

Drexel

SCHOOL
of Hard Knocks 28

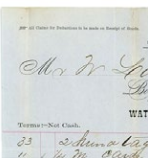
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SAVED I-95

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in Grade School

MAGAZINE



**Philly's Collection
of Curios Is Back**
*When the Philadelphia
History Museum shut
down, Drexel stepped up
to restore the city's eclectic
Atwater Kent Collection to
the public eye. 32*



FALL 2023



The Ledger





MERGER

DREXEL'S ORBIT EXPANDS

Last summer, Drexel announced a planned merger with Salus University that will widen the University's footprint in health care education. The union will enable Drexel to add degree programs in optometry, audiology, blindness and low-vision studies, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, and orthotics and prosthetics, and also expand physician assistant studies. Like Drexel, Salus has long been an educational pioneer. Its forerunner — the Pennsylvania State College of Optometry — opened in 1919 as the first institution in the United States to offer a graduate degree in vision rehabilitation and was among the first to use cadaver-based anatomy in training physician assistants.

1,187

Students enrolled at Salus University in 2023–24

26

Students graduated in the first class, in 1922

Acres on the university's main campus in Elkins Park

11.5

362

Employees

23

Percentage of practicing doctors of audiology in the U.S. who are Salus alumni

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Thousands of city artifacts from the shuttered Philadelphia History Museum returned to public view this year through Drexel's stewardship of the Atwater Kent Collection.

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A Very Big Deal for Drexel Basketball

Joining elite teams in the Big 5 signals Dragons got game.





THE VIEW FROM MAIN

By now you may have heard that our alumni family soon will be expanding. As I announced over the summer, Salus University and Drexel are moving forward with a merger that will allow us to grow our portfolio of academic programs and to create new opportunities for both institutions in the health professions.

Through this merger we're executing on our Strategic Plan to promote institutional effectiveness, excellence and impact through powerful partnerships. Two decades ago, we took responsibility for the predecessors of the College of Medicine and the College of Nursing and Health Professions. More recently, we entered into historic affiliations with the Academy of Natural Sciences, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, and the Atwater Kent Collection. Each combination has enriched our teaching and research and advanced our civic mission.

Salus operates renowned graduate degree programs in optometry, audiology, blindness and low-vision studies, physician assistant studies, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, orthotics and prosthetics, and more — all of which complement the programs that Drexel offers. With professionals in the health sciences projected to remain in high and ever rising demand over the next decade, our merger with Salus will offer our students an even wider array of career pathways to pursue.

Like Drexel, Salus also has a distinguished history of innovation with a proud legacy of firsts. Founded as the Pennsylvania State College of Optometry in 1919, it was the first institution to confer a doctor of optometry degree and to develop a comprehensive, off-campus externship program. It was also the first to develop an interdisciplinary clinical facility and first independent school of optometry to affiliate with a medical school when it partnered with Drexel's predecessor institution Hahnemann University School of Medicine in 1988. And, it was the first professional school to establish a doctor of audiology degree.

Today about 1,200 graduate students train at its beautiful campus in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania.

As we pursue final approvals toward completing the merger in summer 2024, both institutions are working to ensure effective coordination among operational units and seamless consolidation of combined academic programs.

I hope you share my excitement as we welcome Salus University faculty, students and professional staff into our Drexel family. Together we'll become the go-to place for training the interprofessional health sciences practitioners and leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

John Fry / President

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School of Hard Knocks

Members of the Drexel 100 — which includes 300 of the University's highest-achieving alumni — recount how they converted challenges and setbacks along their life journeys into gratifying triumphs.



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How Do You Teach Altruism?

Public school teachers learn how to cultivate compassion in young children at Drexel's Lisa and John McNichol Early Childhood Education Lab.



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This puzzle will take you on a sentimental tour of Philadelphia.





Partners for Life

Permit me to interrupt this editor's letter for a brief public service announcement about partnerships.

Obviously, as alums of experiential learning, you already know Drexel's spirit of partnership runs deep. The close collaborations we have built with more than 1,600 co-op employers worldwide form the very DNA of our institution.

But while the co-op program is the most outstanding example of the power of Drexel's classroom-to-career network, it's just one spoke in the wheel. The University's relationships with for-profit, nonprofit, academic and civic partners have sparked specialized programs and opportunities in an array of fields.

Even if you graduated long ago, you can find experiences through Drexel to enhance your career, serve your community, create new business ventures or just get involved.

If you're a business leader, for example, Drexel's Business Solutions Institute is your gateway to our faculty, students and workforce development programs. Corporate Partner of the Month status opens doors to networking events, speaking engagements and thought leadership through guest lectures or panel discussions.

Not yet a business leader, but hoping to become one? Drexel recently launched a fund that will provide cash to early-stage startups founded by Dragons, including post-grads and alumni, who are bold enough to take Drexel discoveries to market. Each year, Drexel commits \$150,000 to up to four startups. Consider this program to accelerate your entrepreneurial endeavors. Or, for the more adventurous, Drexel has hundreds of technologies available for R&D collaboration or licensing, listed by industry sector on the website of Drexel Applied Innovation.

Maybe you're looking for a career change? Drexel began a new partnership this year with Peirce College in Philadelphia to help adult learners prepare for jobs in the growing health care and medical research fields. Check out the story on page 18.

