

The Review

The Magazine for the Alumni and Friends of the
Thomas Jefferson University College of Health Professions



Winter Social Alumni Board

Transition at the Top

Alumni Patriotism
Runs High

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Cover Photograph:

Alumni Board is red hot, white and blue with school spirit at the College's Annual Winter Social.

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For more information about the Alumni Association or activities, call 215-503-7709, email information to dorothy.grieb@mail.tju.edu or visit our web site: www.jefferson.edu/jchp/alumni.

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Thomas
Jefferson
University

College
of Health
Professions



Dear Alumni,

I am delighted to be able to join the Jefferson College of Health Professions and to carry on its wonderful legacy. I am especially pleased with the extremely warm reception the faculty and staff have given me and Dr. Raelynn Cooter, who has joined me as the associate dean of administration in this period of transition for the College.

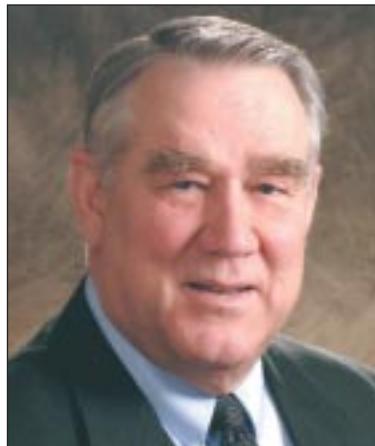
Before going any further, I want to recognize Dr. Larry Abrams for the outstanding contributions he has made to the College and University over his many years of dedicated service as dean of the College of Health Professions. I know that the students, faculty, and staff feel a deep sense of gratitude for Larry's tireless efforts on their behalf and for his many accomplishments. Special recognition of Larry's leadership appears elsewhere in this edition, so I will leave the full recording of his contributions to further articles. Suffice it to say that I offer my best wishes to Larry and Nancy for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

As sometimes happens when a leader with a long history retires, those very close to him on the staff also find this an opportunity to change course. With Larry's decision to retire, Dr. Linda Kraemer and Ms. Vicki Carto also announced that they wanted to enter a new phase in their professional lives. Both gave service most generously for extended periods of time. They have left their mark for which the College is extremely grateful. All will be sorely missed. We definitely wish Larry, Linda, and Vicki well and expect to hear from them from time to time in the future.

As Dr. Cooter and I embark on the challenge of trying to fill the void that the departure of Larry and some key members of his immediate staff has left, we pledge ourselves to do everything possible to bring the College to even greater levels of scholarship and accomplishment. We do not see this acting deanship as a time to tread water, because we believe firmly that no organization, especially an academic institution, can stand still without losing ground. Accordingly, we will be looking for opportunities to continue the growth of the College in reputation and in financial stability.

There are some major challenges before us. Increasing enrollment must be a high priority. In order to accomplish that we will need to add new flexibility to our programs. Many of our prospective students are fully employed and are interested in courses offered in the evenings and on weekends. We need to look for opportunities to expand our applicant base, possibly through new articulation agreements and/or by augmenting the continuum that we span.

There is no doubt that all entities will benefit by increasing the emphasis on the College's connection with Jefferson Medical College, the College of Graduate Studies, Thomas Jefferson



University Hospital, and the Jefferson Health System. One way that we can further that objective is to change the name of the College slightly to make certain that everyone identifies us with the Jefferson enterprise. Therefore, moving forward, we will be referring to the College as the Jefferson College of Health Professions (JCHP).

The healthcare system is desperately in need of the kinds of professionals that we educate. We need to find new ways to help students finance their education. We are exploring the ways that educational and patient care dimensions of healthcare can work together creatively to assist those interested in entering the field. As a College we must be as efficient as possible to keep our costs to a minimum without sacrificing quality in order to offer tuitions in a range that applicants can afford.

And to continue to move ahead, we must find ways to increase scholarship. I am greatly impressed with the faculty's commitment to scholarship. I know that they have been asked to assume heavy teaching loads. However, they do find the time to devote to scholarship, and most importantly, see scholarship as their reason for being in academia.

The faculty is the backbone of the institution. Dr. Cooter and I see ourselves as facilitators and, occasionally, as a rallying point around which the faculty can address the challenges we are facing. But we also need advice from the students as well as the alumni who are in the field and know the issues first-hand.

Our alumni have been through the formal educational phase and now know what is needed in our programs to address the challenges of the healthcare system. Accordingly, we will continue to use the College's annual Longitudinal Study and will increase efforts to respond positively to those who participate. We also realize that the Alumni Association is a vital source of information and expect to work even more closely with them. Faculty and administration will use all of this input to formulate strategies to enhance the College's reputation nationally and internationally, and assure its status as a premier college of nursing and allied health professions.

We genuinely look forward to hearing from you. Please be in touch with the benefit of your advice. On behalf of the faculty, students, and administration, we extend our deepest gratitude for your continued support and interest.

James B. Erdmann, PhD
Acting Dean

We Want to Salute Your Wedding!

Please let us know about your recent wedding, so we can include your happy announcement in a future issue of *The Review*. Include with your announcement a picture we can print and we will send you a Jefferson gift! You can email us a digital picture or send us one in the mail. (Please clearly identify the picture.) Please include your name at graduation, your program, your year, your married name, your spouse's name, date of your wedding, your address, telephone number and email.



Lieutenants Bradley Buchanan and Marnie Heiss, BSN '95

Best Wishes to Dr. Linda Kraemer

After 26 years of outstanding service to the College of Health Professions and Thomas Jefferson University, Linda G. Kraemer, PhD, left her position as senior associate dean, on January 31, 2002. During her tenure at Jefferson, Dr. Kraemer has fulfilled many roles, including educator, administrator, researcher, clinician, author, consultant and leader in several health professions organizations.

