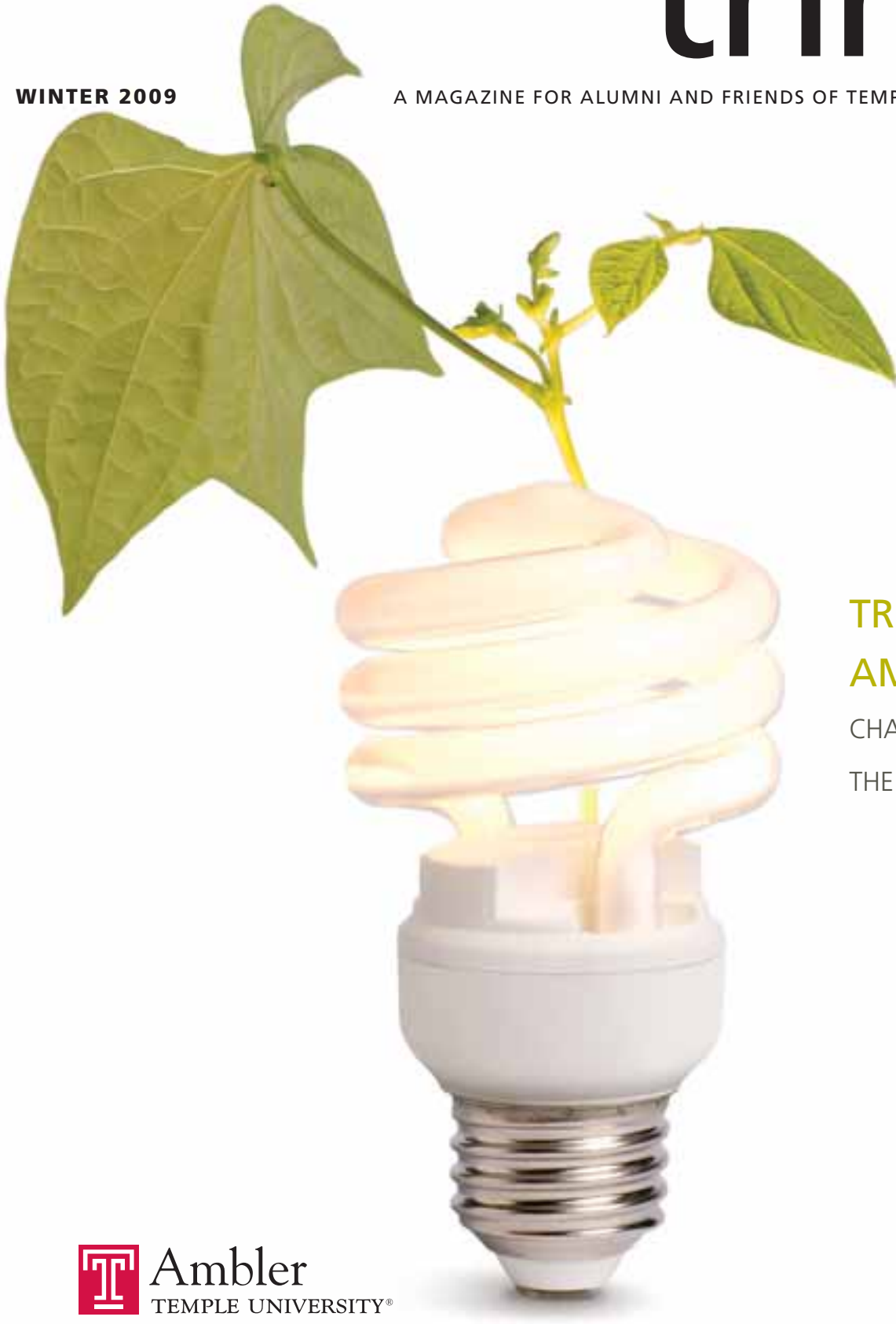


New Name  
New Direction

# thrive

WINTER 2009

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF TEMPLE UNIVERSITY AMBLER



## TRANSFORMING AMBLER

CHANGE IS IN STORE FOR  
THE "GREEN CAMPUS."

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI  
AND FRIENDS OF TEMPLE  
UNIVERSITY AMBLER

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ON THE COVER  
*Phaseolus vulgaris*  
(green bean) and compact  
flourescent bulb photographed  
by Joseph V. Labolito

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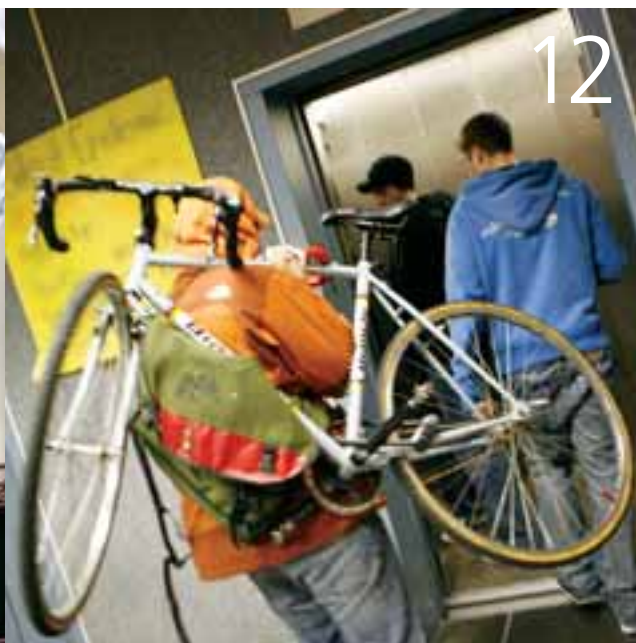
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from the dean

Dear Friends,

Temple University, Ambler College and the Ambler campus are on the move.

A comprehensive planning effort is underway at Temple. Its purpose is to capitalize on the gains of recent years and to position Temple for the next several decades. Under the leadership of President Ann Weaver Hart and Senior Vice President and Provost Lisa Staiano-Coico, Temple, as never before, is deliberately and intentionally planning its future.

That future, I am pleased to report, includes a prominent place for Temple Ambler. The campus and college have undergone intense scrutiny over the last two years. Consultants and a task force of academic leaders has evaluated Temple Ambler's strengths, assessed the challenges before us, and recommended a course of action towards the goal of maximizing our enormous potential.

For 50 years, Ambler has been Temple's "green campus," a laboratory for the study and demonstration of environmental sustainability. We foresee a future in which this

role will be expanded significantly. Our optimism is reflected in our magazine's name change from *Rambler* to *Thrive*.

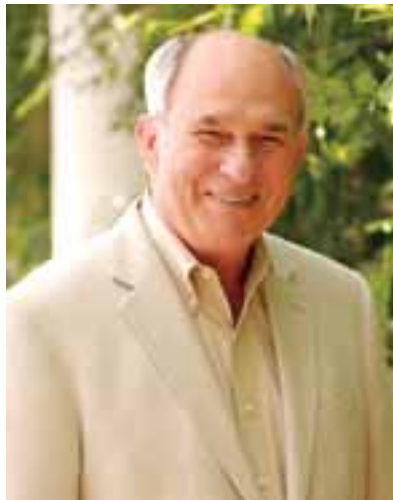
Change will not be immediate or perhaps even perceptible for some time to come, but change is at hand. In the months ahead we will strive to clarify Temple Ambler's image, increase and diversify enrollments, add new programs and attract new students, while retaining and

improving student residential life and continuing to serve the educational needs of the communities around us through a broad range of offerings.

As we move forward, we invite your suggestions and your direct involvement. Please consider returning to campus to participate in our Cultural Affairs Series, enjoy the beauty of our Arboretum and Formal Gardens, visit old friends, or drop by for EarthFest, Cherry and White Day, or one of the varsity athletic events. You are always welcome!

Warmest regards,

James Hilty, PhD  
Acting Dean, Ambler College  
Temple University Ambler/Fort Washington



## Access to Excellence: The 125<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Campaign for Temple

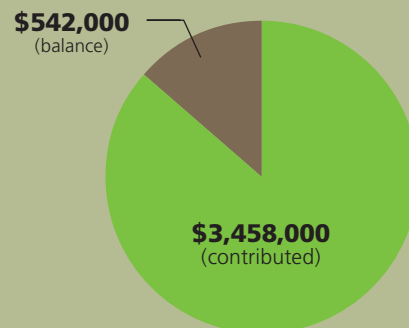
Temple University reached a fundraising milestone when it closed the fiscal year on June 30, 2008, with more than \$300 million raised toward *Access to Excellence: The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign for Temple*.

As part of the *Access to Excellence* campaign, Temple University Ambler is in the midst of a fundraising effort to raise \$4 million by December 31, 2009. As of September 30, 2008, Ambler has already raised more than \$3.35 million. Gifts to Ambler from alumni and friends support key initiatives and projects that help enhance our students' experiences each day. These projects include:

- The Ambler Annual Fund
- The Ambler College Scholarship Fund
- The Ambler Student Experience
- The Center for Sustainable Communities Endowment
- Community Projects
- Environmental Outreach
- The Landscape Arboretum Fund
- The Learning Center Auditorium
- Research Efforts
- Technology

Faculty, staff, alumni and friends may designate their gifts to any school, college, program or purpose within Temple University or may make unrestricted gifts.

**CAMPAIGN PROGRESS** (as of 10/30/08)  
**\$4,000,000** (goal)



ACCESS  
EXCELLENCE



THE 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CAMPAIGN FOR TEMPLE

All gifts to Temple University through December 31, 2009, will be credited toward *Access to Excellence: The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign for Temple*. For more information, visit [www.accessstoexcellenceattemple.com](http://www.accessstoexcellenceattemple.com).



## EarthFest draws 12,000 to Ambler

On April 25, more than 12,000 students, alumni and community members visited the Ambler campus for EarthFest 2008. This was the largest turnout ever for EarthFest, which will be held for the eighth year on Friday, April 24, in 2009.

