

TEMPLE PUBLIC HEALTH

THE MAGAZINE FOR TEMPLE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH | FALL 2024



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“We are better together, and that means Owls past, present, and future.”

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I write to you at an incredibly exciting time in the history of the College of Public Health and School of Social Work. We are celebrating a significant increase in undergraduate enrollment—the value of a Temple education is strong. We have risen to be ranked #29 in the nation among all Schools of Public Health and #46 in the nation among all Schools of Social Work. We are excited to welcome President Fry as Temple’s 15th president, we thank President Englert for his support of our college, and we remember President Epps for her dedication to Temple over her almost 40-year career.

My first full year as dean has been busy, and I am so appreciative of the opportunity to lead such an engaged and productive faculty, staff, and students. We have reaffirmed our core values with the update of our strategic plan, with a central focus on improving the health and well-being of our communities. In this year’s magazine, you will see how we live the words of our mission to educate, innovate, and transform. Our students are achieving remarkable milestones with the support of generous donors, while our faculty are breaking records in research funding and our community clinics are making a tangible impact on health outcomes. I’m so excited for what the future holds.

As we look ahead, we are just one year away from moving into our new home—a place where we can learn and innovate together; a place where we can welcome our neighbors into our spaces to advance health; and a place where we can drive the future of health and healthcare.



But it is always a good time to engage with us within the College. And while we eagerly await moving into our new home, I invite you to:

- Visit us on campus and witness the great work being done by our faculty, staff, and students.
- Host one of our students in a clinical rotation, fieldwork experience, or shadowing to learn more about your work.
- Or, partner with us to teach a class, collaborate on a grant, or join us at a social event.

We are better together, and that means Owls past, present, and future.

Thank you for your support for the College of Public Health and our commitment to creating healthy, equitable, and thriving communities.

Best,

JENNIFER K. IBRAHIM, PHD, MPH, MED
DEAN

CPH REIGNS as the region's *largest school of public health*

~40

PROGRAMS

10+ UNDERGRADUATE
25+ GRADUATE

20+

DISCIPLINES

ACROSS HEALTHCARE,
SOCIAL SERVICES, AND
PUBLIC HEALTH

5,500+

ALUMNI

SPANNING THE GLOBE
SINCE 2019

#29

BEST SCHOOL

OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
ACCORDING TO U.S.
NEWS AND WORLD
REPORT

TEMPLE'S ACCELERATED NURSING PROGRAM OPENS DOORS

New 16-month track aims to address Philadelphia's critical need for diverse, skilled nurses and strengthen community health.

Addressing the growing need for well-trained nurses, the College of Public Health (CPH) has launched an accelerated bachelor of science in nursing (ABSN) program, which enables students with bachelor's degrees in a non-nursing majors to become registered nurses in 16 months. The program combines classroom instruction, clinical work, and field education within the Philadelphia community, granting students an undergraduate degree in nursing and preparing them to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

"We are launching this program when and where the need is the greatest," said Amita Avadhani, Devereaux Endowed Chair of Nursing at CPH. "The nursing workforce, specifically a diverse nursing workforce, is critically needed in Philadelphia. Creating a pipeline of competent and practice-ready nurses in the Philadelphia area will allow us to be a part of the solution and help improve healthcare for our community."



"The new accelerated nursing program aligns with the College's mission of access for students to pursue their academic dreams and advance health and well-being in the community," said Jennifer Ibrahim, Dean of the College of Public Health.

The College of Public Health cultivates academic excellence and professional growth by providing students with interprofessional, hands-on education and real-world experiences, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to excel in their careers and drive positive change.

THE RETURN OF ADULT LEARNERS

CPH has become a preferred destination for adult learners returning to school.

Adult learners are returning to complete unfinished degrees, acquire new skills, or shift careers. With students aged 25 and over making up over 25% of CPH enrollees for the 2024-2025 academic year, this trend reflects a growing demand for skill expansion in technologized health sectors and a quest for personal fulfillment.

Another major driver for this trend is the shifting job market. Mid-career professionals often need to upskill to stay competitive. Rubi Varughese, who joined CPH's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in Fall 2024, exemplifies this practice. Despite the challenges of balancing work and study, she is pursuing the DNP to advance her career, aiming to earn a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) license and a Teaching in Higher Education certificate. "Just go for it. If you put your mind to it, you can do it," she advises others.

Some learners are making entirely new career choices. After a career-ending injury as a minor league baseball pitcher, Michael Joseph, who began CPH's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program in Fall 2024, transitioned into law, but pursued physical therapy to help athletes prevent injuries.

Personal fulfillment also plays a crucial role in returning to education. Rebecca Shaw, who learned American Sign Language (ASL) from her mother, pursued further education through CPH's Certificate program using the Post 9-11 GI Bill. Now as CPH's Special Events and Projects Manager, she applies her ASL skills to improve event accessibility.

CPH recognizes the unique needs of adult learners, emphasizing practical applications of knowledge and offering career counseling, mentorship, and networking opportunities. With eight fully online degree programs, CPH provides flexibility crucial for adult students managing multiple responsibilities.

Rachel Brown, Senior Associate Director of Graduate Admissions, notes, "Working with adults returning to school is one of my favorite parts of the job. Their stories and motivations make the CPH experience richer."





JOINING FORCES FOR GOOD: SPOTLIGHT ON INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION



Interprofessional Education (IPE) is central to the College of Public Health, promoting teamwork across disciplines.

A key component of the education, IPE brings together students from diverse fields to learn collaboratively, share knowledge, and develop skills for working effectively in interdisciplinary teams. This approach fosters improved collaboration and enhanced health outcomes.

Pictured above, students from graduate programs in speech, language, and hearing science; occupational therapy; and physical therapy came together for an IPE session in February. At left, an event during National Public Health Week in April brought together students from different disciplines to explore a public health approach to serious mental illness.

