



HEALTH PROFESSIONS • NURSING • PHARMACY • POPULATION HEALTH

Review

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY • SUMMER 2010

Promising Prospects

for Jefferson Grads
Despite Struggling Economy

Message from the President



Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD

Last week, more than 1,300 American men with prostate cancer chose robotic-assisted surgery over laparoscopy, some because their healthcare provider recommended it and others because they demanded it.

Was it worth \$1,500 extra for each operation? No one knows for sure.

Make no mistake: From their experience, healthcare professionals at Jefferson and their colleagues across the country strongly believe robotic-assisted prostate surgery results in shorter hospital stays, lower transfusion rates and fewer complications, expensive factors that could make \$1,500 a bargain in the end. But no research has been conducted to provide proof.

Too often today – when technological breakthroughs lead to new and expensive treatments virtually every month – American healthcare professionals possess only anecdotal information and

not evidence-based studies to guide their choices. In some cases, additional pressure comes from patients susceptible to ads touting unproven benefits and media stories highlighting “miraculous” cases.

The White House, fully understanding the costly ramifications of the situation, included \$1.1 billion in the economic stimulus package last year for research on comparative effectiveness. The federally sponsored research, involving literature reviews and head-to-head trials covering a range of conditions and diseases, will attempt to answer one question: Is treatment A or treatment B more effective?

In many cases, the research will give healthcare professionals clear guidelines, quieting complaints about expense in some areas and saving money in others. But in at least a few instances, the answers will produce only more questions. What if treatment A is a bit better than treatment B but costs 10 times more? Is extending a person’s life a few weeks worth \$150,000? How much is an extra year worth?

In the past, any discussion in the United States weighing clinical effectiveness against cost has produced a political maelstrom, with Americans angrily and indignantly demanding care at any price. But, in reality, healthcare decisions in the United States already are made by two bureaucracies – the insurance industry and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the guardian of Medicare and Medicaid. And they make those decisions in a vacuum, deciding how much they will pay for any given treatment with little evidence about what works.

Several European countries already make systematic, evidence-based decisions about

care. In Great Britain, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence uses sophisticated analyses in reviewing and comparing treatments, and the institute’s recommendations guide the National Health Service’s decisions about reimbursements. Patients wanting alternative treatments pay themselves.

The process in Great Britain has not been without controversy. The decisions involve hard calculations about the quality and value of life and balancing what is good for the individual against what is good for society.

Congress designed the U.S. research program to provide hard evidence to guide medical decisions with the hope of also curbing healthcare costs. We have no choice. The burgeoning cost of health care in this country – \$2.5 trillion in 2009 – threatens our standard of living and the very strength of the country.

Last year, reportedly 86 percent of the 85,000 men who underwent prostate surgery chose robotic-assisted procedures at an additional cost to our healthcare system of \$110 million. Money well spent if we saved many millions more by avoiding complications. But we also need to know if it was money squandered. Science will give us the answer – and make us better healthcare professionals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Barchi".

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

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The Jefferson community and supporters are welcome to receive the *Review* on a regular basis; please contact the address above. Postmaster: send address changes to the address above.

Cover: The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates a 37 percent increase in bioscience research and development jobs in the next decade, partly due to advances in biotechnology.

While we live with the shifting state of the economy and the impending impact of healthcare reform legislation, certain positive expectations related to the future of healthcare education and delivery are clearly emerging. As the featured article in this issue of the *Review* indicates, healthcare careers are among the most resilient in a recessionary economy. According to the most recent edition of the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (2010–11), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects substantial growth in the healthcare workforce over the next 10 years and rates job opportunities as excellent in the professions for which Jefferson prepares graduates.

The expanding health needs of the aging “baby boomer” generation, coupled with the monumental influx of approximately 30 million previously uninsured Americans into the healthcare system, will drive the demand for skilled healthcare professionals. There will be increasing reliance on the use of healthcare professionals who can provide a broader array of services.

Jefferson is already responding to help meet the rapidly changing workforce needs. In 2005, Jefferson Medical College increased the size of its entering class by nearly 12 percent. Over the past five years, total TJU enrollment has increased by 38 percent, reaching a record high of 3,329 in 2009–10. Students enrolled in the Jefferson Schools of Health Professions, Nursing, Pharmacy and Population Health totaled more than 60 percent of enrollment. Similarly, the number of graduates in recent years from JSHP and JSN programs has set new records annually.

While we’ve gone through a period of major growth, the quality of a Jefferson education has not diminished. With a five-year average pass rate of more than 90 percent, our graduates continue to perform at high levels on certification and licensure examinations,

often exceeding state and regional rates. And according to the most recent five-year trend, our graduates continue to report employment placement rates ranging between 92 percent and 96 percent.

TJU’s expanding enrollment and programs have resulted in significant changes to campus facilities since the landmark addition of the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building in 2007. The most recent manifestation of this campus transformation is the construction recently begun on an 11-story building at the northwest corner of 9th and Walnut streets. When completed, the Health Professions Academic Building will house the administrative and faculty offices for the Jefferson Schools of Health Professions, Nursing, Pharmacy and Population Health. Through its connection to the Edison Building on the north side and 909 Walnut on the west, this facility will provide much needed additional clinical, academic and administrative office space.

It is evident that dynamic changes relevant to national trends continue to take place at Jefferson, and we invite you to return to campus to see them in person. We continue to rely on the combined support of our extended Jefferson family – current and former students, faculty, staff, administration and friends – to advance the commitment to the core institutional mission of educating future leaders in the delivery of health care.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Vergare, MD
 Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
 The Daniel Lieberman Professor of Psychiatry
 and Human Behavior
 Thomas Jefferson University

Jefferson
 Today

“The expanding health needs of the aging “baby boomer” generation, coupled with the influx of 30 million previously uninsured Americans into the healthcare system, will drive the demand for skilled healthcare professionals.”





