TEMPLE PUBLIC HEALTH

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
2026 MAGAZINE



WHAT'S **INSIDE**

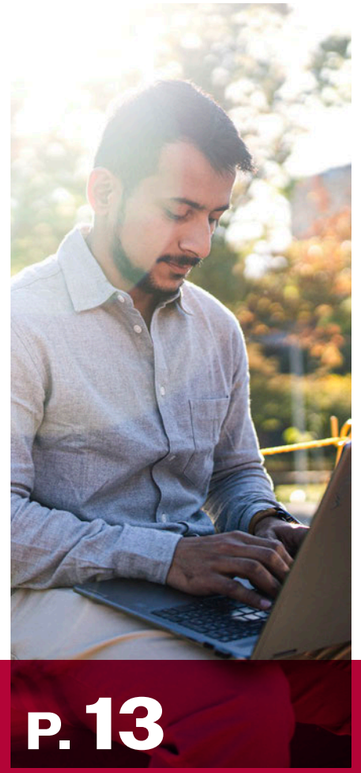
TEMPLE
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EDUCATE
PEOPLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH



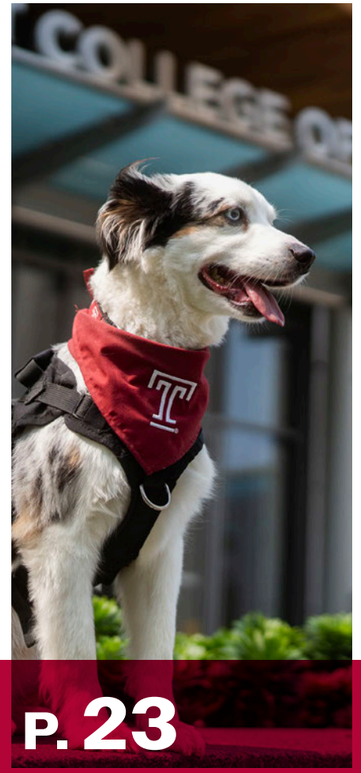
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FROM PHILLY TO THE WORLD



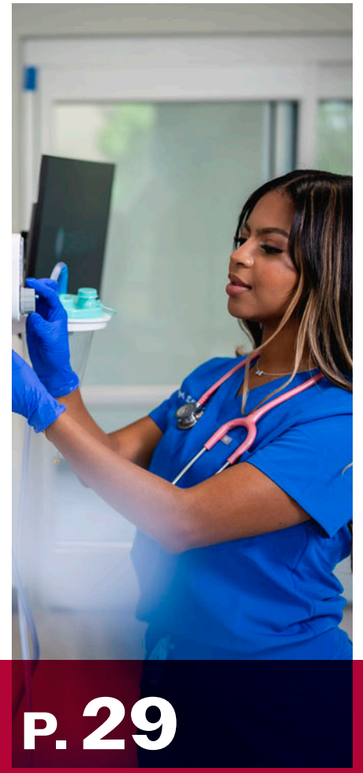
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College of
Public Health

DEAR **CPH COMMUNITY**



As we settled into our new home in Paley Hall this past year, it provided an opportunity for us to reflect on warm memories, appreciate our good fortune, and begin to plan for the next chapter of the College of Public Health.

In this year's magazine, we are excited to share a few of the incredible things that have been happening. Our students and faculty amaze me with how much they were able to pack into one year. You'll read about spaces designed to support our students and neighbors, like the Impact Center and new Ellen Schwartz Speech Language Hearing Center; take a look inside our Simulation Center's new replica emergency ambulance; and discover stories of resilience, service, research, and policy impact throughout our community. We are also bringing you highlights from across our very active departments and School of Social Work.

Thank you to all our alumni and friends of the College who continue to support our students and the work being done by our faculty and staff. The current questioning of the value of higher education and caps on funding for students to pursue their academic goals make our work a bit more difficult and yet, so much more necessary. With your help, we were able to offer more students financial support and emergency assistance, connect them with internships and job interviews, and help them become the leaders of tomorrow. You help to energize us and remind us that Owls are everywhere, standing with us.

We believe in providing opportunities for all students to access a high-quality, affordable education. Our responsibility is to educate the next generation, innovate solutions in response to the challenges of our day, and transform lives by preparing our students for careers in health and social services and helping our communities lead the healthiest lives possible.

As we welcome hundreds of new students into the CPH community this fall, I want to reiterate my open invitation to visit with us. Whether you're an alum, a friend, a colleague, or a community partner, join us for one of our Dean's Seminars, or check out some of the innovative learning spaces where our work happens, like the Aramark Community Teaching Kitchen and Simulation Center in Paley Hall or the Ellen Schwartz Speech Language Hearing Center in the Ritter Annex. We want to share what's happening at CPH, hear what you're working on, and learn more about ways we can collaborate with you.

Best,



Jennifer Ibrahim
Dean, College of Public Health
and School of Social Work

Best of the Nest



Best of the Nest Future Leaders:
Janaya McCray, April Sokalsky, Vaishnave Parameswaran, Morie Vandi, Chanmi Lee

Not pictured: Brooke Kane, Haoyu Zhou

THE NEXT TO SOAR

In our last issue, we introduced the inaugural class of Best of the Nest, celebrating members of our community whose talent, dedication, and compassion set them apart.

This year, it becomes a tradition: Meet the students, alumni, faculty, and staff who make up our 2026 class. Together, these 21 honorees exemplify what it means to be Temple Made and represent the very best of the College of Public Health.

Best of the Nest shines a spotlight on three honorary groups:

FUTURE LEADER celebrates students who are shaping the future of public health through scholarship and service.

ALUMNI IN ACTION honors graduates who are making a meaningful impact in their professions and communities.

CHAMPION OF CHANGE recognizes faculty and staff who are innovating through teaching, research, and leadership.

From classrooms and clinics to laboratories and neighborhoods, this year's honorees are making an impact close to home and around the world.



Best of the Nest

CLASS OF 2026

LOOK CLOSER!
Scan the QR code to read their full stories.

FUTURE LEADERS



BROOKE KANE



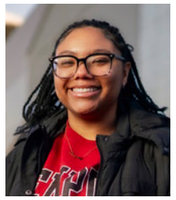
APRIL SOKALSKY



MORIE VANDI



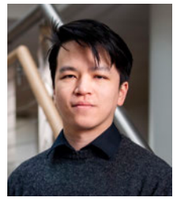
VAISHNAVE PARAMESWARAN



JANAYA MCCRAY



CHANMI LEE



HAOYU ZHOU

Brooke Kane turns the resilience she developed as a Division I soccer player into a career helping children thrive through occupational therapy.

April Sokalsky uses nutrition to build healthier communities by connecting people with the knowledge and resources they need to thrive.

Morie Vandi prepares for a career improving healthcare access while advocating for more equitable systems around the world.

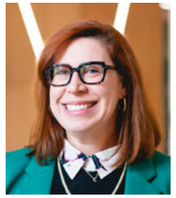
Vaishnave Parameswaran is combining research, policy, and public health practice to help shape smarter health decisions.

Janaya McCray leads through service, mentorship, and a commitment to creating opportunities for others.

Chanmi Lee advances public health through research, curiosity, and a passion for improving community health.

Haoyu Zhou applies data and research to better understand complex public health challenges and improve outcomes.

ALUMNI IN ACTION



CHRISTEN REXING



JORDAN SPECTOR



HAMLET GASOYAN



JACOB LEGAN



MARVIN NICHOLS



PATRICK KELLY



JULIANA LOONEY

Christen Rexing brings research, policy, and advocacy together to prevent injuries and violence before they happen.

Jordan Spector blends physical therapy and art to make healthcare more approachable, creative, and human.

Hamlet Gasoyan translates obesity research into evidence that helps improve care and inform health policy.

Jacob Legan is supporting elite athletes while mentoring the next generation of athletic trainers.

Marvin Nichols strengthens communities through leadership, mentorship, and a lifelong commitment to public health.

Patrick Kelly applies public health leadership to improve healthcare systems and the communities they serve.

Juliana Looney helps patients regain independence while advancing occupational therapy in acute neurological care.

CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE



KESA BOND



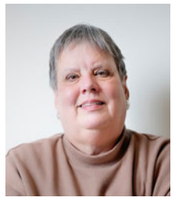
ANNE RUSS



LAURA SINKO



GINA TRIPICCHIO



CHERYL HYDE



JESSICA BOYER



BRYAN MCCORMICK

Kesa Bond is transforming years of health information leadership into lessons that empower the next generation.

Anne Russ prepares athletic training students for the moments when knowledge, compassion, and quick-thinking matter most.

Laura Sinko is reshaping how healthcare responds to trauma through compassionate, evidence-based care.

Gina Tripicchio connects nutrition, behavior, and community health to improve lives beyond the plate.

Cheryl Hyde has spent a career preparing social workers to strengthen communities and create lasting change.

Jessica Boyer advances public health education by leading accreditation efforts that ensure high-quality programs and student success across CPH.

Bryan McCormick is redefining recovery by creating more inclusive opportunities for people with disabilities to connect and thrive.

CLASS OF 2026:

THE WORK STARTS NOW



Almost 800 graduates from Temple University's College of Public Health and School of Social Work crossed the stage ready to make an impact. From future nurses and social workers to researchers, therapists, and public health professionals, the Class of 2026 left Temple ready to educate, innovate, and transform—helping build healthier, more equitable communities for all.

