This issue of Gateways highlights Temple University’s ongoing commitment to the communities surrounding its campuses and across the Commonwealth. Through innovative partnerships with community groups and civic leaders, Temple helps to strengthen the fabric of North Central Philadelphia, provide care to the underserved and create access to educational opportunity for people of all walks of life. New programs such as the 20/20 Scholarship Initiative and our telemedicine program help to ensure that Temple serves the community to increase the health and wellbeing of our neighbors.

If you have any questions regarding the programs covered in this issue of Gateways, please contact Temple’s Office of Community Relations at (215) 204-7913.

New Temple scholarship program supports North Philadelphia students

To help increase the number of Philadelphians with college degrees and to give back to its community, Temple has created 250 four-year scholarships to be awarded over 10 years to students in the North Philadelphia neighborhoods surrounding Main Campus. The new program will boost the amount of scholarships awarded to Philadelphia students by Temple to nearly $12 million annually. Temple President Ann Weaver Hart and Mayor Michael Nutter announced the program at a celebration for 2011 recipients in Sullivan Hall.

The Temple 20/20 scholarship program takes its name from the university’s Temple 20/20 framework for campus development. The goal is to re-orient Temple toward North Broad Street and create a vibrant urban center that features residential space, retail attractions and recreational opportunities.

“The Temple 20/20 framework is designed to position our entire community for success in the future, and scholarships for our neighbors are a critical component for that success," said President Ann Weaver Hart.

““This program affirms Temple’s long-standing commitment to educate Philadelphians and provide access to all.”

“Supporting and creating educational opportunities for Philadelphians has been a major priority for my administration," said Mayor Nutter. “I want to thank Temple University for being a strong partner by providing 250 four-year scholarships to residents of North Philadelphia over the next 10 years. With more efforts like theirs, Philadelphia will be 21st century ready.”

The scholarships were awarded starting with the fall 2011 freshman class and will be available to students who live in Temple’s north Philadelphia community—within the 19121, 19122, 19132 and 19133 zip codes—at the time of application for admission. The $5,000 per year scholarships will help meet need not covered by financial aid, which includes other scholarships, student loans and institutional aid.

Since its founding, Temple has been dedicated to providing higher education for Philadelphians. The university has educated more Philadelphia residents than any other university in Southeast Pennsylvania—and possibly any in Pennsylvania. Last year, one-quarter (9,381) of Temple’s students were from Philadelphia. Among college-educated individuals, one out of every eight in the Greater Philadelphia area has at least one degree from Temple.

“Temple does so much to connect to its community," said Congressman Chaka Fattah. “I thank the university for taking a leadership role as an urban institution making a long-term commitment to our city’s students.”

For more information on the Temple 20/20 scholarships, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Temple at 215-204-7200.

Shown at a celebration for 2011 recipients of the Temple 20/20 scholarship are State Senator Shirley M. Kitchen; scholarship recipients Versha Coaxum and Naisha Gonzalez; Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter; recipient Javon Johnson; Temple President Ann Weaver Hart; recipient Laquana Sanford; Congressman Chaka Fattah; and recipients Tyquinten Gulley-Allen and Tamika Adams.
Diverse magazine ranks Temple in top 10 for African-American graduates

Diverse: Issues in Higher Education has ranked Temple among the top 10 institutions in number of bachelor’s degrees granted to African-American students.

The annual ranking, which is based on data compiled by the U.S. Department of Education, represents student graduation rates for the 2009–10 school year.

According to Diverse, Temple is No. 9 among 100 American universities in the total number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to African-American students. Of the eight universities ahead of Temple, four are historically black institutions and three are online universities.

National graduation studies show that on average about 56 percent of four-year college students graduate in six years. For African-American students, that figure drops to 41 percent.

Temple improved its graduation rate among its African-American student body by 6 percent over the previous year, which helped raise the institution’s ranking into the top 10, according to the report.

An improvement in Temple’s academic advising structure is just one of the factors related to the university’s growing graduation rate among African Americans, said Peter Jones, senior vice provost of undergraduate studies.

“Academic advisors are on the front line of the effort to increase our graduation and retention numbers,” said Jones. “Right now, 67 percent of all students graduate in six years and about 24-25 percent drop out in the first year. In an effort to grow our retention numbers, academic advisors meet with undergraduates on a consistent basis to make sure they receive the help they need.”