Dr. Kraemer came to Jefferson in 1976 to plan the first baccalaureate program in dental hygiene in Pennsylvania and then continued as chairman of the Department of Dental Hygiene from 1976 until 1989. Beginning in 1988, Dr. Kraemer served as assistant dean, then associate dean in 1990, and was named senior associate dean in 1992. She served as the grand marshall for the College's commencement exercises for the past 16 years and was a member of the University's Steering Committee for two Middle States Association site visits.

In addition to holding numerous leadership positions in professional organizations, Dr. Kraemer has published articles in and served on the editorial review boards of several peer-reviewed journals. In 1998 she received the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) Board Award and was inducted as an ASAHP Fellow in 2000. She is also a recipient of the *Journal of Allied Health*'s J. Warren Perry Distinguished Author Award.

Jefferson Generations

Are you a Jefferson family? Is there more than one Jeffersonian in your family from any of the three divisions (Jefferson College of Health Professions, Jefferson Medical College, College of Graduate Studies)? We are planning a Jefferson family feature in our next issue of *The Review* and want to hear from you. If you have an interesting story about your Jefferson family connection, please let us know and we will contact you for a telephone interview. Please email us with your name, program/division, class year, telephone number, and include the name, program and year for your relative(s). Please email this information to dorothy.grieb@mail.tju.edu.

Patriotism Runs High with Jefferson Alumni

Valerie Valle Gelovich (BSN '95) was part of the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Torch Relay which traveled through Philadelphia December 22 and 23. Valerie's stint, sponsored by Coca Cola was included in the exit run from Philadelphia to New York (December 23, Day 20). Gelovich's torch was lit at approximately 7:47 pm at Broad and Pike streets in North Philadelphia, and she carried the Olympic Flame for .25 of a mile to Broad and Lycoming Streets.

"Valerie is an amazing woman," explained her mother, Kathy Valle who lives in South Philadelphia. "When I saw what they were looking for, exceptional people who 'embody the Olympic Spirit and provide inspiration to the community' I knew she would be a perfect fit."

Gelovich was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1991. It began with loss of vision and vertigo. Gelovich knew the signs well, having watched her father suffer with the disease during her childhood. He died in 1989.

With the help of steroids (she is currently medication-free), careful attention to doctors' orders and a positive outlook on life, Gelovich recovered total vision and can basically function normally. "I had a rough time for three years after I was diagnosed, but after the birth of my child (daughter Alyssa, 2½) things got better and the attacks seemed to subside."

Refusing to let her disability hamper her lifestyle, Gelovich, a trained ballerina, continued teaching dance in New Jersey to hearing impaired and Downs Syndrome children.



Valerie Valle Gelovich prepares to carry the Olympic Torch down Broad Street.

Gelovich came to Jefferson College of Health Professions in 1993 with a degree in recreational therapy and a scholarship from Temple University Hospital. She had already been working at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Seashore House as a therapeutic recreational specialist and continued to work there through school in various capacities including work with premature infants. She married physician Stephen Gelovich in 1996 and moved to Magnolia, New Jersey where she resided until late last year when the family moved to Lake Mary, Florida.

But her roots (and her heart) are still in South Philadelphia where her mother still resides and runs an M.S. awareness group. Valle, a justifiably proud parent who wants the world to know about her daughter, has also submitted Gelovich's story to Chevrolet and they have subsequently awarded her a Chevy Trailblazer Uncompromising Strength Award. She was one of the "strong and determined women" who received accolades in the March issue of *Redbook Magazine*.

"Attitude is everything," says Gelovich. I watched my father wither away and I refuse to let that happen to me. There are a lot of things that I want to do, people who need me. I plan to live the rest of my life to the fullest."

The following is an excerpt from the journal of critical care transport specialist for Jefferson Health System Ambulance and JCHP alumna Dori Lawson, RN, PHRN, CFRN, CEN of Paoli, Pennsylvania.

It Is What We Do

On September 11, 2001, we all know where we were, what we were doing, who we were with. It is ingrained in our minds and our hearts.

It was a long day. We had just delivered a patient to a cath lab in the city and were dispatched to Frankford Hospital. We found our chief making a list of equipment and supplies we were sending with a crew up to the NYC site. My partner, Colin Devenny, EMT-B (also a firefighter) and I immediately volunteered to go. We got the okay from our director of operations. Another PHRN/EMT crew would also be going. We were to travel to Christiana, Delaware to join a contingent of doctors, nurses and other EMS personnel that was traveling together to the site. We quickly made phone calls to our families. My grown daughter cried and begged me not to go, my Dad tersely admonished me to be careful and my brothers wished me luck and told me they love me. Each one I talked with had one thing in common. They knew that I had to go. It was not my job, it was my life. They knew that it is what I do.

The trip to Christiana was quiet. Images still replay in my mind on an endless loop. I quietly wondered if my 25 years of nursing, most in emergency medicine, could ever prepare me for what I was about to see. As it turns out, nothing could prepare anyone for anything they would see on September 11, 2001.

On our arrival to Christiana, we were issued trauma gowns, blankets and pillows, as no one really knew how long we would be there. By now I was wishing I had stopped at the K-Mart for clean underwear and a toothbrush. After a brief

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A Fond Farewell to Dean Larry Abrams

With the retirement of Lawrence Abrams, EdD, on December 31, 2001, a long and distinguished chapter in the continuing history of Jefferson's College of Health Professions came to a close. For 23 of his 36 years of dedicated service to Jefferson, Dr. Abrams was dean, responsible for the leadership and management of the College, including academic affairs, student affairs and financial affairs. Since 1990, he also served as vice president for Student Affairs, with responsibilities that included the Office of Student Activities/Commons Board, Jefferson Bookstore, Housing and Residence Life and Minority Affairs. He was one of nine senior officers of Thomas Jefferson University. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Dr. Abrams also held the faculty rank of professor of education in the Department of General Studies.

In his announcement of Dr. Abrams' retirement, Dr. Paul Brucker, president of the University, said, "During his tenure at Jefferson, Dean Abrams' accomplishments and achievements have been exemplary. Under his leadership, the College of Health Professions has evolved into one of the leading institutions of its kind. Its reputation is renowned both across the country and on an international basis."

