

# TEMPLE

## MEETING THE MOMENT

In a powerful show of commitment,  
Christopher M. Barnett, *CLA '10*,  
makes the largest gift in Temple's history.





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INNOVATION

## Out of the Lab and into the World

Temple's universitywide culture of innovation and commercialization is sparking the development of new products, businesses and jobs that strengthen Philadelphia and beyond.

# TEMPLE

*From propelling inventions into market to branching out into new art forms, Owls are constantly innovating. In this issue of Temple magazine—the first since 2019—read about how Temple researchers advance society through their groundbreaking discoveries, Tyler students engage in multidisciplinary modes of learning and the university opens educational pathways for Philadelphia families.*

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## IMPACT

### Temple Takes Off

Record gifts. The largest first-year class in its history. A renewed commitment to student success. Momentum is building across the university.

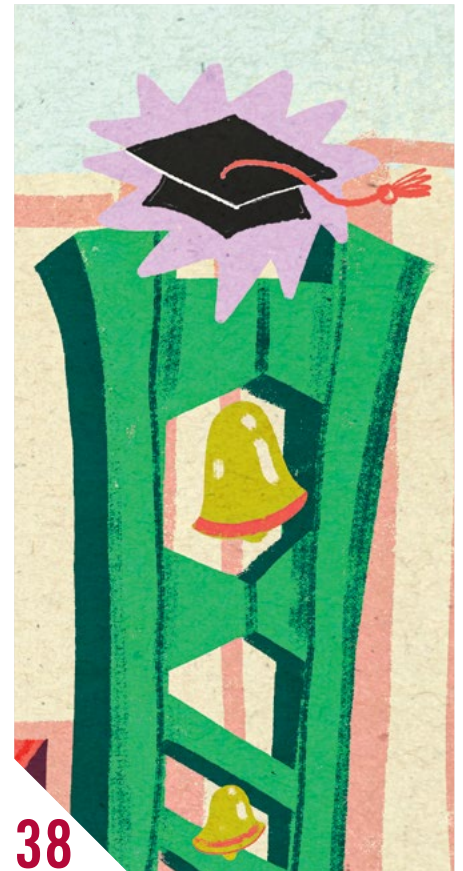


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### Fruitful Encounters

Students in the Tyler School of Art and Architecture discovered new ways to combine art, science and horticulture in collaboration with artist-in-residence Sam Van Aken.



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### Acres of Diamonds

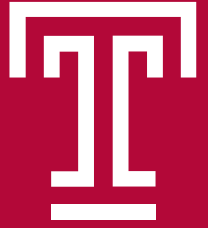
Fulfilling its mission of access and excellence, Temple empowers Philadelphia students to soar to new heights.

**22 A BOLD STATEMENT:** Christopher M. Barnett's transformational gift is a testament to his belief in Temple's mission.

**COVER PHOTO:** Ryan S. Brandenburg, CLA '14

More content is available at [magazine.temple.edu](https://magazine.temple.edu)





# Real Success is Temple Made.



**Nic Uff, *KLN '22***

**30 Under 30, 2025 Honoree**

Segment Producer  
*Good Morning America*

[temple.edu](https://temple.edu)



Just a little over one year ago, I took office as Temple University's 15th president. It was one of the most distinct privileges of my career, as I have always had a deep appreciation for the key role that Temple plays as Philadelphia's public research university, public health system and one of the region's most important economic anchors.

Over the last year, that sentiment has only been further affirmed. I have come to find that the Temple community is unified around Temple's mission and a shared sense of purpose. It is something that we all hold dear, and I know it will be one of our biggest strengths moving forward.

It also speaks to the new Temple brand campaign, which you will read about here within the pages of the returning Temple magazine. This brand campaign distills what all of us already know into something tangible for the whole world to see: Real Success is Temple Made.

This issue of Temple magazine, the first since 2019, tells numerous stories of *Temple Made* success. And, for evidence, look no further than Christopher Barnett, *CLA '10*.

Years ago, he pleaded for admission to Temple, promising to give back in the years to come. He has since gone on to become one of the most successful entrepreneurs in healthcare, and this fall he committed \$55 million to support Temple, the largest gift in the university's history. Now, in recognition



Joseph V. Labolito

of his generosity, the College of Public Health has been renamed the Christopher M. Barnett College of Public Health.

Chris' story epitomizes what it means when we say Temple Made. His success is something we can all aspire to, and it is the type of success that we see in so many places across our community.

So, with the holiday season upon us, we have a meaningful opportunity to pause and reflect on all that has happened over the past year. I invite you to settle in and hope

you enjoy reading all the impactful stories that fill this magazine's pages. Together, we are creating a future filled with promise, pride and the power of what it means to be Temple Made.

John Fry  
President, Temple University

## VOL. 72 NO. 1/Fall 2025

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## SMALL TALK

### OWL EXPERTS ON TRENDING TOPICS



## Laughter is the best medicine

Tariffs, AI replacing jobs, worsening climate crisis—these have been the subject of countless memes, late night show skits and TikToks. According to Professor of Sociology **Dustin Kidd**, it's not uncommon for humans to use jokes to deal with stress.

"TV and other forms of popular culture, including social media, are often misperceived as escapism," Kidd told CNN. "On the contrary, when we are confronted with tough issues, jokes and entertainment are useful ways to tease out and answer the hard questions."



## Win some, lose some

Everyone has regrets, but Temple Marketing Professor **Crystal Reeck** suggests *just getting over it*. In a recent study, Reeck found it is possible to reimagine past memories to alter feelings of regret. The key, she says, is to focus on the big picture rather than individual highs and lows.

"Inevitably, every choice we make doesn't work out," Reeck told the Los Angeles Times. "We are all going to experience some losses. But when you try to focus on the gains, it is easier to not be bogged down by past regrets."



## Powered by purpose

**Leroy Wimberly** has spent the last 19 years with Temple's Department of Public Safety, where—now certified in Gang Resistance Education and Awareness Training (GREAT)—he mentors young schoolchildren from North Philadelphia's Dunbar and Duckrey elementary schools and Carver Engineering and Science High School.

"I walk around the community; they remember me," he told The Philadelphia Citizen. "The hugs. The 'thank yous' for this and that. There's a need, especially for us men, to stand up and be men. And I just felt as though: Why not me?"



Odili Donald Odita: "Songs from Life," April 8, 2025–spring 2026, the Museum of Modern Art, New York

## "Music inspires me to think through problems in my paintings."

—**Odili Odita**, professor of painting at the Tyler School of Art and Architecture, on his process for creating "Songs from Life," a large-scale painting on display in the lobby of the renowned Museum of Modern Art through spring of 2026.



## No pain, all gain

What if there was a drug that delivered opioid-like pain relief, without the harmful and addictive side effects? New research from Lewis Katz School of Medicine's **Anjali Rajadhyaksha** suggests this may soon be possible.

"These findings, although preliminary, could fundamentally shift the paradigm of pain," wrote Richard A. Friedman for The Atlantic. "They offer an opportunity for doctors and researchers to seriously consider a future in which pain and pleasure can be isolated and independently controlled."



# NEWS

## A FRESH TWIST ON A CLASSIC

**TEMPLE'S NEW BRAND CAMPAIGN TELLS THE STORIES OF REAL ALUMNI FINDING REAL SUCCESS, CLEARLY DEFINING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE TEMPLE MADE.**

When Owls introduce themselves as Temple Made, it's more than a catchphrase.

It's a badge of pride among alumni, students, faculty and staff—a shorthand for expressing how the university empowers its vibrant, tenacious community, driving personal growth, career success, transformation and innovation in Philadelphia and around the world.

To Owls, the meaning is ingrained and understood. But articulating what Temple Made means succinctly to others presented a challenge.

Not anymore.

This fall, Temple University officially launched a dynamic new brand campaign aimed at evolving and clearly defining Temple Made, distilling the expression to its essence.

Real Opportunity. Real Results.  
Real Success is Temple Made.

"The best part of this campaign is that it's about real experiences and real outcomes," says President John Fry. "It's not about putting a spin on anything; it's about Temple telling real stories about what's possible when you're Temple Made."

Rolling through Philadelphia on SEPTA buses and popping up on billboards and trains, the campaign is designed to meet residents and visitors as they travel through the city and region.

Additionally, three commercials airing on broadcast television, streaming networks and social media each tell the story of a real Temple alum who found their purpose, passion and future—at Temple.



Ryan S. Brandenberg, CLA '14

Residents and visitors to Philadelphia can view Temple's new brand campaign as they travel throughout the region.

"Temple Made isn't just a tagline—it's timeless. It's part of who we are as a community," says Angela Polec, FOX '07, '13, vice president for strategic marketing and communications. "This campaign builds on that legacy by unpacking what it really means to be Temple Made—the confidence, the drive and ultimately, the success."

The commercials feature students and several alumni who were previously honored among Temple's 30 Under 30, an annual program launched in 2019 to

highlight recent graduates who embody what being Temple Made means.

And visitors to temple.edu will find more stories about the journeys and successes of Temple's trailblazing young alumni.

Philadelphia public school teacher Sydney Smith, EDU '23, can't wait to hear the responses from her second graders when they see her face on TV. "It means so much to be able to share my success with them," she says. "Hopefully, one day many of them will be able to say they are Temple Made, too."

**KIM FISCHER, CLA '92**



# INSPIRING ARTS AND MINDS

## A PATHBREAKING PROJECT

Last May, Temple broke ground on a new home for the Klein College of Media and Communication and the Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts. The Caroline Kimmel Pavilion for Arts and Communication will advance the performing arts, media and communication at Temple and strengthen bonds with Philadelphia's other renowned cultural institutions.

This new space is made possible through a transformative gift—the largest in Temple's 141-year history at the time it was made—from Sidney and Caroline Kimmel.

With a prime location on Broad Street directly across from the entrance to Polett Walk, the 199,000-square-foot structure—designed by international architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill—will serve as the western gateway to Temple's Main Campus and a northern anchor for Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts.

## A LOOK INSIDE

When the Caroline Kimmel Pavilion opens in fall 2027, students will be running The Temple News, Temple TV, WHIP, and student advertising and public relations agencies from a modern, integrated media center. They will also be working and creating in enhanced performance spaces, screening rooms, a soundstage, production studios, an animation lab and a sound mixing suite.

This same cutting-edge technology will be used for youth engagement and learning. For example, young people from the neighborhoods that surround Temple's campus will have an opportunity to use the technology and equipment to learn how to record music or tape a podcast.

"We want this to be almost a living, breathing entity," says David Boardman, interim provost and dean of Klein. "We plan for this building to be flexible and relevant for the next 50 years."

Ryan S. Brandenberg, CLA '14



In May, Temple broke ground on the new Caroline Kimmel Pavilion for Arts and Communication. This new facility, scheduled to open in fall 2027, will advance arts and culture at the university and further the creative legacy of Philadelphia.

**“The Caroline Kimmel Pavilion for Arts and Communication will be a creative and collaborative space that will serve all members of the Temple community: students, faculty, staff, alumni and neighbors.” —John Fry, president**



Courtesy of Sidmore, OWing & Merrill

## A LEGACY OF PHILANTHROPY

Sidney Kimmel grew up in South Philadelphia during the Great Depression, the son of a cab driver. He found success in the fashion industry and went on to create the film production companies Sidney Kimmel Entertainment and SK Global, producing more than 70 feature films, notably including *United 93*, *The Kite Runner*, *Moneyball*, *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *Hell or High Water*, and *Crazy Rich Asians*.

He and his wife Caroline Kimmel are well-known for their generosity and passion for giving in the areas of healthcare, education, arts and culture, committing more than \$850 million to various philanthropic causes. The Kimmels are leading donors to cancer research with longstanding ties to the Philadelphia region, having made major gifts to numerous local institutions, many of which bear the Kimmel name.

- ▶ **Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, Jefferson Health**
- ▶ **Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Jefferson University**
- ▶ **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Avenue of the Arts**
- ▶ **National Museum of American Jewish History, Independence Mall**

STEPHEN ORBANKE

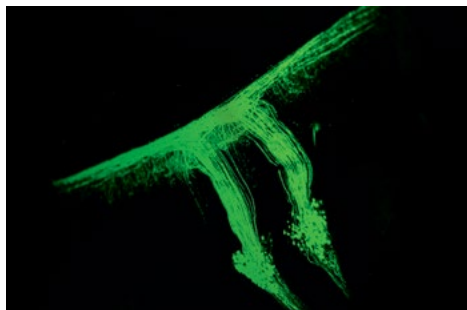
## A LETTER FROM SIDNEY

This gift to Temple is very important to me for several reasons. First, it is a demonstration of my tremendous love and affection for Caroline, who is so very deserving of this honor. I am grateful to her beyond words. Second, Temple is Philadelphia and Philadelphia is Temple. I love the city and have invested heavily in it. How terrific is it to invest in Temple at this inflection point in its history? The campus, the community and the city all win. Last, but in no way least, I cannot think of a more important time to stand up, loudly and clearly, to support Temple as it opens this new chapter in its storied history. Temple is the embodiment of diversity and inclusivity: No matter who you are or where you are from, Temple is opportunity, a launching pad for those with drive who are willing to work hard. Forty percent of the Class of 2028 are first-generation college students. That was me decades ago and, although I was drawn too fast into the working world and never graduated, I have always held cherry and white in my aspirations. Now is a most fitting time for Caroline and me to make a statement with our commitment to Temple's mission and point the way for others to follow.



# IT'S LONELY AT THE TOP

Joseph V. Labolito



Ryan S. Brandenburg, CLA '14



Ryan S. Brandenburg, CLA '14



Joseph V. Labolito

## Temple has earned both R1 and OCU designations in the updated 2025 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Temple University is just one of 21 U.S. higher education institutions to receive the highest Carnegie Classifications for research and student success.

In the updated 2025 release of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, the university earned both Research 1 (R1) and Opportunity College and University (OCU) designations.

