Beyond The Blog

Beyond The Blog is an evolution of The Patterson Foundation’s storytelling approach focused on creating and sharing engaging content featuring the people, organizations, and communities strengthened through the Foundation’s work.
Thriving in a Constantly Evolving World
Investing in Innovative Philanthropic Leaders
Dear Readers,

Thriving in a constantly evolving world takes a commitment to adaptation. Engaging in several long-term initiatives for more than a decade has certainly reinforced this within The Patterson Foundation’s (TPF) halls, and it fuels our steady commitment to learning and applying proven innovations in creating positive change.

Five years ago, TPF began exploring opportunities to strengthen the future of the world of philanthropy. Guided by our belief in the power of adaptability, we decided early on against any attempt to define what that future might look like. Rather, we directed our focus on opportunities to strengthen the “now,” creating conditions conducive to innovative thought and action for whatever the future might bring.

There are few better opportunities to achieve this than through strengthening the next generation of philanthropic leaders, equipping them with strategies, skills, and experiences to help inform the course they will chart for the organizations they will one day helm. There was great potential in tapping into a body of work and lessons learned to achieve that — we just needed access to a group of talented, dedicated individuals with whom to share it.

As the world’s first school dedicated solely to the study and teaching of philanthropy, the

Guided by our belief in the power of adaptability, we decided early on against any attempt to define what that future might look like.

Debra Jacobs, president and CEO of The Patterson Foundation
Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy was the perfect partner to help us connect with aspiring leaders throughout their journey toward becoming the changemakers of tomorrow. The school's shared commitment to a stronger, adaptable future helped propel the creation of TPF's Advancing Philanthropic Leadership initiative, a body of collaborative efforts that continues to create avenues to share our knowledge with these exceptional students and graduates — all while learning plenty of inspiring, insightful nuggets of wisdom from them as well.

This edition of Beyond the Blog is dedicated to exploring the layers of our investment into creating adaptable, innovative philanthropic leaders. You'll hear from those who provided the vision and blueprint behind the Advancing Philanthropic Leadership initiative's formation, along with the bright Lilly Family School of Philanthropy scholars who have guided both the initiative's continued development and TPF's work as a whole through their talents and efforts.

With excitement for their continued impact and the future they will create,
Glimpse Advancing Philanthropic Leadership

By Rachel Ploss & Kellie Alexander
Welcome to the fourth edition of Beyond The Blog and perhaps the first, where we focus on only one initiative. If you are new, we are Rachel and Kellie, current fellows with The Patterson Foundation (TPF) and co-editors of Beyond the Blog (BTB), an evolution of The Patterson Foundation's storytelling approach.

This edition is about why we are here: TPF's Advancing Philanthropic Leadership initiative! It showcases interviews with our fellow fellows and looks into how the Foundation has strengthened each of us, the value different perspectives can bring to the field of philanthropy, and future opportunities the Advancing Philanthropic Leadership initiative has to offer.

Ten unique individuals have the title of TPF Fellow. We bring unique perspectives, skills, and experiences to the fellowship, and this summer, the fifth cohort will begin.

Want to know more about what the fellowship is in 4-minutes? Launched fellows Hannah Saeger Karnei, Abby Rolland, and John Ferguson share a glimpse.
Each of us became familiar with TPF in different ways and were drawn to apply for various reasons but with an overall calling to be changemakers. Joining TPF, a fully endowed charitable entity in Sarasota, FL, provides a unique experience for an Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy graduate to learn innovative approaches to philanthropy and the power of giving "beyond the check." For some of us, we joined TPF immediately following graduate school, while others came after a decade of experience in the business or philanthropic sector. Regardless, President and CEO Debra Jacobs saw great value in investing in us professionally and personally. Each of us can say with great confidence we are better because of this opportunity and TPF.