Dr. Abrams' career at Jefferson began in 1965 in the Medical College's Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. His association with the College of Health Professions began in 1968, when he was named coordinator of program planning for what was then named the School of Allied Health Sciences. In fact, the history of the College, as detailed in Dr. Fred Wagner's landmark study *Thomas Jefferson University: Tradition and Heritage*, is replete with references to the many substantial contributions that Lawrence Abrams has made to the development and advancement of the College.

Beginning with his role as the College's first director of admissions and registrar, Larry (as he prefers to be called) rapidly

advanced in leadership roles in the administration, including director of student affairs and services, assistant dean, associate dean, acting dean, dean pro tem, and, in 1978, dean. His outstanding service to Jefferson was formally recognized in 1983, when he became the first recipient of the Presidential Citation for Distinguished Service, an honor that he received again in 1995.

The penultimate recognition of Larry's outstanding service came on October 20, 2000, when his portrait was presented to the University, joining Jefferson's rich tradition for more than a century of recognizing the contributions of truly

long enough to capture his characteristic energy and enthusiasm on canvas.

The list of Larry's well-deserved accolades is long and not limited to Jefferson alone. For years, he was recognized, both nationally and internationally, as a leader and pioneer in allied health education and health careers. Just a few of his accomplishments in this arena are mentioned here. Larry has received honors and awards from other educational institutions, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award from The Pennsylvania State University in 1992 and an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the State University of New York



Karen Abrams Kofsky, Lawrence Abrams, Jill Abrams Lapensohn and Nancy Abrams stand beside the portrait of Dr. Abrams that presently hangs in the Edison Building lobby.

distinguished individuals to the institution. At the portrait presentation ceremony, Larry was described as "the cornerstone of the College." Visitors to the Edison Building, which currently houses all of the administrative and academic offices of the College of Health Professions, pass daily under Larry's portrait, painted by Dean Paules, the artist who managed to have Larry sit still

Health Science Center at Brooklyn in 1998. In 1994, he was named a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

In 1968, Larry founded the Health Careers Guidance Clinic, a program of student clinics and counselor workshops that continued for 25 years at Thomas Jefferson University. He also founded and co-edited the *Health Careers Guidance Manual for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and*

Maryland. Now in its 11th edition and accessible on the World Wide Web, the manual is considered to be among the most comprehensive reference publications about health careers in the nation.

In 1988, Larry initiated a "National Health Careers Information Hotline." Based at Jefferson, this toll-free 800 number was designed to provide information and guidance about health careers.

A recognized national leader in allied health education, Larry served from 1988 to 1990 as president of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP), an organization whose membership consists of educational institutions, professional organizations, clinical services and individuals devoted to allied health education, research and service. He recently completed three years as project director of the federally funded Health Professions Data

Collaborative Project, which focused on methods to address issues related to the supply, demand and utilization of the allied health work force at local, state and national levels.

Larry has also played a prominent role in international health education. In addition to helping to establish student and faculty exchange programs between the College of Health Professions and countries in Europe and Asia, he has served as a consultant to the Agency for International Development of the United States Department of State and as a visiting professor at Kitasato University in Kanagawa, Japan and at the Tianjin Medical College in The People's Republic of China.

Closer to home, Larry has been a tireless activist in the local community. For 10 years, he served as a school board director of the Marple Newtown School District. He serves as an honorary director of the Women's Association for Women's Alternatives, an innovative, residential program for female-headed households, an organization that he founded and served as chairman of the Board for three years. For many years, he was chairman of the Board of Trustees of Jefferson Park Hospital and Children's Rehabilitation Hospital. Other

Abrams Scholarship

Throughout his long, varied and successful career at Jefferson, Larry maintained one tenet above all others: commitment to students. That commitment influenced every decision he made as dean and vice president, and our students benefited in many ways as a result.

It is therefore fitting that, to honor his 36 years of service to Jefferson and its students, the University has established the Lawrence Abrams Health Professions Scholarship Fund. Full-time nursing and allied health students who show promise of academic excellence and demonstrate financial need will be eligible to receive an Abrams Scholarship.

To fund the scholarship, we are soliciting donations and pledges from faculty and staff as well as alumni and friends of the College. We are pleased to tell you that nearly 100 percent of your Alumni Association Board of Directors have already contributed. Soon, you will receive a request for support. This is an excellent way to honor our former dean and support our students at the same time. When you receive the request, please say "yes." Your support is important and much appreciated.

If you want to get on board before you receive your pledge card, please email william.thygeson@mail.tju.edu with your name, address and phone number and we will send you more information.

institutions on which Larry has served as a Board member include the Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine and the Philadelphia Senior Center.

In spite of his many outstanding accomplishments and public recognition as a visionary leader and role model, Larry Abrams is, above all else, a private gentleman and devoted family man with the enduring qualities of friendship, respect for others, and humility.

On behalf of present and former faculty, administration, staff and students, including the more than 7,500 alumni who graduated from the College during his tenure as dean, we wish to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Dean Larry Abrams, a man for whom we have respect and affection, one who has brought honor and distinction to this institution and to health professions education. We thank him and wish him, his wife Nancy and his entire family many happy and healthy years in his retirement.

The Person Behind the Position

Larry Abrams is a man, well-known and well-respected by all he encountered, both inside and out of the hallowed halls of Jefferson. This accomplished

professional is also a genuinely "nice person." Three of his colleagues (and friends) recall their experiences.

According to Mary Lee Seibert, EdD, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty at Utica College, "Larry and I hosted the annual meeting of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) in Philadelphia in



1982. Larry and I made our "debut as Mummers" during the reception for participants. What a wild and wonderful evening we all had. I remember the unbelieving looks on the faces of the

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Reflecting Upon the Past...Defining the Future

"It is change, continuing change, inevitable change that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be."

Said by science fiction author Isaac Asimov many years ago. James B. Erdmann, PhD, Jefferson College of Health Professions' new acting dean would most likely agree with these sentiments.

