

HEALTH PROFESSIONS • NURSING • PHARMACY • POPULATION HEALTH

# Review

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY • WINTER 2010



## A CAPITAL IDEA

Jefferson Community Takes a Stand;  
Students and Faculty Engage in Public Policy

# Message from the President



Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD

The students who arrived at Jefferson for the first time in August underwent many of the same experiences as their colleagues of previous years: They met their peers and faculty and spent an intense first week in class, culminating in hours of studying for their first exams.

But one fact sets this class apart: The students started at Jefferson knowing that changes in our healthcare system will come and that the changes will have a lasting impact on the medical profession.

Proposals for universal healthcare coverage and government insurance options captured the headlines as these students entered Jefferson. Both public and federal debate focused increasingly on cost, reflecting the fact that our country spent more than \$2.3 trillion on health care, far more than any other country in the developed world, while providing service that pales in average quality to nations that spent up to 50 percent less.

Why does health care cost so much in the United States? There is no single, simple answer. But one major reason is that our current system focuses too much on acute episodes of disease rather than on the management of chronic illnesses. To improve health care and decrease costs, we need to address health across the entire disease spectrum and deal with the core behavioral and societal issues that are driving costs upward.

Confronting and controlling chronic conditions will take a fundamental change in the payment system now used by insurance companies and the federal government. Today, reimbursement hinges on the number of procedures we perform, not on the number of patients we keep from needing expensive acute care.

Many believe "patient-centered medical homes" will prove critical to increasing the quality of care while decreasing costs. Under this system, a physician and staff take responsibility for meeting all of a patient's

healthcare needs or for coordinating care with others. The physician and staff integrate the patient's care across all elements of the complex healthcare system and the patient's community. Enhanced access to care is available through open scheduling, expanded hours and new options for communication, including e-mail. Electronic health records help ensure quality and safety. The focus is on maintaining health and promoting healthy behaviors as much as on treating acute episodes of illness.

A federal demonstration project in eight states, scheduled to begin this year, has been delayed. At Jefferson, we couldn't wait. The Department of Family and Community Medicine at Jefferson Medical College last year joined the Southeast Pennsylvania Collaborative of the Pennsylvania Chronic Care Initiative, a three-year state project to improve care, reduce avoidable illnesses and involve insurance companies in patient-centered medical home planning. Six insurers agreed to pay the Department of Family and Community Medicine and 31 practices in the Philadelphia area up to \$13 million to develop a system based on meeting healthcare goals, not on the number of procedures they order.

The students who entered Jefferson this fall not only understand change will come, they embrace it and plan to play an integral role in making change happen. And they came to Jefferson knowing the University will prepare them well for the uncertainties ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Robert L. Barchi". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD  
President  
Thomas Jefferson University

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**Editor:** Jana Moore

**Managing Editor:** Jane A. Clinton

**Design:** JeffGraphics

### Editorial Board

E. Adel Herge, MS '93, OTD, OTR/L

Anne M. Markham, BSN '93

Jacqueline Paquet

Michael J. Paquet

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Address correspondence to:

Editor, *Review*

Jefferson Foundation

925 Chestnut Street, Suite 110

Philadelphia, PA 19107-4216

215-955-7920

[www.jefferson.edu/jchp/alumni](http://www.jefferson.edu/jchp/alumni)

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Cover: Robert Simmons, DrPH, MPH, CHES, director of the MPH program, and JSPH students.

**In the progress report** to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, President Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, described the University's strategic plan as "uniquely grounded in Jefferson's long and distinguished tradition of providing quality healthcare education, research and patient care" and a blueprint that will guide us "through the tactical transformation necessary to shape the clinical care of the future." The terms tradition and transformation are particularly appropriate in describing the dynamic changes that are taking place at Jefferson.

In the last edition of *The Review*, James Erdmann, PhD, wrote to you about the organizational changes that would occur on July 1. The Jefferson College of Health Professions transitioned into a University structure with three related but independent academic units that formerly comprised JCHP: the School of Health Professions, the School of Nursing and the School of Pharmacy. Together with the newly established School of Population Health, they collectively form the Jefferson Schools. Under the leadership of Deans Janice Burke, Mary Schaal, Rebecca Finley and David Nash, each school has developed its own governance structure and bylaws approved by the University Board of Trustees.

These University changes gave us the opportunity to examine the services, facilities and policies that affect academic life across our campus. The personnel and functions formerly provided by the JCHP dean's staff now reside within the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and provide services to all four schools of the University. Dr. Erdmann has assisted me during this important period of transition in his new role as associate senior vice president for academic affairs.

Through the Council of Deans of the colleges and schools, we remain focused on developing a better campus-wide experience for all our students.

These organizational changes do not alter tradition; they transform and strengthen it. They represent a new phase in the metamorphosis that has been fundamental to Jefferson's continued institutional growth and progress since its founding in 1824. Together with the deans, the academic affairs staff and our faculty, we remain committed to leading the way in interprofessional education in the health sciences.

This issue highlights the many exciting things happening at your alma mater and provides ample evidence that the tradition of achieving excellence in fulfilling the tri-part mission of education, research and patient care is alive and well at Jefferson. With your continued support, we are confidently laying the groundwork for a strong future that builds on this tradition.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Vergare, MD  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Thomas Jefferson University

Jefferson  
Today

“These changes do not alter tradition; they transform and strengthen it. They represent a new phase in the metamorphosis that has been fundamental to Jefferson’s growth.”



# A CAPITAL IDEA

## JEFFERSON COMMUNITY TAKES A STAND

Regular trips to D.C. and Harrisburg, letter-writing campaigns and lobbying are part of the educational experience for Jefferson students and faculty as they engage with policy makers about healthcare issues.

