Documenting Art with Temple in India

Jawun Dream Painting is a hand-painted Indian miniature used in Rhett Grumbkow’s documentary, Speaking Stones & Singing Stones. Grumbkow’s film tells the story of Professor Jayasinhji Jhala’s ancestral homeland.
Compass

Temple University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all in every aspect of its operations. The university has pledged not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, marital status or disability. This policy extends to all educational, service and employment programs of the university.

From the 12th Floor

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College of Liberal Arts
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

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Dean’s Welcome

Awarding Students and Honoring Alumni Contributions

Each year on the evening before commencement, the best and brightest students, faculty and staff from the College of Liberal Arts gather to celebrate a year of academic success. The Baccalaureate Awards ceremony is an annual highlight for me because it offers the Dean’s Office the opportunity to commend students and faculty alike for their outstanding research and scholarly achievements. As you will read in this issue of Compass, this year we awarded nearly $180,000 in prizes and scholarships to 119 of our top students. I am delighted to bring you this issue of Compass because it highlights so many areas of expertise I’m proud of at the College of Liberal Arts. We explore one of the Psychology Department’s most interesting labs that took him all over the world. Most interesting to Ranere was his work in Panama, where he worked with his colleagues at Temple and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute to explore the peopling of the American tropics. I wish him the best.

I am so proud to share news of our accomplishments with you and I hope you will consider supporting these and so many other achievements at the college by making a gift to sustain scholarship and research. To learn more about the ways in which you can help support CLA, visit giving.temple.edu/givetoCLA. I look forward to sharing more news with you in the next issue of Compass.

Proudly,

Teresa S. Soufas
Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Faculty Meeting

CLA Congratulates Retiring Professors

Anthony Ranere retired from the Department of Anthropology this year after a career of archaeological research that took him all over the world. Most interesting to Ranere was his work in Panama, where he worked with his colleagues at Temple and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute to explore the peopling of the American tropics. We wish him the best.

Marilyn Silberfein, a professor with the Department of Geograpy and Urban Studies since 1968 has retired. Silberfein’s research specialized in the rural economic development of sub-Saharan Africa and brought her knowledge of rural development to the U.S. Agency for International Development. Silberfein also enriched the academic careers of her students while acting as her department’s undergraduate adviser.

The Department of Psychology was sorry to see Dusa Woodruff-Pak retire this year. Since joining the college in 1975, Woodruff-Pak has focused primarily on the Alzheimer’s disease and the effect of aging on memory. In 2006 her work earned Woodruff-Pak the Paul W. Eberman Faculty Research Award.

The Undergraduate Chair of the criminal justice department, Alan Harland, retired this year. Harland’s most recent work has focused on a series of policy, program, and technologi- cal reforms in the court system of Delaware County, Pennsylvania. His students remember his deep understanding and the field and sharp sense of humor.

Since 1992, 28 of the 55 Temple University Fulbright Scholars have been CLA alumni.

Did You Know?

THINGS CHANGE. HAVE AN UPDATE?

Just married? Have you recently moved? Stay in touch! Don’t miss out on the exciting news and events at the College of Liberal Arts. Update your contact information today.

www.cla.temple.edu/alumniupdate
College of Liberal Arts students compete with counterparts from then-College of Business (now Fox School of Business) and Teachers College (now College of Education) in the annual “Penny Preakness.” Colleges competed to see which students would be first to arrange an unbroken line of pennies stretching from Berks Street to Montgomery Avenue along North Broad Street. Proceeds benefited the Salvation Army.

**April 18, 1958**

Can you believe it? It would take a stack of 19,665 pennies to reach the top of the Bell Tower and 53,094 to reach the top of Morgan Hall.

