From the Dean

With a school as large as the College of Liberal Arts, comprised of 27 programs and 14 centers, staying abreast of all of the accomplishments of our talented faculty and students can be nearly impossible.

And so with this issue of Compass, we have done our best to unearth for you a number of gems that have been otherwise hidden — on campus and off.

You’ll read about the Anthropology Department’s laboratory, which serves not only as a working lab but as a display space and storage area for the university and the city alike. You’ll read about projects that several of our faculty members have been working on tirelessly for years, which we are now proud to share. We expect great things from the Community Learning Network as well as the Center for Reimagining Children’s Learning and Education.

You’ll be impressed by students like Jim Baraldi, who took the initiative to travel to Tegucigalpa to help address preventable blindness in the Third World. And by Chadê Biney-Amissah, who is an honors peer mentor setting an excellent example for her classmates. Dr. John Means’s generosity and commitment to the college enabled 10 students to study abroad last year.

I am so pleased to bring you this update on some of the wonderful projects going on at the College of Liberal Arts. I hope that after enjoying this issue of Compass, you’ll begin to understand why I continue to be so very proud to serve as your dean.

Teresa S. Soufas

COMPASS

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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Beyond the Page
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Prized Researcher Awarded $1M

When the Jacobs Foundation decided to award a $1 million international prize, founders knew they were looking to reward outstanding scientific contributions to improving the living conditions of young people. And so it became that Temple University psychology professor Laurence Steinberg was selected as the first Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize recipient.

The prize recognizes Dr. Steinberg’s position as a leading scholar on national juvenile justice issues.

“A trailblazer in the field of developmental psychology, Professor Steinberg exemplifies the foundation’s commitment to combining research, application and active communication to improve the lives of young people,” said Dr. Bernd Ebersold, CEO of the Jacobs Foundation.

“It is our hope that this prize will enable Professor Steinberg to extend his extraordinary scientific contributions and continue to support the development of children and adolescents around the world.”

The U.S. Supreme Court’s 2005 ruling in Roper v. Simmons, abolishing the juvenile death penalty, relied significantly on the argument advanced by Steinberg and his colleagues that adolescents are fundamentally different from adults in ways shown by scientific studies of brain and behavioral development.

Steinberg also served as scientific consultant on the amicus curiae brief submitted by the American Psychological Association in Sullivan v. Florida and Graham v. Florida. These landmark juvenile justice cases, argued before the U.S. Supreme Court last fall, raise questions about the constitutionality of sentencing juveniles to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Steinberg’s research findings have not only transformed legal policy and practice, they have also changed the way society thinks about teenagers. In addition to his current work on teen decision-making, risk-taking and crime, Steinberg has been a leader in the study of parent-adolescent relationships, school achievement, and the employment of teenagers in after-school jobs. He currently chairs the National Academies’ Committee on the Science of Adolescence.

“While I have not made specific plans, I know that I will use the prize to extend our research on adolescent development into places outside the United States to see how much of what we are finding generalizes adolescents growing up in very different contexts,” Steinberg said.

“STEINBERG’S RESEARCH FINDINGS HAVE NOT ONLY TRANSFORMED LEGAL POLICY AND PRACTICE, THEY HAVE ALSO CHANGED THE WAY SOCIETY THINKS ABOUT TEENAGERS.”

Like, What’s a Discourse Particle Anyway?

Like, have you ever like wondered why teenagers use the word “like” so often? Associate English professor Muffy Siegel did, and turned that curiosity into a paper that has been garnering her national and international interest since it was published in Journal of Semantics in 2002.

Appearing on BBC Radio last spring, Siegel told reporters that she took an interest in the word when her daughters began to overuse it. “It’s a discourse particle,” she said, “because it appears in breaks during discourse. It’s not merely a filler word because it has a particular meaning, which is ‘whatever I’m going to say is the closest I can get to what I’m trying to say.’”

Siegel founded and for 10 years directed the intercollegiate Temple Program in Linguistics before organizing the Philadelphia Semantics Society in 1998.