Dean Jennifer Ibrahim challenged graduates to think beyond their careers. "When you were applying to Temple University, you were asking yourself, 'What do I want to be when I grow up?'" she said. "Now, I am asking you, 'How can you help to serve others?'"

A CANVAS FOR CHANGE

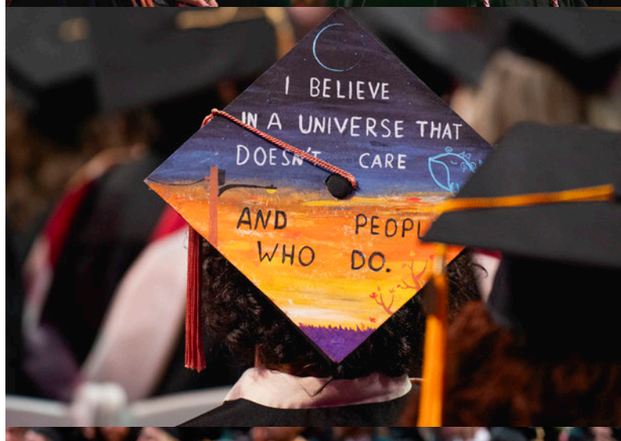
Commencement speaker **Jane Golden**, founder and executive director of Mural Arts Philadelphia, reflected on the connection between art, healing, and community. "People are not just problems to solve," she said. "They are partners in their own transformation."

THE HEART OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Student speaker **Duane Price**, a graduate of the School of Social Work, encouraged classmates to lead with compassion. "The people you are about to serve do not need more data points; they need human beings," he said.

Right: Right: Smiles, decorated caps, and moments of reflection filled the Liacouras Center as the Class of 2026 celebrated graduation.







799* New Graduates

656 FROM CPH
143 FROM SSW

804* Degrees Awarded

481 UNDERGRADUATE
323 ADVANCED

**Includes Fall 2025 through Summer II 2026*

Age Range

21-61 YEARS OLD

Hailing From

25 STATES
9 COUNTRIES

2026 COMMENCEMENT

WORDS TO **CARRY FORWARD**



“Act with courage and empathy.”

JENNIFER IBRAHIM



“Something new is always possible.”

JANE GOLDEN

“Behind every statistic is a heartbeat.”

DUANE PRICE





2026 CONVOCATION

INCOMING STUDENTS

1,039 UNDERGRAD + **274** GRADUATE = **1,313** TOTAL

72% IDENTIFY AS UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITIES

35 U.S. STATES AND TERRITORIES REPRESENTED

53% FROM GREATER PHILADELPHIA

20 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

BASED ON STUDENT DEPOSITS

WELCOME TO CPH

The annual tradition of Convocation marks the moment new students officially become Temple Owls, with music, energy, and plenty of Temple pride. On August 21, hundreds of new College of Public Health and School of Social Work students came together for the event, sporting slate-colored T-shirts featuring the iconic Temple Bell Tower and the College mantra: Educate. Innovate. Transform.



HEALTH BEYOND THE HIVE

How a Temple alum and Occupational Therapy student are helping older adults find purpose, connection, and well-BEEing.

When you think of bees and honey, you might first think of what bees give us, from food to skin products. But engaging with a hive can offer something more: Lessons about community, connection, and how we manage our health.

By the final session, participants were checking on the hive between classes, asking about a newly established queen, and wondering how the bees had weathered a recent cold spell.

For Amelia Mraz, CLA ’16, CPH ’23, and Temple Occupational Therapy student Meghan Robertson, that level of investment was exactly the point.

“If it helped me with my own depression and anxiety, connecting with nature, finding a purpose, trusting the bees, I wanted to share that with other people,” said Mraz, a two-time Temple alumna and founder of Half Mad Honey.

That idea became the foundation of a partnership between Half Mad Honey and Temple’s Occupational Therapy Doctorate program. Through her capstone project, Robertson spent the past year helping facilitate therapeutic beekeeping experiences for older adults at the Navy Yard.

“When they told us it was our last session suiting up, they were like, ‘What the heck? It’s over already?’” Robertson said. “I feel like that itself is a sign that we’re doing something.”

Participants became invested in caring for the bees and eagerly returned each week to see what was happening next. “It’s giving them a reason to wake up on a Friday and come here,” Robertson said.

“Hands-on experiences allow our OT students to apply their learning while seeing how meaningful activities support health, connection, and quality of life,” said Caitlyn Foy, director of Temple’s OT program.

For Robertson, the experience also expanded her understanding of occupational therapy. “I recognize firsthand the benefits of nature,” she said. “It’s making me think a little bit more outside of the box now.”

That perspective resonates with Mraz, whose public health training helped shape her belief that wellness can happen far beyond hospitals and clinics. “It’s important to be creative in building health,” Mraz said. “It doesn’t all just have to happen inside of the doctor’s office or clinical setting. We can make connections and experiences outside in places that you might not think about.”

WHAT’S THE BUZZ?

Participants share what they gained from six weeks of therapeutic beekeeping at the Navy Yard.





“I used to be afraid of bees. Once I suited up, that anxiety was gone. It gave me the confidence to step outside my comfort zone.”

Aisha Abdul-Basit

“Getting into nature and learning about the bees was really eye-opening. It also gave me the chance to connect with other people.”

Max Bier









“It gave me the chance to get out into nature and notice things I might otherwise overlook—the environment, the bees, and even the changing seasons.”

Joe Kane

“It was refreshing to learn something new. At this stage of life, you think you’ve learned a lot, but every week I came away with something new.”

Ambra Hook



Advancing Research TOGETHER

CROSS-COLLEGE RESEARCH AREA	DEPARTMENTS	WHERE THE WORK CONNECTS
Children, Youth & Families	**Nursing, SBS, Social Work, HRS, CSD**	Childhood obesity, sleep, nutrition, ACEs, child sexual abuse prevention, trauma-informed schools, fatherhood, family thriving, early language development
Trauma, Violence & Recovery	**Nursing, Social Work, HSAP**	Gender-based/domestic violence, survivor healing, economic empowerment, child sexual abuse, averse childhood experiences, trauma-informed care, protection-from-abuse policy
Social Determinants & Health Equity	**Nursing, SBS, HSAP, Social Work, Epi/Bio**	Neighborhood conditions, food/housing insecurity, economic security, Medicaid/access, environmental exposures, incarceration/reentry
Disability, Inclusion & Participation	**HRS, SBS, HSAP, CSD, Social Work**	Autism, disability health, psychiatric disability/community inclusion, ALS, Deaf or Hard of Hearing children/language access, intellectual/developmental disabilities
Substance Use & Recovery	**SBS, HSAP**	Opioid treatment/reentry, prenatal opioid exposure, tobacco cessation, policy/access to evidence-based treatment
AI, Data & Emerging Technology	**SBS, HSAP, Nursing**	AI communication training, AI qualitative research, ALS digital twins, GenAI analysis of amputation risk
Policy, Systems, Law & Implementation	**HSAP, SBS, Social Work, CSD, Nursing, HRS**	Legal epidemiology, implementation science, state programs, clinical/community interventions, translational science
Community-Engaged Philadelphia Research	**Nursing, SBS, Social Work, HRS, HSAP**	Schools, jails, hospitals, community health, Department of Human Services, Philadelphia Children's Alliance, North Philadelphia populations

WORKING ACROSS DISCIPLINES

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout CPH, research rarely stays within the lines of a single discipline. In the updates that follow, our Chairs share research highlights from their departments over the past year, offering a closer look at the work underway across our departments. Together, these efforts help CPH educate future leaders, innovate across fields, and transform health in Philadelphia and beyond.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS (CSD)

Lisa M. Bedore, PhD, Chair

Researchers in Communication Sciences and Disorders are working to make communication accessible to all, generating foundational knowledge about communication and translating discoveries into tools and interventions that improve the lives of children and adults.

Matt Hall, associate professor, partners with teams in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Kansas to explore approaches that improve language access and outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing children who would benefit from opportunities to learn sign language.

Liz Heller Murray, associate professor, and Recai Yucel, professor of Epidemiology, are developing assessment approaches that could expand access to pediatric voice therapy across clinical and school settings.

Edwin Maas, associate professor, and Sue Caspari, assistant professor, are advancing treatment for childhood apraxia of speech, with a recent randomized clinical trial demonstrating how treatment intensity can improve speech intelligibility.

Other faculty research examines how the brain processes meaning during storytelling and how older adults with hearing loss navigate speech in noisy environments. Across these projects, CSD students gain hands-on research experience, with opportunities to contribute to and present findings at local and national conferences.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY (HSAP)

Kesa Bond, PhD, MHA, Interim Chair

Melody Slashinski, associate professor, is evaluating policy implementation, effectiveness, impact, and outcomes to identify recommendations for improvement with weapons relinquishment and legal representation in protection from abuse cases.

Elizabeth Van Nostrand, associate professor, is using legal epidemiology methods to compare protective laws across jurisdictions. Sherief Ibrahim, assistant professor of instruction, is working with Melody Slashinski to interview police department leaders about their implementation of extreme risk protection orders.

Pricila Mullachery, assistant professor, examines how laws and policies shape health among disadvantaged populations. Her work has addressed public health issues related to the opioid crisis, access to evidence-based interventions, and the burden of chronic noncommunicable diseases.

