Jefferson Students Teach Underserved Children to Read

Few would disagree that studying and training to be a doctor or other health professional is one very tough job. Let’s face it: many of us couldn’t do it.

That’s what makes so remarkable the feat of an extraordinarily committed dozen students from Jefferson Medical College (JMC) and the Jefferson College of Health Professions (JCHP).

Every Monday evening for the past academic year, members of the group broke from their studies to spend time teaching young underprivileged children at a North Philadelphia homeless shelter how to read.

Why?

“We saw the need when some of us went to the shelter to give the kids some recreational time when their mothers attended Jefferson’s Health Clinic,” explains Amy Zalcmann, JMC ’02.

Focused yet unassuming, Ms. Zalcmann was the only student reading to children during the academic year 2000-2001. Gradually, other JMC and JCHP students joined, making about a dozen for 2001-2002.

The program complies with Federal guidelines for work-study funding.

Every Monday evening, several students traveled to Acts of the Apostles Church at 28th and Master streets to teach children from 2 to 15 in the church basement, site of a homeless shelter for about 160 women, men and children who stay about nine months.

Next year, Joshua Pahys, JMC ’04, and Pete Vande Kappelle, JMC ’03, will lead the program, called JEFF-OPE for Kids, part of JEFF-HOPE, the volunteer organization students founded a decade ago to provide medical care to the underserved in Philadelphia.

Ms. Zalcmann modestly admits: “I started the program, but Josh and Pete grew it.”

O n a typical Monday, the Jefferson students spent some time in games with the children, then gradually peeled off in small groups or pairs for reading or word drills. With Ms. Zalcmann and Mr. Pahys, twins Laurie Miller, JMC ‘04, Caroline Weston, JMC ‘04, Christie Bialowski, JMC ’05, and Stephanie Miller, JCHP ’03 performed physical therapy.

University Honoring James Bagian, MD, Class of 1977, at 178th Commencement

Jefferson’s 178th Annual Commencement will be at 10:30 a.m., Friday, June 7, at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. University President Paul C. Brucker, MD, will deliver the Convocation and confer all degrees. Thomas J. Nasca, MD, FACP, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), will present Doctor of Medicine degrees to 221 JMC students.

James S. Studdiford, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, will administer the Oath of Hippocrates.

JuJe S. Saukkonen, MD, Vice President for Science Policy, Technology Development, and International Affairs and Dean, Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS), will present 23 Doctor of Philosophy degrees and 179 Master of Science degrees to JCGS students.

Douglas J. McMooser Jr., Esq., Chairman, Jefferson’s Board of Trustees, will deliver the O’Pening Proclamation and Rabbi Ira F. Stone the Invocation and Benediction.

R. Anthony Carabasi III, MD, Professor of Surgery, will be Grand Marshal.

The University will award an honorary Doctor of Science degree to James P. Bagian, MD, JMC Class of 1977.

Meet Jefferson’s Famous Guests...

Celebrated Portraits Arrive at Eakins Gallery From New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art

P aper is on loan there for the exhibition Thomas Eakins, American Realist announced University Art Historian June S. Biekowsky. The portraits are by Eakins’ contemporaries, John Singer Sargent and James Abbott McNeill Whistler.

On Friday June 7, from 3 to 5 p.m., a special opening in the Eakins Gallery will introduce Sargent’s “Madame X” and “William Merritt Chase” and Whistler’s “Arrangement in Flesh Colour and Black: Portrait of Theodore Duret,” shown at left, to the entire Jefferson community.

See additional text on Page 2.
Ruth N. Cooper Estate Gift Creates JMC Scholarship Fund

Thomas Jefferson University has received a major gift from the estate of Ruth N. Cooper to support scholarship aid to students at Jefferson Medical College. During her lifetime, Ms. Cooper appreciated the dedication of her physicians, Leonard S. Davitch, MD, JMC ’43, Honorary Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, and David L. Fassin, MD, JMC ’94, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Associate Dean for Affiliations at Jefferson Medical College (JMC). She also recognized the importance of the education that prepared physicians for their profession.

Following her death in 2003, Ms. Cooper’s estate provided $1.5 million (with additional funds anticipated) to create the Ruth N. Cooper Scholarship Fund at JMC, and also bequeathed $5,000 to the Division of Internal Medicine in honor of Dr. Davitch.