"It is incredibly rewarding to see Temple University recognized as a leader in both of these critical areas: advancing science and discovery and prioritizing student access and success," says Temple President John Fry. "It truly reflects who we are and what we stand for."

Further building on its legacy of innovation and student support, the university was also selected to join the prestigious University Innovation Alliance (UIA)—a coalition of 18 public research universities committed to increasing student success and reducing equity gaps in higher education. Temple is one of just four UIA universities in the select group of 21 rated as R1 and OCU.

**KIM FISCHER, CLA '92**

## WHAT IS THE CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION?

Since its inception in 1973, the Carnegie Classification has served as the leading framework for categorizing U.S. higher education. In April 2025, the Carnegie Foundation and the American Council on Education announced a fully redesigned system as part of an ongoing effort to make the framework more useful, relevant and reflective of the evolving landscape of higher education in the U.S.

According to the new model, institutions receive three designations.

► **The Institutional Classification organizes colleges and universities according to award level, academic program mix and size.**

Temple's designation is the highest possible: Professions-focused Undergraduate/Graduate-Doctorate Large.

► **The Research Classification considers an institution's total research spending and number of doctoral degrees awarded.**

Temple's designation is the highest possible: Research 1: Very High Research Spending and Doctorate Production.

► **The Student Access and Earnings Classification examines the extent to which institutions are serving students using two measures: access and earnings.**

Temple's designation is the highest possible: Opportunity Colleges and Universities—Higher Access, Higher Earnings.

# TOGETHER FOR GOOD

Earlier this year, Temple's Lewis Katz School of Medicine and WellSpan Health signed an agreement to establish a new regional campus for Temple's medical school in York County, Pennsylvania.

As the first academic medical school to reside in York County, this new campus will provide medical students with the same world-class education that is the hallmark of Katz. This partnership will increase the number of future WellSpan physicians across the health system and throughout Central Pennsylvania communities.

The first class of approximately 40 students is expected to begin their studies in August 2027 and graduate in May 2031.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Temple to partner with a renowned healthcare provider to help educate a new group of medical professionals who are committed to making a difference," says



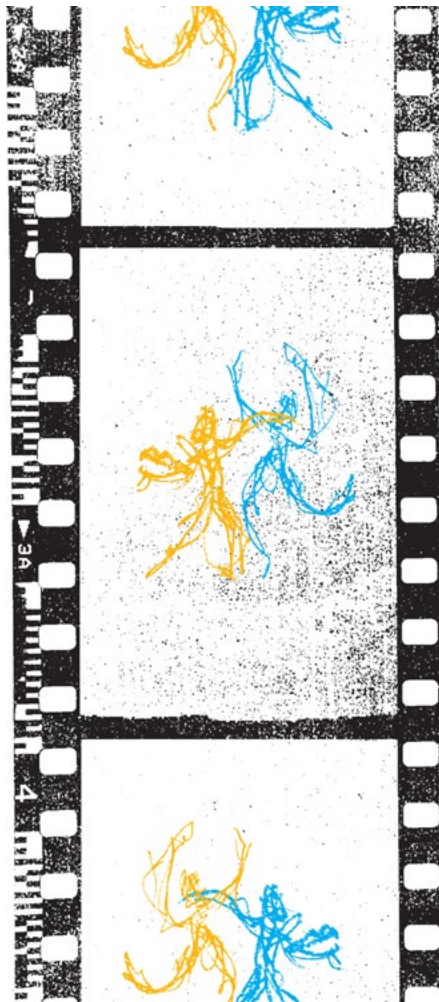
Temple President John Fry. "This new campus will ultimately lead to improved health outcomes in York County and across the commonwealth, and we are delighted to partner with WellSpan to bring a Temple education to a new part of Pennsylvania."

The new school further enhances the footprint of Katz, which currently enrolls 880 medical students at the Health Sciences Center campus in North Philadelphia and

St. Luke's University Health Network campus in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

"This affiliation marks an exciting step forward in broadening medical education opportunities for students while strengthening the physician pipeline for Pennsylvania," says Amy Goldberg, the Marjorie Joy Katz Dean of the Lewis Katz School of Medicine.

**STEPHEN ORBANER**



## A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Two faculty members from Temple's Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts have been named 2025 Guggenheim Fellows.

Rea Tajiri, professor of film and media arts, and Professor Emerita of Dance Merián Soto will join the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation's 100th class.

The prestigious award provides selected fellows with a monetary stipend to perform independent work at the highest level.

"At Temple, our faculty are the cornerstone of our university," says President John Fry. "It is gratifying to see these two members of our community recognized for their scholarly accomplishments and creative contributions."

As part of the fellowship, award-winning interdisciplinary artist and educator Tajiri will draw inspiration from her family history to produce a film project that explores the history of Japanese American resettlement in major U.S. cities after World War II.

Soto, an award-winning choreographer as well as a video artist and filmmaker, is using the Guggenheim Fellowship to support various legacy projects and bring her meditative Branch Dance to her native Puerto Rico.

**MARIA KLECKO**

**"Through their visionary work, Rea and Merián truly exemplify what it means to create art with impact."**

—**Robert Stroker**, vice provost for the arts and Joslyn G. Ewart Dean of the Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts



# FROM PAGE TO STAGE

In fall 2022, a group of graduate students from various backgrounds arrived at Temple to put on a show.

Or rather, two world-premiere musicals.

Dylan Cole had already been working professionally as a director for years. Jesse Hampsch joined after earning a master's degree in choral music. Brandi Underwood came to the program with a bachelor's degree in English literature.

In total, a cohort of six from the musical theater collaboration master's program wrote, produced and staged their original work, debuting *Goblin Market* and *Mystic Rapture* in spring 2025.

The shows were the culmination of nearly three years of work, and the experience students gain producing new works like these is often a main reason they enroll in the program offered by Temple's School of Theater, Film and Media Arts.

"Our program is the only one doing what we do, which is getting directors, lyricists, composers and book writers into the room for a really thoughtful and process-oriented mentorship throughout their three years," says Steven Gross, head of the MFA in musical theater collaboration program.

*Goblin Market* is inspired by a poem of the same name by Christina Rossetti from 1859. While writing this poem, Rossetti is pulled between her want of a career and her newfound queer love with another woman.

"I liked the poem a lot. 'It sang' is a phrase we use," Cole says. "It jumped off the page at me."

The program's second production, *Mystic Rapture*, is set during the Great Depression and follows a young girl's journey as she runs away to join a magical side show.

Writing, producing and performing an original musical in 18 months is unheard of in the industry, Gross says, but the process provides a valuable and rare experience.

"Being able to get your feet wet and just do it, trial by fire kind of thing, I really loved that aspect of the program," adds Underwood.

**JONNY HART, KLN '18**

Photos by Joseph V. Luciallo





# LEVELING UP



Ryan S. Brandenburg, CJA '14

When Temple football Head Coach K.C. Keeler started the season, he expressed his commitment to establishing a winning culture in year one.

Mission accomplished.

This winning attitude translated to the strongest start for the Owls since the 2019 season.

“Our expectation is we’re going to win,” says Keeler. “Our whole mentality is we are ready to go, and that is the mindset I want our players to have. I don’t want them to be afraid of anybody.”

If anyone knows about winning, it’s Keeler. Now in his 32nd season as a head coach, he brings a remarkable resume to Temple football. He is the only coach in Football Championship Subdivision history to win national championships at two different schools, including Delaware in 2003 and Sam Houston State in 2020.

With the Owls’ victory over Charlotte on Oct. 22, Keeler reached 275 wins and moved into the top 20 all-time in wins among college head coaches.

As President John Fry said during Keeler’s introductory news conference last year, the university wanted a coach with a track record of winning football games and someone with strong ties to the region to boost recruiting efforts: “In K.C. Keeler, we have found all that and much more,” he said at the time.

Keeler is eager to build something special for Owls fans. For him, it’s not just about building a team and culture that can win games—it’s about creating something lasting.

“I am trying to get our guys at Temple to understand that if we do something special here, it’s forever,” says Keeler. “And I challenge our guys; I have no interest in being average and I think so far I have captured in their imagination where they want to do something great here too.”

BRENT BAUM, KLN '12

## 7 QUESTIONS FOR COACH

- 1 **WHAT TIME IS YOUR ALARM SET FOR?**  
5:15 a.m.
- 2 **WHAT’S YOUR MORNING DRINK OF CHOICE?**  
I went 59-and-a-half years without ever having a cup of coffee, but then my daughter and son-in-law got me on cold brew seven years ago.
- 3 **HOW DID THE SUNGLASSES BECOME YOUR TRADEMARK?**  
I have really sensitive eyes, so I have always been a sunglasses guy. I’m on my fifth or sixth pair of Ray-Bans, so every day I will rotate a different pair.
- 4 **WHAT MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO?**  
Out there on the field, I always have at least one Bruce Springsteen; he’s my favorite.
- 5 **WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS MOVIE?**  
I was always a fan of the first *Rocky*.
- 6 **WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE DESSERT?**  
Carrot cake; my wife makes a great carrot cake for my birthday.
- 7 **WHAT’S ON YOUR CHEESESTEAK?**  
Ketchup, butter pickles, cheddar cheese and some jalapenos to spice it up.



# LEADING MEDICAL AND ENERGY RESEARCH

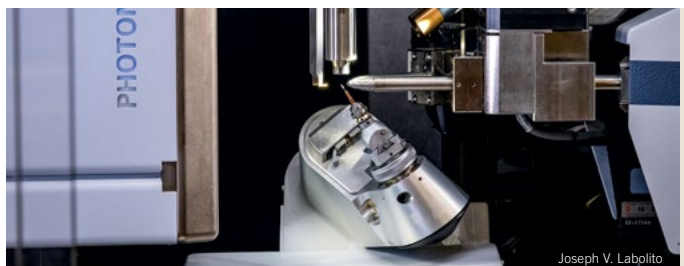
Temple has acquired a brand new, state-of-the-art scanning electron microscope (SEM) system to advance the region's medical and energy research thanks to a \$3.3 million award from the National Science Foundation.

The instrument configuration will be one of just a few in the country and only the second at a university.

SEM, and its ability to help researchers visualize matter at the nanoscale, regularly contribute to groundbreaking innovations. Semiconductor and quantum technologies for computing, drug and cancer treatments, battery technology, and photovoltaic solar panels have all advanced through the use of electron microscopy.

"This is a game changer, not just for Temple, but for the region," says Vice President for Research Josh Gladden. "By making this powerful technology available to our research community and other collaborators in the area, we're establishing Philadelphia as a hub for the next generation of materials science-driven innovation."

JONNY HART, KLN '18



Joseph V. Lablito

# A BOOST FOR TECH TEACHERS



Photo courtesy of Monika Williams Shealey

Temple's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) has entered into an agreement with the School District of Philadelphia, in which current district career and technical education teachers can receive city funding to pay for tuition and earn certifications.

"The partnership will help us move quickly in developing and implementing programming that is flexible, accelerated and affordable," says CEHD Dean Monika Williams Shealey.

To support this effort, the college has sped up the time frame for course offerings, helping students earn certifications faster.

The program is benefiting educators like Shenelle Lockhart, a technology teacher pursuing a permanent teaching license.

"I'm really appreciative of the assistance I've received through the program," says Lockhart. "It has enabled me to double up on my course load and earn the certification faster."

AYANA JONES

# GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES

Developing a robot that captures medical images using a human-like touch. Applying quantum computing to solve problems. Conducting research on topological systems that insulate against the natural elements.

These are some of the ways Temple's 2025 Goldwater Scholars are pushing boundaries in STEM research.

Ellie Han and David Palomino from the College of Science and Technology and Timi Olofinyolemi from the College of Engineering, all Class of 2026, earned this prestigious scholarship awarded to undergraduates in the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics who show exceptional promise as future researchers.

This marks the first time that three Temple students have received a Goldwater Scholarship in the same year.

"Each of our Goldwater Scholars highlight that what students learn in the classroom can be applied in the lab and elsewhere to make a difference in the world," says Barbara Gorka, director of fellowships advising at Temple.

JONNY HART, KLN '18



Photos by Ryan S. Brandenberg, CLA '14



# salute

NEWS

## STEPHANE JEAN-BAPTISTE

**“While education provides tools, students also need encouragement and resources to chase their dreams.”**

**P**itching his fledgling hair care company Kreyòl Essence on *Shark Tank* felt like a triumphant moment for Stephane Jean-Baptiste, KLN '06. He and his partner Yve-Car Momperousse worked hard to create a product featuring Haitian black castor oil after Momperousse experienced hair damage and couldn't find this organic oil to repair her mane. Since the duo's appearance on the show in 2019, Kreyòl Essence has flourished and is now available in Ulta Beauty stores nationwide.

Honoring his Haitian American culture is important to Jean-Baptiste, who found an inclusive community at Temple. “Temple's campus and diversity expanded my horizons and connected me with new communities, shaping my identity. I hope to inspire young Haitian Americans about what's possible.”

To give back to Temple, he recently established the Stephane Jean-Baptiste Scholarship at Klein College of Media and Communication. “I want to support students with potential but who need mentorship or financial assistance. I remember struggling to afford textbooks and juggling multiple jobs. While education provides tools, students also need encouragement and resources to chase their dreams.”

That's something—and someone—worth saluting.

MATTHEW MICHAELS

[giving.temple.edu](https://giving.temple.edu)



# ALUMNI NEWS

## PAYING IT *FORWARD*

Temple's young alumni are more engaged than ever before. Here, Temple shines a spotlight on Erin Dwyer Harvard, *CLA '16, '22*, and her dedication to providing younger Owls with the same opportunities she benefited from.

