Gateways highlights Temple University’s ongoing commitment to the communities surrounding its campuses and across Pennsylvania. Through innovative partnerships with community groups and civic leaders, Temple helps to strengthen the fabric of its neighborhoods, provide care to the underserved and create access to educational opportunity for people of all walks of life. Through its service projects, economic development initiatives, health and wellness programs and educational outreach, the university strives to have a positive impact on the health and well-being of its neighbors. If you have any questions regarding the programs covered in this issue of Gateways, please contact us:

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Temple grad establishes Boy Scouts programs for North Philadelphia kids

Growing up in the West Kensington section of North Philadelphia, Darryl Irizarry had little access to organized youth programs that build leadership and character. He spent most of his time playing on neighborhood sidewalks, where basketball and other street games are common pastimes.

Now, as a recent graduate of Temple’s Fox School of Business, he is teaching those principles to kids in the same situation through his work with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

As a boy, Irizzary was always interested in scouting, but there weren’t any nearby opportunities to get involved.

“It just wasn’t a part of our culture, and it was never available to me when I was growing up,” he said. “The only time I saw anything about the Boy Scouts was on television. I know now how important these programs can be for young men growing up without a lot of outlets.”

As the BSA’s scout research director, Irizarry is always interested in scouting, but there weren’t any nearby opportunities to get involved.

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“I basically watched them grow up. They learned to work through their conflicts together, develop leadership qualities and learn to be better citizens of their communities,” he said. “The earlier you start exposing children to character development, conflict resolution and basic life skills, the less likely they are to make decisions that will negatively impact their futures.”

For inner-city kids, participating in the Boy Scouts is about much more than learning to survive on an overnight camping trip, says Irizarry, who, at 26, went on his first camping trip just last year. He cites City of Philadelphia studies that show that 5,385 young men ages 17 or younger were charged with a crime last year.

“If you are a young man living in Philadelphia today, you are more likely to be arrested for a crime than you are to be a Boy Scout,” he said. There are a total of five chapters in North Philadelphia, and interest is continuing to grow. In addition to the Philadelphia chapters, Irizarry is establishing programs that will serve more than 3,000 young men in nearby cities.

“I knew I wanted to bring something back to the type of communities I grew up in,” said Irizarry.

Students involved in one of the only Boys Scout chapters in North Philadelphia prepare for an afterschool training session. Headquartered at the W.D. Kelly School, the program was created by Temple alumnus Darryl Irizarry.
Close up

Mayor appoints Fox grad executive director of Youth Commission

Jamita Burley, who overcame a tough city upbringing and the violent death of a sibling to achieve success as a Temple undergraduate, has been appointed executive director of the Philadelphia Youth Commission by Mayor Michael A. Nutter.

In her new role, the May 2012 Fox School of Business graduate will work with a diverse panel of 21 young Philadelphians between the ages of 12 and 23. Appointed by the mayor and City Council, the commission offers resources and advice on legislation and policies that affect youth and young adults. Burley has served as the commission’s chairperson while pursuing her studies at Temple.

Formerly a national coordinator at the National Peace Alliance and Student Peace Alliance, Burley helped to implement youth violence prevention and intervention programming. She also serves as a board member of the Daily News People’s Editorial Board, as a fellow for the Center for Progressive Leadership and Young People, and as the governor’s appointee for the Commission on Children and Families.

Burley plans to work to bridge the generation gap between young people and adults by engaging them in a conversation about the future and how the lives of the city’s young people can be improved.

“I am looking forward to collaborating with the diverse groups throughout Philadelphia who work every day to improve the lives of the young people who live, work and attend school in our city,” said Burley.
"We really want to make a strong connection and commitment to the community to not only offer them opportunities for employment with companies that are hiring, but to build their social capital by making them network with those employers," said Jordan.

Attendees at the session noted the toll unemployment can take on financial security—thus to mention emotional well-being.

"I was working 11 straight years before being laid off," said Carl Green. "It changes everything, even just getting up in the morning." That's why strengthening your network at events like Temple's is imperative in a job search, Green said. But he had other advice for job seekers, as well.

"Just keep positive," he said. "Something will open up. Not always what you want, but something will open up to get you to the point where you want to get to."

The event was hosted by Temple's Human Resources Office, in collaboration with the Office of Community Relations.

"Finish what you started." "When I came to Temple, I kind of hit the ground running," she said. "The Hoot." When asked to identify her personal motto, and it says a lot about the journey ahead to reach her goals, "Owl Sports" and to work as supervisor and producer of the Temple talk show, "Helping in the Naturalization of Elders)." Project SHINE is a nonprofit based at Temple's Intergenerational Center that operates on 19 campuses in nine states. Started in 1988, it has trained nearly 10,000 college students to provide English, civics and literacy knowledge to older immigrants. More than 40,000 immigrants have been helped so far.