Medical Dosimetry students work on a treatment planning program.

Prospects Promising for Jefferson Grads Despite Struggling Economy

DURING THE ECONOMIC UPHEAVAL of the past two years, healthcare has provided an island of stability for employees. Although many new graduates are encountering challenges entering the job market today, forecasters see growth ahead.

The Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board recently listed nursing at the top of a list of 30 “hot jobs” in the region, citing an expected 3,000 openings in the city and 6,000 in the suburbs this year.

RNs aren’t the only healthcare professionals in demand. A study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates a 37 percent increase in bioscience research and development jobs in the next decade, partly due to advances in biotechnology.

Couple and family therapy is another growing field as more Americans seek therapy. The demand – projected to jump 14 percent by 2018 – prompted *U.S. News & World Report* to name marriage and family therapy one of the best career fields of 2010.

Recent graduates, however, have faced challenges securing their first jobs. “This spring, we had the lowest employer participation at our career fair in my five years here as director,” said Dayna Dunsmoor, MEd, NCC, LPC, director of Jefferson’s Career Development Center.

“In 2004 and 2005, recruiters were beating down our door, and students had their choice of jobs,” Dunsmoor said. But, she said, the deluge ended in late 2008.

The career center’s administrative assistant, Amelia DiValerio, has seen the demand for recent graduates vary greatly throughout her three decades at Jefferson. “In the 1980s,



Brett Herman (left), studies with fellow occupational therapy students Justin Randsdorp, Juan Ramirez and Michael Martino.

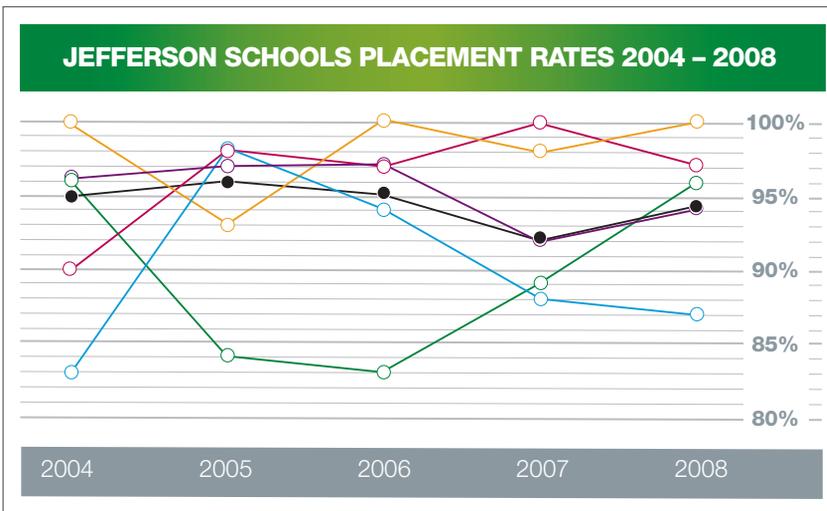
Our graduates can be instrumental in helping less fortunate alumni.
When your organization is hiring, think Jefferson first.

many of our cytotech graduates had difficulty finding employment. We encouraged students to look around and relocate to different parts of the country if necessary,” she said. One graduate went as far as Switzerland for work.

In the face of hard times, some people often choose careers known for stability and good

pay. In January, National Public Radio reported on the current “mencession” – unemployment rates are 2 percent higher for men than for women – and suggested occupational therapy as a viable career. Men comprise only 10 percent of occupational therapists today.

Juan Ramirez, a first-year OT student, said the experience of many second- and third-year students he knows illustrates great demand in the field. “Before they even graduate, they know where they’re going to work,” Ramirez said. “They worry more about which site they want to work at since they have multiple job offers to choose from.”



- BIOSCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
- PHYSICAL THERAPY
- RADIOLOGIC SCIENCES
- NURSING
- SCHOOLS AVERAGE

Classmate Brett Herman said faculty acknowledge the disparity between men and women in the field. “My male classmates and I are going to have a bit of an advantage getting a job because we’re men,” he said.

Jefferson graduates with stable careers can be instrumental in helping less fortunate alumni. Dunsmoor suggests that alumni reach out to students and recent graduates. “When you or your organization is hiring, think Jefferson first,” she said.

Jefferson alumni can post their organizations’ open positions on the career center’s Web site for free, and hiring managers can recruit students at the career fairs, held annually in March and October.



Above: Department of Couple and Family Therapy students practice their skills.

Right: Dayna Dunsmoor, director of the Career Development Center, and Amelia DiValerio, administrative assistant, help students and alumni search for jobs.

CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS

Jefferson offers several informal ways for employers and alumni to connect with students and serve as mentors.

The Department of Occupational Therapy always welcomes calls from employers who want to host students undertaking clinical fieldwork. “The OT department has been growing quickly and needs more clinical fieldwork sites,” said Dayna Dunsmoor, director of the Career Development Center.

Jefferson alumni can also volunteer to give informational interviews through the Career Development Center. As students explore career options, they can benefit from informal meetings with alumni. Two lunch series give OT and PT students the opportunity to hear from Jefferson graduates and to network with employers informally.