This celebration of Earth Day, hosted with event partner the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, featured more than 90 exhibits—representing the Philadelphia Zoo, Academy of Natural Sciences, Franklin Institute, Adventure Aquarium, Elmwood Park Zoo, the Insectarium, and many more—that highlighted sustainable living, healthy lifestyles, and protecting and preserving the planet.

The Philadelphia Zoo, one of more than 90 exhibitors at EarthFest this spring, educated and entertained children and adults alike.

## Dr. Hirsh-Pasek honored with 2008 Paul W. Eberman Faculty Research Award



Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, the Stanley and Debra Lefkowitz Professor in Psychology in the College

of Liberal Arts, was named this year's recipient of the 2008 Paul W. Eberman Faculty Research Award.

A child developmental psychologist whose research focuses on language development, reading and the role of play in learning, Hirsh-Pasek also serves as co-director of the Temple Infant Laboratory at Ambler, where she oversees cutting-edge research that has attracted national and international attention.

## VITA program assists more than 100, gears up for 2009

For eight Saturday mornings, from February through April, 16 student volunteers—members of the **Temple University Ambler Accounting Professional Society** (now known as the Ambler Business Society), faculty and others—spent dozens of hours poring over the tax records of more than 100 community members and students, assisting them in navigating through the complex maze of federal, state and local tax preparation.

Prior to tax season, the members of the organization took it upon themselves to become Volunteer Tax Assistors—trained and certified to offer free tax preparation assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Their efforts resulted in more than \$60,000 in refunds claimed by their clients.

Plans are underway for the 2009 tax season as the Ambler Accounting Profes-

sional Society works with other local nonprofits to apply for a grant to support the program, according to Temple University accounting professor, Steven Balsam, who also advises the Ambler Accounting Professional Society.

The VITA Program at Temple University Ambler is by appointment only and space is limited. For more information, call 267-468-8352.

Students assisted more than 100 "customers" complete their tax forms as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.





## Center continues to tackle stormwater management issues in the region

The Center for Sustainable Communities was awarded a \$330,000 grant from the William Penn Foundation to continue research conducted through the Temple-Villanova Sustainable Stormwater

Dr. Jeffrey Featherstone, director of the Center for Sustainable Communities, confers with research assistant Straso Jovanoski on one of the Center's many stormwater management projects.

Initiative (T-VSSI), a partnership between the universities to demonstrate stormwater best management practices (BMPs), to conduct research and provide outreach programs focusing on regional stormwater management.

"We will continue to help nonprofit organizations and others as a technical advisor related to stormwater issues," said Dr. Jeffrey Featherstone, director of the Center for Sustainable Communities, who was a panelist at the Pennsylvania 7TH Congressional District's Emergency Preparedness and Watershed Management Summit held in August. "Temple faculty and Center researchers will continue to monitor our BMP test locations at the

Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)."

For a separate research project, Center and community and regional planning researchers are studying stormwater management opportunities and suggesting initiatives in the Upper Moreland School District. The research is being supported by a \$35,000 grant from the Claneil Foundation.

"Campuses of school districts provide large opportunities for stormwater management—many schools were built in the 1960s and '70s before stormwater management practices came into being; they may have no stormwater management in place at all," Dr. Featherstone said. "Upper Moreland Superintendent Robert J. Milrod welcomed this opportunity. One of our goals is to make a proposal to the school district to consider incorporating stormwater management into their science curriculum."

## Calendar of Events

### Spring 2009 Graduate Open House *Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Learn about graduate degree programs, certificate programs and non-credit offerings at Temple University Fort Washington.

**Information: 267-468-8500**

### Philadelphia Flower Show 2009 *Sunday, March 1, to Sunday, March 8, 2009*

Join the Temple University Ambler Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture as it presents its entry in the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's annual Flower Show, which welcomes 300,000 to the city each year! The theme for 2009—Bella Italia.

**Information: 267-468-8181**

### Spring 2009 LifeLong Learning Society *Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

If you enjoy active, stimulating classes with great teachers, topics and students, the LifeLong Learning series is for you! Classes are designed for learners 50 and up, but adult learners of all ages are welcome.

**Information: [www.temple.edu/ambler/tufw/non-credit/lifelong.htm](http://www.temple.edu/ambler/tufw/non-credit/lifelong.htm)**

### Cherry and White Day 2009 *Saturday, April 18, 2009*

Don't miss this annual celebration of Temple's Athletics alumni, featuring an intrasquad spring football game by the Temple Owls!

**Information: 215-204-2587**

### EarthFest 2009 *Friday, April 24, 2009*

Join the Center for Sustainable Communities and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for what has become one of the largest celebrations of Earth Day on the East Coast.

**Information: [www.ambler.temple.edu/earthfest](http://www.ambler.temple.edu/earthfest)**

### Summer Open House *Saturday, June 6, 2009*

The best way to learn about a university is to visit it! Learn about undergraduate and graduate programs, certificate programs, admissions, advising, student life and more.

**Information: 267-468-8100 or [www.ambler.temple.edu/admissions](http://www.ambler.temple.edu/admissions)**

### June Homecoming *Saturday, June 6, 2009*

Ambler alumni dating back to the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women return to campus for special reunions, tours of the

gardens, community service projects, and much more.

**Information: 267-468-8440**

### Cultural Affairs Series *Spring 2009*

The spring series will feature concerts by Boyer College of Music and Dance, cultural events celebrating Black History Month and Women's History Month, guest speakers, and lectures highlighting Ambler's sustainability mission and goals.

**Information: [www.ambler.temple.edu/culturalseries](http://www.ambler.temple.edu/culturalseries)**

### Summer Education Camps *June, July, and August 2009*

Temple University Ambler and Fort Washington are pleased to offer Summer Education Camps for the twentieth consecutive year. Camps are available for kids, tweens and teens between the ages of 8 and 17. They provide wonderful opportunities for youths to learn about a specific area of interest, experience a college campus, and have lots of fun at the same time.

**Information: [www.temple.edu/ambler/tufw/non-credit/camps.htm](http://www.temple.edu/ambler/tufw/non-credit/camps.htm)**

## 'Doing it right'

*Pennsylvania senator and Temple Law alumnus John Rafferty supports the Center for Sustainable Communities for its tangible benefits to the region.*

Pa. Sen. John Rafferty, LAW '88, wanted to understand why Southeastern Pennsylvania has recently suffered from so much flooding. And he wanted to know what to do about it.

Then, in 2006 he read a *Philadelphia Inquirer* feature article about Temple University Ambler's Center for Sustainable Communities, and he knew he had found a partner.

"I was impressed with their mission and their floodplain work in Eastern Montgomery County," says Rafferty. "The work they're doing is incredibly beneficial for the region."

Rafferty, who represents the 44TH senatorial district including parts of Berks, Chester and Montgomery counties, helped develop a grant application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which recently awarded the center \$250,000.

Established in 2000, the Center for Sustainable Communities aims to improve the quality of people's lives by better understanding the land they live on, the waterways they live near, and how these

are being developed and managed.

"Sen. Rafferty understands the effects development has on our landscape and our environment, and the importance of our ability to control flooding, traffic and other byproducts of that development in order to maintain our quality of life," said Dr. Jeffery

Featherstone, director of the Center for Sustainable Communities.

Rafferty, who currently is serving his second term as state senator, takes a hands-on approach to his constituents' well-being—a trait he says he learned as a Temple Law student. "Through Temple Law School's third-year clinical program, I worked with the Philadelphia district attorney's office. I learned that if you're going to undertake a project, you need to get out into the world and learn the trade by doing it."

He puts this philosophy into practice by attending community days and town



Dr. Jeffrey Featherstone, director of the Center for Sustainable Communities, reviews a floodplain map with Pa. Sen. John Rafferty.

meetings, speaking with various groups, and even reading his own correspondence. "That's the time and the commitment you put into the job if you want to do it right," he says.

Supporting the Center for Sustainable Communities and its regional planning research is another way Rafferty feels he's "doing it right."

"Regional planning is growing, and I want to encourage that," he says. "By mapping wetland and floodplain areas, municipalities can plan better not only for development, but also for those areas that were built where they shouldn't have been, so we can help protect them from floods."



## March for Babies raises over \$200,000

More than 600 heroes laced up their walking shoes to benefit the March of Dimes 2008 March for Babies, held at the Ambler campus in April.

Their efforts raised over \$200,000 and the final total is expected to reach more than \$225,000 according to event organizers—a new record for the Ambler walk site.

For the past 10 years, a veritable army of community members have taken part in March for Babies (formerly known as WalkAmerica) at Ambler. If you would like to participate in next year's event, please contact Michele Whiting at 267-468-8080.



The Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble helped Ambler celebrate Black History Month.

## Cultural Affairs Series finds great success in inaugural year

During the 2007–2008 school year, the music returned to Ambler, as the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, the Office of Student Life, Boyer College of Music and Dance, Ambler College, and the Office of the Dean collaborated to develop a new campus Cultural Affairs Series.

“For many years Temple Ambler was home to the University Music Festival. We may no longer have the amphitheater, but we do boast a new 300-seat auditorium/theater that provides an excellent

venue for musical performances,” said Temple University Ambler dean, Dr. James W. Hilty.

Boyer College offered a full slate of noontime concerts during the Fall 2007, Spring 2008 and Fall 2008 semesters, highlighting performances by faculty and staff across the spectrum of the College’s many disciplines.

In addition to musical and dance performances, the Cultural Affairs Series has featured cultural celebrations and a wide variety of guest speakers.

The Spring 2009 Series is already shaping up. For more information, visit [www.ambler.temple.edu/culturalseries](http://www.ambler.temple.edu/culturalseries).

## Community and Regional Planning Chair studies “Active Living” with \$200,000 grant

Community and Regional Planning chair, Dr. Deborah Howe, has embarked on an Active Living Research project designed to help communities maintain healthier lifestyles. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation approved a \$200,000 grant for research designed to

“transform land use regulations to create livable communities that support physical activity in everyday life.”