Ilene Hollin, associate professor, uses a variety of methods and frameworks to measure values and preferences to improve healthcare services and quality for patients and families.

Huanmei Wu, professor, in collaboration with physicians from Temple Health, is developing AI-powered "digital twin" models for people with ALS that combine clinical history with real-time health data to simulate disease progression. This approach aims to personalize care, help predict key milestones, and support earlier planning for therapies.

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS

Resa M. Jones, PhD, MPH, Chair

Research and student success are at the heart of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics' mission to combine curiosity with rigorous, applied methods that lead us to compelling questions and impactful results to improve public health. Currently, 12 of our 15 faculty members are actively engaged in 32 studies spanning a broad range of public health topics, including PFAS "forever chemicals" and cancer, the exposome and cancer incidence, environmental exposures and health, and Vibrio infections.

In fiscal year 2026, our faculty submitted more than 40 grants. We also published 40 peer-reviewed manuscripts and presented at national and international conferences, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and translation of research into practice. Additionally, five faculty members were recognized as subject matter experts and invited to share their expertise with media outlets, including The Washington Post and Neurology Today.

Given the generosity of the Hope Award donors, we were able to offer travel funds to 10 students for their Public Health Beyond Borders international travel experiences in India and Peru, which provided hands-on experience focused on addressing pressing community needs.

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

Amita Avadhani, PhD, DNP, Chair

Faculty in the Department of Nursing have a research portfolio focused on promoting healing and resilience in at-risk populations in Philadelphia communities.

Krista Schroeder is principal investigator of a National Institutes of Health-funded study examining how parents' adverse childhood experiences and neighborhood context jointly influence childhood obesity risk. Her long-term goal is developing trauma-informed, healing-centered interventions that reduce health disparities.

Laura Sinko received a K01 award to support PEARL, a survivor-centered, photography-based intervention designed to support healing and recovery among survivors of gender-based violence. Her research also examines how restorative practices may support survivors and improve their experiences with responses to harm.

Susan VonNessen-Scanlin received institutional program funding in collaboration with the School of Pharmacy to provide interprofessional safety-net services to underserved populations in North Philadelphia. In a second project, generative AI was used to analyze large data sets to understand risk factors contributing to the high risk of amputations experienced by the North Philadelphia community. The information is being used to design new models for risk assessment and prevention.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Philip McCallion, PhD, Director

Social work research begins with people—their experiences, their relationships, and the systems and communities that shape their lives. Across the School of Social Work (SSW), our faculty are producing scholarship that deepens our understanding of complex social challenges and helps develop practical solutions that strengthen individuals, families, and communities.

Assistant Professor Laura Johnson is partnering with the National Network to End Domestic Violence to evaluate the Independence Program, a credit-building microloan program for survivors, while adapting and piloting an economic empowerment intervention. Her work examines how greater financial stability can support independence and long-term security.

Associate Professor Julia Kobulsky is working with the Philadelphia Children's Alliance and Philadelphia Department of Human Services to improve the health and well-being of children affected by child sexual abuse, with a goal of preventing abuse before it occurs. Her team brings together researchers from social work, health informatics, computer science, medical geography, nursing, biostatistics, and psychology.

Through interdisciplinary research, community partnerships, intervention development, and leadership in the field, our faculty are generating knowledge that can strengthen families, improve systems, and help communities thrive.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES (HRS)

R. Matthew Brothers, PhD, Chair

Research in the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences brings together disciplines focused on improving health, participation, and quality of life across the lifespan. Faculty examine evidence-based approaches to preventing and treating physical and mental health conditions and supporting individuals with disabilities through rehabilitation, technology, physical activity, and community engagement.

Shiv Hiremath, associate professor, received Department of Defense funding with collaborators at Drexel University to study an online exercise intervention designed to improve movements associated with daily living among individuals with spinal cord injury.

Amy Lynch, associate professor of instruction, and collaborators at Temple Women & Families Hospital received William Penn Foundation funding to develop an interdisciplinary Family Thriving Program addressing the impacts of intergenerational trauma.

Bryan McCormick, professor, in collaboration with Drexel University, received National Institute of Child Health and Human Development funding to investigate how social disruptions affect loneliness and mental health among young autistic adults.

Faculty accomplishments also include national and university recognition for Beth Pfeiffer and Geoff Wright, while ongoing collaborative research explores peer support, community inclusion, wearable technology, physical activity, and strategies that help individuals participate more fully in everyday life.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (SBS)

Stephen J. Lepore, PhD, Chair

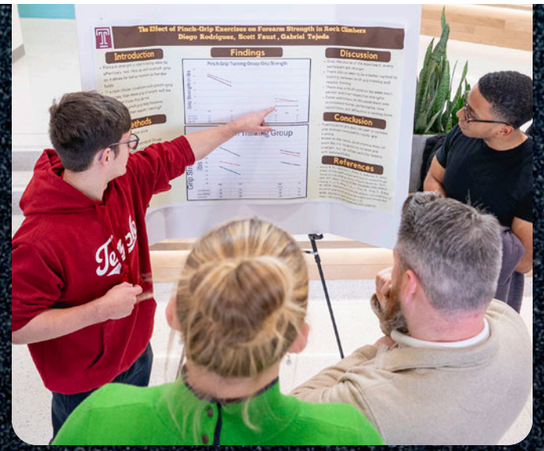
In the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, we study some of the most complex factors shaping health—not simply to understand them, but to change them.

Sarah Bass, professor, and Steven Belenko, professor of Criminal Justice in Temple's College of Liberal Arts, are partnering with Philadelphia FIGHT to connect people leaving Philadelphia's jail system with medications for opioid use disorder and other critical services.

Gabriella McLoughlin, associate professor, and the Research in Implementation Science to Enhance Equity (RISE) team are working alongside students, parents, food service staff, educators, and school leaders to improve participation in Universal Free School Meals across Philadelphia. Early results are promising: Intervention schools increased meal participation by 16 percent, compared with 4 percent in non-intervention schools.

Laura Siminoff, professor, and her colleagues developed Communicating Effectively about Donation—Improving Donation Outcomes with Black Americans (CEaD-I DO), an AI-enabled training program designed to help organ donation professionals communicate more effectively with Black families during extraordinarily difficult moments.

Mark Salzer, director of Temple's Collaborative on Community Inclusion, received the Sally Zinman Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alliance for Rights and Recovery, recognizing his decades of work advancing the rights and full community participation of people with psychiatric disabilities.



EXPLORE ALL CPH DEPARTMENTS

Discover more about each department's research, academic programs, and impact.

BUILDING BETTER RESEARCH

Elizabeth Van Nostrand has a secret behind her research: It's not really her work. Well, not entirely. For her, research starts with coming up with an innovative idea and building a team with the expertise to execute it. How does she do this? "A little schmoozing never hurts," she jokes.

Before she could ask judges to open their courtrooms, attorneys to volunteer their time, or colleagues to lend their expertise, she had to convince them the project was worth believing in.

But she never approaches those conversations with a finished plan.



"When I'm building a project, it starts with, 'Here's my idea. How can WE do it?'" said Van Nostrand, JD, associate professor of Health Services Administration and Policy at CPH. "I am well aware of my limitations and seek out people with expertise that I don't have."

That philosophy is driving one of the most significant projects of her career: A proposed National Institute of Justice (NIJ) study examining whether providing legal representation to both petitioners and respondents in protection-from-abuse proceedings could improve victim safety and create a model other jurisdictions could follow.

But Van Nostrand believes the proposal's greatest strength isn't the research design. It's the people behind it. Rather than asking collaborators to simply support her idea, she invited them to improve it.

"I knew they could write their sections much better than I could ever attempt to write them," she said. "Even if it is not funded, the final product is so good."

That also required something many researchers struggle to give up: Control.

"You have to value your collaborators' input as opposed to saying, 'This is what we're going to do,'" Van Nostrand said. "You trust their judgment and go with it."

The same philosophy guided conversations outside the University. Van Nostrand spent months building relationships with judges, attorneys, and court leaders willing to participate, adjusting the proposal along the way. The "schmoozing," she jokes, isn't about selling an idea. It's about building trust.

"So much research happens in silos," said Alyssa Johnston, Van Nostrand's longtime research assistant. "It was just a no-brainer to pull this interdisciplinary team together."

Each collaborator strengthens a different part of the study. Health economist Ilene L. Hollin will evaluate the financial impact of expanding legal representation. Law enforcement expert Sherief Ibrahim is helping ensure the research reflects the realities of implementing policy, not just writing it.

Social work researcher Melissa Dichter brings a focus on intimate partner violence and survivors' experiences with legal systems. "In any intervention, policy, or program, we need to understand the complex dynamics of intimate partner violence and employ trauma-informed approaches to supporting survivors," Dichter said.

Lindsay K. Cloud contributes a legal epidemiology perspective. "In this study, that means asking not only whether legal representation improves outcomes for survivor safety, but how those effects can be measured," Cloud said. "One little change could potentially impact people immediately."

Whether the project ultimately receives funding or not, Van Nostrand hopes it reflects the kind of researcher she strives to be: One who listens first, welcomes different perspectives, and isn't afraid to begin with five simple words: "How can we do it?"