As you explore the pages of this edition, you'll discover many more ways that Drexel's partnerships create opportunity and a thriving civic culture that pays dividends after college. These include supporting the local workforce...restoring the city's cultural history...community-centered housing solutions...empowering schoolteachers to cultivate caring citizens...and more.

I invite each of you to engage with, or simply appreciate, how these relationships may improve your own life. Your connection to Drexel University is not merely a past affiliation but an ongoing opportunity to thrive, contribute and excel.

Thank you for reading.

Sonja Sherwood / Editor



ABOUT THE COVER

Odds and ends from the Atwater Kent catalog.

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LETTERS

I would like to offer observations on the ASTP program described in "Cadets on Campus" in Fall 2022.

It's a shame the program was so demanding that it had a high failure rate.

World War II was a war of technology, not just brute force. Scientists and engineers of all disciplines were mobilized nationwide to develop new weapons, new defenses, and new logistical tools to better fight the war. Graduates of the ASTP program would be most valuable in those endeavors.

I'm not sure what schools Drexel had in those days, but the quartermaster would have needed ways to preserve food to ship it overseas, then prepare it for troops. Uniforms had to be tough enough to withstand brutal conditions in the South Pacific. Military contracts and procurement had to be coordinated to avoid waste and speed production.

In short, I would think almost every Drexel student and professor could've been involved in the war

effort, and graduates of the ASTP would've been welcomed.

A more realistic program would've better served all involved.

LEE WINSON
BS management computer
information systems
Yardley, Pennsylvania

Editor's Note: This is an edited response to a letter about "Lifers Speak Out on the Right to Redemption" from the Winter/Spring 2022 issue.

Though only 5% of the world's population lives in the United States, it is home to 30% of the world's life-sentenced population. Nearly half of all Americans have a family member who has been incarcerated. Most people incarcerated here are serving time for a serious or violent crime, which makes it more necessary to understand why violence happens.

Setting aside the debate over the role of prisons in facilitating redemption, the purpose of prisons should be to keep our communities safer. Life sentencing does not do this. Most people simply age out of criminal behavior. People released from life sentences are statistically the least likely to re-offend. For many of them, prison has zero public safety justification, yet each year, the cost to incarcerate elderly individuals is as high as nine times the cost to incarcerate someone younger.

While China does execute many, no reliable numbers exist. However, more than 200,000 people are serving life sentences in the United States; overwhelmingly, people of color. China's number of executions would not compete; and the very rhetorical act of placing the two countries in comparison is, I think, clear evidence that the United States' mass incarceration policies are a human rights catastrophe.

[We should] examine why communities of color have higher rates of incarceration. The vast majority of people in prison experienced serious childhood traumas and I would encourage [everyone] to consider the United States' centuries-long relationship with systemic racism. For generations, families of color have been prevented from accumulating familial wealth, accessing basic social supports, and have been buffeted by cycles of over-policing and incarceration (consider that the incarceration of a parent is a serious trauma to a child). All along, the public safety policies that impact these communities have been written by more wealthy and white Americans.

PETER D. EISENBERG
MD medicine '72 (Hahnemann)
San Anselmo, California

IMPACT

WITH YOUR NAME ON IT

With the new **IMPACT NOW SCHOLARSHIP**, it's easy to make an immediate difference and see an ambitious Drexel student thrive thanks to your personalized scholarship support.

It all starts with an initial \$400 payment, and the promise to support your scholarship with \$5,000 per year for five years. Your commitment — payable on a flexible schedule — lets you name your scholarship and direct your support to students in a specific school, college or participating program.

To help a student in just a few clicks, visit:
giving.drexel.edu/makeanimpact

CROSS WALK

MUSIC INDUSTRY



A Zine for the Music Industry Scene

Students in a new “Women in the Music Industry” class interviewed alumnae working in the field to share their professional perspectives and job advice in a career-oriented zine. By Alissa Falcone

The state of gender representation in the music industry is something that Monika Julien has lived and worked through — and, now, taught.

Before joining Drexel as an assistant teaching professor last year, Julien, BS music industry '12, spent a decade working on branded music campaigns, most recently leading Red Bull's culture marketing strategy and programming in New York City. Those experiences helped inspire her to develop a course, “Women in the Music Industry.”

“This class was really about getting students to reflect on what their personal philosophy is when it comes to representation and diversity in the music industry, and how to promote that, so they can take that with them when they enter the workforce,” says Julien, who teaches in the Music Industry program at Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design.

The class also connected students with Drexel alumnae Julien knows through her professional network or found by combing LinkedIn for women-identifying graduates working in the industry.

“All of my classes have a career development angle to it, so students think critically about what they want to do as well as how they can network and exercise some soft skills that will help them for internships,

co-ops and careers,” says Julien, who likes to open her students’ eyes to careers with consumer brands, beyond traditional entertainment careers.

During the spring term, 25 music majors in Julien's class interviewed 12 alumnae who graduated between 2007 and 2021 and published their career insights in *Double Platinum*, a small-circulation print publication named after the industry's term for a blockbuster album that sells 2 million copies. The zine was designed by Jenna Lecours, BS graphic design '18, who is now assistant operations manager at Universal Music Group.

Julien also arranged for them to hear from even more alumnae and women in the industry: A panel of six women — including three alumnae — from Philly's Live Nation office came to one class, and students also visited the Universal Music Group's local office to hear from five female graduates.