Long before healthcare reform entered the American consciousness, Jefferson students, faculty and alumni were educating themselves on key issues, taking a stand and shaping the course of public policy.

Jefferson's Department of Occupational Therapy has been teaching students the art of advocacy for several years. Every spring, assistant professor Stephen Kern, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, takes students in OT 682: Clinical Leadership to Washington, D.C. for Capitol Hill Day, a day of student advocacy sponsored by the American Occupational Therapy Association. Rebecca Sinko, MSOT '08, took part in Hill Day several times as a student, both as a participant and later as a mentor to other students.

"In the past, I tended to avoid those conversations and didn't pay much attention to what was going on in Congress," she said. "Hill Day changed my perspective and now I'm more proactive. I'm currently researching an issue that's personally significant and I will be contacting my representative shortly."

### Lobbying Congress in Person

Nursing students and faculty members also have lobbied on Capitol Hill. Elizabeth Speakman, EdD, RN, CDE, ANEF, associate professor, assistant dean of RN programs and a board member of the National League of Nursing, participated in Board Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill early last spring. She spoke to members of Congress about nursing education, workforce development and health care.

Following Speakman's lead, four doctor of nursing practice students enrolled in the Health and Social Policy course visited Washington in July. They started their day meeting with Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN, a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow at the time and aide to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Later, they discussed healthcare reform with legislative aides to Pennsylvania's Democratic senators, Arlen Specter and Bob Casey, and to Rep. Robert A. Brady, a Democrat from Philadelphia. In preparation, the students researched best practices in offering efficient, safe and cost-effective advanced-nursing care.

"This experience with advocacy for patients and nurses encourages me to work harder in the future on behalf of my patients and my profession," said Lori Grosso, DNP '09.

"HILL DAY CHANGED MY PERSPECTIVE AND NOW I'M MORE PROACTIVE."

— Rebecca Sinko, MSOT '09



Kern discusses his Capitol Hill experiences with OT students Kerri DeMott and Catherine Dorr.





Occupational Therapy students participate in Capitol Hill Day each year.

### Using the Power of Letters

This fall FACT nursing student John Barbieri took another tack, spearheading a letter-writing campaign to U.S. senators in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. More than 100 nursing students and faculty members asked the senators to create legislation addressing coverage and costs of health care, increased use of electronic medical records, nursing student and educator assistance and reduction of health disparities.

Jefferson School of Pharmacy also creates opportunities for its students to learn about advocacy. Last March, pharmacy student Michael LaRosa attended the Government Relations Advocacy for Student Pharmacists program hosted by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association, or PPA. The three-day program provides students with a broader outlook on the legislative side of pharmacy practice and encourages them to remain politically active throughout their careers.

Attendees toured the state Capitol and saw a series of presentations from the “movers and shakers” of pharmacy legislation, including PPA Executive Director Pat Epple. They left with several assignments.

LaRosa said the program gave him a better understanding of how legislation will affect his practice. “A lot of the leverage we are given in our practices starts with legislative policies,” he said. “If we want to maintain

what we have as a profession, we need to have representation in all levels of government.”

### Learning Skills at Advocacy Summit

Students enrolled in the School of Population Health’s public health policy and advocacy course learn about advocacy by writing letters to the editor and e-mailing their local, state and federal lawmakers. Students earn extra credit by participating in the Public Health Education Advocacy Summit, a 2½-day training session held annually in the nation’s capital.

“THIS EXPERIENCE WITH ADVOCACY ENCOURAGES ME TO WORK HARDER ON BEHALF OF MY PATIENTS AND MY PROFESSION.”

— Lori Grosso, DNP '09



More than 200 public health educators and students gather to study public health advocacy, including the “legislative ask.” Then they meet with key congressional aides to advocate for the priorities set before the summit by the Coalition of National Health Education Organizations. After the summit, participants follow up with the legislative aides to reinforce their key messages and also share the lessons they learned with colleagues.

“The students’ involvement at the summit expands on their classroom knowledge with experiential learning,” said Robert Simmons, DrPH, MPH, CHES, director of the Master’s in Public Health program. “These are the types of experiences that students want to participate in.”

In a School of Population Health newsletter article, one student wrote, “If we could take one thing away from our time spent, it would be that we not only have a right but a duty as constituents and public health students to educate our representatives on current pertinent health issues.”

OT alumnus Sinko agreed. “The Hill Day experience empowered me,” she said. “By being politically active, we empower our patients. Healthcare practitioners can be leaders outside of formal positions by advocating for their patients.” ★



Occupational Therapy students wait for a 2009 AOTA Hill Day presentation to start.

“ The children love this camp and it is what gets some of them through another year. To give something special to these children is in itself enough to want to continue coming back. ”

— Michelle Collier, DPT '09

# BURN CAMP CROSSES BORDERS INTO ISRAEL





“Seeing the kids in a social environment other than in the burn clinic enabled me to regain the ability of looking at the person rather than looking at the disfigurement first.”

— Yuvel Krieger, volunteer



Picture this: Boys running around without T-shirts, girls getting makeovers and everyone swimming carefree. It sounds like any normal summer camp, but this

one is for children who have suffered burns. And these children rarely get to do “normal” activities.

For the past seven years, Marcia Levinson, PT, PhD, MFT, assistant professor of physical therapy, has been the director of Camp Susquehanna. Up to 40 young burn patients from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia attend the camp in Lancaster for four days in June. As of 2004, one Muslim child and a Jewish child from Israel have joined them.

This year, the same joyful experience was available to children in Israel for the first time.

