

Making medical discoveries

by Avery Bumsted

Drawn in by the vast array of extracurricular activities and the dynamic academic environment, Reza Abdavies knew the College of Science and Technology was where he could thrive. His decision was solidified after touring the campus and feeling an immediate connection to the community and its offerings.

A pivotal moment in Abdavies' academic journey at Temple was his immersion in parasitology. The course emphasizes the identification, pathology and control of significant medical parasites, complemented by hands-on laboratory experience. Through his journey in the course, Abdavies found his perspective on medical research especially broadened.

Abdavies' ambition and curiosity led him to the Lankenau Institute for Medical Research,

where he delved into the effects of essential micronutrients and their effects on the epithelial barrier function. This significant internship experience not only resulted in a co-authored publication, but also solidified his passion for research, setting a firm foundation for his future career in medical research at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Abdavies is now a clinical research assistant there.

One of Abdavies' most fulfilling experiences was serving as a peer leader in CST. In this role, he helped incoming students navigate the transition to college life, empowering them in their personal growth and development. This position highlighted his own growth as an undergraduate and emphasized the impact of Temple's community-oriented education.

"Make sure you are taking the time to step outside of your comfort zone and try new things from joining organizations to taking a random class that seems interesting to you," said Abdavies. "Remember to have fun along the way."



PHOTO: BETSY MANNING



Grace Hodges, CST '24

Hands on invasive species research

by James Duffy

Grace Hodges studied the spotted lanternfly in depth with the Temple Ambler Field Station supported by a Temple University Creative Arts, Research and Scholarship (CARAS) Program grant.

She worked with Brent Sewall, associate professor of biology, on the Field Station's ongoing spotted lanternfly project. "I was awarded funding and I became a Field Station Research Intern," said Hodges, who majored in ecology, evolution and biodiversity. "I had access to the professional development and the feedback that all of the interns receive while also conducting my own research."

According to Hodges, her interest in nature and the world around her came at an early age. "I

grew up really enjoying nature and being very curious about it; how diverse it was and why things were the way they were," said Hodges.

"Temple Ambler has been a wonderful resource for me," she said. "I get a lot of practice within field observation and data collection skills, which are very important. I will likely continue to be either a field technician or possibly pursue a graduate degree. Having that experience and those skills is essential for being able to move forward with my career."

While at Temple, Hodges worked with the Undergraduate Research Peer Mentor Program, helping students just beginning to experience research.

"Through the program," she said, "I have the opportunity to give other students some guidance and help them determine what interests they would like to pursue at Temple."

Seeing the forest for the trees

by James Duffy

The natural world always fascinated Ian Stonefield, but finding his career within it took a little trial and error.

“Growing up, I really thought I wanted to be a veterinarian,” said Stonefield, who majored in ecology, evolution and biodiversity. “I started out as a biology major but I felt a pull toward the ecology aspects of the field.”

Stonefield’s first personal Temple Ambler Field Station project focused on the non-native species of woody trees and shrubs in the Temple Forest Observatory after the tornado that struck campus in 2021 and comparing that to data from before the disturbance to see how those non-native species fared through the tornado.

“There is a huge benefit to working with the Field Station in that you’re really exposed to a lot of post-doctorate and post-graduate students and getting their experience and help,” he said.

According to Stonefield, the accomplishments he is most proud of during his time at Temple “are the research presentations I’ve given.”

“I’ve been fortunate to give poster presentations along with oral presentations at Temple Ambler, Main Campus and beyond at conferences,” he said. “Being able to express what I do in my research in these formats has really improved my communication skills and improved my ability to interact with people and answer questions.”

Currently working as a Field Station research technician, Stonefield is exploring graduate school options. “I think Temple Ambler for me throughout my whole time at Temple has provided almost a breath of fresh air,” he said.