WORDS FROM THE TEAM



"Working on grants like this is a great way for new public health professionals to get a sense of what's out there."

Alyssa Johnston, MPH
Sr. Research Associate



"Cost data can help policymakers understand the overall value of a policy or intervention."

Ilene L. Hollin, PhD, MPH
Assoc. Professor



"Bringing together cross-disciplinary researchers helps address blind spots that one discipline alone will not see."

Sherief Ibrahim, JD, MPH
Asst. Professor of Instruction



"Legal epidemiology bridges law and science to examine how laws and legal practices influence population health."

Lindsay K. Cloud, JD, PhD
Asst. Professor



"Our team works to develop and test innovations that work in the real world, with input from the people involved."

Melissa Dichter, PhD, MSW
Professor

"You pursue projects that you truly believe in, and that genuineness comes through."

Elizabeth Van Nostrand, JD

BEYOND BEAUTY

THE HIDDEN HEALTH RISKS FACING NAIL SALON WORKERS

“Everybody knows that smell,” said Inkyu Han, PhD, MPH, associate professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at CPH.



Walk into almost any nail salon and you’ll notice it. The familiar mix of polishes, removers, and acrylic products has become part of the experience. Most customers spend less than an hour breathing it in. Nail salon workers breathe it for eight to twelve hours every day.

That’s why Han has spent years studying what lingers in the air inside nail salons and what repeated exposure can mean for the people who work there.

As director of Temple’s Human Exposure Assessment Laboratory (HEAL), Han studies how environmental exposures affect health over a lifetime, particularly among vulnerable populations. Nail salon workers, many of whom are Asian immigrant women, are one such population.

Han’s recent research surveyed 146 nail salon workers and owners in New York and New Jersey after New York implemented ventilation requirements. While New York salons were far more likely to have mechanical ventilation than those in neighboring New Jersey, many workers still reported health concerns and symptoms related to chemical exposure.

“People think ventilation solves everything,” he said. “It helps, but it’s not enough.”

Han’s research is part of a growing body of evidence. A recent systematic review of 42 studies published over the past decade found consistent evidence that nail salon workers are routinely exposed to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other workplace hazards.



“To understand the long-term health effects, we need long-term studies,” Han said. “That takes time.”

Installing ventilation systems can cost $50,000 to $100,000, Han said, making them an unrealistic option for many independently owned salons.

“I want to find sustainable and practical solutions,” he said. “Not solutions that create a significant financial burden or are economically unsustainable.”

That philosophy reflects the direction of the broader field. The recent review calls for practical, evidence-based interventions, stronger research into long-term health effects, and culturally appropriate education that helps workers reduce exposures without placing unrealistic burdens on small businesses.

For Han, the goal isn’t simply to identify problems. It’s to develop solutions that can improve health in the communities where people live and work.

“When people tell me something we recommended actually helped them,” Han said, “that’s when I know we’re making a real difference.”

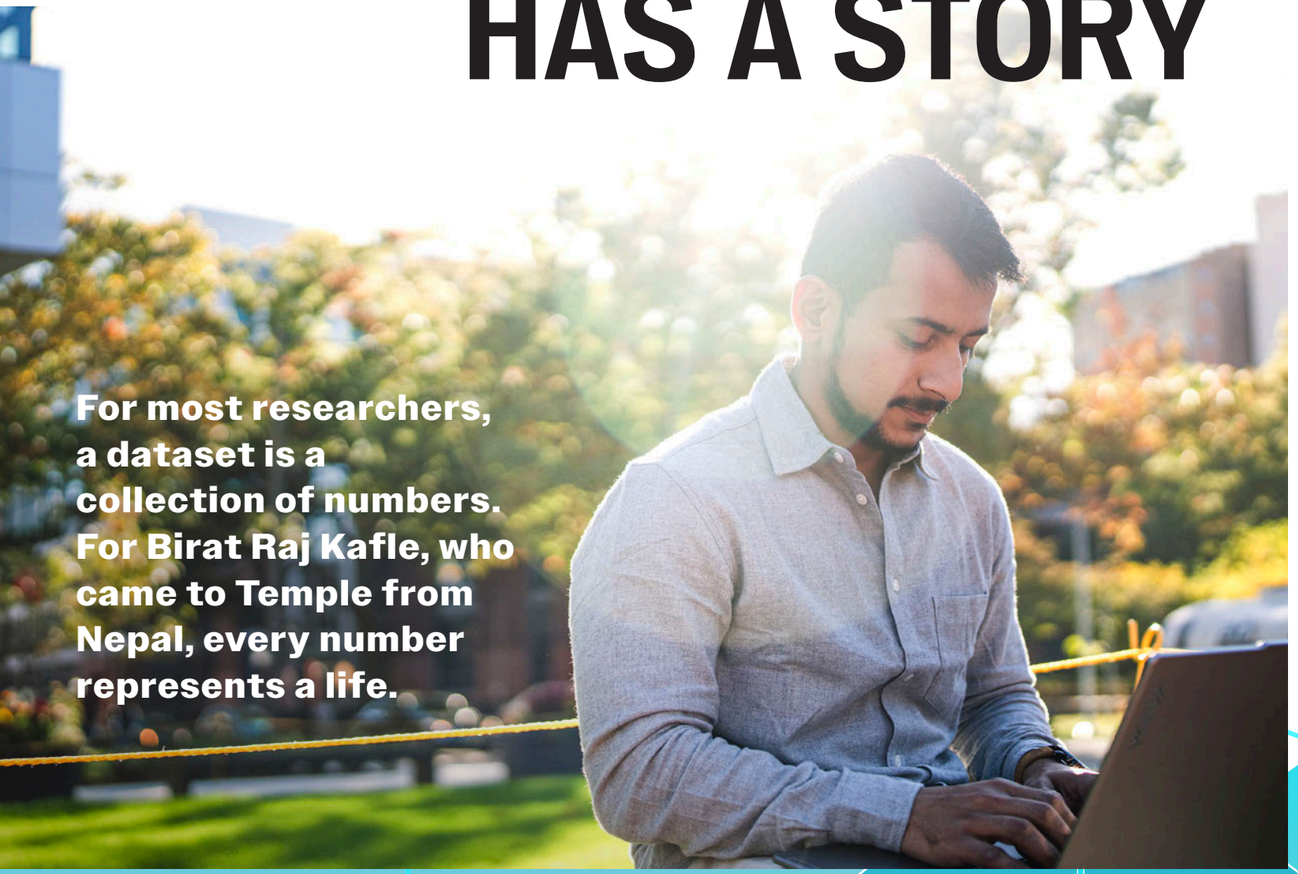
WHAT’S THAT SMELL?

That familiar nail salon scent comes from a mixture of products used throughout the day, including nail polishes, polish removers, acrylic products, and adhesives. As they’re applied, they release chemicals into the air, including VOCs.

For nail salon workers, who may be exposed for up to 12 hours a day, repeated, long-term exposure is the primary public health concern.

While researchers continue to study the long-term health effects of those exposures, Han points to practical ways to reduce them now, including improved ventilation, safer products, and worker education.

EVERY DATASET HAS A STORY



For most researchers, a dataset is a collection of numbers. For Birat Raj Kafle, who came to Temple from Nepal, every number represents a life.

His interest in Epidemiology was shaped by personal loss, but today his focus is on preventing others from experiencing similar hardships through better research and stronger public health systems. Kafle, who recently earned his Master of Public Health in epidemiology from Temple University's College of Public Health, sees something else in every spreadsheet.

"Every dataset I'm working on has its own story," he said.





FINDING PURPOSE THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH

Kafle grew up in Butwal, a city in Nepal's Lumbini Province, where neighbors looked out for one another and community came naturally. His parents modeled lives of service: His father worked for the government, and his mother taught in a public primary school.

When he was 11, tragedy struck. His father was killed in a traffic accident. Two years later, his sister died because of medical malpractice during a dengue fever outbreak.

"That's what shaped me—what I'm doing and what I want to do in my life," he said.

At first, Kafle thought he wanted to become a physician. But he soon realized he wanted to improve health on a larger scale. "It's not just about treating a small group of people," he said. "You need to touch a huge population."

LEARNING BY SERVING

Before coming to Temple, Kafle paired community service with research, helping coordinate COVID-19 relief efforts through Rotaract while contributing to projects involving stroke survivors, incarcerated populations, maternal and neonatal health, and other public health challenges across Nepal.

One lesson stayed with him: "No matter what, you cannot compromise with the quality of data or the evidence that you want to put out," he said.

That commitment eventually brought Kafle to Temple, where he was drawn to the MPH in Epidemiology program's emphasis on applied research and data analysis.

"Birat came to the program with a clear sense of purpose," said Aimee Palumbo, director of the graduate programs in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. "Our role was to help him build the skills to turn that passion into evidence that can improve health and inform policy."

"When you work with underserved communities, you don't want to compromise the quality of care."



DID YOU KNOW?

Nepal is home to eight of the world's 10 highest mountains. Kafle has trekked to the base camps of six of them.

TURNING EVIDENCE INTO IMPACT

Today, Kafle conducts research at Fox Chase Cancer Center examining how neighborhood socioeconomic conditions may influence prostate cancer outcomes. While the work centers on data, he never loses sight of the people behind it.

"With the evidence, we can always push for policies that benefit underserved communities," he said.