Lehman believes it's imperative that America integrate its immigrants into society in order to excel politically, economically and socially.

"By raising the profile of this issue and calling for a national conversation on immigration reform, the White House recognizes that the best ideas that result in real change come from the American people," Lehman said. "By leveraging every asset and every talent in our communities, we can win the future."
**Close up**

**Theater professor explores the history of poetry in Philadelphia**

Kimimika Williams-Witthorst has always understood the power of the spoken word. She became an avid reader at a young age, and grew up listening to her mother recite poetry while working around the house.

This year, she developed a new class called "Poetic Ethnography," which allowed students to research, write and stage "choreopoems" set in and about the communities surrounding Temple.

Throughout the semester, students traveled working around the house. Their final project, close up poetry in Philadelphia, became an avid reader at a young age, and grew up listening to her mother recite poetry while working around the house.

"Family literacy is promoting the concept that the whole family can learn and work together on their education," said Ulrica Lawrence, program coordinator of the Workforce Education and Lifelong Learning Program for Temple's CISPED. "With the grant, we're now able to work on the concepts of preparing for a post-secondary education through awareness, exploration and exposure."

Students can participate in courses at Temple, including "Institutional Racism," offered by the College of Health Professions and Social Work, and "Kids, Community and Controversy in American Schools," offered by Temple's College of Education.

**Literacy program gives families a pathway to education**

A new initiative from Temple's Center for Social Policy and Community Development (CISPED) is designed to give families an opportunity to work together to advance their education.

The program, called "Making the Dream of College Come True," includes literacy classes held over 12 weeks on the Community College of Philadelphia campus.

"People who live in the community around Temple University may feel they cannot afford to attend college," said Lawrence. "Through our workshops, they will receive financial literacy to assist them with making decisions about education."

By the end of the program, Lawrence said, participants will have a realistic view of what would happen if they moved on in higher education. She expects each family group to be able to articulate their next steps in pursuing a college degree or attending a vocational school.

"Close up community literacy program gives families a pathway to education"

**UCCP program earns Philly IMPACT award**

POPPYN and the University Community Collaborative of Philadelphia (UCCP) at Temple were recently honored with the second annual PhillyCAM IMPACT Award from Philadelphia Community Access Media. Produced by students from Temple, the Community College of Philadelphia and local high schools, POPPYN is a youth-oriented TV show that offers perspectives on youth often missing from the mainstream media.

The award acknowledges programs that inspire Philadelphians to improve the quality of their communities.

**Harvard doctor appointed surgery chair at Temple Health**

Dr. Selwyn O. Rogers has been named professor and chair of the Department of Surgery at Temple University School of Medicine, and surgeon-in-chief of Temple University Health System.

Rogers previously served as associate professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School and chief of the division of Trauma, Burn and Surgical Critical Care at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital, in Boston, Massachusetts.

In his new role, Rogers will lead the Department of Surgery’s efforts to enhance the quality of patient care and work to expand existing surgical programs.

"Dr. Rogers’ demonstrated strengths as an academic surgeon, educator, mentor, researcher, administrator and innovator in community service all contribute to his unique ability to direct the future growth of the Department of Surgery," said Larry R. Kaiser, CEO of Temple University Health System. "His outstanding ability to initiate efforts to improve access to care and outcomes, to enhance faculty development and to match the educational experience for students and residents will be instrumental in our efforts to make Temple Health a leader in meeting the challenges of healthcare today and in the future.”

"Close up Harvard doctor appointed surgery chair at Temple Health"
PASCEP program offers opportunities for community growth

PASCEP, the Pan African Studies Community Education Program at Temple, provides affordable continuing education services to the local community.

Founded in 1975 by the late Annie D. Hyman, a Temple alumna, PASCEP has maintained its mission of “developing skill to meet demand,” said program director Willie Rogers.

“When it comes down to it, our success and longevity comes from our willingness to give back to the community,” said Rogers. “You have to have that human touch.”

That approach has yielded significant results. In the past year, more than 500 people registered for at least one of PASCEP’s 70 course offerings, all of which are taught by volunteer Temple faculty or community members who want to share their knowledge and experience with their neighbors.

Participants can choose from courses covering everything from African hair braiding, to Hebrew 101, to workshops on starting your own non-profit organization.

The program is founded on providing opportunities for surrounding communities, positioning Temple as a gateway for mainstream educational and business opportunities.

Among the program’s more popular courses are “Housing Rehabilitation,” which provides an overview of basic home repair techniques, and “Line Dancing,” in which participants learn dance steps and styles from one of Philadelphia’s top dance instructors.

At the same time, the PASCEP program serves as an avenue for local residents to complete their education by taking introductory GED preparation classes.

Rogers himself has witnessed many complete their education and move on to lead rich and rewarding lives.

Perhaps PASCEP’s greatest benefit is expressed in the philosophy that has guided its growth: “Teach others, so they can carry it on.”