**Baccalaureate Awards 2013 Breakdown**

Each year on the eve of graduation, the College of Liberal Arts gathers to honor the best and brightest students and faculty. Awards and scholarships are supported by donors from around the country. Student winners are encouraged to invite a faculty mentor as well as family and friends. In 2013, CLA awarded more than $148,000 to 113 different students. Here’s the breakdown:

**By Gender**

- **Men:** 36 (32%)
- **Women:** 77 (68%)

**Amounts / Recipients**

- Total Awards Awarded: $148,630
- Average Award: $1,310

**Established...**

- **Financial Aid:** $23,000
- **Travel Assistance:** $160,000

**Providing...**

- Scholarships
  - Main Campus
  - Regional Campuses
- Awards
  - John DiTullio Award
  - Faculty Awards

**Supporting Work in...**

- Liberal Arts
  - Fine Arts
  - Athletics
  - African Studies
  - Study Abroad
  - Religious Education
Foraging for Answers:
A look at CLA’s Decision Making Laboratory

By Dan Wisniewski, SMC, ’12

Illustration: Mario Zucca, tyl, bfa, www.mariozucca.com
Psychology Professor Donald Hantula works with students to answer some tricky questions: Why do we make the decisions we make? And how do we explain seemingly irrational behavior that occurs over and over again? His answers may surprise you.

If you guessed that Jim might go out — like countless other students might in his situation — you wouldn’t be wrong. You also might consider that a bad decision on his part. But psychology professor Donald Hantula doesn’t see it that way.

“That decision isn’t irrational or stupid,” said Hantula. “It’s normal and it happens all the time. We need to understand it rather than explain it away.”

That’s exactly what Hantula has been trying to do for the last 20 years. Once a week in Temple’s Weiss Hall, volunteer undergraduate and graduate students gather in Hantula’s Decision Making Laboratory to conduct research in pursuit of answers to some of psychology’s stickiest questions: Why do we make the decisions we make? And how do we explain seemingly irrational behavior that occurs over and over again?

It’s no easy task. Hantula and his students are trying to reverse years of economic and psychological theory — as well as basic human thought.

“The way the world looks at decision making is that people’s choices should be consistent and that their preferences shouldn’t change,” Hantula said. “And when seemingly irrational choices are made, they’re dismissed as being stupid. But that makes humans look incredibly foolish — and as a long-time member of the species, I’ve always found that a little objectionable.”

Picture Jim, your typical Temple freshman. Like all students, Jim wants straight A’s, and he’s promised himself he’ll study every night after classes to get there.

That works — for a while. But one night Jim gets a call from his friends. They’re going out to dinner and then a movie. Does he want to come?

The support for that comes in part from his work in the Decision Making Laboratory. With its computers and large round conference table, the two rooms that house the lab in Weiss Hall might not look like a classic laboratory. But it’s here that some of the most exciting research at Temple takes place.

Here’s how it works. Once a week, volunteer graduate and undergraduate students meet as a group with Hantula to talk about study and research ideas. The members of the lab discuss theories, throw around research ideas and lay out pitfalls in potential study techniques. Undergraduate students volunteer to collect data for graduate students who are working on their dissertations. The students also participate in and contribute to studies Hantula is working on as well.

Some of those studies have produced astounding results.

In one, Hantula hypothesized that, like in nature, men would seek out mates who were good-looking (indicating reproductive ability) and women would look for the richest partner as their ideal mate. The results, Hantula concluded, lent support to Charles Darwin’s theory of sexual selection — that each sex asks and offers different characteristics in order to secure a mate.

Other studies examined the theory of the escalation of commitment — asking why people throw good money after bad. When people reach any level of success, Hantula and his students found, it’s because of certain actions that were reinforced. When things start to go bad, those people are more likely to keep doing the things that brought them success in the past rather than change their tactics. Ongoing studies are just as interesting. One graduate student is currently conducting research into the usage — or lack thereof — of the crosswalks on Temple’s campus. Are people crossing at

Professor Donald Hantula specializes in organizational behavior and evolutionary behavioral economics.
Volunteer graduate and undergraduate students meet weekly to talk about study and research ideas for the Decision Making Lab.

For the students who’ve worked their way through many data sets to gain research experience, participating in the Decision Making Laboratory has been particularly valuable. “There’s a lot of stuff you can’t read in a textbook, and I’ve gotten a real feel for what it’s like to do research,” said Alsaadi. “You see for yourself all the problems you can run into. I’ve learned to be flexible.”

Even students who’ve decided not to pursue a career in psychology have learned a lot. “The Decision Making Lab really helped me see the benefit of looking at things from different points of view,” said Epelle, who’s currently pursuing her law degree from Temple. “If you’re looking at a court decision, you need to be able to see all the ways the case could have turned another way. I got a lot of experience in that type of analysis in the lab.”