“Tuition fees cover only part of the actual costs of medical education, and our students and their families often have desperate resources,” said Susan Batchelder, University Director of Financial Aid. “Private scholarships established by friends such as Ms. Cooper are vital to our financial aid program, and enable new generations of students to benefit from the excellence of a Jefferson education. We are very grateful for her kind generosity.”

Ms. Cooper, one of five children of the late Jerome and Sally Eakins Cooper, is survived by her daughters, Salie Blumen and Joan Salt, and her brother, Norton Cooper. The Ruth N. Cooper Scholarship is the second award at Jefferson that honors a member of the Cooper family. The Jerome J. Cooper Scholarship was established in memory of Ms. Cooper’s other brother by their mother, Elsie, and Jerome Cooper’s widow, Dophilene Cooper Chomitz.

Visit the Jefferson Development Office website at www.tju.edu/jeffdev
To Supply Clean Water to Health Clinic in Kenya
Jefferson International Students Raise $5,000

Mr. Pahys echoed this experience. "Most persons with Alzheimer's disease are often cared for at home by family members," said Dr. Baltzell. "At the end, both tutors and pupils reluctantly turn to the task of cleaning up. Ms. Zalcmann tells the children, 'We gotta go and do our own reading.'"

Congratuations, Students!

Jefferson International Students Raise $5,000 To Supply Clean Water to Health Clinic in Kenya

In the first event of its kind, the Jefferson Chapter of the International Federation of Medical Students Associations-USA (IFMSA-USA) held a "charity bash" to raise funds to supply clean water to a health clinic in Kenya. More than 400 people attended the event featuring dance music of more than a dozen nations or cultures. The event itself raised $4,000, with the Jefferson Medical College Alumni Association contributing an additional $1,000, said KHan-Ha Nguyen, President, Jefferson Chapter of the IFMSA-USA. A similar event is planned for next year, with the charity to be determined.

The Kenya project was chosen as the first Village Concept Project (VCP) proposed by IFMSA-USA headquarters of IFMSA-USA. A similar event is planned for next year, with the charity to be determined. The Kenya project was chosen as the first Village Concept Project (VCP) proposed by IFMSA-USA headquarters of IFMSA-USA. Because it shows "the powerful impact of medical students and their ability to apply innovative ideas," said Ms. Nguyen. Completely designed by medical students, VCPs require active international collaborative participation in planning, establishing and building each site. Jefferson is national site headquarters of IFMSA-USA.

NIA Awards $1.2 Million Grant to Jefferson's CHORD For Alzheimer's Caregiver Research

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has awarded a three-year research grant of $1,215,000 to Thomas Jefferson University's Community and Homecare Research Division (CHORD). The funding will allow testing of a home-based intervention designed to help families cope with the multiple consequences of caregiving. The goal is to reduce the risk factors associated with being a caregiver, including depression.

The study's Principal Investigator and the Director of CHORD, "Older persons with Alzheimer's disease are cared for at home by a family member. Family caregivers often become the hidden patients who experience extreme emotional and physical stress," said Mr. Zalcmann. Jefferson is one of six sites funded by NIA as part of the multi-site study, Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregivers' Health (REACH). Established in 1996 by the Jefferson College of Health Professions, CHORD serves as a focal point for applied research involving the development and testing of innovative community and home-based health and human services for individuals with chronic or disabling conditions, specifically, the elderly and their caregivers.

JMC Minority Students Receive National Recognition for Excellence

The Jefferson Medical College (JMC) Chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) has received the "Region VIII Chapter of the Year" award. JMC has received this award for four consecutive years, said James E. Bethke, President of the SNMA at JMC. In accepting the portrait for the Board of Trustees.

JMC students elected SNMA officers for 2002-03 were: Kara Black, National President-Elect; Kelli Gordon, JMC '04, Region VIII Treasurer; William Borde-Perry, Region VIII Parliamentarian; and Katarya Perry (JMC '05, Region VIII Recording Secretary).

The largest and oldest organization managed by minority students, the SNMA focuses on the needs of minority medical students and addresses health disparities within underserved and minority communities.
BROWN BAG LUNCHES

• Education and career planning, one-time phone support group, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 4130 Gibbon, Wednesday, June 11.
• Family support group, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 4130 Gibbon, Wednesday, June 11.
• Caregiver support/education, one-time phone call, 2 blocks from Jefferson campus, private deck and separate garage, etc., $475,000.

