

educator



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Little Giant Creative

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Dunbar

It seems fitting that Temple alumni Daniel Mina, *EDU ’14*, and Justin Hall, *CLA ’08*, were hired together as principal and assistant principal of nearby Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School to start this school year. They were close friends in middle and high school before taking different paths in education and uniting once again at Dunbar.

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FoodChasers

When Maya Johnstone, EdD, *EDU ’01*, and Kala Johnstone, EdD, *EDU ’01*, decided to attend college in 1997, there was only one choice: Temple University. The two joke that their father, Isaac, wouldn’t have it any other way but to continue the family tradition.

FRONT COVER

The T on our cover represents the staff, faculty and alumni featured in this *Educator* issue.

Designed in 1983 by Tyler school of Art students, the “T” represents strength and positive character, with open ends that are symbolic of the free exchange of ideas that is the hallmark of a Temple education.



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

WHY I GIVE

By Derek Coffman

For the Gemmis, Temple University is a family affair.

From parents Maria, a graduate of the Fox School of Business, and Chuck, a graduate of the Kornberg School of Dentistry, to daughters Caitlin, (*KLN '20*) and Kiera, who is expected to graduate in spring 2023 from the College of Education and Human Development, the Gemmi family is #TempleMade.

“We wouldn’t be where we are today – our entire family, not just one of us – without Temple,” Maria said. “Temple has made a major impact on our lives and our family.”

The Gemmis met as undergraduate students at Villanova University. Chuck always intended to come to Kornberg School of Dentistry, believing then as he does now, that it is one of the best dental schools in the country. “I could have gone anywhere,” Chuck said, “but I chose Temple.”

The Abington native followed her husband to Temple, using tuition reimbursement from her employer at the time, Prudential Financial, to pursue her masters in business administration. After earning her MBA and working at Johnson & Johnson (McNeil) in Fort Washington, she decided to stop working outside the home as the couple’s family grew.

“I blinked, and before we knew it, we had a daughter ready for college!” Maria said. The summer before her sophomore year of high school, Caitlin, the oldest of the Gemmi children, attended a

summer Multimedia Camp at Temple University’s Ambler Campus, taught by Klein School of Media and Communications professor Amy Caples. It was this experience, and because she believed Klein to have one of the best communications programs in the nation, that sealed the deal for Caitlin on what she wanted to study, and where she wanted to study it. Kiera, on the other hand, always knew she wanted to be a teacher. Chuck likes to think he had a hand in helping her decide on Temple’s College of Education and Human Development as her destination. “Kiera used to spend time at my clinic when she was young. My patients always spoke very highly of the college, and that may have influenced her decision.

The Gemmis have made gifts to a variety of areas across Temple, supporting the many schools and colleges that are a part of their family’s life. Their recent decision to contribute to the CEHD Scholarship Fund was motivated, in part, by a desire to invest in the success of their daughter. As the parents of a future educator, they said they recognize the important role that a quality teacher can play in the life of a child and the community.

“We want to help build a pipeline of good, wonderful teachers who care,” Maria said. “We want to encourage people to view teaching as a respected, viable and critical profession.”

Thanks to the generosity of the Gemmi family and hundreds of other loyal alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff, that pipeline will only continue to grow.

WHY TEMPLE

“My whole life has been leading up to this.” Kiera Gemmi, a senior in Early Childhood Education, is a young woman of indomitable spirit and a passion for working with kids.

Growing up in Ambler, PA in a Temple family with her parents, Chuck (*DEN '92*), Maria (*FOX '96*), older sister Caitlin (*KLN '20*) and younger siblings, Carly and Chase, with lots of extended family nearby, Kiera had plenty of opportunities to engage with children. Whether she was babysitting, teaching or simply spending time with them, she enjoyed it. Kiera recalls others telling her she was so good with children that she would really “have to work with kids someday!”

Kiera said she always loved school, and was the perennial “teacher’s pet.” Eventually, education as a career became the obvious choice for her. When asked why she chose Temple’s College of Education and Human Development, she cited two main reasons: “I love my older sister, and I always followed what she did. After she came to Temple, I knew I wanted to come here, too. I also love the diversity at Temple. Growing up, I went to Catholic school and there wasn’t much diversity there, but here you get to meet so many different people from so many different backgrounds.”



There’s a lot Kiera said she loves about her time at Temple – her teachers, her friends, Temple football games. “[CEHD] is a small place. It’s great that you can get to know and reach out to your classmates.” One of her favorite things about being an Owl, Kiera said, is the sisterhood she finds in her sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma. At Phi Sig, she is the Development Chair, where she gets to fundraise for initiatives that help kids and teens in underserved Philly neighborhoods with college preparedness. She said she also loves living independently, being so close to Center City, and being able to visit her sister frequently. The two are huge fans of musical theater, so any opportunity to see a Broadway show in the city is a welcome one.

As she enters her final semester as an undergraduate student and prepares for her next step, Kiera finds herself both excited and a little nervous. She said she really enjoys her Senior 1 Practicum, where she is developing her ability to make effective lesson plans, and that her aunt – a second grade teacher – provides additional support and acts as a bonus mentor. Kiera says she’s most looking forward to getting a classroom of her own, where she can put her years of learning and preparation into practice.

She also acknowledges the reality she faces as an educator, a profession that finds itself increasingly politicized, scrutinized, under-resourced and underappreciated. “Right now, it’s intimidating to go into education,” she said. “There are a lot of TikToks on ‘why I quit teaching;’ it’s really scary.” Fortunately, CEHD “staff and faculty have been really supportive and reassuring.” To this, I added, “You are doing the Lord’s work,” which elicited from Kiera “that’s what I always say to my friends! I am so going to tell them you said that.”

To support our CEHD students, go to giving.temple.edu/givetoedu.

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN DAVIS, PhD

Dear CEHD Alumni, Friends and Community Members,

On June 1, I stepped into the role of interim dean with a goal of supporting the excellent work of our students, staff, faculty, and alumni while bringing unity to our college and celebrating our diverse experiences and perspectives.

I am a tenured professor in Policy, Organizational & Leadership Studies (POLS) and have been with Temple for 22 years. I previously served as interim dean from 2010 to 2013.

My focus, and our focus as a college, will be on strengthening our community through effective communication, collaboration, and connection, while also continuously improving the ways we teach and mentor our students, and enhancing our research profile. We are in this together!

As Dean of the College of Education and Human Development, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and to celebrate your accomplishments as alumni of our college.



I thank you for your commitment to the college. I am looking forward to working with you, and sharing more about the great work being done in the CEHD.

Please feel free to [email me](#), or connect with [Derek Coffman](#), Major Gifts Officer, if you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Earl Davis".

James Earl Davis, PhD
Interim Dean, College of Education and Human Development

Dean Davis all smiles with CEHD students.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Alumni, Family and Friends of the College of Education and Human Development,

I am excited to greet you on behalf of the CEHD staff and faculty.

As the senior editor of the *Educator* magazine, I am excited to share this issue of the *Educator*. Our theme for this issue centers around teamwork, partnership and community.

As a college, we are proud of our various partnerships, particularly our relationship with Dunbar Elementary School, highlighted in this issue.

Temple Owls are everywhere, working as educators and administrators in the classroom, in the boardroom and in other areas.

I am honored and thankful to my colleagues for their commitment and dedication to sharing the story of our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends.



Our cover design concept of the Temple T is a visual of some of the CEHD faculty, staff, students and alumni featured in the magazine. The T represents how we all come together as one Temple. Designed in 1983 by Tyler School of Art students, the “T” represents strength and positive character, with open ends that are symbolic of the free exchange of ideas that is the hallmark of a Temple education.

As always, thanks for taking the time to read the *Educator*. The *Educator* is for YOU! Please don’t hesitate to contact us to be included in our next issue and to share your story with the College of Education and Human Development community.

Continued success,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn A. Roberts".

Dawn Angelique Roberts
Editor and Director of External Community Relations
College of Education and Human Development, Temple University

CEHD book signing with William E. Cross, Jr., PhD, author of *Black Identity*.
Left to Right: William E. Cross, Jr. and Dawn A. Roberts

COLLEGE NEWS: COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TEACHING AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The College of Education and Human Development recognized the following faculty with awards for outstanding teaching and mentoring. Nominations for the awards were open for faculty, staff and self nominations. Criteria for earning an award include innovative classroom teaching, excellence in promoting student learning, or outstanding performance in helping students attain program or career goals (e.g., earning teacher certification, completing a doctoral dissertation). The awards and outstanding teachers include:



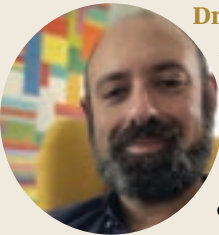
Dr. Ben Torsney
Undergraduate Teaching Award

Awarded to a CEHD undergraduate professor who motivates, inspires and supports students, and who exemplifies one or more of the [six teaching standards of the College](#).