The new camp started with a question from volunteer Sam Davis, a New Jersey lawyer: Why doesn’t a camp for burned children exist in Israel? “I told him if he raised the money that I would gather the people to run a camp in Israel,” Levinson said. “By April, we were ready to hold the first Israel Burn Camp for Children.”

Co-directors Juliana Eshel and Nili Arbel, who had been to Pennsylvania, organized the camp, basing the schedule and program on the Pennsylvania model. Levinson served as adviser.

### Having New Experiences

Twenty-five children from four hospitals in Israel, along with several doctors, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists, attended the camp. “People were speaking Arabic, Hebrew and English, and it was all going on at once,” says Levinson. “If nothing else, we all learned patience as we waited for our chance to speak and be interpreted.”

Children who had attended Camp Susquehanna showed the others how the camp works, and youngsters who rarely interact with other children spent four days of playing, doing crafts and having fun away from their families.

One volunteer, Yuvel Krieger, a plastic surgeon from the burn unit of Soroka Medical Center in southern Israel, reflected on his experience in a note to Levinson. “Seeing the kids in a social environment other than in the burn clinic has put things in perspective and enabled me to regain the ability of looking at the person rather than looking at the disfigurement first – an ability I used to have and that was diminished by the overbearing amount of work and by time.”

### Sharing Hospitality

For Levinson, the visit to Israel was an opportunity to meet the families of children who had been to Camp Susquehanna. Before attending the camp, the youngsters had never shown their scars or talked to anyone about their burns. “Coming to the camp was life changing for them,” she says.



The gratitude became clear when a Muslim family invited her for dinner and to spend the night.

“I sat down at a table that was just covered with food,” she says. “It was so beautiful. Someone fixed me a plate and tried to put some of everything on it, but there was just so much. As soon as I took a bite they would fill the plate with more. No one else ate; they just watched me enjoy it. Finally I convinced them that I was full, and they took the food away only to bring out dessert!”

In a thank-you note to Levinson, co-directors Eshel and Arbel wrote: “Just as you aspired to host two children from Israel each year, we hope to host you and two children from the USA. In this way, we will cement our already close friendship and bring happiness and joie de vivre to these children in their reintegration into society.” Levinson is eager for the opportunity.

Camp Susquehanna is held at Millersville University at the end of June each year. Levinson is always recruiting student and alumni volunteers. As three-year volunteer Erin Lambe, DPT '09, says: “It is nearly impossible to convey all of the emotion and significance this camp and the children bring. I will be doing it every summer for as long as possible.”

Levinson agrees. “It’s a humbling experience, and I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to get involved.”

**Top left, right:** Children and counselors play, sing and test boundaries at camp.

**Top:** Levinson enjoys a feast with the family of a camper.



# OnCampus



Greening



Toadvine



Kennedy



Fariello



Pillai-Friedman



Johnson

## School of Health Professions

### Name Change for Med Tech Program

The program known as medical technology has been renamed medical laboratory sciences. The change reflects the new certification exam – the MLS(ASCP), which stands for medical laboratory scientist – that followed the recent merger of two laboratory professional certification agencies: the American Society of Clinical Pathology and the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel.

“Students and graduates won’t notice much of a difference,” said **Shirley Greening**, MS, JD, noting the credentials for medical technologist and clinical laboratory scientist have been used interchangeably for several decades. “They mean the same in terms of curriculum and laboratory practice. Now they are combined into MLS but the name change clearly represents a more unified professional image for practitioners in the clinical laboratory.”

Students who completed Jefferson’s med tech programs in May and August and passed the board received MLS(ASCP) certifications.

### First-Year CFT Students Published in International Journal

The *International Journal of Sexual Health* recently published a paper by first-year students **Jennifer Toadvine** and **Alison Kennedy**. The two wrote “Women’s perception of alcohol-related sexual inhibition: personality and sexually related alcohol expectancies.”

### CFT Faculty Present at National Conferences

Four faculty members in the Department of Couple and Family Therapy presented at national conferences in the last six months.

**Christopher Fariello**, PhD, MA, LMFT, discussed managing sexual feelings in professional practice at the 31st Annual Guelph Sexuality Conference in Guelph, Canada; beginning sex therapy at the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists conference in Phoenix; and ethical considerations in sex therapy at the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy annual conference in Memphis, Tenn.

**Michelle Marsh**, PhD, discussed treating victims of sexual abuse by clergy members at the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists conference in Phoenix.

**Sabitha Pillai-Friedman**, PhD, LCSW, talked about using fantasy in sex therapy at the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists conference in Phoenix and about the cultural context of oral sex at the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Conference in San Juan, PR.

**Stephen Treat**, DMin, LMFT, presented to the Council for Relationships’ Annual Treating Couples Conference in suburban Philadelphia.

### Jeff-At-Lunch

Starting Jan. 11, Jeff-At-Night will offer Lunch N Learn, a program that incorporates online courses and a weekly lunch meeting with classmates and a facilitator. Six seven-week classes will be offered in the new format, which is designed for students who want more personal attention than online courses allow. All courses carry

### University of Delaware Courses Offered to Jeff Grad Students

Full-time graduate students at Jefferson and the University of Delaware can now take classes at each other’s school at no cost.

To participate in the Graduate Student Learning Partnership, Jefferson students need to complete a form and submit it to David Clawson, the University’s senior associate registrar. For further information, visit [www.udel.edu/gradoffice/academics/#dhsa](http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/academics/#dhsa).

The Graduate Student Learning Partnership is part of the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance, a partnership of Christiana Care Health System, Nemours, the University of Delaware and Jefferson.

The four organizations formed the alliance to improve health services in Delaware by coordinating priorities and combining assets. Initiatives include developing a campus for healthcare education in Delaware and sharing research, training and practice among the partners.



