President's first 100 days marked by achievement

By Ray Betzner
rbetzner@temple.edu

If a university president’s first 100 days are an indication of what to expect during that president’s tenure, the Neil Theobald years at Temple University are going to be busy. The 100-day anniversary for the new president was earlier this month.

There has been a full schedule of meetings — formal and informal — with faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors and local leaders. He’s had dinner with students at Johnson and Hardwick halls, met informally with faculty members over lunch, talked with local elected officials and spoken to business leaders in Center City. With an eye toward next year’s undergraduate class, Theobald has also spent some time with prospective students and their families during the popular Experience Temple days this spring. [See story, page 7.]

“It’s been a busy and fruitful period, in many ways,” said Theobald. “People keep asking me if I have had time to take a breath, but the fact is I have drawn enormous energy from the people around Temple. They have tremendous enthusiasm for this university and I can understand why Temple is a truly remarkable place.”

Theobald can also point to a significant list of achievements: the appointment of new leaders as provost, dean of libraries and vice president for strategic marketing and communications. Searches are also well underway for three other dean positions. Mix these high-level personnel actions with significant progress in work with the governor and state General Assembly on the annual commonwealth appropriation, a new budgeting model and a financial literacy initiative, and it’s clear the president’s first days have been full.

Although the 100-day clock started ticking officially when Theobald was named as president on Jan. 1, he actually began work long before. For example, the search for a permanent provost began in November, while Richard Englert was acting president and consulting with Joseph V. Labolito, who was finishing his role as provost on Feb. 5 following an interim period, in many ways, “said Theobald. In his short term, he’s begun to build a strong leadership team. In perhaps his most important appointment, Theobald named Hai-Lung Dai as the permanent provost on Feb. 5 following an interim period.

Dai came to Temple in 2007 as dean of the College of Science and Technology and Laura H. Carnell Professor of Chemistry. Three years later, in 2010, I took on an added responsibility as senior vice provost for international affairs. Then, last July, I was appointed interim provost.

TT: Where were you before coming here?

Dai: Before Temple, I spent 22 years at the University of Pennsylvania rising through the ranks in the Department of Chemistry, where I served as department chair for two terms. I founded the Penn Science Teacher Institute for the training of middle-grade and secondary-level science teachers. When I left I was the Hirschman-Makineni Professor of Chemistry.

TT: Are you still an active researcher?

Dai: Yes, I continued my research in chemistry from the first day I arrived at Temple. I have four active, grant-supported research projects, investigating issues ranging from how molecules go through cell membranes to exploringionic liquids with unique electrical properties. I also still do service in the graduate program. Being active as a faculty member is important to me.

TT: What do you see as your primary agenda as provost in the coming years?

Dai: My mission as the university’s chief academic officer is to serve the students and faculty, to improve the academic experience and quality and to grow the university’s academic reputation nationally and internationally. Our agenda at the Office of the Provost aligns with President Theobald’s goals — academic excellence, reducing student debt, making students real-world ready, increasing the number of students who graduate in four years, growing Temple’s research enterprise — are our goals.

TT: The university’s academic reputation is universally acknowledged to be on the rise, but how does one accelerate the pace?

Dai: To be prosperous and continue our mission, you have to have a good reputation. My goal is to improve Temple’s reputation by improving our rankings — from undergraduates to Ph.D. students representing at least eight schools and colleges — volunteered as interpreters throughout the four-day summit, held March 25-29 at sites throughout Philadelphia.

The School of Tourism and Hospitality Management sponsored the event, recruited and coordinated volunteers, educated students about all that Philadelphia offers as a destination and outfitted them with red polo shirts. The school also hosted a welcome reception for the Chinese delegation.

‘I’m from China and am always interested in volunteer work, so I wanted to get involved in an activity that will enrich my university life,” said Zhang, a graduate student at the Fox School of Interpretation. Continued on 2

OPEN TO INTERPRETATION

Temple students ensure opportunities for tourism from China aren’t lost in translation

By Hillel J. Hoffmann
jhj@temple.edu

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admitted students get a taste of temple | page 7

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As a person and as a student.” It has really helped me grow because we know we can do anything. I chose Temple: “I took a pre-college course at Tyler and I absolutely loved it and loved the professor. Tyler was the only school I applied to. It’s one of the nation’s best art schools. The facilities were great, and the fact that Tyler is part of Temple gave me an opportunity to explore other things and have conversations outside of my school.”

Transformative moment: “For me, painting is everything. Ninety percent of my time at Temple has been spent here in the studio, painting. This is my space, my home.” “Being at Tyler, I’ve learned about the commitment and the dedication it takes to be a practicing artist. I’ve learned how to put myself out there correctly. Tyler has shown me a way I can continue to paint and make it a career. For that, I’m so grateful.”

Christine C. Khor

Major: Hospitality Management
School: School of Tourism and Hospitality Management
Year: Senior
Home town: Phnom Penh, Cambodia (born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

Why I chose Temple: “Originally, I’m from Malaysia. I grew up there until I was 15, then my family moved to Cambodia. I remember during my senior year in high school, I was going through the pages of a college magazine and I came across Temple University.”

Transformative moment: “When I first came to Temple, I didn’t know a lot about the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management, I always loved event planning. The more I thought about what I wanted to do as a career, I knew I had to change to STHM. That was one of the best decisions I’ve made. It was a perfect match. I found my passion.”

“I’ve been with the executive board of the International Student Association for two and a half years now. There are eight of us, and I’m the president. We call ourselves the Dream Team because we know how to do anything. It has really helped me grow as a person and as a student.”