CAREER DIRECTOR OFFERS TIPS

Having difficulty finding a job or simply need career counseling? Dayna Dunsmoor, director of the Career Development Center, offers several tips:

- Maintain a positive attitude.
- Tap into your network. There is a hidden job market with many jobs being filled by word-of-mouth and referrals.
- Volunteer your professional services.
- Work part time in a related field. One recent graduate worked in an administrative role in a hospital while continuing to search for work in his field. By surrounding himself with healthcare professionals, he stayed connected to the industry.
- Stay involved in your profession by joining national societies, reading professional publications and enrolling in continuing education courses.

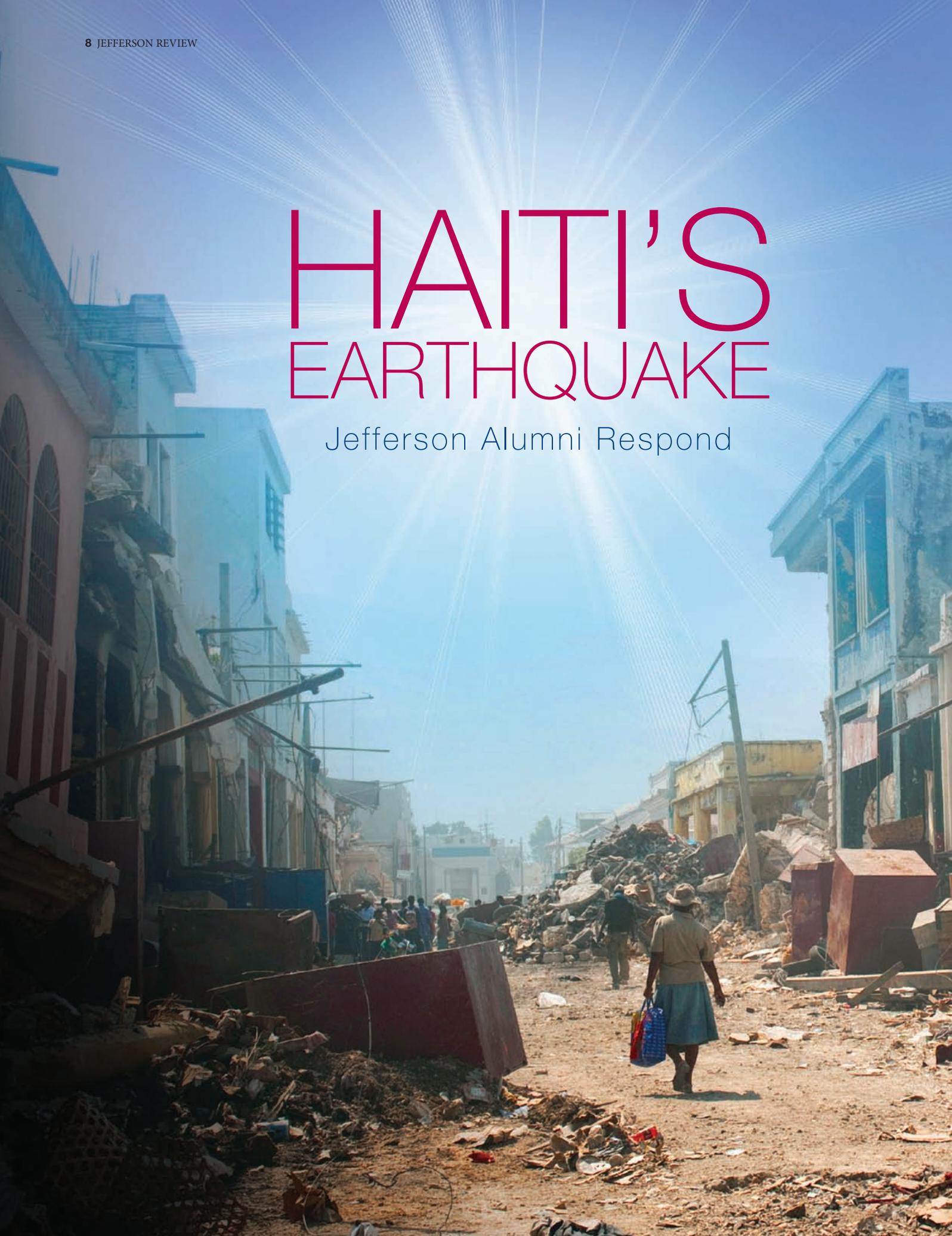
Dunsmoor also encourages alumni to take advantage of the free services the career center offers, including resume critiques and mock interviews.

For more information, contact the Career Development Center at 215-503-5805 or Amelia.Divalerio@jefferson.edu.



HAITI'S EARTHQUAKE

Jefferson Alumni Respond





“ I FELT IT WAS MY DUTY TO GO, AS A HAITIAN AND AS A NURSE. ”

– France Brun, CRNA '09

Inset: Melissa Smith with a patient at a Port-au-Prince hospital.

When the earthquake devastated Haiti in January, University students donated more than \$4,000 to organizations helping the victims, while alumni went even further, giving their time and expertise.

Two nurse anesthetists, Jean Lefevre, CRNA '09, and France Brun, CRNA '09, went to Haiti a week after the earthquake with the Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad. They assisted in more than 40 operations. In a reflection he wrote for AANA.org, Lefevre said, "We saw many of our patients outside. We did improvise an OR inside the building and set up for surgery. ... We were fortunate to have propofol, a sedative that puts patients to sleep, but we had no oxygen, no anesthesia machine and no monitor for vital signs."

Brun, who left Haiti in 2000 to attend college in the United States, said, "I felt it was my duty to go, as a Haitian and as a nurse." While there, she briefly saw relatives before they moved out of the city.

