

# ALUMNI BULLETIN Jefferson

SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE AT THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY • SUMMER 2014



Jefferson Receives Its  
Largest-Ever Gift  
from Sidney Kimmel Foundation

Dear fellow alumni,

Many thanks for entrusting me with the position of president of our association for the past two years. It was an honor and a pleasure to serve in this role and to begin new traditions including "Jeff at the Beach" and the annual alumnae brunch, and equally rewarding to revive former traditions such as the "Black and Blue Ball" and the dean's dinner with alumni reunion class chairs.

Another success we can all be proud of is the return of the reproduction of "The Gross Clinic" to the Medical College; it will be hung at the top of the staircase where the original work resided for

so many decades. When returned to its rightful home, "The Clinic" will serve as the heart of the college and will be a reminder of all Jefferson physicians' goal of healing with compassion.

With joyful anticipation, I pass the baton to our new president, Joseph Majdan, MD, CV '81. I know I speak for all alumni in pledging our faithful support and genuine good wishes. Congratulations, Joe!

— Marianne T. Ritchie, MD '80

## Sidney Kimmel Medical College Alumni Association Welcomes New President Joseph F. Majdan, MD, CV '81

*Joseph F. Majdan, MD, CV '81, was elected president of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College Alumni Association in April 2014. Born in Hackensack, N.J., he was the only child of Polish immigrants. At 5, he moved with his parents to Bucks County, Pa., and later attended Holy Ghost Preparatory School. He then attended LaSalle University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in history and biology. He received his doctor of medicine degree at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed his residency in internal medicine at the Presbyterian-University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. Majdan came to Jefferson in 1981 for a fellowship in cardiovascular medicine and is still here 33 years later.*

The Alumni Association reminds us of our noble heritage and challenges each and every one of us to be a living example of all that has been, is and must always define a Jefferson physician. There was something about Jefferson that touched me when I first came here and still does so to this very day, for Jefferson is more than an iconic institution of learning and healing. Its greatness has been and continues to be perpetuated by the people who were its past and are its present. And I thought, "This is a family that I so wanted to be a part of." I wake up every day and am so thankful for having been given the opportunity to teach and practice here. I am so proud to be able to say "I am a Jeffersonian."

I still remember the doctor I had as a child; he was a Jefferson graduate. His name was Dr. Francis X. Thomas. He was the epitome of kindness and gentleness. At 7 years of age I told him I wanted to be a doctor and that I wanted to be just like him. He smiled, then gave me a letter opener from his desk to save for the day when I would become a doctor. He told me to "always care and respect your patients." I was in awe. That letter opener from Dr. Thomas sits on my desk to this very day.

Today, when people ask me what I do, I tell them I am a teacher. It is my vocation. Teaching is a way of life, a calling. I still do physical diagnosis rounds with students, and I serve as

their mentor. The cornerstone of medicine must always be the doctor-patient relationship. At the bedside is where this professional relationship is forged. At the bedside is where medicine is truly taught. At the bedside is where the skills of a Jefferson physician must always be developed. My door is always open to our students, just as it will always be open to alumni.

I look forward with great hope and enthusiasm to working with our president, Dr. Klasko, and with our dean, Dr. Tykocinski. I firmly believe that a new and better day is dawning for our alumni association. I want you to have faith in that promise. Across the United States in small towns and in large cities, with our graduates serving in institutions from academic medical centers to the Armed Forces, you are reading this article. I want each and every one of you to know that I need your faith, your resolve, your support, your help to make our alumni association rise again and become the best it can be. I give you my solemn pledge that I will do all I can to perpetuate the ideals of our Jefferson heritage and to make our alumni association the best it has ever been. I hope to meet as many alumni as I can and to reunite with many of my former students and residents. This is our medical school, our institution, our family, our Jefferson.



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To read more about Majdan, please visit:  
[Advancement.Jefferson.edu/physicaldiagnosis](http://Advancement.Jefferson.edu/physicaldiagnosis)





Photo by Ed Cunicelli