of the underground Mayan pyramids and temples we were about to see, and I embraced that moment," Aistrop said.

"I was with my 30 closest friends — I knew I was where I belonged," she said.

For Aistrop, that experience serves as metaphor for her entire Latin American Studies Semester (LASS) at Temple. LASS is a 15-credit, total immersion, interdisciplinary program offered each spring semester. It is designed to teach students to speak Spanish, or to greatly increase their fluency, in one semester. The course meets daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and, in addition to learning the language, students study all aspects of Latin America through social science, lit-

**RACHEL AISTROP**  
BA, Spanish

erature and film. The highlight of the program is a two-week, Spring Break trip to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula during which students live with host families.

"We were all scared, awkward and unsure of ourselves when we started LASS. But we got through it together," said Aistrop, a Spanish major and Latin American studies minor who is not a native speaker of Spanish.

Now the students I went through LASS with are my best friends to this day. They provided the support I needed then and they still do," she said. "Some of us go salsa dancing almost every week."

Aistrop transferred to Temple after two years at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. At first, the Philadelphia native and Cheltenham High School graduate felt a little lost on Temple's big campus.

She says enrolling in LASS was the best thing she ever did. Not only did

Aistrop find lifelong friends in the students who participated, she also gained the opportunity to serve as a Diamond Peer Tutor for an LASS course taught by Hiram Aldorando, director of LASS, during her senior year.

"It's rewarding to be able to help other students go through what I went through in being asked to conduct all of my college classes 100 percent, totally and completely, in another language," she said.

Aistrop says the language skills she developed at Temple have opened a lot of doors and helped her clarify some goals for her future.

Following graduation, she has accepted a position as an Immigration outreach coordinator with Americorps Vista. After that, Aistrop plans to pursue a master's degree in public health and establish a career working with humanitarian organizations on issues that impact Spanish-speaking immigrant communities.

"Majoring in Spanish was my mom's idea. And it turned out to be a perfect fit." ♦

## Graduate focuses on dream of someday hosting game shows

By Jeff Cronin  
jcronin@temple.edu

**BRIAN SCHWARTZ**  
BA, Media Studies and Production

At 11 years old, Brian Schwartz learned a new term: "Asperger's syndrome."

The South Philly native's doctor explained to him that it was a disease that caused people to have an intensely narrow focus, eccentric behavior and more.

"As soon as I heard what it was all about, I was like, 'Yeah, that's definitely me.'"

As a child, Schwartz became fixated on game shows. From Bob Barker to Wink Martindale, he learned all about this flashy television niche.

Now 30, Schwartz is graduating with a degree in media studies and production and stakes claim to being TUTV's first game show host.

Schwartz created and hosted "Tell All," a game that challenges contestants to say all they know about a particular subject to try to match a list of key words. The winners, of course, leave with a fabulous prize.

Schwartz's journey to graduation was marked with challenges, but "that just motivated me more to do well."

Following high school, he started at the Community College of Philadelphia, where he completed his first two years' worth of credits from 2004 to 2010 — for someone with Asperger's, managing the demands of a fully loaded semester of classes can be quite a mountain to climb.

"I try to stay focused on one thing at a time," he said. "I'm getting better at multitasking, but it's not easy for me."



Ethan Schwartz

# Temple community readies for 126th Commencement

Temple University will hold its 126th Commencement exercises on Thursday, May 16, beginning at 10 a.m. in the Liacouras Center.

More than 9,000 graduates and guests are expected to attend the morning ceremony. Graduating students will gather at the loading dock entrance on Broad Street near Cecil B. Moore Avenue in academic regalia no later than 8:45 a.m. and form single file lines behind their college banners.

The Class of 2013 is among the largest to graduate in Temple's history. More than 9,000 students fulfilling their degree requirements this month and in December and August 2012 are eligible to participate in the ceremony. Graduates range in age from 19 to 73 years old and represent 49 states and 57 countries.

To ensure that the graduates and

their families have convenient parking available, special parking regulations will be in effect on May 16. Visit [www.temple.edu/parking](http://www.temple.edu/parking) for more information.

Computer Services will offer online streaming of the main ceremony at [www.temple.edu/commencement](http://www.temple.edu/commencement). For the second year, the webcast will be viewable on mobile devices and closed captioning will be available. The ceremony also will be recorded for later viewing.