Be on the lookout for Siegel on newstands and airwaves near you; she has also recently published articles about the development of ‘dude,’ and how undergraduates make use of dictionaries.
Celebrating the Science of Play

It’s not every day that the City of New York volunteers to help with security and assist with marketing for the event you’re working on at Central Park. But Temple psychology professor Kathy Hirsh-Pasek and her colleagues at the Center for Reimagining Children’s Learning and Education (CiRCLE) were offered exactly that in the midst of planning the Ultimate Block Party.

CiRCLE is currently working with Central Park along with representatives from Disney and Sesame Street to plan the event, scheduled to overtake the Park on October 3, 2010. Partners also include Crayola, the New York Children’s Museum and Goddard Schools.

Hirsh-Pasek and colleagues around the world have spent years researching the connections between the skills children acquire by playing, and scientific and artistic achievement. The block party will serve as a public celebration of those findings, as well as an outlet for families, educators, members of the media and even pediatricians to gather and play in the name of building necessary creative skills.

“Our goal is to make play a part of family life,” Hirsh-Pasek said. “To build skills you can take from the sandbox to the boardroom.”

Families and other community members who attend the Ultimate Block Party should expect Central Park to have play stations, workshops, exhibits and hands-on activities. The day is designed to demonstrate the skills that can be built by engaging in all types of play, ranging from paper folding (which links to spatial learning) and Simon Says (a prerequisite to self control).

“Today children are being taught to fill in the blanks instead of to innovate,” Hirsh-Pasek said. Reinforcing the science of learning and connecting it to childhood play is an idea that has resonated immediately on a national level. CiRCLE has already been approached by colleagues in Chicago and Washington, D.C., and even in international cities like Amsterdam and Sydney to host future block party events in their cities.

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Terra Incognita: Undiscovered territory inside the anthropology lab

It doesn’t seem fair to call the sprawling space occupying two floors in Gladfelter Hall merely a lab. Yes, there is a large working laboratory almost hidden downstairs, where artifacts from the field are cleaned, sorted and labeled and where pottery is reassembled and soil samples are analyzed. But there are also exhibition-grade display cases, a research library, tens of thousands of artifacts for study, and even a photography studio. It is easy to file by the lab, tucked in a corner in Gladfelter, without realizing that behind the double doors lies a space large enough to serve as a repository for cultural resource reports and collections from the National Park Service, and the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The Anthropology Department moved into Gladfelter Hall from College Hall in 1972. During the move, objects and collections begun in 1956 were transported across campus. Lab Administrator Muriel Kirkpatrick was there when the collections arrived at Temple, and she remains today to protect and oversee their care and curation. Now objects from those first collections comingle with acquisitions from faculty field research and other museums that have entrusted their items to the care of the Anthropology Lab.

Most of the approximately 204 collections consist of materials from the Americas and the Pacific. In addition to about 16 ethnographic collections there are scores of archaeological holdings and — of great interest to visiting schoolchildren — fascinating reproductions of fossilized skulls and skeletons.

In addition to serving as space to process, store and exhibit collections, the department uses the laboratory to teach and train undergraduate and graduate students. Professors like Gordon Gray visit the lab with classes to show items like tribal weapons and masks. Other students conduct research on objects recovered during excavations in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley. Some objects make it into exhibits shown throughout the university. Three of the lab’s most interesting collections are revealed ahead.
Professor Gordon Gray (pictured here) is among the most active faculty members to utilize the laboratory’s extensive collection of Cashinahua artifacts, acquired by noted linguistic anthropologist Ken Kensinger. The artifacts, dating to the mid-1960s when Kensinger lived among the tribe, are often what visitors notice first. Gray calls the array of feathers and impressive handmade items and hunting weapons the collection’s “sheer wowness.”

The Cashinahua are indigenous to southeast Peru and portions of Brazil. Their traditional lifestyle includes hunting and small-scale horticulture, which translate into many cultural items that incorporate local animals and plants. Among them are harpy eagle feathers, monkey teeth and cotton. They are famous for body painting and their use of fur and feathers. Many of their objects are necessary in various tribal rituals.