Assuming the position of acting dean just four months ago, Dr. Erdmann has been part of the Jefferson administrative team since 1987, most recently as senior associate dean for faculty affairs for the Medical College.

"Jefferson has to change by reflecting the changes that are happening in the healthcare system," explains Dr. Erdmann. "It is important that we be aware of and appropriately responsive to these needs."

"Having been a part of the University for the past 15 years, I began to be cognizant of what the system needs and to look at the ways the College can best develop as a self-sustaining contributor to the University. We have to balance the needs of the profession as we develop leaders and assert a certain level of independence."

Dr. Erdmann is a strong proponent of totally preparing students for opportunities in the workplace. "We have a responsibility to our students to give them all of the skills so they can be immediately oriented to their jobs. We have a wonderful group of alumni. They are impressive and we are very privileged that they are our spokespeople. We are striving each day to give them more of which to be proud."

His career path exemplifies his philosophy of seizing upon opportunities when they arise. From his original studies for the Catholic priesthood, he developed a keen interest in psychology. "Basically, I wanted to learn more about people," he explained. "And this subsequently led to teaching."

Dr. Erdmann continues to hold academic appointments in the departments of medicine, psychiatry and the behavior sciences of Jefferson Medical College. Prior to joining Jefferson, he was director of the division of educational measurement and research at the Association of American Medical Colleges, Washington, D.C. and clinical associate professor at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Additionally, he held teaching positions as associate professor of medical education and educational psychology at Michigan State University and acting and associate director of the Loyola psychometric laboratory and assistant professor at Loyola University in Chicago. He holds his master's and doctorate in psychological measurement and cognition from that university.

"I think this is an important concept for any young man or woman entering the job market," continued Dr. Erdmann. "They have to be receptive to opportunity. A career path is not always what you expected or intended. If the opportunity presents itself and provides satisfaction and fulfillment, then you take it."

Teaching and research eventually lead to full-time administration when in 1970, Dr. Erdmann joined the AAMC and continued when he came to Jefferson Medical College as associate dean for administration and special projects in 1987. He assumed the role of associate dean of administration and registrar in 1990, University registrar in 1997 and senior associate dean for faculty affairs in 2001.

According to the new dean, he is ready for the "challenge of helping move Jefferson College of Health Professions to the forefront in the region as well as nationally while bringing it closer to the health system and positioning it as a more integral part of the University." He foresees an enhanced scholarly environment for JCHP. His vision is to continue on as "a place where students will feel they are getting a top flight education and where instructors, leaders in the various health professions fields, will consider it an honor to be recruited to Jefferson. Additionally, researchers will advance knowledge in their professional fields while advancing the care of the patients."



Dr. Raelynn Cooter

Raelynn Cooter, PhD, new interim associate dean for JCHP's administration, is a vital part of this endeavor. She is also assuming the role of interim University registrar during the transition period. Dr. Cooter joined the University as coordinator of the office of financial aid at Jefferson Medical College in 1984, assumed the role of Jefferson Medical College director of financial aid in 1991 and director of the University financial aid office in 1997.

As interim associate dean, Dr. Cooter will share in the management of the College and coordinate the activities of the dean's staff. She will have direct supervisory responsibility for admissions, student affairs and the University activities office. As interim University registrar, she will oversee the operations of the University registrar and financial aid offices.



Dr. James B. Erdmann, acting dean and Dr. Raelynn Cooter, interim associate dean talk to a JCHP prospective student in the admissions office.

Her dual responsibilities, daunting at first, have given way to a “natural flow,” in that she is dealing with student service functions on both fronts. Explained Dr. Cooter, “Enhancing JCHP’s integration with the Medical College and College of Graduate Studies is an important step right now and I am pleased that I am going to be part of that process.”

She explained that her many years of experience in Jefferson’s financial aid office have served her well in her new position. “Financial aid in any college has the greatest number and the greatest diversity of constituencies to report to and manage.”

Four and a half years ago, separate financial aid offices for JCHP, the College of Graduate Studies and the Medical College were consolidated into one and Dr. Cooter was the driving force behind this gargantuan task.

Said Dr. Cooter, “The transition was difficult because the financial aid consolidation occurred six weeks before the scheduled start of classes. It came with antiquated software problems, personnel problems and unresolved issues. The first 12-18 months were tough but I am very proud of the way the University financial aid office has evolved. It is in good shape now and I feel confident that it is in capable hands with new director, Susan Batchelor.”

Having worked so well as a team in the Medical College’s administration, Drs. Erdmann and Cooter are poised for action once again. According to Dr. Cooter, “Jim Erdmann is an excellent listener, so early on I knew that this would be a positive environment. Even if we are on opposite sides of an issue to begin with, we will come to some sort of agreement

because he factors in and seriously considers other information that people offer. I have probably become better at being an active listener, both professionally and personally, having worked with him for so long.”

Seventeen years is a long time to work for the same institution and Dr. Cooter says that she keeps invigorated and challenged because, “Jefferson is a very supportive place. Every step of the way I have been afforded opportunity to get involved in other areas, expand my role, take on new projects. I feel that even if we are not where we want to be, we are constantly striving for excellence. And that is important.”

JAVA Is Brewing at Jefferson!

Be a part of our own “House Blend,” JAVA (Jefferson Alumni Volunteering for Admissions), and help us cultivate future students who will eventually share an important characteristic with all alumni...a degree from Thomas Jefferson University. Alumni are needed to focus on person-to-person contact and work with the professionals in the Office of Admissions to staff open houses, attend receptions for accepted students, make calls to prospective students, network at professional meetings, and much more.

If you are interested in helping with any of these events, please contact Karen Jacobs, director of admissions and enrollment management, at karen.jacobs@mail.tju.edu or call (215) 503-1040 or (877) JEFF-CHP.

Alumni Update

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

Marie L. Vivaldo Gallelli, '89 is living in West Melbourne, Florida and is the mother of twin girls, Alexa and Kara, born in September 1999 and a son, Dominic, born in May 1997. Her husband, Richard, also has two children,



Ashley and Richie. Marie is currently working per diem at Holmes Regional Medical Center where her husband also works as a Special Procedures Technologist.