Physical therapy graduate Melissa Dumas Smith, MS '04, spent a week at a hospital outside Port-au-Prince in March. She went with a team from Philadelphia, but once there she and all other visiting therapists worked under the direction of Handicap International, which provided prostheses for amputees at the hospital.

Smith, whose parents were born in Haiti, was impressed by the people. "They were so thankful and appreciative of everything," she said. "They really stuck together: family, friends, church

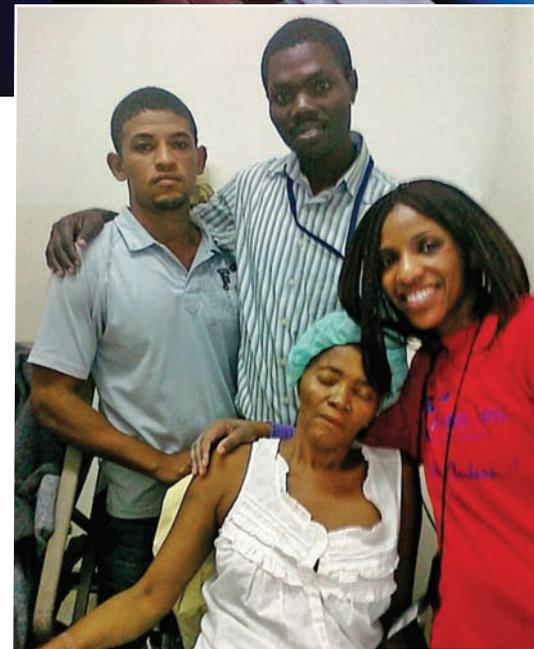


members. There was no need for CNAs because everyone helped with ADLs like bathing and feeding and caring."

She said many basic needs – shoes, milk for babies, tents – remain unmet. "I hope to return and help with some of the social needs in the future," she said.

Starting in 1998, Heather Maeding, BSN '97, made several trips to Haiti to work in a rural clinic in Léogâne. When family obligations prevented her from traveling, Maeding got involved with God's Littlest Angels, an orphanage and infant hospital outside Port-au-Prince.

"I send supplies and offer healthcare guidance through e-mail and occasional middle-of-the-night phone calls," she said.



“THE HAITIANS WERE SO VERY THANKFUL AND APPRECIATIVE OF EVERYTHING. THEY REALLY STUCK TOGETHER. EVERYONE HELPED WITH... BATHING AND FEEDING AND CARING.” — MELISSA DUMAS SMITH, MSPT '04



Clockwise: 1. Maeding visited her future adopted children, Gregory and Carline, in Haiti in 2004.

2. Five of the six Maeding children. Gregory, Kyara, Carline, Logan and Luke enjoyed an Easter egg hunt this spring.

3. Melissa Smith visits with a patient and her family.

Through the organization, Maeding and her family have hosted several children receiving medical treatment in the United States, and they have adopted three Haitian children (they also have one adopted American child and two biological children with a third on the way).

Soon after the earthquake, the Maedings hosted an orphanage worker and baby who received care at a local hospital. In

March, they hosted and trained a nurse from the hospital.

“She came to learn how to implement bubble CPAPs, an easy way to deliver respiratory support to premature babies. It will make a dramatic difference for infants in Haiti,” Maeding said. “I’m glad to have a chance to help out with earthquake issues even though I couldn’t go to Haiti.”



Sensory Integration and Autism:

Putting the Pieces Together

Dr. Schaaf works with a child in the space ship lab.



“ We hope to be on the forefront of this important work to help children and families affected by autism and to establish a unique and vital role in facilitating their participation in everyday activities. ”

DRIVEN BY THE BELIEF that occupational therapy can help children with autism and their families, Roseann C. Schaaf, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, associate professor and vice chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, directs a program that holds the promise of helping youngsters overcome one of the most debilitating facets of autism spectrum disorders.

“Many children with autism can be extremely sensitive to food tastes, sounds, various textures and smells,” Schaaf said. “We are trying to understand the basis of these atypical responses and its relationship to engagement in daily activities. This knowledge will help us develop and test occupational therapy treatment strategies aimed at reducing abnormal responses so these children can more fully play, learn and participate in childhood activities.”

Schaaf’s program focuses on the full autism spectrum, ranging from “classic autism,” typically characterized by profound language and social impairment, to Asperger’s disorder, usually accompanied by average to above-average intelligence and characterized by specific, often quirky areas of interest that consume the individual’s attention and create social isolation.

The department’s autism initiative involves research and education.

For research, Schaaf received a grant of \$154,000 from the National Institutes of Health in September for a project that builds on previous work she and her research assistants, Teal Benevides, MS ’04, and Kimberly Mollo, MS ’06, conducted in the department’s sensory integration “spaceship” lab. The project focuses on testing the autonomic nervous system of children with autism by measuring their heart rates and electro-dermal activity when faced with sensory challenges. The researchers hope to better understand the brain mechanisms of sensory dysfunction.

Autism Speaks, a nonprofit organization, gave Schaaf a \$450,000 grant over three years in September 2008 to test whether OT interventions decrease sensory sensitivities to allow children with autism to participate in social activities. Schaaf is collaborating with Donna Kelly, MS, OTR/L, director of occupational therapy at Children’s Specialized Hospital in Toms River, N.J., one of the leading children’s hospital systems in the country.