Dr. Armando Estrada
Graduate Teaching Award

Awarded to a CEHD graduate professor who motivates, inspires and supports students, and who exemplifies one or more of the [six teaching standards of the College](#).



Dr. Dan Walinsky
Faculty Mentoring/Advising Award

Awarded to CEHD faculty only and applies to those cases in which a student or students feel they received notable advising or mentoring at the undergraduate or graduate level.



Dr. Di Liu
Owlie Award

Awarded to a CEHD faculty member (full-time or part-time) or teaching assistant who takes the opportunity to try an innovative teaching method in one of their courses to achieve a course goal they could not easily meet through other means. This award is for taking a risk in teaching that might not otherwise be recognized. Note that this innovative teaching method that took the instructor or teaching assistant out of their “comfort zone” does not have to be focused on technology, although it certainly can be.



Johnson Ho
Teaching Assistant Award

Awarded to a CEHD graduate teaching assistant who motivates, inspires and supports students, and who exemplifies one or more of the [six teaching standards of the College](#).



Cassy Beckowski
Teaching Assistant Award

Awarded to a CEHD graduate teaching assistant who motivates, inspires and supports students, and who exemplifies one or more of the [six teaching standards of the College](#).



Aidan Brett
Adjunct Teaching Award

Awarded to a CEHD adjunct faculty member who motivates, inspires and supports students, and who exemplifies one or more of the [six teaching standards of the College](#).



Tim Patterson
Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award

Congratulations to assistant professor in teaching and learning, Tim Patterson, 2022 recipient of the [Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award](#).

“As someone who spent 12 years studying in higher education, I can firmly state that I have never encountered a professor like Tim, both as a master of his craft and as a sincere mentor to his students. From the very first interaction, his thoughtful, genuine desire to help was evident.” - former student



Lori A. Shorr
Provost’s Award for Teaching Excellence in General Education

Congratulations to [Lori A. Shorr](#), associate professor of instruction in psychological studies in education.

“While her work as an instructor of individual classes has been excellent, it is Dr. Shorr’s leadership as coordinator of this [Kids in Crisis] course that has allowed her to have the biggest impact. Dr. Shorr has utilized her professional network to staff Kids in Crisis with teachers who represent the diversity of our students and who bring extensive experience teaching issues of race and diversity ... she has gone out of her way to identify and cultivate instructors of color whose expertise and experience add enormously to students’ experiences. And, perhaps even more importantly, once instructors are hired, she includes them in an active and engaged community designed to support and enrich their teaching.” - colleagues

Congratulations to our CEHD Family! 2022 Anniversary Recognition



Left to Right - Sydnora B. Simon, Gregory M. Anderson, and Julia E. Kershaw-St. George

45 years
Valerie J. Williams

41 years
Gregory Konicki

30 years
Julia E. Kershaw-St. George
Sydnora B. Simon

26 years
Gregory Szczepanek



INSTITUTE ON DISABILITIES AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY AWARDED 2022 PEW CENTER FOR ARTS & HERITAGE PROJECT GRANT FOR *RHYTHM BATH*



Lead artists Susan Marshall and Mimi Lien to present a suite of immersive dance performance-installations developed in conversation and collaboration with neurodiverse communities.

Susan Marshall and set designer Mimi Lien. Produced by the [Institute on Disabilities](#), the project builds on Marshall’s 30+ years of renowned dance work and is informed by her experience as a parent to her art-loving adult neurodiverse son, and member of a community of neurodiverse individuals, families, and advocates. *Rhythm Bath* will premiere at the 2023 Philadelphia Fringe Festival at Christ Church Neighborhood House.

“The Institute is thrilled to partner with acclaimed artists Susan Marshall and Mimi Lien to present this important work,” notes Lisa Sonneborn, Director, Media Arts and Culture, Institute on Disabilities. “We are deeply grateful to The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage for the opportunity to bring accessible, boundary-pushing performance to audiences in Philadelphia and beyond.”

Rhythm Bath blends performance, adventure, and reflection, inviting art-loving audiences with and without disabilities to gather and enjoy art, in an environment where there’s no “right” way to be a “good” audience. The project will explore questions of audience invitation and exclusion, with the aim of creating a level playing field where a certain way of being in—or controlling—one’s body is not preconceived.

“This work is an extension of the Institute’s social justice mission and Susan Marshall’s advocacy as an artist and a parent,” said Sally Gould-Taylor, PhD, Executive Director, Institute on Disabilities.

James Earl Davis, PhD, interim dean of the College of Education and Human Development at Temple University, where the Institute on Disabilities is located, is excited about the upcoming program. “Through this unique vehicle of contemporary performance, *Rhythm Bath* reflects the shared interest of the Institute and the College in agency and interdependency.”

Professional dancers will perform within and through three set installations and amongst the audience who may move through the spaces. Current ideas include an environment constructed top to bottom in white fabric, with a soft billowing ceiling; a dark space in which the audience may interact with and animate sculptural elements; and rolling chairs to sit in and move, to increase audiences’ comfort without dictating a specific viewing area or perspective. A large dance ensemble will move through shifting rhythms and patterns; solos and duets also appear and reappear in different areas. The dancing need not be watched sequentially; the performance-installations will repeat over several hours, during which audiences may come and go.

“With *Rhythm Bath*, I’m inviting audiences to gather and enjoy the performance in an environment where there’s no ‘right’ way to be, and you can come as you are to share an experience of art with others,” notes Susan Marshall.

“
**With *Rhythm Bath*, I’m
inviting audiences to gather
and enjoy the performance
in an environment where
there’s no ‘right’ way to be,
and you can come as you
are to share an experience
of art with others.**



Institute on Disabilities at Temple University



Congratulations to [Tech OWL - Technology for Our Whole Lives](#) for being recognized as Philadelphia Magazine’s #BestOfPhilly.

TechOWL’s TikTok Videos
This series by TechOWL (“Technology for Our Whole Lives”), part of Temple’s Institute on Disabilities, introduces viewers to clever gadgets designed to aid those challenged by everyday tasks like fastening buttons, opening bottles and pulling on socks – and has gone viral for it.

25th Anniversary of Competence and Confidence: Partners in Policymaking - Early Intervention (C2P2 EI)



Sally Gould-Taylor, PhD, Executive Director of the Institute (bottom row on left) joins past C2P2 EI graduates to celebrate the program’s 25th anniversary.

The Institute on Disabilities celebrated the 25th anniversary of Competence and Confidence: Partners in Policymaking - Early Intervention (C2P2 EI), one of its leadership development programs. C2P2 EI invites parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities to learn the most up-to-date information and to help develop leadership skills. In July, past graduates and guest speakers gathered at Temple’s Harrisburg campus to celebrate with cake and to share stories about advocating for early intervention for their children.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Rachel Berger, *KLN '05, FOX '10*

By Dawn Angelique Roberts

Rachel Berger (*KLN '05, FOX '10*), Director of Marketing and Communications for the College of Education and Human Development, is a familiar face to the Temple University community.

In addition to earning two degrees here, she has also been a longtime employee on Temple's Ambler campus, having worked there for nearly 16 years, most recently as the assistant director for marketing and enrollment services. Her primary focus there was on creating the next generation of Owls through undergraduate recruitment, and marketing the various opportunities on the campus and within University College.

As the director of marketing and communications, Berger is responsible for providing strategic direction and leadership, as well as developing, executing, and overseeing marketing and communications strategies designed to enhance the overall reputation of the college, influencing enrollment by attracting top-quality students within the undergraduate and graduate programs, and communicating the college's mission, vision, and achievements to various stakeholders while maintaining a consistent brand voice, style and tone.

Sharing about her background in journalism and communications, Berger said, "I love to listen to people's stories and help those stories be part of a lasting impact."

When Berger isn't working on messaging or communicating on behalf of the university, she is either spending time with her family; teaching Religious School in her community, which she's been doing for 9 years; or reading.

"I love reading and just picked it back up a year ago, as an escape after the tornado that devastated the Ambler Campus and my local community," Berger said. "I've already read 20 novels this calendar year," said Berger.

Berger resides in Ambler, PA with her husband of 16 years, Eric, a chef manager for a corporate food service provider; their three children Matthew (12), Ryan (7) and Sarah (4); a cat and a turtle.