**DEGREES:**

BA, political science, MS, public policy

**CURRENT POSITION:**

Director of public affairs

**EMPLOYER:**

General Building Contractors Association

**HOW SHE GOT HER START:**

An internship at Philadelphia City Hall

**WHERE ERIN SERVES:**

Police Athletic League Board

Philadelphia Housing Authority Board

Temple's Political Science Advisory Board

### FUN FACTS

**FAVORITE CAMPUS FOOD TRUCKS:**

The halal truck (next to Tuttleman Hall) and The Crepe Truck

**FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS:**

Pearson Hall pool

**HOW SHE SPENDS HER WEEKENDS:**

Cheering on Philly's sports teams, going down the shore, trying new restaurants and playing with her dog

**ON HER ROLE WITH TEMPLE'S POLITICAL SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD:**

"That board is very special to me. When I was in undergrad, I received a scholarship from that board that allowed me to participate in an unpaid internship my senior year that I wouldn't have been able to take because I had to work a part-time job.

We give back because all of us gained so much and we want to make sure that we keep that cycle going."

MATTHEW MICHAELS AND KIKI VOLKERT



**"It was a nine-minute subway ride to get to my internship after taking four classes in the morning. Temple makes it so easy to learn about the real world while still being in college."**

## TEMPLE BEYOND

Discover more about how fellow alumni are making a difference and find ways to engage with the university community by visiting Temple Beyond, our alumni and donor news center. Explore more stories like Erin's and share your own at [alumni.temple.edu/templebeyond](https://alumni.temple.edu/templebeyond).

# A RECORD YEAR ...

Fiscal year 2025 broke records not only in terms of dollars raised, but more importantly, in energy generated.

For a full recap of Temple's successful fundraising year, check out the Fiscal Year 2025 Year in Review at [alumni.temple.edu/YIR25](https://alumni.temple.edu/YIR25).

“The generosity of our donors is shaping Temple’s future in real time. Together, we’re building a stronger, more innovative, more inclusive university—one that’s ready to meet the next 150 years with purpose and pride.”

—**Al Checcio**, senior vice president for institutional advancement

## FY 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

# 6TH

CONSECUTIVE YEAR  
OF DONOR SUPPORT  
GREATER THAN  
\$100 MILLION

# \$133+

MILLION  
RECEIVED

# 24

COMMITMENTS OF  
\$1 MILLION  
OR GREATER

## SAVE THE DATE!

For a complete listing of events for Temple alumni, visit [alumni.temple.edu/events](https://alumni.temple.edu/events).

**JAN. 22:** PRESIDENT FRY IN DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

**JAN. 22:** NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHEERS TO THE NEW YEAR

**JAN. 23:** PRESIDENT FRY IN PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

**JAN. 24:** ATLANTA AND LOS ANGELES CHEERS TO THE NEW YEAR EVENT(S)

**JAN. 29:** TEMPLE WOMEN'S NETWORK AFTERGLOW

**FEB. 28:** YOUNG ALUMNI PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

**APRIL 13–19:** TEMPLE MADE DAYS

**MAY 2:** GREATER PHILADELPHIA FAMILY DAY AT ELMWOOD PARK ZOO

**MAY 9:** TEMPLE WOMEN'S NETWORK ANNUAL TEA

**JUNE 20:** TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BLACK ALUMNI ALLIANCE FAMILY FIELD DAY

## OWL PRIDE ON FULL DISPLAY AT HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND



The Temple community reveled in cherry and white spirit during Homecoming and Family Weekend, Oct. 6-12. Students, alumni and families packed the Temple Performing Arts Center for the fast-paced Mosaic Concert and browsed booths at the annual Alumni Art Market at Tyler. The week culminated in 26,000+ fans filling the Linc to cheer on the Owls as they battled Navy in a thrilling game that came down to the wire. Final score: 32-31.



Photos this page by Ryan S. Brandenberg, CJA '14



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# Temple takes off

In the year since John Fry took over as the university's 15th president, Temple has received record-setting gifts, welcomed the largest first-year class in its history, renewed its commitment to access and student success, and begun the process of creating a multidimensional innovation corridor.

And this is just the beginning.

STORY BY **STEPHEN ORBANEK**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **RYAN S. BRANDENBERG, CLA '14**, AND **JOSEPH V. LABOLITO**

It's Monday morning—Aug. 25, the first day of classes for the 2025-2026 academic year. Temple University students rush over to the 12th Street Vendor Pad, affectionately referred to as “the Wall,” gathering in small groups at tables to grab a morning bite. The wait for an iced coffee from Richie's is a bit longer than usual. It signals a trend that likely will not be letting up anytime soon.

This fall, Temple welcomed 5,379 new first-year students, an increase of more than 9% over last year's class, making the Class of 2029 the largest incoming class in the institution's 141-year history.

While walking to class for the first time, many of these students gaze intently at the newly renovated and reimagined Paley Hall. The 306,000-square-foot LEED- and WELL-





certified facility has opened its doors for the first time today after a two-and-a-half-year construction process. State-of-the-art in every way, it is easy to see why the building has already established itself as a signature landmark on Temple's campus.

"There is a buzz about this place, and you can feel the electricity when you walk around campus. You can feel it when you walk inside an impressive structure like Paley Hall," Temple President John Fry says. "We have students coming from all over to attend this university, and it just feels special. It is a good time to be an Owl."

More folks are choosing to become Owls, too. Temple's total enrollment, including its international campuses and locations in Rome, Tokyo and Kyoto, now stands at

33,048, which represents a slight increase over last year. And the university has now seen two consecutive years of first-year enrollment growth.

### **A renewed commitment to access and excellence**

If there is a buzz at Temple, it is for good reason.

One year ago, on Nov. 1, 2024, Fry began his tenure as Temple's 15th president. He will be the first to say that he did not come to Temple with a playbook. He also is quick to point out that he arrived at a time when Temple was already experiencing considerable momentum.

*"There is a buzz about this place, and you can feel the electricity when you walk around campus."*

—John Fry, president





Temple's Class of 2029—comprising 5,379 first-year students—is the largest incoming class in the university's 141-year history.

But, without question, that momentum has only continued to grow during the past year. When Fry, who previously served as president at Drexel University and Franklin and Marshall College and as executive vice president at the University of Pennsylvania, discusses why he chose to come to Temple, he emphasizes the university's historic mission.

"There is a real sense of purpose here that I have not seen at other institutions," he says. "Faculty, staff, students and the community rally around Temple's mission, and that is a real strength for us. It is one of the main reasons why I am so bullish about Temple's future. Everyone is bought-in here. Everyone wants to see this institution succeed."

The mission that Fry references is 141 years old, dating back to 1884. Founder Russell Conwell recognized that "acres of diamonds" could be found right in Temple's backyard as he believed that every student, regardless of background, should have access to a high-quality education.

That mission has never left Temple, and over the last year, it has only grown stronger.

In February, the university launched Temple Future Scholars, a scaled college pipeline program that supports middle school students in Philadelphia. This came on the heels of the 2024 launch of Temple

Promise, a last-dollar financial aid program for qualifying first-year, full-time undergraduate students who reside in Philadelphia County and earn admission to the university. In March, Temple also became the 18th member of the University Innovation Alliance—a coalition of public research universities committed to increasing student success, reducing equity gaps in higher education and ultimately raising the number of college graduates in the United States.

This has coincided with Temple continuing to have a stronghold on Pennsylvania as nearly 63% of the incoming Class of 2029 hails from the commonwealth. Temple also continues to see strong interest from out-of-state students, with first-year enrollment up in key areas that include New York, Georgia and the District of Columbia.

"We are Philadelphia's public research university and one of Pennsylvania's flagships, and we have really focused on owning our backyard," says David Boardman, interim provost and dean of the Klein College of Media and Communication. "We have taken a boots-on-the-ground approach in recruiting students, increasing recruitment visits to schools, and bringing more students and families here to campus, and what we have found is that Temple resonates with students and families, both here locally and across the country."

"When communicating with students, our enrollment team has really done a tremendous job of sharing why this could be the place for you," Fry adds. "Students see the practical education that they receive here and the opportunities to work as interns or out in the field. So, there's a sense that this is a learning by doing community and not some ivory tower. That resonates with students."

## Setting a clear philanthropic vision

The message does not just resonate with students and their families. It also has the same effect with alumni, friends and donors.

Fast forward six weeks into the semester, on Oct. 10, when the university community came together to celebrate the official opening for Paley Hall. Before a crowd of several hundred students, faculty, staff and community members, President Fry dropped a bombshell.

"Today, I am thrilled and deeply moved to announce that Chris Barnett, *CLA '10*, has just made a \$55 million gift to the College of Public Health (CPH), the largest gift ever to Temple University," Fry said to the crowd of several hundred in attendance.

Fry's words barely made their way out of his mouth before they were greeted with

vibrant applause and a standing ovation. He then shared that in recognition of the gift, which is also the fourth largest gift ever to a school or college of public health, CPH would now be known as the Christopher M. Barnett College of Public Health. The entire scene was remarkably similar to the one that unfolded just six months earlier.

On April 4, as his investiture ceremony came to a close, Fry emphasized the importance of philanthropy, noting how it would be key to the university moving forward. He then stunned those in attendance by announcing that the university had received a \$27.5 million gift from Caroline and Sidney Kimmel to support the Caroline Kimmel Pavilion for Arts and Communication.

Two historic gifts—the two largest gifts in Temple’s history—received within just six months’ time.

And, according to Fry, the best may be yet to come. Temple has more than 380,000 living alumni, which is among the largest alumni bases in the country. As the university approaches its 150th anniversary, it plans to launch a comprehensive campaign, and engaging those alumni will be key in terms of optimizing that campaign and setting it up for success.

“We have so many successful alumni, and they are capable of giving,” Fry says. “It’s up to us now to go out and make the case that this is a cause worthy of their support, and I think that is an easy argument to make. The incredible generosity that we have seen from Chris Barnett and the Kimmels reflects that, too.”

Al Checcio, Temple’s senior vice president of institutional advancement, agrees.

“When it comes to fundraising at this institution, I am incredibly optimistic and believe Temple has the potential to really be a leader in this area,” says Checcio, who previously oversaw the highly successful Campaign for USC at the University of Southern California, which raised more than \$6 billion well ahead of schedule and was the largest fundraising campaign in the history of higher education when it launched in 2011. “This is a university with a deep alumni base and a resonant mission. There is so much capacity for our giving and alumni engagement to increase, and I have full confidence that we will see just that in the years to come.”

## Driving innovation, amplifying research and spurring civic engagement with a place-based approach

What underscores the importance of the Barnett and Kimmel gifts are the causes that they will support.

While the Caroline Kimmel Pavilion and its state-of-the-art facilities will serve students and faculty, the building also provides an opportunity for the university to enhance its relationship with its North Philadelphia neighbors, and the building’s visibility from North Broad Street will help spur community engagement.

Similarly, Paley Hall includes an immersive simulation center that includes a replica park, restaurant, corner grocery store, North Philadelphia row home and an ambulance bay. There is also the Aramark Community Teaching Kitchen, a cutting-edge culinary classroom that will serve as a hub for nutrition education, hands-on cooking instruction and community engagement.

Together, the two facilities help support a broader place-based approach, which revolves around the creation of a multi-dimensional innovation corridor that stretches along Broad Street, traveling from Temple’s Health Sciences Center to Main Campus, and then south to the Avenue of the Arts. Also key to this approach is the reimagination of how Temple engages with the North Philadelphia community.

“Temple is a vital part of the fabric of Philadelphia, and civic and community engagement has always been an important focus for me,” Fry says. “I wanted to take steps to ensure that we deepen our relationship with both the surrounding neighborhoods and larger Philadelphia communities.”

One of those steps is creating a new division at the university, Community Impact and Civic Engagement, which is designed to leverage the university’s economic strength, social capital and other resources to support and advance the well-being of North Philadelphia families at every life stage. This summer, the division announced a new initiative, Owls for Philly, a universitywide volunteer program that allows eligible employees to take paid time away from work to volunteer and serve with community organizations.

*“Temple is a vital part of the fabric of Philadelphia, and civic and community engagement has always been an important focus for me.”*

—John Fry, president





Student success is another integral part of Temple's mission. This includes offering opportunities for experiential learning in labs and other spaces.

It all helps further support a place-based strategy. The vision for that strategy further developed in February when Temple acquired Terra Hall, the former home of the University of the Arts, which will provide the university with a permanent home in Center City and along the Avenue of the Arts.

Since then, Temple's commitment to the arts in Philadelphia has further expanded thanks to a partnership with the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the university plans to explore potential new collaborations in the months to come.

"When we talk about the Innovation Corridor, we are really talking about a five-mile stretch that starts at Terra Hall and then you work your way up Broad Street," Fry says. "This is something that is going to develop over the years, but already, if you think about the Avenue of the Arts, Temple University has become the educational anchor for that area. We have gone from having a limited presence at 1515 Market St. to now being the major anchor, and that illustrates how quickly this can develop."

The corridor will also play a key role when it comes to amplifying Temple's growing research portfolio. An R1 institution, which is the Carnegie Foundation's highest designation of research activity, Temple has had research expenditures exceeding \$297 million on average during the last three years. Fry says he hopes to see those expenditures grow in the years to come and

plans to advance discovery, creativity and innovation at Temple by building on the university's strengths in the life sciences and biomedical research, while also establishing leadership in emerging technologies like generative AI.

This work is already underway at the Innovation Nest, aptly nicknamed the iNest, which launched in 2024 and works to commercialize new innovations from researchers, spur student innovation and support the growth of startup companies affiliated with Temple. Located at Temple's Health Sciences Center, the iNest and its opening was recognized in November 2024 by Technical.ly Philly as the publication's Power Move of the Year.

Over the next several years, Fry said the Innovation Corridor will further take shape, and helping to guide that process is the update of Temple's Strategic Plan, which is slated to be approved by the Board of Trustees this winter, and its campus development plan, which was developed over the course of the last two years in collaboration with Sasaki. Both plans are expected to be shared with the Temple community in early 2026.

Moving forward, they will serve as the university's compass—ensuring Temple leverages its position as an anchor institution in the city of Philadelphia—and will ultimately lead to the creation of an Innovation Corridor that serves both the Temple and Philadelphia communities.

"This is a process. We have our anchors in Main Campus, the Health Sciences Center and Terra Hall, so what can we do to enhance and complement those anchors? We need to create places that Temple students, employees and alumni will enjoy. These must also be places that will benefit the entire North Philadelphia community, too," Fry says.