Amy Walker, '98 is living in Lansdale, PA and sends her congratulations to Mike Hartman for being elected as president of the Jefferson College of Health Professions Alumni Association.

Shirin Karsan, '99 was elected in 2001 for a two-year term as a DI representative on the Jefferson College of Health Professions Alumni Board of Directors. After many years of raising two daughters, Shirin is back at work part-time as the x-ray technician at the Pennsylvania Hand Center in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. She is also involved in many volunteer and community activities.

John Meale, DI '91 (see news listed under Physical Therapy.)

GENERAL STUDIES

Anna Mae Gilmore, AS, '99 was elected to a two-year term as a General Studies representative on the Jefferson College of Health Professions Alumni Board of Directors. She currently works at Methodist Hospital and also attends Methodist's School of Nursing.

LABORATORY SCIENCES

Michele K. Kurtincz, CTG '94, CT '95 left Philadelphia in February 2002 to participate in a medical mission in Honduras for a few weeks and reports

she is very excited about the opportunity. While not using her specific skills as a cytotechnologist there, she will assist medical and nursing staff as a medical aide. Professionally, Michele has been employed since 1995 as a cytotechnologist at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA. For the last two years she has been the technical specialist for their Cytology Department. In November 2001, Michele presented a poster representing an abstract she authored at the ASC Annual Scientific Conference.

Kathleen M. Arias, LSMT '72 has authored a textbook, *Outbreak Investigation and Control Health Care Facilities*, in 2000, published by Aspen Publishers. Kathleen is currently the manager of the Infection Control Department at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, MD.

John Peter Testorf, LS '96 recently married Theresa Arliss and is currently employed by Bristol-Myers and Squibb Company Pharmaceutical in Syracuse, NY.

Mitchell Semme, LS '94 (see news listed under Occupational Therapy)

Teresa Capabianco Keller, LS '87 and husband Ron joyfully announce the arrival of their fourth child, Dean Philip Keller. The baby was born July 23, 2001 weighing in at 8 lbs., 8 oz and measuring 21 inches. Big brothers, Ronnie and Brad and big sister Emily Rose adore the new addition to the family.

John Truesdale, LS '99 was elected in 2001 to a two-year term as a Laboratory Sciences representative to the Jefferson College of Health Professions Alumni Board of Directors. John is employed as the clinical and technical supervisor at Main Line Fertility and Reproductive Medicine, Ltd., in Paoli, Pennsylvania



Vu T Nguyen, LS '97 announced the birth of his son, Daniel Hoang Nguyen, born on February 20, 2001.

Daniel weighed 8 lbs., 6 oz. and was 20½ inches long.

Jay A. Field, LS '88 and his wife, Tina, had a special Valentine's Day with the birth of their second son, William Vincent born on February 14, 2002. Will weighed in at 8 lbs., 2 oz. and measured 21 ¼ inches. He joins older brother, Andrew, nearly three years old.

NURSING

Leigh Pierson-Brown, BSN '74 her husband, and daughter, Julia, 13, and son Miles, 10½, love living in the San Francisco bay area. Leigh, who has been married since 1985, met her husband while working in Refugee Health in Thailand. She received her MPH in maternal-child health from the University of California at Berkeley in 1985 and has worked as a certified pediatric nurse practitioner for Contra Costa City Health Services for 20 years. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Child Abuse Prevention Council and is director of school based health care.

Lynn Casey Borucki, BSN '76 has three children, Elizabeth, Allison and Alex. She received her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and is currently an assistant professor of nursing at Widener University.

Michelle Conley, BSN '00 announces the birth of her son, Thomas Conley.

Barrie Levin, BSN '83 is enjoying being a mom of a kindergartner. She says, "My daughter is mini-me and is teaching me so much about myself." Barrie also graduated from the Family Nurse Practitioner program at MCP Hahnemann University on August 10, 2001.

Barbara S. Synder, BSN '87 has just completed her PhD in Clinical Nursing Research from the University of Pennsylvania and is currently an assistant professor at Seton Hall University College of Nursing in South Orange, New Jersey.

Christina M. Karowski, BSN '97 has graduated from the University of

Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey/Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center Nurse Anesthetist program in August, 2001.

Debra Weckenmann, BSN '78 and her husband celebrated 20 years of marriage in June 2001 and are surviving three teens in the household. She spends much of her time chauffeuring and attending the sporting events and activities of Michael, 18, AJ, 16, and Jessie, 15. She is also keeping active after enduring ACL reconstruction in October 1999 and lumbar fusion reconstruction with grafts in January 2001. She reports she is enjoying life again, thanks to Jefferson's Dr. Todd Albert.

Maureen Farrelly, BSN '91 served as a Peace Corp volunteer in Paraguay from 1994-1997. She also completed her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner program. She presently works with her husband, Arun Lall, MD, in a private pain management practice in Houston, Texas.

Jane Grimmel Hogan, BSN '83 has worked at the Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore for over 18 years and for the past year in the Cardiac Cauterization Recovery Unit where she cares for patients before and after their interventional procedures. However, she really enjoys her weekends off to be with her husband, Tim. They are the proud parents of three children, Patrick, Michael, and Shannon who all excel in school and sports.

Marnie Sue Heiss Buchanan, LT NC USN, BSN '93 married husband, Bradley in a military ceremony at Fort Monroe, Virginia in August 2001. Marnie is currently the division officer of the Military Acute Care Clinic at the Branch Medical Center in Norfolk, Virginia. Brad has been deployed as medical support for Operation Enduring Freedom. Marnie was also featured on the cover of the August issue of *Advance for Nurses*. The cover story, "A Call to Serve Country & Nursing," explained the benefits of nursing in the military and the challenges and opportunities in building a successful career.