Gilman



Rawool



### Students Take Third Place at Philadelphia SRT Day

Jefferson students took third place at Philadelphia SRT Day, hosted by Holy Family University and sponsored by the Philadelphia Society of Radiologic Technologists in April. First-year radiography student Christina Kada and second-year radiation therapy student Daniel Friend represented Jefferson. Instructor Joan Zacharko, MS, RT(R)(CT)(M), center, joins the students, along with Bernadette Garofola, RTT, Chief Radiation Therapist at the Bodine Center, and Jeffrey Goldstein, BS, RT(R) of Cooper Hospital.

the designation “ACC 1 LNL” or “ACC 2 LNL” in the course catalog and online registration. For more information visit [www.jefferson.edu/jchp/gs/jeffatnight](http://www.jefferson.edu/jchp/gs/jeffatnight).

### OT Fieldwork Educators Certificate Program

A year of work came to an end in April for **Caryn Johnson**, MS '91, OTR/L, FAOTA, assistant professor and fieldwork coordinator, when she and Patricia Stutz-Tanenbaum, MS, OTR, AFWC, of Colorado State University presented a new certificate training program for instructors. At the direction of the AOTA and working with material submitted by instructors throughout the country, the two developed the program and wrote the curriculum, then introduced “Train-the-Trainer Institute” at the 2009 AOTA Annual Conference in Houston.

### PT Alumni Reception at the CSM Meeting, Las Vegas

PT alumni joined Jefferson faculty for an alumni reception in Las Vegas on Feb. 10 during the American Physical Therapy Association's Annual Combined Sections Meeting.

### Radiologic Sciences Chair Teaches at Harvard Macy Institute

Harvard Macy Institute's Program for Educators in the Health Professions invited **Frances Gilman**, MS, RT(R)(CT)(MR)(CV)ARRT, to teach for the second consecutive year. Harvard Medical School hosts the two-part faculty devel-

opment program, which includes sessions in January and May. Gilman was involved in microteaching and leading small group projects with physicians and healthcare educators.

### Rawool Recognized for Teaching Excellence

**Nandkumar Rawool**, MD, RDMS, program director of diagnostic medical sonography and cardiovascular sonography, received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching at the JCHP Awards Ceremony in June.

### McDonald Designated FASE

**Maureen McDonald**, MBA, RDMS, RDCS, FASE, has been designated a Fellow of the American Society of Echocardiography, a national organization of almost 15,000 professionals. The designation recognizes members who have fulfilled the training and performance requirements for certification through the National Board of Echocardiography.

### Fox Publishes Article in JDMS

**Traci B. Fox**, MS, RT(R), RVT, RDMS, instructor and clinical coordinator for the general and vascular sonography programs,

wrote a review article on neurosonography, specifically ultrasound of the neonatal brain, for the November/December issue of the *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography*.

### Faculty Invited to Speak to International Colleagues

**Andrew Wu**, PhD, DABR, DABMP, FAAPM, clinical professor, spent June traveling through Asia. Wu told students at National Tsing-Hua University and Chang-Gung University in Taiwan about radiologic sciences training available in the United States. He lectured on radiation therapy for a moving lung tumor at the Malaysia Association of Medical Physics in Kuala Lumpur. He finished in Beijing at the Second World Cancer Congress, where he presented on hypofractionation treatment of lung cancers.

In November, **Christina Truluck**, PhD, CNMT, RT(N), assistant professor and program director for nuclear medicine, presented to colleagues from across the Arabian Gulf region at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Truluck spoke about renogram procedures, radiation safety considerations and infection imaging.



Truluck



Winstead



Feliciano



Swan



Barry and JSN Dean Mary Schall

### New Radiopharmaceutical Lab

A new pharmaceutical lab equipped with a dose calibrator and well counter allows Jefferson students to learn the daily procedures of running a radiopharmacy, including the preparation of radiopharmaceuticals, quality control testing, dose calibration and the proper handling of radioactive materials. The lab is among only a handful at schools licensed for working with unsealed as well as sealed radioactive materials.

## School of Nursing

### Nursing Programs Accredited

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education has awarded Jefferson's doctor of nursing practice program a maximum five-year initial accreditation. Jefferson was among the first to win the accreditation. The nurse anesthesia program received a maximum accreditation of 10 years by the Council on Accreditation, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

### Four Students Graduate with DNP

Four students completed the doctor of nursing practice program this year. As part of the requirements, each undertook a project that integrated components of the curriculum with problem identification,

proposal development, implementation and evaluation.

The students and their projects were: **Dolores A. Grosso**, Predicting Donor Alloreactivity in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant: A Practice Change Initiative; **Yvette Winstead**, Clinical Management of Skin and Soft Tissue Infections in the Emergency Department of a Suburban Hospital; **Monica Young**, Demonstrating the Impact of Nursing Communication on Patient Satisfaction; and **Guiyun Zhou**, Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice Behaviors of Clinical Oncology Advance Practice Nurses Regarding Advance Care Planning for Cancer Patients.

### CRNA Program Recognized for "Best PR Effort"

The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists recognized **Julia Feliciano**, CRNA, MSN, instructor and director of the CRNA program, for "best PR effort for an individual or small group" for the career fair and recruitment day held during Nurse Anesthesia Week in January 2009. At the event, more than 100 CRNA students from Jefferson and other local programs networked with recruiters from hospital anesthesia departments, anesthesia agencies and the military. The event raised money for CRNA students' needs

unmet by financial aid, and 10 percent of the proceeds went to the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program, [www.diversitycrna.org/](http://www.diversitycrna.org/).