So, how soon until the Innovation Corridor and place-based strategy fully take shape?

"It's not going to take one year," Fry says with a pause. "But it's not going to take 20 years either. And we are already on our way."

# A TIMELINE OF MOMENTUM

**Nov. 1, 2024**

**John Fry takes office as Temple University's 15th president.** He comes to Temple after serving in the same role at Drexel University and Franklin and Marshall College for more than 20 years combined.

**Nov. 26, 2024**

**The opening of the iNest is recognized with the 2024 Technical.ly Award for Power Move of the Year.** The annual Technical.ly Awards series honors impactful leaders, changemaking companies and innovative technology products making communities better.

**Dec. 1, 2024**

**Temple hires K.C. Keeler as its next head football coach.** Keeler would go on to help the Owls complete their best season in several years.

**Feb. 3, 2025**

**Temple acquires Terra Hall,** the former main academic building for the University of the Arts. The acquisition allows Temple to have a prominent and permanent presence in Center City.

**Feb. 21, 2025**

**Temple launches Temple Future Scholars,** a scaled college pipeline program that will support low-income, first-generation-to-college students in Philadelphia public middle schools.

**Aug. 14, 2025**

**Temple announces Owls for Philly,** a new universitywide volunteer program designed to connect faculty, staff, students and alumni with the North Philadelphia neighborhood and beyond through volunteerism and civic engagement.

**May 14, 2025**

**Temple breaks ground on the Caroline Kimmel Pavilion for Arts and Communication.**

**April 4, 2025**

During his investiture address, President Fry announces what was **then the largest gift in Temple's history, a \$27.5 million gift from Sidney and Caroline Kimmel that will support the new home for the Klein College of Media and Communication and the Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts.**

**April 3–4, 2025**

**Temple hosts a two-day Innovation with Impact showcase** that culminates with President Fry's investiture ceremony. The showcase calls attention to the university's cutting-edge research, its community partnerships, and its commitment to the arts and entrepreneurial endeavors.

**March 12, 2025**

**Temple becomes the 18th university to join the University Innovation Alliance,** a multi-university consortium working to improve student success and broaden participation in higher education for all students. Temple is the only university in Pennsylvania represented in the alliance.

**Aug. 25, 2025**

**Temple welcomes 5,379 new first-year students to campus** for the first day of classes. This is the largest first-year class in Temple's 141-year history.

**Sept. 11, 2025**

**Temple partners with the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts** to expand programming at the Tyler School of Art and Architecture.

**Oct. 8, 2025**

**Temple's new brand campaign launches** with a fresh take on a familiar theme: Real Success is Temple Made.

**Oct. 10, 2025**

During the grand opening ceremony for Paley Hall, it is announced that **University Trustee Christopher Barnett, CLA '10, has committed \$55 million to support the College of Public Health.** The gift is the largest in Temple's history and in recognition of Barnett's generosity, CPH is renamed the Christopher M. Barnett College of Public Health.









# **A Bold Statement**

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STORY BY KIM FISCHER, *CLA '92*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN S. BRANDENBERG, *CLA '14*

**When University Trustee Christopher M. Barnett, CLA '10, decided to commit \$55 million to Temple University—the largest gift in the university's history—it was about underscoring a belief in what Temple stands for.**





(Left to right) President John Fry, Barnett College of Public Health Dean Jennifer Ibrahim and Board Chair Mitch Morgan, *FOX '76, LAW '80*, (far right) expressed gratitude for the groundbreaking gift from Christopher Barnett (second from right) in their remarks at the grand opening of Paley Hall.

## **Temple University** Barnett College of Public Health

Earlier this fall, Temple University's College of Public Health (CPH) moved into a new home. Formerly spread across 11 buildings on both the Main and Health Sciences Center campuses, CPH welcomed a unified space centrally located across from the university's iconic Bell Tower, with the opening of the 306,000-square-foot LEED- and WELL-certified Paley Hall.

And now, the college has a new name as well.

On Friday, Oct. 10, during the official grand opening ceremony for the newly renovated and reimagined Paley Hall, Temple President John Fry announced that University Trustee Christopher Barnett, *CLA '10*, had committed \$55 million to support CPH. It is the largest gift in Temple's history and in recognition of Barnett's generosity, CPH will be known as the Christopher M. Barnett College of Public Health.

"Today, I am thrilled and deeply moved to announce that Chris Barnett has just made a \$55 million gift to the College of Public Health, the largest gift ever to Temple University," Fry said to the crowd of several hundred in attendance. "The word philanthropy comes from the Greek, meaning 'love of humankind.' Chris' gift is a true expression of that love. It will create many more opportunities for students to join the vanguard of future healers, researchers and leaders across the health sciences and professions."

For Barnett, the gift is a bold statement in support of the mission of Temple University and the College of Public Health, casting a spotlight on what Temple University represents: opportunity, equality and a commitment to making the world a better place.

"At a time when public health is under attack by misinformation and funding cuts, my family and I asked ourselves how we could be part of the solution—and how we could help create the change we wish to see in the world," said Barnett in his remarks. "This gift reflects our belief that education is the most powerful force for progress and that, by strengthening the public health workforce, we can help shape a healthier, more equitable future for all."

### A full-circle moment

When Barnett applied to Temple for transfer acceptance as a student with a GED and a few community college credits in the early 2000s, the university took a chance on him. And he never forgot it.

In a true story that is now legendary at the university, after initially receiving a denial of admission, Barnett flew up from Fort Lauderdale and camped out in the office of the director of transfer admissions, waiting for an opportunity to plead his case.

His vow to graduate with a 4.0 GPA, become a prominent alum and give back to the university convinced the office to reverse their decision, and Barnett set out to see his pledge reach fruition.

"He has made good on that promise and then some," explained Fry when he announced Barnett's transformational gift.

Though Barnett's path to Temple was unconventional, he quickly became a top student, earning his bachelor's in political science with minors in economics and general business studies in 2010. He later obtained a law degree from Shepard Broad College of Law at Nova Southeastern University.

Over his career, he has held various positions in real estate and healthcare businesses and in 2019, he founded ICBH Holdings—a company that "invests in companies and initiatives that disrupt industries, enhance communities and sustain profitability."

In 2020, he launched the Fort Lauderdale-based ABA Centers, which today provides autism care and services for families in more than 60 markets across 13 states and Puerto Rico, with three of its centers located in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

What sets ABA Centers apart is its ability to reduce the time a child must wait to receive a diagnosis or care. With autism affecting 1 in 31 children in the U.S. and early diagnosis being critical for treatment, ABA Centers' success has garnered considerable recognition for Barnett. In 2024, he was named the winner of the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur Of The Year National Overall Award—the first healthcare provider to be recognized as such.

# “Chris understands the difference giving can make, and I hope this inspires others.”

– Jennifer Ibrahim, dean of the Barnett College of Public Health

## **Grounded in commitment**

The current gift is an extension of Barnett’s years of involvement with the university. In 2022, he created the ABA Centers Autism Lab with a gift of \$1 million to conduct research, train students and offer diagnostic services to patients even if they can’t pay. He also supported Temple’s on-campus food pantry, the Barnett Irvine Cherry Pantry, and in 2024, helped launch Maddy’s Room, a sensory-friendly space for students and faculty.

“Chris has always been incredibly generous, but this gift is a powerful demonstration of his support of higher education, public health and our students,” says Jennifer Ibrahim, dean of the Barnett College of Public Health. “He understands the difference giving can make, and I hope this inspires others.”

A large portion of Barnett’s recent gift—\$20 million specifically—will provide additional support to the ABA Centers Autism Lab.

Also receiving funding through the gift is a new universitywide initiative to address challenges that undermine academic performance and retention. Targeted to fully open in fall 2026, the Christopher and Julie Barnett Essential Needs Hub will centralize and integrate services and resources to provide support for students in a variety of areas, including food, housing, clothing, transportation security, mental health support, benefits navigation, case management, and emergency and legal aid.

“There are students just like me who are showing up at Temple, whose paths are uncertain and who may need just a little help,” he says. “My goal is to use my resources to make a difference for these students. If we can change the course of their futures, it will change the world if we do this right.”

## **Supporting the liberal arts**

A portion of Barnett’s gift will also endow the deanship at the College of Liberal Arts. Moving forward, Richard Deeg, dean of the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), will hold the new position known as the Christopher M. Barnett Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Temple University.

At the discretion of the Christopher M. Barnett Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the gift will be used to support academic programs, student support and success initiatives, faculty development, and research projects.

“What I am particularly proud of is how Chris’ Temple story started here in the College of Liberal Arts,” says Deeg. “His incredible success illustrates how CLA helps produce socially aware citizens equipped with skill sets that can adapt to just about any field. It is truly an honor that CLA’s deanship will now bear Chris’ name.”

(Left to right) Jerry Leva, vice president for planning and capital projects; Morgan; University Trustee Tiffany Wilson, CST '01, CPH '03; and Barnett joined members of the Temple community who gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the 306,000-square-foot LEED- and WELL-certified Paley Hall, the new home of the Barnett College of Public Health.







The search to find care for his daughter, Madison, inspired Barnett to open ABA Centers.



Fox School of Business student Kennedy Barnett (left) and Kaitlyn Barnett (right), who is enrolled in Temple's master of public health and master of social work programs, aim to carry on their father's legacy of philanthropy and service.

## A legacy of purpose

Flashback to the morning of Oct. 10 ... as Barnett prepared for his day, he recalled how one year, each of his five daughters presented him with socks for Father's Day, and he reached for a particular pair.

To anyone who knows Barnett, the socks he picked that day should come as no surprise.

In a powerful reminder of the journey that brought him to this point, he chose the socks given to him by his daughter Madison.

"Maddy has autism," Barnett explains. "Despite my resources and owning healthcare companies, my wife and I could not get a diagnostic appointment, nor could we get access to services.

"At a certain point, I looked at my wife and said, 'Our daughter deserves better. And the countless other kids and families impacted by autism deserve better. And I think with the infrastructure that I have, I can do it better,'" Barnett adds. "That's the origin story."

Whether it's through supporting children and families with healthcare challenges, helping college students achieve their goals of obtaining a top-notch college education, or transforming the future of public health, Barnett's focus is always on service.

"Seek to help others first," he advises Temple students. "Look at how much benefit you can offer and do so with humble servitude. If you do that, my experience is that the world opens up to you."

In Barnett's case, as the saying goes, the apples don't fall far from the tree. As his three oldest daughters—Kaitlyn, SSW '25; Kennedy, Class of 2026; and Madison—follow in his footsteps, they carry forward his values. (Barnett's youngest girls are toddlers.)

Kaitlyn, currently enrolled in Temple's master of public health and master of social work programs, references the family's commitment to philanthropy when discussing her father's recent gift. "Our family foundation prioritizes five pillars: advocating for women's empowerment, ensuring stable housing, alleviating food insecurity, fostering opportunities for underprivileged children and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities," she explains. "We're trying to cover all of them with this gift."

And, for the Barnett sisters, it's about more than money. Kaitlyn and Kennedy both volunteer their time at the campus food pantry that bears the family name. "It's important to us to be there to support the next generation of Temple students who are ambitiously trying to gain a first-class education and change their future." Kennedy, a Fox School of Business student majoring in entrepreneurship and innovation management, agrees. She recalls visiting Temple as a prospective student because it was her dad's alma mater and recognizing right away how special Temple is. "There's nothing else like it," she says.

"That's why we want our support of Temple to be generational. This is one of many gifts we anticipate giving in the years to come," Kennedy adds. "We're proud to be part of this community."

**"There are students just like me who are showing up at Temple ... and who may need just a little help. If we can change the course of their futures, it will change the world if we do this right."**

—Christopher Barnett, *CLA '10*, university trustee

In fact, it might be that the legacy of service Barnett has left to his daughters is his biggest gift of all.

"My dad always tells us that we get to curate our own futures," shares Kennedy. "If you want to see change, he says you can't just sit on the sidelines, you have to be active in making that happen."

Maddy nods: "When I see the impact that ABA Centers has had on children and their families and I think about the impact this gift will have ...


"I'm proud of my dad."



The background of the page is a dark, abstract composition. It features a network of thin, white, intersecting lines that resemble a complex web or a molecular structure. In the center, there is a prominent, glowing orange and white helical structure, similar to a DNA double helix, which is partially obscured by the white lines. The overall effect is one of scientific precision and technological innovation.

# OUT OF THE **LAB** AND INTO THE WORLD

The BASHIR Endovascular Catheter expands and enables the body's natural clot-dissolving chemicals to reach the clot.



## Every day, Temple's world-class faculty make groundbreaking discoveries, driving the creation of new products, companies and jobs that benefit people in Philadelphia and beyond.

STORY BY JONNY HART, *KLN '18*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN S. BRANDENBERG, *CLA '14*  
AND JOSEPH V. LABOLITO

**I**n the mind of the right researcher, a single observation or idea can spark a revolutionary innovation.

Cardiologist Riyaz Bashir's observation was simple enough: The devices being used to treat pulmonary embolism (PE), a serious condition where a blood clot blocks blood flow to the lungs, were too small.

"We were using a device designed for a very thin clot to treat one 10 times that size and expecting the same success rate," he explains.

That was 2014. Almost a decade later, the BASHIR Endovascular Catheter was in the hands of doctors who were using it to save lives.

PE is a global health crisis that affects millions each year and ranks as the third leading cause of cardiovascular mortality, behind heart attacks and strokes. Bashir's idea for a medical device that treats PE transformed the treatment of the deadly disease ... thanks, in part, to support he got from Temple's Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR).

"At Temple, we are striving to build a culture of innovation and commercialization," says Stephen Nappi, associate vice president of technology commercialization and business development within OVPR. "When we can advance a product or technology to the marketplace, that's when we see

the benefit to society. That's our ultimate goal."