Paula Deau Jackson, BSN '93 was elected in 2001 to a two-year term as a Nursing representative to the Jefferson College of Health Professions Alumni Board of Directors. She is employed as a nurse practitioner in the pre-anesthesia evaluation center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Nkam Mongwa, BSN '97 was featured in the August 11, 2001 edition of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Nkam was part of a volunteer group of students and alumni from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania who traveled to Cape Town, South Africa to help promote healthcare. He received his master's degree in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania and is employed by their medical center.

Silvana Poletajev, BSN '98 reports that she and her husband Greg now have two children, Gabriela born on June 20, 1999 and Alexandra born on December 29, 2000.

Nancy Schoellkopff Syms, BSN '91 is living with her husband David in Chandler, Arizona. They have a son, David, Jr., born on May 14, 2001 and an older daughter, Katie who loves to help care for the baby. Jefferson is a family affair in the Syms family. Young David's grandfather, Dr. Charles A. Syms, and two uncles, Dr. Charles A. Syms, Jr., and Dr. Mark Syms are all Jefferson Medical College graduates.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Karen Cunningham Mitchell, OT '98 married Larry Mitchell on August 26, 2001 on the beach in Pensacola, Florida. She is employed by Mercer County



Special Services School in New Jersey and is working in early intervention and with preschoolers.

Anita C. Peacock, OT '99 was elected in 2001 to a two-year term as an Occupational Therapy representative to the Jefferson College of Health Professions Alumni Board of Directors. Anita works as an occupational therapist

at the Cadbury Continuing Care Retirement Community in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

Barbara Hubal Shallcross, OT '93 was elected in 2001 to a two-year term as an Occupational Therapy Representative to the Jefferson College of Health Professions Alumni Board of Directors. Barbara works as an occupational therapist for Genesis Ventures in New Jersey.

Kelly Ann Sleeter Somma, OT '94 married **Mitchell Somma, LS, '97** in April 1997. She is a senior occupational therapist at Magee Rehabilitation Center in the Spinal Cord Injury Unit. Mitchell also received an additional bachelor's degree from MCP Hahnemann in the Physician Assistant Program and works as a physician assistant in cardiology at Cooper Hospital in New Jersey.

Suzanne Simons Warnalis, OT '96 has a son, Austin Joseph Warnalis born on August 13, 2000.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Julie Radi Hunt, PT '85 and husband, Peter announced the birth of their daughter, Jacqueline Marie, on October 4, 2001. She joins older sister, Kathryn, age six. The Hunt family has lived in Pensacola, Florida for two and a half years while Peter, a commander in the US Navy commands VT-4, the initial flight training squadron for the US Navy, Marines and Air Force. Upon completion of this assignment, the Hunts will return to San Diego, California.



Christopher Lauretani, PT '00 was married in October, 2001 to Maria Rago, former director of the Jefferson College of Health Professions Career Development Center. Jefferson colleagues of Maria's as well as alumni, **Jason Melnyk, OT '01** and **Heather Bennett, OT '01** were in attendance for the happy event. Chris was recently featured in, *Investor's Business Daily* as a young entrepreneur to watch.

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Tami Smith Meale, PT '93, and John Meale, DI '91, are the proud parents of two children, Emily, born in 1999, and Johnny, in 2001. Tami works at Shore Rehabilitation Institute in Point Pleasant, New Jersey in acute rehabilitation. John works for Rancocas Valley Surgical Associates, also in New Jersey.



Effie Papas, PT '95 was elected in 2001 to a two-year term as a Physical Therapy representative to the Jefferson College of Health Professions Alumni Board of Directors. Effie works as a physical therapist for the Prime Rehabilitation Center at the Beachview Care Center in Keansburg, New Jersey.

Suzanne Sherman Horton, PT '93 has worked for the last year for Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit #13, working within the school system. She has a son, Skyler Reed nearly three years old and has just given birth to her second son, Riley Conner. He was born on January 24, 2002 at 6 lbs., 5 oz., 18 inches.

Sue Lowenstein Fisher, PT '97 and John Fisher, PT '97 are the proud parents of their first baby, Adrianna Rose who was born on January 26, 2001. The Fishers are self-employed, running their own physical therapy contract company.

Lori Mohr Anderson, PT '96 who now resides in Hilton Head, South Carolina recently visited Jefferson and shared a wonderful idea. She wants to organize an alumni reunion for her Class of '96 in Hilton Head and would love to hear from her classmates regarding their interest. Members of the class may contact her at lorihhi@aol.com.

The Place to be...Jefferson CHP

The Alumni Association's special welcome, "**The Tradition Starts Here,**" was well received by new students at the College's August 2001 registration. Each year, the Alumni Association distributes coffee mugs to all new students. This year, newly designed mugs were distributed along with a chance to win Jefferson sports towels.



New students pick up coffee mugs.

JAVA (Jefferson Alumni Volunteering for Admissions) dialed away at the Fall 2001 **Admissions Phonathons** placing calls to prospective students and answering questions about their Jefferson experiences. The Office of Admissions actively encourages alumni volunteers to participate in JAVA. It's fun and it helps the recruiting efforts. To sign up for this important volunteer experience, call Karen Jacobs, director of admissions and enrollment at (215) 503-1040, or email, karen.jacobs@mail.tju.edu



Lori Mohr Anderson and Marc Besser, JCHP acting chair, PT department, discuss plans for a future reunion.

A **Nurse Celebration Dinner**, commemorating over 110 total years of Jefferson nursing education, was held on October 15, 2001 at the Benjamin Franklin House in Philadelphia. "The Ballroom at the Ben" was festively decorated and almost 200 Jefferson nursing graduates were in attendance for cocktails, dinner, and an evening of nostalgia. The evening was organized by **Sarah A.**

Hindson Wagner, DN '54, president of the Jefferson Nurses Alumni Association, Pamela Watson, former chair of the Department of Nursing, and Dorothy Grieb, director of Alumni Relations for Jefferson College of Health Professions. Each guest received a "Jefferson Journal" to write down memories of their times at Jefferson.