Feliciano credits **Christopher Giberson**, CRNA '08, with doing much of the work.

### Prelicensure Graduates Earn High Marks on NCLEX

Class of 2009 graduates of the Nursing School's ASN and BSN degree programs outscored their colleagues from last year on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

The scores showed a 99.4 percent pass rate for all BSN graduates who took the exam and a pass rate of 98.7 percent for ASN graduates of the ASN-BSN. Last year the pass rates were 96.5 percent for BSN and 86 percent for ASN-BSN.

### Nightingale Award Winners

JSN was honored twice at the 2009 Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania in October. ASN-BSN student **Megan Elizabeth Barry** received a scholarship based on her academic achievement, leadership potential, community service and personal commitment to nursing. **Beth Ann Swan**, PhD, CRNP, professor and senior associate dean of JSN academic affairs, received the Excellence in Nursing Research Award.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Lambda Nu members raised \$2,500 for Rwanda in Spring 2009. We had reported in the Spring/Summer 2009 issue that they had raised \$1,000 for the interdisciplinary project.

## DAVID JACK RECEIVES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE FOR PhD DISSERTATION

When Jefferson nursing instructor David Jack, PhD, RN, earned his doctorate from Widener University in May, he also received the Dean's Award for Excellence: PhD from Widener's School of Nursing for "exceptional work that exemplifies the high standards of scholarship and knowledge development."

For his dissertation, Jack implemented the acclaimed Second Step violence prevention program in two Philadelphia kindergarten classes and chose two others as a control group. The program includes a scripted curriculum and story boards as well as music, puppets and skill practice activities.

Jack's data show the program makes a difference.

"There was a statistically significant decrease in the perpetration of aggression in the classrooms that used the program," he says. Students in the control group showed an increase in aggression, which included bullying, pushing, biting and name calling.

Jack partially credits a supportive team for his success: Sandy Krafft, EdD, RN, who accompanied him during data collection; Lois Allen, PhD, RN, his dissertation committee chair and the person who nominated him for the award; and committee members Mary Ellen Santucci, DNSc, RN, and Lynn Kelly, PhD, RN.

"I am also thankful to Jefferson for support during my project," Jack says.





Sanoski



Meyer



Tliba



Lowe

### JSN Students' PDA Use Highlighted

A case study published in the September/October issue of *Ed Tech: Focus on Higher Education Magazine* highlights the School of Nursing's PDA requirement for BSN and ASN students. According to the report, the program, which began with a pilot in 2005, increases productivity and efficiency, enhances patient safety and reduces the risk of medical errors.

### Faculty Recognized

Two JSN faculty members received awards at the annual JCHP ceremony in June. **Elizabeth Speakman**, EdD, RN, CDE, ANEF, assistant dean of RN programs and associate professor, received the Dean's Faculty Achievement Award. **Mary T. Bouchaud**, MSN, RN, CNS, CRRN, received the Fred & Sadye Abrams Award for Excellence in Clinical and Laboratory Instruction.

## School of Pharmacy

### School Granted Candidate Accreditation Status

The Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education gave the doctor of pharmacy program candidate accreditation status in June. If the program continues to develop as planned, the board will consider full accreditation after the first students graduate.

### Faculty Recognized

**Cynthia Sanoski**, PharmD, chair of the department of pharmacy practice, has been selected to participate in the 2009-2010 Academic Leadership Fellows Program sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. The organization designed the intensive program to prepare the nation's most promising pharmacy faculty for leadership roles in academia. Sanoski has also been elected to a three-year term as treasurer of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.

**Mary Hess**, PharmD, FASHP, FCCM, associate dean for student affairs and associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, was elected chair of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists. In this role, Hess will identify educational and practice opportunities for the section membership.

**Gerald E. Meyer**, PharmD, MBA, FASHP, director of experiential education, was elected chair of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' House of Delegates. He will oversee the activities of the organization's professional policy-making body and will serve on the board of directors.

**Omar Tliba**, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was appointed a member of the editorial board of the *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology*. Known in the field as the "red journal,"

the publication is issued by the American Thoracic Society to address the shift in modern pulmonary science to lung cell and molecular biology.

**Tao Lowe**, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was elected chair of the biomaterials area of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. As chair, Lowe will encourage emphasis on biomaterials in chemical engineering education and graduate research and will provide opportunities for engineers and scientists interested in biomaterials to exchange information and ideas through meetings, seminars, courses and publications.

**Vincent C. O. Njar**, PhD, professor of medicinal chemistry in the department of pharmaceutical sciences, produced a new drug that is a candidate for resistant prostate cancer. The clinical trials of the drug, TOK-001 (formerly VN/124-1), started on Nov. 5 at Cancer Centers of the Carolinas/Greenville Hospital, South Carolina. To develop the drug, Njar collaborated with Angela Brodie, PhD, professor of Pharmacology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.



## SCHOOL OF POPULATION HEALTH WELCOMES FIRST CLASS

The Jefferson School of Population Health opened this fall with 130 students as part of the University's mission to prepare professionals to meet the country's most pressing healthcare needs.

The new school provides graduate academic programming, continuing education courses, conferences, research and consulting in health policy, healthcare quality and safety and public health. The school soon will add a doctorate in population health sciences.

"It is no longer possible to prepare high-quality healthcare providers and educators without addressing these issues holistically from the perspective of population health and with the tools of health policy analysis," said David B. Nash, MD, MBA, the founding dean of the school and a renowned expert in population health.

The school offers certificates and master's degrees in public health, health policy, healthcare quality and safety and chronic care management. Together with the Widener School of Law, the school also offers public health degrees in conjunction with juris doctorates and master's of jurisprudence.