Nappi's colleague Niraj Muni, director of commercialization operations, knows all too well that an effective idea can make a real impact. It's why he leads a team devoted to turning Temple research into practical innovations, through a process called commercialization.

Muni and his staff offer resources and support to Temple faculty in every stage of commercializing their ideas, from filing patents to connecting faculty with entrepreneurs, investors and industry

Riyaz Bashir holds his life-saving medical innovation.





**“The view of the city from our window at iNest is really a reminder of why we are here.”**

**—Josh Gladden**, vice president for research

partners who can help bring an idea to the marketplace.

“When a novel idea or invention is disclosed to our office, our innovation managers work with the researchers to strategize for commercialization,” Muni says. “We support innovation for public benefit. We don’t want ideas just sitting on a shelf.”

### **DISSOLVING BLOOD CLOTS**

The BASHIR Endovascular Catheter expands within a clot, creating multiple fissures and channels that allow the patient’s own healthy blood to carry the body’s clot-dissolving chemicals into the clot.

It’s remarkably effective and requires significantly less medication than traditional methods for treating PE, minimizing the risks associated with high doses of clot-dissolving drugs, which can lead to severe complications like intracranial bleeding.

Still, the invention struggled to gain traction in the medical device space.

That’s where Muni came in. Muni recommended that Bashir submit the invention to the American Heart Association Innovation Challenge, and his office filed for patent protection.

The invention won first prize at the competition, and following the subsequent influx of attention, Bashir began working with a medical device engineer to develop a prototype. At the same time, a spinout company, Thrombolex Inc., was created to further develop the technology and bring it to market.

Today, Thrombolex manufactures eight different FDA-approved devices at its plant in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and the family of BASHIR Endovascular Catheters are being deployed around the country to save lives.

### **REGENERATING BONE TISSUE**

Santiago Orrego, associate professor at the Kornberg School of Dentistry, came to Temple in 2018 with his own groundbreaking idea. Orrego works with piezoelectric materials, a class of smart biomaterials that produce an electrical charge when stimulated by movement or vibration.

As a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University, Orrego developed a piezoelectric flag, which generated electricity as it flapped in the wind, and he mobilized that electricity to power electronics in remote locations.

The flapping flag also sparked an idea: Piezoelectric materials could power bone regeneration. Orrego teamed up with Carolina Montoya, research associate at Kornberg, and they began applying piezoelectric technology to grow dental tissue.

The pair went on to develop a gel that uses piezoelectric materials to regenerate bone tissue lost to periodontal disease. After the gel is applied to a patient’s gum and teeth, Orrego explains, it employs biomechanical movement to produce electrical charges that stimulate bone growth.

Stephen Nappi (left), Josh Gladden (center), Niraj Muni (right) and their OVPR staff help faculty turn discoveries into real-world innovations that benefit the Philadelphia region and beyond.



Many people who are dealing with periodontal disease end up having to undergo surgery. Orrego and Montoya's gel offers a noninvasive treatment alternative.

"This innovative gel harnesses the power of smart biomaterials to stimulate natural bone regeneration, eliminating the need for invasive surgery and bone grafting while maintaining a supportive healing environment," Orrego says.

Not long after they developed their idea, Orrego and Montoya stopped by Muni's office, which is just how Muni likes it.

By connecting with researchers at an early stage, Muni feels his team can best support an innovation through the commercialization steps.

Muni was impressed with Orrego and Montoya's gel. So much so, that his team began filing patents protecting the invention—a crucial step. Without that protection, Muni explains, a discovery would be commercially unviable, and its life-changing potential could easily go untapped.

"Without patent protection the product can't make money, so the question becomes: Why would a company choose to develop something that costs so much if they can't get return on their investments?" Muni says.

He then introduced Orrego and Montoya to J. Todd Abrams, director of OVPR's Innovation Nest (iNest), a physical space dedicated to supporting Temple innovations from an early stage. Abrams leveraged one of OVPR's most valuable resources: connections—a robust and growing network of entrepreneurs, investors and industry partners throughout the region.

"He started working his Rolodex to identify potential entrepreneurs who would be interested in licensing and developing the technology further," Muni says. "Todd was instrumental in bringing all of the players together."

Today, the gel is known as Ambrilux Dental Gel. Oral Biolife Inc., a company based in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, is now advancing the commercialization of the technology after entering a license agreement with Temple University. Thanks to the pioneering work of its inventors, the discovery progressed through the university's technology transfer office and is now advancing toward FDA clearance, with a commercial launch targeted for 2026.

## ALTERING THE COURSE OF DISEASE

Biologists Alla Arzumanyan and Mark Feitelson's idea is as profound as it is straightforward. The researchers, along with career drug developer Ira Spector, identified a set of gut metabolites that, when given to patients in drug form, could treat a wide range of autoimmune disorders and other illnesses. A metabolite is a small molecule produced by a metabolic reaction in a cell.

Type 1 diabetics lack the ability to effectively produce insulin, but by receiving insulin in drug form, they are able to live healthy lives. Arzumanyan, Feitelson and Spector's idea is similar.

"There are 300 million patients with autoimmune diseases. Now, imagine that there's a potential link between them," says Spector. "We think there is a set of metabolites that they can't make in their body that we can make and provide for them as a drug."

Since the treatment uses compounds naturally found in the human body, it eliminates unwanted side effects. Furthermore, in clinical trials with patients suffering from the autoimmune disease

psoriasis, the researchers found that patients taking their treatment for long enough periods could sometimes regain the ability to make the metabolites themselves.

That finding is revolutionary, and nothing on the market currently compares, explained Feitelson.

"It's going to require more research, and it's going to require longer trials. But if we can create a functional cure, then we have done something that no one's been able to do in this field," Feitelson says. "The drugs you see on TV that only treat symptoms will become obsolete, because we'll have a drug that alters the course of disease."

The idea originated in 2013, when Arzumanyan and Feitelson came across a scientific article about using gut metabolites to treat colitis in mice. They've spent the years since developing the concept in their labs, first testing the treatment in liver cancer, and eventually progressing to clinical trials for humans with psoriasis.

Muni and the OVPR staff have provided support along the way. His office filed patents protecting the invention and later licensed those patents to SFA Therapeutics, a spinout company started by Spector with

Alla Arzumanyan (left) and Mark Feitelson (right) identified a set of gut metabolites that could be administered in drug form to treat a long list of diseases—much like how insulin is used to manage diabetes.





the intent of commercializing Arzumanyan and Feitelson's discovery.

SFA Therapeutics recently completed a Phase 1B clinical trial for psoriasis treatment and will be publishing findings showing their psoriasis drug is both safe and efficacious. They're now working on raising money to fund a Phase 2 trial, where they plan to confirm the results from their Phase 1 trials. They hope to one day offer their drugs as treatment for more than 40 autoimmune disorders, certain types of cancers and other illnesses like fatty liver.

## MOVING DISCOVERIES FORWARD

Muni has learned that the steps for bringing an idea to market are different for each innovation, and thus his office offers various kinds of support for researchers at different stages in the process. One important resource is their innovation fund.

Temple researchers often receive federal funding from the National Institutes of Health or the National Science Foundation in the early stages of development. But that

federal funding can only take an innovation up to a particular point, sometimes referred to as a benchwork, where there is some proof of concept. Muni explained that while it may be possible to file patents at this point, there often isn't enough momentum to attract serious investors.

"The feedback from the industry is usually, 'This is too early for us,'" Muni says. This gap between academic research and industry investment is sometimes called the valley of death. "This is where most innovations die. They just cannot cross that valley."

OVPB launched its innovation fund to help Temple researchers overcome this challenging point in development, perhaps by producing a prototype that researchers can demo for investors and entrepreneurs. This is also where the iNest can come in. Launched in March of 2024, it has quickly become a hub for innovation at Temple.

Located on Broad Street at the Health Sciences Center campus with a clear view of the Center City Philadelphia skyline, iNest offers a wealth of resources that can prove essential for researchers and spinout companies in the early stages of development, like

affordable labs, office spaces, conference areas and computing rooms.

"Innovation rarely follows a straight line, so we offer dynamic, adaptive spaces throughout the facility," Nappi says. "We didn't want to overdesign because we didn't want to box out any companies."

Muni's office is also strategically located within the iNest, giving researchers easy access to his staff's expertise and support.

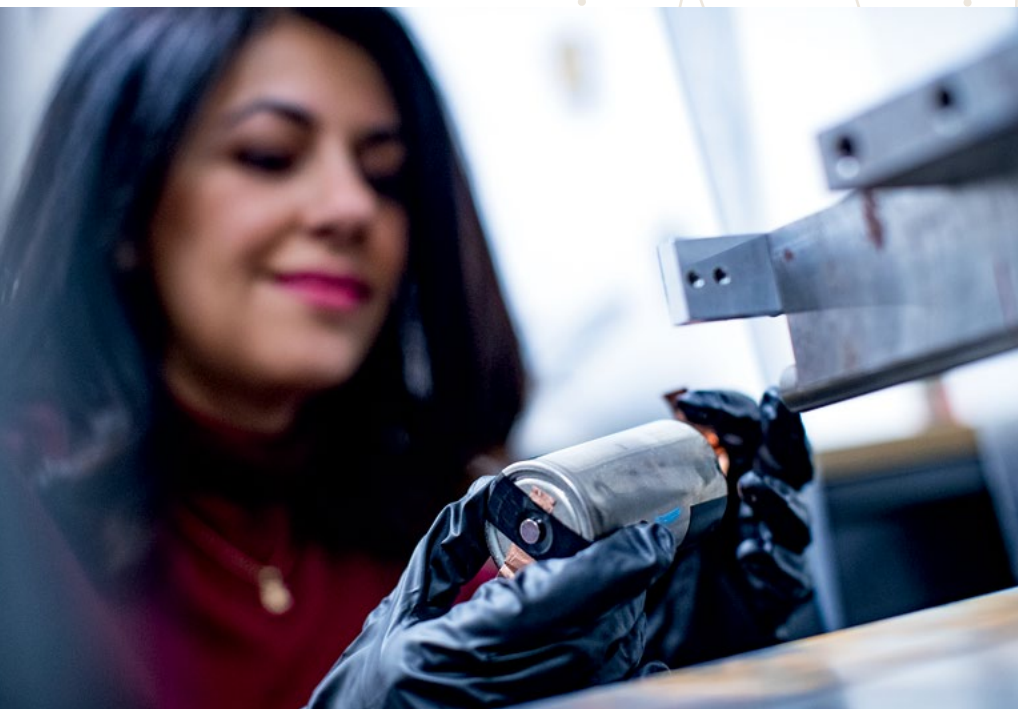
## MAKING SAFER BATTERIES

One of the spinouts currently incubating at iNest is Inovele LLC, a battery safety company started by Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Elham Sahraei.

In 2012, Sahraei was studying lithium-ion battery and vehicle crashes at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Impact and Crashworthiness Lab, when a car traveling at more than 110 miles per hour collided with an electric battery-operated taxi abroad. The resulting scene, with flames engulfing a nearby tree, looked like something out of a Hollywood blockbuster film. This was the first reported electric vehicle crash fire, and suddenly, Sahraei's research was in great demand.

Now as head of Temple's Electric Vehicle Safety Lab and the Center for Battery Safety, Sahraei studies the safety of lithium-ion batteries under extreme conditions, with the goal of enhancing safety for people everywhere relying on lithium-ion battery-powered vehicles and devices. With Inovele, Sahraei plans to conduct research directly with industry and government partners to

Elham Sahraei is a leading researcher of lithium-ion batteries under extreme conditions. Through her new company, Inovele, she wants to share her expertise with companies and government agencies to help them design safer batteries.





Since opening in March 2024, Temple's Innovation Nest (iNest) has become a hub dedicated to commercializing new innovations and supporting the growth of startup companies affiliated with the university.

"iNest and our office are not here just to focus on Temple innovations. We are here to support Temple faculty members who are trying to do something innovative, something entrepreneurial," he says.

Muni hopes Inovele's research will lead to additional partnerships and intellectual property in the future. He also believes Inovele's operations will help bolster Temple and Philadelphia's reputations as hubs of progress and innovation, a mission that is paramount to OVPR.

"Every day, our top-tier faculty push the boundaries of knowledge, making cutting-edge discoveries and generating new intellectual property—often with the potential to become life-saving technologies. Their work drives the creation of new products, companies and jobs that benefit people worldwide and right here in Philadelphia," says Josh Gladden, Temple's vice president for research. "The view of the city from our window at iNest is really a reminder of why we are here."

help them design safer, lighter and more efficient battery products, specifically related to electric vehicles.

Inovele is a different kind of spinout company in that its expertise in testing and modeling cannot be patent-protected. But, Muni says, the research and expertise the company will provide to the battery and electric vehicle industries is a vital asset to support.

**"When we can advance a product or technology to the marketplace, that's when we see the benefit to society. That's our ultimate goal."**

**—Stephen Nappi**, associate vice president of technology commercialization and business development

## Temple Innovation by the Numbers

(PAT)  
**22**  
Temple patents filed in fiscal year 2025

(PAT)  
**164**  
Temple patents awarded in the last decade

(INV)  
**742**  
inventions supported by OVPR in the last decade

(SPIN)  
**33**  
spinout companies supported by OVPR in the last decade

(SPIN)  
**\$341M**  
raised by Temple spinouts in the last decade

(SPIN)  
**16**  
spinout companies incubated at iNest

(RES)  
**\$292M**  
in externally sponsored research currently conducted

(RES)  
**\$17.5M**  
in research funded by Temple spinouts

(CARN)  
**R1**  
Carnegie's highest research activity classification





For cyanotype prints, students gathered plants from Tyler's natural dye garden which was planted by students in the fibers and material studies program.

# *Fruitful Encounters*

STORY BY KIKI VOLKERT  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BETSY MANNING, KLN '87, CLA '08  
AND RYAN S. BRANDENBERG, CLA '14  
ILLUSTRATION BY MEILI CARLING, TYL '24





Inspired by artist-in-residence Sam Van Aken, students in the Tyler School of Art and Architecture explored novel ways to combine art, science, horticulture and history.