Advising improvements in the last decade have already yielded significant increases in Temple’s graduation rates, a development that was noted in a recent story in the Chronicle of Higher Education. New initiatives that will help advisors intervene before academic problems emerge, including the Risk-Based Retention Project and the Critical Paths Program, will continue to improve retention and graduation rates, as will President Ann Weaver Hart’s recent commitment to hire more academic advisors and develop more opportunities for their professional growth.

Embracing diversity to serve patients

Temple University Hospital has developed the Dual Role Medical Interpreters program, which utilizes the language skills of hospital employees to ensure patient care. Temple serves an incredibly diverse population of patients, some of whom are not proficient in English, and therefore cannot communicate their condition to hospital staff.

Through the program, multilingual hospital staff members in a wide variety of clerical and administrative positions are provided training in medical terminology and translation. Once the employee has completed 40 hours of classroom training, they take a translation examination over the telephone and are then certified to serve as translators for patients and medical professionals. Interpreters are then recertified on a yearly basis.

Once certified, Dual Role Medical Interpreters serve as on-call translators during their regular work shifts. As patients need interpreters, these employees are called to the hospital floor to assist doctors in caring for patients.

As many hospital staff members already speak languages in addition to English, the program provides them an added bonus for their skills: interpreters are paid for their training as well as for the number of translations they assist in.

Lead Professional Medical Interpreter Nancy Figueroa with Manager of Interpreter Services Angel Pagan.

Pictured at the conclusion of a recent Dual Role Medical Interpreters program are graduates Renata Picciani, Georgina Santana, Wanda Santana, program trainer Elsie Laboy, Lisa Adler, Nydia Ortega, program manager Raquel R. Díaz, Ivette González, Selina Kanowitz, Monica Krewson, Heriangely Cruz-Rojas, Nancy Figueroa and program trainer Martha Weaver.
Verizon Foundation funding helps expand Temple’s telemedicine program

Temple’s School of Medicine has received a $100,000 grant from Verizon Foundation to expand its telemedicine efforts using Telemedicine Light, a program that will enable Temple doctors to work with community leaders to educate members of the surrounding neighborhoods on cardiovascular health by crafting and sending targeted, customized e-mail messages based on the unique needs and concerns of those living in an urban environment.

William Santamore, professor of medicine and director of telemedicine research, said the goal of Telemedicine Light is to disseminate health information effectively.

“You can tell someone that their blood pressure needs to be 120 over 80, or that they should go out for a walk to get exercise, but it’s not enough,” he said. “We need to provide actionable information, which is why we are working with trusted community leaders, to learn the best ways to do that.”

Once the messages are crafted, the community leaders, as well as three community sites – Congreso de Latinos Unidos, the Maria de los Santos Health Center (part of the Delaware Valley Community Health group) and the Health and Social Services Ministry of Triumph Baptist Church – will offer the opportunity for patients to participate in Telemedicine Light. Patients will then receive a weekly message from Temple containing facts and tips on cardiovascular disease and how to prevent it.

A web-based system has been used for several years as a cost-effective way for doctors and patients to communicate with each other on a variety of health issues. Telemedicine Light differs in that it will be driven by the community members themselves who will help design health messages that are seen as important by their friends and neighbors and reach out to their community.

By working with community members and testing usage rates and improved health literacy of the enrollees, it will help researchers decide what to do next: to roll out the system to the entire community, to make adjustments, or – as Santamore hopes – to expand the program to address other health care issues such as weight loss or diabetes management.

Kids arts program takes aim at music education cuts

In October, the Temple Performing Arts Center (TPAC) held the first performance in a new grant-funded initiative designed to help fill the gap left by reduced arts funding in area schools.

Supported by a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation’s Knight Arts Challenge, The Eyes Wide Open in North Philadelphia arts program brings local students to TPAC to participate in performances and learn about the arts.

In addition to having fun, the children who attend the event learn concentration skills, said Daniel B. Capoferri, a senior education major and student teacher at Duckery Elementary School, who helped out at the recent performance.

“The arts made a huge difference in my life,” said Capoferri. “Early exposure to the arts increases brain power, boosts memory skills and instills a sense of pride in school-age children. I hope this program helps instill a love for the arts and music, and encourages them to get interested in an instrument.”

This is the inaugural year of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation’s Knight Arts Challenge, a $9 million initiative supporting innovative projects that inspire and enrich Philadelphia’s communities. TPAC was selected from among more than 1,700 applications from our region. The foundation announced in May that TPAC was one of 32 winners from our area.