Interpret

From page 1
Business. “I wanted to see something different.” During Wednesday afternoon’s one-on-one business meetings of 15 minutes each, the participants were inter- viewed by a representative from Shanghai Intercultural Travel Service Co. Ltd, a five-star hotel, tourism marketing manager for Duty Free Americas. “I couldn’t imagine doing it without a translator,” Wade said. “She was a big help.”

That help could mean big business for Philadelphia International Convention and Visitors Bureau (PICVB), which hosted the summit, and the Pennsylvania Tourism Office. Temple students have identified China as an important growth market for tourism and conventions. According to the federal Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, a 50 percent increase in visitors to the United States from China increased 53 percent between 2009 and 2010 and has more than quadrupled in the past decade. China ranks third behind the United Kingdom and Japan in inbound travelers to the U.S.

“For many attendees, this was their inaugural visit to Philadelphia and Temple student translators were an important part of ensuring a productive yet fun interaction,” said PICVB President and CEO Jack Ferguson said. Karen Sir, a Ph.D. student from China in the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management, said the volunteers do more than translate words. “They open a window to the world of operators and show our countrypeo- ple from China what’s happening in the American tourism and hospitality market.”

Robert Chang, of Taiwan, a gradu- ate student in tourism and hospitality management, said he was proud of the service Temple summit finalists were able to provide—there were no other transla- tors at the summit — and the bridge they opened to the travelers. “I really appreciate that Temple asked us to volunteer,” he said. “For us, it’s a good experience.”

As the business meetings ended, Evan Saunders, co-founder and CEO of Attrax China, stopped by to thank President and Chairman Mark Steinman. Almost immediately, Saunders complimented the friendliness and professionalism of the student-translators.

“It’s fun when people have a zest for life when they’re working,” he said.

Provost

From page 1
You do that by working on fundamen- tal measures of academic quality, from improving graduation rates to bring- ing world-class faculty and stimulating research activity. I am a Confucian scholar of the University of Confucius. When the fundamentals are set right, the way will naturally appear.

TT: What has it been like working with President Theobald so far?
DaI: It’s very easy working with him. I am a scientist. We scientists make our assessments and decisions based on facts, based on data. That’s his style as well — making decisions based on data. I’m an experienced administrator at the highest level, but he’s also a scholar with an em- pirical approach. That’s a great combination.

TT: Why is your training so important?
DaI: At Temple, we have always worked hard to keep tuition low, yet the average debt of Temple stu- dents upon graduation is still high compared to the graduates of other public universities. When President Theobald analyzed the numbers, he found that there was a direct corre- spondence between the amount of student debt and the time a student takes to graduate. He realized that you look at this world and you naturally reach a conclusion that if you graduate in four years, you will graduate with less debt, and if you have more years in the job market to earn money. On the academic side, we were burdened with having our advisors provide every student in every major, regardless of their prepar- ation, with a four-year path — or what we call a grid — to graduation.

TT: How do you interpret Presi- dent Theobald’s call to provide an education that makes students “real-world ready”?
DaI: We must be bold and innova- tive and think about what we can do at Temple to prepare our students for today’s globalized, because our graduates aren’t just competing against each other American uni- versities — they’re going up against graduates from universities in Asia, Europe and elsewhere. It’s a real challenge. We need a careful look at the kinds of practical knowledge our students need to succeed. I would like to help our students acquire problem-solving and analyti- cal 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.”

With Temple actively searching for four deans, this spring has been a busy time for you. Are you getting any sleep?
DaI: Not much. The search for new deans for University Libraries, the College of Education, the School of Media and Communication, the College of Health and Human Performance, and Temple University Rome requires an enormous investment of time—particularly the interview- ing of all the finalists as they come to Temple to meet with the search com- mittees. It’s exhausting, but it’s worth it. Finding energetic leaders for our academic units will be critical to our future success.

TT: You were able to launch several initiatives before you even started at your new position. What stands out in your mind?
DaI: As a child, I’ve always been in- terested in science. I was an underdeveloped country — my elementary school in the early 1960s, barely half of the students wore shoes. I finished my under- graduate training at National Taiwan University, did military service and in 1969, came to the University of California, Berkeley, for graduate school.

TT: Is it true that you weren’t al- ways interested in science?
DaI: It was launched in Taiwan to parents who emigrated from China. During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, I was an underdeveloped country — my elementary school in the early 1960s, barely half of the students wore shoes. I finished my under- graduate training at National Taiwan University, did military service and in 1969, came to the United States, to the University of California, Berkeley, for graduate school.

TT: You championed Temple’s push for more international students. Is that still a priority?
DaI: Yes. I’m pleased to say that we are now seeing the number of inter- national students on Main Campus grow rapidly — a sign that Temple University is well-known in the world. Learning about other cultures and the way other nations solve prob- lems is no longer optional. You can’t understand the world by listening to a lecture; you need to live among different cultures to get a deeper understanding. Ideally, ev- ery Temple student would study abroad. But if we can’t bring all our

students to the world, we should bring the world to our students.

TT: You are an international stu- dent yourself at one time. Where are you from?
DaI: I was born in Taiwan to parents who emigrated from China. During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, I was a school teacher. At the time, Taiwan was an underdeveloped country — my elementary school in the early 1960s, barely half of the students wore shoes. I finished my under- graduate training at National Taiwan University, did military service and in 1969, came to the United States, to the University of California, Berkeley, for graduate school.

TT: In your new position, are students able to take advantage of more international opportunities?
DaI: Yes. As the business meetings ended, Evan Saunders, co-founder and CEO of Attrax China, stopped by to thank President and Chairman Mark Steinman. Almost immediately, Saunders complimented the friendliness and professionalism of the student-translators.