“When the students speak to alumni, they see themselves in that person, and there's that point of connectivity,” says Julien. “It's really inspirational and motivational for students, and the alumni are very excited to give back and share their experience.”

Monika Julien, at right, wants to raise career awareness for her students.

JEFF FUSCO



"Just create the thing that you want for yourself."

Katie Jelen

BS music industry '08,
JD '10

Founder: *Honestly Good Music*

"This is an industry that runs by its old rules, and there are some rules that you're just going to have to abide by. And then [there are] rules that are open for interpretation and others that you could just flat out break and go rogue and have fun with."

Kristin Biskup

BS music industry '12
Director of Marketing,
Lava Records

"Know that there's value to what you have to say."

Tyler-Kassandra Odenat

BS music industry '15
Business Affairs Manager,
VP Records

"Be driven as hell. No one's going to hand anything to you."

Paulina Freed

BS entertainment and arts management '20
Manager, Brand Partnerships,
Interscope Records

"We may be assistants and coordinators now, but in 10 years, we are going to be the department heads."

Nicole Weinstein

BS music industry '20
Digital Marketing Coordinator,
Republic Records



View *Double Platinum*.



Over the span of 45 years, Myers Hall served as home to thousands of Dragons.

GREEN SPACE

New Campus Green Space Puts Down Roots

A residence hall where Drexel students studied, slept, laughed and learned for 45 years will make way for a multipurpose green space that generations of Dragons have yearned for. The space is slated for completion in 2024.

The University is replacing the Myers Hall residential building at 33rd and Race streets with a 40,000-square-foot open lawn surrounded by 16,000 square feet of native planting beds.

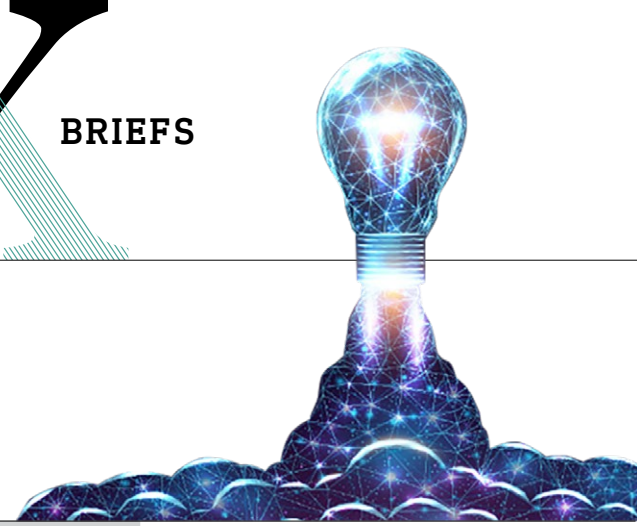
The space will provide a kind of “front lawn” for students, fulfilling a longstanding need for outdoor and recreation space on the University City Campus.

In addition to eight critical existing trees, 104 new native canopy and understory trees will be added. While a lawn and planting beds will cover much of the site, it will also include pathways of porous pavers and a plaza with seating. New native and adapted species of plants and natural grass were chosen for adaptability to urban conditions, drought tolerance to reduce irrigation demands, increased biodiversity, support of birds and insects, ability to provide shade cover, and reduction of the urban heat island effect.

The space will include multiple seating areas and numerous options for electrical outlets. “We intend to add a lot of power on the site and install outlets wherever we can, including on lamp posts and within the planned bench,” says Director of Design Kimberly Miller.

Drexel hired businesses owned by minorities and/or women and consultancies to bring the space to new life.

The project will follow phased demolition of the residence hall that began in the summer of 2023. The building had first opened in 1977 as “the New Residence” and, in 1984, was renamed in honor of Harold M. Myers ’38, HD ’83, an alumnus who worked for Drexel for over five decades and came out of retirement in 1987 to serve as the University’s interim president. The residence hall went offline in 2022.



COLLABORATION

Partnership with Lockheed Martin Takes Off

In May, Drexel opened the Lockheed Martin Launchpad to foster innovation and strengthen ties between the University and the aerospace and security giant.

Located in MacAlister Hall, the Launchpad will serve as a hub where students can network with Lockheed Martin employees and explore opportunities for co-ops and research.

The space builds upon a decades-long partnership. Drexel has served as a pipeline to Lockheed Martin with top-tier candidates, while the company provides transformative co-op experiences to undergraduate and graduate students.

A new rotational co-op has been created to expose students to a variety of jobs and career opportunities at the company.

“This new space will truly be a launchpad for creativity, collaboration and engagement, both formal and informal,” says Paul E. Jensen, executive vice president and Nina Henderson Provost. “Whether at a lunch-and-learn or in a class taking place in the Launchpad, students will gain priceless connections, knowledge and transferable skills.”

Tony DeSimone, vice president of Engineering & Technology at Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems, describes the Launchpad as “a place where new ideas are born.” A Triple Dragon — BS physics and atmospheric science ’98, MS physics ’01, PhD ’05 — DeSimone adds that “Lockheed Martin looks forward to working with and serving the Drexel community for years to come.”

“Whether at a lunch-and-learn or in a class taking place in the Launchpad, students will gain priceless connections, knowledge and transferable skills.”