The College celebrated **National Allied Health Week** with a number of activities for all constituents. On Sunday, November 4, 2001, the week began with an "**Alumni Kick-off**" held at Jillian's at the Franklin Mills Mall. While the party-going alums watched the Philadelphia Eagles play Arizona on mega-screen televisions, drinks and a scrumptious buffet were enjoyed by all. Prizes and discount shopping coupons for stores in the mall were distributed. The big "win" by the Eagles capped off a very good time.

On Monday, November 5, 2002, the Career Development Center sponsored **Nursing and Allied Health Day** for



students and alumni. Several alums were among those who had the opportunity to speak with 143 exhibitors. On November 6, the College sponsored a **Faculty Appreciation Day** with snacks and specialty coffees for the entire faculty.

The Allied Health Week celebration continued with a **Jefferson Alumni Employee Luncheon** for alumni employees of the Jefferson Health System. Sponsored by the Alumni Association, the event had been absent from the schedule in recent years. Many took time out of their busy days to grab a bite in the Hospital Executive Conference Room where a buffet was available to eat there or "to go!"

November 7 capped off Allied Health Week with the Alumni Association



sponsoring **Student Appreciation Day**. Soft pretzels, cold drinks in Jefferson "stadium cups" and a "guess the number of peanuts in the jar contest." Three lucky students won gift certificates for the Jefferson bookstore.

A regional social event, the **"Jefferson Jersey Jingle Party"** was held on Sunday, December 1, 2002 for alumni residents of South Jersey at the Voorhees, New Jersey home of Michael Hartman, president of the Alumni Association. Mike, his wife Julie, and son Michael, Jr. warmly welcomed the guests to their lovely home. A wonderful selection of holiday treats was served and everyone went home with a "Jefferson Jersey jingle bell." Some alums won gifts by choosing lucky ornaments from the "alumni prize tree."



The second annual **OT Alumni Luncheon** was held on December 7, 2001 as part of a continuing education seminar, *Sensory Integration and Occupation: The Cutting Edge*. Four alumni speakers, Erin Quinn, '99, Jennifer Palko, '98, Greg Santucci, '00, and Michelle Ralph, '93, shared their thoughts and experiences of being in professional leadership positions with those in attendance.

December exams could not properly start without a lift from the Alumni Association. On the first exam day, the Center for Student Development was turned into a **"Coffee House"** with specialty coffees, teas, and cookies provided and served by "The Cappuccino Connection." Also, renewing a new tradition, all students were given a holiday gift of JCHP notepads, with the heading, "2002 Things To Do," to start off the New Year. Three lucky students guessed the "number of candy canes in the jar," and won Jefferson bookstore gift certificates.



The Cappuccino Connection

"Red (hot), white and blue" described this year's Annual College **Winter Social**. On February 8, 2002, nearly 400 students rocked the "Ballroom at the Ben" with an all-American theme. Patriotism

was alive and well and everyone was treated to favors ranging from Uncle Sam hats to snazzy flag snap bracelets. Red, white and blue glow necklaces tossed from the balcony into the dancing crowd were a big hit. Prior to the event, a cocktail reception and meeting was held for the Alumni Board of Directors at Jefferson College of Health Professions' Center for Student Development. In attendance were the College's new leadership, James Erdmann, PhD, acting dean, and Raelynn Cooter, PhD, interim associate dean, who were warmly welcomed by the Board. They were introduced to the group and spoke of their commitment to the College's alumni. The group then joined students, faculty and administration at the Ben to enjoy a fabulous dinner and dance the night away.



Mike Hartman and friend

It was "Nothing But Net" on February 11, 2002 at the annual **Network Night**, co-sponsored by the Career Development Center. This event features alumni-manned tables where students in various disciplines can sit and discuss careers and opportunities. Alumni in attendance included **Pat Tosi, DI '96, Mike Hartman, DI '88, Vu Nguyen, BTLS, '97, Mary Ellen Thompson, MT '75, BSN '93, Joanne Swierzy, MT '80, Lisa Mucciola, MT, '93, Lisa Downs, BSN '98, Megan Carr, BSN '95, Helene McGovern, OT '96, Matthew Johnson, PT '00, Tracy DiBease, PT '95, and Dana Morrison, MT '80**. Thanks to these wonderful volunteers who so generously gave up their time to help students with their career plans.

DEAN ABRAMS *Continued from Page 5*

faculty as we strutted around with the Mummers Band having the time of our professional careers."

"We had much fun together," she continued, "as we made a real difference in our professional association. I credit Larry with bringing ASAHP back into viability as an association at a time when it was floundering financially and reputation-wise and reestablishing its position as the organization that represented leadership in education among all the allied health disciplines. I am proud to have helped to support him during his ASAHP presidency and to work with him on many important national and international professional activities."

"Larry is a gentleman, a leader and generous to a fault," said Seibert. "I also know that he is a tireless taskmaster who drives his people hard and expects that they will meet his high expectations of them. And they usually do. I have missed working directly with Larry for the last dozen years or so, but we keep tabs on each other and know that if either of us ever needs anything from the other, we will deliver."

Stephen L. Wilson, PhD., director of the School of Allied Medical Professions at The Ohio State University, remembers being asked to plan and coordinate an ASAHP annual meeting in 1984. "I knew nothing about planning such a meeting," recounted Wilson, "and was scared to death about the prospect of taking on such a daunting task. Larry had planned and hosted a highly successful annual meeting in Philadelphia. At this point, I did not know Larry but I think he recognized my lack of confidence and he made a specific point of meeting with me, providing an incredible amount of guidance and advice. He helped allay many of my fears and he continued to communicate with me over the year of planning. In fact, the annual meeting in Atlanta was a great event and gave me a great deal of professional visibility. I always appreciated the way Larry took the time to connect and mentor me through this experience. While this is only a small detail in a long relationship

that Larry and I have enjoyed, I am sure it shows the support he had given to many other young professionals who have been touched by his generosity, caring and professionalism."