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Lung Dai, dean of the College of Community and Human Services, is the established a dozen collaborations for Temple’s academic division.

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Joseph P. Lucia appointed dean of Temple University Libraries

By Hillet J. Hoffmann

Temple University President Neil Theobald has announced the appointment of Joseph P. Lucia to lead Temple’s library system as the university’s dean of university libraries. Lucia, who has served as university librarian and director of Falvey Memorial Library at Villanova University since 2002, will assume his new position on July 1, 2013.

As dean of university libraries, Lucia will oversee all of Temple’s nine libraries — including those at Temple University Japan and Temple University Rome — as well as Temple University Press. Lucia has been charged by President Theobald with leading a major program of library development, including the construction of a new signature building at Temple’s Main Campus that will connect the university with the greater Philadelphia community.

“This is a critical moment for Temple and for University Libraries,” said President Theobald. “Joseph Lucia is a deep thinker who has spearheaded the re-examination of an award-winning library at a world-class institution. He has the right experience to lead and enhance our library system.”

“Joe Lucia has been a highly respected leader in the field of library science,” added Temple Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Hai-Lung Dai. “The 2013 Academic Libraries Award to Villanova’s Falvey Memorial Library this year from the Association of College and Research Libraries is a testament to his superb vision and leadership.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of a university and a library system that are at such a dynamic moment in their institutional development,” Lucia said.

“Libraries stand for how culture is created, bow culture is shared. That has symbolic power and practical force, especially as we engage what a library is in the digital age,” he continued. “We need to ‘future-proof’ libraries. We need to articulate that the library’s mission goes beyond collections of physical stuff. The prospect of building a new library is exciting on these principles and especially at an urban university with Temple’s mission of civic engagement and community connection.”

At Villanova, Lucia spearheaded a number of initiatives that earned national attention, including the establishment of a campus-wide community reading program, the development of open source discovery software; the creation of a substantial digital library (hosted locally built open source digital library software); the establishment of open access publishing initiatives featuring university-sponsored journals supported by library development teams; the creation of a multi-disciplinary Learning Commons in Falvey as part of a series of renovations; and the development of a digital cultural and intellectual events agenda.

Prior to his arrival at Villanova in 2002, Lucia served as assistant director of the library technology and access services within Information Resources at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa. He holds an MLS from Syracuse University, an MA in English from the University of Toronto and a BA in English from McGill University in Montreal.

Lucia’s appointment follows a national search led by consulting firm Isaacs, Miller & Associates and interview committees comprising Temple librarians, faculty, students and administrators.

President names VP for marketing and communications

President Neil Theobald has announced that Karen Clarke will become Temple’s first vice president for strategic marketing and communications effective May 1. Clarke has served as associate vice president for marketing and communication at the University of Houston and associate vice chancellor for marketing and communication for the University of Houston System.

“Karen Clarke has the background and experience necessary to help Temple University effectively communicate and engage with all of our varied audiences,” said Theobald. “I am delighted that she has agreed to join our leadership team in this very important role.”

President Theobald pointed out that the new division’s strength will come, in part, by combining marketing and communications efforts currently split at the university. Clarke’s staff will include portions of the Marketing Communications and Creative Services team in Institutional Advancement and the University Communications operation currently reporting to the Office of Government, Community and Public Affairs.

“Bringing these teams together will allow greater consistency and strength in the ways we tell the Temple story,” said Theobald.

As vice president for strategic marketing and communications, Clarke will be responsible for setting the overall strategic and creative direction of the university’s branding, marketing and communications efforts. Her division will create strategies that enhance the university’s competitiveness by strengthening its brand, reputation and visibility while overseeing the development of marketing and communications campaigns that advance the university’s goals and objectives.

“Temple has a wonderful story to tell,” said Clarke. “I will bring a collaborative approach to strengthening the reputation of this great university and position it to achieve the recognition it so richly deserves. I am honored to become a part of the Temple community, and I look forward to working closely with President Theobald and his team.”

Clarke brings more than 25 years of experience to Temple. Before joining the University of Houston in 2007, she served in marketing and communications roles at the University of South Florida and the University of Miami. She also has served as director of corporate communications at the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation and was a senior account director for Hill & Knowlton.

Rocking the Rotunda

Students showcase their work, talk up Temple in Pa. Capitol

Students from Temple’s arts and athletics programs played, painted and performed in the rotunda of the Pennsylvania State Capitol last month, visiting Harrisburg for three days of events that highlighted the university’s contributions to the commonwealth.

Organized by Temple Student Government and the Office of Community and Public Affairs, Cherry and White students showcased their work, while other campus-wide events took place, including book drives and assisting volunteers withlegislators for the Tuesday lobbying visits.

Students from the university’s arts and athletics programs prepared for the events by attending a series of sessions designed to sharpen their skills as Temple representatives. Hosted by Temple Student Government at Ambler and Main campuses, the Owl Advocates Academy offered lessons on the Pennsylvania General Assembly and budget process, the university’s history as a state-related institution and tips for “telling your Temple story.” The sessions were attended by more than 50 students, who served as leaders of the teams visiting legislators for the Tuesday lobbying visits.

President earns spot on national Community Service Honor Roll

By Jazmyn Burton

Temple University students contribute to the communities where they live and study by participating in volunteerism endeavors across the city. From leading after-school tutoring sessions to organizing book drives and assisting with programs supported by local faith-based institutions, Temple students are consistently working to serve the community at-large.