“I love to listen to people’s stories and help those stories be part of a lasting impact.”



Left to right: Emily Carney, Kristen Buddendorf, Jessica Martin and Tina Young

The College of Education and Human Development is pleased to welcome a familiar face to the CEHD family. Tina Young, no stranger to Temple University, has been with the university for nine years as an events coordinator in the Howard Gittis Student Center.

As an events coordinator, Young assisted with planning hundreds of student center programs each semester. She managed the pre-event, on-site and post-event phase for university events. She scheduled, completed site visits and planned meetings.

Joining the College of Education and Human Development this year as assistant director of special events, Young is looking forward to handling all aspects of planning, hosting and executing a wide range of events within the college.

As a former educator, Young has always wanted to be in the College of Education and Human Development. Young received her degree in early education and taught preschool for four years before becoming an event planner.

She is excited to have the opportunity to work with students, faculty and staff. Prior to coming on board with CEHD, Young volunteered with Jumpstart, and worked with various CEHD staff setting up events in the Student Center.

Young will lead the CEHD team with core events like convocation, commencement, doctoral toasts, scholarship banquets, alumni events, and various recognition and awards ceremonies.

Additionally, she will coordinate special meetings, retreats, lecture series and symposia on behalf of the dean.

When Young is not working, she enjoys reading children's literature with her son and traveling with her family.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Tina Young

By Dawn Angelique Roberts



RITTER HALL ANNEX



The new entranceway to the College of Education and Human Development administrative suite. This area was formerly Kiva Auditorium and Disability Resources and Services.



One of the new conference spaces in the College. This one is in the College's new administrative suite.

RITTER COMPLEX RENOVATIONS

By John B. Francescone

The Ritter Complex renovations are now mostly complete. The College's internal spaces have been modernized and the space outside of the complex has been beautified. The Ritter Complex renovations included the complete gutting and the reconstruction of the Ritter Hall office portion of the complex, which now houses the College's three academic departments, and the demolition of the Kiva Auditorium, which has been replaced by the College of Education and Human Development Administrative Suite. The entire complex received brand-new energy-efficient windows, which were installed during the summer of 2022. Additionally, the Ritter Annex first-floor corridors and elevators were refurbished, and the outside of the complex was redone, completing the several year University redesign of the entire Liacouras Walk.

Special attention was paid to sustainability throughout the project, ensuring energy-efficient materials and designs were used. The space is now significantly more accommodating to ADA needs. The College was careful to ensure furniture and supplies no longer needed were recycled or re-used throughout the process. College of Education and Human Development furniture and supplies that were no longer useful in the Ritter Complex found new homes with the Temple Police, Temple Athletics, other University offices, and with the Philadelphia School District, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and other not-for-profit agencies near Temple. Nearly 30,000 pounds of old steel furniture was brought to scrap so it can be utilized in new products.

Temple alumni Daniel Mina and Justin Hall, who were childhood friends, discuss how different paths through education led them to overseeing nearby Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School.

Left to Right: Daniel Mina, *EDU '14*, Justin Hall, *CLA '08*
(Photo by Joseph V. Labolito)

CHILDHOOD FRIENDS TURNED TEMPLE ALUMNI REUNITE AT DUNBAR

BY BRENT BAUM

It seems fitting that Temple alumni Daniel Mina, *EDU '14*, and Justin Hall, *CLA '08*, were hired together as principal and assistant principal of nearby Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School to start this school year. They were close friends in middle and high school before taking different paths in education and uniting once again at Dunbar.

Principal Mina, previously the assistant principal at C.C.A. Baldi Middle School in Philadelphia, succeeded Principal Dawn Moore, *CLA '96*, *EDU '00*, who retired from her duties at Dunbar last year.

Mina said he felt proud and humbled when he was named principal of Dunbar because of its legacy going back from Moore to Marcus Foster, a nationally known educator who served as principal of Dunbar in the 1950s.

“Marcus Foster recognized the potential of a place like Dunbar because of its location, the connection to Temple and other community organizations, while recognizing the need as well,” said Mina. “I also look at the work Dawn Moore has done and all of the other principals in between, so I see my role as a continuing process of trying to support the kids in this community as best we can.”

Mina explained that this school year at Dunbar is like no other, due to the challenges of coming back from a pandemic. He added it is important to honor and acknowledge the role that all the teachers play in supporting the students.

“There are a number of staff members at Dunbar, who are also Temple alumni, who have worked for a long time in collaboration with Temple to support our students,” said Mina. “It is the strength of our teachers, the strength of the team that we have at Dunbar and the support we get from Temple [that have helped make] this year work for our students.”

Assistant Principal Hall, who was previously the director of student services at Southwest Leadership Academy Charter School in Philadelphia, found out that he would be working at Dunbar after Mina, his longtime friend, called to inform him that he’d been accepted for the position. “To end up here after all that time is kind of wild. We ironically talked about being roommates freshman year at Temple,” said Hall. “So, your friend calling you to let you know the interview team thinks you are a good fit, is special.”

“I’ve personally known Mr. Hall for a long time and I think it’s because of that trusting relationship we have with each other: We have those shared values and shared purpose of education,” added Mina.

Hall, a native of Queens, New York, said he attended five different schools and school districts, including the United Nations International School, a private school in New York for early elementary, along with a parochial school in New York. Then he moved with his mother to the Poconos, where he first met Mina in eighth grade at a public school in Brodheadsville, Pennsylvania. Hall said it was his first time attending a public school.





Dunbar’s connections to Temple run deep. Over half a dozen alumni currently work at the school, including (pictured from left to right): Cashonna Thomas, *FOX ’99*, Timothy Adkins, *CLA ’98*, Angela McCrea, *EDU ’92*, Daniel Mina, *EDU ’14*, Justin Hall, *CLA ’08*, Linnea Hunter, *CLA ’99*, Anna Johnson, *CLA ’03*, Andrea McNulty, *EDU ’12*, and Angela Berry, *EDU ’93*. (Photo by Joseph V. Labolito)

The experience of attending various schools inspired Hall to pursue a career in education.

“I had seen how these different school systems interacted with students. I observed that schools have a large impact on how students develop and how they form into fully functioning adults, so I developed an interest in education,” said Hall.

Dunbar’s assistant principal explained he pursued a degree in psychology because he developed an interest in helping people overcome challenges, some of which he faced himself.

“I desire to help students like myself, so reflecting on my experience I saw students as a version of myself. Every student could go left or right multiple times and it leads them to whichever path they go in life,” said Hall. “Mental health is a large part that, like when my parents got divorced, was a critical point in my life. Being able to help people through those types of turbulence became something I was interested in.”

“I always knew that I wanted to support a school in the School District of Philadelphia,” added Mina. “I saw the opportunity education provided to me being the first person in my family to go to college, so I wanted to support other kids in that as well.”

The native of Teaneck township in New Jersey explained that he wanted to work in urban education to help people overcome systemic barriers that might prevent them from being afforded the same opportunities.

“I saw education as a lane where you can provide equity that can support kids to maximize their potential in the future,” said Mina. “I hope to be a part of helping kids receive the necessary skills to pursue their interests and goals.”

It has been a long time coming for the two childhood friends Mina and Hall to reunite and unlike so many, they get to share their continued moments and career achievements as adults and educators at the same school.

“**I desire to help students like myself, so reflecting on my experience I saw students as a version of myself. Every student could go left or right multiple times and it leads them to whichever path they go in life.**”

”

AT DUNBAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TEMPLE OWLS ARE HELPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEARNERS SUCCEED

BY DENISE CLAY-MURRAY

When she was a student in the African American Studies program at Temple University, Anna Johnson’s (*CLA ’03*) goal was to do her part to give Philadelphia’s young people a chance to make the most of their lives as a teacher.

Be it helping students with the desire to go to college get into the magnet school of their choice, or helping students find a way to turn something they like doing into a career, Johnson, a teacher at the Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School in North Philadelphia, believes it’s her mission to make sure the children in her hometown have what they need to succeed, she said.

“When you look at a seventh grader, you see who they are and where they are,” she said. “But you have to think about them a decade from now. Right? What’s your hope for them in 10 years? What would you like to see them on the path to? You have to think about that when you go into your classroom.”

Johnson is one of several Temple University graduates that are trying to make a difference in the lives of students at Dunbar, a neighborhood school located near Main Campus on North 12th Street.

The connection between Temple and Dunbar has been a longstanding one. In addition to being a stone’s throw away from campus, Dunbar was one of the six School District of Philadelphia schools that the university managed through a partnership with the School Reform Commission and former District CEO Paul Vallas in the early 2000s.