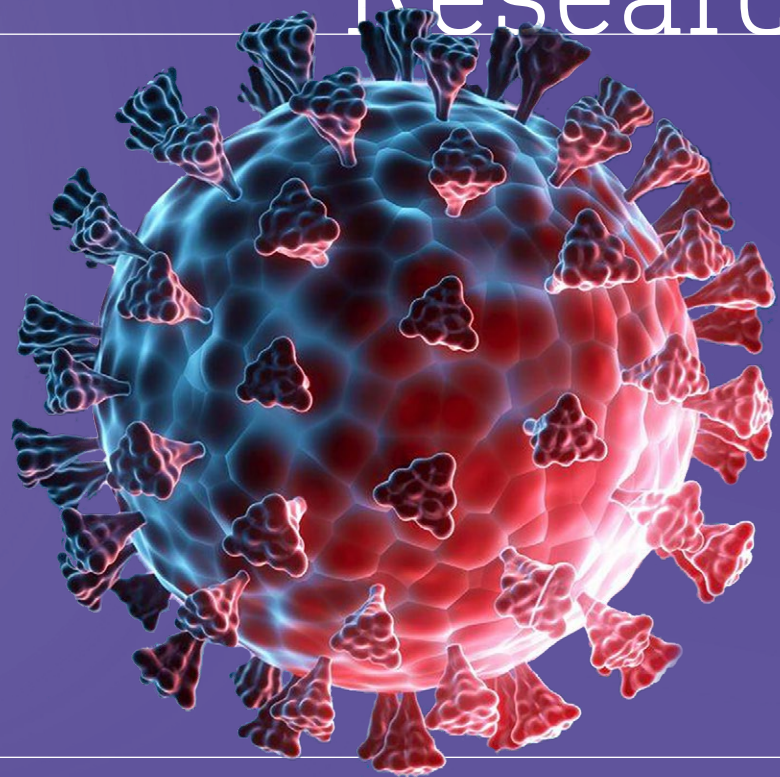
For more about Drexel's research enterprise, see EXEL Magazine at exelmagazine.org.

Research

MEDICINE

A CRYSTAL BALL FOR CLINICIANS TREATING COVID-19

An analysis of clinical data from COVID-19 patients treated in 20 U.S. hospitals could help doctors predict the severity of an infected individual's symptoms. Researchers at Drexel University's College of Medicine contributed to a study that identified cellular and molecular factors associated with severe disease and death, which could alert physicians to high-risk patients.



COMPUTING & INFORMATICS



Kids Help to Thwart Online Predators

Young users of social media channels are helping to build a machine learning program that can flag unwanted sexual advances on Instagram while also protecting users' privacy. The project, involving researchers in the College of Computing & Informatics and other universities, aims to curb sexual exploitation of children and teens that

surged during the pandemic.

BIOLOGY



Ants Shed Light on Animal Responses to Climate Change

A study of army ants gave researchers in the College of Arts and Sciences abundant new insights about animals' adaptation to extreme temperature change and an evolving habitat. Their findings included the discovery of great variance in colonies' tolerance of minimum and maximum temperatures.

ENGINEERING



On the Trail of 'Forever Chemicals'

The same microbes that break down biodegradable materials appear to play a role in releasing notorious per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) into the environment, a team led by researchers in the College of Engineering have discovered. PFAS are chemicals widely used in consumer products that have been linked to cancers and other disorders. They never break down and can

leach out of fertilizer made from recycled waste, aided by microbial decomposition, the researchers found.

ENGINEERING



Like an Eye Over Troubled Bridges

A solar-powered, wireless sensor system devised by researchers in the College of Engineering continually monitors the condition of bridges and could be used to alert authorities to structural deformation. Running on photovoltaic power, the system could help inspectors

triage repairs for the nation's bridges, 40% of which are more than 50 years old.

ENGINEERING



Energy Efficient Urban Planning Via Machine Learning

A model developed in the College of Engineering can reduce Philadelphia's greenhouse gas emissions by anticipating how neighborhood change will affect energy consumption. The model helps planners compensate for the diversity of Philadelphia's building stock,

putting a city goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 within reach.

COMPUTING & AUTISM



Screening Tool Proven Effective When Used as Intended

After combing through two decades' worth of studies, Drexel researchers confirmed that a tool developed and refined at the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute is reliable in identifying individuals with autism, provided that screeners follow recommended protocols.

ENGINEERING



AI Pinpoints Weakness in Aging Structures

By combining artificial intelligence with a classic mathematical method for quantifying web-like networks, researchers in the College of Engineering can interpret patterns of cracking to assess vulnerabilities in concrete structures. The methodology could speed and enhance inspections of aging bridges, roadways and buildings.



Ryan Lewis
MHA '94, MD '98

Faces

MEDICINE

WHERE SURGICAL PRECISION MEETS MOUNDS OF FLUFF

A lifelong fascination with human anatomy guides Ryan Lewis's career developing surgical devices and inspires his work as felting artist. — *Sarah Greenblatt*

For more than two decades, Ryan Lewis MHA '94, MD '98, has turned his meticulous eye to safely developing devices to repair aortic aneurysms or to enable robots to reattach tiny blood vessels in a surgical theater. The life-saving work is gratifying, but it doesn't fulfil the creative impulses that have followed Lewis since childhood.