For their efforts, the university was named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest national recognition a college or university can receive for its overall commitment to service.

“Owl engagement should be a key component of every student’s education experience,” said Andrea Swan, director of community service affairs. "Volunteerism has the power to change a student’s perspective. Through reaching out to meet the needs of their neighbors, these students are deepening their impact and preparing themselves to be successful citizens.”

This is the fourth year Temple has received this distinction from the Corporation for National and Community Service, which has administered the honor roll since 2006.

According to Temple’s Office of Community Relations, Temple volunteers contribute more than 65,000 hours of community service each year. Some hours are contributed through programs organized by students, while other campus-wide events like the annual King Day of Service are organized through the Office of Community Relations.
For women living in poverty, getting ahead is a matter of trust

By Kim Fischer
fkfischer@temple.edu

It’s not difficult to name some of the issues surrounding poverty in the U.S. Unemployment, lack of educational opportunities, and low wages are just a few of the factors that quickly come to mind. However, as you might look, but that nevertheless plays a significant role in the lives of those in poverty in this country, it is trust — low-income women. Levine spoke at length with the women she had spoken to a decade earlier. Trust kept them from believing in the working income built welfare, it led them to quit jobs at the first sign a boss might not treat them fairly, it encouraged them to rank their children out of child care arrangements they questioned, it made them hesitant to marry and it kept them from accepting and exchanging goods and support from social networks. Levine said.

What became clear to Levine as she worked on her book was how much trust matters and how tricky “Trust allows people to access the opportunities provided by taking risks, but only when those persons or institutions on the receiving end are trustworthy,” she said. “This is not the case, distrust provokes harm.”

The women Levine interviewed believed that they lived in a world where trust didn’t pay off. “It certainly seemed from their stories that many of their experiences supported that belief, but at the same time some stories also suggested the possibility that some opportunities were being lost,” she said. “Still,” Levine argues, “focusing on enhancing the trustworthiness of the world within which the women interact is the surest way to build trust.”

According to Levine, persuadable forms of distrust would have been greater if distrust had not limited women’s responses to the incentives that reform provided. “Trust is a powerful force in guiding key life decisions, and it has been overlooked for too long,” she said.

For women living in poverty, getting ahead is a matter of trust — is trust necessary or is it a factor that can be ignored or minimized? Levine set out to conduct a new set of interviews, after welfare reform. She wanted to see how women at the same point in their lives, those with minor children and currently or recently receiving welfare, were doing following reform and whether or not trust still was a factor. As a result of the large number of women made to welfare intended to promote employment, marriage and exit from welfare, Levine expected to see substantial differences in the lives of the women she interviewed.

But she didn’t. The women Levine talked with in the mid-2000s had the same problems and described the same strains of distrust as women she had spoken to a decade earlier. "Distrust kept them from believing in the working income built welfare, it led them to quit jobs at the first sign a boss might not treat them fairly, it encouraged them to rank their children out of child care arrangements they questioned, it made them hesitant to marry and it kept them from accepting and exchanging goods and support from social networks," she said.

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Education professor’s new book examines consequences of Phila. schools initiative

By Eryn Jelewicz
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A marketing campaign designed to attract families to Center City Philadelphia by talking about the consequence of privileging the middle class at the expense of the working class, and the inequality of schools in the School District of Philadelphia, according to Temple University professor Maia Bloomfield Cucchiara. “Trust allows people to access the opportunities provided by taking risks, but only when those persons or institutions on the receiving end are trustworthy,” she said. “This is not the case, distrust provokes harm.” The women Levine interviewed believed that they lived in a world where trust didn’t pay off. “It certainly seemed from their stories that many of their experiences supported that belief, but at the same time some stories also suggested the possibility that some opportunities were being lost,” she said. “Still,” Levine argues, “focusing on enhancing the trustworthiness of the world within which the women interact is the surest way to build trust.”

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A marketing campaign designed to attract families to Center City Philadelphia by talking about the consequence of privileging the middle class at the expense of the working class, and the inequality of schools in the School District of Philadelphia, according to Temple University professor Maia Bloomfield Cucchiara. “Trust allows people to access the opportunities provided by taking risks, but only when those persons or institutions on the receiving end are trustworthy,” she said. “This is not the case, distrust provokes harm.” The women Levine interviewed believed that they lived in a world where trust didn’t pay off. “It certainly seemed from their stories that many of their experiences supported that belief, but at the same time some stories also suggested the possibility that some opportunities were being lost,” she said. “Still,” Levine argues, “focusing on enhancing the trustworthiness of the world within which the women interact is the surest way to build trust.”

According to Levine, persuadable forms of distrust would have been greater if distrust had not limited women’s responses to the incentives that reform provided. “Trust is a powerful force in guiding key life decisions, and it has been overlooked for too long,” she said.

Education professor’s new book examines consequences of Phila. schools initiative

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NIH grant focuses on nanotechnology to treat prostate cancer

By Preston M. Moretz
prezort@temple.edu

As prostate cancer progresses, the cancer cells become more resistant to traditional treatments such as chemotherapy and they become more invasive. This greatly increases their ability to spread rapidly.

A Temple School of Pharmacy researcher is now exploring the use of nanotechnology to target the disease in its latter stages.

Through a four-year, $5.18 million R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health, Ho-Lun Wong, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, is using nanoparticles as a delivery system to target prostate cancer cells with an RNA-based drug.

"Cancer is the most significant drug-resistant disease," said Wong. "Using RNA-based drugs inhibits the pathway that gives the cancer cells their resistance to traditional drugs, he said. "Our approach to this pathway also reduces the aggressiveness of the cancer cells. They are not able to spread as rapidly."