"The establishment of this new school builds on existing Jefferson strengths in health policy and population health and provides a venue for this expertise that is recognized nationally and internationally," said University President Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD. "It reaffirms Jefferson's position as a leading, innovative academic health center. It's the right program at the right time."



Jacobs, former first lady Rosalynn Carter and Vause-Earland

## Academic Centers

### CARAH and Fox Rehabilitation Win Special Merit Award for Improving the Lives of Families

**Tracey Vause-Earland**, MS, OTR/L, clinical project director of translational research activities at Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health (CARAH), and Mimi Jacobs, PT, GCS, PCS, executive director of the Geriatric Education & Research Institute at Fox Rehabilitation, accepted the Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Caregiving Award on behalf of their organizations at the Rosalynn Carter Institute Awards Gala on Oct. 22. The award recognizes leadership in implementing innovative partnerships between community organizations and caregiving researchers.

### CARAH Wins Challenge Grant for Cost Effectiveness Study

CARAH won a \$1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to measure the cost and cost effectiveness of its trial program to treat depression in older African-Americans living at home.

The program, Beat the Blues, uses staff members at a northwest Philadelphia senior center, Center in the Park, to screen seniors for depression. Social workers then spend 10 sessions with each participant, identifying care management concerns, making referrals and developing tailored plans to counter depression.

"This study is significant because it indicates that NIH values economic analysis as a tool to inform allocation of limited healthcare resources," said **Laura Pizzi**, PharmD,



Gitlin



Rose

MPH, director of health economics and outcomes research for Jefferson School of Population Health.

Pizzi; **Laura N. Gitlin**, PhD, director of the center; and Lynn Fields Harris, MPA, executive director of Center in the Park, will calculate the cost of delivering the program by senior center staff members and the program's cost effectiveness. To gauge effectiveness, they will focus on cost per quality adjusted life year and cost per reduction in depression symptoms.

### JCIPE Administration Testifies to HRSA Interdisciplinary Committee

**Molly Rose**, PhD, RN, professor and coordinator of community systems administration at the School of Nursing, and Carolyn Giordano, PhD, senior research study analyst at the Center for Collaborative Research, served as expert consultants to the Health Resources and Services Administration's Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages during its August meeting.

Rose and Giordano, representing Jefferson InterProfessional Education Center (JCIPE), spoke about the center's strengths, including the success of the Health Mentors program.

The committee provides recommendations to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius concerning policy and program development. Its upcoming report will focus on interdisciplinary education.



### UNIVERSITY OFFERS LICENSE PLATES

Take your pride on the road while supporting the University with a new Jefferson license plate. The Pennsylvania plates cost \$75, with \$24 going to the state and the remaining to the University as a tax-deductible gift.

Efforts to develop the license plate began several years ago with an initiative by the JCHP alumni board. The University's decision to develop a new logo delayed the process several years.

The immediate past president of the board, Thomas J. Loveless, RN, BSN '02, MSN '02, CRNP, associate director of simulation for the University and the director of simulation and clinical skills for Jefferson School of Nursing, has been a part of the process since the beginning. He noted the timing was ideal – one year before the retirement of James B. Erdmann, PhD, former dean of the Jefferson College of Health Professions.

**“AFTER MANY YEARS OF PERSEVERANCE, THIS IS VERY EXCITING,” LOVELESS SAID. “IT FULFILLS A PROMISE THE BOARD MADE TO DR. ERDMANN THAT WE WOULD SEE THIS THROUGH BEFORE HE RETIRES. WE KEPT OUR PROMISE.”**

Alumni, faculty and staff are welcome to purchase a plate. The application process is simple. Visit [www.jefferson.edu/license\\_plate](http://www.jefferson.edu/license_plate), print out the state form and mail it with a check to the Jefferson Foundation. Drivers needing handicapped plates or those with leased cars also need to fill out a second form.

Until March 1, applicants can request a number from 1 to 100.

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and discover the possibilities.



**Photo:** Deborah Dougherty, Jefferson OTD student in Wisconsin video chats with advisor Susan Toth-Cohen. Of the online program, Dougherty says, "Meeting as a group in a virtual classroom is very cool. Being able to present a PowerPoint from Wisconsin, and have my peers in South Carolina, Pennsylvania and other places see it in real time was fantastic. The more important aspect, though – and I would never have guessed this – is that I feel a sense of community with my fellow learners."

## OTD Grads Find Approach Meaningful

**THE FIRST THREE GRADUATES OF JEFFERSON'S NEW DOCTORATE PROGRAM IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY** found the tailored approach the School of Health Professions offers exactly what they needed.

"Everything applies to where the students are now," says Susan Toth-Cohen, PhD, OTR/L, OTD program director. "The degree is a bridge between practice and the academic world."

Two of the three, Amy Gerney and Cynthia Haynes, chose to focus on education but in different ways.

"I wanted to get back into academia and a doctorate was a requirement," says Gerney, an assistant professor at Misericordia University. "I chose Jefferson because Susan Toth-Cohen and I shared the same passion: online education."



Gerney

Cynthia Haynes has been an OT professor at Philadelphia University for 10 years. "The OTD's focus on evidence-based practice has improved my ability to look at and use evidence in literature," she says. "The degree is tailored to have relevance and meaning."

The third graduate, Angela Leak, MS '04, focused on health and community participation. "I was disillusioned by the type of practice I was doing. I had to conform to the business' belief about what OT looked like, even though interventions were not effective," she says. "Earning the OTD improved my ability to critically ask and answer clinical questions."

OTD students engage in research to infuse new knowledge into the field and to improve practice. Options include clinically based research and development and evaluation of new programs.