For Hantula, the Decision Making Laboratory serves as a great primer for life after college. “I hope to keep looking at decisions that people make that appear to be wrong and finding more rational reasons for them,” said Hantula.

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Exhibitions on India

More than Study Abroad

Since 2001, Dr. Jayasinhji Jhala has taken nearly 200 Temple students to his home in India. Under his guidance, the Temple in India program opens doors and creativity.

By Charlotte Tucker
In January 2001, a devastating earthquake rolled beneath parts of northwestern India. More than 20,000 people were killed and 600,000 were left homeless. It was his students who broke the news to Temple anthropology professor Jayasinhji Jhala in the hours afterward.

Jhala was born in India’s Gujarat state before moving to the United States for his graduate studies, and he’d been teaching visual anthropology at Temple for about 10 years when the earthquake struck. Visual anthropology is the study of the culture of a people by examining their communications. A visual anthropologist learns about the people he studies by looking at photography, music, art, dance and, increasingly, new media.

“Anthro is the study of man, and so visual anthropology is the propensity to look at the aspect of human culture that can be seen and heard,” Jhala said.

Eager to help in India after the quake, Jhala and a pioneering group of students set out for Gujarat. Their trip marked the beginning of what would become an annual pilgrimage. It also began a cultural exchange that has shaped the lives and careers of dozens of students.

Within the field of visual anthropology, Jhala’s particular focus is on fourth-world populations. He estimates that 800 million—possibly even a billion—people worldwide are members of the fourth world. They are people who have identity, but not nationality. They might live within the borders of a recognized state, but they do not see themselves as citizens of that state.

Through art, they can express themselves and tell the stories of their ancestors, and visual anthropology is the study of that expression.

In Gujarat, the students found that many of the villages that had been affected by the quake had become "media invisible," Jhala said, because the news media and government officials’ attention were focused elsewhere. Because they’d been largely overlooked, people in those villages welcomed Jhala and his students, who entertained them with American songs.

"That their own government didn’t come but these crazy Americans were there to console them and soothe them, that had a really big impact on communities,” Jhala said.

It took years for Chauhan to complete the paintings, but by 2011, 60 were ready to go. All told, Grumbkow incorporated 30 into his film, titled “Speaking Stones and Singing Stones.”

The images were displayed in an exhibit titled "Painting Story of the Floating Desert," featured at CLAS’ Center for the Humanities at Temple in early 2013.

They blend the old style and stories with newer methods of storytelling. The characters are clad in traditional clothing featuring bright colors and jewels. In many pieces, the subjects gather around a king or other exalted figure with a crown of light. But they also borrow from contemporary comic book culture, Jhala said.

In one painting, for example, two male figures sit at the bottom of the canvas. One is a storyteller or poet, and in an oval bubble over his head, the poet is telling a story to the artist. "The poet is telling a story to the artist," Grumbkow said. "The artist has painted a man riding on a horse. The artist is telling a story to the poet while the poet is telling a story to the audience."
king,” Jhala said. “You know which story is being told. It is the story of a man understanding his tradition and warrior ancestry.”

One group of paintings features a series of warriors fighting on the edge of a long sword that stretches from one side of the canvas to the other. The pictures tell the story of how the warriors live their lives on the edge of a knife. “They have to be ready to die at any time in the defense of their culture, tradition and heritage,” Jhala said. “They live and die by what is right and wrong.”

The warriors in the stories are famous characters in generations-old stories. They sacrificed themselves for what they knew was right, Jhala said. They live and die in the service of their culture, tradition and heritage. “They still another painted backgrounds or flowers. In the same way, Jhala would send his students’ ideas and sketches to the artist would might recreate them faithfully or add his own twist and then consult with the students to see if it fit the bill.

Grumbkow’s film has been well received in academic circles and he hopes to see if it fit the bill. He created a series of mobiles that was put on display at Rowan University in April. Made of eggs, papers, feathers and porcupine quills, they move because of the volume of the air moving around them, so Jhala calls them “breathings.”