It's late winter on Temple's Ambler Campus. Outside, the trees prepare to break their long winter dormancy. Inside a Dixon Hall classroom, horticulture and landscape architecture students take off their coats and settle into their seats. On the workspace in front of them, the blades of palm-sized knives glisten in the sun beaming through a window. From buckets of soil lining the classroom walls jut stems that contain roots, or rootstocks.

At the front of the classroom, contemporary artist Sam Van Aken welcomes the students to a workshop on grafting. The horticultural technique, with roots dating back to 1800 B.C., entails attaching part of one plant to another so they grow as one, sharing resources while each still produces its own unique fruit.

With a command over the knife and the students' attention, Van Aken demonstrates how it's done: He makes a swift angled cut to the two components—the rootstock and the young shoot of another plant, or scion—and fuses them together with electrical tape.

As Van Aken simultaneously shares the long history of grafting, students' eyes light up as new branches form in their understanding of horticulture.

After mapping the historic transatlantic traversing of fruit trees through generations, Van Aken summarizes his fascination: "These fruits aren't just agricultural products. They are cultural objects and embedded in them is the history of civilizations around the world."

This workshop kicked off Van Aken's weeklong visit as Tyler's eighth annual Jack Wolgin Visiting Artist. Multidisciplinary in nature, his work explores the intersection of



As part of his weeklong visit, artist-in-residence Sam Van Aken led a grafting workshop for students at Ambler.

communication, botany and horticulture. Last year, for example, he worked in Crete to restore an ancient forest.

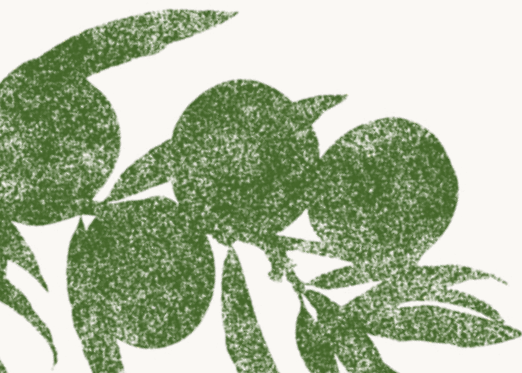
For the rest of the week he shared his expertise with students through experiential seminars and lectures that integrate art, science and horticulture. The visit culminated in the planting of a "Tree of 40 Fruit," a living art piece made by grafting 40 varieties of stone fruits together, in Tyler's central greenspace courtyard on Main Campus.

"At Tyler, we are invested in making this artist residency program cross-curricular. Sam was selected because of his singular ability to merge art and plant science, paired with his talent for engaging students," says Susan E. Cahan, dean of Tyler, a school encompassing art and design disciplines as well as the study of natural and built environments.

"Visits by artists like Sam enable Tyler to expand its offerings in meaningful cross-disciplinary, hands-on learning," says Cahan.

Sasha Eisenman, associate professor of horticulture and chair of the Architecture and Environmental Design Department, concurred with Cahan, describing the value of Van Aken's visit this way: "Bringing an artist to campus whose medium is trees is an exciting opportunity. Seeing how art, science and nature intersect is valuable for our students as they navigate their careers and align their passions with their professional pursuits."

As the grafting workshop continues, the students quickly get the hang of it—notching and splicing their branches with ease and grace—and leave the classroom cradling their newly joined plants, which will sprout in a few weeks.





*“Seeing how art, science and nature intersect is valuable for our students as they navigate their careers and align their passions with their professional pursuits.”*

—Sasha Eisenman, associate professor of horticulture and chair of the Architecture and Environmental Design Department



### *Leaving an impression*

**I**n Tyler’s outdoor courtyard, students in the Glass, Photography, Fiber Arts and Printmaking departments press botanical specimens onto mixed media. They are preparing to create cyanotypes, a cameraless photographic technique originally developed in the 1800s that uses the sun’s rays and a combination of chemicals to transform paper or fabric into distinctive, monochrome blue prints. Van Aken

uses cyanotype as part of his own process for documenting vanishing heirloom and antique fruit varieties.

“I’ve been working with cyanotype in class for a few months now, preparing for this visit, but seeing someone so masterful with the process was incredible,” says Class of 2026 photography major Jami DeLuca.

“Talking with Sam, I realized he’s almost like a detective—tracking down rare plants, researching their history and preserving them through his work. We see the finished cyanotypes, but behind them is this deep scientific process, from gathering materials to the chemistry of printing. It’s a whole new way to think about art.”

Students created cyanotypes—a cameraless photographic technique that uses rays from the sun and a mix of chemicals to transform paper or fabric into distinctive, monochrome blue prints.



### *Handle with care*

**B**ud-swell, branch union, caliper. These are a few of the terms a tree owner would need to know, Ester Segal, Class of 2026, learned as she viewed the tree from the perspective of its caretaker.

In Associate Professor Bryan Satalino’s informational storytelling class, Segal, a graphic and interactive design major from Brooklyn, New York, and her classmates took on the real-world design challenge of creating a 20-page care manual for the “Tree of 40 Fruit.”

Working in groups, the students combined visuals and text to produce engaging and user-friendly guides. Satalino encouraged students to think carefully about symbols and their meanings and to build upon each other’s ideas to produce something truly collaborative.

“It’s so exciting to see the teams working together, pushing themselves and each other to think and create in new ways,” says Satalino. “This project challenges them to consider not only aesthetics but also clarity, usability and functionality—key elements in any professional design project.”





Tyler students watched as Van Aken planted a “Tree of 40 Fruit,” which is a living piece of art created by grafting various varieties of stone fruits together.

## Branching out

On the final day of his weeklong residency, Van Aken planted a “Tree of 40 Fruit” in the Tyler courtyard, positioning it near the school’s natural dye garden. Intending the tree to serve as an aesthetic spectacle that also conserves regional agricultural traditions, Van Aken chose the tree’s fruits specifically for their suitability to Philadelphia weather. Its installation has transformed the courtyard into a place of inspiration and communal gathering.

Students attended the planting, and will be able to pick and eat the fruits for years to come.

“What I have learned from Sam is how to put the knowledge of grafting into actual physical experience rather than just book

theory,” says Daniel Gottschalk, an MFA student in metals/jewelry/CAD-CAM. “I’m very excited to see this in the future.”

During his visit to Temple, Van Aken was assisted by students in planting a “Tree of 40 Fruit” in Ambler’s arboretum consisting of 40 distinct types of apples originating or historically grown in Southeastern Pennsylvania. As part of his residency, he returned to both of Temple’s campuses this fall to care for the trees at both sites, offer additional learning opportunities and deliver a public lecture on the cultural history of fruit in the Philadelphia region.

“The Van Aken residency was more than just series of workshops and lectures,” says Nichola Kinch, associate dean of academic affairs at Tyler.

“Sam’s visits sparked an ongoing dialogue—one about art, science and the ways in which nature connects us all.”

*“It’s a whole new way to think about art.”*

—Jami DeLuca, Class of 2026

At the end of the week, Van Aken selected one group’s manual to be distributed to caretakers of his living sculptures across the country. But all of the students finished the class with an important new addition to their design portfolios.

For Segal, the project was an exercise in translating a large amount of data into simple imagery.

“I learned how to take a bunch of information, figure out what’s most important for a user to know and then put that into a visual language,” says Segal. “I had to really think about how it would be understood from a user’s perspective.”

For the “Tree of 40 Fruit,” students designed a 20-page care manual using a printmaking method called risograph in which transparent inks are layered one at a time to create mixed colors.







# Acres of Diamonds

How Temple welcomes first-generation and low-income Philadelphia students and empowers them to achieve their highest aspirations.





STORY BY **BRENT BAUM**, KLN '12

ILLUSTRATION BY **JUSTINE KELLEY**, TYL '17, '21

For Edmond Tsan, attending Temple University was always his first choice. Growing up in Northeast Philadelphia, he wanted to attend college near home. However, being able to afford a college education was a big concern for him.

“My family does not come from wealth, so having enough money to afford college was always a constant worry for us,” says Tsan.

But Tsan didn’t let financial constraints deter him from his goal, and he continued to focus on his studies, taking AP classes in history, calculus and physics as a student at William W. Bodine High School, located in the city’s Frankford neighborhood. And, in

the summer between his junior and senior years of high school, he participated in the six-week Temple + Heights STEM Research Program on Main Campus.

When Tsan filled out his application for Temple, he hoped to get some financial assistance from the state government. As it turned out, he was able to get most of his tuition covered through the university’s trailblazing Temple Promise program—a last-dollar financial aid initiative designed to make a world-class education more accessible and affordable for Philadelphia students. Launched in the fall of 2024, Temple Promise supports first-year, full-time

students living in Philadelphia County with a family adjusted gross income of \$65,000 or less who have earned admission to the university.

“When I received the email from Temple, I was really surprised by the amount of money I could potentially receive from Temple Promise,” says Tsan. “I did qualify for it, and with that added onto my financial package, it greatly helped me because it covered the rest of my tuition. And for a family on a tight budget, that was huge for us.”



Tsan is now in his second year at Temple, majoring in engineering technology and enrolled in Temple's Honors Program. As a self-described "hands-on" type of person, he's been able to join Temple's student chapter of Engineers Without Borders, an international organization that empowers communities and equips leaders to solve the world's most pressing challenges through engineering projects.

"My financial aid package has helped me focus on my education and have the time to pursue extracurricular activities at Temple without constantly worrying about my finances, which is also a huge relief for my parents," he adds.

#### **A PLEDGE OF SUPPORT**

Saalih Muhammad was encouraged by the women in his family to attend college. "They love education. My sister attended Temple and became a teacher," he says. "I want to be the first male in my family to graduate from college."

**"My financial aid package has helped me focus on my education and have the time to pursue extracurricular activities at Temple without constantly worrying about my finances, which is also a huge relief for my parents."**

—Edmond Tsan, College of Engineering, Class of 2028

Looking back on his first few weeks as a student at Temple, Muhammad remembers Shawn Fagan, assistant vice provost for student success in the Division of Enrollment Management, checking in on him to ensure everything was going smoothly.

"He has my number, so he texted me saying, 'How's it going? How's the first week of the semester?' It means a lot. I appreciate him a lot," says Muhammad, who graduated from Constitution High School, a small college preparatory, citywide admission school located in the heart of Philadelphia's Historic District.

Music major Tayla Howell likewise credits her advisor with offering guidance during her first year as an Owl. "Cooper [Creal] has been such a wonderful help with my schedule and explaining college to me," says Howell, a Philadelphia High School for Girls alum. "He's been a lifesaver, helping me avoid so many mishaps that might have occurred."

Like Tsan, Muhammad and Howell are among the nearly 500 members of the Class of 2028 benefiting from the Temple Promise program.

"Access and opportunity to a high-quality education are the hallmark of this institution," explains David Boardman, interim provost of Temple University and dean of the Klein College of Media and Communication. "Temple Promise demonstrates our continued commitment to the never-ending pursuit of that mission, especially as it relates to students who call Philly home."

Temple is Philadelphia's public research university. Philadelphia students comprise 24.8% of the university's Class of 2029 at 1,335. Programs like Temple Promise underscore the university's commitment to the city and to helping remove educational barriers and expanding opportunities for aspiring young college students eager to begin their Temple education.

"By removing financial barriers, we are not only expanding opportunity but also empowering the next generation of economic drivers, productive citizens and leaders who will make a lasting impact in their communities and beyond," Boardman adds.



## ELIMINATING BARRIERS

To offer students support earlier in the college pipeline, Temple introduced Temple Future Scholars in February of 2025. In partnership with the School District of Philadelphia and Heights Philadelphia, Temple Future Scholars supports low-income, first-generation-to-college students in Philadelphia public middle schools through their academic journey to college. Students who complete the program can also be considered for the Temple Promise program.

“The university’s greatest strength lies in recognizing potential in young people and providing the opportunity and resources to nurture it. This was the vision of our founder the Rev. Russell Conwell, who in his ‘Acres of Diamonds’ speech promoted the idea that the resources for success are present in one’s own community,” says Valerie Harrison, *CLA ’07, ’15*, Temple’s vice president for community impact and civic engagement. “Many of the students who start in this program may have never previously thought of attending a university, but by the time the program ends, they could be enrolled here at Temple. The significance of that cannot be overstated.”

The Temple Future Scholars program will initially support the following seven middle schools: Mary McLeod Bethune School, Morton McMichael School, Paul L. Dunbar School, Russell H. Conwell School, Tanner G. Duckrey School, John F. Hartranft School and Juniata Park Academy. In a few years, the program aims to enroll 1,200 students from the School District of Philadelphia in grades seven through 12 as Temple Future Scholars at any given time.

“Through this program, we will ensure that young people in the city of Philadelphia are thinking about their futures and visualizing themselves in college as early as seventh grade,” Harrison says. “It will not happen overnight, but before long, we will be fostering long-term academic engagement and seeing more and more local students succeed here at Temple.”



## ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Programs like Temple Promise and Temple Future Scholars have been built on the foundational success laid by the Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program.

Since 2021, the Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program has provided selected students from Philadelphia public schools (district or charter) who live in Temple’s neighboring ZIP codes with a full-tuition, four-year scholarship.

“The Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program is an opportunity for Temple to invest in students right here in our backyard of North Philadelphia,” says Harrison. “It’s part of the bigger picture of Temple’s community connections.”

Named for the late civil rights leader, the program is part of Temple’s mission to provide students from all walks of life with the opportunity to participate in a world-class four-year college education. Of the program’s first cohort of 22 students, 16 accepted their diplomas in May 2025, and three have extended their graduation timelines.

“Moving from home to home in North Philadelphia, my childhood was rough,” explains Cory Matthews, a member of the Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program’s inaugural class and a 2025 graduate of Temple’s Klein

College of Media and Communication. “Most people in my shoes never get an opportunity to attend college.”

Raised in a single-parent, low-income household at 10th and Jefferson after the death of his biological mother when he was 3, Matthews, who had his eyes set on business school, focused on his studies and founded a sneaker cleaning business as a senior in high school.