The familiarity between the school and the university has proven to be a benefit for teachers, students, and the North Philadelphia community, said Daniel Mina (*EDU ’14*), the school’s principal.

What he learned about educational systems through his Temple education and seeing how these systems play out in North Philadelphia has made Mina, more cognizant of the needs of Dunbar’s students. It’s an awareness that he believes his fellow Temple-based colleagues share.

“I don’t know if I’d say it’s the educational experience, although I think that’s part of it,” Mina said. “It’s the familiarity with North Philadelphia, being on campus and being in the community. Having that shared experience at Temple has helped us to build relationships with each other.”

Those relationships have proven beneficial for the teachers in a school that has, in some cases, educated entire families of children, Johnson said.

“Dunbar is a really tight community,” she said. “It is one of those spaces where teachers and administrators work together to support staff. I have taught multiple siblings or cousins,” she said. “There’s often another teacher in the building who can give you some insight if you have a concern with a student because they either had a sibling [as a student] before you got there, or they know the family.”

“[The teachers and administrators] really work with the kids,” said Bernice Williams, (*EDU ’10*), an in-house substitute teacher at Dunbar. “They really try to help [their fellow teachers] understand the process and work together. It’s like a family school.”

And Temple University is a part of that family, said Justin Hall (*CLA ’08*), the school’s assistant principal. The ability to pick up the phone and call a former classmate or professor from the university allows everyone – the school in particular, and the community overall – to benefit.

“There are a number of different programs that we’ve put together as a result of being near Temple and having those connections,” he said. “Those things really help enhance the learning environment.”

“We know that we can reach out to [the College of Education and Human Development] for any request, and they’ll try to work with us to make it happen,” Mina said. “We’re really lucky to be able to have such a close relationship with Temple.”

Recent graduates are #TempleMade to #BeMoore

By Rachel Berger



Pictured left to right: First row, Temple University 2022 graduates Jaclynn Campos and Hailey Lucas; second row, J. Hampton Moore Elementary School Assistant Principal Candice Lord (*EDU '08*), Principal Tim Glynn, School-Based Teacher Leader Kim Speed.

Jacklynn Campos and Hailey Lucas, both members of the College of Education and Human Development's Class of 2022, know exactly what lies ahead as they embark on their careers. Just before graduation, they both secured teaching contracts with the School District of Philadelphia at J. Hampton Moore Elementary School. They credit their unique Temple senior year experience with giving them confidence as they begin their professional careers.

The recent graduates, both Elementary Education and Special Education majors, spent their full senior year in teacher training at Moore. The full-year field

experience, in which all Elementary Education students participate, includes one semester of practicum and one semester of student teaching, all within one classroom in one school.

"This is something I've wanted to see for years," said Moore Principal Tim Glynn. "College students need to be in this environment for a full year to get a sense of the real experience. It really helps the college students get more out of student teaching."

Campos, who came to Temple from Trevoze, PA, and chose Temple because of its urban location and social justice

mission, likened the experience to a year-long interview. "I have friends and family who studied education and didn't get the luxury of a full year like this," she said, noting that others may complete observations in one school and then student teach in another. "The full year allows me to see my own progression throughout the year - how I have changed as a person, how my teaching has changed, how effective a teacher I became."

Lucas, from Warrington, PA, added that the year-long experience helped foster meaningful relationships. "It was so awesome to see the students' progress

“

I felt like we were a team from the start.” Campos added. “I got along well with my mentor teacher, and there was strong administrative support. I always remembered this was a learning process. It was okay to make mistakes because there was a great team to support me.

”

over the course of the year,” she said. “You can also get close with your mentor teacher and become familiar with the school.”

“I felt like we were a team from the start,” Campos added. “I got along well with my mentor teacher, and there was strong administrative support. I always remembered this was a learning process. It was okay to make mistakes because there was a great team to support me.”

That team includes the mentor teacher, school administrators and a coach from Temple, among others.

“The coach doesn't push too much or rush you,” said Lucas. “It was a challenging but manageable process that made me feel really comfortable.”

Campos and Lucas partnered with university coach and clinical instructor Cindy Cupitt, who used her experiences from many years of teaching to support and guide their development over the course of the year.

“Student teaching is an exciting, yet nerve-wracking, experience for seniors,” Cupitt said. “Using a two-semester model better prepares our Temple seniors to both student teach and take on their own classroom after graduation.”

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted typical classroom experiences for Campos and Lucas; both were a bit nervous heading into the classroom as seniors. The program's “gradual release” framework incorporates monthly guidelines, transferring increasing responsibility to the seniors over the course of the full year.

“I gradually took over everything,” said Lucas. “Planning, teaching, talking with families. The gradual release framework really sets us up for success. I always had the support of my mentor teacher. We stay in touch now and I'm thrilled to have her as a resource as I begin my professional career.”

“As a student teacher, I could really envision myself as a lead teacher,” said Campos. While she studied a lot of theory and principles in earlier classes at Temple, the hands-on experience was critical, she said. “You don't always know how you'll handle a particular situation until you're in it. I was able to follow my instinct and learned to trust my gut. Then, I'd receive feedback from my mentor and use that to further develop as a teacher.”

Kim Speed is the school-based teacher leader at Moore who identifies mentor teachers for pairing with Temple seniors. She pointed to the foundational knowledge and experience Campos and Lucas obtained at Temple that “prepared them very realistically for what they were going to do. They had the tools and initiative, and they were prepared to use them.”

Temple's Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator and Professor Annemarie Hindman said the college is committed to preparing teachers for urban settings and places many students in the School District of Philadelphia. “What they do in the field and how we help them make sense of it back at Temple [in senior seminar discussions] is some of the most useful learning that happens,” she said.

“Our job at Temple is to prepare students for success in the real world. We owe it to the school district to deliver on this. It demonstrates the importance of the

relationship between the district and the university,” said Hindman. Moore administrators said these partnerships are important to the future of education. “I challenged our teachers to prepare the Temple students so they were ready to be hired upon completion of the program,” said Glynn. “It's our responsibility to give them the right opportunity to grow and learn.”

“This is your test for real life,” added Speed. The student teachers get to see the best and worst and everything in between, which is a great learning experience.”

Through it all, Campos and Lucas stood out.

Assistant Principal Candice Lord, *EDU '08*, said Campos and Lucas adopted the #BeMoore mantra. “Jacklynn and Hailey stuck out as ‘becoming us,’” Lord said. “They immersed themselves in our community. They participated in spirit days, were active in the school, and showed up when they didn't have to. We saw them, and they saw us every single day, so when they said they wanted to be here, we knew they meant it.”

Lucas began serving as a first-grade teacher at Moore in August. She has an interest in eventually continuing her education in educational leadership.

Campos is excited about her first year at Moore as a kindergarten teacher. Her advice to other Owls: “You never know who is watching and when they're watching. Stand out by doing small things. And do everything.”



Twins Maya and Kala Johnstone always had a love for food. But it wasn't until the COVID-19 pandemic, when they retired after working in the educational field for two decades, that they decided to make a full-blown living from it. With plenty of help from family and the Temple alumni network, they prove it's never too late to turn that passion into a dream career.

Left Image: FoodChasers Owners Maya and Kala with their brothers, Lance and Brent.

'FOODCHASERS' TWINS PROVE IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO TURN A PASSION INTO A CAREER

When Maya Johnstone, EdD, *EDU '01*, and Kala Johnstone, EdD, *EDU '01*, decided to go to college in 1997, there was only one choice: Temple University. The two joke that their father, Isaac, wouldn't have it any other way but to continue the family tradition. Isaac was a police lieutenant at the university and older brothers Lance, *STH '96*, and Brent, *SSW '99*, had already attended, both playing for the Temple football team. While the decision to enroll may not have exactly been completely theirs, looking back, they say they wouldn't have changed a thing.

Both Maya and Kala ended up graduating with bachelor's degrees from the College of Education and Human Development, but their college journey initially didn't point in that direction. Kala recalled how neither of them started as an education major when they first arrived, but 54 credits in, both had come to the decision to change fields—at the same time. In a “major twin energy” moment, they actually came to the decision on the same day—and told each other when they spoke one night.

After graduation, the twins both went on to work in the Philadelphia School District, eventually working their way up to being the principals of Wagner Middle and Edmonds Elementary schools respectively. After a lengthy career spanning two decades in the education field, the sisters decided to retire in July 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, as many people did, the two started to reevaluate their lives, careers and dreams. They'd always

had a passion for food, starting an Instagram account 8 years earlier called **FoodChasers**. The account up to that point was just for fun, posting photos of different dishes they'd seen on their travels across the city, state and country. The name was derived from that exact concept: their love of “chasing” all different types of food and sharing it with their friends and followers.