Through these collaborations, students are better prepared to enter the workforce. The college's IPE sessions occur in a variety of environments, inclusive of classroom-based learning, clinical simulations, and real-world clinical and community-based settings.

diversity equity inclusion

72% OF INCOMING FIRST YEAR AND TRANSFER STUDENTS

identify as a self-represented minority.
This is up from 66% in 2023.

120+ COUNTRIES

represented in Temple's student body.

MORE THAN 300

registered student organizations at
Temple, many of which focus on
cultural identities.

THE ONLY COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN PHILADELPHIA WITH A **SENSORY ROOM**

In 2023, the CPH School of Social Work opened Maddy's Room, a calming, sensory-friendly space for students who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD). As a sensory room, Maddy's Room is designed to offer a break from sensory overstimulation.

"We are so proud of the diversity of our student population. In building inclusive classrooms, our faculty encourage our students to be their authentic selves and share their lived experiences and cultures. We are excited to get to work on a rebirth of the College's DEI Committee, where faculty, staff, and students can come together and work collaboratively on a holistic approach to inclusivity within CPH."

JAMIE MANSELL, PHD, LAT, ATC
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF INSTRUCTION, HRS
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

We drive progress through groundbreaking research and pioneering solutions, translating scientific discovery into practical advancements that address the evolving challenges in public health.



BRIDGING GENERATIONS

Innovative tool aims to improve intergenerational communication and explore cognitive health, with open-source technology for broader applications.

Can computer analysis help younger and older people connect? Researchers in Temple’s Concepts & Cognition Laboratory have recruited old and young people to pair up and have introductory conversations, using software to analyze their words and detect patterns in their dialogue.

“How are they accommodating each other? Who’s moving to whom in these conversations? What makes a good conversation between an old person and a young person?” asks Jamie Reilly, professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, who directs the lab.

Reilly created the analysis software, called ConversationAlign, and made it open-source – anyone is free to use it. It’s built around an available database that assigns calculable values to words based on their degree of pleasantness, excitement, hostility, and other characteristics. “We have around 30 different variables. For a conversation, we plot the differences between two people across every word, every turn, and compute how close they are on these variables,” he explains.

When people are trying to get along, one person’s graph may flow with the graph of the other. “We can measure what makes a good conversation,” Reilly says. “And then we could develop interventions.

How do you teach a young person to talk to an old person? How do you teach an older person to listen to a young person, maybe to not be patronizing? We could figure out almost like a handbook, here’s how to optimize your conversations.”

The software—for now—measures only words, not tone, speaking volume, or body language. Those other cues could be added in later expansions of the work, Reilly says. For example, his lab has employed eye-tracking technology that could determine when one person is looking at the other person’s eyes or elsewhere during a chat.

The study isn’t intended just to bridge the generation gap. Research in the Concepts & Cognition Lab explores language and memory to better understand progressive language impairment in dementia and the effects of traumatic brain injury. Lab members combine expertise in speech-language pathology, cognitive psychology, biostatistics, neurology, computer science, computational linguistics, neuroscience, neuropsychology, and social psychology. The interdisciplinary lab has studied how curse words connect to biomarkers and has used eye-tracking to measure how pupils react to transitions between words when people hear stories.

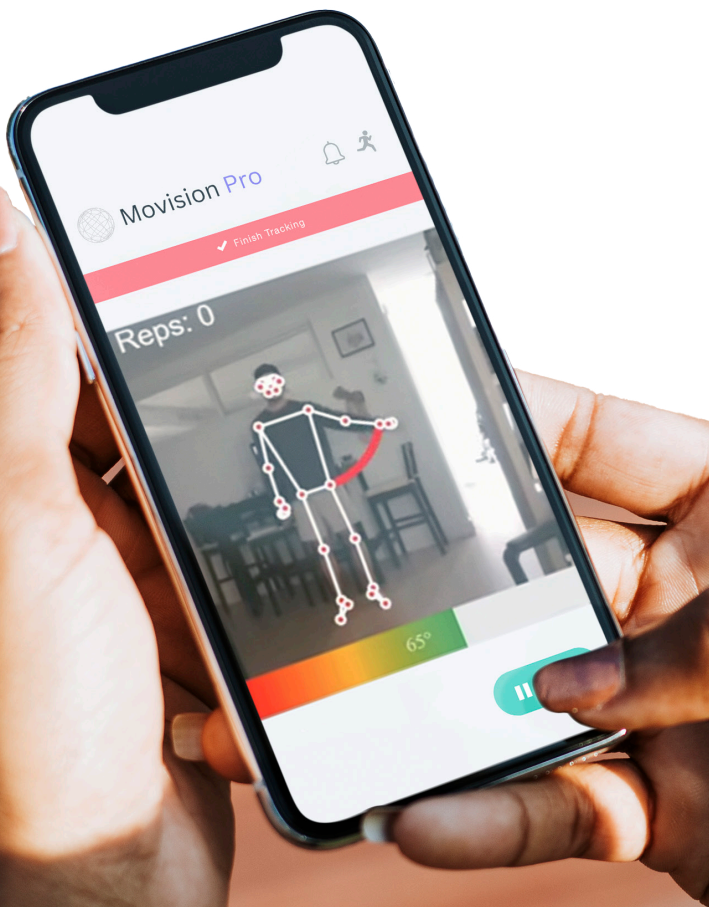
“One of our goals is to develop computational algorithms that can detect cognitive impairment in natural conversation transcripts,” Reilly explains. “This open-source software we developed lays the groundwork for that sort of diagnostic classification.”

TEMPLE'S MOVISION PRO APP REVOLUTIONIZES PHYSICAL THERAPY

Award-winning mobile app enhances patient adherence and clinician oversight, transforming home rehabilitation and expanding into the market.

As many as half of people who work with physical therapists to recover from injuries don't follow through on the home exercises they are assigned to speed their rehabilitation.