“Growing up in my neighborhood, you carry a different kind of pressure on your shoulders where you never thought having the opportunity to attend college was even possible,” Matthews says.

At Temple, Matthews thrived, graduating with a bachelor of arts in advertising with a focus on brand strategy and research.

“To be the first in my family to graduate from college is a privilege,” says Matthews. “Being able to attend college, let alone say I graduated from college, is a big deal for kids where I am from.”

The Cecil B. Moore Scholars kick off their college experience by attending a six-week, two-credit summer bridge program, which serves as an introduction to life at Temple and the opportunities and resources available on Main Campus. And the students continue to receive support throughout their time at Temple.





“As important as it is to Temple’s mission to provide students from all backgrounds with the opportunity to participate in a world-class four-year college education, it is equally important to support those students once they arrive on campus,” says Boardman. “And that’s what makes the Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program so unique: Students who qualify for that program receive support from the day they enroll through their graduation, and we are seeing how that can be a difference-maker when it comes to ensuring these students stay on the path toward success.”

Scholars in the program enjoy individualized access to the services offered at Temple through Terrence Seales, the program’s director. Seales monitors each student’s academic progress and guides them through the cornucopia of resources at Temple that ensure student success. From connecting students to tutoring services to providing one-on-one check-ins and time management workshops, he helps in whichever way is needed.

“Throughout their college journey, I do my best to be accessible and hold them accountable, which I believe helps make a difference in their ability to achieve their goals, earn a college degree and apply the skills they learned in the workforce after Temple,” says Seales.

### **CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITY**

Donna Nguyen moved with her father from Vietnam to the West Kensington neighborhood in North Philadelphia when she was 11. As a Franklin Learning Center High School senior, she wrote a personal essay hoping to be selected for Temple University’s Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program.

In her essay, she described Philadelphia as the land of opportunities: “Without coming here ... I wouldn’t have all the opportunities I have today.”

Finding such an opportunity, Nguyen was selected as a member of the program’s Class of 2025.

A biology major, Nguyen excelled in Temple’s Honors Program and took advantage of everything Temple had to offer. She became a student worker at Temple’s Health

Sciences Center campus, and by her senior year, she landed an internship as a lab technician at the University of Pennsylvania’s Ryan Veterinary Hospital. With Seales’ guidance, she also pursued a minor in management information systems.

Last May, she accepted her diploma. “I didn’t really think too much about college being a part of my future until the Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program,” says Nguyen. “Now I have a degree that I wouldn’t have without the program.”

### **COMMITMENT IN ACTION**

In a testament to the university’s ongoing commitment to student success and access, Temple recently earned the highest rating in the newly released 2025 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The designation places Temple

**“As important as it is to Temple’s mission to provide students from all backgrounds with the opportunity to participate in a world-class four-year college education, it is equally important to support those students once they arrive on campus.”**

—David Boardman, interim provost and dean of the Klein College of Media and Communication

among just 479 institutions nationally in the Opportunity College or University category—these institutions serve as national models for how universities can best promote pathways to opportunity and economic mobility.

When paired with its prestigious R1 research rating—the highest Carnegie Classification for research universities—Temple is now one of just 21 universities nationwide to earn dual recognition in top designations from Carnegie.

The university's commitment to student success is also reflected in recent U.S. News and World Report rankings, with Temple appearing among the top 50 public universities for the last three years. The ranking resulted from a revised methodology by U.S. News giving greater weight to graduation rates, graduation rate performance and social mobility factors, which have always been a focus for Temple.

And Temple students are seeing this commitment in action ... in real time.

Matthews credits Temple's Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program for providing the resources and tutoring that allowed him to stay on track.

"Before the program, I wanted to do everything on my own. Paris [the program's

former director] showed me that it is okay to ask for help," Matthews says. "With help from a tutor I finally passed an algebra course I struggled with. I started utilizing more of Temple's resources that led me to more success and to graduate on time."

Nguyen, too, is grateful for Temple's support. Following her graduation, she will stay at Temple for another year as part of Temple's professional science master's in biotechnology program, which offers a 4+1 accelerated track, allowing students to earn both a bachelor and master's degree in just five years.

"The Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program was almost like having a second family because it provided a sense of belonging and security," Nguyen says. "And being part of the first graduating class is special because we are proof that the program works."

Tsan is similarly grateful for the support he is receiving from Temple. He attributes some of his success in his first year to the guidance he received from his professors and advisors.

"Thanks to Temple, I will be able to pursue my dream career," he says.

## **PATHWAYS TO TEMPLE**

**Temple Future Scholars** is a scaled college pipeline program that supports low-income, first-generation-to-college students in Philadelphia public middle schools. Temple Future Scholars who qualify will benefit from Temple Promise, removing financial barriers to completing their education.

**Temple Promise** is a last-dollar financial aid grant program that helps make a Temple education more accessible and affordable for qualifying admitted first-year, full-time students living in Philadelphia County with a family adjusted gross income of \$65,000 or less.

**The Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program** provides a full-tuition, four-year scholarship to select Philadelphia public (district or charter) students who live in Temple's neighboring North Philadelphia ZIP codes—19121, 19122, 19123, 19125, 19130, 19132, 19133 and 19140.





# Never miss an event



## There's always a reason to come together as Temple alumni.

From professional networking to football tailgates to happy hours, our alumni events calendar is filled with opportunities to connect, learn and celebrate your Temple pride.

Check out what's happening in your area at [alumni.temple.edu/events](https://alumni.temple.edu/events). You might be surprised at how close the next event is.

### DON'T SEE SOMETHING NEARBY?

With our Regional Pop-up Program, you can host your own Temple gathering and bring Owls together wherever you live. Whether it's happy hour or cheering on the Owls at a watch party, we'll give you the tools to make it easy.



## Start planning today:

[alumni.temple.edu/alumnihosted](https://alumni.temple.edu/alumnihosted)

And be sure to save the date for ***Temple Made Days, April 13–19, 2026***, a weeklong celebration of Temple pride with something for every Owl.

# CLASS NOTES



## Greetings, my fellow Owls!

I'm delighted to welcome you back to Temple magazine. It is so exciting to reconnect our community with the new version of our old standard.

In this relaunch issue, you'll find stories that reflect the incredible spirit, momentum and pride that define Temple University. From celebrating new leadership and bold visions for the future to spotlighting the success, generosity and impact of our alumni, this magazine is a reminder of how powerful our Owl community truly is.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Homecoming and Family Weekend in October. From the Tyler Art Market to the Boyer Mosaic Concert to Tailgate Village ahead of the big game, it was a joy to see so many Owls come home to Temple. Your energy and presence are what make these moments so special.

As we move into the season of celebration and reflection, we hope to see you at one of our Season of Cheer holiday gatherings, taking place in cities across the country. And we're already looking forward to welcoming you back this spring for *Temple Made Days*, a time when Owls come together to celebrate everything that makes our community so strong.

Temple's future is bright, and I'm proud to be on this journey with you.

**AMY LAROVERE, KLN '83**

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Philadelphia, PA 19122

### KEY TO SCHOOL AND COLLEGE CODES

|            |   |            |   |
|------------|---|------------|---|
| <i>BYR</i> | Boyer College of Music and Dance                | <i>KLN</i> | Klein College of Media and Communication            |
| <i>CLA</i> | College of Liberal Arts                         | <i>LAW</i> | Beasley School of Law                               |
| <i>CPH</i> | Christopher M. Barnett College of Public Health | <i>MED</i> | Lewis Katz School of Medicine                       |
| <i>CST</i> | College of Science and Technology               | <i>PHR</i> | School of Pharmacy                                  |
| <i>DEN</i> | Kornberg School of Dentistry                    | <i>POD</i> | School of Podiatric Medicine                        |
| <i>EDU</i> | College of Education and Human Development      | <i>SSW</i> | School of Social Work                               |
| <i>ENG</i> | College of Engineering                          | <i>TFM</i> | School of Theater, Film and Media Arts              |
| <i>FOX</i> | Fox School of Business                          | <i>STH</i> | School of Sport, Tourism and Hospitality Management |
| <i>HON</i> | Honorary Degree                                 | <i>TYL</i> | Tyler School of Art and Architecture                |

## 1960s

**SANDY ROSS JACOBS, EDU '61**

published a third novel in 2022, *After the Storm*, available on Amazon in book and e-book format. Her former novels, *Francie's Story* and *Tropical Disturbances*, are available on Amazon.

**SANDY EISENBERG SASSO, CLA '69**

recently published *Miriam's Dancing Shoes*, adding to her body of work that includes 27 children's books and two adult titles.

## 1970s

**LEONARD BILOUS, FOX '72**

founder of Vision Training Soccer LLC, was inducted into the Ukraine Sports Hall of Fame in 2020.

**JOHN DEANGELO, EDU '73**

was inducted into the Paulsboro High School Hall of Fame on April 5, 2025.

DeAngelo graduated from Paulsboro in 1960. He served in multiple educational and administrative roles at Temple for 37 years before moving to California, where he became associate vice chancellor for educational media at UC San Francisco. DeAngelo is retired and lives with his wife, Judy, in Alamo, California.

**ANNE DESALVO, TYL '71**

a veteran of Broadway, film and television, continues to create and teach. She has three films premiering in 2025—*Stay with Me*, *Judge No Book* and *Double Exposure*—and currently teaches at the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

**BARRY LACHMAN, MED '70**

president and CEO of Lachman Community Development and Consulting, was recognized with the Shalom Award for his service and leadership.



**JOHN TRONE, CLA '79**

established a scholarship for College of Liberal Arts students who have graduated from a public school in York, Pennsylvania.

## 1980s

**CHRISTOPHER ALEX, LAW '87**

joined the Appellate Bureau at the Office of the Chief State Attorney in Hartford, Connecticut, after 35 years as a trial prosecutor, including leading the Violent Crime Bureau.

**JOSEPH W. BONGARD, FOX '81**

was recently appointed as pastor of Saint Helena Parish, Blue Bell, and parochial administrator of St. Titus Parish, East Norriton. These appointments conclude 31 years in the educational apostolate, having served as Theology Department chair at Kennedy-Kenrick High School, assistant principal of academic affairs at Cardinal Dougherty High School, principal at Saint Pius X High School, vice rector of Saint Charles Seminary and rector at Roman Catholic High School.

**MICHAEL BURCH, EDU '88**

was selected as a 2025 honoree for Smith Playground's distinguished Leaders and Legends of Philadelphia award.

**DALE CAKE, FOX '82, '11**

was awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor of marketing at Savannah State University. Cake was previously an instructor at Penn State and president of marketing strategists for Hershey. He now lives in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

**JEREMIAH DALEY, CLA '88**

was honored by Camden County Commissioners in November 2024 for two decades of service addressing substance use in the region. He retired in October 2024 from his role as executive director of the Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA.

**DEBORAH DERRICKSON, EDU '89**

is a clinical psychologist in private practice and the author of the award-winning memoir *Lost Found Kept*, which explores family, trauma and hoarding.

**KENT KAUFFMAN, CLA '89**

published *Navigating Choppy Waters*, a guide to legal issues in academia. He is an associate professor of business law at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

**GREG KELLY, ENG '79, AND MICHELE KELLY, FOX '82**

celebrate 47 years of partnership, success and giving back after a chance meeting at a Temple football game.

**INA MALLOY, TYL '82**

retired after 40 years of teaching photography and digital art and began volunteering as a professor with the AFSSO Afghan Female Student Outreach program. Since 2024, she has taught virtual digital art classes to Afghan women who can no longer attend university due to political restrictions.

**TIMOTHY PALOMBO, PHR '84**

celebrated 40 years as a licensed pharmacist, currently practicing at Publix in Florida.

**VINCE PISCOPO, KLN '85**

was named communications manager for Rudolph Libbe Group, a Walbridge, Ohio-based construction and facilities services firm, in 2022. Piscopo manages all internal and

external communications for the company. He joined Rudolph Libbe after a 20-year public relations career with the Detroit-based United Auto Workers, including nine years as editor-in-chief of its 970,000-circulation member magazine, *Solidarity*. Prior to that he was a copy editor and reporter for *The Blade* daily newspaper in Toledo, Ohio, for 12 years, as well as a reporter with United Press International in Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Piscopo earned a master's degree in communications/public relations at Kent State University in 2014.

**FLOYD RUMOHR, TFM '88**

recently published *Stage It: Making Shakespeare Come Alive in Schools* with Routledge Taylor and Francis. For more information, please visit: [stageitplays.com](http://stageitplays.com).

**STEPHEN SHUMAN, DEN '82**

was inducted into the International College of Dentists, recognizing his contributions to the dental profession. Shuman is a professor at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry.

**MARY TALALAY, KLN '87**

is the tuberculosis research training director at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. After starting in entertainment PR, she transitioned to science writing and public health, leading training programs for early-stage investigators in Africa and Southeast Asia. Her journey began in Temple's journalism program, and she continues to impact global health education.

**PAUL VIGGIANO, KLN '84**

was honored with the Presidential Teacher of the Year

Award. The award recognizes his creativity and passion for teaching, which has made a lasting impact on students and the academic community. Viggiano is a faculty member at La Salle University.

## 1990s

**FRITZ BARJON, CLA '96, AND NIKKI BARJON, CLA '97**

recently celebrated their *Temple Made* relationship with their 20th wedding anniversary accompanied by their children Sasha and Christian.

**HOWARD BRYANT, KLN '91**

established a new endowed scholarship for the Klein College of Media and Communication in 2024.

**RICHELLE CLARK, KLN '91**

recently received her PhD in history, security and defense studies from ISCTE-IUL in Lisbon, Portugal. Her dissertation focused on U.S. military basing strategy in Europe. Clark is a writer, researcher and independent scholar.