As you will hear in one of the podcasts, working for TPF as a fellow is like being a chef with 18 different pots on a huge cooktop. We must manage and know when to stir, turn the temperature down, and when one needs more ingredients. Working like this has allowed me to think strategically from the perspective of scarcity to abundance. The question is always, 'What resources do we have to address this right now, and who else cares that could collaborate on this endeavor?' Working with this mindset and approach has allowed me to grow my muscles in leadership, writing, project development, listening, and working with a multitude of people. [Rachel Ploss]

Learn more about the Fellows Program and the additional pieces of Advancing Philanthropic Leadership that build community and strengthen future philanthropic leaders.
Advancing Philanthropic Leadership
Creative efforts to strengthen the capabilities of emerging philanthropic leaders
Advancing Philanthropic Leadership Endeavors

In collaboration with the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy (IU LFSOP)— the world's first school dedicated solely to the study and teaching of philanthropy — The Patterson Foundation's Advancing Philanthropic Leadership initiative encompasses a series of creative efforts to strengthen the capabilities of emerging philanthropic leaders. Within each endeavor, aspiring leaders can build their willingness, capacity, and foresight to incorporate innovative strategies for long-term change.

Advancing Philanthropic Leadership endeavors:

- Fellows Program
- TPF Beyond Alumni Network
- Nonprofit Internship Program

Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy Electives:

- "The Future of the Philanthropic Sector: Experiential Learning with The Patterson Foundation"
- "Beyond the Check: The Patterson Foundation's Approach to Innovative Philanthropy"
In an interview with Dr. Laurey Stryker who managed the development of the Advancing Philanthropic Leadership initiative, we see the importance of **LWRCC: Leadership, Willingness, Readiness, Capacity, and Culture** and the value of the fellowship opportunity.

"When I connected with The School of Philanthropy and their leadership, they were very responsive, so the idea of working with fellows became a question of 'what about if we send some of our students... and do you want to do a course?'

All these things developed because it was a back-and-forth conversation. We didn't go into this saying, 'This is what we want you to do.'

There was a need because LFSOP leadership said our students have a hard time getting into the foundation world because it's like a black box, and there's not a career ladder. So there's something in it for us and something in it for them.

What I've seen is this expansion on the evolution of being more clear and more willing to accept ambiguity and time delays. I've seen patience pay off when LWRCC is there."

Explore the next several pages for a look into a fellow's perspective, Suncoast internship opportunities, and experiential learning courses.

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Dr. Laurey Stryker

Dr. Laurey Stryker, consultant with The Patterson Foundation
The Podcast
Gaining perspective on The Patterson Foundation’s fellowship opportunity
TPF Fellows Kellie Alexander and Rachel Ploss interviewed each Fellow to gain perspective on TPF’s fellowship opportunity, what comes after, and to provide a comprehensive look at this unique approach. Click play on the grey bar to listen.

The Lilly Family School of Philanthropy graduates who have become Fellows with The Patterson Foundation have soared beyond our expectations—a testament to their individual gifts as well as the school’s robust coursework and expert faculty.

Debra Jacobs, president and CEO of The Patterson Foundation

In collaboration with the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy — the world’s first school dedicated solely to the study and teaching of philanthropy — The Patterson Foundation’s Advancing Philanthropic Leadership initiative encompasses a series of creative efforts to strengthen the capabilities of emerging philanthropic leaders.
Hannah Saeger Karnei was the Inaugural Fellow at The Patterson Foundation from 2019-2021. She now serves as the first Strategic Initiatives Coordinator for the Arras Foundation in Lancaster, SC, and focuses on weaving together community assets to create a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant community for today and future generations.

Click play on the grey bar to listen.

Glimpse "A brief history of Hannah Saeger Karnei" through 2021

Join Hannah on Twitter: @therealhsk1

To contact Hannah: hsaegerkarnei@arrasfoundation.org

View Hannah's Blog Library

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It is impossible to solve the challenges of the world, our nation, or even our communities in a silo. We can't do it alone, and what's more, we shouldn't do it alone.
John Ferguson was a Fellow at The Patterson Foundation from 2020-2021. In January 2022, he joined the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance as Director of Member Programs, where he develops, directs, and implements a comprehensive offering of IPA’s philanthropy education. Click play on the grey bar to listen.

Glimpse "A brief history of John A. Ferguson" through 2021

Join John on Twitter: @TheRealJohnFerg

To contact John: jferguson@inphilanthropy.org

View John's Blog Library
Abby Rolland joined The Patterson Foundation as a Fellow in June 2020 and now serves as the Grants & Communications Manager at The Presser Foundation and harp-weaver in Philadelphia, PA. Click play on the grey bar to listen.