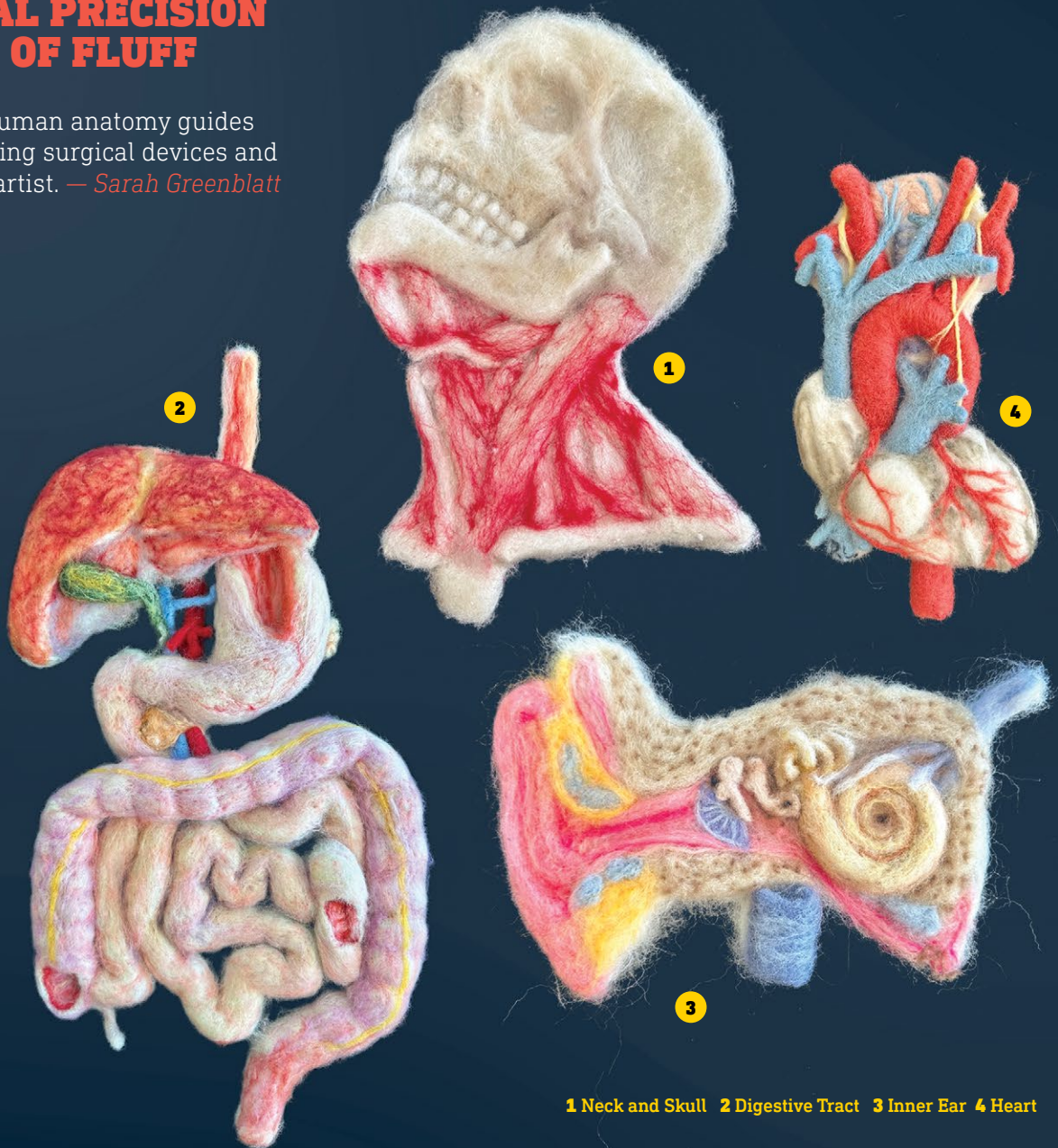
"Creating is a big part of my life," Lewis says. "Without it, I feel like I'm missing something."

Fearing that a career as an ear, nose and throat specialist could become confining, Lewis never opted to hang out a shingle, although he is licensed to practice medicine in Arizona, California and Utah. After stints as chief medical officer for W.L. Gore and Associates and Megadyne Medical Products, he began serving as a consultant to device producers.

Along the way, he treated his creative impulse with hobbies. Lewis discovered that jabbing wads of wool roving with felting needles helped focus his attention during daylong, pandemic-driven, remote meetings. It's also, he says, a great technique for managing stress.

He had learned about dry felting through images of dogs, cats and woodland animals rendered in wool that he encountered on social media. Online instructional videos demonstrated the process.

The prospect of crafting cuddly critters held little allure for Lewis, who sticks to familiar terrain, creating a heart, an inner ear, a digestive tract, a skull, a fetus and



1 Neck and Skull 2 Digestive Tract 3 Inner Ear 4 Heart

more. For each creation, Lewis draws an outline on a piece of fabric that he attaches to a foam block before he begins.

Inspiration abounds in vintage drawings Lewis finds in "Gray's Anatomy" and the "Netter Atlas of Human Anatomy," although he has also begun producing non-human figures, such as a dissected snake. In the future, he may tackle the

ornate structures found in electron micrographs of human cells and pathologies.

"Historically, art and anatomy have always overlapped," Lewis says, citing Leonardo da Vinci's training as an anatomist. "Understanding what lies beneath the skin has informed artists in the past and helped them to really be able to capture motion in still life."