“The Temple Performing Arts Center is honored that the Knight Foundation chose our North Philadelphia Community Outreach Project as one of the winners in Knight’s first Philadelphia Arts Challenge, and that it judged our project as a complement to the foundation’s mission to improve communities and local economic growth,” said Valarie L. McDuffie, TPAC director.

Lamont Dixon, a vocalist and member of the Rhythms and Rhymes Ensemble, sings along with local elementary school students during the first performance in the Eyes Wide Open in North Philadelphia arts series in October at the Temple Performing Arts Center.
Temple strengthens community college network

Temple University has expanded its network of community college partners by establishing a dual admissions agreement with Reading Area Community College.

“For many of our students, community colleges provide a bridge both financially and academically in the pursuit of a four-year degree,” said Peter Jones, Temple’s senior vice provost for undergraduate studies. “Our community college partnerships are an important part of our mission to provide access to higher education.”

Temple signed its first dual admissions agreements in 1998 with the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP), Bucks County Community College, Montgomery County Community College and Delaware County Community College. The following year, Temple implemented a dual admissions agreement with Harrisburg Area Community College and has since formed agreements with Burlington County College, Lehigh Carbon Community College and now Reading Area Community College.

Today, CCP is Temple’s largest dual admissions partner, with 36.5 percent of dual admits coming from the Spring Garden Street institution.

Through these agreements, students gain conditional admission to Temple at the same time they are admitted to a community college. Eligible students also have the opportunity for merit scholarships. Partner schools work closely with students to help them plan their courses and major fields of study to ensure a smooth transition and transfer of credits.

Temple has long been home to a large number of transfer students, many of whom got their start at community colleges.

GED graduates celebrate their achievement and look ahead

Thanks to Temple’s Adult Basic Lifelong Learning Education program, 25 community members are now high school graduates.

Several of the graduates participated in a graduation ceremony in Mitten Hall’s Great Court that recognized their attainment of the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) as well as the effort of 40 other students who have passed three of the five tests necessary to receive the diploma.

In Temple tradition, School of Social Work interim chair Bernie Newman offered remarks recognizing the students’ success and acknowledging the support of the more than 200 family members and friends in the audience. Will Jordan, director of the Institute of Schools of Society, encouraged the graduates to continue to pursue their dreams.

“I have struggled for so long to achieve my goals—of gaining my GED Diploma and continuing my education,” said Bethcodishene Laidlow, a graduate who received a special award for excellence. “Now that I have accomplished the first step, I will not stop.”

The students were part of Temple’s Adult Basic Lifelong Learning Education program, a collaborative effort of the College of Health Professions and Social Work’s Center for Social Policy and Community Development and the College of Education’s Institute for Schools and Society. Funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the program offers a full range of instructional services to help individuals obtain a secondary school credential, while developing skills necessary to find and keep family-sustaining employment or to enter post-secondary institutions.

For more information about the program, call Ulicia Lawrence, CSPCD Program Coordinator, at 215-204-2560.
Fox MBA business plans made a reality in ‘ReStoring’ the community

Less than a year after a group of Fox School MBA students wrote its business plan, a new Habitat for Humanity ReStore has opened in the Kensington section of Philadelphia.

Operated by Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia, the store is one of more than 750 ReStore outlets nationwide that provide local businesses, contractors and residents with donated building materials at a low cost.

The creation of Philadelphia’s ReStore was supported by nearly 40 Fox MBA students who participated in the Enterprise Management Consulting (EMC) Practice, a required capstone consulting experience that featured a business-plan-in-a-day program last September.

Using Habitat Philadelphia’s small, monthly garage-sale ReStore on 19th and Berks streets as a model to improve upon, the students conducted industry and market analyses and developed strategic positioning and value propositions under the guidance of faculty, outside experts and Habitat representatives from three regional ReStores.

“Fox saying ‘this will work’ opened up the doors for the start-up funding,” said Corinne O’Connell, director of development at Habitat for Philadelphia.

The ReStore project received $75,000 from the William Penn Foundation, which recognized the legitimacy of Fox’s business plan that demonstrated a need for the project, O’Connell said.

A recent soft opening set records, with more than $3,000 worth of items sold to local contractors and other customers. The store is located inside the remodeled Lomax Carpet Building at 2930 Jasper St.

Designed like an IKEA meets Lowes, the ReStore offers appliances, doors, windows and cabinets, along with a vast selection of home goods, including dining room table sets, chairs and coffee tables.