"Clinicians generally print out a sheet of paper, a list of exercises to do at home," says Cole Hagen, a Temple PhD candidate in neuromotor science. He is working to commercialize an award-winning mobile phone app he developed at Temple that can help patients adhere to home exercise programs and improve clinicians' ability to keep tabs on patients' recoveries.



For patients, Hagen's Movision Pro app displays animations to demonstrate physical therapy (PT) exercises, then uses the mobile phone's camera to capture how the patient performs them. The app, which employs motion detection and deep learning algorithms, can identify imprecise movements and offer corrective advice. It also helps clinicians keep track of patients' compliance and progress in between office visits.

"You pull up the program on your phone, click on an exercise, and the camera can measure things like range of motion," Hagen explains. "It provides real-time feedback, gives motivation that you don't always have outside of the clinic, and tracks progress over time."

Hagen developed the app in the College of Public Health's Personal Health Informatics and Rehabilitation Engineering (PHIRE) laboratory, directed by Shivayogi Hiremath, associate professor in Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Hagen's prototype of the app won Temple's 2023 Digital Innovation Award. Through Temple's Technology Transfer Office, Hagen won a grant from the National Science Foundation's Innovation Corps program to research potential customers, learning what problems they might need to solve.

He initially thought the app might replace goniometers in clinicians' offices, manual instruments that physical therapists use to measure patient movement. But he learned that physical therapists are comfortable with goniometers, and the more promising use case might be giving it to patients and extending clinicians' reach beyond the office. In June, under a grant from the National Institute on Aging, Hagen became one of five academic researchers to become 2024-25 Founders Fellows at the University City Science Center, in a program designed to turn lab ideas into business ventures. Hagen will research potential uses of the tool by older adults with dementia and receive entrepreneurship training, eventually setting up in a business incubator space.

Hiremath thinks the app has commercial potential because it offers value to both patients and care providers.

"Currently, physical therapists don't know whether you did the exercise. This can bridge the gap," he says. "First, it makes it engaging by providing real-time feedback to users. And then if they are engaged, they're more likely to come back to the PT clinic."

TEMPLE'S

VR TECHNOLOGY

AIMS TO PREVENT FALLS IN SENIORS

UprightVR's cutting-edge system uses virtual reality to identify and address fall risk factors, enhancing rehabilitation and preventing health declines.

One in four adults above the age of 65 will fall every year, and a fall can begin a downward health spiral. "It's the impact of maybe breaking your hip and not ever recovering from it," says Geoffrey Wright, professor of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Wright, a former U.S. Air Force satellite engineer who has worked with NASA on weightlessness experiments, has spent years at the College of Public Health developing a tool to keep seniors standing upright. His technology, which uses virtual reality (VR) goggles and software, has proven successful enough that he has launched a start-up company to commercialize it. UprightVR sold its first products in 2023 and is growing its base of customers, who include physical therapists and senior care providers.

Balance involves a coordination of three systems: vision, vestibular ("gyroscopes" in the inner ear) and somatosensory (such as feeling the floor with one's feet). Disruptions to any of these can compromise a person's balance. Using UprightVR's SafetyNet system, a patient would put on a set of VR goggles and see a 360-degree simulation that looks like the cockpit of a Star Wars spaceship. The virtual scenery shifts, and the patient needs to hold ground steadily, while the goggles measure the person's physical responses in split-second detail.



"We're trying to identify whether they have a visual problem, a vestibular processing problem, or a somatosensory deficit. Our device can help isolate those fall risk factors, and then we can target treatment," Wright says.

Once specific balance deficits are identified, clinicians can work with patients using targeted software "recovery (RecoVR) modules" that are presented as rehab games. A vestibular-ocular reflex task – involving shaking one's head while keeping the eyes focused on one spot – is called Dance FeVR. In another game, named Treasure DiVR, the patient must guide a submarine underwater to challenge the limits of balance.

"We want to identify and address problems that might lead to falls," Wright says. "Our catchphrase is 'catch them before they fall.'"

ASK THE EXPERTS: STUDYING NUTRITION IN THE AGE OF OZEMPIC

The new generation of weight loss medications has become a sensation, capturing attention in pages of medical journals, supermarket tabloids, and even *Science Magazine*, which named this class of medication—glucagon-like peptide-1 agonists (GLP-1s)—as the 2023 Breakthrough of the Year.

GLP-1s have produced meaningful results and hold much promise. But what do they mean for the future of nutrition education? We spoke with Alissa Smethers, assistant professor of instruction, and Gina Tripicchio, associate professor, from our MPH in Nutrition program all about how GLP-1s work, what makes them popular, and the heightened importance of studying nutrition.

To start, how do GLP-1s work in the body?

GLP-1 agonists resemble a hormone in our body, glucagon-like peptide-1, that has a key role in the body after eating. It tells the body to make insulin, which takes glucose (i.e., sugar) from the food and beverages consumed into the blood stream. It also has a role in appetite regulation, such as promoting feelings of fullness following a meal, through synergistic actions with the gut and the brain. Multiple mechanisms seem to be at play, and new mechanisms continue to be discovered.

Why have GLP-1s become so popular?

They help with weight loss and may also reduce risk associated with other chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Also, to date, the treatments for obesity have been limited-lifestyle modification (e.g., diet and exercise) and bariatric surgery. Lifestyle modification does not achieve the same amount of weight loss as these new drugs, and bariatric surgery is not as accessible and is perceived to be more invasive.

It's important to remember that this is an evidenced-based treatment for obesity. Hopefully, it helps shift the conversation around obesity treatment, social stigma around weight, and how we think about diet.

What are the downsides and associated risks?

The majority of symptoms reported seem to be gastrointestinal side effects such as vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, and stomach pain. However, symptoms can be more serious, such as malnutrition, nutrient deficiencies, and dehydration.

This is where dietitians come in. As experts in providing medical nutrition therapy, dietitians are important to work with when taking drugs such as Ozempic, because they can help individuals create dietary patterns that contain essential nutrients to eliminate risks of malnutrition. Because a very low-calorie diet can increase the risk of developing vitamin and mineral deficiencies, it is essential for GLP-1 users to choose quality, nutrient-dense foods.