Schaaf, a scholar of neural and behavioral sciences, is well known in the field of sensory dysfunction in autism. She lectures extensively in the United States and abroad and has written numerous articles, chapters and books. A Switzer Fellow of the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Schaaf maintains a private practice to work with children and families affected by sensory dysfunction. In 2008, she received the A. Jean Ayres Award for sustained commitment to the application, development or testing of theory in occupational therapy.

Within education, Schaaf and her colleagues have developed a certificate program in autism studies for occupational therapists. “Many OTs indicate they want more advanced skills for working with children who have autism,” she said. “This certificate, which is provided as an online learning opportunity, offers the background and skills they want in 12 months, part time, with the opportunity to apply credits toward doctoral study.”

Schaaf believes that continued research into occupational therapy treatment will make a difference to children with autism. “There is a great deal of work left to do and an increase in funding at the state and national level to do it. We hope to be on the forefront of this important work to help children and families affected by autism and to establish occupational therapy’s unique and vital role in facilitating their participation in the everyday activities that most people take for granted.”

OnCampus



Covelman



Cohen



Pitts



Spencer



McCluskey

School of Health Professions

Jefferson Offers OT Specialty Certificates

The Department of Occupational Therapy has begun offering certificates in autism spectrum disorders, neurorehabilitation, innovative practice in older adults and foundations of teaching in occupational therapy education.

Each curriculum consists of four graduate-level courses totaling 10 credits and can be completed part time over 12 months. Courses use a blended on-site and online format. Students can transfer all certificate credits toward a master's of science degree or clinical doctorate degree.

Visit www.Jefferson.edu/occupational_therapy/certificates for more information.

DPT Class Passes National Licensure Exam

The doctor of physical therapy class of 2009 had a 100 percent pass rate on the PT national licensure exam. "We are extremely proud of this accomplishment,"

said interim department chair **Paul D. Howard**, PT, PhD. "Year after year, our graduates have extremely high pass rates."

CFT Students Join Medical Rounds

This spring, students of **Kenneth W. Covelman**, PhD, chair of the Department of Couple and Family Therapy, joined medical students and residents in psycho-social rounds led by **Mitchell J.M. Cohen**, MD, vice chair for education, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior.

"In our class, the students are studying the impact of physical illness on patients and their families," Covelman said. "By having them attend psychosocial rounds, they get to see the real-life implications of these issues and the ways in which they impact doctor-patient relationships."

Sex Therapy Track Takes Off

Sex therapy tracks prove rare among master's programs, and students are taking advantage of Jefferson's unusual curric-

ulum. More than half of couple and family therapy students pursue the sex therapy track at Jefferson.

"Other MFT programs have some human sexuality classes, but I really liked that Jefferson was very sex therapy-specific," said student **Angie Dion**. Most schools offer sex therapy training only at a post-master's degree or higher level.

All students in the program see clients at the Council for Relationships' Institute for Sex Therapy. They also have practicum options with organizations such as the Joseph J. Peters Institute, a mental health agency focused on sexual abuse; Sexual Trauma and Recovery, an organization providing treatment for sexual disorders; and the Mazzoni Center, Philadelphia's health center for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

tDPT PROGRAM BRINGS PARITY

The transitional DPT (tDPT) program, started in 2005, enables US-licensed physical therapists to attain degree parity with therapists who hold the doctor of physical therapy (DPT) degree—the current standard in practice. "Students are filling in the gaps in their education with courses that include advanced areas of evidence-based practice, pharmacology, medical imaging, differential diagnosing and medical screening," said Carl Pitts, PT, DPT, program coordinator.

Students can work full time and can complete the degree on their own time, taking between one year and three years. "It's a hybrid program with a majority of coursework online and some courses with required in-residence sessions on weekends," said Pitts. An added bonus for graduates of the department: Jefferson School of Health Professions offers an alumni tuition discounting program of 25 percent off the graduate-level per-credit tuition.





Scholarship Winners

Tim Fox, PT, MS '95, DPT '09, executive director of Fox Rehabilitation, met March 31 with the recipients of the Fox Scholarship for the Advancement of Geriatric Physical Therapy and the Fox Scholarship for the Advancement of Geriatric Occupational Therapy in Memory of Margaret Sood. From top left to right: Janice Burke, dean of the Jefferson School of Health Professions; Kimberly Hudicka; Alison Hopely; Tim Fox; Luz Marcela Hincapie; and Nancy Alario. From bottom left to right: Nicole Dearie and Brittany O'Brien.

Lunch 'N Learn: A Recipe for Academic Success

In response to successful spring Lunch 'N Learn classes, Jeff-at-Night is offering Poetry and Career Management for Adults classes in the same fashion this fall. The series combines online coursework with weekly lunch meetings. "We offer courses to entice learners to not only satisfy a degree requirement but also to pique their interest in a timely topic," said **John Lewis**, PhD, chair of the Department of General Studies.

Colleges Against Cancer Chapter Relays for Life

Jefferson students, faculty and friends pulled an all-nighter to support cancer research, education and patient care during the University's first American Cancer Society Relay for Life on April 23 and 24. Teams of enthusiastic relayers gathered at Jefferson Alumni Hall for the two-day event, which kicked off with a celebration of cancer survivors and included bands, games, guest speakers and an after-dark luminaria ceremony that honored cancer survivors and remembered those who have lost the battle.

"Relay for Life helps us celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease," said **Lisa Spencer**, MEd, BSRT(T), clinical coordinator of the radiation therapy program and faculty adviser of the event.