Felting allows Lewis, who offset some of his medical-school bills by tutoring first-year students with anatomical flashcards that he had hand-illustrated, to expand his artistry into three dimensions. It's a fitting way for Lewis to honor anatomy's rich history as a foundation for teaching and understanding.

"I'm celebrating that," Lewis says.



“Colleges and universities have a vested moral and practical stake in encouraging more diverse interest and participation in STEM fields.”
— President John Fry

SCIENCE

Drexel Sponsors Global Scientific Confab

This year for the first time, Drexel sponsored the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world’s largest scientific organization. The theme of the event was “Science for Humanity.”

Thousands of researchers and scientists from around the globe attended the meeting in Washington, D.C., which opened with remarks about equity in STEM disciplines by President John Fry. Germany, Canada and Japan sent delegations, while foundations that support science, agencies such as NASA and other universities had a strong presence as well.

“The people who attend AAAS are influencers in the academic and scientific worlds, so we were able to enhance our reputation among the attendees,” says Aleister Saunders, executive vice provost for research and innovation. “The AAAS was founded in Philadelphia at the Academy of Natural Sciences in 1848, so that’s a really big part of why we’re engaged in it, because it’s part of our DNA.”

In addition to myriad panel discussions, the meeting included an E-poster competition, in which Drexel students won 17 of the 39 awards conferred.

CLIMATE

Universities Unite to Address Flooding in Philly

The damaging effects of extreme weather have prompted Drexel, the University of Pennsylvania and Villanova University to establish the Academic Network to Support Urban Water Resilience, a community-focused research network dedicated to studying climate change.

With generous support from the William Penn Foundation, the network’s water management research centers at each institution will collaborate with community-based organizations as they devise strategies to enhance climate resilience.

“Philadelphia’s vulnerability to the extreme effects of climate change has become evident in recent years,” says Franco Montalto, a professor in Drexel’s College of Engineering and a network leader. “Tropical Storm Isaias inundated the Eastwick neighborhood in 2020; Hurricane Ida in 2021 flooded several neighborhoods across the city, damaged infrastructure and completely submerged the Vine Street Expressway. It’s incumbent upon the water management research community at our city’s leading universities to work with residents to address these

challenges and develop solutions specific to their communities.”

Led by Drexel’s Environmental Collaboratory, the network includes Drexel’s Sustainable Water Resource Engineering Laboratory, Penn’s Water Center and Villanova’s Center for Resilient Water Systems. The network will solicit project proposals from community groups seeking expert assistance to gather data, monitor conditions, or develop resilience plans, while conferring with representatives from the Philadelphia Water Department and the Office of Sustainability and Resilient Communities Stormwater Initiative.

Network members will turn the proposals into research modules that researchers and students at each of the universities will approach as capstone projects during the term or academic year.

All projects will focus on water management challenges facing the community: water quality improvement, land use, tree canopy/vegetation cover, water infrastructure and flood management, with timelines ranging from 10 weeks to more than a year.



Youngmoo Kim



Marla Gold



LEADERSHIP

Moving Up, Moving On

Drexel recently made two significant personnel announcements that will affect the University's leadership and community engagement efforts.

Youngmoo Kim, the founding director of the Expressive and Creative Interaction Technologies (ExCITe) Center and professor of electrical and computer engineering, was appointed as the new vice provost for University and Community Partnerships, effective April 1. Kim's appointment follows the successful tenure of Lucy Kerman, who was the inaugural head of that position and played a vital role in securing Drexel's status as a community partner and civically engaged anchor institution.

Since joining Drexel in 2005, Kim has been instrumental in building the ExCITe Center into a thriving hub of learning and innovation. The center has fostered collaborations with numerous community, cultural and educational organizations in Philadelphia, including the Science Leadership Academy and the SLA Middle School, the City of Philadelphia's Office of Innovation and Technology, Opera Philadelphia, and the United Way of Greater Philadelphia. Kim's leadership has also contributed to the development of Drexel's West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood initiatives, which includes hosting Action for Early Learning and organizing the Young Dragons Summer STEAM camp, benefitting hundreds of middle school students in West Philadelphia since its inception in 2018.

At the same time, Drexel University said goodbye to Senior Vice Provost for Community Health and Chief Wellness Officer Marla Gold, who retired. Gold's contributions to the University spanned three decades, during which she held pivotal roles, including dean and professor at the school now known as the Dana and David Dornsife School of Public Health. During her tenure, Gold played a key role in establishing the school as the region's first highly ranked and fully accredited school of public health. She also made significant contributions to the establishment of the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute and the Center for Hunger Free Communities.

Gold's leadership continued during the challenging years of the pandemic. As senior vice provost and chief wellness officer, she led the University's pandemic response efforts, heading the Return Oversight Committee and implementing crucial recommendations for Drexel's Police Department. Furthermore, she oversaw the establishment of the Drexel Public Safety Oversight Committee, which contributed to ensuring the well-being and safety of the community.

COMMUNITY

From Therapy Pet to Muse

As a therapy dog in training at Drexel, Mocha Latte has ambitions of helping exam takers alleviate stress and anxiety. But when a cohort of MFA students on the cusp of graduating sought an audience with the Cane Corso, Therapy Dog Program Coordinator Janine Erato saw an opportunity.

