



## Remarks for the Dedication of the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building and Sidney and Ethal Lubert Plaza

Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD  
*President, Thomas Jefferson University*

What an exciting day! It seems like just yesterday that we developed a collective vision for the Jefferson of tomorrow. Now, the first critical step in realizing that vision is in place. We have shown the world that our vision is not an empty plan to be put on the shelf and dusted off for trustee meetings every few years. It is a roadmap for a path we fully intend to travel, a blueprint for an edifice that we are fully committed to build.

What, exactly, have we done here? We have built this fantastic new 135,000-square-foot educational facility designed to teach the leaders of tomorrow's healthcare delivery teams, and to bring together all the elements of healthcare that the expanded Jefferson will be training in the future. In this marvelous new facility, Jefferson's outstanding faculty will teach future physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other health professionals using the most sophisticated tools available. Students will work together in teams, both formally and informally.

The Hamilton Building's new, leading-edge Connelly Auditorium has seating for the entire medical school class or a large number of physicians pursuing their continuing medical education courses. It has full audio/visual capabilities, including internet access and teleconferencing, so a lecture held here can be broadcast to, and receive input from, an off-site audience anywhere in the world. In addition, we can examine a patient on the fourth floor and project the examination into this room for students to observe.



Outside, we have a 60,000-square-foot college green, a space that fundamentally transforms the look and feel of our campus. This new plaza provides a place for informal learning and interaction between students, faculty, and staff, and between our academic community and the neighborhood in which we live.

What you don't see is the 120,000 square feet of underground parking and support facilities, convenient yet tucked away where they have the least impact on the fabric of our campus and our neighborhood. Certainly not the least expensive way to provide these services, yet in our view the best.

All in all, this has been a 300,000-square-foot, \$62 million construction project. I am pleased to tell you that through the generosity and support of trustees, alumni, and friends, we have already raised nearly \$47 million in gifts and pledges for the project, a remarkable effort for an educational facility of this kind.

This support has allowed us to pour more than 12,000 cubic yards of concrete, erect more than 1,000 tons of steel, expend more than 450,000 man hours of labor, and bring this project home on budget and on schedule.

You might also be interested in the fate of the old parking structure that stood on this site. Well, we removed more than 10,000 tons of demolition debris at the start of this project, and 99 percent of that material was separated and recycled for future use. Who knows?



October 19 marked the opening of the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building at the heart of Jefferson's academic precinct.

President Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD; Thomas J. Nasca, MD, MACP; The Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; James Keen, PhD, Dean of Jefferson College of Graduate Studies; and James B. Erdmann, PhD, Dean of Jefferson College of Health Professions were on hand when Dorrance H. Hamilton cut the gauze to officiate the opening. Jefferson faculty, staff, and students celebrated.

That old steel and concrete could well wind up in our next Jefferson construction project...

But what about our broader plans for the university and its physical environment? Our vision encompasses a Jefferson that is a true healthcare university, educating the entire spectrum of healthcare providers; a university that establishes powerful linkages with other academic institutions in related areas of research and education; a university that discovers through its world-class research new knowledge that will define the future of clinical care.

It is also a vision for an urban campus that creates a sense of place worthy of this great and historic institution, with green space and buildings that support collegial interactions within our academic community and between our community and our neighborhood; a campus that becomes a clear cultural destination not just for our academic family but also for the residents of our city.

In our vision of tomorrow, quality and compassionate healthcare will be provided not by individual physicians or nurses working in isolation, but rather by coordinated teams that include all the elements of the health services. The Dorrance H. Hamilton Building is designed from the ground up to educate the leaders of tomorrow's healthcare delivery teams, training nurses and physicians, occupational therapists and pharmacists side by side in simulated clinical environments. This facility sets a new standard for healthcare education in the nation. Having trained in the Hamilton Building, our graduates will bring to

their subsequent workplace and to their patients a new and powerful model of patient-centered, team-based healthcare.

Today, Jefferson takes a major step toward creating a new and exciting intellectual identity for our campus. However, just as importantly Jefferson has been an integral member of the Center City Philadelphia community for nearly two centuries. We fully intend to be a vital part of the city's future as well as its past, so we are making a major commitment to Philadelphia as much by what we are not building as by what we are.