The effects of RNA-based drugs are short lived. The drugs are administered only for two to four days — and the drugs are very unstable, said Wong. They also do not differentiate between cancer cell types, so once they are introduced, they can travel to any organ in the body.

Wong said how using nanoparticles as a delivery system results in the RNA lifespan to seven to 10 days and allows for more precise targeting and delivery of the drugs directly to the prostate cancer cells.

Wong, whose lab focuses on drug resistance, has used nanotechnology research to help destroy HIV drugs to the brain. This is the first time he is using RNA-based drugs in the treatment of prostate cancer.

Wong said the first stage of the R01 project will be to optimize the delivery of the RNA-based drugs to the prostate cancer cells. In the project's later stages, the treatment will be combined with chemotherapy.

"This will eventually make chemotherapy — the standard of care against cancer — that much more effective," he said.

Understanding DNA repair in extreme temperatures

By Preston M. Moretz
prezort@temple.edu

Exposure to ultraviolet radiation not only damages the outer protein layer of DNA but also damages the DNA itself. But an enzyme called DNA photolyase can repair the damage through the absorption of blue light.

Robert Stanley, associate professor of chemistry at Temple’s College of Science and Technology, has been studying the mechanisms behind this light-driven DNA repair process for the past 16 years. Now, through a four-year, $1.07 million grant from NASA, Stanley and his colleagues will explore how this process occurs at both extreme high and low temperatures.

DNA photolyase is a protein that contains a vitamin B2 (riboflavin) molecule as its active agent. It uses the blue light to drive an ultrafast electron transfer reaction between the protein and the bound DNA lesion, which repairs the damaged DNA in less than three nano- seconds. Stanley and other researchers around the world have discovered the repair mechanism for so-called mesophilic photolyases, which operate at or near room temperature.

"Nature has to adapt to extremes in temperature, both hot and cold, so we want to see how DNA repair works when DNA is damaged and repaired at both high and low temperatures," he said. "Is DNA more easily repaired at the same temperature extreme or the other?"

Stanley said the research will focus on natural life forms that are able to work in the photolyase protein to allow it to function properly in extreme environments because the B2 molecule is thermally unstable.

"We don’t know what evolution does to optimize the DNA repair protein at very low temperatures compared to very high temperatures," he said. "The photon electron transfer is a very sensitive temperature, so at a very low temperature it may happen very slowly, while at a very high temperature it may take place much more quickly. We just don’t know right now.

Stanley said NASA officials are interested in this research because they are very interested in understanding the extremes under which organisms can exist not only on earth, but other planets as well.

In the next step to be conducted at Temple, the NASA grant will also fund collaborations between Stanley and researchers at Montclair State University and Duke University on topics related to the thermodynamics of the process and on developing detailed computational modeling of the DNA repair process as well as computational predictions on whether DNA gets damaged at higher rates in lower or higher temperatures.

Students’ Google-recognized app connects urban farmers

By Sarace Gdovin

In a city with more than 40,000 abandoned lots, keeping track of each property, location and attributes is the first step in returning them to productive use.

That’s the concept behind a project launched by Temple Computer and Information Sciences Associate Professor Justin Shi and four students through Temple’s Urban Apps and Maps Studio. The team has created GrowShare, an online tool that helps users track vacant lots and develop them into viable urban farming projects.

The group worked to conceive and create the GrowShare platform, growshare.net, which is now being developed on a mobile application. Ultimately, the team sees the tool as a means of revitalizing urban neighborhoods, creating jobs and reducing crime through urban farming.

Although the site hasn’t officially launched, this project already has been recognized as a runner up for a Judges’ Choice Award in the Google Places API Developer Challenge, a competition among 87 teams of developers and programmers from 27 countries. According to Shi, who nominated a Temple senior who served as lead programmer and designer on the project, the group overcame a steep learning curve to develop the project and take the award.

“Learning everything I needed to take the project happen, along with taking classes and attending [symposia] practices, was very challenging,” he said. “It was great to have all of the hard work noticed — especially by Google.”

In addition to Statman, the project team included Hank Wu, Krysta Gorgiev and William Mantenga.

“The students are very motivated,” said Shi. “They learned as they were going how to do the mobile and web programming for the competition.”

The project builds on Google’s Maps API, overlaying locations of vacant lots throughout the city as well as public places, such as schools, parks and businesses. It also shows what gardening projects are available, in progress or complete and allows users to buy or sell resources such as tools, produce and labor using online auction functions.

“Everything — even people — can be a resource, as long as there is a seller or buyer,” said Shi. “The online auction creates the fairest platform for these exchanges.”

According to Shi, the site enables civic exchange by allowing users to connect with others interested in transforming vacant lots into urban farming projects so that they can share resources, collaborate and literally change the landscape of their communities.

Army Corps, FEMA will discuss Sandy recovery at EarthFest

By James Duffy
duffy@temple.edu

In the wake of the devastation wrought by Superstorm Sandy last October, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold a meeting with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to discuss the impact the storm had on their communities.

"We want to expose kids to a lot of new ideas — living compatibly with our world and, specifically, building sustainable communities," said Mari Radford, migration planner for the Army Corps. "Our EarthFest visitors have probably never met someone from FEMA before — we want them to know that we are here to help and to make sure families affected by disasters are able to get back to a sense of normal as soon as possible."

The agency’s connections to Am- berly run deep. Both Radford and FEMA migration planner Molly Kaput are graduates of Temple’s Community and Regional Planning master’s degree program.