In addition to the university's commencement ceremony, each of Temple's schools and colleges will host individual ceremonies to recognize their graduates and bring together the class cohorts for a final send off. Below is a list of each ceremony and speakers.

All events will take place on May 16, unless otherwise indicated.

## ■ Tyler School of Art

6:30 p.m., McGonigle Hall

Speaker: Student Kathryn Yuen, photography

## ■ Fox School of Business and School of Tourism and Hospitality Management

4 p.m., Liacouras Center

Speakers: 1986 Fox graduate Pallam Raju M. Mallipudi, minister of human resource development for the Indian government, and student Jasmine Narcisse, international business administration

## ■ Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry

May 17, 4 p.m., The Academy of Music, 240 South Broad St.

Speaker: Howard Bailit, professor emeritus in the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine

## ■ College of Education

Bachelor and Master's Ceremony

1 p.m., Student Pavilion

Speakers: 1972 graduate Daniel Edward Baker, Philadelphia broadcasting legend best known as the voice of Veterans Stadium, Lincoln Financial Field and Citizens Bank Park, and student Angelica A. Youwakim

## ■ Doctoral Hooding Ceremony

4 p.m., Rock Hall, auditorium

Speaker: Novella Keith, professor emeritus of urban education, and student Matthew Campbell

## ■ College of Engineering

12:30 p.m., Temple Performing Arts Center

Speaker: Student David C. Mino

## ■ School of Environmental Design

3:30 p.m., Ambler Learning Center, auditorium

Speakers: Carol Collier, executive director of the Delaware River Basin Commission, and student Lindsey Graham, community and regional planning

## ■ College of Health Professions and Social Work

7 p.m., Liacouras Center

Speaker: Brian Duke, secretary of aging of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

## ■ Beasley School of Law

May 23, 4 p.m. Liacouras Center

Speaker: 1993 graduate Kathleen Kane, Pennsylvania attorney general

## ■ College of Liberal Arts

1 p.m. Liacouras Center

Speaker: Jayne Drake, vice dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts Ceremony for Masters and Doctoral Graduates

4 p.m., Anderson Hall, room 17

Speaker: Dustin Kidd, associate professor of sociology

## Stay up-to-date on Commencement news and activities

Follow Temple's official social media accounts for the latest photos, profiles and updates.



### Twitter

[twitter.com/templeuniv](http://twitter.com/templeuniv)  
Hashtags: #TUgrad13, #TUgradshoes



### Facebook

[facebook.com/templeu](http://facebook.com/templeu)



### Storify (Feed of all social media and web stories.)

<http://storify.com/templeucomm/tugrad13>

## ■ School of Media and Communication

3:30 p.m., McGonigle Hall

Speakers: 1997 radio/television/film graduate Dyana Williams '97, on-air personality on Oldies 100.3, and student Julian Fowler, strategic communications

## ■ School of Medicine

May 17, 10 a.m., The Academy of Music, 240 South Broad St.

Speaker: Thomas J. Nasca, professor of medicine at Jefferson Medical College and CEO of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and of ACGME International

## ■ Boyer College of Music and Dance

12:30 p.m. Mitten Hall, Great Court

Speaker: Student Jeremy Sowers, jazz studies, percussion performance

## ■ School of Pharmacy

May 17, noon, Temple Performing Arts Center

Speaker: 1991 graduate Marilou Taylor Watson, partner at Fox Rothschild, LLP

## ■ School of Podiatric Medicine

May 14, 10 a.m., The Academy of Music, 240 South Broad St.

Speaker: Verdi DiSesa, chief operating officer, Temple University Health System

## ■ College of Science and Technology

12:30 p.m., McGonigle Hall

Speaker: Michael R. Berman, medical director of labor and delivery at Beth Israel Medical Center, and student Ashley Truxal, chemistry

## ■ Division of Theater, Film and Media Arts

3:30 p.m., Temple Performing Arts Center

Speaker: Student Owen M. Pelesh, theater

# Journalism major succeeds under heavy weight of responsibility

By Jeff Cronin

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In the weeks before graduation, an equal number of moments of raw excitement and sheer terror fluttered through Luci Volpe's head as she looked toward her future. Quite a common state of mind for a college senior.

But if you had an extended conversation with Volpe, who is graduating from the Department of Journalism in Temple's School of Media and Communication, you'd notice a few things that set her apart from other soon-to-be graduates. She talks about mortgage payments and ensuring her little brother finds the right college. These are just a few of the responsibilities that fell to Volpe after she lost both of her parents by the age of 14.