To achieve optimal results from these drugs, they should also be paired with lifestyle modifications, such as regular exercise, to ensure sustainable, long-term changes.

With the popularity of GLP-1s, why should students still be motivated to study nutrition?

While these medications help promote weight loss, they are not a cure for obesity. Research will continue to provide new treatment options for diet-related chronic diseases. Additionally, obesity is not the only condition linked to diet; other chronic diseases, such as hypertension, heart disease, and certain cancers, are also related. Conversely, optimal dietary intake is associated with improved health, longevity, and wellness. There is significant potential for prevention in nutrition, reducing the need for these drugs and ensuring that those who do need them receive support from experienced dietitians to enhance their outcomes!

What does this mean for graduates' career prospects?

If anything, this has increased the need for nutrition professionals who understand obesity as a chronic condition, the evidence-based treatments available, and the medical nutrition therapy and lifestyle modifications that can support these medications. This also highlights the vital role of nutrition professionals in prevention efforts.

Nutrition is a newer science, and it is constantly evolving. There are countless opportunities in the field, and some nutrition jobs that will be important in the future probably do not even exist yet!



LOCAL ROOTS, GLOBAL IMPACT

01 HARRISBURG, PA. Pennsylvania state senator Amanda Cappelletti '17 brings her Temple public health training to her legislative work (pg 13).

02 ATLANTA, GA. Under a fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MPH alumna Rosemary Carlson '24 is working on evaluation of grant procedures.

03 WASHINGTON, DC. Deanna J. Wathington '90 is president-elect of the American Public Health Association, a leading national and international voice for public health professionals.

04 CLEVELAND, OH. PhD alumnus Hamlet Gasoyan '21 researches health economics with Cleveland Clinic's Center for Value-Based Care Research.

05 MICHIGAN. MPH graduate Kristin Kopec '18 is assistant director of data and informatics at Network180, a network of behavioral health centers around Grand Rapids.

06 OREGON. MSW-MPH alumna Maria Bateman '24 directs the Child Abuse Assessment Program at the Tillamook Family Counseling Center, managing critical support for abused and neglected children (pg 13).

07 CANADA. Associate professor Heather Murphy directs the Water, Health and Applied Microbiology (WHAM) Laboratory, a collaboration between CPH and the University of Guelph that studies water quality and environmental health.

08 INDIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, PERU. Public Health Beyond Borders class prepares students to devise and deliver health programs to underserved communities around the world (pg 12).



CPH faculty, students, and alumni are making a difference in nonprofits, government, and private enterprise around the world, and the college's programs and research projects enable students and faculty to share their public health expertise with—and learn from—diverse communities.

09 FRANCE. Emi Perry, a 2021 Master of Occupational Therapy graduate, competed at the 2024 Paris Paralympics with the U.S. Paralympic Triathlon Team.

10 ITALY. Temple's Rome campus hosts summer courses in health information management and health policy with Assistant Professor Tulay Soylu.

11 SERBIA. A summer study program in Belgrade, led by Professor Bryan McCormick, Health and Rehab Sciences, allows juniors in Temple's recreational therapy program to gain hands-on experience working in social service programs for youth with disabilities.

12 CROATIA. Ana Matić Škorić, a postdoctoral linguistics researcher from the University of Zagreb, joins the college's Concepts & Cognition Laboratory this fall as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar (pg 13).

13 UKRAINE. The college is collaborating with universities and government agencies in Ukraine to help the embattled country build public health education programs (pg 12).

14 CHINA, SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN. CPH faculty are teaming with cancer researchers globally to cross-culturally adapt a cancer literacy test for patients in care and clinical trials.

15 BANGLADESH, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. Kirsten Wiens is collaborating with scientists in Dhaka and Uvira to reduce transmission of cholera (pg 13).

16 JAPAN. Students looking to study abroad can continue their studies abroad at the oldest and largest foreign university at Temple University's campus in Japan.

MAKING A WORLD *of difference*



INDIA DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ECUADOR PERU

Assistant professor of epidemiology Graciela Jaschek's Public Health Beyond Borders class prepares students to devise and deliver health programs to underserved communities around the world, in collaboration with universities and health agencies in other countries. Students gain experience in both epidemiological research and on-the-ground community service. In January, Temple students and faculty teamed with university students in Navi Mumbai, India, to give elementary schoolchildren education about washing their hands and brushing their teeth. In Cusco, Peru, Temple will be studying and educating communities about local practices that may contribute to air pollution and respiratory illness. "We don't decide what the community needs. We conduct needs assessments so they can tell us," Jaschek says.

UKRAINE

In a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, CPH is collaborating with agencies and universities in Ukraine, where war has had severe public health and mental health impacts. CPH faculty have hosted Ukrainian health leaders to demonstrate U.S. healthcare infrastructure and traveled to Ukraine with the aim of helping develop trauma-informed academic training programs. "We'll be working with university partners to help them restructure curricula in public health and in mental-health-related disciplines of social work and nursing," says William Aaronson, associate professor in health services administration and policy at the College of Public Health. "The current mental health system in Ukraine is not adequate to really address the challenges that will be occurring in the next years."

HARRISBURG, PA

Pennsylvania state senator Amanda Cappelletti '17 brings a unique perspective to the job as the only member of the legislature with a public health degree, earning her MPH in health policy and management from CPH. In the new state budget, Cappelletti worked to emphasize public health priorities including wider health care access and food security. She is supporting Family Care Act legislation to allow all Pennsylvanians paid leave when a serious health issue strikes or a child is born.

BANGLADESH DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Infectious disease epidemiologist, Assistant Professor Kirsten Wiens is collaborating with scientists in Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Uvira (DRC) to better understand and reduce transmission of cholera. One aim of the work is to improve allocation of limited resources like vaccines and tests. "There's a lot we can learn from the research about infectious disease burdens on populations, and the work can make an impact in these communities," Wiens says.