All Photography and Illustrations Courtesy: Rhett Grumbkow and Speaking Stones & Singing Stones

Within the visual anthropology field, Jhala focuses on fourth-world populations. By his count, some 800 million people live in the fourth world with identity but no nationality. Despite living in the borders of a recognized state, they do not see themselves as citizens. The idea and ended with the delivery of the paintings years later, Jhala said. Collaboration is part of the miniature painting tradition going back to the days of kings. Back then, the king or emperor would order a painting and one artist would be tasked with painting the characters in generations-old stories. 

Jhala, Grumbkow and the production team shot parts of “Speaking Stones & Singing Stones” at Hithihoccus Gates as well as at the Queen’s Stepwell at Palan.

He eschews the limelight, encouraging a reporter to focus on the work his creative minds,” he said. “When you’re there, you really have the entire country at your disposal.”
Two School of Environmental Design graduates took a senior studio project and turned it into a successful exhibition featuring student ideas for creative ways to reuse the abandoned site of the Reading Railroad.

By Maggie Reynolds (SMC ’13)

For many students, completing a senior project is the final hurdle before graduation and a move into professional life. Though the project may be a point of pride, its life usually ends at graduation. For landscape architecture alumni Diana Fernandez and Amy Syverson, a senior studio project turned into an important building block for their professional lives and careers.

The fall after graduation, the two women used the work produced in the senior design studio project as a jumping off point to a larger collaboration with Penn architecture student Susan Kolber. The trio produced Above Below Beyond, an exhibition of student design work inspired by the site of the former Reading Railroad. The exhibit showcased ways to reimagine the abandoned railroad viaduct that traverses Center City.

The three-mile area also known as the Reading Viaduct stretches about 55 city blocks, plunging below the residential Fairmount neighborhood and stretching beneath the John F. Kennedy Parkway, connecting Center City to a veritable museum row.

Many Philadelphians who live near the metal expanse of elevated lines and extensive underground labyrinths of the former Reading Railroad know very little of the history in their backyards. Though overgrown and largely forgotten by even those living steps away, the line served

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Many Philadelphians who live near the metal expanse of elevated lines and extensive underground labyrinths of the former Reading Railroad know very little of the history in their backyards. Though overgrown and largely forgotten by even those living steps away, the line served
Philadelphia’s industrial transit needs until 1984. Today it stands empty, a faded example of Philadelphia’s changing relation to industry. While portions are open to the public, much of the railroad is locked up under private ownership.

### Grassroots Interest in the Viaduct Grows

When school of environmental design (SED) assistant professor Stuart Appel suggested the Reading Railroad Viaduct as a design studio project, interest in the abandoned site was already growing. Several groups had recognized the potential that the land presented for Philadelphia, and disparate plans for creating a functional space out of the railroad were already in development.

In 2003, a group of Philadelphians led by Sarah McEneaney and John Struble founded the Reading Viaduct Project. The group’s mission was to develop the elevated portions of the railroad with industry. While portions are still in place today, the site was eventually shut down due to private ownership. It was a challenge for the students to convey the fact that student work is valuable in the design process.

### The Exhibition Takes Form

The exhibition was to expose visitors to a series of creative ideas for ways to use the three-mile site. It was important to Syverson and Fernandez that guests realize how important student ideas can be.

“We really wanted to show the world that student work is really valuable and all of this analysis and these ideas are catalytic things to get the community excited, to get people involved,” Fernandez said.

### Student Work on Display

Several months after graduating, the students continued to work together and talk about their project. Several months after graduating, the students continued working as landscape designers at the firm where their former assistant professor was a principal. Appel passed away that fall, and his loss is still felt at the Ambridge campus where landscape architecture and design classes are held.

When ViaductGreen — another grassroots organization — released plans to combine development efforts for the elevated portions of the railroad with the underground passageway. When the Center City District conducted analysis, the civic organization found that renovating and developing the abandoned land would be less expensive than demolishing it. Renovating would also preserve the historic site.

### A Fruitful Collaboration

**While Syverson, Fernandez and their fellow landscape architecture seniors were working on the viaduct plans for their senior project, Penn architecture studio’s Susan Kolber approached Appel and landscape architecture Professor Lolly Tai about the possibility of the studios collaborating on the project.**

The Penn studio focused on the aboveground sections of the railroad. The Temple studio created a master plan for the entire site, which allowed students to play with “bigger ideas,” Fernandez said. At that phase, the students weren’t yet thinking about budgets or other operational aspects. Several months after graduating, the students — Fernandez and Syverson now alumni — continued working together and talking about their project.