But even through the tragedy, Volpe and her siblings, Maria, who is five years older, and Blaise, who is five years younger, weren't left alone. Their next-door neighbors in the Holmesburg section of Northeast Philadelphia, Joyce and Ed Dence, were there to help the siblings pick up the pieces and go on.

After the children's father passed, they tore down the fence separating the two yards, allowing easy access between the homes. And when their mother passed away, Maria and Joyce split guardianship of Luci and Blaise.

The family dinner is next door at the Dence house every night between 5:30 and 6 p.m. Luci considers the Dence sons her older brothers, but she's never



Ryan A. Geffert



LUCIA J. VOLPE

BA, Journalism

quite figured out how to succinctly describe Joyce.

"My sister always calls her our grandmother. People always ask me who she is and I've never said grandmother. I have a grandmother," Volpe said. "She's like a second mom. She's always been our caregiver. She's been there through it all."

Volpe entered Temple with dreams of heading west to start a broadcasting career. But life has a way of altering dreams. She's now focused on her siblings — getting Blaise through his senior year of high school and off to college, and letting her sister start her nursing career (she graduates this spring from the Abington

Dixon School of Nursing).

"Temple has taught me so much. Honestly, I'm glad I picked journalism and then found my way into wherever else I wanted to be because of the people that I've met, the stories that I've heard," she said. "But I can't leave home. What was I thinking?"

Instead, Volpe, who has been working with the KYW Newsradio promotions team over the past few years, will be staying in Philly and hopes for a full-time position in promotions.

While her future is up in the air, one thing was certain as her final semester drew to a close — she would fulfill a pledge she made to her mother.

"My mom would be so mad at me if I did not go to graduation," she said. "She would be so upset. So I'm going to go sit there for her." ♦



Joseph B. Schaefer

By Preston M. Moretz

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For most students in Temple's Doctor of Pharmacy program, the intense curriculum of classroom study and outside pharmacy experiences leaves little time for other things, including independent research.

But that didn't stop Joel John, who is receiving his Pharm.D. degree from Temple's School of Pharmacy.

John has spent the past four years examining the effects of drugs on learning and memory, with the long-term goal of providing a model to test new drugs that can improve memory in patients with dementia or Alzheimer's disease. He's worked in the behavioral pharmacology lab of Ellen Walker, professor of pharmaceutical sciences.

John, whose mother encouraged him to pursue a career in pharmacy, never thought that research would be part of his experience when he came to Temple from the University at Buffalo, where he earned his bachelor's degree in pharmacology and toxicology. But one of his first classes — "Anatomy and Physiology" — was taught by Walker, who described to the class the work being done in her lab.



JOEL S. JOHN

DPH, Pharmacy

"I went to her lab and talked to her about her work," said John. "They were studying the effects of chemotherapeutic agents on learning and memory. As a pharmacy student, it was really interesting to see the drugs being tested in a pre-clinical setting."

"When I started in the lab, there was another lab testing a compound and their effects on substance addiction," he said. "They wanted to see if these compounds had any effect on learning and memory."

Although John's schedule was already full, Walker allowed him the flexibility to begin doing research in her lab.

"Pharmacy school itself takes a lot of time, but I was able to find time between my classes and outside experiences," John said. "As long as you keep the time to run your experiments very consistent, you will be fine."

John often worked by himself in the lab late evenings after the graduate students and research assistants went home.

"I really didn't mind staying late at night," said John, who at one point was juggling his classes, two pharmacy ex-

periences and his research. "For me, it was easy to manage the time, and the lab team I worked with was very accommodating, which made my work stress free and fun."

Most pharmacy students have the opportunity to attend professional meetings, such as the meeting of the American Pharmacists Association. But John was able to actually present his research work at several neuroscience and pharmacology conferences.

He was first author or co-author on 10 local, regional and national poster presentations at various conferences, and one of his posters won first prize in behavioral pharmacology at the San Diego meeting of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics in April 2012.

"Everything just fell into the right place at the right time for me," said John, who will begin a per diem pharmacy position at Temple Hospital following graduation. "And talking to the right people gave me these wonderful research opportunities."

"Dr. Walker has been a great mentor to me," he added. "I feel very fortunate to have worked with such a wonderful group both in research and academia." ♦