“The potential of the ReStore is tremendous,” said O’Connell. “It’s a win-win for everyone, in that the person donating a hutch gets a tax write-off, the person who is buying the hutch gets to buy it at a reduced rate and then those dollars build more houses and that product doesn’t go into the landfill.”

In alignment with Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter’s initiative to make the city one of the nation’s greenest by 2015, the Philadelphia ReStore has already salvaged an estimated 70 tons of items from area landfills.

Intergenerational Center receives first Eisner Prize

Temple’s Intergenerational Center recently became the first recipient of the Eisner Prize for Intergenerational Excellence, a $100,000 award given to an organization that has had lasting success in uniting seniors and youth to bring about positive changes within the community.

Headed by former Disney CEO Michael Eisner, the Eisner Foundation began giving out the award this year “to identify and reward those individuals and organizations in this nation that have utilized children and seniors as assets” in creating changes within the community.

Under the leadership of director Nancy Henkin for more than 32 years, the center has achieved great success with its programs. Just this summer, Project SHINE, a program that connects student volunteers with older immigrants to help them learn English and become engaged in the community, received the national E Pluribus Unum Award, which recognizes outstanding immigrant integration initiatives.

In addition, Temple’s Time Out Respite Program, which recruits and trains students to provide in-home support for families caring for frail elders, received a grant from Phillies Charities, Inc. for its overall dedication to making a positive impact on the community.

“The Eisner Prize has raised awareness about the importance of bringing generations together to strengthen communities,” said Henkin. In these challenging times, we have to build upon the strengths of all generations to make communities good places for growing up and growing older.”

Close up Samuel E.J. Sims

Temple University has long been a proud supporter of community college students who wish to continue their studies at a four-year institution.

Samuel E.J. Sims, a Business Management major, chose to complete his bachelor’s degree at Temple after transferring from Community College of Philadelphia, where he had graduated with honors.

The North Philadelphia student is no stranger to the university. He grew up in a neighborhood adjacent to Temple’s Main Campus, and his family has partnered with the university for several years on a number of projects through the Office of Community Relations.

“I have always wanted to become a member of the Temple family,” noted Sims. “I chose to obtain a degree at Temple’s Fox School of Business because of its excellent reputation and the prestige that is synonymous with its name. I have lived in the Temple community my entire life. I’m excited to be part of the synergy that exists between the university and its surrounding neighborhoods.”

Nancy Henkin (middle, with Michael Eisner and his wife Jane Breckenridge), recently accepted the first ever Eisner Prize for Intergenerational Excellence, from the Eisner Foundation.
Fred “Ali” Snead

Fred Snead is a self-described man of many hats. He’s a father, an employee in Temple’s Office of Facilities Management for nearly two decades, a community activist and president of both the Francisville Neighborhood Civic Association and the Philadelphia Association of Former Gang Members and Friends.

After overcoming a troubled youth, Snead has turned his life around and made it his mission to ensure that the young people of Philadelphia do not make the same mistakes he made.

“I see the need to help the community, because when I was a child no one emphasized education, and too many good people made bad choices,” said Snead.

Snead has used his position at Temple to bring educational opportunities to the community and the community to campus. He’s organized a tutoring program with university honors students, recruited university administrators to participate in community events like the Miss Francisville Pageant, and has helped community members prepare for the workforce.

“Temple University is a body of knowledge — why not bring that knowledge to the community? I couldn’t ask for a better partner than Temple,” said Snead.

Temple alumni continue to serve after graduation

The commitment of Temple students to North Philadelphia is well known and well documented. Each year, students volunteer in area schools, soup kitchens and after school programs. They clean up parks, mentor schoolchildren and, along with the rest of the Temple community, donate more than 65,000 hours of community service.

What is often less well known is that that dedication to service stays with Temple students. Many members of the Temple alumni community continue to partner with the North Philadelphia community to improve lives long after they graduate.

The Temple University Black Alumni Association (TUBAA) is one such example. The group continues to work in the neighborhoods surrounding Temple’s Main Campus, focusing their energies on community education.

“As a board, our mission is to not only support Temple, but to also support future generations of Temple students living just blocks off campus,” said Tiffany Wilson, president of TUBAA, who completed her undergraduate studies at Temple in 2001 and her master’s in Public Health in 2003. “We know many members of TUBAA would not be where we are without the support of others, so we’ve devoted ourselves to paying the community back.”