ASAHP executive director Thomas W. Elwood, Dr. PH had additional words of praise. "Larry Abrams and his associates at Thomas Jefferson University cast a wide shadow both in the United States and internationally. His accomplishments in this Association alone have been highly significant. As a result of his initiative, ASAHP's quarterly periodical, *The Journal of Allied Health*, has been housed at the College of Health Professions at Thomas Jefferson University since 1998. During the past five years, he was director of an allied health workforce project that was federally funded and he continues to the present time to advance the development of an allied health workforce data system."

Continued Elwood, "His personal warmth, ability to stimulate the highest level of performance among those who work on projects with him, his generosity are among the qualities most esteemed by his colleagues in the health professions around the United States and in other parts of the world. He has left an indelible mark on this Association and on those who have had the good fortune to be associated with him. Any future successes experienced by this organization will bear his imprint as the result of the nurturing that he provided over a period of so many years."

IT IS WHAT WE DO *Continued from Page 3*

orientation by our medical command doctor, we loaded up and headed north.

As we crossed the Delaware Memorial Bridge into New Jersey, even more ambulances and rescue trucks joined us. The Delaware State troopers dropped off the pace and the New Jersey state police provided our escort the entire way to the city.

During the trip north, we managed to relax a bit, and some talk between the rigs chirped up. I even felt myself relax and lessen my grip on the wheel. Then

we passed Newark airport and looked to our left and to our right. On our left was a fleet of airplanes on the ground of all sizes, shapes and logo paint. All eerily still and black inside.

On our right, a plume of smoke blackened the sky. The air smelled horrible. I cannot explain exactly how it smelled, but we knew the smell was devastating destruction. Radio and cell phone chatter stopped and dead silence was the rule as everyone in the convoy tried to take in what we were seeing. Just across the river, right behind the monument to liberty and freedom, was ground zero. We were there.

We continued on to our staging area at the Meadowlands. As we pulled in, a few New York Giants football players were leaving the facility and waved and saluted our convoy. We got our instructions to report in, park and be ready. We were all hungry, in dire need of bathrooms and nervous about what we would be required to do. Radios played from most of the ambulances, all on news stations. No rock, rap, country or classical music was to be found. We listened to the President address the nation. We contacted our families by cell phones to reassure them that we were okay.

I walked about the compound during our staging. I saw a huge triage area with dozens of monitors, hundreds of stretchers and boxes upon boxes of medical supplies. There were hundreds of ambulances and thousands of police and EMS personnel. There were floodlights illuminating a stage all set for the worst play imaginable.

But it was not to be.

After midnight, we saw the fire trucks and heavy rescue units begin to leave. We waited with heavy hearts, knowing that that surely meant they were being released to home. An hour later, our medical commanders gathered us. We, too, were to be released to home. There were no survivors. The operation was steadily becoming a body recovery, rather than a victim rescue. There was not a sound.

Every EMT, every paramedic, firefighter, nurse and doctor was silently crying inside. We were the worst things anyone in emergency services could be. We were unnecessary because there was no one alive to save.

The ride back to Pennsylvania was solemn. The New Jersey state police asked us to turn on our emergency lights while we were leaving. For us, it was almost painful. Emergency lights mean life, or the hope of saving one. Now it meant we were a convoy of empty ambulances and heavy hearts returning home. There was no chatter on the radio and even the news was turned off. Colin drove our truck back. We both knew if we spoke, we would cry. So we kept our thoughts to ourselves for a long while. Later we talked about the day, the trip and finally the pain we knew we would have.

The pain has eased a bit, but has never gone away. It flares up, like an arthritic joint in the rain.

The day after I returned, an elderly woman in the grocery store saw me and asked if I had



Dori Lawson, RN,
PHRN, CFRN, CEN

been in NYC. I told her I had gone up, but there was nothing I could do. She looked at me and said, "You will never be the same, will you..."

I know she is right. I will not be the same. None of us will. Not doctors, nurses, EMS people, policemen, firefighters, accountants, stockbrokers, teachers, lawyers, business people, maintenance engineers, farmers or anyone else. We are stronger, we look to each other more for support and we support each other more. We, as Americans, realize that we are a nation of caregivers. And I am, as are all nurses, proud to be on THAT front line.

It is what we do.

Time to Go Site-Seeing!

www.jefferson.edu/jchp/alumni

We are delighted to present the new JCHP Alumni Web Site. Please take a look and while you are there enjoy the other College and University links online. We want to keep you updated regularly about Jefferson as well as have a convenient way to keep up with you. If you need to change your address, you can now do it online. If you have some news for us or wish to announce the birth of a child, you will find that you can also send it to us online. We love pictures. Either send us your pictures in the mail (with identification) to the Office of Alumni Relations, 130 S. 9th Street, Suite 705, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5233, or email them to dorothy.grieb@mail.tju.edu

The screenshot shows the Jefferson College of Health Professions website. At the top, there's a banner with the college's name and a cityscape. Below the banner, the main navigation menu includes Academic Departments (with sub-links for Diagnostic Imaging, Laboratory Sciences, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and General Studies), Admissions, News & Information, Continuing Education, Open House, Student Life, and Alumni. The Alumni section features a sub-menu with links to Welcome and Introduction, Board of Directors, Join Us Online, The Alumni Advantage, Calendar of Events, Volunteer Opportunities, Annual Report, Publications, and Contact Requests. A large text box below the sub-menu welcomes visitors to the new CHP Alumni Association web site, noting over 9,000 alumni and the office's goal to communicate with them. It also mentions the Board of Directors' availability for assistance and encourages users to keep visiting for updates. At the bottom of the page, there's a link to the CHP website and a note asking for feedback on what else to include.

The new Jefferson College of Health Professions website

Email Us Your Email Address

If you email us with your email address soon, we will send you a special Jefferson screen cleaner. Just make sure your email includes your name and mailing address. We want to collect addresses for eventual use in sending email announcements and updates to our alumni.

Remember, Email Makes It Easy!

Whether you want to change your address, give us some news, find out about the alumni advantage or keep up to date, do it online and let email make it easy!!!



*Red (hot)
white and
blue!*



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