We are not planning high rises and high-density buildings that dwarf our residents and shadow our streets. We are not filling every available square inch with concrete and steel. Rather, we are committed to creating open spaces and to constructing buildings that are human in scale, outward looking, and express our university's openness toward our Philadelphia neighbors. The Hamilton Building and the Sidney and Ethal Lubert Plaza represent Jefferson's first installment on this commitment. Here in this block, you can see the combination of a human-scaled, open, and welcoming building with a carefully crafted green space and outdoor plaza that create opportunities for casual interaction. This combination will be the hallmark of our new campus.

We also envision Jefferson as an urban citizen, taking a leadership role in transforming this part of Center City. With the help of our community partners and our neighbors, we hope to extend the distinct and inviting look and feel that you see around you right here, northward toward Chestnut Street and eastward to 9th Street. With our neighbors, we have a tremendous opportunity in front of us. Jefferson straddles Walnut Street, and we believe strongly that Walnut Street will become the main pedestrian thoroughfare in Center City leading from Society Hill and Washington Square through the new Jefferson precinct bordered by the Walnut and Forrest Theaters to the Avenue of the Arts and onto Rittenhouse Square. We hope that our new campus will become a Philadelphia byword, and the new Jefferson Square area that it defines will become a true destination point for people who will come here not only for the university and the hospital but also for shopping, restaurants, and cultural attractions.

And all who come here will welcome wide, well-lit, tree-lined sidewalks. They will find ample but unobtrusive parking, enhanced landscaping, and helpful signs directing them to their destination. They will enjoy a vibrant area with more green space and a renewed sense of community. They will find buildings that open to the community and share light and activity all around the clock.

And at the heart of it all they will find Thomas Jefferson University — an academic village that honors the passion for learning and for community that was so essential to the man who is our namesake.

That is our vision for Jefferson. It starts here today. And thanks to all the donors who have contributed nearly \$47 million dollars toward this building and plaza, it will continue to set the standard for excellence in education, research, and clinical care.

Our vision for Jefferson represents the collective input of our entire academic community: students, staff, and faculty. Each piece of this plan reflects the thoughts and efforts of many people. Today, as we celebrate the opening of the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building and the Sidney & Ethal Lubert Plaza, there are many individuals who deserve our recognition. In particular, we want to thank the architects from Burt Hill, especially David Madiera and Lois Matheson, who turned our fuzzy dreams into sharply focused designs; Jose Almaniana and the landscape architects of Andropogon Associates who designed this award-winning plaza; Steve Keener and Pat Pasquariello from P. Agnes who transformed our plans into reality; and Ron Bowlan, Dan Bosin, and the entire Jefferson facilities team who worked so hard to make this day possible.

I would love to be able to thank individually each of the 260 donors whose contributions made this building possible, but time does not allow me to do so. However, let me specifically recognize the generosity of the estates of Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Rector and Dr. and

Mrs. William Conrady, as well as support from the Arcadia Foundation and its president Marilyn Steinbright, the Connelly Foundation and its president Josephine Connelly Mandeville, and especially our major benefactor, Mrs. Dorrance H. Hamilton, for the key support that made this building possible.

I will return in just a few moments to Jefferson's dear friend Dodo Hamilton. But first, I would like to recognize the support of Mr. Ira Lubert, a member of our university's board of trustees, whose gift made possible the construction of the plaza that surrounds us today. Ira's gift honors his parents, and we take pride in dedicating the Sidney and Ethal Lubert Plaza.

Well, in good literary tradition, we save our highest thanks for last. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous benevolence of Mrs. Dorrance H. Hamilton. Dodo is a university trustee who made possible our first major construction in a decade and a half, and first new teaching facility in more than 40 years, with her contribution of \$25 million — the largest gift Jefferson has ever received.

Dodo, your wisdom, foresight, and generosity have transformed this campus. You have personally helped to shape Jefferson's educational vision, and to enrich the surrounding community. On behalf of everyone at Jefferson, you have our deepest thanks.

Finally, I want to recognize the extraordinary faculty and students of Thomas Jefferson University. Through you, we will realize a new university dedicated to integrated healthcare, breakthrough research, and committed, compassionate patient care. It is in your work that these important investments will find their ultimate reward.

I couldn't be happier to put our future in your hands.  
Thank you.