Each year, TUBAA collects children’s books for Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School, located just off Main Campus, and for the annual Campus Safety Holiday Party. TUBAA has also volunteered at Dunbar through the university’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day programming, updating the schools interior by painting a mural and radiators. TUBAA’s board plans to expand their relationship with the school in the years to come through new partnerships with Temple’s College of Education and Office of Sustainability.

“Our members are of a service mindset,” said Wilson. “We’re involved in service in our communities, and we are motivated to help Temple and its neighbors.”
Temple reaches out to community hardest hit by HIV

In Philadelphia, rates of HIV infection are about five times higher than the national average, according to the city’s Department of Public Health. The areas around Temple have a particularly high prevalence of HIV patients in treatment.

Temple’s Comprehensive HIV Program participates in a variety of events and activities designed to test as many community members as possible, and to let them know there’s no stigma around getting tested.

"Many people think HIV is still a gay disease, but this is a disease that anyone having unprotected sex can get," said Princess Graham, program coordinator.

On National HIV Testing Day, health professionals and vendors from across the city gathered at Temple’s Student Faculty Center at the Health Sciences Center to offer information and education on health and well being and to give free HIV screenings.

“This is just one part of what we do,” said Graham. “We participate in health fairs all over the city, year round.”

The university also offers free community screening events for World AIDS Day, a global effort to remind people that HIV has not gone away.

New program mobilizes outreach workers to help reduce gun violence

CeaseFire, a nationwide, evidence-based violence intervention program that has been proven to decrease instances of gun violence in urban areas, has recently been rolled out at Temple’s School of Medicine.

Originally implemented in Chicago, the program blends statistical information and the knowledge and experience of community members to focus efforts on areas and individuals most at-risk for gun violence. In 2008, the Department of Justice issued a report on CeaseFire’s effectiveness and found a reduction of up to 73 percent in the number of shootings and killings in areas of Chicago where CeaseFire was implemented.

Philadelphia CeaseFire, based at the medical school’s Center for Bioethics, Urban Health and Policy, seeks to reduce the number of homicides and shootings in North Philadelphia using five core components: community outreach, community mobilization, public education, faith-based involvement and criminal justice participation.

Integral to the program’s success is the involvement of a team consisting of an outreach coordinator and ex-offenders serving as outreach workers, who use their built-in credibility to act as mentors to youths in the targeted demographic—14-25 years old. The workers meet with at-risk youth, coaching them on how to get out of a lifestyle that often ends with gun violence.

The outreach workers canvass the streets of the police service area (PSA) 2 in the 22nd district, to try to identify individuals between the ages of 14-25 who are involved in high-risk street activity and are interested in turning their lives around. The workers serve as advocates for their clients, contacting them on a regular basis and helping to redirect them to positive alternatives such as employment, job training and education. Outreach worker Brandon Jones offers his life experience as a cautionary tale.

“I tell them I know where they’ve been,” he said, “I say, ‘I’m not here to tell you right from wrong, you already know that. The question is, do you want to die, or do you want to live?’ A lot of the time, the young people involved in this lifestyle have been conditioned to this poisonous behavior, so we’re out here, trying to change and renew mindsets.”

Joseph v. Labolito

Ryan S. Brandenberg

7
Freshmen start college with community service

For the fifth year in a row, the university’s incoming freshmen were introduced to Temple, its neighbors and community service through FreshServe, Temple’s annual day of service which brings Temple volunteers into Philadelphia neighborhoods to clean, paint and plant alongside neighbors and community leaders.

This year, more than 420 students took part in community service at 27 sites throughout North Philadelphia, the vast majority of which were less than one mile from Main Campus. Service locations included area schools and recreation centers, where volunteers painted, sorted books and swept floors to help prepare classrooms and facilities for the upcoming school year. Some groups worked directly with local children, reading them stories, while others went to local churches and non-profits to help with general upkeep.

Groups of students at each site were led by volunteer student leaders who are dedicated to supporting the community. These leaders came from a number of campus organizations including Temple Student Government and the Main Campus Program Board.

Members of the class of 2015 reported that the day was not only fun, but was also a great chance to see North Philadelphia and get to know the community they’ll be part of while at Temple. Residents from various neighborhoods stopped by to meet and thank these new Owls.

In order to maintain the service mentality, each student was provided with information on how they can remain involved in service. Each year FreshServe is a component of Temple’s Welcome Week, held to introduce new students to life at Temple. Freshmen explored the campus and the city, learned about Temple’s academic and social programs, took in free entertainment and bonded over free food and fun activities.