Erato agreed to the meeting and then invited the students to submit stories that would explain the braces that Mocha Latte wore on her front legs to a writing competition.

Unaware that the dog's braces made up for malformations in her limbs that resulted from a virulent infection that had gone undiagnosed and nearly killed her, 10 students let their imaginations run wild.

The winning entry, "The Dragon Casts," came from Nicholette Guy, MFA '23, who wrote that Mocha Latte defended Erato from a dragon — clearly not Mario — and injured her front legs while holding the beast's jaws open so that her handler could escape. Guy won \$25 for the story, which was written from the dog's perspective.

"They were all great stories, so I looked at certain things we had asked to be in the story to help narrow it down," Erato says. "The way she described Mocha's personality and our bond was very true to us. It may have been completely unintentional, but it really hit home for me."

Guy couldn't have known that her story, which ends with Erato telling Mocha Latte that "we're going to make it through this," would prove prescient. The dog recovered her ability to walk and, as of June, had outgrown the need for one of her braces.

Mocha Latte was welcomed into Drexel's pack of therapy dogs in 2022, joining her cousin Java, her aunt Espresso and grandmother Chai.

Mocha Latte, a Cane Corso, inspired a writing contest at Drexel.



DOG: JANINE ERATO

WE NEED THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION TO GO FURTHER TO COUNTER MISINFORMATION AND MAKE CLEAR THAT THESE ATTACKS, WHICH ARE WAR CRIMES, WILL HAVE CONSEQUENCES.

JOSEPH AMON, DANA AND DAVID DORNSIFE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, responding to Russian attacks on Ukraine.

JASON WECKSTEIN, College of Arts and Sciences and Academy of Natural Sciences, discussing the Bird Safe Philly initiative to prevent bird strikes on office windows.

BUILDINGS IN THE UNITED STATES KILL ABOUT A BILLION BIRDS A YEAR.

EBONY WHITE, College of Nursing and Health Professions, citing social media's impact on children and teens.

IT REALLY DOES TAKE A VILLAGE, BECAUSE THIS IS A RELATIONAL ISSUE — IT'S NOT JUST AN INDIVIDUAL ISSUE, SO WE ALL NEED TO GET INVOLVED.

NAOKO KURAHASHI NELSON, College of Arts and Sciences.

OBSERVING OUR OWN GALAXY FOR THE FIRST TIME, USING PARTICLES INSTEAD OF LIGHT IS A HUGE STEP.

DIVERSITY SERVES AS AN IRREPLACEABLE SOURCE OF STRENGTH AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY.

JOHN FRY, responding to the Supreme Court ruling against affirmative action in college admissions.

UPCYCLING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO TO KEEP NUTRITION IN PEOPLE AND OUT OF THE TRASH CAN.

JONATHAN DEUTSCH, College of Nursing & Health Professions.

MARY CYBULSKI



Actors Laurie Metcalf, Ray Romano and Sadie Stanley appear in a scene shot inside the DAC.

In memory of Penny L. Hammrich.



CULTURE

A Hollywood Cameo for Drexel Athletics

With a coveted Drexel basketball scholarship at its heart, what’s not to love about “Somewhere in Queens,” a feature film set in Philadelphia that marked actor Ray Romano’s directorial debut?

The dramedy features Romano, who co-wrote the script, as the father of an aspiring Drexel basketball player struggling to balance his dreams of athletic glory with his romantic life and his family’s expectations. Jacob Ward plays the Dragon wannabe, while Emmy and Tony award-winning actress Laurie Metcalf plays his mother.

Portions of the movie were shot on Drexel’s University City Campus in 2021, giving Dragons everywhere glimpses of familiar campus locations. The trailer alone includes scenes in Daskalaskis Athletics Center and the Korman Family Quad.



91 PERCENT

Produced by Bona Fide Productions, the film can be streamed on numerous online platforms following a limited theater release and has largely won over audiences, scoring 91% on Rotten Tomatoes and 6.9 out of 10 at IMDb.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



A Small Oasis Honors a Dean Whose Memory Looms Large

A garden tucked behind Drexel’s School of Education has been dedicated to Penny L. Hammrich, a faculty member since 2010 who served as dean of the school from 2019 until her death in August 2022.

Penny Park, located at Warren and Filbert streets, was named in February 2023 and informally dedicated in June, giving people who knew her an idyllic venue in which to recall the leadership and commitment to civic engagement that made Hammrich a beloved figure.

The park’s tiled murals date to 1982, when the space was affiliated with the Institute for Scientific Information and accommodated its daycare center. Additional painted murals have been contributed by the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design’s Leonard Pearlstein Gallery, located in the

nearby URBN Center Annex.

“The Arts Festival” mural pulled Associate Dean Sarah P. Ulrich like a magnet when she toured the newly named park for the first time. “This one is perfect, with all the colors and diversity and different mobilities and ages and families — all the things that Penny cared about,” Ulrich notes.

“Penny was a visionary leader who infused innovation and civic engagement throughout the School of Education and its programs. I will always remember the spark of her joyful determination,” President John Fry says. “When students and colleagues come to Penny Park to gather, study, socialize or reflect, they will also remember Penny’s joyful spirit, her devoted service to the School of Education and her lasting contributions to Drexel University and beyond.”



Urban Outfitters' apprentice program will open doors for aspiring fashion designers.

Writers Room is creating a national model in humanities education.