TILLAMOOK, OREGON

With dual master's degrees in Social Work and Health Policy Management, recent graduate Maria Bateman '24 is already making an impact. She directs the new Child Abuse Assessment Program at the Tillamook Family Counseling Center, where she not only coordinates integrated support for abused and neglected children but does hands-on clinical work with them. "We are in a provider shortage area out here, and I really am passionate about community health," says Bateman.

CROATIA

Ana Matić Škorić, a psycholinguistics researcher with a background in speech and language pathology from the University of Zagreb, joins the college's Concepts & Cognition Laboratory during the fall 2024 semester as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar. She will share her expertise, working on research examining aging and cognitive decline in language. "We can do cross-linguistic studies that can be very interesting. I see this as a start of continuing collaboration," she says.



By offering resources, expertise, and volunteer support, the College of Public Health not only enhances the quality of life for residents but also strengthens community ties and promotes a culture of shared progress and mutual support.



THE SPEECH LANGUAGE HEARING CENTER has been seeing patients since 1952. The Center provides a wide range of services to people of all ages with communication disorders.

<p>OVER 150 CLIENTS</p> <p>SERVED EACH YEAR AT THE SPEECH LANGUAGE HEARING CENTER ON CAMPUS</p>	<p>HUNDREDS</p> <p>OF SCREENINGS EACH YEAR THROUGHOUT PHILADELPHIA AND NEW JERSEY COMMUNITIES</p>
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NORTH BROAD PHYSICAL THERAPY provides student-run and clinician-supervised pro bono physical therapy services to uninsured, underinsured and underserved community members of North Philadelphia and surrounding areas.

<p>OVER 130 CLIENTS</p> <p>SERVED SINCE 2019</p>	<p>OVER 75%</p> <p>OF PATIENTS HAVE NO INSURANCE</p>
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TEMPLE UNIVERSITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER focuses on health equity through education, practice, research, meeting people where they are, and building trust with the community. The Center offers a wide range of services and educational experiences, including those in public health, nursing, social work, and pharmacy.

<p>145 PATIENTS</p> <p>SEEN IN 2023</p>	<p>75%</p> <p>OF PATIENTS HAVE NO INSURANCE</p>
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TEMPLE OT STUDENTS TRANSFORM LIVES WITH CUSTOM ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Transforming daily activities for children with cerebral palsy, providing hands-on experience for future therapists.

Occupational therapy graduate students returned this year to the HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy. Every year, students in associate professor Cynthia Abbott-Gaffney's "Occupational Therapy Practice: Assistive Technology" spend a semester designing and constructing assistive devices for local children. The devices may be as simple as a customized drawing table, a computer tablet holder, or support for sitting up straight in bed, but they can improve the everyday lives of kids who have physical challenges, and the experience gives OT students hands-on experience working with clients.

"Something like this wouldn't necessarily be covered by insurance, because it's not medically necessary," explained Kira Hagan, who partnered with fellow second-year doctoral student Juliana Looney to build an activity table custom fitted to a girl's wheelchair. "She had an attachment for doing her art before, but it was uncomfortable for her, so we came up with the idea of making an adaptive table with wraparound legs for stability and a bigger base to do her art."

The HMS School, in West Philadelphia, has students with cerebral palsy ranging from age five to 22. Their needs vary widely. People with CP may have impaired muscle coordination and other physical difficulties, as well as communication and cognitive challenges.

"It's easy to think about occupational therapy when it's work, but occupation when it's leisure is often harder to conceptualize," said Teresa Giardina, co-director of HMS Connect outreach program.

OT students met with the children and caregivers early in the semester to assess what devices would be helpful, returning during the semester to do fittings of their designs. At a ceremony at the HMS School in April, they presented the devices. Jess, age 20 and recipient of the wheelchair table, was thrilled.

"Thank you! How did you make it?" she said. "Now I can use it in art class. It is beautiful."

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES

In April, capping off the college's National Public Health Week activities, more than 50 students, alumni, faculty and staff supported our neighborhood communities in North Philadelphia at the college's third annual Give Back Day. Volunteers helped with cleaning and organization at Bethel Presbyterian Church; cleaned the facilities and garden at St. Francis Inn; packed meals at Bebashi - Transition to Hope; prepared care packages at the Sisters of St. Joseph Welcome Center; and cleaned the Blackhawks/Columbia Football Field in recognition of Philly Spring Cleanup Day.



EMPOWERING SURVIVORS

Training survivors as researchers to enhance understanding and support for healing from sexual harm, with a focus on inclusivity and trauma-informed approaches.

Survivors of sexual harm who also have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) face a higher risk of victimization, and their path to healing might not look the same as those without IDD. But existing research into the area, while typically well-intentioned, often doesn't include their voices into the design of that research—making a big impact on its effectiveness and our understanding of how survivors can best move forward.

In a new project funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), Assistant Professor of Nursing Laura Sinko, and staff from Temple's Institute on Disabilities aim to fill a gap in research surrounding sexual harm. "There's a lot of work on incidence rates, but much less on healing and survivorship," Sinko says.

"We realized there was such little work done in this area in the healing community," she says. "We want to build capacity for people to really engage in their own research, to make it a fun and organic experience."

Sinko and the team from the Institute on Disabilities will train a cohort of survivors with IDD as researchers, empowering them to lead future patient-centered studies on healing after sexual harm. Sinko brings her expertise in trauma-informed research and practice as a sexual assault nurse; Taye Hallock, Assistant Director of Health Equity, and others from the Institute on Disabilities bring experience in accessibility, recruitment, and advising.

With input from a Community Advisory Board, the team will create a training guide and train a small group of researchers with lived experience in these areas. They'll develop methods, create a research roadmap, and sketch out the priorities for future work. The hope is that the researchers trained under the project will be able to lead studies of their own down the road, hopefully leading to a more inclusive—and more meaningful—understanding of sexual harm survivorship for people with IDD.