“This is a collaborative effort between Temple and Portland State University,” said Dr. Howe. “We are looking at innovative land use policies, zoning and regulations across the country that lead to built environments that support active living—the focus is predominantly on innovation.”

The study includes a survey of Best Practices Communities—up to 100 with policies that support active living—in addition to a survey of a random stratified sample of 500 communities to examine their experience with active living concepts. According to Dr. Howe, the first round of surveys has been completed and is being analyzed. The second facet of the study, focusing on case studies, will begin in the near future, she said.

## Sumac equals sustenance for sifaka lemurs at the Philadelphia Zoo

There is a connection between the Philadelphia Zoo and Temple University Ambler of which few would have dreamt. While the Zoo is an important exhibitor at Ambler’s EarthFest celebration each year, zoo conservationists have also been quietly visiting the campus for an entirely different purpose—feeding its family of sifaka lemurs.

Winged sumac, or flameleaf sumac, is an essential part of the sifakas’ diet. With three sifaka mouths to feed—the Zoo this year became one of only five zoos to have a sifaka born in captivity—“there is more demand for browse, the plant

material that the animals feed on,” said Chris Waldron, Conservation Programs manager for the Philadelphia Zoo.

Fortunately, winged sumac grows in abundance on Ambler’s 187 acres, providing a reliable food resource for the primates, which are native to Madagascar. While sumac does not grow in the sifakas’ natural habitat, it is a cousin to plant material that they would eat on a daily basis in the wild.

“At Ambler, we have a constant source of sumac that we’ve been able to rely on—we couldn’t believe the amount that was available to us!” Waldron said. “We know it’s a great product from a safe, protected area, and the campus and staff have been exceedingly accommodating.”



Zoo conservationists have found a steady source of food for their family of sifaka lemurs at Ambler.



INSPIRATION

# Transforming Ambler: Looking to the past (and present) to plot out Ambler's future

*From environmental sustainability to teaching with technology in the Learning Center, to providing educational opportunities for adults, the winds of change are blowing at Ambler.*

*“What’s past is prologue.”*

This often quoted line from Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* is more than a little appropriate for Temple University Ambler as it moves rapidly toward the second decade of the 21st century.

The University is looking towards Ambler’s rich history of environmental education and the campus’ successes today in providing educational programs for adults to craft the Ambler campus of tomorrow.

### TASKED WITH CHARTING THE FUTURE

During the 2007–2008 school year, the University placed a spotlight firmly on the Ambler and Fort Washington campuses when Temple University President Ann Weaver Hart convened the Ambler Campus Taskforce, chaired by Deputy Provost Dr. Richard Englert, to examine the current and future needs of the campus and its role in the University as a whole.

The Task Force on the Ambler campus was one facet of the University-wide planning process driven by Provost Lisa Staiano-Coico.

“The Ambler Task Force has been part of this overall academic planning process, which was tasked with determining the highest and best use of Ambler and Fort Washington to benefit the University,” said Temple University Ambler acting dean, Dr. James W. Hilty. “The Task Force conducted a comprehensive examination of Ambler and Fort Washington, evaluating its academic programs and class offerings, academic services and other student support services, organizational arrangements, the quality and availability of classroom space, residential housing,

The ACT (Ambler Campus Technology) Center is always busy since the Learning Center opened in 2006.

campus amenities, food services, parking, and the structural soundness of our facilities.”

Dr. Hilty, Dr. Lolly Tai, senior associate dean; Dr. Jeffrey Featherstone, director of the Center for Sustainable Communities; Marylou Delizia, director of Temple University Fort Washington; and Saul Katzman, director of Operations and Finance at Ambler, all participated in the Ambler Task Force.

### IT’S EASY BEING GREEN

According to Dr. Hilty, the campus will continue to build on its commitment to sustainability and longstanding history of environmental education with the intention of making Ambler the University’s “academic centerpiece for environmental sustainability.”

“There will be a new emphasis that stresses environmental sustainability across several curricula—environmental studies, liberal arts, business, science and technology, earth sciences—to compliment the research and educational opportunities afforded by our home departments in Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, and Community and Regional Planning,” he said. “This includes drawing on, and emphasizing, the natural physical resources that are available at Ambler, including the Landscape Arboretum.”

An important step for the Ambler College—Ambler’s home departments, the Center, and the Arboretum—is also underway as the University Board of Trustees is in the process of approving a new, more clearly focused, discipline-specific name for the College “that further emphasizes the College’s leadership role in planning, design and environmental education,” Dr. Hilty said.

### BECOMING “ADULT FRIENDLY”

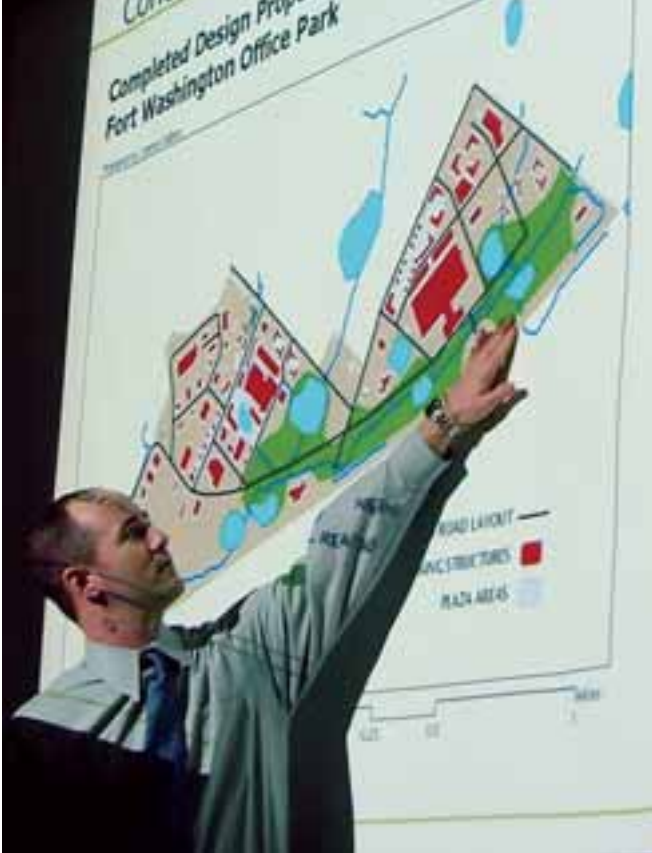
While the Task Force has turned to Ambler’s academic roots to further define its identity, it has also turned to the Conwellian tradition of providing “access to excellence” for everyone in crafting its mission.

“It has been proposed and recommended that Ambler become a hub for returning students and working adults. More than 43 percent of our students at Ambler are 25 years of age or older,” said Dr. Hilty. “We are in an excellent position to provide evening, weekend and summer educational opportunities while simultaneously offering undergraduate majors in more than a dozen areas other than our Ambler College programs. We want to recapture a leadership position in educating working adults.”

### MAKING AMBLER “LESS TEMPORARY”

While programmatic initiatives are at the forefront of “transforming” Ambler, the ongoing assessment of the campus has, of course, included existing facilities, some of which were constructed as temporary buildings that have since been used for decades. In that regard, changes have already begun, said Dr. Hilty.





Students in community and regional planning, landscape architecture, and several other disciplines have ready access to specialized software, providing them the means to complete projects that often involve community outreach.

“We want to eliminate the permanent temporariness of Ambler. The overarching goal is to bring all of our buildings up to the standard set by the Ambler Learning Center in terms of fitness, stability and user friendliness,” he said. “We are working very closely with Housing to improve the residence halls and have received wonderful cooperation from Facilities Management to clear the original campus greenhouse and position that space to become a new campus welcome center, which the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association has generously pledged to help fund.”

Two temporary buildings were also removed in 2008, the Einstein and Van Gogh buildings, formerly located next to Cottage Hall.

“The open spaces where Einstein, Van Gogh and the greenhouse once stood afford new opportunities to involve students, faculty and staff in the landscaping and reuse of these sites,” Dr. Hilty said.

### THE NEW CAMPUS HUB

Since opening its doors in Fall 2006, the three-story, 72,000-square-foot Ambler Learning Center has, as expected, become the new hub of the campus.

Whether its taking classes, using one of the more than 400 additional computers in the ACT (Ambler Campus Technology) Center, meeting up with fellow students to work on projects, grabbing a bite at the café, promoting student organizations or attending an event, students are likely to find themselves in the Learning Center at some point during the day.

“The Learning Center has become the point around which

everything else functions. It provides comfortable and convenient access to a fully modern facility,” said Dr. Hilty. “The University has committed \$1 million to the electrical power sources and electrical grid for the campus, particularly for the hundreds of new computers in the Learning Center, which will have an independent power supply.”

The energy efficient building has such an “enormous air conditioning capacity,” added Dr. Hilty, that with new chilled water lines put in place by Facilities Management, it will act as a resource for several other buildings on campus.

“The Ambler campus has a long tradition of accessibility and opportunity. Ambler is a great treasure for Temple and in higher education as a whole with its accessibility and excellent educational opportunities,” said President Hart when dedicating the building. “The Learning Center creates a greater sense of community and identity for the Ambler campus. It serves as both an intellectual and social space.”

### TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY

With its wide array of hardware and software innovations, the Learning Center has also become the primary location where faculty are able to teach with technology.

According to Susan Hyer, associate director of Computer Services at Temple University Ambler, the Learning Center “has brought the campus up to the 21st century.”

“We are able to be competitive with other universities, including Main Campus, and provide the resources necessary for improving and enhancing the instructional experience overall,” she said. “We’ve been able to create much needed open and closed collaborative spaces for students, all with wireless capacity.”

The building integrates learning spaces for enhanced instruction, socialization and collaboration, as well as provides for additional technology resources required by most Temple curricula—specialized software for everything from community and regional planning to business classes to science programs is available at every computer in the ACT Center, Hyer said. A student need not worry about having the proper software when moving from one campus location to another—the Main Campus Tech

“Technology is essential for teaching today—more and more, it’s the way that students and faculty communicate.”