Haynes

Haynes looked at data from the Philadelphia Regional Field Work Consortium about active participation in level 1 fieldwork. "The literature says that active participation helps students learn best," she says. "I wanted to know how active students were and to see if their perception matched with what the fieldwork supervisor thought."

She found a difference in perception and now the consortium is helping fieldwork supervisors offer more active participation and encouraging students to ask for it.

Recognizing that many OT programs are being taught online, Gerney focused on strategies that mix face-to-face and distance learning. "Some things don't work well online," she says. "Entry-level education requires a lot of face-to-face teaching, although some things work well online for that population." She is already applying her findings at Misericordia.



Leak

Leak completed her project on mental health and occupational therapy at a community-based organization. She helped define the role of a professional in a peer-run organization and practiced conveying the importance of showing outcomes. "I had to convince the director of the organization that we should start right away."

As the three were finishing their degrees, Toth-Cohen expanded the education component to accommodate students with little experience in teaching. Three new courses focus on development and refinement of teaching knowledge and skills.

Students now in the program, which offers a 25 percent tuition discount to Jefferson alumni, are undertaking a range of projects, including implementation of a statewide program for autistic children, establishment of an OT presence in a neonatal intensive care unit and promotion of leadership development in an acute rehabilitation setting.

# ClassNotes

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

**Denise Olewnik, MS '06, OTR/L**, has integrated her passion for OT and cheerleading by starting Keystone Extreme All Stars FIRE team at her local gym in Scranton. *Advance* magazine will feature the special-needs cheerleading team and its accomplishments in an online video. The team competed in an international championship in May and won the international title in the exceptional athlete division. Denise writes, "We could not be more proud of these individuals and want to celebrate their success as the first, the only and most accomplished special-needs team in the area."

**Carrie Hathaway, BS '05**, does in-patient adult rehab occupational therapy at the Rehabilitation Institute of Oregon in Portland. She also volunteers on the executive leadership team of Scarlet Cord, a nonprofit, faith-centered

program that supports women in need.

## PHYSICAL THERAPY

**Heather Shriver, MS '06**, has been appointed physical therapist at Westfield Memorial Hospital in Westfield, N.Y. Previously she was a physical therapist at the Kenney Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

**John W. Sharpe, MS '99, PT, MBA**, has worked at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, Va., since 2001. In September 2007, he received a presidential management fellow position with the VA Office of the Undersecretary for Veterans Health Administration. In that role, he was a health system specialist working on improving the transition of military members to civilian life. In September, he completed his fellowship and is now the VA and Department of Defense liaison for the VA

Office of Academic Affiliations. He develops accredited resident and trainee programs in the associated health professions between the two agencies. John continues to practice PT part time. He and his wife, Laurie, celebrated their 10th anniversary in September. His daughter, Andie Noel, is 7, and his son, Aaron Nicholas, is 5.

## RADIOLOGIC SCIENCES

**Daniel A. Merton, BS '88, RDMS, FSDMS, FAIUM**, won the JCHP Alumni Special Achievement Award in June. He is the technical coordinator of research and a clinical instructor at the Jefferson Ultrasound Research and Education Institute and an adjunct associate professor at Drexel University's School of Biomedical Engineering Science and Health Systems. He joined Jefferson's Division of Diagnostic Ultrasound in 1985. He is recognized by his peers as an outstanding sonographer

and a leader in research and ultrasound technology. He recently assisted in the development of two research studies using ultrasound contrast agents to improve the detection and characterization of lymphatic malignancies. The two studies resulted in Thomas Jefferson University Hospital receiving more than \$3 million in federal funding.

**Matt Marquess, BS '06, RT(T)**, is program director for radiation therapy in the University's Department of Radiologic Sciences. Before joining the faculty, he worked as a radiation therapy technologist at Jefferson.

**Leandra G. (Wilson) Pone, BS '05**, gave birth to twins Mason Alec and Gabriella Alise on Jan. 12. In March 2008, she was promoted to chief radiation therapist at 21st Century Oncology in Willingboro, N.J., where she has worked since graduation.

## Alumni Family and Friends Day '09

More than 100 alumni and friends gathered June 27 for a Camden Riversharks game at Campbell's Field in Camden, N.J. Gina Cooke, OT '01, threw out some pitches before the game.

Other than baseball, the event – sponsored by the Jefferson Schools Alumni Association – featured a buffet and face painters.





Pone Twins



Steve Klein and Family



Steve Klein

**NURSING**

**Louise M. Baca, MSN, RN, CCRP, BSN '02**, won the JCHP Emerging Leader Award at the College's award ceremony in June. She is the oncology clinical research nurse coordinator and manager for AtlantiCare's Cancer Care Institute in Pomona, N.J. She plans to graduate with a doctorate in nursing practice from Chatham University in Pittsburgh in May 2010. As part of her doctoral studies, Louise is researching how live music affects the anxiety of chemotherapy patients.

Louise is the president-elect of Oncology Nursing Society's Southern New Jersey chapter.

**Steve Klein, BSN '95**, participated in Ride for World Health in April and May 2009. The 3,700-mile coast-to-coast bike ride and lecture series raised money and awareness of global health disparities. Steve, who lives in Jamison, Pa., works for Siemens Medical Solutions implementing electronic medical records with Soarian. He is a recreational cyclist and has previously participated in fundraising rides for organizations such as the

American Cancer Society and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Steve is married to **Margie (Hilferty) Klein, BSN '82**.

**Kathy Hilbert, MSN '09 (Community Systems Administration)**, received a grant from the Jefferson InterProfessional Education Center (JCIPE) to promote the importance of cultural competence among nurses. She collaborated with Rebecca Bixby, staff nurse at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and program coordinator for Latina community health services at Women and Children's Health Services.