"In general, we've heard that people want to explore more about healing, how to navigate systems, and how to get support after trauma," says Sinko. "As services currently aren't as inclusive as they need to be, we're looking to develop a trauma-informed way to explore healing."

Our faculty and alumni exemplify their expertise through influential roles on public health boards across the country. Their commitment to advancing public health extends beyond the classroom, where they drive innovation and policy development. Their leadership bridges academic excellence with practical impact, setting a high standard for both scholarship and service.

Jessica Boyer, MSW, MPH '06, Director of Assessment and Accreditation

APHA Association Executive Board Member

Jazmine Tooles, PT, DPT, Associate Professor of Instruction

APTA PA President

Jeanne Coviello, Assistant Professor of Instruction

POTA President-Elect

Jamie Mansell, PhD, LAT, ATC, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies

President, PA Athletic Trainers' Society

Kyle Harris, CPH '10, Assistant Professor of Instruction
President-Elect, PA Athletic Trainers' Society

Deanna Wathington, MPH '90

APHA Association President-Elect

Ross Silverman, JD, MPH, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs

Board Member of the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics

Jennifer Ibrahim, PhD, MPH, MED, Dean
Philadelphia Board of Health, CEPH Board of Counselors

CPH SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year, the College of Public Health's generous philanthropic community makes it possible for our students to thrive—meet some of the students who are set to make an impact thanks to donor scholarships.

MADISON LAING

SENIOR, NURSING



ADLER-MARRERO ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

"My goal is to continue to integrate my studies of Nursing and Spanish not only in the academic setting but in the hospital as well...After I graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Spanish minor I intend to become a registered nurse in either Labor and Delivery or Pediatric Psych."

LINDBERG FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

"I want to be able to have the flexibility in my career to help wherever is needed most. My long-term goal is to open a nonprofit organization that houses young adults that outgrow foster care, helping vulnerable young adults that need assistance...I want this to be the difference that I make in communities."

JADA HARRIS-COLEMAN

SOPHOMORE, SOCIAL WORK



ARIANA ALI-YERIMA

JUNIOR, PUBLIC HEALTH



PINA DE LUCA FRATAMICO, PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP FUND

"After graduation, I plan to implement and evaluate community-based health programs to eliminate health inequities in underserved communities. I am interested in global health, and I aspire to apply my knowledge in West African countries such as the Republic of Benin and Ghana."

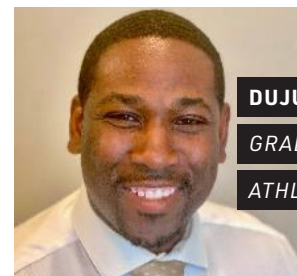
DR. CAROLE A. OGLESBY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

"After graduation I will be pursuing a position as a university professor. As the only African American athletic trainer in my state, I have become an example for minority students and they seek me out for guidance and support in the challenges they face as minorities in Athletic Training. Becoming a professor means I will be able to mentor and educate entire classrooms and programs."

DUJUAN SHAKESPAERE

GRADUATE STUDENT

ATHLETIC TRAINING



GRACE KIM

JUNIOR, NURSING



J. RUSSELL FAWLEY SCHOLARSHIP

"After earning my bachelor's degree, my plan is to deepen my knowledge by pursuing a master's degree in order to become a women's health Nurse Practitioner. Ideally, I envision spending some time working on the labor and delivery floor before furthering my education. My ultimate goal is to be a beacon of hope and comfort for those in need through the care I provide."

educate innovate transform

THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

OUR VISION

Healthy, equitable, and thriving communities.

OUR MISSION

Educate. Innovate. Transform.

The College of Public Health engages in interprofessional education, community and clinical practice, impactful research, and service learning. We approach our work with cultural humility as we advocate for positive change and prepare leaders to address the most pressing health issues of our time.

OUR GOALS

- Empower Emerging Leaders
- Advance Excellence in Interprofessional Teaching and Applied Practice
- Drive Innovation in Research
- Develop Sustainable Community Partnerships
- Lead through Diversity and Inclusion
- Engage our CPH Community Worldwide



SCAN THE QR
CODE TO FOLLOW
OUR PROGRESS
AS WE BUILD OUR
STRATEGIC PLAN



CLASS OF 2024 *takes flight*

On May 8, more than 900 students from the College of Public Health and the School of Social Work, representing more than 31 degree programs, received their bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees at the 58th College of Public Health graduation ceremony.

“Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your success and making us better through your time as an Owl,” Jennifer Ibrahim, dean of the College of Public Health, told graduates in her opening remarks. “I assure you that you will be able to find success every single day, whether it is in the face of a patient that you helped, the aha moment for a student that you may teach, or a new research finding. We are immensely proud of you today and every day. We cannot wait to watch and see what you do tomorrow. Now go out and show the world what it means to be Temple Made.”

Graduation speakers Jose and Beatriz Garces shared their experiences as socially conscious entrepreneurs and founders of The Garces Foundation, which works to improve public health in Philadelphia through programs for immigrant communities. Beatriz Garces, a graduate of Temple’s Kornberg School of Dentistry, has her own private practice and has worked in community dental clinics and prison systems.

“These experiences challenged me to expand my skills and deepen my understanding of compassionate care,” she told the graduates. “They also reinforced the values instilled in me by Temple—a commitment to serving those in need, regardless of their circumstances.”

Jose Garces, the James Beard Award-winning Iron Chef and restaurateur, encouraged graduates to follow their passions to discover success.

“Many failures come from pushing past your comfort zone, by trying to accomplish the things that drive you, despite the odds that are stacked against you,” he said. “Only by allowing ourselves to strive for what we cannot easily achieve are we able to grow past where we are.”