*Susan Hyer*  
Associate Director of Computer Services, Temple University Ambler



A jazz ensemble from Boyer College of Music and Dance was just one of the highlights of Ambler's successful Cultural Affairs Series.

Center to the Ambler ACT Center, for example, she continued.

"The technology that we have been able to make available makes it more convenient for faculty to be able to teach using different methods of instruction—visual, audio, hands-on. Technology is essential for teaching today—more and more, it's the way that students and faculty communicate," Hyer said. "It's facilitated greater collaboration between students and faculty and students and each other—they find it convenient to just come in here and use any application that they need."

### ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Ambler was once home to the Temple University Music Festival and Institute. With the Learning Center's 300-seat auditorium, Ambler has a new venue for the arts and is taking full advantage of it.

"The auditorium provides new opportunities to offer cultural, educational and entertaining events for our students and the surrounding community," said Dr. Hilty. "We are continuing upgrades to the sound system, lighting and stage that will further

**"There is an ongoing spirit of cooperation between the campus and the surrounding communities—we are committed to serving the community."**

*Acting Dean James Hilty*

allow for a consistent and persistent use of the auditorium for theatrical and musical productions. The space has already been put to great use by outside groups and we will continue to make it available as a resource for the community."

Outside organizations that have utilized the auditorium include the Montgomery County Lands Trust, the Sino American Pharmaceutical Professional Association, the Korean University for Women, the Young Stars Theatre Company, the Korean American Cultural Institute, the American Confederation of Teachers, and the Miss America Pageant of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

For three semesters, the auditorium has also provided a venue for important speakers, cultural events and concerts through the Cultural Affairs Series ([www.ambler.temple.edu/culturalseries](http://www.ambler.temple.edu/culturalseries)).

"The Cultural Affairs Series is intended to enrich the range and depth of the cultural experiences of Temple students, and at the same time, open our doors to our neighbors in the surrounding communities," Dr. Hilty said.

A series of concerts by students and faculty from Boyer College of Music and Dance, part of the Cultural Affairs Series, have proven particularly popular, welcoming hundreds of visitors to campus for experiences ranging from a presentation of classical music to new compositions created by the students. The concert series will continue in Spring 2009.

"All of us at Boyer are delighted to present these concerts at Temple Ambler," said Robert T. Stroker, dean of Boyer College of Music and Dance. "We hope to continue to offer performances at Ambler that highlight our outstanding faculty and students."

Complimenting the Ambler Cultural Affairs Series and other events held inside the Learning Center, the new focus toward the rear of the campus has opened up new opportunities outside. Over 30 of the 90 exhibitors at EarthFest 2008 provided new and innovative educational opportunities to EarthFest visitors within the areas near the Learning Center.

In Summer 2008, Upper Dublin Township Parks and Recreation and Temple University Ambler partnered to present the township's Summer Concert Series on the lawn near the Learning Center. Plans are underway to hold another series of concerts at Ambler in Summer 2009.

"This year, it was time to bring music back to the campus," said Dr. Hilty. "There is an ongoing spirit of cooperation between the campus and the surrounding communities—we are committed to serving the community."

### A "TIME OF CHANGE"

While campus and University administrators continue to map out the future of Ambler and Fort Washington, "we will continue to meet the educational needs of Montgomery County, Bucks County, Northeast Philadelphia, and beyond," said Dr. Hilty.

“I am personally very pleased that President Hart and Provost Staiano-Coico directed their attention to the Ambler campus by appointing the Ambler Task Force,” Dr. Hilty said. “I think that every indication is that suggestions and recommendations related to our future will have a positive impact on the educational, social, extra-curricular and cultural experiences that we can provide our students and the community at large.”

On the academic front, two external reviews of the Horticultural and Community and Regional Planning programs have been completed “and we continue to improve our programs within Ambler College,” Dr. Hilty said. Community and Regional Planning will seek accreditation in 2009 while the Landscape Architecture program will seek re-accreditation in 2010. The Master of Social Work program returned to Ambler with a new cohort in Fall 2008 and work is underway to develop

a core group of programs of particular interest to adults and returning students, including the Master of Science in education and Adult and Organizational Development (AOD).

Ambler will also continue to be the home of four of the University’s NCAA teams—men’s and women’s soccer, baseball and softball, and the annual Cherry and White Day athletics alumni event, an event that welcomes thousands to campus each April.

And while the Learning Center has created a shift in focus for the campus as a whole, “we will be seeking to make some key changes to Bright Hall,” Dr. Hilty said. The Temple Police station at Ambler has already been moved to Bright Hall to ensure that it is more centrally located.

“We want to make Bright Hall the center of student activities,” he said. “It will be an important location for study and group activities once again.” ■

## Stephen Zelnick: Teaching the classics with the latest technology

*To be, or not to be: that is the question:  
– Hamlet, Act III, Scene I (William Shakespeare)*

The beginning of this famous soliloquy should be familiar. For many, it is just a tiny sampling of a classic literary work.

For others, however—particularly for students just being introduced or reintroduced to the works of William Shakespeare—they are words on a page. Something is missing from the equation.

Dr. Stephen Zelnick, associate professor of English, has been offering a less than typical introduction to Shakespeare, using the latest technology to bring to life iconic scenes from the Bard’s works. The students have, in turn, taken what they’ve learned and begun recording their own interpretations of the scenes.

“Reading a play, we have only a blueprint for its staging and therefore only a limited understanding of how the play works and what Shakespeare may have been intending,” said Professor Zelnick, who has been a Temple faculty member since 1969. “Because of television and film in particular, plays are accessible in ways that were never the case before.”

For his Shakespeare course, Dr. Zelnick used video clips of selected scenes from various productions, “in order to help students understand the realization of these plays as they are transformed from the page to the stage and screen.”

“A real innovation for this course was that the clips were made available for students to stream onto their home computers and study at their leisure,” he said. New media, he said, helps break down that “wall of terror” students have when facing Shakespeare.

“Seeing an actor that is familiar to them—Pacino as Shylock, for example—helps get over that speed bump right at the beginning,” he said. “It’s exciting and new and accessible and packages so much thought and emotion. Hearing and seeing the material puts what the students are trying to get at into their reach.”

After studying several of the plays in this fashion, students decided to try their hand at creating their own interpretations of Shakespeare’s classics.

“Two students in the class who were filmmakers took the hint and filmed two scenes from the plays using students in the class as actors,” Dr. Zelnick said. “I expect they will remember this all their lives, and come closer to plays by being in one than from only studying about them.”

Dr. Stephen Zelnick uses multimedia technology to help his students connect with literary classics.







# Transforming Temple: Ambler faculty, administrators help guide the University towards sustainability

*Ambler's ongoing commitment to sustainability and the environment spreads University-wide.*

## **TASKED WITH EXPLORING SUSTAINABILITY**

In 1911, the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women (PSHW), founded by Jane Bowne Haines, opened its doors. Its students for the next several decades would go on to become pioneers in the green industry. The PSHW's mission of environmental education would inform the establishment of Temple University Ambler's signature programs in Community and Regional Planning, Horticulture, and Landscape Architecture.

Ambler's students and programs have remained the standard bearers for that mission of sustainability begun almost a century ago, a mission that Temple University Ambler faculty and administrators are helping Temple take University-wide.

In Spring 2007, Temple University Ambler senior associate dean and professor of landscape architecture, Dr. Lolly Tai, was appointed by President Ann Weaver Hart to co-chair the newly formed Sustainability Task Force with Bill Bergman, University vice president of Operations.

"Essentially we started with a blank slate. The Task Force met weekly to develop a Task Force Report—*Recommendations for a Sustainable Temple University*—which was reviewed and accepted by the president and her cabinet," said Dr. Tai. "The Task Force is comprised of a group of seven faculty members, including Dr. Lynn Mandarano (assistant professor of community and regional planning). It is a large, diverse group from a variety of disciplines."

The Task Force concluded that a balanced approach to sustainability requires Temple to "respect the environmental, economic, social and

communal aspects of its choices to ensure that Temple designs affordable, practical and forward-looking programs.”

“In this time of acute awareness of the earth’s fragility and limited resources, Temple has an obligation to demonstrate how a large urban university can responsibly participate in the global community,” said President Hart introducing the Task Force Report. “The University can act as a model institution and a resource to address growing concerns among citizens and government at all levels and design permanent, affordable, practical and forward-looking programs for sustainability.”

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE TEMPLE

According to Dr. Tai, the Task Force Report—available online at [www.temple.edu/sustainability/stf/taskforce\\_report.htm](http://www.temple.edu/sustainability/stf/taskforce_report.htm)—divides the committee’s comprehensive recommendations into three primary categories: Sustainable Campuses, Academic Initiatives, and Outreach and Engagement.

“With Sustainable Campuses, we looked at all of Temple’s campuses—their energy usage, master planning, conservation and recycling initiatives, and transportation,” said Dr. Tai.

University-wide goals include reducing energy consumption; increasing energy efficiency; integrating renewable energy technology; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; realizing a sustainable landscape for each campus that builds on their relationships with the regional ecosystems; recommending target goals for the University to “reduce, reuse, recycle and regulate,” and encouraging the use of sustainable, non-polluting methods of transportation for persons getting to and from campus.

Dr. Tai and Dr. Deborah Howe, chair of Ambler’s Department of Community and Regional Planning, are both serving on the University’s Master Planning Committee, which has been tasked with developing a master plan that incorporates fully sustainable initiatives. The committee will conduct a full inventory of



Reflecting its commitment to “going green,” Temple University established a new Office of Sustainability in July 2008.

existing landscape conditions; inventory existing conditions of all buildings; conduct post-occupancy evaluations on all major buildings and renovation projects; improve the integration of site conditions, such as topography, floodplains, vegetation and air flow; develop lists of fast-tracked projects; and create greenway corridors in cooperation with area communities.