Around the time of their retirement, at the urging of their family and some of their followers, they decided to use their pension money and turn their culinary ambitions into a business. FoodChasers became more than just a fun outlet for them on social media; it was now a full-blown catering business and restaurant in Elkins Park. Thanks to the fanbase they'd cultivated and some savvy business help from their brothers, they transformed their love for food into a business that now boasts over 90,000 followers on Instagram between their two accounts. Over the last year, the account and the twins have been featured in food articles, local media and even in a [recent Pepsi commercial starring Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts](#).

They can be seen regularly posting examples of their dishes on their social media accounts, where they describe their business as a “twist on American traditional breakfast and lunch.” They say their No. 1 seller is a brioche French toast that has golden fried shrimp and chicken tenders on top, with their famous house-made spicy honey sauce.



A few of the dishes served at FoodChasers

The twins said that while it's been a whirlwind since launching the restaurant and catering business during a pandemic, they attribute a lot of success to being Temple alumni and the network that comes along with it. Their brothers and fellow alumni, Brent and Lance, also assist with the business, and have been integral with their connections to the alumni community as well. Kala and Maya added that the Temple connection is the biggest thing that stands out to their followers and customers whenever they are featured on radio or television. Kala said, "Some of these people are 70 years and older. They come in here and say, 'I heard you went to Temple and we just had to come.' "

The connection between FoodChasers and the Temple community has continued to stay strong into their second year. They added that the rush of support from Temple alumni is a huge part of their success, and if they'd gone to school in another state and returned to Philadelphia to start this business; it just might not have been the same.

The two also spoke about their philanthropic endeavors, launching FoodChasers Cares, an initiative that focuses on providing special school lunches to kids and schools that may not otherwise have the resources. They added that most "extra" parties or lunches at schools normally aren't covered by the typical school budget, so it's something that teachers and administrators don't have to dig into their own pockets for. The hope is to expand the idea to honor teachers with an additional special "FoodChasers Experience" at the end of the school year. Bringing their experience as principals into focus as well, the twins hope to be able to raise and donate money for schools to afford de-escalation rooms, an educational tool that's used as a "safe environment for [students] to release their pent-up frustrations, de-escalate and return to a calm state."

Both Kala and Maya fondly recalled their days as students at Temple. The first two years were the ideal college experience, spending hours at a time meeting new people in the J&H cafeteria or the Student Center. They added that by their senior year, while they continued to have fun, being at Temple was a place and state of mind you didn't want to leave as the real world rushed toward you faster and faster. Those friends they spent time with for hours on campus remain their close friends to this day, with the sisters adding that the relationships formed during their four years were and remain extremely important.

So where was the twins' favorite place to eat on campus? The Student Center (or the SAC as some alumni call it), joking that while it looks quite different today than it did back then, it was still the best place to eat and hang out with friends.

You can find more information about FoodChasers at [their website](#), as well as on Instagram at [@FoodChasers](#) and [@FoodChasersKitchen](#).



FoodChasers: 7852 Montgomery Ave, Elkins Park, PA 19027

Alumna Writes Children’s Book to Kickstart Conversation About Mental Health

By Matthew Aquino

Mishel Williams wrote *Little Z and Firefly: A Journey to Finding Light and Love* with the intent of giving both parents and children tools to cope with mental health.

After dealing with a sexual assault in 2017 and entering what she referred to as “a really dark place,” adjunct instructor in the College of Education and Human Development Mishel Williams, *EDU ’09*, did what she knew best: She turned her attention to her creative side, something that had always helped her deal with stress and anxiety even as a child herself.

In 2018 she started writing *Little Z and Firefly: A Journey to Finding Light and Love*, a children’s book aimed at kick-starting a conversation and providing usable tools surrounding mental health. Once the pandemic ravaged the world, Williams realized that it was time to release her book, ultimately self-publishing on Dec. 9, 2021. “I really want it to be a starting place for parents to approach talking and teaching their kids about mental health, to arm them with tools that they’re going to be able to use for a lifestyle for, you know, their entire life,” Williams said.

The book follows a young character named Little Z who is experiencing depression, referred to as “the dark place” in the book. Little Z makes a wish to get out of the dark place and the audience is introduced to Firefly, a character who is full of life and determined to pull Little Z into the light.

Throughout the story, both characters learn valuable lessons about how to approach getting out of that dark place. The book gives children and parents seven wellness tools to follow, including talking it out, healthy diet and exercise, mindfulness, creating order and joy, writing it out, and mirror work.

Williams published a workbook in early 2022 that goes hand-in-hand with *Little Z and Firefly*. The workbook is a hands-on guide children can use when they experience their own feelings of depression or anxiety; the same tools they learned from Little Z and Firefly.

When Williams herself experienced depression following her assault, she found she had her very own Firefly. That Firefly happened to be her aunt, who introduced her to some of the tools she wrote about like mirror work, which is the practice of looking at oneself in the mirror and reciting a positive affirmation.

“She was a huge influence in my healing process,” Williams said. “So in essence, she was my Firefly at the time, and I was Little Z.” In 2018, Williams experienced what it was like to also be the role of the Firefly. She temporarily took in one of her students for a couple of months because the student wasn’t safe at home.

While caring for the student until she was placed in a proper care facility, Williams taught her the tools she had learned.

“So I was her Firefly, trying to help her out of that dark place,” Williams said. “It became a beautiful journey of folks supporting one another; a real full circle moment.”

The character Little Z was named as a tribute to the student Williams cared for over those few months, she said.

The character Firefly is meant to symbolize that even in the darkest of places, light still exists, Williams added.

After teaching previously at Temple in fall of 2017, Williams returned in fall 2021 to teach again. She currently teaches *Special Education Assessments and Effective Practices for Students with High Incidence Disabilities*.

“It feels good to come back and now take everything I’ve learned over the past 13ish years and share it with new students and new budding teachers, that’s been a really cool experience,” Williams said. Williams’ main goals are to create a full-fledged curriculum based on her workbook and eventually to turn Little Z and Firefly into a children’s mental health app.

“In this digital age, kids are born and they already know how to use the iPhone, which is crazy, but yeah that’s the big goal, to turn it into a mental health app,” Williams said.

To find out more about the book, go to littlezandfirefly.com or follow [@littlez_firefly](https://www.instagram.com/littlez_firefly) on Instagram. The book is currently available through Amazon, Walmart, and Barnes and Noble’s online stores.



2022

COMMENCEMENT



SEAHAWKS' SEAN DESAI CALLS A CAREER AUDIBLE

BY STEPHEN ORBANEK



The Temple University College of Education and Human Development held its Commencement Ceremony on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at the Liacouras Center. The Commencement speakers for the ceremony were **Sean Desai, EDU '08**, and three-time Owl **Irene Eizen, EDU '70, '72, '95**.

The student speakers for the class of 2022 were undergraduate **Fanta Konde, EDU '22** (pictured above); graduate **Tynecia Wilson, EDU '20, '22**; and **Michelle Benns-Cook, EDU '20**.

Right image, from left to right: **Irene Eizen, EDU '70, '72, '95**; **Michelle Benns-Cook, EDU '20**; **Sean Desai, EDU '08**; and **Tynecia Wilson, EDU '20, '22**.



In the spring of 2008, Sean Desai, *EDU '08*, was faced with a life-altering decision. The Shelton, Connecticut, native and current Seattle Seahawks assistant head coach had just earned his doctorate in educational administration from Temple University's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) and an offer for a tenure-track position with a prestigious R1 university was on the table.

This was exactly why Desai, who earned his undergraduate degree in philosophy and political science from Boston University and a master's degree in higher and postsecondary education from Columbia University in 2005, initially pursued an EdD at Temple. His end game was always academia.

"The administration and leadership part of higher education really resonated with me and before I started at Temple, I remember talking to my parents and telling them that I wanted to get my doctorate, become a professor and rise through the academic ranks," said Desai, who delivered the keynote address at this spring's CEHD commencement ceremony.

But over time, priorities shifted. As he was pursuing his doctoral degree, Desai was also serving as a graduate assistant coach for Temple football, and he was beginning to reap the benefits of his work.

Desai never played college football, and his only coaching experience prior to Temple was at his alma mater Shelton (Conn.) High School. His stint with Temple actually started thanks to the equivalent of a cold call; he sent an email to see if the team was in need of volunteer coaching help.

Despite his limited experience in the field, Desai's educational background was making a difference and the team was one on the rise. Deciding whether to leave coaching for teaching was a difficult decision.