"It was as much about building awareness of the progress against cancer as it was a fundraiser," said co-chair **Danielle DeFalco**, radiologic sciences student. Nursing student and co-chair **Ken McCluskey** said, "Jefferson students are the future of health care. The funds raised

PARTNERSHIP DRAWS SAUDI ARABIAN STUDENTS TO JEFFERSON

Thanks to Shirley Greening's emphasis on international collaboration, the Department of Bioscience Technologies welcomed two students from Saudi Arabia into its 12-month advanced master's degree program this year.

Greening, MS, JD, chair of the department, traveled to the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh in 2008 to serve as a visiting professor at the King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University of Health Sciences (KAU). Her visit led Ghadeer Almuahaini and Sari Al-Jishi to pursue a Jefferson education.

In the advanced master's program, students with a bachelor's degree in laboratory sciences use clinical practica to explore new areas. During a practicum at Quest Diagnostics, Almuahaini enjoyed opportunities she never had at home.

"I got to work with the digital microscope – state-of-the-art technology," she said.

Al-Jishi was working at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center when she heard about Jefferson from a former internship supervisor who had met Greening in Saudi Arabia.

"I thought coming to the United States would enhance my experience, my language and my personality," she said. Janet Devine, EdD, MT(ASCP), medical laboratory sciences program director and her adviser, arranged for her to work in tissue typing, stem cell and flow cytometry labs, all new fields for her.

"I have been exposed to different cultures and have met more people, especially in the field that I'm interested in," she said.

Generous scholarship programs allow many Saudi Arabian students to study overseas. Al-Jishi received a government scholarship. Almuahaini's scholarship requires her to return to KAU when she completes her education – but first she wants to earn a doctorate in cancer biology or molecular pathobiology in the United States.

"I don't want to be stuck in one field. As a student, I like my professors to be versatile, so that's the way I want to be," she said. "I have recommended Jefferson to some of my friends at home."

"As I was finishing the degree I became the co-chair of the evidence-based practice committee for the TJUH Rehabilitation Medicine Department. The tDPT research training helped me a lot."

– Katie O'Shea, MSPT '06, DPT '08

UNIVERSITY CONTINUES CAMPUS EXPANSION

Over the past five years, enrollment at Jefferson has increased 38 percent, creating an urgent need for space. To accommodate the growth, the University has begun construction of an 11-story building that will increase clinical, academic and administrative office space.

"We need a new home for the many new schools that we've created here at Jefferson," said University President Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD. "This building will accomplish a number of different goals as we move the University forward."

Located at 901 Walnut St., the new Health Professions Academic Building will become the headquarters for the schools of Health Professions, Nursing, Pharmacy and Population Health. The new building will connect north to the 24-story Edison Building, providing suites extending from Walnut to Sansom streets.

The upper floors of Edison will be renovated to serve as the "behind-the-scenes administrative hub for these growing academic programs,"

Barchi said. Classrooms now in Edison will move to space freed around the Sidney and Ethel Lubert Plaza at 10th and Locust streets in keeping with the strategic plan to centralize academic programs.

The new building also will connect west to the adjacent, three-story building, 909 Walnut, now home to the neurological surgery clinic. The new space, named the Jefferson Clinical Neuroscience Center, will allow the neurology clinic to move out of the Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience, freeing inpatient and operating rooms there.

Barchi estimated completion of the new building and the renovation of Edison in spring 2012.





Swan



Shaffer



Speakman



Zukowsky



Phalen

will enable us to continue our investment in the fight against cancer through educational programs, research and services to patients.”

School of Nursing

Gerontology Approved as Newest MSN Specialty

The Pennsylvania Board of Nursing approved JSN to offer a master’s degree and post-master’s certificate in gerontology nursing starting this fall. The MSN includes 18 credits of core courses and nine credits of support courses as well as three gerontology clinical courses. The 18-credit post-MSN includes only the support and clinical components.

Swan Wins AHRQ Grant

Beth Ann Swan, PhD, CRNP, received a \$30,000 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to convene an invitational conference on performance measures for ambulatory care nurses. Funds from the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program also supported the conference. Thirty-five participants representing nursing, medicine, health policy, quality, healthcare economics and healthcare accreditors and insurers attended the

conference on March 1 and 2 in the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building.

Nursing Students Lend a Hand

The Nursing Student Government and Delta Rho chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International collected more than 1,000 personal care items for at-risk youths who visit the free weekly clinic at the Mazzone Center, which provides care for Philadelphia’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. **Kathy Shaffer**, RN, MSN, philanthropy chair for Delta Rho, started the Warm Hearts, Warm Hands drive in response to the recession and its impact on children and teens in need. “The success of the Warm Hearts, Warm Hands drive proves that we have a large number of civic leaders at Jefferson,” she said.

FACT Students Benefit from New Careers in Nursing Grant

JSN received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing

Scholarship Program grant of \$80,000 to be used for eight \$10,000 FACT student scholarships. **Elizabeth Speakman**, EdD, RN, CDE, ANEF, associate professor and assistant dean of RN to BSN programs, is the project director.

Zukowsky Article Published

Ksenia Zukowsky, CRNP, PhD, co-wrote an article, “Parenting after Infertility: Issues for Families and Infants,” that appeared in the June issue of *The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*.

Phalen Presents at NANN

Ann Gibbons Phalen, PhD, was one of 20 people accepted to present at the Fifth Annual Research Summit of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses in Scottsdale, Ariz., in April. Her presentation was “Implementation of the AAP Recommendations to Reduce SIDS Risk in NICUs: An Evaluation of Nursing Knowledge and Practice.”



The Spring 2009 issue of the Jefferson College of Health Professions *Review* received a bronze CUPPIE award from the Association of Communicators in Education. The award judges creativity, marketing execution and message impact.