In addition to serving on the Master Planning Committee, several Temple University Ambler faculty and administrators have played key roles in the academic steering committees and workshops that have been an essential part of the University-wide planning process driven by Provost Lisa Staiano-Coico. Ambler College participants include Acting Dean Dr. James W. Hilty, Dr. Howe, Dr. Pauline Hurley-Kurtz, associate professor of landscape architecture, and Dr. Jeffrey Featherstone, research professor of community and regional planning and director of the Center for Sustainable Communities.

“Given our relatively small size as a college, we are well represented and that bodes well for the campus,” said Dr. Hilty.

### SUSTAINABLE ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

Academic Initiatives in relation to the Sustainability Task Force Report examined sustainability spread throughout Temple’s campuses and throughout the University’s curricula, said Dr. Tai.

“What sustainability courses are available at each campus? What research is taking place?” she said. “There really was no single office that was gathering this data and implementing new initiatives.”

To that end, the Sustainability Task Force recommended the creation of an Office of Sustainability, a new administrative unit to lead the University’s efforts to foster a “pervasive culture of environmental responsibility throughout the university.” The Office of Sustainability was formally established in July 2008, under the direction of Sandra J. McDade, a Temple administrator for more than 30 years who was also part of the Sustainability Task Force.

“I would like to express my deep appreciation for the remarkable work of the Sustainability Task Force, chairs Bill Bergman and Lolly Tai, and the many others who assisted in developing

“With Sustainable Campuses, we looked at all of Temple’s campuses—their energy usage, master planning, conservation and recycling initiatives, and transportation.”

*Dr. Lolly Tai  
Temple University Ambler Senior Associate Dean and  
Professor of Landscape Architecture*

the report,” said President Hart in establishing the new office. “Members of the committee will continue to provide assistance and counsel as we proceed in launching this important initiative for Temple and the environment.”

### TAKING THE LEAD ON SUSTAINABILITY

Dr. Tai said researchers, faculty, students, staff and administrators in the Center for Sustainable Communities, located at Temple University Ambler, and the Ambler College programs—Community and Regional Planning, Horticulture, and Landscape Architecture—will be working very closely with the Office of Sustainability in helping to implement the University’s sustainable initiatives.

The Center, the Department of Community and Regional Planning, and the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture have long histories in taking leadership roles in sustainability research and development, often undertaken collaboratively with a variety of University disciplines.

“We are the University’s ‘green campus’—that’s our mission and I’m happy to see sustainability brought to such prominence in the University as a whole since that’s what Ambler campus and Ambler College have always been about,” said Dr. Tai. “What we do here at Ambler, I think, will overlap in several beneficial ways with the Office of Sustainability as we move forward. One of the initiatives that we have undertaken is developing a master’s degree in landscape architecture that will focus on ecological landscape restoration—I’m working on a proposal for the program with (Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture Chair) Dr. Mary Myers.”

The Sustainability Report recommends encouraging further collaborative efforts among faculty, staff and students in sustainability research; offering courses that include sustainability research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students—a staple of Center research and the Ambler College programs; and “working with the Office of Sustainability to foster collaboration with communities.”

“We want to establish environmental responsibility as one of Temple’s top-level strategic initiatives and promote awareness of new and ongoing sustainability initiatives within the Temple community and beyond,” said Dr. Tai. “Our focus today is, ‘What can we do now?’ We need to follow an independent, reasonable plan that clearly maps out what we can do realistically.”

In reaching out to the surrounding community, Temple University Ambler and Fort Washington are offering new non-credit courses with “green” initiatives in mind. *Xeriscaping*, *Making Compost Make Sense*, and *Creating a Business Case for Green Meetings and Events* were all offered for the first time this fall, according to Rhonda Geyer, director of Non-credit Programs. The Temple University Ambler Cultural Affairs Series each semester also

highlights sustainable goals and initiatives with lectures by noted planners, landscape architects and horticulturists.

### A “GREEN CAMPUS CULTURE”

As Ambler looks outward to the University as a whole, it is also looking inward. The establishment of the Ambler Campus Sustainability Council (ACSC) in 2007 has afforded Ambler and Fort Washington students, faculty and staff the opportunity, through several campus-visioning workshops, to examine and make suggestions to ensure that the campuses meet their own sustainable goals.

“Some of the issues we are exploring are how we can make the campus less dependent on cars; more energy efficient; investing wisely in our resources on campus, including our faculty, students, staff and landscape; and how we can restore natural systems, improve housing, and promote a healthy social ecology ensuring that everyone’s voices are heard,” said Dr. Lynn Mandarano, ACSC co-chair.

According to Mandarano, the ACSC ([temple.edu/ambler/acsc/about\\_council.html](http://temple.edu/ambler/acsc/about_council.html)) works to identify national innovations “in the context of sustainable development and assesses Temple University’s participation in and readiness for sustainable development initiatives.”

“Our mission statement is to inspire collaboration and action that moves Temple University Ambler toward becoming a model of sustainability and environmental responsibility,” said Mandarano. ■

Departments and organizations at Ambler, and the University as a whole, are working in unison to develop a “green campus culture,” exploring a variety of sustainable initiatives such as the use of hybrid and electric vehicles.





# Access to Excellence— for adults

*Working toward becoming a hub of educational opportunities for re-entry students, Ambler and Fort Washington offer a full range of programs and services for working adults.*

## **BACK IN THE STUDENT'S CHAIR**

For Joyce Rondinella, Earth is her classroom. She plans to protect it in whatever ways she can and teach others to do the same, well armed with the horticulture degree she received from Temple in May 2008.

Returning to school as a student working full-time while taking classes part-time, often with “traditional-aged students,” Rondinella said, required “setting priorities.”

“You take it one day at a time and make sure that you have a good support system here and at work. I really felt from day one that your age certainly didn't matter at Ambler—everyone was very open and easy to talk to,” said Rondinella, one of hundreds of adult re-entry students (any student who has been out of school for five or more years) at Ambler and Fort Washington. “My teachers were all readily available and they made time for, and had an excellent rapport with, their students.”

Positioned to become a pilot site for a University-wide initiative to offer increased educational opportunities for re-entry students and working adults (a full 43 percent of the student population at Ambler and Fort Washington is 25 years of age or older), Ambler and Fort Washington are establishing a framework of programs and services necessary for students who often have several other life priorities to attend to—work, spouse, family, community.

“Ambler and Fort Washington are already hubs for adult education,” said Temple University Ambler acting dean, Dr. James W. Hilty. “What we want to do is improve access to our services and make them more convenient for working adults in particular to get registered, pay their bills, park—we want to streamline the administrative process for all students.”



Ambler and Fort Washington offer several graduate programs at convenient hours in addition to hundreds of non-credit programs for professional advancement and personal enrichment.

### EXAMINING THE NUMBERS

Simply looking at the demographics in the coming years, re-entry students will play a key factor in the success of any college or university campus, according to James Van Blunk, director of Admissions and Marketing at Temple University Ambler.

“The number of traditional 18-year-old students coming out of high schools is declining. Adult students, re-entry students, provide a good balance in enrollment,” he said. “What we need to do is take a look at our programs and work toward maximizing availability. With the predictions for the coming years related to the economy and how that will affect working adults, this is an opportune time for people to finish what they started—to pursue or continue their educations.”

Van Blunk said Ambler—already a full service campus for every student—has the infrastructure in place to provide “one-stop shop-

ping” for re-entry students seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree to advance their careers or simply for personal enrichment.

“We are Temple,” he said. “We have world renowned professors and comprehensive programs.”

### RETURNING TO THE CLASSROOM— A PERSONALIZED APPROACH

For adults interested in returning to school to start or complete a degree, Ambler and Fort Washington provide a full range of possibilities, including numerous bachelor’s and master’s degree programs and the opportunity to begin courses for all of the University’s more than 100 majors.

For many re-entry students, however, there is a great deal of trepidation “just getting the process started,” Van Blunk said.

“There are some very common questions — ‘When or how soon can I start?’ ‘How long will it take me to get my degree or my certificate?’ ‘How much will it cost me?’” he said. “Re-entry students want personalized guidance. They want to have someone to help them negotiate the Temple system so that they can do what they need to do.”

According to Susan McCaffrey, assistant director of Student Services and disability coordinator in the Office of Academic Advising and Career Development, the departments at Ambler are working hard to develop new ways to connect and serve returning students.

“We are developing a simple check sheet and a mini-workshop involving one-on-one training for re-entry students to initiate them in how to be a Temple student, on how to navigate the University—TUportal, how to access an e-bill, how to utilize the services in the library, how to register for a course,” she said. “Our Career Center also works directly with people who are changing careers.”

### RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT PROGRAMS, OFFERED AT THE RIGHT TIMES

When returning to the classroom, working adults often wonder whether they can juggle a full-time career with family commitments and still find time to attend class and study, said Wendy Lebing, assistant dean for the Quality Assurance/Regulatory Affairs (QA/RA) master’s degree program offered at Temple University Fort Washington.

“They may be concerned by the length of time needed to complete the program, wondering whether they will lose their motivation along the way,” she said. “They may worry about the financial commitment.”

Lebing said Temple University Ambler and Fort Washington seek to make programs such as QA/RA “as convenient as possible for working professionals.”

“The number of traditional 18-year-old students coming out of high schools is declining. Adult students... provide a good balance in enrollment.”

*James Van Blunk*  
Director of Admissions and Marketing, Temple University Ambler

“Students don’t have to take a leave of absence to complete the degree. They can take courses at their own pace, selecting one or more a semester,” she said. “They can explore the program by taking up to three courses before formally applying. Since classes are offered throughout the year, they may start in the fall, spring, or during the summer.”

Temple University Fort Washington is “a very adult-friendly campus” according to TUFW director Marylou Delizia, offering

convenient parking, comfortable room logistics, and staff available later in the evening to assist students and faculty.