"[Then Temple Head Coach] Al Golden was honest with me, and he let me know that there was no full-time position for me at that time. He said that he would not blame me if I were to go and take the tenure-track position," Desai said. "But he also said that I could try to sit it out for six more months, continue as a graduate extern and then after the season, if someone leaves, he would promote me."

Desai bet on himself.

He turned down the tenure-track position, stayed with Temple and eventually was promoted to be the team's full-time special teams coordinator.

A year later, he played a key role in the Owls finishing their 2009 season at 9-4, the team's first winning season since 1990. From there, Desai's star has only continued to rise. He is currently the associate head coach and defensive assistant for the Seattle Seahawks, which comes after a nine-year stint with the Chicago Bears, where he served as the team's defensive coordinator and the first Indian American coordinator in NFL history for the 2021 season.

Desai is now just one step away from one of the 32 most highly-coveted jobs in football, yet his unconventional path continues to guide his coaching philosophy day in and day out.

"I use a lot of my theoretical background, and one of the best examples of that is culturally relevant pedagogy," Desai said.

Culturally relevant pedagogy is a theoretical model that focuses on multiple aspects of student achievement and supports students to uphold their cultural identities. It also calls for students to develop critical perspectives that challenge societal inequalities.

"I don't know if there is a more relevant field than teaching or coaching when you're talking about being culturally relevant and reaching your students or athletes where they're at, regardless of the background that they come from or the training that they have," Desai said.

Desai has already reached immense heights as both an academic and coach. After all, who else can count publishing a several hundred page dissertation and leading the NFL's sixth-ranked defense among their career highlights? It is easy to see why so many of his NFL colleagues and the players he coaches affectionately refer to him as "Doc."

At just 39 years of age, the future remains bright for Desai. He is thankful for the support of his wife, Temple alumna Ojus Patel, *EDU '06*, and their three children, as a career in coaching requires a very specific lifestyle and is an immense time commitment. He also recognizes that his success is not just his own.

"Whether you're teaching or coaching or you're an educator, this is still a people business, and it's about the relationships you build and keep," Desai said. "I wouldn't be in the position I am by myself, and I am very cognizant of that and very aware of that, and I am very appreciative of those people who have helped me along the way because I would not be here today without them."

30 Under 30

Matthew Kerr Munificent Maestro

By Ed Stoner, EdD

As a youngster, Matthew Kerr, *EDU '14*, found that playing in bands contributed to a positive mental outlook and played a critical role in shaping his identity. Today, he and his team of student leaders and community-based artists make sure that 400 youth from across the city—in correctional facilities, counseling centers, foster care, homeless shelters, rec centers and schools—have the opportunity to make music.

“I’ve learned so much from the North Philadelphia community and the amazing leaders that helped me understand the various systems that led to divestment from schools and the need for community-based movements.”

Unlikely beginnings

Shortly after graduating summa cum laude, Kerr was teaching history at the Charter School for Architecture and Design in Philadelphia. When he realized the school did not have the budget, he created a self-funded after-school music program. The mother of one of his students, a Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Center warden, soon urged him to start a similar program in the jail where she worked. Eventually, he showed up with instruments and started teaching and jamming with 10 youths—including some facing decades-long prison terms.

“We worked with so many incredibly talented and compassionate young people who stated that they wished they had this or any music program before,” Kerr stated.

That prompted Kerr, his co-director Christopher Thornton, and a team of driven community-based artists and activists to launch [Beyond the Bars](#) (BTB) in March 2015. Listening to the traumas

“I’ve learned so much from the North Philadelphia community and the amazing leaders that helped me understand the various systems that led to divestment from schools and the need for community-based movements.”

many of the students who were incarcerated had experienced—abuse, foster care, gun violence, homelessness and overall divestment from resources—BTB expanded to run more community-based music programs for youth who had been impacted by violence in any way.

Powered primarily, until recently, by volunteers, it partners with more than 30 different community-based organizations, including community and rec centers, counseling centers for violence or sexual abuse victims, food banks, homeless shelters, and public schools without music programs. BTB has provided 300 instruments and built 26 recording labs to serve 400 students this year—numbers that will soon mushroom thanks to a major funding coup.

More than a melody

Once youth identify music as their medium for expression and growth, Kerr’s group connects students with other vital community resources. “Systemic problems require systemic solutions,” said Kerr. “BTB does not operate alone as we work to support our youth. We use music to engage with our youth, build up their self-efficacy and self-expression skills, and help them realize the talented leaders that they are. We then work with our amazing partners to ensure we are creating systems that will holistically support all of their needs.” The importance of youth-driven and community-based programming were all values that were instilled in BTB through the many amazing and powerful community-based programs in the North Philadelphia area where Kerr attributes a strong influence over his life.

Recognized by the Mayor’s Office of Youth Engagement, Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office of Diversion and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, this year, BTB won a prestigious multiyear Lewis Prize for Music Accelerator Award to the tune of \$500,000. The award allowed Kerr to go full time with Christopher Thornton and continue to build the program.

Matt Menschner A+ Educator

By Kyle Bagenstose, *KLN '11* and Lauri Kochis

As a sophomore in high school, Matt Menschner, *EDU '15*, decided he wanted to be a teacher when he grew up. Now, over a decade later, he spends his days around kids of that same age at Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School in North Philadelphia, where he is the dean of students.

“Being in such a global city broadens your perspective, and you meet people from all walks of life. That’s helped me become the person I am today: someone equity-focused and someone who thinks about things through a social justice lens. That’s due to the diversity of people I’ve met at Temple and beyond.”

Art school drop-in

Menschner began his teaching career at another arts-focused school, Kensington High School for Creative and Performing Arts. That’s where he was placed for his first student teaching assignment through Temple, and he remained there, working first as a social studies and English teacher, then becoming director of student affairs, until stepping up into his current position in 2021.

“A school with an arts focus is where I’m meant to be ... there’s an infectious sense of school pride here, with everyone running to rehearsals and performances,” he said. “The thing that keeps me coming in every day, no matter the situation, is meeting and interacting with our students.”

School of thought

After graduating from high school in 2010, Menschner attended Community College of Philadelphia for two years, before transferring to Temple in 2012. Right away, he was captivated with the practicum-based education classes the university offered. He specifically remembers a course with Associate Professor Joseph Haviland called Effective Teaching: Theory and Practice.

“Dr. Haviland really embodied a lot of the qualities that I aspire to, and he always found a way to tie highbrow educational theories back into the practical day to day,” Menschner recalled. As a teacher, Menschner engages his students by employing the hands-on educational skills that resonated so deeply with him as a student. For example, in a 10th grade U.S. history class, he culminated a unit on gentrification with a project where students planned walking tours of their own neighborhoods, to analyze and share the ways those areas had changed over time. “Some of the students came up with really fascinating things. They compiled qualitative data through interviews with family and friends, and were able to put that data into very real terms,” he said.

“Being in such a global city broadens your perspective, and you meet people from all walks of life. That’s helped me become the person I am today: someone equity-focused and someone who thinks about things through a social justice lens.”



ALUMNI COUPLE ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO GIVE BACK

By Dawn Angelique Roberts

Joe, *EDU '70, '73*, and Fran Darpino, *EDU '70*, have fond memories of their time at Temple University and in the College of Education and Human Development.

The Darpinos met after seeing each other in the same classes. They started dating in their junior year of college and got engaged the day they graduated. The Darpinos were married in 1971.

“Temple was very good to us. Two working-class kids took the subway to Temple. We are the first people in our families to have a college education. It truly was a huge blessing for us. It truly is an Acres of Diamonds story for us,” said Fran.

“It was my foundation and the variety of classes that I took in the College of Education, public speaking and everything else, where I actually found my place in the world,” Fran added.

More memories include attending the first Earth Day event in 1968. Joe recalls the 1960s being a politically turbulent time in the United States and there were famous speakers that came to Temple during that time, people like Dick Gregory and Jerry Rubin, just to name a few.

Fran went to work for the Social Security Administration after graduating from Temple, and later on, she started a successful market research company, Frances Darpino Consulting, Inc.

Long-time Temple sports supporter and fan, Joe fondly remembers the days when John Chaney was the basketball coach. For many years the couple had tickets four rows off the court, and they didn’t miss a game.

Avid travelers for both work and pleasure, the Darpino’s marveled that they would always meet Temple alumni no matter where they traveled around the world. Temple had a stellar academic and professional image. Joe is normally decked out with a Temple hat, shirt, socks, and towels or golfing with his favorite Temple golf club covers. All have been gifts from the Owl Club or family Christmas gifts, and Fran said she reminds her daughter and son-in-law that Temple gear is always the perfect gift for dad!