“We had been inspired by the site and were still passionate about it, and there was just so much potential for what it could be,” said Syverson.

The women began meeting after work at Fernandez and Syverson’s office at Wells Appel in Center City. Both worked as designers on the viaduct project. They included drawn plans for a camera obscura projection in the underground portion of the viaduct and an underground rapid bus transit route. The Center City District has also raised funds for the Septa Spur and Studio Bryan Hanses has completed a master plan. The civic planning and engineering group Community Design Collaborative provided (former) ViaductGreen with a grant to further analyze and create plans for the underground portions of the railroad.

“Exciting to see how things have really picked up momentum in just the last year,” Syverson said. “Now is the moment that we need to get it out there.”

“This is one of the most rewarding projects I’ve ever worked on,” Fernandez said. “Seeing it come to life, and take all of that student work and expand it into something that’s useful to the community as a whole is just really exciting.”

### To help fund the exhibition, the group launched a Kickstarter campaign in September 2012. They surpassed their funding goal of $5,850 and eventually raised $6,165 from 104 donors in a matter of weeks.

The purpose of the exhibition was to expose visitors to a series of creative ideas for ways to use the three-mile site. It was important to Syverson and Fernandez that guests realize how important student ideas can be. The exhibit was a success. In tandem, recognition of the Reading Viaduct as an important potential open space corridor has evolved. Today, the Philadelphia 2035 plan includes a redeveloped Reading Railroad. It provisions a park on the elevated portion of the viaduct and an underground rapid bus transit route. The Center City District has also raised funds for the Septa Spur and Studio Bryan Hanses has completed a master plan. The civic planning and engineering group Community Design Collaborative provided (former) ViaductGreen with a grant to further analyze and create plans for the underground portions of the railroad.
James Lassiter honored at Gallery of Success

James Lassiter, BA' 87

James Lassiter joined forces with entertainment powerhouse Will Smith in 1998 to create the production and management company Overbrook Entertainment, named after the Philadelphia high school they both attended. Lassiter, who began his career in the music industry, guides entertainment powerhouse Will Smith in development through production and has successfully incorporated a global scope into every project. Lassiter earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from the College of Liberal Arts in 1987. He is a member of the college’s Board of Visitors and recently established a scholarship to support students with financial need who graduate from public high schools in West Philadelphia. Some of Lassiter’s recent successes include, Karate Kid, Hancock, I Am Legend, and The Pursuit Of Happyness. Lassiter produced the romantic comedy Hitch, the award-winning film Saving Face, and critically acclaimed and award nominated film, Ali. Other notable achievements include his work as executive producer on the soundtracks for Wild, Wild West and Men In Black, which both won American Music Awards for favorite soundtrack, as well as the 2001 Outer Critic’s Circle Award for “Jitney,” an off-Broadway play written by August Wilson.

Leading the Call to Volunteer

Not long after Rachel Turner (CLA, ’07) arrived in Philadelphia to attend Temple University, she and her new friends visited the renowned Rocky Steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art to look out at the skyline. Just a few years later, Turner would become a community leader in Philadelphia who was responsible for the city’s largest volunteer effort for Martin Luther King Day and would be recognized by the White House for her achievements.

Like many Owls before her, Turner’s journey at Temple University began as a community college transfer student because she was drawn to the diverse and thriving campus community. Turner’s experience allowed her “to understand how greatness and accomplishment can be achieved with little means—a hallmark of Temple students.”

After graduation, she started her career in public service working at YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School. She served as an AmeriCorps National member, supporting high school students in a vocation program for nursing. “YouthBuild was really helpful to see how I can best drive change. Approxi- mately 80 students graduated despite being up against significant challenges—even incarceration,” Turner said. “And I realized that I could help and support young people to be more active in their community.”

Turner’s education allowed her “to understand where people are coming from and to look at an issue from various viewpoints.” That skill is crucial to the work that she does.