**THE KENSINGER CASHINAHUA COLLECTION**

Many objects used by the Cashinahua men, such as belts, necklaces and headdresses, are ornamented with monkey teeth. Making such an item is a mark of great skill as a hunter. A man must be a very good marksman to hunt enough monkeys to create such a garment.
POTTERY: ALMSHOUSE AND MACILVANE PRIVY COLLECTIONS

Faculty member David Orr’s specialty is historic archaeology. If you find clay or ceramic pottery in the lab, it is likely part of a collection he has used in teaching or recovered and worked on himself.

Of particular interest is a collection of chamber pots excavated on the site of a home in the Society Hill section of Philadelphia. CLA archaeology students from Temple have been investigating what was the city’s first almshouse, or home for the poor. Approximately two dozen chamber pots, all from the 1700s, were recovered from what archaeologists believe was the almshouse’s privy. While similar chamber pots are recovered from 18th-century sites quite often, many of the pots in this collection include initials carved on their undersides. While researchers debate the reasons for these findings — were inmates who were ill simply trying to stop the spread of disease? — they are a rare find.

Jessica Rowe, a PhD student working with Dr. Orr, has assembled another collection of items found in another Philadelphia privy. These date to the mid-19th century and were recovered from the MacIlvane home on the 300 block of Walnut Street. Some of the artifacts from this site will be featured in an upcoming exhibition at CLA’s Center for Humanities at Temple this spring. Ms. Rowe’s exhibit will show how everyday objects are transformed from items of necessity to stylish objects desired in the marketplace.

Redware: Other redware discovered includes similarly black-glazed utilitarian cauldrons, pots and tankards. These items are often recovered along with spoons, teapots, and vessels used to hold ointments — often for treatment of ailments including scurvy.
PHILADELPHIA COMMERCIAL MUSEUM COLLECTION

The most recent departmental acquisition is a diverse collection from what was the Philadelphia Commercial Museum. The Museum buildings, later part of the Philadelphia Civic Center, were first built for the National Export Exhibition of 1899. The Museum came to hold items exhibited worldwide in various world's fairs, including the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the 1900 Exposition Universelle in Paris, and the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. The total number of artifacts held in this collection was more than 15,500. Pieces the Anthropology Lab received include African and Asian ceramics, trade and export samples, miniature wood carvings, and dioramas.

Dioramas: In recent years, the city of Philadelphia dispersed the remainder of the Commercial Museum’s artifacts. Various groups and universities were invited to add items to their own collections. Muriel Kirkpatrick, lab administrator, took an interest in a series of dioramas that depict the workings of the Lenox china factory. Lenox was the maker of the first American china to be used in the White House.

Vase: This prize-winning art object held visitors to the St. Louis World’s Fair in awe. Originally seven feet tall on a porcelain pedestal, the vase is now on display in the Anthropology Department on the second floor of Gladfelter Hall.
Fans bound for a Phillies game generally know to expect a certain degree of raucousness. Die-hard fans invest emotionally in their team, and those emotions often come roaring out at pivotal offensive and defensive moments.

As the national broadcasters never cease to remind us, Philadelphia is the town where fans threw snowballs at Santa Claus. (By the way, that was 1908. We’ve moved on.)

So that was the atmosphere Michael Leeds, a sports economist and professor in CLA’s Economics Department, was expecting to find when he went to his first baseball game in Japan. He was ready for insults hurled at opposition players and fans alike. He was ready for the usual mayhem that accompanies American baseball.

He wasn’t ready for the respect. The manners. The downright considerate behavior of the fans in the stadium.

Tokyo is a big city, make no mistake. But its residents have what Leeds calls an “almost ornate politeness” where the phrase “I’m sorry” fits nearly every situation. It’s a place where parking lot attendants wear white gloves and even mundane purchases in a shop can be wrapped up like Christmas gifts.

Leeds’ tenure at Temple University Japan (TUJ) wasn’t something he planned. The opportunity arose when Temple sent an e-mail seeking someone to spearhead a new undergraduate business program at the university, located in Tokyo. Leeds took that job, and moved with his wife, Eva Marikova Leeds, but within months found himself doing an altogether different one: running the MBA program.