Before the pandemic, living in Florida, the couple enjoyed their travel to Tampa and Orlando for games. They still enjoy catching the games when they are televised on ESPN + and look forward to attending games in Florida and Philadelphia again, including the next Homecoming game.

In addition to attending sporting events, Joe and Fran enjoyed attending alumni receptions when they were on campus. They reminisce about attending black-tie events when they were in their 20s and 30s and seeing notable Temple graduates.

The Darpino’s are also extremely proud of their family. Their daughter is an attorney in New York, while their son-in-law works in technology on Wall Street. They also have an 11-year-old grandson. The Darpinos enjoy visits from them during the holidays and times when they can get away from the City.

Joe and Fran share their advice for Temple students, encouraging them to give back to the University, adding that graduates should embrace their alma mater. “If every Temple alumni gave \$100 - \$200 a year to Temple, the university would be a much better place,” said Joe.

“We have always been loyal to Temple University. We make contributions, and we have always been Temple Ambassadors,” added Joe.

Joe began his career as a high school teacher in the Cheltenham School District and quickly rose to the ranks to be an administrator. He also served as president of the teacher’s union for several years.

“Fran and I are both very fortunate in that we both had very fortunate careers. Fran had an amazing career that we never expected. I was very lucky that I got in the right school district and that I could spend my life there,” said Joe. He added, “If a school like Temple wasn’t there, I don’t know where I would have gotten those opportunities.”

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Congratulations to Ed Stoner, our former Assistant Dean of Development and Alumni Relations.

Ed is now serving as Temple University’s Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director for External Operations, working with the Athletic Director and Vice President.

While we’ll miss Ed in the College of Education and Human Development, we are happy that he isn’t far away. We will see him around campus.

WELCOME TO THE CEHD, KIRSTEN HALKER-KRATZ

Kirsten Halker-Kratz, Assistant Dean of Development & Alumni Relations, comes to Temple University from Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence in Philadelphia, where she was the Director of Individual Giving & Donor Engagement, and previously the Director of Institutional and Individual Giving. She holds bachelor’s degrees in music and chemistry from Bluffton University in Bluffton, OH, master’s degrees in piano pedagogy and organ performance from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH, and a certificate in non-profit administration from the University of Pennsylvania. Still an active accompanist and performer, Ms. Halker-Kratz specializes in new music (written after 1980) in all keyboard genres. She lives in Media, PA with her husband, Girard Kratz (*BYR '06*), a daughter Caroline (17), a son Charlie (14), three cats, a dog and a parakeet.



A GIVING NATURE

WHY I GIVE

By Derek Coffman

Monarch butterflies have a great sense of direction. Each year, millions instinctively find their way to their overwinter homes. Donald Griffith (*EDU '62*) and his wife, Marge, also knew instinctively that their home was in education. The two met as education undergrads at East Stroudsburg University, and both would go on to teach for decades. After graduation, Don got a job in Quakertown, PA, as a driving instructor. During this time, he would drive to his night classes at Temple to complete his Masters of Education in Recreation and Leisure.

Next, Don landed in Hacketstown, NJ, where he found employment as a physical education instructor, which was his true passion. Marge recalls, “when he was in the Army, he worked in Oklahoma as a physical education teacher for kids of military families.” From then until his retirement in 1991, he would teach thousands of kids the benefits of a rigorous physical education, as well as coach thousands more in soccer, wrestling, and, his favorite, track and field. Don and Marge’s final migration took them to upstate New York.

Don was very proud of the education he received at Temple, and he received great joy from giving back to his alma mater, from his first gift of \$10 in 1976, to 2009 when he established the Donald and Marge Griffith Endowed Scholarship Fund. Sadly, Don passed away recently at the age of 87. Marge now carries on Don’s legacy and memory by continuing to make annual gifts, and by leaving their named scholarship fund in her estate plans.

In one of his last conversations with us, Don shared about the couple’s love of nature and travel, and fondly reminisced about one of his favorite trips to Mexico, where they learned all about the Monarch Butterfly’s migration. Like the Monarchs, we hope the Griffith’s support helps future generations find their way into education.

To support our CEHD students, go to giving.temple.edu/givetoedu.



ALUMNI NOTES

We are proud of our alumni at the College of Education and Human Development! We want to include an item about you in the Alumni Notes section of the magazine’s next issue. It is a great way to let your former classmates and the rest of the College of Education and Human Development community know what you are currently doing. Send your alumni notes to alumni.ed@temple.edu.



Brandon Matthews, *EDU '16* secured his 2022-2023 PGA Tour card while playing on the Korn Ferry Tour.

When former Temple University golfer Brandon Matthews stepped up to the tee box on hole one of the U.S. Open on June 17, the thousands of hours building towards this lifelong dream briefly flashed in his mind.

“At the highest stages of golf, that is when I succeed the best,” Matthews said. “Tougher conditions, the more crowds, the more pressure, is when I actually get calmer.”




Andrea Swan, *KLN '98, CLA '11, EDU '18* directs activities at Temple University’s Office of Community Affairs and Engagement.

Previously known as the Office of Community Relations, the office connects external stakeholders to university resources.

Swan connects primarily with organizations, residential associations and faith-based institutions that border Temple’s North Philadelphia campus.

As a first-generation graduate, Swan is extremely passionate about ensuring Temple’s young neighbors know the education and enrichment opportunities available to them. She counts collaborations with CEHD as vital for preparing youth and teens for college.


Swan is proud to note that her daughter, Bethany, is a student at Temple.



Jaya S. Moore, *KLN '00, EDU '11* is a proud Temple alumna and a long-time Temple employee. Upon graduating summa cum laude from Klein College of Media and Communication, Moore joined Temple’s Information Technology Services (ITS) Department. Since then, her career at Temple has spanned two decades including eight years in the President’s Executive Office, serving under the tenure of three university presidents and two board chairs. During that time, she returned to the classroom and earned her master’s degree in Educational Administration.


From 2015 to 2021, during a period of transformational campus development and growth, Moore served as chief of staff to the executive vice president and chief operating officer, whose portfolio included most of the university’s non-academic units including Capital Projects, Facilities & Operations, Business Services, and Campus Safety.

Now starting her 22nd year at Temple, Moore is director of communications and special projects with the Office of Business Services and a proud mom to two teenagers. She is also an active board member of the Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls, most recently serving as co-chair of its membership committee.



Mark R. Emerick, *EDU '19* an assistant professor of education at Muhlenberg College has been selected as a 2022 National Academy of Education (NAEd)/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow.

The National Academy of Education (NAEd)/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship provides funding and professional development to early-career researchers studying critical issues in the field of education.





Jermaine F. Williams, *EDU '06, '10* earned both a Master’s and a Doctorate of Education at the university. Before attending Temple, Williams worked in Philadelphia at the nonprofit Transitional Work Corporation helping individuals transition from public assistance to self-sufficiency. There he saw how institutional, societal and racial injustices impacted individuals’ access to education.


“I knew I needed to be able to impact access to education, and Temple’s programs provided a great opportunity for me to start my path as a higher education professional,” said Williams. “At Temple, you were more than just a member of an academic area; it was about how you were going to impact society, which rang true to me.”


Dr. Williams was recently named president of Montgomery College, a community college in Montgomery County, Maryland.


“
At Temple, you were more than just a member of an academic area; it was about how you were going to impact society, which rang true to me.
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Camika Royal, *EDU '12* is the author of Not Paved For Us: Black Educators and Public School Reform in Philadelphia (Harvard Education Press, 2022). Her work focuses on the intersections of politics, history and urban school reform. She worked in the Baltimore City and Washington, D.C. public schools, teaching, coaching teachers and helping to lead a charter high school. Dr. Royal has also worked with various colleges and universities in the Philadelphia and Baltimore regions to teach, coach and support urban school leaders and teacher educators.

Dr. Royal is an associate professor of Urban Education at Loyola University Maryland. She earned her bachelor of arts in English literature at North Carolina Central University, her master of arts in teaching at Johns Hopkins University, and her doctorate of philosophy in urban education at Temple University.

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

Please include your class and degree(s), the town where you currently live, and your phone number and email address, in case we have to contact you to clarify any information. Send along your Alumni Notes submission to: alumni.ed@temple.edu.

MEMORIAM



Theodore Gourley Jr.

Father, husband, son, brother, teacher, and friend—Dr. Theodore J. Gourley, Jr., Mt. Holly, NJ, was all this and more. Ted passed away on March 3, 2021, after a sustained illness. He was 76.