Finley



Njar



King



Leon



Schafer



Young

School of Pharmacy

Dean Appointed to Christiana Care Board

Dean **Rebecca S. Finley**, PharmD, MS, was appointed to Christiana Care's Performance Improvement Committee of the Board at the annual board of directors meeting last fall. Thomas Jefferson University and the Christiana Care Health System are a part of the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance, which also includes the University of Delaware and Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children/Nemours.

Njar to Serve on NIH Study Section

Vincent C. O. Njar, PhD, professor of medicinal chemistry in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been invited to serve as a member of the Drug Discovery and Molecular Pharmacology Study Section of the NIH, a role that includes reviewing and making recommendations about grant applications and surveying the status of research in their fields of science.

Students Attend Advocacy Program in Harrisburg

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association chose four JSP students – **Carla Eisenstein**, **Hassan Hammoud**, **Jamie Lopez-Quigley** and **Hoang-Ai Tang** – to attend the annual Government Relations Advocacy for Student Pharmacists program, a three-day legisla-

tive conference focusing on government relations, legislative action, media training and the regulatory process. The program took place in Harrisburg in February.

Faculty Achieve Pharmacotherapy Board Certification

JSP faculty members **Amber King**, PharmD, BCPS, **Nick Leon**, PharmD, BCPS, **Jason Schafer**, PharmD, BCPS, and **Corrine Young**, PharmD, BCPS, passed the pharmacotherapy certification exam, administered by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties in October. "This is an important credential for their careers and brings distinction to our school, the University and their practice sites," said Dean Finley.

Students Named Schweitzer Fellows

Second-year students **Kenny Aristide** and **Stephanie Do** were named to the prestigious Greater Philadelphia Schweitzer Fellows Program. The one-year interdisciplinary program challenges students to act on their idealism by serving needy individuals and communities. Aristide and Do received a stipend of \$2,000 for their project implementing and monitoring a health promotion and educational program to help residents of a local shelter manage their cardiovascular-related disease.

School of Population Health

Population Health Unveils Online Programs

JSPH will offer online programs for master's degrees and certificates in three areas – chronic care management, health policy and healthcare quality and safety.

The programs, which will begin in September, offer flexibility, convenience and the same high quality as the school's on-site programs. "There is more opportunity for discussion and presentation of your work with the online programs," said Dean **David B. Nash**, MD, MBA. "When you sit in a classroom and the instructor asks a question, one or two students generally respond. When the instructor asks a question online, *everyone* has to respond."

For further information, visit www.jefferson.edu/population_health.

Academic Centers

CARAH Receives Senior Centers Award

The Jefferson Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health (CARAH) and Center in the Park, a senior center in Germantown, Pa., received an award from the National Institute of Senior Centers for the article "Harvest Health: Translation of the Chronic Disease

JSPH ENDS FIRST YEAR WITH TWO SPECIAL EVENTS

The Jefferson School of Population Health had a busy day on May 11, hosting two campus events within six hours.

First up, **Moving Philadelphia! Creating Healthier Communities** highlighted successful local and regional initiatives focused on exercise, healthy lifestyles, health in schools and affordable, healthy food. Event participants also provided an overview of the new U.S. National Physical Activity Plan, which was unveiled in Washington May 3 and aims to increase physical activity in all segments of the American population. By hosting this event, Philadelphia became the first city in the nation to formally endorse the plan.

Jefferson's Sidney and Ethal Lubert Plaza buzzed with exhibitors and activities for both children and adults, including an outdoor spinning class and a mini-concert that incorporated a fitness routine for preschoolers. Several Philadelphia Eagles cheerleaders encouraged the youngsters during their routine.

Inside the Hamilton Building, a presentation and panel discussion focused on physical activity and the built environment – a term referring to the man-made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, ranging from personal homes to neighborhoods and large cities. On behalf of Mayor Michael Nutter, Don Schwarz, MD, MPH, deputy mayor for health and opportunity and health commissioner of Philadelphia, presented a proclamation recognizing JSPH and declaring May 11, 2010, "Moving Philadelphia Day."

"As an organization dedicated to providing health care, conducting research and educating the next generation of healthcare professionals, Jefferson recognizes its responsibility to the greater Philadelphia community," said David B. Nash, MD, MBA, JSPH dean. "Our School of Population Health, as the sponsor of today's event, is accepting the

challenge to take a leadership role in encouraging Philadelphia's adults and children to increase their daily physical activity."

In his keynote address, Schwarz discussed Philadelphia's high rate of obesity and the many hidden costs associated with obesity and chronic health conditions. He offered a particularly compelling example: the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has begun transporting patients too overweight for CT scan machines to the Philadelphia Zoo, where they are placed in scanners designed for large animals.

Schwarz emphasized the link between low physical activity levels and the built environment, stressing that communities must be made safer and more accessible to encourage recreation. Philadelphia is working to increase bicycle and pedestrian traffic and reduce reliance on cars.

Other speakers included Allison Kleinfelter, founder and CEO of achievABILITY, who discussed the U.S. National Physical Activity Plan in detail, and Richard Killingsworth, senior adviser at Nemours Health and Prevention Services, who explored the impact of the built environment on health and wellness. Both issued a call to action, not just for policy makers and other key leaders, but also for local grassroots organizations and the general public.

In the afternoon, JSPH was lauded by University officials during the School's **Inaugural Year Celebration**, a program featuring Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, president of Thomas Jefferson University; Michael J. Vergare, MD, senior vice president of academic affairs; George W. Bo-Linn, MD, MHA, FACP, chief program officer at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation; and Sister Catherine McGroarty, RSM, of the Sisters of Mercy, Mid-Atlantic Community, and former president and CEO of Mercy Hospital.