Ian Stonefield, CST '24

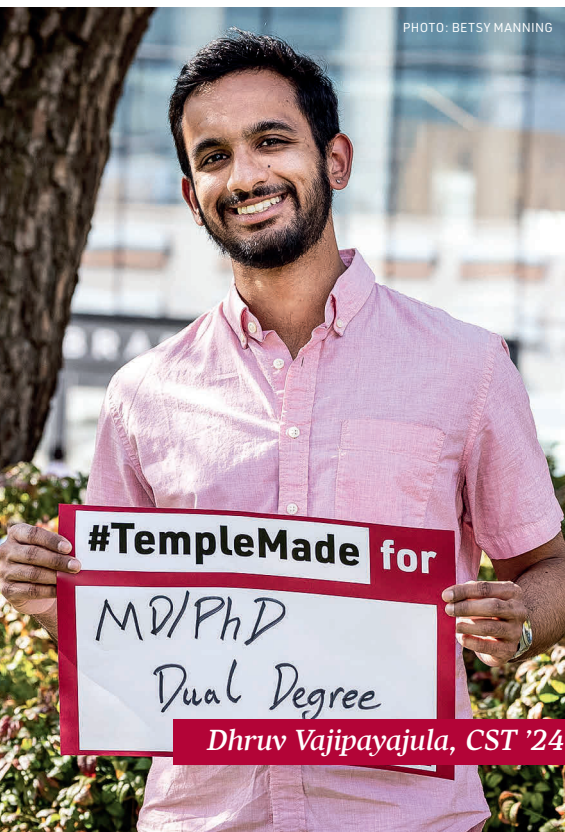


PHOTO: BETSY MANNING

Dhruv Vajipayajula, CST '24

Temple Made for research and clinical practice

by Brent Baum

Dhruv Vajipayajula has always had an interest in public service and a desire to help others. This ultimately helped him earn a merit scholarship to attend Temple to pursue a degree in neuroscience.

“Temple’s combination of social and educational opportunities and its many accessible resources allowed me to learn a lot and enjoy my college experience,” said Vajipayajula. “The professors at Temple are amazing and I have made some incredible friends.”

Vajipayajula spent considerable time undertaking undergraduate research projects, inspiring him to apply to MD/PhD programs. “The study of medicine marks the intersection

of solving problems and helping people, which is something I’m passionate about,” he said.

As part of his research work, Vajipayajula investigated causes of platelet activation in cardiovascular disease. “The professors at Temple presented many opportunities for research and our lab looked at a particular signaling protein called spleen tyrosine kinase (SYK) where we found certain molecular sites on the protein that drastically affect how platelets behave in different systems,” said Vajipayajula.

In the summer of 2023, Vajipayajula was part of an eight-week program held at Thomas Jefferson Hospital where he shadowed physicians from each department. “I came out of that experience realizing that working in academic medicine is exactly what I want to do,” he said.

Vajipayajula was accepted into the MD/PhD medical scientist training program at Tufts University, where he will continue to pursue a career in research and clinical practice.



PHOTO: RYAN S. BRANDENBERG

Lynne Doherty, CST '95, named to Gallery of Success

A leader in sales organizations and a driver of positive business outcomes for customers for more than 20 years, Lynne Doherty has been named to Temple University's Gallery of Success. A collaboration of Temple's Office of Alumni Relations and the Career Center, the honor recognizes outstanding alumni for their inspiring success.

Doherty was recently named president of field operations at SonarSource, responsible for driving revenue and ensuring that customers are successful in their pursuit of clean code. At Sumo Logic, she served as president of worldwide field operations, responsible for global sales and customer success teams. She sits on the Board of Directors for CloudBees and the American Red Cross National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region.

Prior to Sumo Logic, Doherty was the executive vice president of global sales and marketing at McAfee, responsible for their enterprise sales and marketing teams. In her time at McAfee, she led them through their initial public offering, sale of the enterprise business, spin-out as a new company and acquisition of FireEye Products. Before McAfee, Doherty spent 15 years at Cisco in various leadership roles, most recently as senior vice president of U.S. commercial sales, Cisco's largest single-market sales organization.

At CST, Doherty majored in computer science and mathematics. She established a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to support a CST student who is a graduate of a public school in the School District of Philadelphia.

BE A MENTOR. Learn more and complete the Owl to Owl Mentor Program application at cst.temple.edu/owl.

MESSAGE FROM THE CST Alumni Board

I'm an Owl to Owl mentor and I want you to be an Owl to Owl mentor, too.



Think about the impact a mentor—a boss, a professor, a colleague—has had on your life and career. Think about how their experience helped you set a goal or make a tough decision.

Think about the person you turn to for work advice. The person you lean on when you lean in. The person who sometimes understands you more than you understand yourself.

Think about it. Now that's the impact a mentor can have on a young person's life.

At CST, the Owl to Owl Mentor Program connects CST students with successful Temple alumni. Whether your career is in medicine, biotech, geology or data science, whether you are a teacher, entrepreneur or CEO, we will match you with a student with a similar major and career interests.

The time commitment is minimal, requiring just a few meetings over two semesters, but the impact you make on a student's education and career can last a lifetime. Mentors help students think about what they want to achieve in life and map out strategies for achieving their dreams.

Being an Owl to Owl mentor is one of the most impactful ways for Temple alumni to give back to the university. For me, being a mentor is also so much fun. You can make a real difference in a student's life and help us build a stronger alumni community that supports the College of Science and Technology.

Sincerely,

Michael Remaker, CST '06
CST Alumni Board President