“Now as we venture out into the world, remember that the world depends on us and what we as public health students have acquired,” said student speaker Irene Frempong. “Be confident enough to know you deserve a seat in any space you find yourself. Whether you find yourself dealing with patient-level care, addressing health disparities, doing research, addressing the deeply rooted systemic injustices, or advocating for new policies...be bold and courageous. Seek to be the standard wherever you find yourself.”



WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR ESTEEMED GRADUATION SPEAKERS, JOSE AND BEATRIZ GARCES.

Their inspiring words and powerful message not only motivated the Class of 2024, but also provided invaluable guidance as our graduates embark on their new journeys.

PALEY HALL SET TO

transform education

UNDER CONSTRUCTION
PALEY'S PROGRESS AS OF FALL 2024

HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2025

Save the date for Paley's Grand Opening.

SUMMER 2025

Move in.

EST. NOVEMBER 2024

Completion of building exterior.

MAY 2024

Beam topping ceremony marks the end of iron work.

APRIL 2023

Groundbreaking ceremony signifies start of construction.

NOVEMBER 2022

Paley Hall announced as new home of CPH.

The Integrative Simulation Center on the second floor of Paley Hall, offering advanced simulation technology for interprofessional training across various health-focused disciplines, will support a range of replicated care settings, including hospitals, emergency rooms, community settings like apartments, stores, restaurants, classrooms, and parks.

Take a look at some of the cutting-edge spaces set to transform students' education starting next fall.

SIMULATED COMMUNITY AND HOME

The Simulated Community and Home will include a simulated apartment/home, ATM, restaurant, grocery store, park with benches, and roadway with sidewalk and green turf to simulate a real environment. These settings will be used for public health community-based simulations, such as home health visits for recently discharged patients, EMS training scenarios with on-site ambulance, and nutrition education for healthy eating.



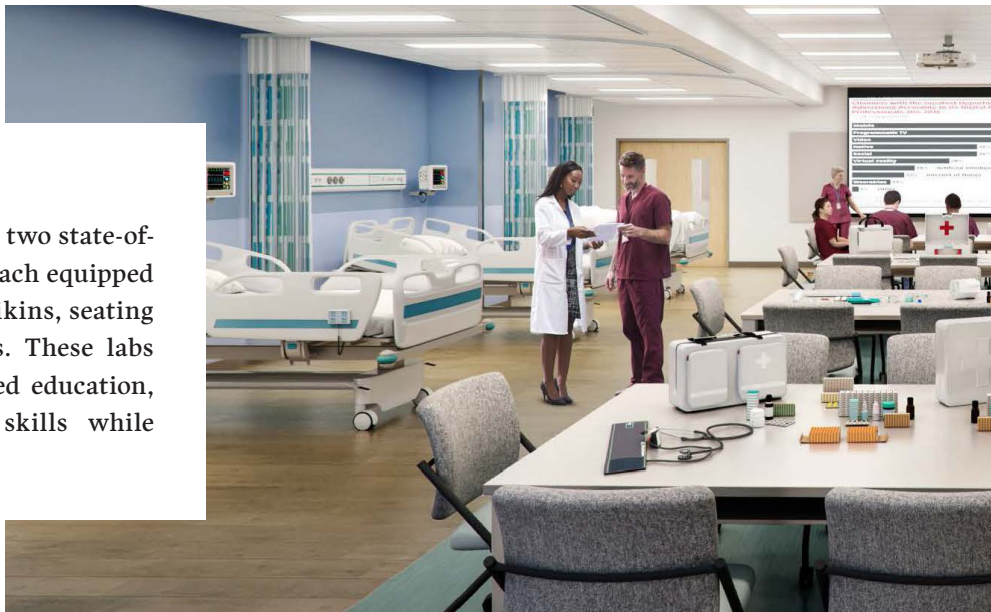
SCAN THE QR CODE TO
TAKE THE VIRTUAL TOUR

OUTPATIENT CLINIC AND EXAM ROOMS

The Simulated Outpatient Clinic will feature 10 exam rooms and observation rooms for faculty to monitor learners, utilizing “standardized patients” to replicate various outpatient clinic settings. This facility emphasizes educating students in primary care, providing preventive health services and treatment for common illnesses, while fostering long-term patient-provider relationships for comprehensive health management, including mental health, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and heart disease.

BEDSIDE SKILLS LAB

The new interprofessional space will feature two state-of-the-art skills labs for multiple professions, each equipped with eight inpatient beds, high-fidelity manikins, seating for up to 32 students, and large monitors. These labs will be the focal point for competency-based education, allowing students to evaluate essential skills while practicing cultural humility.