"We know the kind of important work that is being done within the program and by the Center for Sus- tainable Communities," said Radford. "There is a lot of synergy between the mission and research being done at Temple — working with communities to ensure they are prepared for the next disaster, that they are able to survive the next flood."

Since its inception in 2003, EarthFest has placed a spotlight on sustaining communities, welcoming representatives from the Philadelphia Zoo, shown at last year’s event.

"EarthFest is a great opportunity for us to talk to people who may be new to the area and may not be aware of all of the conservation work we do around the world," said Valerie Pechek, Philadelphia Zoo conservation program manager. "We hope that people will want to get involved and work to make a difference because they can see change."
Temple expands courses in American Sign Language

By James Duffy
duffyj@temple.edu

Renae Krakow wants to put to rest a likely common misconception about American Sign Language (ASL). “American Sign Language is not English on the hands,” said Krakow, associate professor of communications sciences and disorders. “It is a fourth language. It is a visual-based language that uses the eyes to process language, whereas other languages are auditory-based,” said ASL instructor Meghan Rainone.

“Right off the bat, this is the biggest difference that requires students to adjust their learning style,” she said. “In an ASL class, you must be alert and engaged in order to learn how to ‘see’ a language rather than hear it. Just like any language it takes hard work to learn — and to teach — but it is extremely rewarding.”

“Being deaf and an ASL user, I figured I could teach it to others. It was no easy task, but after teaching one course after another it came naturally. What I thought was going to be a short gig became a career,” Krakow said.

Philadelphia is a city with a relatively large deaf population, in part because the well-known Pennsylvania School for the Deaf is located there, said Rainone. U.S. News and World Report ranked ASL interpretation and translating as No. 16 on its “100 Best Jobs in 2013.”

“The ability to use ASL provides students with a language that they can use in their professional work — whether they become teachers, nurses, doctors, social workers, speech-language pathologists/audiologists, lawyers,” said Rainone. “The study of introductory ASL can be the beginning of a path toward becoming a sign language interpreter. There is a huge demand for interpreters that is not currently being met.”

Recently, Temple’s College of Science and Technology has added ASL to its list of languages that meet the foreign/second language requirement for all of its majors, and other colleges may follow suit, Krakow added.

American Sign Language is a visual-based language “that uses the eyes to process language, whereas other languages are auditory-based,” said ASL instructor Meghan Rainone.

For roughly an hour each day, light seems to come alive at the bottom of some Arizona’s slot canyons. Revealed in stunning, yet often subtle colors, are uneartly details of these geographic wonders.

The unveiling of his archives also marks the first time many of his students (past and present) have seen any of their mentor’s work. While he ensures his classes are exposed to the work of great photographers, Trays has kept his pictures out of the mix. “I want students to take a lot of things from a lot of people, but the teacher should not show them present a bias,” he said. “You want every student to find his or her visual voice.”

The collection includes images from Philadelphia, Jordan, Africa, the Virgin Islands and many places in between. But his favorite place to shoot is around his summer home on Martha’s Vineyard. “It’s never the same and you never get tired of it, so you just keep going deeper and deeper,” said Trays. “You think that living in the same place and doing a lot of the same things every summer would be repetitive, but it isn’t. It’s always new and it’s always different. I think that’s part of the challenge, to try to find the things that you haven’t shot, to continually try to do better with the ones you have.”

Trays first discovered photography as a 10-year-old newspaper delivery boy in Bangor, Pa. The first of the 100 customers on his route was the owner of a photo studio. “He insisted that I bring the paper to wherever he was and, generally, he was in the darkroom,” said Trays. “I learned so much from him.”

His passion grew. Trays shot for newspapers and for military publications during his time serving in the Marines. He started teaching photography courses at Temple in 1967 “and before you knew it, we had [a photojournalism] sequence.”

The longtime professor has a camera with him constantly and is always carrying a 35mm film — which speaks to the depth of his archives.

“It probably means that I don’t see as much as other people because for a lot of the time I’m looking at everything through a lens … but I think it’s worth it. You become an engaged observer, rather than one who just walking through.”

New living community will foster entrepreneurial culture

By Brandon Lausch
blausch@temple.edu

Legendary IBM Chairman and CEO Thomas J. Watson once said: “Don’t make friends who are comfortable to be with. Make friends who will force you to lever yourself up.”

Perhaps that could describe the thinking behind Temple University’s new Innovative and Create Living Learning Community (LLC), a residential community for incoming freshmen — of any major — who are interested in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Based at White Hall, students in the Innovate & Create LLC will take a freshman seminar that will outline entrepreneurship and innovation as well as provide a roadmap for entrepreneur- ship at Temple. Innovate and Create students are also expected to actively participate in Temple’s Entrepreneurial Student Association and attend at least one Innovation and Entrepreneurship Institute (IEI) event — such as entre- preneurial fireside chats and business plan workshops — throughout the year.

“This is not a class,” said Andrew Maxwell, a Fox School of Business entrepre- neurship professor with a joint appointment in the College of Engineer- ing. “It’s a culture.”

Maxwell joined Temple this academic year from the University of Waterloo, which housed a successful dorm-based incubator. Velocity.

There, students have launched approxi- mately 20 companies so far, including automated shipping service Buffleton, which Google acquired in November 2012.

Temple’s undergraduate entre- preneurship programs rank No. 8 nationwide and No. 13 among graduate programs, and the university-wide Be Your Own Boss Bowl is one of the na- tion’s most comprehensive business plan competitions. Temple is also sharing a $3 million Blackstone LaunchPad grant from the Blackstone Charitable Foundation to further promote entre- preneurship as a viable career option.