So what’s next on her agenda? Turner is excited about two new programs that Global Citizen launched: Mission365, which supports year-round volunteer programs. For Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Turner ef- fectively organized approximately 75,000 volunteers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. She worked with more than 3,000 dedicated project organizers to support 1,300 projects, engaging 21 schools with more than 1,100 students. Turner also serves as a consultant for organizations interested in developing community programs and as an advisory board member for the Women’s Way Young Women’s Initiative in addition to serving as the president of the Philadelphia AmeriCorps Alums Chapter.

It’s no surprise that the White House took notice of Turner’s work and invited her to Washington, D.C. in January 2012 to receive a “Champions of Change” award. In addi- tion to being honored for her determination in leading volunteer efforts that reflect the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., she received the President’s Volunteer Service Award (also known as the Daily Points of Light Award).

Global Citizen then recognized Turner’s hard work and promoted its rising star to be the director of programs and partnerships. In the spring of 2013, Turner was recognized by her adopted hometown of Philadelphia as the Outstanding Nominee for the Mayor’s Award for Distinguished National Service. Turner advises students and alumni to begin their own public service by volunteering for a nonprofit with which they feel con- nected. Having a degree in liberal arts is also an advantage, she said. According to Turner, her education allowed her “to understand where people are coming from and to look at an issue from various viewpoints.” That skill is crucial to the work that she does.

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Perseverance Pays off for CLA’s White House Intern
By Nicholas Santalucia, CLA, ’13

He was rejected the first three times, and the fourth time he applied, he was wait listed. Max Williams
(CLA ’13) was a month away from studying abroad in Rome when he was finally accepted into the White House Internship Program. He put down his Italian flash cards and began preparing for what would be the most remarkable experience of his college career.

As a sophomore, Williams began volunteering with LIFT—a non-profit organization dedicated to helping its clients secure employment, safe housing, and other necessary services. His work there changed the entire direction of his life, he said. At LIFT, Williams had the opportunity to work one-on-one with clients who were working hard to improve their stations in life. Working so closely with those clients, Williams learned how important it is to provide help to those who ask for it. With every story of lives sidetracked by dropping out of high school or a factory closing, Williams saw that the hardships his clients were facing were only symptoms of a larger problem. He wanted to identify that problem and work on solving it.

This drove him to apply for an internship with City Councilman Darrell Clarke, a position he held through the spring of his sophomore year. It was while interning for the councilman that he learned what was necessary for a career in public service: a desire to help despite the thankless nature of the job. That summer, he continued working in City Hall, now as an intern with the Mayor’s Office of Education. His work there brought him to dozens of summer programs around the city where he spoke to more than 2,400 Philadelphia high schoolers about FAFSA and other grants and student loans. Williams relished the role of working on the front lines of public service. But he still had a desire to work on the root of the inequality he saw.

Williams thought that an internship at the White House would help him find a position where that was possible. At first, second, and third, the White House didn’t think he was up for it, but Williams improved each application so that it was better than the last and eventually, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue relented. He rushed to organize last-minute housing, and — with the aid of a generous grant from Temple University’s Institute for Public Affairs — his semester in Washington, D.C. was within his reach.

He was placed in the Office of Presidential Correspondence, where he was responsible for reading the 400 to 500 letters sent to President Obama every day. From there it was his job to determine appropriate responses for each. Williams was shocked to learn that even those letters addressed merely “Obama” somehow made it to the White House. During his 13-hour work days, Williams read a personal side of America, one in which everyday citizens opened up to the president about their fears and concerns, as well as their hopes in even the most desperate situations. Walking home across the National Mall, Williams said that he felt like he knew the stories of everyone he saw.

Williams came back to Philadelphia after a semester of being immersed in public service still curious about how to close the inequality gap. But this time he was optimistic.

“I knew growing up that I wanted to pursue a career in law. I believed that the most important skills a lawyer could possess were the ability to reason (philosophy!); effective communication (English!); and an understanding of how the law has evolved (history and political science). Not only did CLA prepare me for a career in law, it opened my eyes to the world that extends beyond our city. I learned to appreciate other cultures and where I fit into the grand scheme of life. Which helped me as I’ve traveled the globe working in Asia and Europe. I owe it all to the liberal arts and to Temple.” — Ed Buthusiem (CLA ’82)