It was a dramatic shift, but one that allowed him to work with a wide range of students and faculty. About half of TUJ’s students are Japanese, and of the remaining half, a majority are American, and the rest are international students seeking an American education, Leeds said. All classes are taught in English, and American students can attend for a semester abroad or all four years and earn the same degree.

As with any move to another country, there was culture shock and adjustment. But Leeds had been to Japan before, to visit his son, Daniel, during a semester abroad. And as a sports economist and a lifelong Yankees fan, Leeds knew he and the Japanese had a fondness for baseball in common, at the very least.
But as he quickly learned, while the rules might be the same, it's Japanese fans that set the game apart from the United States.

As he tried to describe it, Leeds almost couldn't find the appropriate words. "It's like a Big Ten football game as staged by the U.S. Marine Corps," he finally said, as a way to explain both the energy and the regimentation involved.

The most ardent fans cluster in the outfield—not around home plate—where they sit in cheering sections depending on which team they favor. Every player has his own cheer with accompanying choreography, and fans show up for a night game at 2 p.m. to rehearse.

Americans might show up early to tailgate, but the notion of practicing a cheer is not one that's crossed the Pacific just yet.

That discipline extends into game time, too. Leeds remembered attending a game with a group of Temple MBA students and sitting in the Yakult Swallows cheering section. The team was winning and, as the last batter came to the plate with the Swallows in the field, the students rose to their feet to cheer on the defense—a no-no in Japanese baseball.

Leeds found himself shushing them, telling them to sit down. "I kept saying, 'You've got to sit down. It's not our turn to cheer, it's their turn,'" he said. Just try that at a Phillies game.

Japanese teams are owned by private companies—affiliated with brands and not cities—which means that on a train trip to watch the Seibu Lions play, a fan would ride the Seibu train line, which stops in the basements of the Seibu department stores before it reaches the stadium.

It's that dynamic that intrigues Leeds and led him to want to write a book. The idea he's pitched to a publisher compares the American and Japanese business models and asks what it means for the teams to be owned by corporations. How does that dynamic affect salaries and union power, and what does it mean now that the Japanese labor market is opening to American teams?

While he said he doesn't want to count his chickens too early, Leeds envisions the book as being useful to economists but interesting to baseball devotees whether they've got an MBA or not.

"If you want to understand the American, you have to understand baseball," he said. "I think to understand differences between Japan and the United States, you could do much worse than to look at baseball."

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**FOCUS ON: TEMPLE UNIVERSITY JAPAN**

TUJ had its start in the early 1980s as an English-language school. Japanese politicians and businessmen wanted to internationalize, but students' language skills weren't up to snuff, said Dr. Richard Joslyn, Temple's vice dean for administration and planning and a professor of political science. Joslyn spent a total of seven years at TUJ and for five of them, from 1996 to 2001, he was the dean of the TUJ campus.

Within a year of beginning its pre-college English-language program, the school began expanding, adding undergraduate majors and recruiting faculty. When Japan's economic bubble burst in the 1990s, enrollment dropped and the school sought out international students, leading to what Joslyn calls the "interesting mix" of today.

The campus today is more international than even Temple's Main Campus, and while the faculty speak English and all classes are taught in English, "you can't stop students from speaking their native languages in the hallway, so it sounds different from an American school."

Typical Japanese colleges aren't as rigorous as those in the United States. In Japan, high school is where students are put through the wringer and college is often seen as a freer, less intense time. "High school students find it a shock to come to TUJ, where American university expectations prevail and we expect different things from an American school."

Temple University Japan campus locations in relation to stadium locations.

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Photos courtesy of www.JapanBall.com
Photographer: Greg Thompson

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Photos of Tigers fans at Koshien Shrine, Buffalo's mascot, Hanshin Tigers fan.

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TUJ students enjoying a study break in Tokyo.
THE ABCs OF CONSERVATION:
HOW EARTHFEST 2010 TEACHES SCHOOLCHILDREN TO SAVE THE PLANET

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY AMBLER was looking for a big way to celebrate Earth Day in 2003. Professors put forth the idea of an academic symposium, but founders wanted to make it an even bigger affair. They decided to add an outdoor festival for area schoolchildren where young people could learn about conservation. Seven years later, the School of Environmental Design at Ambler (SED) has joined the College of Liberal Arts, and EarthFest has become one of the largest environmental events in the region.