His life was well-lived, devoted always to others, from the children in his special education classroom to any lost soul who needed solace. His heart was kind and his sense of humor sharp. He loved to ski, teaching his three children the sport. And he was just as smooth on the dance floor.

Ted was born in Patterson, NJ., the oldest of seven children, to Josephine and Lt. Col. Theodore J. Gourley. He was an air force “brat,” but embraced the adventure of the family move across the country and internationally, as part of his father’s military career, living in Newfoundland, Canada; Massachusetts, Alabama, Hawaii, and the Azores.

He graduated high school from Rancocas Valley Regional High School and then continued his education, earning a degree in history from Wilkes University (Wilkes-Barre, PA), a Master’s Degree in Education from Trenton State University, and his doctorate from Temple University.

His first teaching position was in special education in the New Egypt School District. He also held administrative positions in the Mt. Laurel School District and Burling County Vocational School. He worked as a Director of Gift and Talented Education for the New Jersey Department of Education for many years.

Ted was an educational entrepreneur. He truly believed that all children have special talents and gifts, and they can excel if given the right opportunity. This conviction resulted in numerous innovative educational programs that he co-created and successfully administered: Olympics of the Mind, Convocations, Marsville, The Very Special Arts Festival, Mini-Model Congress, Model Congress, National Engineering Design Challenge, Planet X, ROGATE (Resources Offered for Gifted & Talented Children, and Young Astronauts.

His vast accomplishments in education were both nationally and internationally recognized.

[Read Dr. Gourley’s full obituary.](#)



Myrtle Bobb

Myrtle A.R. Bobb, a retired educator and secondary school co-founder, died in her home on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. She was 105. Born on Jan. 21, 1917 in Guyana, South America, she was affectionately known as “Mom Bobb” later in life.

She graduated from Bishop’s High School in Guyana in 1936 and earned a bachelor’s degree in French. She also earned a master’s degree in the psychology of reading at Temple University. She married the late Rev. Douglas C.J. Bobb, a Methodist minister. From this union came seven children. In Mahaica, Guyana, the Bobbs founded St. Mary’s Institute, a secondary school. In addition to a standard school curriculum, they also taught Latin, Logic, Agriculture and Stenography. They also served at Susamachar, Bedford and other Methodist churches in Guyana.

In 1964, Bobb and the rest of her family joined her husband in the United States as he began pastoring at Memorial Temple, an urban mission in North Philadelphia.

She and her four daughters attended the Community College of Philadelphia. In 1967, Bobb and her daughter, Hyacinth, were in CCP’s first graduating class. She later helped her husband to establish the first Get Set preschool program in Germantown at his new pastorate, Trinity United Methodist Church. The couple also took neighborhood children to summer camps at the Carson Simpson Farm Christian Camp in Hatboro.

She taught at Ferguson Elementary School and Stoddart-Fleisher Junior High School until 1982. Even as her sight grew dim, Bobb taught adults to read.

Bobb served as a church pianist at Sanctuary United Methodist Church in North Philadelphia, where her husband was pastor. Afterward, they attended Tioga United Methodist Church until Douglas Bobb’s passing. She later joined New Covenant Church of Philadelphia, where her son-in-law, Bishop C. Milton Grannum, and daughter, Rev. Hyacinth Bobb Grannum, were founding pastors. She was part of the Jubilee Choir, neighborhood Bible groups, and Just Friends Fellowship.

“Her legacy has left its mark on Philadelphia and the world,” her family said in a tribute.

She is survived by six children, 10 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

[Read Myrtle Bobb’s full obituary.](#)



Jay D. Scribner

Jay D. Scribner, former dean of the College of Education, passed away on September 11, 2021. A pioneer in educational administration and leadership, Dr. Scribner was named dean in 1975 and served as dean for 14 years. Scribner led the development of programs in partnership with the Philadelphia School District as well as in Nigeria and Tokyo.

Throughout his career, he made a mark locally and abroad with efforts aimed at diversifying the leadership ranks in education and improving conditions for underserved student populations. In doing so, he mentored students across the country and beyond who themselves make a difference as leaders in the field of education.

Tribute to Jay D. Scribner from Chancellor Richard Englert

Jay Scribner was an innovator, a scholar, a leader and a mentor.

At UCLA, he developed and secured federal funding for an innovative program that prepared leaders for urban schools in Los Angeles.

He was especially sought out and encouraged by one of the key opinion leaders in Philadelphia, Dr. Bernard “Bernie” C. Watson, to apply to become dean of the College of Education at Temple University. Bernie, a well-regarded educational reformer, recognized that Temple’s College of Education needed a reform-minded dean who could work with the public schools. Bernie was aware of Jay’s great work as a scholar at UCLA and as a principal in Maine.

At Temple, in spite of the fact that he had extensive administrative responsibilities, he still found time to continue his scholarship with numerous articles and scholarly papers. For example, he was the editor of the 76th Yearbook of the National Society for the Study of Education on the politics of education (published in 1977), which was a defining, ground-breaking work in the field.

Under his leadership, the College of Education pioneered a master’s program in Abraka, Nigeria. It was funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). He was instrumental in the training of a generation of educational leaders for Nigeria.

The college also established both master’s and doctoral programs in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at Temple’s campus in Tokyo, Japan. These programs became a model for TESOL in the entire Pacific region.

The College of Education created numerous programs in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia, including ones funded by such groups as the William Penn Foundation. Jay was always passionate in his commitment to urban schools and the need for principals and superintendents to serve the needs of the most vulnerable populations they served.

Overall, through the course of a decade, he provided enlightened leadership that enabled the College of Education to navigate successfully and to grow stronger through a turbulent period in higher education.

He always treated everyone with great dignity. He was a much beloved leader who cared deeply about those he oversaw, and they in turn maintained fierce loyalties toward him.

He was a mentor to countless administrators in the Los Angeles and the Philadelphia public schools, as well as schools throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

One of my closest life-long friends enrolled in the urban education administration program at UCLA because of his familiarity with Jay’s work. My friend later became a very successful superintendent of the Long Beach and San Diego school districts. The University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) named a mentorship award after Jay.

On a personal level, he was a mentor to me. I never would have had the administrative career in higher education that I had, including as university president, without his mentorship. He definitely changed the course of my educational career. Among other things, he taught me so much, including remaining calm under pressure, maintaining a good sense of humor, working with various interest groups, the importance of scholarship-based leadership and the need to give opportunities in leadership roles for under-represented minorities, especially women, African-Americans and Latinos/as, as well as those from underdeveloped countries.

[Read Dr. Scribner’s full obituary.](#)

A professional headshot of Kent Paredes Scribner, a bald man with a light beard, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a yellow patterned tie. The background is a solid light gray.

ALUMNI PORTRAIT

Kent Paredes Scribner, *EDU '92*

Gallery of Success

By Dawn Angelique Roberts

Kent Paredes Scribner is honored to serve as the Gallery of Success honoree for the College of Education and Human Development for 2021-2022. Scribner follows a rich Temple legacy. Scribner's mother, Alicia Paredes Scribner, a four-time Temple Owl (*EDU '77, '82, '87, '89*) was a Gallery of Success honoree in 2005.

Scribner's father, Jay Scribner, was named dean of the College of Education in 1975 and served as dean for 14 years.

Keeping the family tradition alive, Scribner's sister Samantha Scribner is a Temple Owl and a professor at Indiana University.

"I felt honored when I was contacted," Scribner stated. "A family feeling. A reconnecting with a great institution that's done so much for our family."

Scribner holds a Master of Education from Temple University and a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Arizona State University.

"Temple is such a special place. The diversity and the student population that it serves is near and dear to my heart. I worked in urban education my entire career," Scribner added. Scribner began his education career as a high school Spanish teacher and guidance counselor in Philadelphia. He then became a principal and a central office administrator before serving for 20 years as superintendent in Arizona and in Texas.

"The best preparation that I received for this job was the Master's degree at Temple because counseling is about listening, reframing and de-escalating. All the things you learn with a counseling degree," said Scribner.

Scribner retired in August, after leading the Fort Worth Independent School District for seven years. He served more than 80,000 students and 10,000 employees. He continues to serve in an advisory role for the District.

He is also looking forward to his next chapter, which includes working in community engagement and raising the voices of populations that have historically not been heard.

“
Temple is such a special place. The diversity and the student population that it serves is near and dear to my heart. I worked in urban education my entire career.”

Visit the [Gallery of Success website](https://www.education.temple.edu/gallery-of-success) to learn more about the 2021-2022 Gallery of Success honorees.