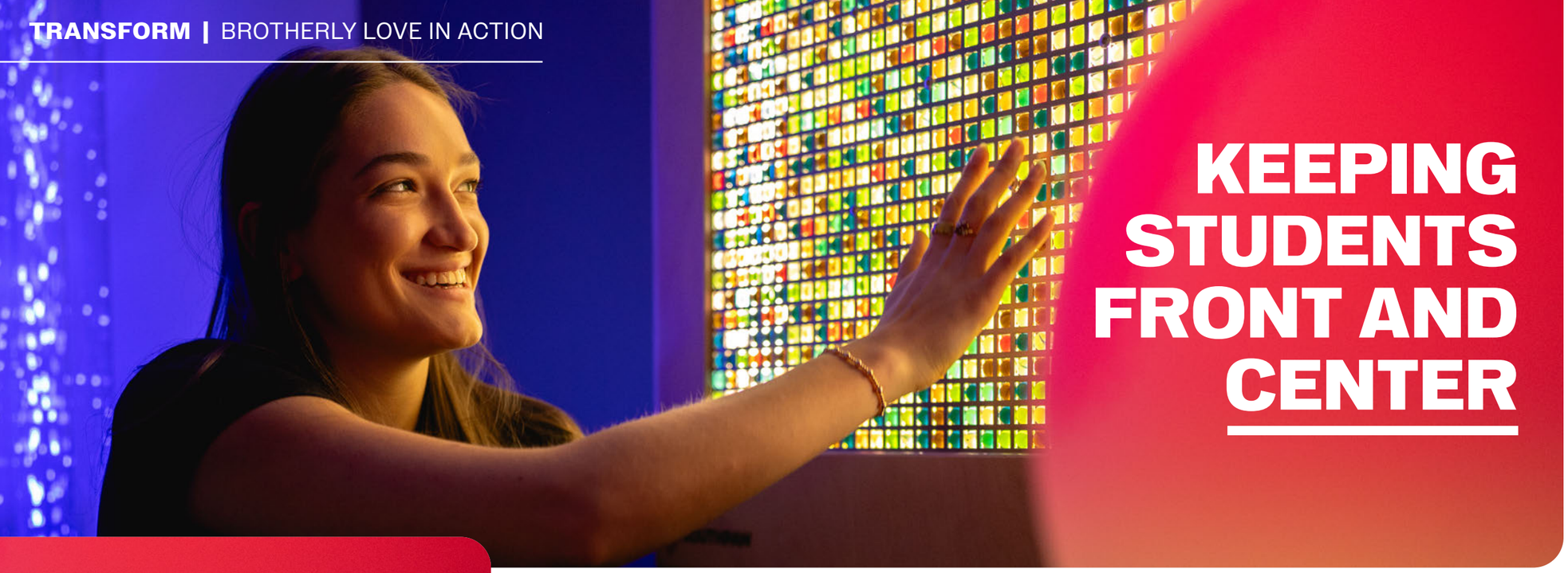
After gaining research experience in the United States, Kafle hopes to return to Nepal, applying what he's learned to strengthen research, improve public health policy, and mentor future researchers.

"I hope to have a really good impact on whatever I do," he said. "If not health or research, anything that I do would have a better impact in someone's life."

For Kafle, that's the story every dataset is ultimately trying to tell.

MEET BIRAT

Hear his story in his own words.



KEEPING STUDENTS FRONT AND CENTER

THE IMPACT CENTER at Paley Hall was created to help students stay engaged and succeed throughout their Temple experience. It brings services and programming together in one place, making support easier to find and giving students more ways to take an active role in their own success.



PROVIDING PATHS TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Whether students are exploring scholarship opportunities, preparing for an interview, or thinking about life after graduation, the Impact Center brings practical support within easy reach, helping remove barriers and turn uncertainty into clear, actionable next steps.

A **scholarship coordinator** can help students navigate financial aid and identify funding opportunities, while a **career counselor** offers individualized guidance on résumés, job searches, mock interviews, and career planning.

At the **Career Closet**, students can browse complimentary professional and clinical attire—from shirts to shoes—so they can approach interviews, internships, and career fairs with confidence. The **Resource Wall** highlights programs, organizations, events, and services available across Temple and throughout Philadelphia.

Through **Ask an Expert**, students can also meet informally with deans, counselors, and other Temple leaders, making it easier to ask questions, seek advice, and build relationships with people who can help.

HELPING STUDENTS RESET AND CONNECT

More than three-quarters of students report experiencing moderate or high stress, according to the American College Health Association, highlighting the need for accessible opportunities to recharge and refocus.

In the **Regulation Hub**, students can engage their senses through resistance bands, yoga cards, and a tactile marble wall. The quieter **Tranquility Room** features calming lights and a hug chair, while the **Zen Den** invites students to unwind with a book, game, or puzzle.

“These spaces help students discover what works for them so they can return to class ready to engage,” said Samantha Krzysko, MPH, PMP, associate director of Academic Affairs.

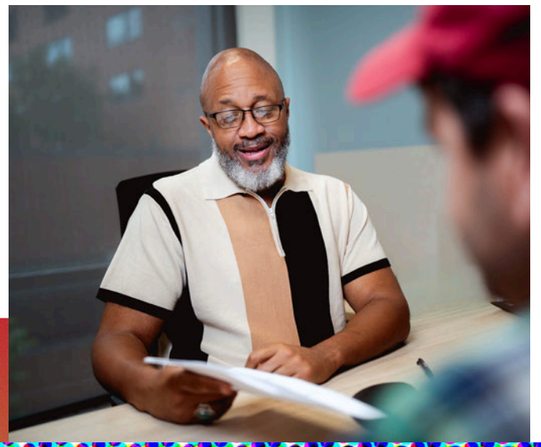
Beyond these calming spaces, students can gather over lunch or study with friends in the **Connections Lounge**. Through **Wellness Workshops**, they can explore mindful movement, therapeutic art, overcoming imposter phenomenon, and healthy ways to manage stress.

VISIT US IN PALEY HALL
Mezzanine Level

Mon & Thu: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Tue & Wed: 9 a.m.–7 p.m.
Fri: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.







GETTING EVERY BODY MOVING

Adaptivity in sports isn't about changing what's possible. It's about making participation possible.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that adults with disabilities are less likely to get enough physical activity than those without disabilities. Through adaptive pickleball and paddleboarding, the College of Public Health is helping to change that.







ADAPTIVE PICKLEBALL

Above: A participant reaches for a return during an adaptive pickleball scrimmage, putting newly learned skills into action.

Far left: Stephanie Li of the Pennsylvania Center for Adapted Sports works with a community participant during a clinic offered through Temple's Kinesiology Physical Activity Program, led by Program Director Jack Sears.

Left: Certified pickleball teaching professional Zorano Tubo demonstrates technique before the adaptive pickleball clinic begins.









ADAPTIVE PADDLE-BOARDING

Above: Bruckner Chase, founder of Ocean Positive and Blue Journey Unified, introduces HRS students to adaptive paddleboarding before a hands-on session offered through the College's Recreational Therapy program.

Middle left: Chase demonstrates adaptive paddleboarding techniques while students observe from the water.

Middle right: All participants gather at Temple's Pearson Pool to learn the fundamentals of inclusive aquatic recreation.

Bottom: A student demonstrates arm-powered propulsion techniques while moving across the water.

WORKING LIKE A DOG



From restoring independence to strengthening community, three CPH stories reveal the many ways working dogs improve lives.



At first glance, Beau, Leroy, and Arlo seem to have the same job. They don't.

Beau helps his handler live more independently. Leroy motivates therapy and creates connection for adults with physical disabilities. Arlo quietly eases anxiety, not only for the Temple staff member he serves, but for coworkers who have come to rely on his calming presence.

The distinctions matter. The Americans with Disabilities Act defines service animals differently from therapy animals, and the U.S. Department of Justice continues to receive questions about how those definitions apply. But beyond the labels is a common purpose. Whether helping one person or an entire community, these working dogs are removing barriers and making fuller participation in life possible.

UNLEASHING INDEPENDENCE

For DonnaJean "DJ" Dennis, MSRT '26, Beau has transformed everyday life.

Born with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy, Dennis relies on her service dog to perform trained tasks that range from retrieving medication and opening accessible doors to alerting others when she is choking. More importantly, she says, Beau has given her something she once thought was out of reach: Independence.

"Having a task-trained service dog has allowed me to become more independent and less reliant on my caregivers," Dennis says. "I am able to spend more time with my friends and be more involved in my community."

That independence was on full display during a trip to Walt Disney World for her 30th birthday, where Dennis walked through the parks more than 75 percent of the time with Beau by her side.

Today, Dennis advocates for greater awareness of service dogs, hoping others living with disabilities or chronic health conditions can experience the same freedom she has found.

MORE THAN A PET PROJECT

At Inglis House, a Philadelphia-based skilled nursing facility, Leroy's role goes far beyond companionship.