By James Duffy

While planning the first EarthFest, founders soon realized there were few—if any—other large-scale Earth Day celebrations in the community. Jeffrey Featherstone, a community and regional planning professor and one of the event’s founders, realized this presented the group with a true opportunity.

“As home to the Center for Sustainable Communities, the Ambler Arboretum, and the university’s ‘green’ programs, we felt we had the resources to start something special. Who knew then what this event would become,” he said.

Some 12,000 guests visited the EarthFest 2010 event, most of them children from local schools and neighbors of the Ambler campus. Many of the students took part in the Kids Grow Expo.

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), the expo included exhibits designed to teach children the basics of gardening. There were activity stations and interactive displays to educate students about composting, the roles insects play in gardening, and careers in horticulture.

“‘Youngsters are our future gardeners,’ said Flossie Narducci, coordinator for the Kids Grow Expo. “If we introduce them to the satisfaction of gardening, the beauty of plants, and the importance of trees, they will become good stewards of the earth.”

SED departments including the Center for Sustainable Communities joined Temple’s Office of Sustainability, the Temple University Recycling Department, and Facilities Management to produce a variety of interactive exhibits.

The Landscape Architecture and Horticulture Student Association was among a number of Ambler Campus student groups that provided games offering important lessons to young visitors about recycling, protecting the environment, and preserving plants and animal habitats. The same groups also worked to teach students how they could turn their interest in the environment into a career path.

“EarthFest is a program that opens up a field of possible careers that students typically are not exposed to,” said Mary Myers, chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture in the School of Environmental Design. “It’s one thing to read a brochure, but it’s another to actually visit the campus, experience what we are doing and talk with students who are currently in the programs.”

In addition to visiting EarthFest, schools from throughout the area have the opportunity to share their own exhibits, exploring concepts from watershed cleanup and tree planting to the study of global warming and recycling.

“During EarthFest, an area school, student organizer or educator is presented with the EarthFest Commitment to Sustainability Award. The 2010 recipient, Upper Dublin High School, had 12 different student groups on hand.

“There are so many students doing incredible things at a grassroots level that, each year, we want to take the opportunity to recognize their achievements,” said EarthFest 2010 Coordinator Susan Spinella. “Our primary goal with EarthFest is education. While we are able to bring a diverse group of students, educators and exhibitors together each year to celebrate a common cause, students at schools throughout the region are teaching their peers—and in many cases their parents—how they can ensure sustainable communities for today and tomorrow.”
A LESSON IN GENEROSITY: HOW ONE DONOR ENABLED TEN STUDENTS TO SEE THE WORLD

In 2003, former chair of the Critical Languages Department John Means endowed a scholarship to enable College of Liberal Arts students to study abroad. In 2009 and 2010, 10 students traveled to Temple campuses in Rome and Tokyo to study subjects from language to art history and political science as a result of his generosity.

International study — particularly when it incorporates a language component — has long been a passion of Dr. Means. In 1975 he organized the Critical Languages Center to foster the development of languages seldom taught in American institutions. Today the center offers classes in Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek and Vietnamese.

For Means, academic language instruction also necessitates in-country learning. “Every student should have an understanding of at least one world area other than his or her own,” he said. “And they should reach a level of awareness that can only be achieved through sustained exposure that is not ‘touristic.’”

Means has been a nationally known figure on the higher-education foreign language scene since the 1970s. He served for more than 20 years as executive director of the National Association of Self Instructional Language Programs, and in 1990 he helped to found the National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages. Today he devotes much of his retirement to working with nonprofit organizations in his own community.

Mylea Baker Bachman, a sociology major who spent the fall of 2009 in Rome, was drawn to Temple University because of the many opportunities for international study. In a letter to Means, she wrote: “I felt that studying abroad would be crucial for me to understand the cultures of other societies in furthering my understanding of our place and roles within the world.”

