The 2016 Thomas Jefferson University President’s Award is being presented, posthumously, to Robert V. Nicoletti at the 192nd Thomas Jefferson University Commencement in June. Mr. Nicoletti was the founder and former president of the Philadelphia Suburban Development Corporation, one of the largest family-owned commercial real estate developers in the Philadelphia region.

Dr. Michael F. Rieders was the 2015 honoree of the Jefferson President's Award, which is given to Jefferson’s strongest supporters, truest servants and closest friends. The President’s Award is one of the highest honors Thomas Jefferson University’s President can bestow. Dr. Rieders is currently Vice Chairman of the Board, Corporate Treasurer, Assistant Lab Director and Forensic Toxicologist at NMS Labs in Willow Grove, PA. NMS Labs is a family-owned, professional clinical and forensic diagnostic laboratory network which provides services nationwide, where Dr. Michael Rieders and many other Jefferson graduates have spent rich and fulfilling careers. Dr. Michael Rieders is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Fredric Rieders Family Foundation in Willow Grove, PA, named in honor of his father, Dr. Fredric Rieders, a graduate of Thomas Jefferson University and a Professor of Pharmacology at TJU. The Rieders family roots at Thomas Jefferson University are deep indeed.

Dr. Michael F. Rieders earned a doctoral degree in Pharmacology/Toxicology from the Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 1985. After graduating, Dr. Rieders’ commitment to his alma mater has been abundantly clear. He was active as a volunteer faculty member and lectured in Toxicology for over a decade, past President of the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies Alumni Association, and currently is a member of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Rieders was honored as Distinguished Alumnus in 2005. He continues to support Jefferson’s academic mission through financial support of the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building, a matching grant for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences student lounge, College of Biomedical Sciences Faculty Prize, Fredric Rieders Scholarship and the Distinguished Graduate Award.

In April 2016, The Professor Fredric Rieders, PhD Library in the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building was re-dedicated in recognition of and appreciation for the Rieders family’s continued support of Jefferson University and the Jefferson College of Biomedical Sciences. The re-dedication included a celebration of the addition of the 1970 Salvador Dali “Medicine and Science” prints donated by Dr. Michael Rieders family. The prints are now displayed in the Scott Library.

Dr. Rieders is a CLIA licensed Laboratory Director at NMS Labs, a Fellow of The American Academy of Forensic Sciences, a member of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists, the World Association of Medical Law; the American Association of Clinical Chemistry, and an affiliate member of The National Association of Medical Examiners where he serves on their Foundation Board. Dr. Rieders has served on the Pennsylvania’s Commission on Wrongful Convictions where he worked with the Forensic Science Subcommittee. Dr. Rieders served as the Chief Forensic Archeotoxicologist on the Confederate Submarine Hunley project team in Charleston, SC. Dr. Rieders has qualified as an expert in Forensic Toxicology and testified in numerous criminal, civil and arbitration proceedings.

NMS Labs is an internationally accredited private, independent clinical toxicology and forensic science laboratory that performs DNA, serology, toxicology, drug chemistry, and expert testimony for the global criminal and civil justice system. NMS Labs is the leading provider of innovative, diagnostic toxicology and other specialty clinical lab services to hospital and national reference labs throughout the U.S. Dr. Rieders is also Chairman of the Foundation Board of Trustees of the Fredric Rieders Family Foundation and Chief Scientific Officer for the Forensic Sciences Mentoring Institute in Willow Grove, PA.
Rieders served as a Term Trustee at Arcadia University; on the Board of Directors for the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) in Largo, Florida; Chairman of the Board of Advisors and Fellows at The Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Sciences at New Haven University in West Haven, Connecticut. Dr. Rieders is a Board member of The Vidocq Society, the premier US cold homicide case investigations organization. This organization examines cases and assist law enforcement agencies in identifying leads that may help solve homicides. He was awarded the H. E. Fillinger, MD Medal for Lifetime Achievement by The Vidocq Society in 2013.

Dr. Rieders was an editor of the Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences publication “Science, Technology and National Security”, to which he wrote contributed a chapter in “Forensic Aspects of Chemical Terrorism” and recently published an article on his work with NASA, titled “Management of a Potentially Toxic Accidental Trialkylamine Ingestion during Spaceflight” in Aviation, Space and Environmental Medicine.

In the fall of 2015, with the continuous support of Dr. Rieders, a P.M.S. in Forensic Toxicology degree program in the Jefferson College of Biomedical Sciences was founded through a partnership between Jefferson and the Center for Forensic Sciences Research and Education at the Fredric Rieders Family Foundation.

In addition to Jefferson alumni, there are other NMS Labs employees who are active in the Forensic Toxicology M.S. degree program at Jefferson. Dr. Barry Logan (Vice President of Forensic Science Initiatives and Chief of Forensics) is a professor of the program and Kristopher Graf (Analyst) is enrolled in the Forensic Toxicology M.S. program.

In addition to Dr. Rieders, NMS Labs employs several Jefferson graduates, many of whom are still active with the University. Dr. Robert Middleberg (Vice President, Quality Assurance, Laboratory Director and Forensic Toxicologist) and Dr. Lee Blum (Assistant Laboratory Director and Forensic Toxicologist) are both professors in the Forensic Toxicology M.S. degree program. Dr. Breann Barker (R&D Scientist) volunteers for the University’s “Speed Interview” sessions for students and post-docs. Dr. Jonathan Goodwin (Clinical Research Associate), Donna Papsun (Forensic Toxicologist), and Deirdre O’Neill (Director of Lab Informatics) all received degrees from Jefferson University.