“During the week, most of the programs at Fort Washington begin after 6 p.m., which takes into account the schedules of typical working adults, and there are several weekend sections available,” she said. “Our graduate programs are completely organized around the needs of adult students. The MBA and QA/RA programs have proven particularly successful with professionals.” ■

## Eco-Chic Gardens: A success story in transforming your future

Temple University Ambler alum Kimberly Lock (AMB '07, Horticulture) affectionately calls herself a “corporate escapee.”

Lock had a full 15 years of corporate experience—even running her own collection agency for a time—but that was not where her passion lay.

“I was pulling weeds out in a suit with a briefcase slung over my back. I’d be working on my garden at 2 or 3 a.m. with a spotlight on,” she said. “I loved working with plants and wanted to make a living out of it. I was 36 and wanted to completely change careers.”

Within a year of having this life-altering epiphany she enrolled at Temple University Ambler.

“I felt at home here. I loved the people and the campus and the small classroom setting,” she said. “I know I made the right decision—I’ve never looked back.”

While at Ambler, Lock met numerous kindred spirits, including Ann Laughlin (AMB '05, Horticulture), a fellow survivor of the business world who would eventually become her partner in a new path for both of their lives—**Eco-Chic Gardens** ([www.ecochicgardens.com](http://www.ecochicgardens.com)), which formally opened for business in Andalusia, Bucks County, Pa., in 2007.

“I quit a 13-year career in human resource benefits and human resource information systems and began volunteering at Longwood Gardens, which has a professional gardeners’ program. I decided that not only did I want to receive certification, I wanted a degree,” Laughlin said. “Ambler had a strong science aspect to it that incorporated the design piece, which I thought was essential. I was encouraged to take risks and pushed to believe in myself.”

For years, Laughlin and Lock batted around the idea of starting a business together—one firmly based in ecologically responsible and sustainable landscape practices, promoting “healthy outdoor lifestyles through innovation, art and science.” A summer spent working together in the garden of Stephanie Cohen, Temple University Ambler Founding Landscape Arboretum director, solidified their goal.

“We said ‘Wouldn’t it be great if we could do this every day?’ and decided why couldn’t we,” said Lock, who was recently elected vice president of the Ambler College Alumni Association.

Laughlin and Lock established their firm’s approach based on “ecologically friendly best management practices,” Laughlin said.

“You can have a beautiful landscape, but still take an ecological, water-wise approach,” she said. “We take a team approach with our clients and are completely involved in both the design and installation process.”

Since its inception, Eco-Chic has been building a substantial client base in addition to hiring new employees “to assist us in meeting our goals this year,” including Ann Marie Rambo (AMB '07, Horticulture).

“We have also successfully completed several jobs in partnership with Bradley Scherff (AMB '07, Landscape Architecture) of Creative Environments. We are always looking for good people to join our team!” said Lock. “You should never give up on your dreams. Truly, there’s room for everyone in the green industry—the industry is hungry for knowledgeable people entering the workplace.”

Ambler alums Ann Laughlin and Kimberly Lock opened the doors to their successful Eco-Chic Gardens landscape design and installation firm in 2007.



I was honored to be re-elected as president of the Ambler Alumni Association's Executive Committee this past June, and it is with great excitement that I begin my second term.

There is an incredible momentum building at Temple University and Ambler campus is no exception. As sustainability becomes a more popular word and a more sought after condition, the programs' relevance has never been greater. The Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women established the roots of the Landscape Architecture, Horticulture, and Community and Regional Planning programs, and it is upon these traditions that these programs draw their strength as the global urgency for their expertise increases.

In the coming year, the Executive Committee and I look forward to bringing you more opportunities to re-connect with your fellow alumni. Annually, we host a June Homecoming that has been most popular with the alumnae of the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women, the foundation for the Ambler College. I was delighted that we offered an expanded program this past year that included a Saturday service project on campus. It was fun to get to know alumni from classes ranging from 1947 to 2003 while potting coleus in the campus greenhouse and weeding the Woodland Garden. There were 17 participants and I hope that when we offer the program again on Saturday, June 6, 2009, we will have double the participation.

This fall, Monica Moran Brandies, *AMB '58*, returned to campus on September 25 as a guest lecturer and alumni fellow, sponsored by the Temple University Alumni Association. It is always thrilling to me to see an alumnus return to campus to share with students, alumni and campus friends their expertise,

which began with their studies at Ambler and I am grateful for the support of the Temple Alumni Association for their generous sponsorship.

September also welcomed hundreds of alumni and friends of the Landscape Arboretum to the 3RD Annual Rhapsody in Bloom. The event, celebrating the diversity and history of the

Landscape Arboretum began in the campus Formal Perennial Garden and ended with the always popular live auction, which raised thousands of dollars for the Arboretum.

I encourage everyone to contact us and join us for any of our upcoming events and use it as an opportunity to re-connect with fellow classmates and to reach back to your Temple roots. I have no doubt that this will be a most exciting year for Temple and the Ambler campus, and you do not want to miss out.

Sincerely yours,



Alison Rife Thornton, *AMB '03*



## Ambler alumni honored in 2008 Gallery Of Success

In 2008, author Monica Moran Brandies and horticulturist Ken LeRoy were inducted into Temple University's Gallery of Success. Sponsored by Career Development Services and the Division of Student Affairs, the Gallery began in 1998 with the intention of highlighting successful alumni for the entire Temple community to honor.

### Monica Moran Brandies, *AMB '58*

Monica Moran Brandies studied horticulture and landscape design at the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women, the predecessor to Temple



University Ambler, from which she received her Associate of Science degree in horticulture. She has written or co-written 11 books and has been gardening all of her life. Her articles appear weekly in the *Brandon News* (Florida)—she's written a garden column for 25 years. She has also written for *Better Homes and Gardens* and *Florida Gardening*.

Brandies, mother of nine children, lives in Brandon, Fla., with her husband.

### Ken LeRoy, *AMB '84*

A 1984 graduate of Temple University Ambler with a degree in horticulture, Ken

LeRoy is a born and bred Philadelphian.

As an International Society of Arboriculture-certified arborist and a trained horticulturist, LeRoy has been helping his clients develop and manage their home landscapes for the last 20 years. LeRoy Tree and Landscape Company opened in 2006, focused on providing knowledgeable, skillfully performed service.



LeRoy is Horticulturist Emeritus of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, where he continues to teach classes focused on urban forestry and horticultural topics.



## Summer at Ambler: Giving new meaning to classrooms

During Summer 2008, the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture provided students with the opportunity to explore special ecological settings and gain firsthand knowledge of a variety of habitats through day trips, including a canoe tour through the New Jersey Pine Barrens. The six-week course of all field-work was taught by Sue Mrugal, ecologist

Students engage in a riparian restoration project during a hands-on field course in Summer 2008.

and landscape architect.

A field course in **Ecological Landscape Restoration** was co-taught for the first time this summer by Dr. Mary Myers and ecologist John Munro. The two-week intensive course focused on hands-on approaches to restoring damaged landscapes and included a campus project—stream bank restoration of a portion of Tannery Run, a tributary to Wissahickon Creek.

“There were nine highly motivated and enthusiastic environmental studies, landscape architecture, and horticulture students in the program,” said Dr. Myers.

## Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association comes full circle

In May 1914, the first official meeting of the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association was held in the big red barn of the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women, the forerunner of Temple University Ambler.

The mission of the association was to “promote agricultural and horticultural interests among women, and to further such interests throughout the country.” The founding members of the group—Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women founder Jane Bowne Haines, Louisa Yeomens King, Elizabeth Leighton Lee, Elizabeth Price Martin—would shape the future of public and private horticulture for years to come.

For the Farm and Garden Association, history came full circle in June.

On Thursday, June 5, the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association kicked off its annual National Meeting in the Temple University Ambler Formal Gardens. The three-day event was hosted by the Ambler Keystone Branch of the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association, which was established at the Ambler campus in 2005.

“Much of the formative activity of the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association, an organization with its own rich history and compelling mission, took place on this campus,” said Jenny Rose Carey, director of the Landscape Arboretum of Temple University Ambler, who helped found the campus branch. “We called our branch the keystone branch since this location is the keystone of the organization’s history—it’s a link back to their heritage.”

More than 100 members of the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association joined together to commemorate their contributions to women’s history, horticulture, the rich history of the campus, and their desire to help preserve that history by supporting the creation of a new campus Welcome Center at the site where the campus’ original greenhouse stood across from the barn where the organization held their first meeting.

“What we are hoping to do is convert the potting shed, or head house, which remains at the former greenhouse location, into a welcome center. We anticipate that the building will include a display area highlighting the history of the campus, the legacy of the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women and

the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association, and their contributions to the horticultural movement and to women’s history in general,” said Temple University Ambler Dean James W. Hilty. “We are very grateful to Faith and Joseph Tiberio and other supporters, who have helped us bring the plan to this stage. Our landscape architecture students have created some preliminary designs for the site—we would like to implement a design that marks and commemorates the original greenhouse.”

Members of the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association tour the campus greenhouse during their annual National Meeting.



## NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND HORTICULTURE



### Community outreach

Temple University Ambler returned to the **Philadelphia Flower Show** in 2008 with *The Big Four Mississippi Meander*.

The exhibit, according to Robert Kuper, assistant professor of landscape architecture, directly referenced four key themes—the “big four,” negotiation, syncopation and improvisation—as they relate to jazz, New Orleans, the Mississippi and the exhibit.

“The improvisation that can and must occur to prolong and strengthen New Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture students and faculty spent months planning, designing, and building Temple’s entry into the 2008 Philadelphia Flower Show.

Orleans, and sustainable landscapes in general, can be found in the art born right in New Orleans: jazz!” said Kuper, who coordinated the 2008 exhibit with staff and students in the Landscape Architecture and Horticulture programs.

In early October, the **American Society of Landscape Architects’ annual convention**—with the theme *Green Infrastructure: Linking Landscapes + Communities*—brought about 7,000 landscape architects to Philadelphia. Directly participating in the event, the Department hosted a special **Ambler Arboretum and John Collins Retrospective Tour**, led by Pauline Hurley-Kurtz, associate professor of landscape architecture.

