



# Getting to know your fellow travelers at Philadelphia 30th Street Station

By Erin Edmison

Photography by David Pexton


## Tessa Yu

"I'm doing an internship is at the Penn Vet Working Dog Center—it's a research and development center. I'm an animal science major at Cornell. We're training dogs—bomb-sniffing dogs, narcotics dogs. A couple of weeks ago we did field trips with dogs in training, and we walked around this train station for environmental exposure. I still haven't discovered what I want to do for my whole life, but hopefully I'll figure it out soon."



## Robbie Wulfsohn

"I came to Philadelphia to see a concert at The Mann Center—Fleet Foxes and Animal Collective are playing. I saw them years ago, and it was a formative concert experience. I sing in a band called Ripe. We're based in Boston, but we've been doing a lot more touring of the rest of the country in the last two years. In terms of what we sound like, funk is the easy answer. Dance music without being DJs is the other thing I like to say."



## Vabren Watts

"I'm a Ph.D., working with diversity and health equity. I live in Baltimore but I work in D.C., so I take the train a lot. We pretty much have a group. People sit in the same seats—unspoken assigned seats. We talk to each other all the time. I went to one of my train buddy's granddaughter's ballet recitals. My father died and they bought flowers.... It's been a family, pretty much, for four years."

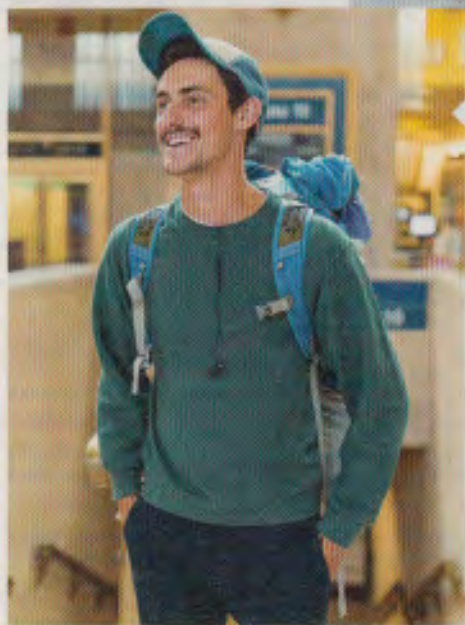


### Ifanyi Bell

"I'm going to New York. I'm a filmmaker and journalist, so I travel from place to place, and I take the train a lot. But I always find myself here in Philly. I love 30th Street Station. A couple of films have been shot here. One of my favorite films of all time was shot here. Don't laugh—it's *Unbreakable*, by M. Night Shyamalan. He's sort of a Philadelphia guy. I think he shot in this corridor right out here."

### Denece Larmond-Tapper and family

"We're going to Atlantic City. We're from Brooklyn. We'll be in Atlantic City for four days. This is our first time there. We're going to do everything! Shopping, the boardwalk, get a tan, time on the beach.... This is my second time on Amtrak. The first time I took it to South Carolina—14 hours. I loved it! We went to the restaurant car, we had our computers, and music, and we slept a lot. It was like riding in your bedroom."



### Jesse Garlick

"I'm from New Hampshire. I met up with a friend and we went to FloydFest, down in Virginia, the Blue Ridge Parkway. It's a bluegrass music festival, five days. Riding the train is much more relaxing than driving, because I don't have to pay attention, and I can nap all I want. I'm a farmer, I work on an apple orchard. This is right before harvest, so I took a little break away before it gets busy."