CLASSIFIED

 Classified ads are accepted Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Deadline for classifieds is Tuesday at 3 p.m. Classifieds may be faxed to 215-923-1835 and/or call 5-6479. Telephone numbers do not appear in the classifieds. All classifieds must include: name, phone number, and area code for home number. (Please do not send personal checks. All classifieds are free with a Jefferson extension number.) 

June 1

For sale: Kitchen/dinette set, attractive corner suite, 78,000 original miles, automatic transmission, air conditioning, power windows, etc., $2,500. For sale: 1995 Subaru Legacy L. Wagon, 59,000 miles, all wheel drive, air condition, power windows, power steering, power brakes, sunroof, 105,000 miles, $4,500. Please include your Jefferson extension number.

For rent: 5101 S. 9th St., full-time or part-time, 505. Please include your Jefferson extension number.

June 3

For sale: 1988 Honda Accord, 85,000 miles, $1,700. For sale: 1996 Subaru Legacy, 87,000 miles, $2,500. Please include your Jefferson extension number.

June 4

For sale: 74 Eagle Rd., 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, $350 a month plus utilities (usually around $80).

June 6

For sale: 19809 Westgate Villas Timeshare (30 days), 2 bedroom, 2 bath, sleeps 6, rent weekdays, week ends, summer and off-season.

June 7

For sale: 19816 18th St., 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, all wheel drive, air condition, power windows, etc., $1,350.

June 9

For sale: 19821 Parker Rd., 3-bedroom, 1 bath, $450 a month plus utilities (usually around $80).

June 10

For sale: 19862 Bruce Ave., 3-bedroom, 2 bath, $500 a month plus utilities (usually around $80).

June 11

For sale: 19835 Sandy Rd., 3-bed, 2 bath, $525 a month plus utilities (usually around $80).

June 13

For sale: 19845 36th St., 3 bedroom, 2 bath, $550 a month plus utilities (usually around $80).

June 14

Apartment for rent: Center City, 3 bedrooms, er/dryer in unit, great landlord, $680 a month plus utilities.

June 21

For sale: 19855 34th St., 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 15 swimming pools, surrounding villas, bar and amenities included, jacuzzi, free daily maid service, large den, separate dining room, huge fireplace, 2,700 sq. ft., 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room, bedroom, 2 large closets, 2 walk-in closets, 2 bathrooms, separate tub, 2nd floor washer, dryer, security system, basement and attic storage, etc., $426,500

June 24

For sale: 19871 33rd St., 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, $475 a month plus utilities (usually around $80).

June 26

For sale: 19859 33rd St., 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, $475,000.

June 27

For sale: 19879 32nd St., 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, $495,000.

June 29

For sale: 19887 31st St., 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, $500 a month plus utilities (usually around $80).

June 30

For sale: 19893 30th St., 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, $500 a month plus utilities (usually around $80).

June 1

Moving-out sale: 19809 Westgate Villas Timeshare (30 days), 2 bedroom, 2 bath, sleeps 6, rent weekdays, week ends, summer and off-season.

June 2

Moving-out sale: 19816 18th St., 2 bedroom, 2 bath, sleeps 6, rent weekdays, week ends, summer and off-season.

June 4

Moving-out sale: 19821 Parker Rd., 3 bed, 2 bath, sleeps 6, rent weekdays, week ends, summer and off-season.

June 6

Moving-out sale: 19835 Sandy Rd., 3 bed, 2 bath, sleeps 6, rent weekdays, week ends, summer and off-season.

June 8

Moving-out sale: 19862 Bruce Ave., 3 bedroom, 2 bath, sleeps 6, rent weekdays, week ends, summer and off-season.

June 10

Moving-out sale: 19871 33rd St., 2 bedroom, 2 bath, sleeps 6, rent weekdays, week ends, summer and off-season.

June 12

Moving-out sale: 19873 33rd St., 2 bedroom, 2 bath, sleeps 6, rent weekdays, week ends, summer and off-season.

June 14

Moving-out sale: 19875 32nd St., 2 bedroom, 2 bath, sleeps 6, rent weekdays, week ends, summer and off-season.