### Honoring a campus leader

After 34 years of dedicated service to Temple University Ambler, Dr. Elizabeth Sluzis has decided to depart campus.

In 1974, when Dr. Sluzis was hired as an assistant professor in Horticulture, Ambler College only offered Associate of Science degrees in horticulture and landscape design, a situation that she helped to change dramatically.

One of Dr. Sluzis’ key accomplishments during her first tenure as depart-

ment chair was spearheading a team of full- and part-time faculty to write a proposal for new four-year degree programs in horticulture and landscape architecture. The proposal was approved by the Board of Trustees and classes began in the fall of 1988.

“This visionary effort launched a new era for the department and Ambler College which continues to be built upon,” said Dr. Mary Myers. “The direction she set for the program and understanding of the

curriculum inspired many enhancements and innovations through the years.”

From 2000 to 2002, Dr. Sluzis served as interim chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture. She oversaw the completion of a new greenhouse complex, and chaired the curriculum committee for undergraduate and graduate degrees in community and regional planning for Ambler College.

### New certificate programs provide new learning opportunities



The Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture has introduced a new certificate in **Horticultural Therapy**, formally accredited by the

American Horticulture Therapy Association.

“One of the positive things about our program that distinguishes it from others is it involves three specialized horticultural therapy courses—introductory, therapeutic skills and program management,” said Dr. Mary Myers, chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture.

Courses take a hands-on approach to education and are taught by nationally known therapists actively engaged in the field.

A newly developed certificate program in **Environmental Sustainability** is being

offered as a joint program by the Department of Community and Regional Planning and the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture. To earn this certificate, students will choose from existing courses focusing, for example, on the environment and landscape restoration, Myers said. The Department also continues to offer a certificate in **Landscape Plants**.

Certificate classes are offered in the evenings and on weekends, providing convenient options for non-traditional students and working adults.

## On the bookshelf



Cohen, the founding director of the Landscape Arboretum of Temple University Ambler and an instructor at the campus for more than two decades, unveiled her

Temple University Ambler faculty have been adding quite a few essential additions to any bookshelf.

Stephanie

newest book during the school year, *Fallscaping*—her second collaboration with Nancy Ondra, which features dazzling fall garden images, including images of the campus Landscape Arboretum taken by longtime collaborator Rob Cardillo.

Senior associate dean, Dr. Lolly Tai, is also providing innovative gardening insights with *Designing Outdoor Environments for Children*, which she co-wrote with Mary Taylor Haque and Erin Jordon Knight.

*Designing Outdoor Environments for Children* describes how to plan, design and construct locations in active and creative ways to engage children—from kindergarten through 12<sup>TH</sup> grade—in learning from and enjoying their outdoor environments. Dr. Tai advocates a vision that melds typical play with natural locations that allow children to explore their environments in educational and creative ways.

## Update on the Arboretum



Not only are the existing gardens flourishing, “but [we are] also installing some new ones,” said Jenny Rose Carey, director of the Landscape Arboretum.

Latest additions include the **Philip R. and Barbara F. Albright Winter Garden**, the third section of the Formal Perennial Garden, which was completed last year. The garden was officially dedicated in May.

The **Colibraro Conifer Garden** welcomed more of Michael Colibraro’s unique evergreens, which were installed this spring. The New Dwarf conifer garden, located adjacent to the campus greenhouse, has been named in honor of Michael Colibraro of Colibraro Landscaping, and Nursery, Inc., a member of the of the Arboretum Advisory Committee.

The **Ernesta Ballard Healing Garden**, inspired by the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture’s 2006 Philadelphia Flower Show, is spearheaded by Pauline Hurley-Kurtz, associate professor of landscape architecture and horticulture.

The Landscape Arboretum of Temple University Ambler is thriving thanks to the continued support of students, alumni and staff.

“Work on the Healing Garden is going very well,” said Professor Hurley-Kurtz. “(Landscape Architecture graduate) Brad Scherff, AMB ’07, and his company Creative Environments have been working on the grading, lower walk, bridge and labyrinth installation. Planks for the wood bridge were milled from a black walnut tree felled on the site—it is beautiful!”

The **PECO Green Roof Garden**, which sits atop the Intercollegiate Athletics Field House, is undergoing a bit of a makeover in preparation for its “close-up.”

Robert Kuper, assistant professor of landscape architecture, and Dr. Michael Olszewski, assistant professor of horticulture, have been tasked with “maximizing the beauty of the green roof through maintenance and modification of the plantings; developing interpretive signage explaining the importance and benefits of green roofs, and general information and history about green roof technology; and determining ways to provide access to the garden,” according to Professor Kuper.

Plans, in conjunction with Ambler Campus Computer Services, are also underway to place a webcam on the roof, which could be accessed from the Ambler Campus Sustainability Council web site ([www.temple.edu/ambler/acsc](http://www.temple.edu/ambler/acsc)).

In addition to new gardens, the Arboretum is adding new staff. Ambler welcomed Grace Chapman as the new horticulture supervisor this fall. Chapman

joins the Ambler team with a diverse skill set that includes public garden education, practical horticulture and display design.

“I am looking to use my undergraduate and graduate degrees in public gardens management and leadership, in combination with my love and knowledge of the natural world, to inspire the public to form a lasting relationship with the outdoors,” Chapman said.

Landscape Arboretum Director Jenny Rose Carey provides a detailed tour of the Native Plant Garden. The existing gardens will be joined by some new additions in the coming months.



## ALUMNI HOMECOMING

### June Homecoming: The Class of '58 returns to Ambler

It is 1958. Eisenhower is president. *South Pacific* is all the rage at the box office. The United States Army launched the first successful satellite, Explorer I, into Earth's orbit.

And 25 women were about to graduate from the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women—the last class to do so before Temple University came into the picture.

Turn the dial ahead 50 years. In June, 10 classmates from 1958 reunited on a rainy day that did nothing to dampen anyone's spirits. They traveled from all over the country to meet in Ambler, at the home of Landscape Arboretum Director Jenny Rose Carey, whose garden they toured before sipping tea and sharing memories.

The women spoke of their favorite classes and teachers—landscape architecture with James Bush-Brown, trees and shrubs with Louise Carter Bush-Brown, and annuals and perennials with Mrs. Viola Anders. They remembered fondly the Formal Gardens, the herd of Jersey cows that lived on the grounds, and how they wore jeans during greenhouse duties but were required to dress formally for dinner.

"It was a magical place," said Barbara



Pictured from left to right: Front Row: Alice Boulden Smith, Nancy Reynolds Gibbons, Cathy Buenz Renell, Nicole Gardere, Robin Kirk Hobbs, Jeanne Comstock Parker. Back Row: Bruce Smith, Alison Rife Thornton (Alumni Association President), Jenny Rose Carey (Landscape Arboretum Director), and Mary Anne Blair Fry.

Smith Morris. "We ate what we grew. We lived on a farm while getting an education."

Morris, of Chalfont, continues to serve as the class correspondent, keeping in touch with many of the ladies she attended school with decades ago.

Monica Moran Brandies, who lives in Brandon, Fla., and was inducted into Temple's Gallery of Success this year, said her classmates planted many of the flowers and trees in the nationally acclaimed Formal Gardens under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Bush-Brown.

Brandies, or "Monk" as friends called her, said she was thankful the gardens she enjoyed on campus 50 years ago have been preserved.

"Even though there are many new gardens, they've taken good care of what we had," she said.

Inside Carey's guest home, Catherine Buenz Renell, or "Buenzie," chatted with old friends around the tea table. It was her first trip back to Ambler since moving to Mill Creek, Wash., and the New Jersey native wasted no time catching up.

Nicole Gardere traveled from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to join her classmates. Studying horticulture at the Ambler campus was no breezy college experience, she said. It was a full day of work at the greenhouse and in the classroom—though there was still time for fun with friends.

### Three from '48 reminisce over tea

Alice Boulden Smith, Betty Kosty Smith and Joan Skirdlant had come to an agreement by the time they finished their finger sandwiches at Jenny Rose Carey's home, post-garden tour, on homecoming weekend, which included their 60th reunion as graduates of the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women.

"You can't go anywhere else in the U.S. and get the education we had," said Kosty Smith.

All horticulture students, the women put

their degrees to use after leaving the Ambler campus. Boulden Smith, of Connecticut, worked at Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford. Kosty Smith did estate gardening and floral design at a shop in the Philadelphia suburbs. Skirdlant, appropriately of Gardenville, was a gardening consultant up until a couple of years ago.

Theirs was one of the largest classes, with 45 women, who were all there because they loved animals, designing gardens and flowers—"all nature people," Kosty Smith said. "What tied us together was that nothing we did was a chore to

us," she said. "It was an experience that we all look back on very fondly and would go back again if we could."

From pruning the apple trees to selling apples in the fall, to growing their own vegetables, Boulden Smith said theirs was a unique educational experience.

"We, girls, did everything. We pruned, we pulled. I even replaced the glass on top of the (original) greenhouse," Kosty Smith chimed in. "My father wouldn't let me drive a car, but I drove a Ford tractor."

## Meet the newest members of the Board of Visitors of Temple University Ambler

**Charlotte Betancourt** (*member since 2008*) is a retired chemistry teacher from the Baldwin School. She has been involved in many community organizations, including chairing the board of trustees of Springside School and the Community Health Improvement Team at Chestnut Hill Healthcare. She currently co-chairs the Philadelphia Flower Show Infonet.

**Gerald M. Cope** (*member since 2008*) is a senior partner and founder of Cope Linder Architects in Philadelphia. He is an architect who has been involved in considerable campus master planning, including an initiative on the Ambler campus. He also holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Clifford C. David Jr.** (*member since 2008*) is president of the Heritage Conservancy and has led the organization for 20 years. The organization's focus on open space and historic preservation dovetails nicely with the focus of the Center for Sustainable Communities and the Ambler campus.