Endowing a study abroad scholarship fund fits completely with Means’ educational philosophy. “Study abroad scholarships make study abroad accessible to nontraditional students and ensure that the study abroad participation mirrors the diversity of student population,” he said.

Jeffrey Kassarjian grew up in Lebanon and dreamt of visiting and living in Italy. But until he received his Means Study Abroad Scholarship, he wasn’t sure he would ever be able to do so. “Considering the financial challenges that I was facing,” he wrote, “it seemed unlikely that my dreams could ever become a reality.”

Travel and foreign language instruction remain among Means’ most fervent interests. “Residence and study in another cultural setting contributes to an awareness of other ways of thinking in relation to our own, which is fundamental to genuine intercultural communication,” he said. “And returning home to the United States affords an awareness of the relativity of our way of life.”

Temple University Japan students spend time outside the classroom.

A LESSON IN GENEROSITY: HOW ONE DONOR ENABLED TEN STUDENTS TO SEE THE WORLD
Despite majoring in psychology and Spanish, Jim Baraldi, CLA ’09, always had an interest in medicine. So as a self-described “nominal” pre-med student, Baraldi was a subscriber to a Temple health-advising listserv when a service opportunity caught his eye.

Among the many programs listed was Unite For Sight (UFS), an organization whose stated goal is to “empower communities worldwide to eliminate preventable blindness.” After further research piqued his interest, Baraldi attended the organization’s annual conference in 2008 at Yale University. He signed up for a trip to Honduras in January of 2009. From there, Baraldi became the first Temple University undergraduate to arrange academic credit for participation in the UFS program.

Baraldi’s group worked in and around the capital city of Tegucigalpa and was the first unit to visit Honduras. Three other American students joined him, and they were exposed to the realities of working in a poverty-stricken country.

“Government there doesn’t provide much at all, and there is such a disparity between the rich and the poor,” Baraldi said. “Fifty percent of the country lives below the poverty line.”

The group worked out of an eye clinic, Centro Oftálmológico Vida Abundante, which is based in Tegucigalpa but works in remote areas hours away from the capital. They provided eye exams, diagnoses, eyeglasses and medicine. Baraldi is planning to enroll in a post-baccalaureate pre-med program before pursuing a dual MD/PhD degree. While at Temple, he credits a class he took in the fall of 2007 with pointing him in the direction of service groups like UFS. Baraldi enrolled in Professor Hana Muzika Kahn’s class, Spanish for Health and Human Services, that provided him an introduction to working with Spanish-speaking people who were uninsured.

At a health fair in Princeton, N.J., that Dr. Kahn encouraged her students to attend, Baraldi said he was able to see firsthand the impact that proper health care could have on otherwise underserved people.

“It is a great feeling to be able to see the look on people’s faces when they had their vision restored after sometimes years of blindness,” he said.

VISIONARY: Meet the CLA alumnus who brought Unite For Sight to Temple University

By Mario Machi

Chadé Biney-Amissah
MAJOR: English
HOMETOWN: West Orange, New Jersey
EXPECTED GRADUATION: May 2011

Why did you choose Temple?
I chose Temple for the diversity of cultures and thought. It also has an intimate, family setting and I know it’s a place where I can make my own mark.

Which classes have you enjoyed most?
My favorite classes have been Conversational Review (Spanish 2001), and The Harlem Renaissance. I enjoyed the Spanish class because the professor was wonderful and I liked learning another language. I also love my Harlem Renaissance professor, the readings, and the great discussions we have in class.

How would you describe your professors?
They are nurturing and helpful, yet challenging. They’ve pushed me to think outside the box.

What kinds of extracurricular activities have you enjoyed?
Three times a week, I volunteer at the Russell Conwell Center. I help first-generation college students become acclimated to the college and I help them choose the right classes for their major. I am also an active member in the Black Law Students Association: College Student Division, the National Council of Negro Women, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

What are your plans for this summer?
This summer I will be working for the College of Liberal Arts Advising Center as a peer advisor. After graduation I plan on attending law school somewhere in the United States.
An Update on Awards

Andrew Altman, BA ’85

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter appointed Andrew Altman deputy mayor for planning and economic development and director of commerce in March 2008. It marked the first time in city history that authority for all planning and economic development was given to a single person, accountable directly to the mayor. As the chief economic development official for the city and chairman of the City Planning Commission, Altman’s portfolio included the Department of Commerce, the Office of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Licenses and Inspections and the Historical Commission as well as a variety of quasi-independent city agencies.