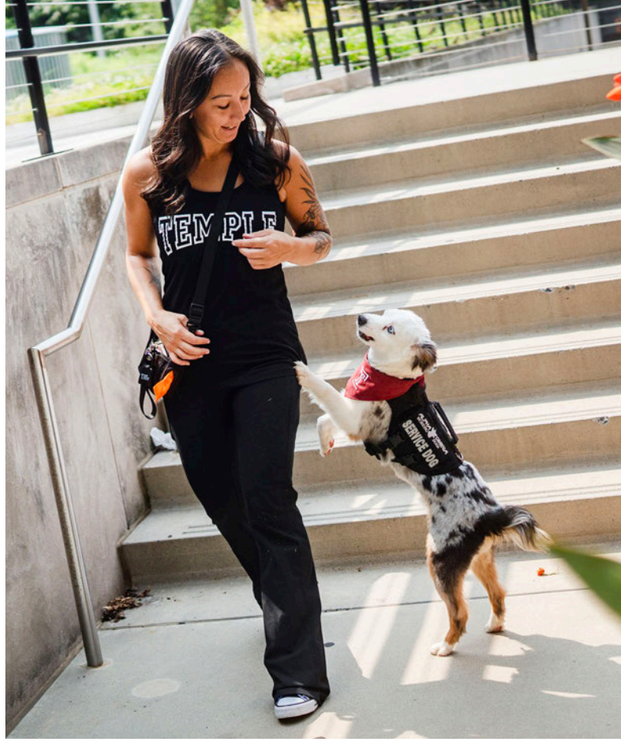
Every interaction has a purpose. Residents brush Leroy to improve dexterity. They play tug-of-war to build strength. They practice memory by recalling his commands and milestones. For some, simply knowing Leroy is near motivates them to get out of bed and join the day's activities.

"We're setting goals during these sessions," says Temple Recreational Therapy alumna Chantell Hubler, a certified therapeutic recreation specialist. "We're working on focus, memory, dexterity, and strength. We're using Leroy as almost a tool…a cute, fuzzy, cuddly tool."

Others find something less measurable but equally meaningful. Residents reminisce about beloved pets they've had throughout their lives. Some who rarely communicate begin talking to Leroy. Others discover a renewed sense of purpose in helping care for him.

For Hubler, that's what animal-assisted therapy is really about: Helping people reconnect with the world around them.





PALEY'S BEST FRIEND

When Rebecca Shaw first brought Arlo to Temple, he came to support one person. Over time, he began supporting many.

As Shaw's service dog, Arlo helps manage the effects of PTSD, anxiety, and depression. But because of the welcoming culture within the CPH community, he has gradually become a familiar and comforting presence throughout the office.

"He's kind of evolved from my service dog into more of a therapy dog for the office," Shaw says. "People do pet him, and they give him treats."

Coworkers keep treats in their desks. Visitors often greet Arlo before they greet Rebecca. And during difficult moments, Shaw has watched him do something remarkable.

After coworkers lost beloved pets of their own, Arlo quietly approached them, accepting affection he would normally shy away from.

"It's like he knows when people need a little bit of love," Shaw says. "I'm so glad he's here because he's helping other people, even if it's just a little bit."

Public Health Roundup

Recapping the Stories Dominating Our News Feeds in 2026



PUBLIC HEALTH ENTERS AN ERA OF UNCERTAINTY

Recent changes in federal leadership, funding, and health policy have raised questions about the future of the public health workforce and public trust. Boris Lushniak, MD, MPH, dean of the University of Maryland School of Public Health, and the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health's Tim Leshan, MPA, recently joined Temple leaders to discuss these shifts and what the changing landscape means for the next generation of professionals.

MEASLES MAKES A COMEBACK

Once considered eliminated in the U.S., measles returned to the headlines as outbreaks spread across multiple states. CPH researchers Sarah Bauerle Bass and Susannah Anderson are studying how perceptions of vaccines and vaccine policies shape vaccination decisions and public health communication.

BRINGING HEALTHCARE BACK TO PRIME TIME

The medical drama *The Pitt* earned praise for its realistic portrayal of emergency medicine, highlighting challenges such as staffing shortages and the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The series offered viewers a closer look at the pressures facing today's healthcare workforce.

MENTAL HEALTH AT THE FOREFRONT

Growing awareness of youth mental health, burnout, and loneliness continued to shape conversations nationwide. Public health leaders are advancing research and strategies that expand access to care and promote mental well-being across communities.

THE AI REVOLUTION GETS PERSONAL

Artificial intelligence is transforming healthcare, but Temple researchers are exploring what that could look like for individual patients. Huanmei Wu, professor of Health Services Administration and Policy, is helping lead research using AI-enabled "digital twins" to predict how ALS may progress and help physicians forecast more personalized treatment strategies.



THE HEAT IS ON

Extreme heat, poor air quality, and other climate-related health threats made headlines across the country. Through Temple's Environmental Health Collaborative, researchers are studying heat exposure, air pollution, and climate resilience to help communities prepare for a changing climate.

The Food Pyramid is Back!



Gina Tripicchio, PhD, MSEd, nutritionist and director of Temple's Aramark Community Teaching Kitchen, explains the new food pyramid and how to put it into practice.

Q: The new Dietary Guidelines introduce a new food pyramid. What stands out to you most?

A: That it's upside down. The design attempts to "flip the recommendations," but the guidance remains similar: Eat more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and whole foods, while limiting added sugars, sodium, and saturated fat. The visual could leave people thinking red meat and full-fat dairy should be eaten in the same amounts as fruits and vegetables. I see it as a picture of foods that fit into a healthy diet, not a guide to portions.

Q: If someone wanted to follow the new guidelines, where should they start?

A: Focus less on individual foods and more on eating whole foods while cutting back on ultra-processed foods. You don't need to overhaul your diet overnight. Start with small, realistic changes and think about what you can add instead of everything you need to eliminate.

NOW WHAT?

Q: Why are cooking skills such an important part of healthy eating?

A: Knowing what to eat is only part of the equation. People also need to know how to shop, budget, cook, and fit those habits into busy lives. That's why the Teaching Kitchen focuses on building confidence. Once people become comfortable preparing meals with real ingredients, healthy eating becomes more realistic.

Q: What's the bigger challenge today: knowing what to eat or knowing how to prepare it?

A: Definitely the "how." Most people already know they should eat more fruits and vegetables and fewer ultra-processed foods. The real challenge is making those choices fit their budget, schedule, and daily routine. That's where practical skills—not just nutrition knowledge—can make the biggest difference.



A BITE-SIZED HISTORY OF THE FOOD PYRAMID

1992

FOOD GUIDE PYRAMID
Original pyramid with daily serving recommendations.



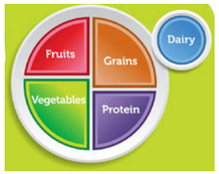
2005

MYPYRAMID
Color bands and stairs replaced food-group tiers.



2011

MYPLATE
Simpler visual for building balanced meals.



2026

NEW FOOD PYRAMID
Returns with an upside-down, whole-food focus.



THE NURSES WE NEED



The nursing workforce faces a critical shortage. The College is responding with scholarships, clinical partnerships, and pathways to employment.

The COVID-19 emergency has ended, but its impact on the nation's nurses has not. Experienced nurses have left bedside care, many others are nearing retirement, and new graduates are entering increasingly complex clinical environments. The result is a persistent—and uneven—shortage that can be felt in hospital units, community clinics, long-term care settings, and rural communities across the country.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects approximately 189,100 registered-nurse openings each year from 2024 through 2034, driven by both growth and the need to replace nurses who retire or change careers.

Meeting this challenge requires more than recruiting students into nursing. It requires removing financial barriers, creating strong clinical learning environments, and building a direct bridge from education to meaningful employment.



That bridge begins in Philadelphia and is strengthened by partnerships with the institutions that will employ the region's future nurses.

"By working closely with Temple Health and other partners across Philadelphia, we are creating pathways that support our nursing students and strengthen the communities they serve," said CPH Dean Jennifer Ibrahim.

Nursing students learn through clinical partnerships with leading Philadelphia healthcare institutions, including Temple University Hospital, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. Those experiences prepare students to care for diverse patients across the lifespan.

Amita Avadhani, chair of the Department of Nursing, sees Temple Nursing's relationship with Temple University Health System as a particular strength.

"The rest of the world is struggling with clinical partners, so to have this partnership is amazing," Avadhani said. "It's a win-win. Our students are able to have those clinical experiences, and the health system can benefit from the product of our school—our alumni—who can become highly qualified members of their nursing staff."



Temple is also attacking the cost barrier. The J. Russell Fawley Scholarships provide tuition support to undergraduate and graduate nursing students based on academic merit and financial need. In the last three years alone, the funding has provided more than 150 scholarships.

Through the Independence Foundation Healthcare Scholars Pipeline Program, the Independence Blue Cross Foundation provides full cost-of-attendance scholarships to eligible students from partner high schools in neighborhoods surrounding Temple who enroll full time in the BSN program. The initiative is designed not only to educate nurses, but to diversify the profession and create opportunity in communities affected by workforce shortages and health inequities.

A Temple Health initiative extends that pipeline. Established in 2024, the Temple Health Nursing Scholars Program offers eligible RN and CRNA students at participating schools up to $40,000 in loan sponsorship in exchange for a commitment to work for Temple Health after graduation. By May 2026, the program had promised nearly $2 million in loan repayment to 50 nursing students, with nearly 30 already working in full-time nursing roles across the health system. Temple Health also offers nurses tuition-remission and reimbursement benefits for continued education at Temple University.

Together, these efforts reflect an approach rooted in access, rigorous preparation, partnership, and service. For donors, they offer an opportunity to invest in nursing education, strengthen the health of the region, and help prepare the nurses we need.