FACULTY *updates*

NEW FACULTY

LINDSAY CLARKE, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

ERICA HENN, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

LYNN-MARIE CHARLES, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Nursing

JUSTIN YOUNG, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

NEW OPERATING STAFF FY23-24

RACHEL BROWN

Senior Associate Director of Admissions

ANN SCHUCK

Assistant Director of Development

GRETCHEN TILLITT

Assistant Director of Administration

JENNIFER HITCHNER

Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions

STEFAN JEWETT

Assistant Director of Clinical Affairs

ANGELA AMODIO

Director of Communications and Marketing

JAZMIN WILLIAMS

Department Coordinator, Epidemiology and Biostatistics

WINDI NOWLIN

Department Coordinator, Nursing

SAMANTHA KRZYSKO

Graduate Academic Manager

JARVIS GORDEN

Director of Development, Major Gifts

CHRIS BRYANT

Assistant Director of Administration

NEW RESEARCH STAFF FY23-24

SARAH FISCHBACH, Senior Research Associate, CORE

SOFIA ATWOOD, Research Assistant, CORE

RACHEL APARICIO, Research Assistant, SBS

ANNA RUTHERFORD, Lab Supervisor, CSD

LAURA FITZGERALD, Senior Lab Manager, CSD

ELIANA LORD, Research Assistant, SBS

ROSE DIETRICH, Research Assistant, CSD

MEHDI RAJAEEBAYGI, Data Analyst, HSAP

JIAN ZHAO, Assistant Research Scientist, HSAP

RADHIKA SINHA, Research Project Manager, HSAP

ABIGAIL HUSTON, Lead Trainer, Occupational Therapist, HRS

JUNE GOLDBERG, Research Assistant, SBS

JING ERIN SHEN, Program Manager, CSD

BRENDAN FAIRMAN, Community Peer Specialist, HRS

FATIMA AYLLON AYLLON, Health Research Analyst I, HSAP

GRANT KASSAN, Research Technician, EpiBio

MERYL GORTH, Research Coordinator, CORE

JESSIE DRAKE, Research Assistant, CORE

ANNEMARIE TOMOSKY, Research Project Manager, HSAP

NYSA GINU, Research Analyst II, HSAP

BRIEYONA THOMAS, Community Peer Specialist, HRS

ELIZABETH KNIGHT, Research Assistant, SBS

MOLLIE KATZEN, Research Assistant, SBS

ERIN MOORE, Project Coordinator, HSAP

CANDACE FAY, Behavior Interventionist, SBS

JULIE SCHLESINGER, Speech Language Pathologist, CSD

RAGHA MOHAN, Research Assistant, SBS

MEDHA SAHARYA, Community Inclusive Interventionist, HRS

MARISSA MILLER, Research Associate, EpiBio

MAGGIE KANE, Community Navigator, HRS

SARA PAULSON, Clinical Research Associate, CSD

JOHN MARSHALL, Project Coordinator, HSAP

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

MELISSA DICHTER, School of Social Work

CHERYL HYDE, School of Social Work

BETH PFEIFFER, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

GRETCHEN SNETHEN, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

SUSAN CASPARI, Communication Sciences and Disorders

MARISSA CLOUTIER, Social and Behavioral Sciences

FELICIDAD GARCIA, Communication Sciences and Disorders

GRACIELA JASCHEK, Epidemiology and Biostatistics

SUSAN KILROY, Nursing

MICHELLE SCARPULLA, Social and Behavioral Sciences

BRENDA TEICHMAN, Nursing

CAITE WOLAK, Social and Behavioral Sciences

FACULTY GRANTED TENURE

INKYU HAN

KRISTA SCHROEDER*

BRITTANY SCHULER*

GINA TRIPICCHIO*

YAARA ZISMAN-ILANI*

**Faculty members also received promotions*

RETIRED STAFF/FACULTY

SUSAN DICKEY, Nursing

RENA KRAKOW, Communication Sciences and Disorders

MAYRA SANTIAGO, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

SO LONG, FOR NOW



On September 19, 2023, Temple University lost one of the greats: President JoAnne Epps. She served as the Dean of the Beasley School of Law (2008–2016), Provost (2016–2023), and became the first African American female President at Temple University in 2023. She was a petite woman with a heart the size of a giant, the brains of a genius, and incredible emotional intelligence.

President Epps was bold and brilliant and a friend to everyone that she met. One of my favorite memories was when she came out to join our faculty to kick off the '23-24 school year with water ice. She asked people about their favorite flavors and what they were excited about in the new semester.

We pay tribute here and remember her words of advice. She challenged us to try new things and learn along the way, but always see that the future is bright. May we heed her guidance and continue to build the culture and community that she worked so hard to create where everyone is valued and seen.

WRITTEN BY DEAN JENNIFER IBRAHIM



ALUMNI *associations*

for the College of Public Health and School of Social Work

HOMECOMING 2024

Owl pride was on full display as CPH and School of Social Work alums connected at Lincoln Financial Field. Visitors of the alumni associations' tent celebrated with food, drinks, giveaways, and games—including the return of the “Dunk a Dean” dunk tank!

STAY IN TOUCH

The College of Public Health Alumni Newsletter is back! The quarterly e-newsletter provides brief updates about what's going on at the college and how you can get involved. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please reach out to Ann Schuck, Assistant Director of Development, at ann.schuck@temple.edu.

MAKE AN IMPACT

The alumni associations are seeking new volunteers interested in supporting alumni engagement. The board meets quarterly and helps with coordinating alumni activities and events with support from the Dean's Office. If you are interested in learning more about these groups, please send a message to Ann at ann.schuck@temple.edu.

MEET YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TEAM



Lisa Slinkard

lisa.slinkard@temple.edu
215-204-8624



Jarvis Gorden

jarvis.gorden@temple.edu
215-204-2014



Ann Schuck

ann.schuck@temple.edu
215-204-5162

GIVING WEEK 2024 *review*

"I cannot begin to put into words what it means for someone else to believe in me, my dreams, and my endeavors... being lifted up into success in this most specific way is something that is beyond my comprehension or basic expectations. I am truly thankful."

STUDENT AID RECIPIENT

OVER
\$55,000
RAISED

SUPPORTING STUDENTS
VIA EMERGENCY AID AND
SCHOLARSHIPS

163
DONORS

CAME TOGETHER TO SHOW
THEIR DEDICATION
TO CPH

\$15,000
MATCHED

THANKS TO ANONYMOUS
DONORS (INCLUDED IN
TOTAL GIFTS)

**SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S TEMPLE
GIVING DAYS: MARCH 31-APRIL 5, 2025!**

WAYS TO GIVE

Every gift to Temple University is an investment—in the university, in the work that it does, in the work it aspires toward, and in the ability of its students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and neighbors to transform the world around them. And every gift to Temple helps chart a course for the future. *Your gift is the key.*

CALL OR GO ONLINE:

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cph.temple.edu/giving

PLEASE MAIL CHECKS TO:

Temple University Institutional Advancement
P.O. Box 2890
New York, NY 10116-2890



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TO GIVE



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5!
TO REGISTER, VISIT WWW.VOTE.ORG.

welcoming *over 1,000 new students*
for the Fall 2024 academic year



“Convocation marks the start of our new students’ academic journey. With each new class of students, our College evolves and grows, making us better every year.”

DEAN JENNIFER IBRAHIM