Glimpse "A brief history of Abby Rolland" through 2021

Join Abby on Twitter: @AbbyRolland4

To contact Abby: arolland@presserfoundation.org

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"The ability to thrive has come from what I call quiet confidence — the knowledge, deep down, that I can tackle whatever challenges may arise."
Connor LaGrange is the fourth Fellow at The Patterson Foundation. He works across a wide array of TPF initiatives, including the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and Advancing Philanthropic Leadership, among others. Additionally, Connor recently completed a local capacity-building scan. Click play on the grey bar to listen.

Glimpse "A brief history of Connor LaGrange" here

Join Connor on Twitter: @LagrangeConnor

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CLaGrange@thepattersonfoundation.org

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"I believe there are two days in a person’s life that are the most meaningful. The first is the day one is born. The second is when one finally discovers the reason why."
Michael joined The Patterson Foundation in September 2021 with nine years of fundraising and development experience. Michael serves in many initiatives and leads the Digital Access for All National Philanthropy Scan on Digital Access and Funder to Funder Workshop series. Click play on the grey bar to listen.

Glimpse "A brief history of Michael J. Zimmerman" here

Join Michael on Twitter: @MichaelZim

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View Michael's Blog Library
The Video
Fellow's Roundtable Discussion
TPF Fellows Connor LaGrange, Michael Zimmerman, Rachel Ploss, and Kellie Alexander discuss what it's like being a fellow with The Patterson Foundation. Through unique examples, each share their decision to pursue the fellowship, skills learned through various initiatives, and gratitude for The Patterson Foundation's investment in their personal and professional growth.
Nonprofit Internship Program

Paid remote internships with nonprofits in the Suncoast region
The Patterson Foundation’s partnership with the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy offers students pursuing a degree in philanthropic studies paid remote internships with nonprofits in the Suncoast.

**Interested in a remote internship for the 2023 summer or fall semester? Click here.**

The Nonprofit Internship Program allows students to gain valuable, hands-on experience while strengthening nonprofits in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. Read the blog from past intern Avery Crews Prado de Lima to learn more about her remote internship experience with Lemur Conservation Foundation.

"This experience taught me that virtual employment creates a unique communication style. Not being face-to-face encourages more direct communication habits and pushes everyone involved to address the task and produce the most effective solution together."

Avery Crews Prado de Lima

"The ability to temporarily add to your staff, at no cost as a gift from The Patterson Foundation, is highly recommended." Dr. Sara Grivetti, Neuro Challenge Foundation for Parkinson's

Learn more from Dr. Sara Grivetti, Neuro Challenge Foundation for Parkinson's, on how a remote intern from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy positively impacted their programming. [Neuro Challenge is hosting another internship opportunity for the 2023 year, among others.](#)
Electives with The Patterson Foundation

The future of work in the philanthropic sector through the lens of TPF’s initiatives and approaches.
Through The Patterson Foundation's unique position of having an unfettered charter, it can undertake work in ways others are not doing, cannot do, or will not do. In that spirit, The Patterson Foundation (TPF) supports courses that allow students to explore the future of work in the philanthropic sector through the lens of the Foundation's initiatives and approaches.

There are currently two courses TPF collaborates on with the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy:

**"The Future of the Philanthropic Sector: Experiential Learning with The Patterson Foundation,"** commonly known as Study Away. Study Away connects students to living examples of innovative philanthropic strategy. The 2023 course took place in March. Read more about the course via TPF Fellow, Kellie Alexander's blog.

Jada Ford, 2023 Study Away student shares her experience and the importance of the Digital Access for All initiative hosting an Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) enrollment event.

**"Beyond the Check: The Patterson Foundation's Approach to Innovative Philanthropy"**

“Beyond the Check” is a term for philanthropy that is dedicated to offering resources beyond just money. Read more about the course via Hannah Saeger Karnei's blog.

Emily Crump, 2023 Study Away student, shares how the opportunity provided proximity to two of TPF's initiatives: Digital Access for All and Aspirations to Actions.

Beyond the Check: The Patterson Foundation's Approach to Innovative Philanthropy" was a one-credit course offered by Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy designed to dive deep into TPF with its president and CEO Debra Jacobs.
Thank you for reading
Beyond The Blog
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