**Joan M. Reilly** (*member since 2008*) serves as a senior director at the Pennsyl-

vania Horticultural Society, overseeing its nationally recognized urban greening program, Philadelphia Green. She co-leads the work of Philadelphia Green in utilizing horticulture to build community and improve the quality of life in Philadelphia's neighborhoods and downtown public spaces.

**Robert P. Thomas** (*member since 2008*) is a founding partner of Campbell Thomas & Co., an environmentally and community-oriented firm of architects and planners with an award-winning record in "green" transportation, community planning and revitalization, accessibility, historic preservation, and practical design and construction. In recognition of his achievements and advocacy for accessibility, he was appointed to, and continues to serve, as the chair of the City of Philadelphia's Accessibility Advisory Board.

**Honorable Charles T. "Bud" Wahl** (*member since 2008*) is the mayor of the Borough of Ambler, since 2001, as well as a banker for Ambler Savings Bank. He has been a strong supporter of the campus and has been involved in developing the town of Ambler. In his 42 years as an Ambler resident he has participated in many community-based organizations, such as

Ambler Main Street, Ambler Senior Adult Activity Center, the Ambler Planning Commission, and many others.

### Board of Visitors:

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**Michael P. Williams** (*member since 2003*)



## Rhapsody in Bloom

The 3rd Annual Rhapsody in Bloom, a celebration of the Landscape Arboretum held September 20, welcomed 130 guests to campus and raised more than \$5,000 in support of the Arboretum. Honorary chairs for the event were Acting Dean James W. Hilty and his wife Kathy. Special thanks go to DeerTech, our first Rhapsody in Bloom sponsor, for their generous support.

## Temple University Ambler's Honor Roll of Donors

Temple University Ambler relies on the generous support of alumni and friends who have contributed to the annual fund and other important initiatives during our fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. We extend our deepest gratitude to each and every donor. Your support lets us know that you believe in our efforts to provide student-centered learning, teach respect for the environment, and encourage community engagement.

We gratefully recognize the following

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## Philip Albright: A lifetime in support of others

Temple University Ambler Board of Visitors President **Philip R. Albright** has a passion for the classroom and the experiences that can be gleaned within them.

“Part of the reason I decided to return to the classroom was that, hopefully, I could act as a role model—they could see someone from an older generation going back and furthering their education,” he said. “It’s a



Philip and Barbara Albright

wonderful experience—education gives you the foundation for everything else.”

In 1986, Albright made an unlikely graduating senior at Temple University Ambler, where he received his Associate of Science degree (*summa cum laude*) in horticulture and landscape design.

“I had my degree in civil engineering from Stanford and was moving toward retirement. I felt that if I could complete the two-year degree in landscape design, there was no four-year degree then, I’d be able to combine it with my civil engineering background and kind of be a landscape architect,” he laughed.

Albright took several night classes from 1978 through 1986, a time when John Collins and then campus Dean James Blackhurst were setting about establishing four-year programs in landscape architecture and horticulture, which were formally approved in 1987.

“I was by far the oldest student in all of my classes, but I still felt like I fit right in. Back then I had a full white beard; I think the other students thought I was a professor, which is probably why they treated me very well,” he smiled. “I saw so much potential for this campus. I got

involved in some development work for the campus at the time and have been involved with Ambler ever since!”

Albright, a Blue Bell resident, had the intention of involving himself in design work during his retirement. His “outside activities,” however, have taken up most of his time for 20 years, he said.

“I’m not one to sit still for very long,” he said. “I enjoy getting things done.”

Albright’s idea of getting things done has been to involve himself in dozens of community organizations and charities. His involvement naturally includes steady support of the Ambler campus as president of the Board of Visitors and as the founding chair of the Landscape Arboretum Advisory Committee.

He is also one of the campus’ most generous donors, including a recent \$250,000 gift to create the Philip R. and Barbara F. Albright Winter Garden—the third part of the Formal Gardens, and support enhancement to all of the campus gardens, including lighting and irrigation.

“The objective is to really make this Temple’s ‘green campus,’ to show what can be done,” he said.

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## William E. Mifflin: Ambler never left him and he never left Ambler

**William E. Mifflin**, '66, '68, '86, came to Temple University Ambler after "growing up in Northeast Philadelphia with an extended family on a 'farmette' that included greenhouses and a small nursery."

"Looking back, my time at Ambler was a fabulous experience," said Mifflin, chief executive officer of Philadelphia Hospitality and former executive director of the Fairmount Park Commission from 1988 to 2002. "The program was strong academically, but the experience was also practical; you learned the basics of planting, arboriculture and horticulture—you got your hands dirty. I clearly recall spending time weeding in the gardens."

Mifflin's continued dedication to Temple, and to Ambler in particular, has never wavered. A member of the Ambler Campus Board of Visitors since 2003, the flurry of numbers after his name—Associate degree in ornamental horticulture in 1964; Bachelor of Science in recreation management in 1968; Master of Education in recreation administration in 1986 (all from Temple)—clearly shows that while

he may no longer be attending classes at Ambler, he "never really left."

"With its good ratio of staff to students and the excellent practical knowledge the program offers, Temple's program provides a solid foundation for any student to pursue their goals," he said.

During his tenure as executive director of the Fairmount Park Commission, Mifflin's goal was to "protect and enhance the open space parkland in Philadelphia." During his administration, Philadelphia parkland acreage grew by 10 percent to 9,200 acres.

Mifflin became CEO of Philadelphia Hospitality in July 2007. The nonprofit organization's mission is to "promote the Greater Philadelphia area as a world class destination," offering "specially tailored, innovative itineraries and unique tourism experiences for discerning groups and individuals," he said.

"I think the future of Ambler will remain firmly rooted in its original mission of teaching horticulture and landscape architecture. The addition of community and regional planning and the continued work of the Center for Sustainable Communities greatly compliments



William E. Mifflin, '66, '68, '86.

an overall mission of sustainability," he said. "I think Ambler is more relevant now to the University and the community as a whole than it ever has been."

## Marc Adelman: A 42-year long journey reaches its end as a new journey begins

This year, history major Marc Adelman completed his degree after five years of study at Temple.

That might not sound so out of the ordinary—plenty of students have done the “five-year plan.” It’s the 42-year long detour between years three and four where things get interesting for Adelman.

“I’m a 68-year old, soon-to-be college graduate!” said Adelman with a laugh shortly before graduation. “It’s mindboggling!”

Adelman began his long, strange trip at Temple in the early 1960s, when he pursued a degree in social work.

“It was a great institution to be at; there was so much going on. I got caught up in the social activism of the ’60s, which is what drew me to social work,” said the Philadelphia native. “I did work in the field for about five years after I left Temple.”

In 1966, family responsibilities took him away from his studies, “though I always assumed I’d complete my degree at some point.”

The decades that followed life’s priorities—which included marriage and raising a family of three boys—took him all over the professional spectrum.

“Two years ago, I literally woke up and asked my wife, Connie, ‘What would you think if I decided to go back to school?’” he said. Connie, his wife of 40 years, said, “Absolutely!”

“If it wasn’t for her support, I wouldn’t have been able to do this,” said Adelman, who, bitten by “the education bug” now plans to attend graduate school at Temple. “I wanted to set an example for my children and my grandchildren. I wanted them to see that life was not over at 68, that if there’s something you really want, you can still go out and get it.”

Adelman said his life has certainly been eventful “and it is by no means over.”

“I believe that I have a career ahead of me of 20 to 30 years in a new profession—and I’ll be good at it! I think I’m at the same level as any other student,” he said. “They have their lives ahead of them and so do I. I’m looking forward to it!”



## Jeff Harris: Taking a different path to reach his goals

In May 2008, landscape architecture major Jeff Harris donned cap and gown to graduate with a group of friends and colleagues with whom he had spent innumerable hours envisioning elaborate, comprehensive, sustainable futures for towns and cities



across the country and well beyond.

A year ago, the landscape of Harris’ own future changed dramatically. While celebrating the Fourth of July in 2007 with friends in North Carolina, a beach accident rendered the 24-year old a quadriplegic.

For some, that might have been the end of a promising career as a graphic designer and landscape architect. For Harris, his resolve

unwavering, he set about determining new paths to achieve his goals.

“In the beginning, I was worried that I would lose everything—who I was, what I was about. In some respects I have, but it’s not going to change my life,” he said. “I’m not going to change my aspirations for success because of this—you just change how you approach it. You find new ways to accomplish tasks—I know that if I have the desire and the will and I keep working at it, I will eventually accomplish everything I want to do.”

Already hard at work at Orsatti Associates in King of Prussia, Harris plans to continue on at the landscape architecture firm, “and see where my strengths lie.”

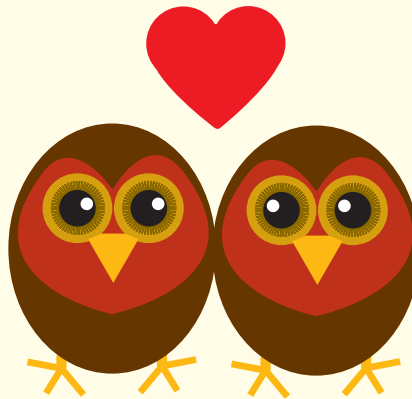
Harris, who was named a Temple University President’s Scholar in 2008 in addition to receiving the Landscape Architecture and Horticulture Faculty Award and the American Society of Landscape Architects Student Achievement Award of Honor, said one of his primary goals through his rehabilitation was returning to the classroom to finish with his class.

“The faculty have been great. I think they know how dedicated I am to the campus and the program; in turn they went out of their way to work with me to ensure that I graduated on time,” he said. “I can’t think of too many places that are like that—you are never just a face in the crowd here.”

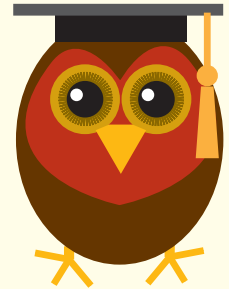
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