“Students and others in the univers- ity are realizing that entrepreneurial perspectives and innovative thinking are critical complements to the skills students develop in their colleges and schools,” said Robert McNamara, academic director of the IEI, who spearheaded the initiative with sup- port from the Fox School Dean’s Office and Office of the Provost. “This LLC is an important component of our over- all strategy to encourage and serve the growing cross-campus interest in these topics.”

In 2012-13, Temple organized 13 living learning communities: six aca- demic, six thematic (such as healthy lifestyles) and one for honors students. The average community is about 45 to 50 students.

Laura L. Randolph, assistant di- rector for residential life in Temple’s Office of University Housing and Res- idential Life, said LLC students report a stronger sense of community and clearer connections to staff. The stu- dents also take core classes together and can bring their knowledge and ex- periences back to their floor.

“I love the fact that it will truly be interdisciplinary and that it will bring together like-minded people but with very diverse backgrounds,” Randolph said of the Innovative and Create LLC. “I can’t wait to see what the students come in thinking — and what they leave with.”

By Jeff Cronin
jcronin@temple.edu

Temple’s undergraduate entre- preneurship program recently announced it has donated approximately 50,000 of its photographs, including images he took in the canyons of Arizona such as the one shown above, to the School of Media and Communications.

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At Experience Temple Days, admitted students get a taste of Temple

By Joseph B. Schafer
For the Temple Times

Admitted students and their families had the opportunity to meet faculty, tour academic facilities, attend classes and take part in other academic activities on Temple’s Main Campus.

"Sustainability affects everybody," said Dr. Patricia R. Terrell, vice president for student life. "And you can see that they're looking for it." And the majority of students research the colleges they apply to before they visit, she said. "They want to be sure that the college is meeting their needs, sustainability-wise." In addition, there is a push for diversity in the student body, she said, which means that if you have a passion, "the college needs to meet your needs, and that's where sustainability comes in. It's a way for students to pursue their passions and still contribute to the larger community." So why not set up an intern program with Temple University? "We're looking for firms, organizations and companies who would like to bring in students to do projects here at Temple. And in exchange, Temple students can help you meet your sustainability goals," she said. "But we also want to meet our sustainability goals." The program is open to all students, regardless of major, who are interested in sustainability. In addition, the program is open to businesses and organizations that are interested in sustainability. The program is designed to help students learn about sustainability and to help businesses and organizations meet their sustainability goals.

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Alumni art exhibit benefits student scholarships

By Hillel Hoffmann
hjhoffmann@temple.edu

A juried exhibition of art by 183 graduates of Temple’s Tyler School of Art in all media ever assembled — closed a two-week run this Saturday at the Crane Arts Center in Philadelphia’s Northern Liberties neighborhood.

“Victory for Tyler: the By All Means” is the fourth in a series of biennial Tyler alumni art exhibitions to benefit student scholarships at Tyler. The exhibition — which features works in each of the disciplines taught at the school, including crafts, design, painting, sculpture, photography, film and video, installation, experimental art and more — has been on display since March 27 at Crane Arts’ Ice Box Project Space, Philadelphia’s largest viewing room for art.

“I’m delighted by the number of outstanding alumni who have volunteered to participate in “Victory for Tyler” to benefit student scholarships,” said Robert T. Stroker, dean of Temple’s Center for the Arts. “The most powerful and convincing evidence of Tyler’s role in the education of world-class artists is the astonishing quality and breadth of what our alumni produce.”

Submissions from more than 183 artists were considered by the show’s juror, Paula Pobocha, assistant curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Juror’s prizes of $1,000, $500 and $300 were awarded, in a multimedia installation by DeLaney DeMott earning the Juror’s Prize. DeMott’s installation will go on display at Tyler during Temple’s Alumni Weekend, April 19-21.

Among the alumni artists represented at “Victory for Tyler: Victory for All 2013” are Susan Still Scott, whose “constructed paintings” evoke sculpture and architecture; Rachael Gordon, who makes “cultural snapshots” by painting, duplicating and re-photographing everyday images; and printmaker and jeweler Steven Ford, who builds print collages by assembling densely textured prints made from the same plate. The artists selected to exhibit by Pobocha range in age and experience from painter Jay Bilinsky, who graduated two months ago, to John Costanza, who earned his BFA in ceramics from Tyler in 1949.

“Tyler cultivated my artistic career; it’s something I’ll always cherish,” said DeMott, who is now pursuing her MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. “Artists that come out of Tyler are problem-solvers and innovators. I could see that in all the artists in this exhibition... You can see a thread.”

Many of the alumni artists participating in “Victory for Tyler” have enjoyed successful careers with Tyler and interacting with current students, many of whom will attend the exhibit.

“I feel so honored,” said Steven Ford BFA T’86, “who also volunteered to participate in the first Art Market at Tyler last fall. “When I was at Tyler, a lecture series that brought in working professionals had a big impact on me. At this point in my career, I feel like I want to give back.”

The “Victory for Tyler” series is organized by the Tyler Alumni Association Board of Directors and named for its primary sponsor, Victory Brewing Company, co-founded by Tyler alumni William Covaleski. The exhibition’s venue also has Tyler connections; two of the Crane Arts three owners are Tyler faculty members: Professor Nicholas Kripal, chair of the Crafts Department, and Professor Richard Hirdko, head of the Printmaking Program. The exhibition is also sponsored by the Temple University Alumni Association, SWIFT mailing and Leapfrog Advancement.

The Ice Box Project Space, a single, uninterrupted 5,000-square-foot room, is located at the Crane Arts Building at 1400 N. American St., Philadelphia. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.