**SHEILA COLON, KLN '95**

is a stay-at-home mother turned children's book author. Born in Puerto Rico but raised in Philadelphia, Colon draws on her bicultural and bilingual experience as inspiration for her books. She is motivated by a desire to provide multicultural children like her three daughters with more stories about families that look and live like they do. Her debut picture book *La Noche Before Three Kings Day*, published by HarperCollins in September of 2023, and illustrated by Alejandro Mesa, captures the magic and wonder of Three Kings Day through a child's eager eyes.



## DOUBLE DUTY

Ryan S. Brandenburg, CLA '14

### Matthew Huber

**DEGREE:** BA, Klein College of Media and Communication, 2012

**LOCATION:** New York City

**RENDER AND REPEAT:** While Matthew Huber, *KLN '12*, got his start in showbiz working on unscripted TV shows, the seasoned visual effects editor is now a part of the post-production team behind *Severance*, an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning thriller that has broken records as Apple TV+'s most-watched series. **NAVIGATING SHOWBIZ:** Not knowing where to start after graduating, Huber began Googling post-production companies in NYC and cold-calling companies to say, "Hey, I'm a recent grad. This is what I can do and I'm looking for a job and I can meet you right now." It worked. **CUT BY CUT:** It took years to establish himself in the field. Initially working as a video editor, Huber continued to learn about new

trends and developed a unique skill set in visual effects. "Visual effects editing wasn't what my first plan was, but it was something I learned to enjoy," he said. **LEARNING THE INS AND OUTS:** As Huber's portfolio began to grow, his jobs as a visual effects editor became bigger—and then *Severance* called. **MATT PETRILLO, KLN '12**

**QUOTABLE:**

"My message to students is: You always have to keep developing yourself."



**KEVIN FLATLEY, KLN '91**

retired as chief photographer at NBC Sports Philadelphia after a 30-year television career. He now teaches as adjunct faculty at Temple's Klein College of Media and Communication and runs his own production company.

**KATAYUN JAFFARI, FOX '91, '92**

was installed as chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, the oldest bar association in the United States, during its annual meeting in December. Jaffari is the 98th chancellor of the bar and the 12th woman to hold the position. An active association member, she previously served as chancellor-elect and vice chancellor, as well as chair of the Board of Governors, chair and executive committee member of the Business Law Section, co-chair of the Women's Rights Committee, and member of the executive committee of the Public Interest Section. She serves as chair of the corporate governance and ESG practices and co-chair of the capital markets and securities practice at Cozen O'Connor.

**CATHY MCVEY PALMER, CLA '96**

received the Frank Long Award of Writing Excellence from the Philadelphia chapter of the Public Relations Society of America for her contributions to strategic communication.

**SHARON REFSIN, EDU '92**

was named 2024 Educator of the Year by her peers at JVB Wicoff Elementary School in Plainsboro, New Jersey. The honor was celebrated with a school breakfast, a districtwide event and a dedicated parking spot in her name.

**THOMAS TOUHEY, KLN '91**

was a producer on the documentary *George A. Romero's Resident Evil*. Released on Jan. 7, 2025, the film unveils the story behind Romero's involvement in the creation of the first *Resident Evil* and why he was released from the project.

## 2000s

**JANIENE ANDREONI-KWOCZAK, TYL '07, AND NICK KWOCZAK, FOX '05**

married three years after Janiene graduated from Tyler School of Art and Architecture and recently celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary!

**VLADIMIR CHOULOUTE, FOX '09, AND JOCELYN MCARTHUR, KLN '10**

attended Temple at the same time but didn't connect until after graduation. They grew up in Queens, New York, and shared connections at Temple Health and a local dance school. The couple's engagement photos were even taken by fellow alum, Clifford Harris. They tied the knot in June 2024!

**SCOTT DROB, FOX '06**

accepted a new position in February 2025 as a territory manager at Juul Labs.

**JASON FANELLI, KLN '09**

is a freelance video game journalist whose work has been featured in IGN, GameSpot, Variety, Rolling Stone and more.

**MATT FINN, KLN '01**

recently covered major events including the Israel-Hamas conflict, LA wildfires and the presidential inauguration, continuing his work as a national journalist.

**GERALD GEBHART, LAW '08**

was named a partner at LaMonaca Law. Known for his

litigation skills in family law, Gebhart has been recognized multiple times by the Delaware County Daily Times and serves as president of the Delaware County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He is also active in his community as a firefighter and board member.

**PAUL KAHAN, CLA '09**

published *Philadelphia: A Narrative History*, the first comprehensive single-volume history of the city in over 40 years. He is also executive director of the American Helicopter Museum and Education Center.

**TONY KING, CLA '03**

founded the Atophi fraternity while still in high school and started the fraternity's first college chapter at Temple. In April 2023, Atophi's coat of arms was copyrighted in the Library of Congress and as of April 2, 2025, Atophi is officially incorporated as a domestic charitable nonprofit organization.

**AURORA KRIPA, CLA '05**

was named the next president and CEO of KenCrest, succeeding fellow Temple alum Marian Baldini upon her retirement in December 2024.

**HELEN MOSHER, CLA '04**

has been named vice president of communications and membership for the Council on Social Work Education, the nonprofit organization that advances excellence and innovation in social work education and research by providing leadership, ensuring quality in teaching and learning, and strengthening the capacity of its member institutions.

**KRYSTA PELLEGRINO, KLN '00**

was promoted to chief growth officer at Supreme Group, a platform company delivering top-tier marketing and communications services to life science organizations. She previously served for eight years as chief client officer at Health + Commerce, which was acquired by Supreme in March 2024.

## 2010s

**ASHLEY BOOTH, EDU '17**

currently serves as chief operating officer of Girl Scouts of Chesapeake Bay.

**JENNA BOYD, CLA '14, AND RAY BOYD, KLN '13**

married in a private ceremony in May of 2019, and were finally able to celebrate with friends and family at their wedding in October 2021. Three years after they met and became friends at Temple, Ray and Jenna started dating in October 2015. When it came to the proposal in 2018, Ray created the perfect cover story by convincing Jenna they were going to be interviewed for a Philadelphia Inquirer article about young "pet parents" that featured their dog, Dexter. Jenna asked if they could take the photos at Temple because they had never taken Dexter there, and she always loved seeing dogs on campus, not knowing Ray had envisioned doing the proposal on campus as well.

**GARRY COLE, CST '10**

received the David Rittenhouse Award for Excellence, the highest honor from the U.S. military, in November 2024. He was recognized for his groundbreaking research in anticounterfeit detection with the U.S. Secret Service.



# POWER FORWARD

Joseph V. Labolito

## Brittney Martinez

**DEGREE:** LLD, James E. Beasley School of Law, 2021

**LOCATION:** Washington, D.C.

**YOUNG AND SCRAPPY:** Growing up in Arizona, Brittney Martinez, *LAW '21*, was unsettled by cancer diagnoses relatives received while living near a copper mine. It wasn't easy challenging the company running the mine, but Martinez set out to mitigate the harm. **LAYING DOWN THE LAW:** Her mission is to help vulnerable communities like her own. As an attorney advisor at the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Martinez led the agency's first-ever Environmental Justice and Equity Group. She devised federal regulations and reviewed applications for natural gas and hydroelectric facilities to protect against damaging effects. **CHANGEMAKER:** Now, as a senior regulatory analyst with Salt River Project,

Martinez is learning more about energy reliability and affordability in the Southwest. **OWLS OF A FEATHER:** At Beasley, Martinez built a rapport with I. Herman Stearn Professor Amy Sinden, an environmental law expert. Sinden provided indispensable support to help Martinez secure clerkships and internships, including at Salt River Project where she has returned. **MARIA KLECKO**

### QUOTABLE:

"I'm making sure that communities in need of environmental justice are being heard and protected."



# PHARMACY PHENOM



Joseph V. Labolito

## Devarshi Brahmbhatt

**DEGREE:** MS, School of Pharmacy, 2018

**LOCATION:** Pennington, New Jersey

**PRESCRIBING INNOVATION:** Aspiring to develop new treatments that could help people around the world, Devarshi Brahmbhatt, *PHR '18*, applies his gifts within pharmaceuticals, where he strives to improve human health and society. **A BURNING AMBITION:** After earning a pharmacy degree in his native country of India, Brahmbhatt set his sights on the U.S., given its status as a world leader in health innovation. His target? Temple. He felt drawn to the university's highly regarded pharmaceutical sciences program and location in the Philadelphia region, where there is a concentration of biotech companies. **MEANINGFUL MENTORS:** Brahmbhatt connected with Assistant Dean for Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance Wendy Lebing, who organized networking events to meet corporate recruiters. Also,

Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences David Lebo invited Brahmbhatt into his lab for training to sharpen his skills. **MOXIE AND MEDICINE:** Brahmbhatt currently applies his skills as a scientist at ProBio, a company offering services ranging from drug discovery to commercialization for cell and gene therapy solutions with potential applications for various human diseases.

MARIA KLECKO

**QUOTABLE:**

"Temple was a great opportunity that enabled me to connect to industry professionals and meet supportive professors who helped me secure a job in the biotech industry."

**RAY DOYLE, KLN '13**

is the director of feature and creative production for the Philadelphia Eagles. Since starting as a video intern in 2013, Doyle has worked his way up through the production team. Now entering his 12th season, he leads the department responsible for storytelling and media content for the Eagles.

**BRIA EAST-GUESS, EDU '18**

founded Cognitive Connection to offer counseling and coaching to underserved inner-city youth and adults. In 2024, she launched a partnership with Renewing Mindsets, the second-largest ADHD testing provider in Philadelphia, to expand access to diagnostic and mental health services.

**SAHARA GIPSON, KLN '18**

a former Temple DI gymnastics team captain, contributed to a children's book inspired by her journey recovering from spinal surgery and returning to elite athletics.

**NATASHA JAFFE, BYR '12**

released her first album of original cello ensemble compositions, *Cello in Bloom*, in 2020 and her second album *Cello in Reflection* in 2022. The pieces vary in style from classical to contemporary, world and folk, and reflect her own heritage as well as our collective human heritage. The new album takes us on a journey across the Atlantic Ocean and back again, exploring her European and American ancestry. She has released sheet music for all her music, so that other cellists and cello ensembles can perform the music as well. Find her at [natashajaffe.com](http://natashajaffe.com).

**DYLAN KELLER, TYL '16**

was recently promoted to director of people and strategy at Warfel Construction Company. He is responsible for HR and IT leadership across the organization. Keller joined Warfel in 2016 as a field engineer and most recently served as director of operations.

**CHRISTINA MARINELLO, FOX '13**

is a manager and pricing actuary at Tokio Marine North America Services. She recently earned credentials as an associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries.

**RYAN McDONALD, KLN '13, AND LAISA TURANO, KLN '13**

were married in 2018 and welcomed their own little Owl to their nest in 2023.

**JEREMY MORALES, STH '14, AND MARGOT SALTER, EDU '15**

met during their time at Temple and were married in September 2021, with Hooter in tow! They announced in 2024 that they were expecting their first child together.

**CORY SALMON, ENG '14**

has been promoted to assistant vice president at Herbert, Rowland & Grubic Inc., where he oversees operations in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Since joining HRG as an intern in 2014, he has contributed to major infrastructure projects and currently manages the King of Prussia office while also serving his community through local boards and commissions.

**CHRISTOPHER SOOY, FOX '12**

is a self-employed real estate entrepreneur and founder of True North General Contractors LLC, specializing in high-end custom carpentry at the Jersey Shore.

**RENEE GORDON TWYMAN, KLN '11, AND ZACH TWYMAN, FOX '10**

are a proud *Temple Made* family who cherish their Temple memories. They often drive through campus to show their kids where they lived and to check out the changes over the years. In 2021, they celebrated the birth of their youngest son and their 10th wedding anniversary, choosing Temple as the perfect place for anniversary photos—where their love story began.

**RAUL VEGAS, FOX '19**

is both a video content producer and a certified NFLPA agent. He has worked with MLB Network, Apple TV's MLS Season Pass and previously interned with NFL Films. Recently, Vegas passed the highly competitive NFL agent exam while producing bilingual content for high-profile sporting events such as the World Baseball Classic and Messi's Leagues Cup debut.

## 2020s

**JOSEPH CURRY, EDU '22**

is a business teacher at Franklin Towne Charter High School, where he teaches entrepreneurial design. His students recently completed final business plan presentations, applying what they learned in a hands-on, semesterlong project aimed at solving real-world problems. Curry takes pride in preparing his seniors for life beyond graduation.

**NYLA FORD, KLN '23**

completed her first feature-length film, which premiered at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, one of Philadelphia's largest congregations. She recently wrapped filming on a television series set to release on Tubi in summer 2025.

**MEGHAN GRINDLE-WEAVER, SSW '23**

was promoted to administrator at Northumberland County Children and Youth Services.

**MORGAN RUPP, FOX '21**

was promoted to senior manager of operations at Amazon in 2024, recognizing his leadership and operational expertise.

**For In Memoriam, visit [magazine.temple.edu](http://magazine.temple.edu)**

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# OFFICE HOURS

“Liz Moore, you’re doing it all!”

—JIMMY FALLON, HOST OF *THE TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JIMMY FALLON*

# LIZ MOORE

**PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND DIRECTOR  
OF THE MFA PROGRAM IN CREATIVE WRITING**

The TV series adaptation of her novel *Long Bright River* starring Amanda Seyfried premiered on Peacock in March 2025. Serving as a co-creator and executive producer, Moore garnered media attention from *The New York Times*, *The Today Show*, *Variety*, *Philadelphia Magazine* and *People*, among others.

Less than a year earlier, in July 2024, she released her latest novel *God of the Woods*, which quickly became a *New York Times* bestseller and landed on Barack Obama’s Summer Reading list. Moore also appeared on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* to discuss the book, which was selected as the 2024 Fallon Summer Reads winner.



Ryan S. Brandenburg, CLA '14

## ON TEACHING AT TEMPLE:

“I’ve been lucky to encounter excellent undergraduate and graduate students who make my day every time in the classroom because they have a cool perspective on life that they bring to their creative writing.”

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Ryan S. Brandenburg, CLA '14