"Establishing JSPH keeps with Jefferson's tradition of clinical excellence and community service," Barchi said. "Ensuring the health and wellness of all people and providing quality health care to all who need it will remain a defining theme of the 21st century."



Sister Catherine McGroarty with Michael J. Vergare, senior vice president of academic affairs, and David Nash, MD, MBA, JSPH dean.



"Miss Amy" leads youngsters in keeping fit with music.



Leadership LIVE

Students who earned at least seven leadership credits through the Leadership LIVE program – 123 total – received certificates at a ceremony April 20. The leadership program drew 40 more participants than it did last year, and 23 more students earned certificates.



Gitlin



Jutkowitz



Pizzi



Paquet

Self-Management Program for Older African Americans in a Senior Setting,” which appeared in *The Gerontologist: Practice Concepts*. CARAH Director **Laura N. Gitlin**, PhD, received the award at the American Society on Aging/ National Council on Aging annual meeting in March.

Gitlin Named Champion for Impact

The United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania honored Dr. Gitlin for outstanding work in healthy aging at the Champions for Impact Awards celebration in May.

Study Shows Caregivers’ Willingness to Pay

Research about the willingness of caregivers to pay for CARAH’s Tailored Activity Program, which is designed to reduce the burdens on caregivers, shows that the program is cost effective. Results from the study were showcased at the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research conference in Atlanta, Ga., in May. Lead author **Eric Jutkowitz**, BA, post-baccalaureate fellow in health economics and outcomes research, JSPH, and co-authors Gitlin and **Laura T. Pizzi**, PharmD, MPH, program director, Doris N. Grandon Center for Health Economics and Outcomes Research at JSPH, detail the findings in an article to be published in *Value in Health*, the multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal

from the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research.

Jefferson Elder Care Puts Research into Practice

Jefferson Elder Care, a service and training division of CARAH, has launched two clinical services that include programs reimbursed through Medicare Part B and provided in the home.

Skills2Care provides hands-on training to caregivers of people with dementia to improve their abilities to manage day-to-day challenges and to take care of themselves. Advancing Better Living for Elders provides patients with training that enhances their safety at home and enables them to reach functional and activity goals. JEC has established certification training programs for both.

JCIPE Hosts International Conference

The Jefferson InterProfessional Education Center hosted its first international conference, “InterProfessional Care for the 21st Century: Redefining Education and Practice,” on March 12 and 13. More than 120 people participated in interactive workshops and papers and poster presentations. Keynote speakers Joan Weiss, RN, CRNP, PhD, of the Health Resources and Services Administration Bureau, and world-renowned interprofessional education scholar Madeline Schmitt, RN, PhD, of

the University of Rochester, emphasized the importance of strengthening the integration of professional care. Abstracts and presentations from the conference are available at <http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/jcipe/2010Conference>.

Two days before the conference, Jefferson hosted the inaugural meeting of the American Interprofessional Healthcare Collaborative. More than 90 participants discussed ways to promote interprofessional education. Keynote speaker David Garr, MD, executive director of the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium and associate dean for community medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina, discussed clinical prevention and population health as they relate to interprofessional education.

Paquet Re-Elected

At the 2009-10 annual meeting of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, **Michael J. Paquet**, assistant vice president, faculty affairs, was re-elected to a third two-year term on the Board of Directors of the Alpha Eta Society, the national scholastic honor society for the allied health professions. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Jefferson Chapter of Alpha Eta since May 2000, currently as secretary/treasurer.

ClassNotes



CHARLEY BERSTECHEER, BS '97, OTR/L, ATP, CAPS, received the 2009 Outstanding Occupational Therapy Practitioner of the Year Award from the Georgia Occupational Therapy Association for his "outstanding advocacy, education and community service in the field of occupational therapy." Berstecher lives in Conyers, Ga., and works in the Georgia Department of Labor's vocational rehabilitation program.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Stephanie M. Hunt, MS '03, runs a sensory integration therapy program called SNIPS, which gives children tactile, vestibular, proprioceptive, auditory and visual input during a haircut. Hunt lives in Philadelphia and conducts sessions in the homes of families nearby.

She lives in Philadelphia and works full time in Jefferson's Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine and per diem at Hahnemann University Hospital.

NURSING

Sarah Jean Fisher, MSN '05, is an infection preventionist and staff development coordinator at St. Monica Manor in South Philadelphia and works per diem as a gerontology consultant for Med League Support Services in Flemington, N.J. She lives in Philadelphia.

Greg Reilly, MSN '09, works as a nurse on the medical floor at Rush Hospital in Chicago.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Allyson (Zuber) Fleischman, MS '05, is a staff physical therapist at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital in Malvern, Pa. She presented a poster, "Inpatient Multidisciplinary Education Program," at the combined sections meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in February. She and her husband live in Birdsboro, Pa., and welcomed a daughter, Madison, in March.

JSN LEGACY

Mike McBride, BSN '85, is a medical salesman for B. Braun and works part time as a home care nurse. His wife, **Cynthia, BSN '84**, is a nurse in the emergency department at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Their son, Shawn, will enter Jefferson's BSN program this fall. The family lives in Nutley, N.J.

RADIOLOGIC SCIENCES

Heather Zmistowski, BS '09, diagnostic medical sonography, co-wrote an article, "Differential Diagnosis of Intracranial Anomalies," published in the May/June issue of the *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography*.

How would Thomas Jefferson use an **online community?**

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