Alumni Weekend 2013 presents ‘The Boys from Syracuse’

Temple Theater will stage the musical “The Boys from Syracuse” on April 12 and 14 in Tomlinson Theater.

Based on Shakespeare’s “The Comedy of Errors,” the play centers on the romantic escapades of long-lost identical twins Antipholus of Ephesus and Antipholus of Syracuse, whose servants, the two Dromios, are also long-separated identical twins. Confusion and comedy ensue when the wives of the Ephe- sians, Adriana and her servant Lucentio, mistake the two strangers for their husbands.

Visit www.temple.edu/theater for showtimes and ticket information.

Undergraduates show off research, creative works

On April 18, Temple will host the annual Undergraduate Research Forum — Creative Works Symposium (TURF-CreWS). The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Howard Gittis Student Center.

The symposium provides undergraduates in all schools and colleges the opportunity to present their research and creative works to the university community. More than 150 students will present papers, posters, performances and exhibits throughout the day. Through its emphasis on original research or creative work — from the students’ driven critical analysis of significant social issues to the development of unique individual artistic talents — TURF-CreWS seeks to inspire undergraduates to engage, analyze, critique and advise the world around them so that they may contribute ideas that make for a better society and world.

For more information, visit www.temple.edu/upas/opportunities/TURF.

Libraries to discuss the legacy of American poet Walt Whitman

On April 18, David Haven Blake and Michael Robertson, professors of English at the College of New Jersey (TCNJ) and co-editors of Walt Whitman: Where the Future Becomes Present will discuss the impact that Walt Whitman has had on American culture.

Blake is chair of the English Department at TCNJ and author of Walt Whitman and the Culture of American Celebrity. Robertson is the recipient of two National Endow- ment for the Humanities Fellowships and author of the award-winning book Worshiping Whitman: The Whitman Disciples. The talk will take place from 12 to 1 p.m. at the Paley Library, with the screening of the documentary “Walt Whitman: Where the Future Becomes Present.”

The competition was developed to encourage members of the Temple community to launch and sustain entrepreneurial ventures.

The business plan competition brings together students, alumni, faculty and staff from student organizations and all 17 schools and colleges to compete for 10 prizes, including a grand prize worth over $115,000 in cash.

The development was designed to encourage members of the Temple community to launch and sustain new small businesses and scalable entrepreneurial ventures.

Temple Theater presents ‘The Boys from Syracuse’

ideas that make for a better society and world.

When students returned from Spring Break last month, something new — a series of chairs — took the stage at Temple’s Bell Tower. Almost as soon as they were secured, students began to wonder who the chairs belonged to.

The chairs — which stand seven feet tall, weigh nearly 300 pounds and are designed with Temple’s “A” at the center — were fashioned by assembling densely textured prints made from the same plate. The artists selected to exhibit range in age and experience from painter Jay Bilinsky, who graduated two months ago, to John Costanza, who earned his BFA in ceramics from Tyler in 1949.

“Tyler cultivated my artistic career; it’s something I’ll always cherish,” said DeMott, who is now pursuing her MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. “Artists that come out of Tyler are problem-solvers and innovators. I could see that in all the artists in this exhibition... You can see a thread.”

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Alumni Weekend 2013: Cherry and White Game

On April 20, new head football coach Matt Rhule and the Temple Owls will prepare for the upcoming season during their annual spring scrimmage, held at the newly renovated Edberg-Glennon Hall, during Alumni Weekend 2013. Admission to the Cherry and White Game is free for Temple alumni, students, faculty and staff. Before the scrimmage, students can enjoy a free tailgate hosted by Temple Athletics. The game is one of many events planned for Alumni Weekend, which takes place April 19-21. For a full schedule, visit alumni.temple.edu.

Future entrepreneurs compete for big prizes in Fox’s Be Your Own Boss Bowl

The 15th annual Be Your Own Boss Bowl will take place April 25, 2-6:30 p.m., in Alter Hall, room A031.

The 15th annual Be Your Own Boss Bowl will take place April 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the MBA Commons of Alter Hall, Temple University Young Alumni and the Fox School of Business will host a panel discussion and workshop titled “Show me the money: Temple Mude strategies for securing your fi- nancial future.” Students can receive insider tips on effective money manage- ment skills from Temple alumni working in the financial industry.

Speaker’s will include Rafael Tamargo, Fox ’90, senior portfolio manager, Wilmington Trust; Cindy Tavlich, Fox ’94, CFO, MRPedge; and Rosa Anna Chiappetta, CLA’86, vice president, TD Bank. The discussion will be moderated by Temple finance professor Jonathan Scott.

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On April 20, new head football coach Matt Rhule and the Temple Owls will prepare for the upcoming season during their annual spring scrimmage, held at the newly renovated Edberg-Glennon Hall, during Alumni Weekend 2013. Admission to the Cherry and White Game is free for Temple alumni, students, faculty and staff. Before the scrimmage, students can enjoy a free tailgate hosted by Temple Athletics. The game is one of many events planned for Alumni Weekend, which takes place April 19-21. For a full schedule, visit alumni.temple.edu.

Future entrepreneurs compete for big prizes in Fox’s Be Your Own Boss Bowl

The 15th annual Be Your Own Boss Bowl will take place April 25, 2-6:30 p.m., in Alter Hall, room A031.

The business plan competition brings together students, alumni, faculty and staff from student organizations and all 17 schools and colleges to compete for 10 prizes, including a grand prize worth over $115,000 in cash.

The development was designed to encourage members of the Temple community to launch and sustain new small businesses and scalable entrepreneurial ventures.