Altman serves in many advisory and teaching capacities related to urban development. He is a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution’s Center for Metropolitan Policy, an urban expert to the Urban Age Project of the London School of Economics, and he serves on the Visiting Committee of the Urban Studies and Planning Program of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has also received the Loeb Fellowship at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design as well as the German Marshall Fund Fellowship. In addition, he was awarded a Lady Davis Fellowship at the Technion Institute of Technology.

Most recently, his talents have led him to a new position as founding CEO of the Olympic Park Legacy Co. for the 2010 Olympics. In his new position, he will be responsible for leading London’s Olympic redevelopment and revitalization efforts.

After receiving his bachelor’s in geography in 1981, Altman received his master’s in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Sandra Greenblatt, BA ’69

Sandra Greenblatt is one of the first lawyers to be board certified as an expert in health law. She is president of the health law firm of Sandra Greenblatt, R.A., in Miami.

Over the course of her career, Greenblatt has served as a lobbyist and attorney, assisting health care businesses in a variety of areas including specialized contracts, joint ventures, formation of HMOs, and mergers and acquisitions. In addition, she was formerly the hospital administrator at the University of Miami/ Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Greenblatt is a founder and past president of Women in Healthcare, and is a member of the American Health Lawyers’ Association, the Florida Bar Health Law Section, and the American College of Legal Medicine, among others. She was also an appointee to the Statewide HMO Advisory Committee, which assisted in creating the first HMO regulations in Florida. Additionally, she is an appointee to the Florida governor’s Health Information and Security Privacy Collaboration Legal Working Group, and represents the South Florida Health Information Exchange, both of which direct Florida’s participation in a national Health Information Network.

Greenblatt was named one of the Top Lawyers in South Florida from 2000 through 2009 by South Florida Legal Guide; a Florida Super Lawyer from 2008 to 2009 by Law and Politics; and Legal Elite from 2005 to 2009 by Florida Trend. She authored the chapter, “Health Care Technology Contracting” in the 2007 Florida Practitioner’s Health Law Handbook and speaks frequently on health law issues to national and regional associations.

After earning a bachelor’s degree from the College of Liberal Arts, Greenblatt received both a JD and an MBA in health administration from the University of Miami.
Alumni Awards
An Update on Awards

Joel Rudenstein, BA ’71
Joel Rudenstein is a private investor and advisor with extensive financial, operational and turnaround experience. He is the founder and managing member of Mill Creek Capital LLC, a fund that targets early stage/seed investment opportunities in media companies.

From 1989 through April 1997, Rudenstein served as executive vice president and CFO, a member of the board of directors and an equity holder of Transportation Displays, Inc. (TDI), the leading out-of-home transit advertising company in the United States, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. In 1996, that company was sold to Infinity Broadcasting (now CBS) for $300 million, and Rudenstein’s role in the turnaround was featured in CFO Magazine as well as in four Harvard Business School case studies.

Prior to joining TDI, he held positions including president of Circle C Trucking, controller of Toshiba America’s Consumer Products Group and CFO of High Stoy Technological Corp. He previously spent eight years in public accounting.

Rudenstein holds a master’s degree from New York University in addition to his bachelor’s degree in geography from Temple University.

Susan O.W. Jaffe, MA ’66
Susan O.W. Jaffe is a community leader who shares her knowledge of city planning, Philadelphia architecture and history as a member of local and national nonprofit boards.

Jaffe has played an active role in Philadelphia zoning matters for decades, having sat on the city zoning board under mayors Wilson Goode and Ed Rendell. She was appointed chair of the Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment by Mayor Michael Nutter in January 2008 and currently conducts hearings and votes on approximately 1,500 cases annually for zoning variances and appeals against the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

Among the other local organizations she serves are the Forum of Executive Women Foundation, United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Moore College of Art & Design, and the American Jewish Committee of Philadelphia.