From TEMPLE to the CAPITOL

How two MPH students helped bring tobacco policy research to Harrisburg.

It started with a concern about plagiarism.

When Temple MPH students **Vaishnave Parameswaran, MPH ‘26**, and **Jacquelyn Calhoun, MPH ‘26**, began their fieldwork at the Health Promotion Council, they were intentionally assigned different projects. Their supervisor and mentor, Temple alumna **Erin Davison-O’Gorman, MPH ‘24**, wanted to be sure the students weren’t duplicating one another’s work. Instead, something unexpected happened. Their projects became two halves of the same story.

As part of their MPH capstone projects, Parameswaran spent the year researching Pennsylvania’s tobacco policies, and Calhoun worked with teenagers learning to advocate for healthier communities. By graduation, those efforts had converged, helping prepare young advocates to bring research-backed recommendations to lawmakers in Harrisburg.

For Davison-O’Gorman, creating that opportunity was personal. After completing her own Temple fieldwork in Health Policy and Management, she wanted future students to have the same chance to tackle meaningful public health work. She reached out to Temple and welcomed two MPH students to the Health Promotion Council as Youth Advocacy Research Fellows.

“I was really confident that we would have two students who were self-directed and would be impactful,” Davison-O’Gorman said. “And that’s exactly what happened.”

Parameswaran’s project focused on Pennsylvania’s Clean Indoor Air Act. She compared the law with smoke-free policies across the country, paying particular attention to preemption, which limits a municipality’s ability to adopt stronger smoke-free protections than the state. What surprised her most, however, wasn’t preemption itself. It was the number of exemptions built into Pennsylvania’s law, including those that allow smoking in places such as bars and casinos.

“I initially thought preemption was something that was needed,” Parameswaran said. “But researching it more, I realized there are nuances to it. It’s not that preemption itself is bad. It’s the way the law is written that’s important.”

Parameswaran never expected to become the face of the work. “I’d rather be the person writing the script for the person with the microphone,” she said.

That microphone found its way to Calhoun’s students.

While Parameswaran explored policy, Calhoun evaluated the Health Promotion Council’s Real Talk Tobacco program, which teaches middle and high school students about tobacco products while preparing them to advocate for healthier communities. She observed classes, compared the curriculum with similar programs around the country, and developed recommendations that continue to shape the program today.

“You can only put about 20 teenagers in a room before it gets chaotic,” Calhoun said. “But if you can get those 20 to go tell three of their friends, then it’s 60.”

One recommendation encourages students to go home each week and explain what they learned to a parent, sibling, or teacher. The assignment reinforces classroom lessons, builds confidence speaking about tobacco prevention, and extends the conversation into homes across Philadelphia.

The program’s impact became obvious as the semester unfolded. Early on, Calhoun saw that many students viewed the health consequences of tobacco use as something far off in the future. By the end of the program, that perception had begun to change.

“You start to get through to them,” she said. “They realize this isn’t a problem they’ll deal with 40 years from now.”

As the two projects evolved, they began informing one another. Parameswaran’s policy research became a resource as Calhoun prepared youth advocates for meetings with state lawmakers. What began as two independent assignments became one collaborative effort that blended research, education, and advocacy.

“It was like having a textbook nobody else had, right in my back pocket for the kids,” Calhoun said.

While youth advocates traveled to Harrisburg to meet with lawmakers for Advocacy Day, Parameswaran and Calhoun had their own milestone to celebrate: Graduation. Their work, however, still made the trip.

Calhoun had complete confidence in the students bringing it to the Capitol. “They know what they’re talking about, and they’re passionate about it,” she said. For Sherief Ibrahim, graduate program director in Health Policy and Management, that’s the value of putting MPH training into practice. “Here at Temple, the MPH isn’t just about learning a concept. It’s about making real change in our communities,” Ibrahim said.

Today, Parameswaran’s research continues to train new Health Promotion Council staff members, while Calhoun’s recommendations are guiding future improvements to the Real Talk Tobacco curriculum.

What began as two fieldwork projects ultimately came together in Harrisburg and continues to shape tobacco prevention efforts long after graduation.

Davison-O’Gorman said it best: “Their work exceeded every expectation.”

Meet the RESEARCHERS



Vaishnave (Vaish) Parameswaran reads about 100 books a year and was recognized as a 2026 Best of the Nest Future Leader.



Jacquelyn (Jackie) Calhoun is a certified American Sign Language interpreter who will begin physician assistant school this spring.



> **"The completely renovated, expanded, and reimagined Paley Hall is a remarkable facility."**
>
> PRESIDENT JOHN FRY

Building a Future from Paley's Past

The story of Paley Hall and the College of Public Health begins in the same place: Temple University, 1966.

That year, Paley Library opened its doors, and Temple founded the College of Allied Health Professions, the predecessor of today's CPH.

On October 10, 2025, the connection between them took on new meaning as several hundred members of the Temple community gathered for the grand opening of Paley Hall. Dean Jennifer Ibrahim and Temple President John Fry were joined by city and state leaders, including Philadelphia Health Commissioner Palak Raval-Nelson and Pennsylvania Acting Secretary of Education Carrie Rowe.

The site of the former library is now a 306,000-square-foot home for the College, with portions of the original structure retained in its transformation. For the first time, all six academic departments and the School of Social Work are under one roof, creating new opportunities for collaboration across disciplines.

"One of the wonderful things about this building is the students, the staff, and the faculty," Ibrahim said during the ceremony, emphasizing the benefits of bringing the College together.

Today, exactly 60 years after Paley Library and CPH's predecessor began their separate journeys, their histories share a home. Thousands of students have already walked its halls. A state-of-the-art ambulance simulator now brings realism to emergency medical training. And the third mural created in partnership with Mural Arts Philadelphia brings color to the Aramark Community Teaching Kitchen.

Over the past year, Paley has hosted poster presentations, Research and Evidence Based Practice Day, cooking programs, Simulation Center open houses, and interprofessional training. In ways large and small, it has become a place for the College to educate, innovate, and transform.

Paley has changed dramatically since 1966, but its purpose has endured. What was once a library built to preserve knowledge is now a home for exploring where that knowledge can lead.



Our First Year at Paley Hall







Above: A student studies beside the three-story living green wall in LEED- and WELL-certified Paley Hall.

Left, from left: The Aramark Community Teaching Kitchen hosts an aphasia-focused cooking event. High school students explore health professions in a clinical simulation space.

Right, from left: Heather Porter, PhD, shows Recreational Therapy students how play can provide distraction during medical treatment. An inpatient simulation room gives Nursing students space to practice patient assessment.





UNDER PRESSURE

Ambulance Simulator Redefines Interdisciplinary Emergency Training

In emergency medicine, the classroom rarely looks like the real world.

Patients don't wait for perfect conditions. Ambulances jolt over potholes, navigate congested city streets, and come to abrupt stops while emergency medical personnel make life-saving decisions in spaces around the width of a hallway.

Now, students at Temple University's College of Public Health can prepare for those realities long before they respond to their first emergency call.

Installed in May 2026, CPH's full-scale Ambulance Simulator is one of the latest additions to the Simulation Center in the College's new home, Paley Hall. Housed within the EMS Skills Lab, the **Simulator Solutions' Platinum Ambulance Simulator** recreates the unpredictable environment of prehospital emergency care, allowing students to develop technical expertise and critical thinking skills in one of healthcare's most demanding settings.

Mounted on a pneumatic platform, the simulator recreates the movement of city driving—including bumps, potholes, sharp turns, and sudden stops—requiring students to provide comprehensive care while constantly adapting to a changing environment. Built-in cameras, audio systems, and instructor controls allow faculty to observe scenarios in real time, provide immediate coaching, and review performances during structured debrief sessions.

"By training in the same unpredictable conditions they will encounter on the job, students can enter the workforce ready to make sound decisions under pressure," said **Cory D. Bullock, BS, EMT-P**, assistant director of the Simulation Center.

"The ambulance simulator represents an important advancement for our Simulation Center. It expands our ability to deliver immersive, interdisciplinary training by connecting community-based emergencies with prehospital transport and hospital care within a single simulation environment," said **Arrie A. Bateman III, BS, CHSE, CHSOS**, manager of the Simulation Center. "This capability allows students to experience the full patient journey while developing the teamwork, communication, and clinical decision-making skills that define modern healthcare."



THE FULL PATIENT JOURNEY

The College's nearly 22,000-square-foot "Sim Lab" includes a Simulated Community featuring a grocery store, park, and row home designed to reflect environments where healthcare extends beyond hospital walls.

A simulated emergency can begin in the community before continuing inside the ambulance and through the inpatient and outpatient areas of the lab.

PRACTICE MAKES **POSSIBLE**

How Ellen Schwartz's 50-year career helped shape a new home for the next generation of Temple clinicians: The Ellen Schwartz Speech Language Hearing Center.

When Ellen Schwartz first trained as a speech-language pathologist at Temple in 1967 and 1968, the clinic where she worked was, as she remembers it, "the size of your living room, maybe." The field was relatively young. Her graduate class likely numbered fewer than 10, and clinical supervision looked nothing like it does today.



"We didn't even have video," Schwartz says. "Nobody watched anybody. They stuck their heads in the door."



Pictured: Temple's original speech clinic.

