



PHOTO: RYAN S. BRANDENBERG

Nisarg Patel, CST '23 Temple Made for Temple Med

BY BRENT BAUM

First-year medical student at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine, biochemistry major Nisarg Patel credits one of his Temple professors for getting him one step closer to becoming a physician.

Why Temple: Growing up in Bucks County meant that Patel, frequently heard about Temple University's reputation as a top research institution. When he finally visited Main Campus as a high school senior, he felt a connection. He was drawn to the university's academic resources, which he felt were unmatched by other state schools, and would give him the support he needed to achieve his dream of becoming a doctor.

Favorite professor: Nisarg's favorite professor at Temple was Vladimira Wilent, associate professor of instruction in chemistry. She engaged students in hands-on activities in the biochemistry industry. His favorite class under Wilent was the capstone course *Research Techniques and Biochemistry*. Through his research on the impact of pesticides on humans, he was able to link his classroom experience with the real world by understanding what happens on a

molecular level. This opened his eyes to the impact that biochemistry has in medicine.

Philly life: Nisarg loves the pride and passion of Philadelphia sports fans that runs deep throughout the city. He was thrilled to experience the excitement of fans pouring into the streets after the Eagles clinched their place in this year's Super Bowl and when the Phillies made it to the World Series. Aside from its sports pride, he also loves the city because of its food scene.

Temple Made moment: Patel felt with the increasing rate of health disparities in Philadelphia it was valuable to teach CPR to others because it is a skill that can save countless lives. He taught CPR on Temple's campus, where he trained over 150 undergraduate students. Throughout Philadelphia, he taught hospital staff, medical workers and anyone in the public who signed up for his classes.

Hootable: "Temple created an atmosphere for me to succeed and gave me the steppingstones I needed to make a positive change in the world around me. Being a Temple student has a significant impact on who you end up being after graduation."



PHOTO: BETSY MANNING

Ben Rittenhouse, CST '23 Big internships lead to Capital One

BY JONNY HART

Ben Rittenhouse, a computer science major, credits internship opportunities for getting his foot in the door at Capital One as an associate software engineer.

Why Temple: As someone who grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs, Rittenhouse was drawn to the fact that while Temple was close to home, it was just far enough to feel exciting because of its city-based location. After visiting campus several times, Rittenhouse fell in love with Main Campus' walkability and its city-within-a-city vibe.

Standout internships: Rittenhouse landed internships with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and Lincoln Financial Group during his time at Temple. Those opportunities were pivotal for Rittenhouse because they introduced him to the corporate world and gave him a better understanding of what professional life looks like. The internships also introduced Ben to the finance and banking sectors, and he credits the skills he picked up with helping him get his foot in the door at Capital One.

Philly life: There are two reasons that Rittenhouse has a particular fondness for Philadelphia: sports and food. To him, there is nothing like the convenience of catching the Broad Street Line to watch a weekday afternoon Phillies game. And the food options are, as Ben describes, "endless." In particular, he has found a lot of great Mexican restaurants around the city. He's also a big cheesesteak guy, and he's backing Dalessandro's in the great Philly cheesesteak debate.

Temple Made moment: Rittenhouse's transformational moment came when he opened the email announcing he landed his internship with Lincoln Financial Group. He had invested countless hours preparing for the opportunity at job fairs, resume workshops and mock interviews. When he finally opened that confirmation email, he knew all of his hard work had paid off, and the rest was history.

Hootable: "I give a lot of credit to Temple's professional development. When it came time as an upperclassman to get serious about applying for jobs and internships, it struck me that I've already been prepared for this. It was a lot less nerve-wracking. It was just a matter of applying myself."



PHOTO: KELLY & MASSA

Nathan Zubin, CST '23 Graduation speaker now at medical school

Nathan Zubin, a neuroscience: cellular and molecular major, was the student speaker at the College of Science and Technology's May 2023 graduation ceremony.

While at Temple, Zubin's research experience included work in the Department of Neural Science at Temple University's Lewis Katz School of Medicine and Fox Chase Cancer Center.

In addition to lab research, Zubin has volunteered at Jefferson University Hospital reviewing patient information for clinical studies. As a Global Health Virtual Fellow for the Foundation for International Medical Relief for Children, he helped develop an education curriculum for a domestic violence project in India. He also has extensive volunteer experience through Temple Hospital, a crisis network and a program aimed at supporting older people and schoolchildren.

At Temple, he was an active member of the student group Leadership, Education, & Development in Science and first violin and assistant concertmaster in the Temple University OWLchestra Symphony Orchestra. Zubin now attends the Lewis Katz School of

Medicine with the goals of becoming an oncologist specializing in neurological tumors and eventually to teach future medical students.

After thanking CST's advisors and faculty for their support, Zubin focused on the themes of community, support and perseverance, telling his fellow graduates:

"Class of 2023, we have already faced a real world, which shows we strongly represent the value of perseverance.

As it says in our motto: perseverance conquers. My fellow graduates, I can proudly say we have conquered. And so, for today, I just want to say to all of you, as you get your degree and graduate, be proud of what we have achieved, because we have achieved it in times of tribulation.

Be confident in our future and be confident in the strength of our community. If we can weather through a global pandemic, I have full faith all of us together can face our future. And so, congratulations once again on this incredible achievement, and I wish everyone the best for a bright and successful future."



PHOTO: REMY ANDREA

Byron Jenkins, CST '19 Paving the way to success

BY JENNIFER L. PENNISE

Byron Jenkins has applied his background in computer science and coding to earn notable positions at TD Bank and Capital One. He looks back fondly at his time at Temple and CST, where he perfected his tech skills and pursued challenging internship opportunities by utilizing the college's job fair and the Office of Student Professional Development.

"I had some challenging times during my time at Temple, but I'm not a quitter," explained Jenkins. "I just needed to use on-campus resources and cut down time at part-time jobs." Seeking to give back to the educational environment that fostered his own ambition, he is now an adjunct instructor and classroom support specialist in the college's SciTech Scholarship program.

But to thousands of followers on TikTok and Instagram, Jenkins is just "codeherk."

As a nod to his father's boxing name Herk, Jenkins launched the @codeherk handle in 2016. He started creating content in 2019 when he was unsatisfied with how his career was progressing. With the isolation brought on by the pandemic, Jenkins had more time to build his technical skills and share his expertise and advice with beginner

coders on social media. "Sometimes the best way to learn is by teaching others," said Herk.

In short one- to two-minute videos, Jenkins covers topics such as job search assistance, computer coding tips, free tech resources, product giveaways and many others. Collaborating with brands, including AfroTech, Autonomous, Tidbyt as well as other tech social media accounts, he hopes to grow his brand further and work with other high-performing companies.

Jenkins also focuses heavily on advocacy and breaking barriers in the tech industry where he openly discusses difficulties he faced as an African American man trying to establish a tech career. "Finding your voice and walking into a room being the only one that looks like you, it's challenging to offer something different," stated Jenkins.

In the SciTech Scholarship program, Pell Grant eligible students from the departments of Biology, Chemistry and Earth and Environmental Science can add a technology minor, gain access to enhanced academics and receive scholarship money. "I'm teaching students how to code," said Jenkins, "and students thrive off of someone that looks like them because it confirms for them that the journey is possible."