Ira D. Lawrence Jr., BA ’76
Ira D. Lawrence Jr. is the chief medical officer and senior vice president of research and development and regulatory affairs at Medicis Pharmaceutical Company.

At Temple, she is a member of the College of Liberal Arts Board of Visitors and the advisory board of the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History.

Following graduation from the College of Liberal Arts, he completed his medical degree at Drexel University. He enjoyed a long association with Northwestern University, where he completed residencies in internal medicine, served as assistant chief of staff and chief of medicine at its Lakeside Medical Center for veterans, and was appointed assistant professor.

Since 1993, he has worked in the pharmaceutical industry. At Medicis, he oversees development of new products and acts as the senior physician within the company, managing the budget of more than $60 million. He has also written and presented extensively on business and medical topics.

Lawrence currently serves on the Temple University President’s Advisory Board.

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Ramin Asgard, CLA ’89, spent a wintery afternoon talking with CLA students about his career as a foreign service officer. While dispensing tips on passing the notoriously rigorous Foreign Service Exam, he spoke about how his experiences at Temple put him on the path toward postgraduate degrees and a career that would take him around the world.

We asked Asgard to talk about how his BA in political science and psychology led to a master’s degree in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania, a law degree from Tulane University, and a career in the Foreign Service. He currently serves as political advisor at U.S. Central Command, where he has particular expertise in matters relating to Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula.

As an undergraduate, how did you envision your career path?
At the time, I didn’t really have a clear path. Coming from two cultures as I did—Iranian and American—I had a vague notion that I was interested in international affairs. Thanks to the core curriculum (now General Education), I was pushed to explore new areas of study.

What was your undergraduate experience like at the College of Liberal Arts?
I had many professors who inspired me to think critically and question conventional wisdom. It is hard to overstate how valuable this remains throughout one’s intellectual life. In many countries I have been to, university students who are asked to offer their frank opinions on controversial or complex subjects respond to their professors (or bosses) by asking (or guessing) what he or she wants them to say. Not so in America—or at Temple.

What sorts of experiences and skills gathered during your time at CLA have proven most useful to you as an advisor at Central Command?
Believe it or not, the ability to think creatively and originally. Great leaders respect and reward creative and original thinking. The most constructive skill that you learn at the College of Liberal Arts is to think—carefully when required—but more importantly with fresh perspectives and courage.

How did your liberal arts education help you in your professional development?
The ability to think across disciplines is one of the most valuable hallmarks of a good liberal arts education. I cannot tell you how many times I have been able to usefully apply a concept from science, for example, to a problem in law or foreign policy.

Any advice for students who want a career in foreign service?
Getting past the Foreign Service Exam is the first challenge. There is simply no easy way to do it. But it should be hard—we are trying to bring together people who will represent and help defend America on a global basis. We need our best and brightest.

Students at Temple work hard—many of my classmates and I worked part- or even full-time while going to school. Many students don’t come from privileged backgrounds. These factors build a propensity for toughness, flexibility and hard work. These are invaluable qualities in the demanding and ever-changing life of a Foreign Service officer.

Students should believe in themselves and what they can accomplish. I was not always a good student, but some good professors at Temple turned me around. Students should study hard in an area that fires their curiosity, and above all, be persistent!

“What are you going to do with that degree?”

Ramin Asgard in front of U.S. Central Command offices located at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla.

Beyond the Page

A dirt pile is all that remains of “USB,” Temple’s ’70s-era University Services Building, which housed various administrative and support offices before their relocation in November.

Over the winter, crews demolished the structure from the inside out, sorting and recycling valuable materials such as wiring, floor tiles and steel before taking a wrecking ball to its exterior.

The site is being cleared to make way for a multi-use student residential complex as part of Temple’s 20/20 framework plan for Main Campus. Plans for the complex include a residential tower, parking facility, dining services, green space and Broad-Street-facing retail outlets. The signature project will create a southern gateway to Main Campus along North Broad Street.
Let us help you create a legacy at Temple.
For more information, contact:

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