Nearly six decades later, Schwartz walked into Temple's new Ellen Schwartz Speech Language Hearing Center in Ritter Hall and found something difficult to reconcile with the place she remembered. "How big it is," she says. "How much space there actually is." There were therapy rooms for different needs, furniture sized for children and adults, and technology allowing supervisors to observe students during clinical practice.

Seeing the finished Center was one thing. Seeing her name attached to it was another. "Having my name on the wall was mind-boggling," she says.

GETTING HER START

Her Temple training laid the foundation for a career focused largely on children. Schwartz went directly to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), where she spent 15 years working alongside other health professionals, followed by 35 years in private practice.

Temple never entirely left the picture. Schwartz returned as a clinical supervisor on campus and at diverse field placements, including CHOP, where Temple students trained with her, and she later served on the College's Board of Visitors.

Those experiences helped shape what she hoped Temple's next clinical space could become.

Schwartz advocated for spaces that worked for young children and emphasized the interdisciplinary practice that had defined her career, while deferring to today's faculty and clinicians on the details.

"My feelings and my preferences date back to the world that I experienced," she says. "I certainly recognize things are not the same."

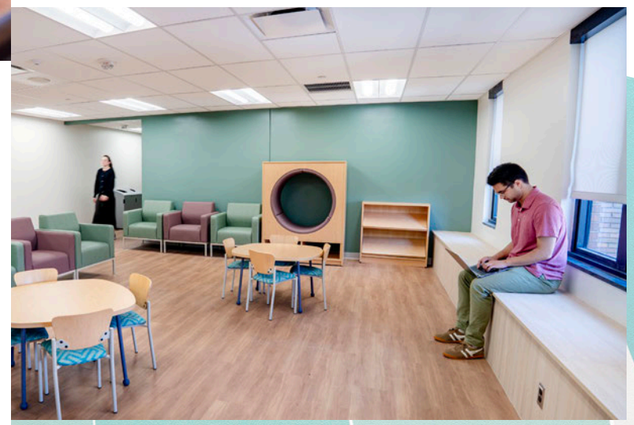
SHARPENING THEIR SKILLS

For Schwartz, supporting the new Center was never about having it named for her. It was about improving the experience of future clinicians.

"I never thought about my name on the wall," Schwartz says. "I just thought, OK, this is a way to improve the experience for graduate students, which is something that I felt I lacked."

Central to that experience, she believes, is working with real people. "You can understand theory, but you need to practice," she says. "They always start in the clinic. And they need that experience."

Her advice to the next generation follows the same philosophy: Embrace technology, but don't allow it to substitute for the human work at the heart of the profession. "I'm not saying never use it," she says. "I'm saying don't rely on that. Don't let it replace your efforts."





MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Schwartz knows how meaningful that human connection can be. Over her career, she watched children acquire new skills and families adapt to their children's needs. Some remained in touch long after treatment ended; she still receives holiday cards from former clients and their families.

"If you see that change happening, however slowly it happens or however gratifyingly quickly it might happen, that's the whole point," she says.

Now, she has helped create a place where generations of Temple clinicians can pursue those moments themselves. And she hopes her gift might encourage others to consider how they can contribute to the institutions and communities that shaped them.

"Change is possible," she says, "and they could be the agents of change."

For Schwartz, the reason to give was straightforward. "I saw a hole that could be filled," she says, "and I had the shovel."

INSIDE THE CENTER

A legacy of care
Established in 1952, the Speech Language Hearing Clinic has provided generations of Temple students with clinical training while serving the Philadelphia community.

Designed for different needs
The newly named Center includes multiple therapy spaces, with furniture designed to accommodate both children and adults.

Serving the community
Children and adults from the community receive speech, language, and hearing services from supervised student clinicians.

A broad clinical tradition
Programs include articulation, delayed language, stuttering, aphasia, childhood apraxia, bilingual services, gender-affirming voice care, and AAC/assistive technology.

THE GOVERNOR @ PALEY HALL





"The Commonwealth believes in you. We want you to have spaces like this to pursue your passion and your life's work."

GOVERNOR SHAPIRO





On March 11, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro visited Paley Hall to see firsthand how Temple's College of Public Health is preparing the next generation of public health leaders. He was joined by Temple President John Fry and Dean Jennifer Ibrahim.

2026 CPH FACULTY UPDATES

NEW FACULTY

Audrey Morrison, DNP
Nursing, Assistant Professor of Instruction

Corey Hannah, EdD
Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Assistant Professor of Instruction

Hilda Aluko, DNP
Nursing, Assistant Professor of Instruction

Kristen Selleck, DSW
School of Social Work, Assistant Professor of Instruction

Lindsay Cloud, PhD
Health Services Administration and Policy, Assistant Professor

Megan Jones, MSN
Nursing, Instructor

Qiuyi Wu, PhD
Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Assistant Professor

Sally Gould-Taylor, PhD
Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Research Professor

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Matthew Hall, PhD
Communication Sciences and Disorders, Associate Professor*

Elizabeth Heller Murray, PhD
Communication Sciences and Disorders, Associate Professor*

Resa Jones, PhD
Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Professor

Gabriella McLoughlin, PhD
Social and Behavioral Sciences, Associate Professor*

Laura Sinko, PhD
Nursing, Associate Professor*

Elizabeth Thomas, PhD
Social and Behavioral Sciences, Associate Professor*

Christopher Wheldon, PhD
Social and Behavioral Sciences, Associate Professor*

**Faculty members also granted tenure*

RETIREMENTS & AWARDED EMERITUS

Ann Dolloff, MEd
Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Instructor

Cathy Flite, PhD
Health Services Administration and Policy, Associate Professor of Instruction*

Letitia Gembala, DNP *(a.k.a. Tish Gill)*
Nursing, Associate Professor of Instruction

Susan Gresko, MSN
Nursing, Assistant Professor of Instruction

Joelle Hargraves, DNP
Nursing, Associate Professor of Instruction

Nadine Martin, PhD
Communication Sciences and Disorders, Professor*

Karen McBride, MS
Health Services Administration and Policy, Assistant Professor of Instruction

Brian McHugh, PhD
Communication Sciences and Disorders, Associate Professor*

William E. Aaronson III, PhD
Health Services Administration and Policy, Associate Professor*

Jay S. Segal, PhD
Social and Behavioral Sciences, Professor*

**Emeritus status*





30 UNDER 30 & GALLERY OF SUCCESS

Each year, Temple University honors alumni whose leadership, service, and professional achievements exemplify what it means to be Temple Made. This year, four College of Public Health alumni and two School of Social Work (SSW) alumni were recognized through the 30 Under 30 and Gallery of Success programs.

CPH & SSW'S 30 UNDER 30 HONOREES



Hanna Edelson (BSW '19) serves as a human services incident response coordinator for the City of Philadelphia, connecting residents with critical support during emergencies and times of crisis.



Shantia Horsford (BS '19) is program coordinator for quality improvement and equity at the National Minority Quality Forum, expanding access to care in underserved communities.



Michelle Ferguson Shore (BA '19, MSEd '20), newcomer program coordinator at Philadelphia's Franklin Learning Center, helps immigrant and refugee students thrive in school.



Brittany Lue (BS '18) works as a clinical research coordinator at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, overseeing pediatric clinical trials for children with rare and complex brain cancers.



MENTORSHIP UPDATE

BE A MENTOR. BUILD CONNECTIONS.

Last year, the Temple Public Health Mentorship Program matched 50 mentor-mentee pairs. Help us build on that momentum!

Are you interested in becoming a mentor?
Contact Ann Schuck at ann.schuck@temple.edu



CPH & SSW'S GALLERY OF SUCCESS INDUCTEES



Ayana Bradshaw (MPH '03), president and CEO of AccessMatters, leads efforts to expand access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, advance health equity, and strengthen communities.



Nicole Ruggiano (MSW '04) is professor and associate dean for research at the University of Alabama, advancing research and health policy that improve the lives of older adults and their caregivers.

EVERY GIFT HELPS

EDUCATE / INNOVATE / TRANSFORM



WHAT GIVING MAKES POSSIBLE

Scholarships and emergency aid can help students stay on track toward graduation. Gifts to annual funds and programs can bring new ideas to life.

And during Temple Giving Days, hundreds of donors showed how individual contributions can add up to something much bigger. Their support helps our students prepare to take on the very health challenges that brought them here in the first place.

What scholarships mean to students, in their words:

*"This funding is amazing and gives me hope **I can still graduate.**"*

*"Knowing a donor put their support behind me gives me even more motivation to **work hard and make the most of my time at Temple.**"*

*"Your donation inspires me to focus more on my academics as well as look for more opportunities to **make a difference in the community.**"*

A YEAR OF GIVING AT CPH

RAISED DURING FY26:

$3.8 MILLION

MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR ALUMNI, DONORS, STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

THANK YOU

TEMPLE GIVING DAYS IN REVIEW

283 DONORS UNLOCKED

$25K

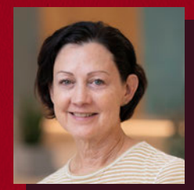
IN MATCHING FUNDS FOR STUDENT AID

$100K+

RAISED

YOUR DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS TEAM

The momentum is real, but there's still more work to be done! As CPH continues to grow, so do the opportunities to shape its future. Whether you'd like to invest in scholarships, advance research, or reconnect as an alum, we'd love to help you make an impact.



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