The training video, *Cultural Competence for Healthcare Providers*, provides patient and provider's perspectives. It can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNLtAj0wy6I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNLtAj0wy6I).

**IN MEMORIAM**

Reema Patel, BS '07 (biotechnology), passed away in September 2009. She lived in Blue Bell, Pa., and is survived by her parents and a younger brother.

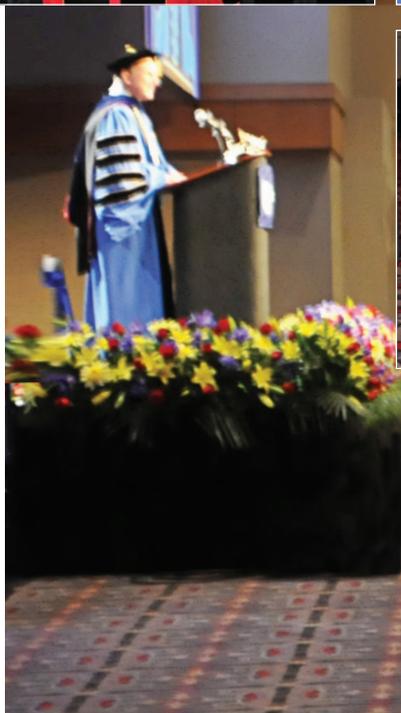


# Commencement 2009

The graduation of the Class of 2009 from Jefferson College of Health Professions held two distinctions: The class of 812 students was the largest in the college's history, and it included graduates from two new degree programs, the master's of family therapy and the doctor of occupational therapy.

Pomp and Circumstance sounded a little different this year than last at the ceremony May 28. For the first time, commencement was held in the spacious Pennsylvania Convention Center rather than the Kimmel Center to accommodate the large number of friends and family.

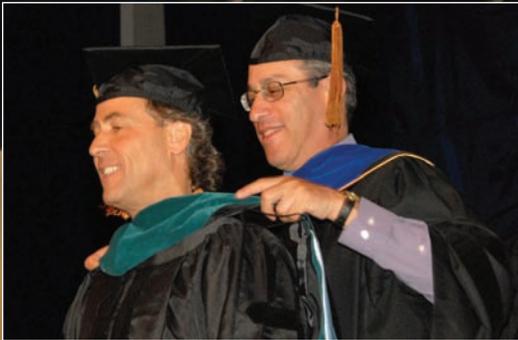
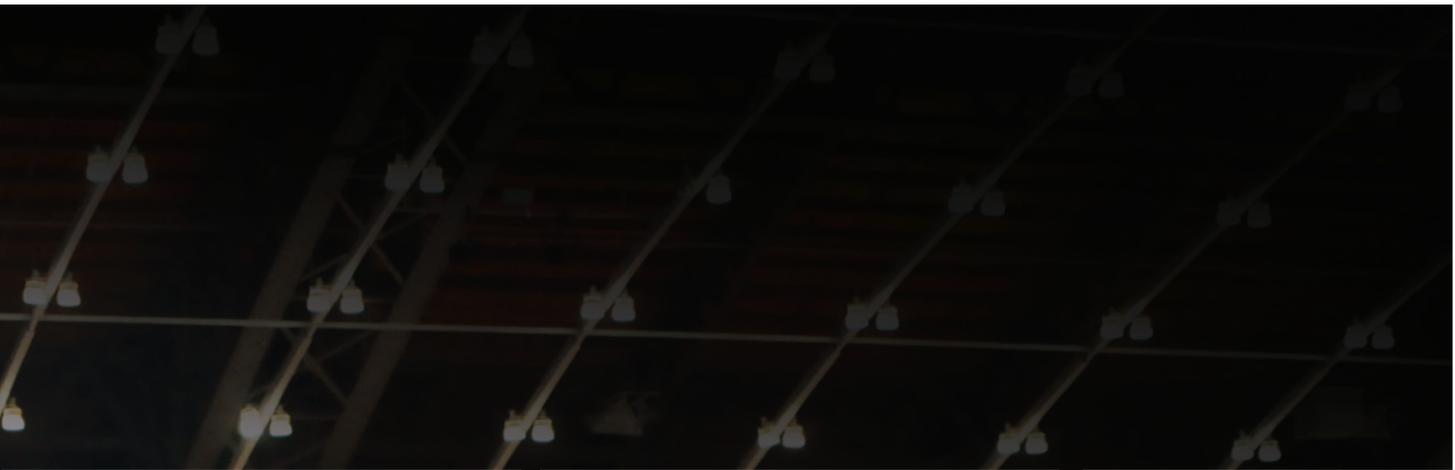
Keynote speaker Steven A. Wartman, MD, PhD, MACP, president of the Association of Academic Health Centers, encouraged the graduates to work as an integrated team. Wartman received an honorary doctor of science degree.



## CLASS OF 2009: DEGREES AWARDED

The Class of 2009 had a total of 812 graduates, including 102 associate degrees, 486 bachelor degrees, 174 master degrees and 50 doctoral degrees:

- 3 Associate in science
- 3 Associate in science in nursing
- 27 BS in bioscience technologies
- 91 BS in radiologic sciences
- 362 BS in nursing
- 6 BS in health services management
- 20 Master's degrees in bioscience technologies
- 8 Master's degrees in family therapy
- 97 Master's degrees in nursing
- 38 Master's degrees in occupational therapy
- 11 Master's degrees in radiologic and imaging Sciences
- 2 Doctorates in occupational therapy
- 4 Doctorates in nursing
- 44 Doctorates in physical therapy





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