FASHION

Apprentice Program Tailored to Fashion

Urban Outfitters Inc. and the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design launched a two-year apprenticeship program to cultivate a broader talent pool for the fashion industry.

Made to Measure: The URBN x Drexel Apprenticeship Program provides a customized curriculum for those seeking careers in fashion design, along with on-the-job training from the lifestyle retailer that got its start in University City.

"I am so pleased to announce the launch of this unique learning program," says Richard A. Hayne, chief executive officer of URBN. "As the fashion industry evolves, we must be more imaginative in seeking out and cultivating creative talent. By providing participants with access to hands-on learning, traditional coursework and post-graduation employment options, we are creating significant value for all parties."

The apprenticeships are available to individuals interested in careers in fashion design who demonstrate an aptitude for creativity and have yet to pursue postsecondary studies.

"The fashion industry is changing — and so is higher education," Westphal Dean Jason Schupbach says. "By creating a rigorous, nontraditional education format with direct pipelines to creative careers, we're giving students from all backgrounds an unprecedented opportunity for success."

COMMUNITY

Neighbor. Teacher. Writer?

The bus driver who lives next door has stories to tell. The waitress serving up a slice of pie is a local historian. The kid on the skateboard can speak in poetic couplets.

A project led by Drexel's Writers Room aims to cultivate unseen literary opportunities that abound in West Philadelphia.

"UnMapping: A Project of Radical Textual Geographies" is one of 26 initiatives nationwide that received an inaugural Higher Learning Open Call grant from the Mellon Foundation to support social-justice research and programs.

A \$500,000 grant will allow the UnMapping project to bring the literary and broader humanities imagination to bear on issues of social justice in West Philadelphia and serve as a national model for institutions and organizations undertaking civic engagement work.

"UnMapping involves questioning established norms and challenging the status quo," says Rachel Wenrick, founding director of Writers Room and executive director for Arts & Civic Innovation in the Office of University and Community Partnerships. "This project insists on privileging partnerships and presence over hierarchy by positioning all participants as potential teachers and students."

The project will support four distinct efforts over the course of three years.



01 Up to six Drexel and community scholars and artists will be chosen as **UnMapping Fellows** to receive support to produce cutting-edge research or public projects to advance social justice.

02 Drexel faculty and community co-instructors will receive assistance to **develop interdisciplinary, public-facing courses** that bridge multi-genre literature, writing and critical scholarship with local issues.

03 Amplifying Writers Room's role linking Drexel to community organizations and neighbors by continuing to **offer classes with visiting writers, cultural events, talks and monthly workshops**, culminating with a symposium co-created with community members and UnMapping fellows.

04 Two satellite programs will include **Humanities at Work**, a research project and multi-disciplinary humanities course that partners with workplaces on employee programs that put literature at the center of organizational initiatives, and the **Second Story Collective**, which brings together artists, activists, architects and local residents to cultivate a shared living space and craft stories that support meaningful cohabitation.

"The UnMapping project aligns with Drexel's mission to address society's challenges through an inclusive learning environment, experiential learning, external partnerships, transdisciplinary and applied research, and creative activity," Drexel President John Fry says. "UnMapping will elevate the importance of public humanities in developing the next generation of scholars, practitioners and activists."



Archie Filshill '96, '11 and
Theresa Andrejack Loux '06, '10

MATERIALS

THEY MAKE THE GLASS AGGREGATE THAT REBUILT I-95

When a stretch of Pennsylvania's interstate highway suddenly collapsed, engineering alumni Archie Filshill and Theresa Andrejack Loux had the stuff to get traffic moving again. — *Sarah Greenblatt*

The collapse of an Interstate 95 bridge in northeast Philadelphia in June 2023 sparked dire forecasts of a crippled regional economy, a tangled supply chain and commuting chaos for months on end.

The soothsayers clearly didn't know about Archie Filshill (MS civil engineering '96, PhD civil engineering '11) or Theresa Andrejack Loux (BS civil engineering '06, MS civil engineering '10). But they would soon learn.

The CEO and CTO, respectively, of Aero Aggregates of North America helped avert prolonged calamity on a key transit artery for the entire Eastern Seaboard.

Some 8,000 cubic yards of foamed glass aggregate that Aero produces from recycled bottles and jars provided backfill that crews paved over, allowing six of the interstate's eight lanes to reopen just 12 days after the bridge fell.

For their role in reopening the interstate so quickly, Aero's two principals earned prominent spots in a celebratory parade and a standing ovation at a Phillies game.

"As a Northeast Philly guy, that was a big deal," says Filshill, who also personally briefed Gov. Josh Shapiro and President Joe Biden on the properties of the foamed glass aggregate when the interstate reopened.

Aero's sudden stardom actually grew from seeds planted at Drexel decades before, when the late Robert Koerner — himself a double Dragon — helped establish the field of geosynthetics, which are man-made materials used in combination with soil or rock to improve one or more of the prop-

erties of these earthen materials.

A member of the College of Engineering Department of Civil Engineering and the Bowman Professor of Engineering until his death in 2019, Koerner wrote "Designing with Geosynthetics," a landmark textbook that led to the design and installation of polymeric "fabrics" that are widely used today on projects related to roadways, retaining walls, airfields, dams and agriculture. Geosynthetics have become a standard in the United States for construction of landfills and mechanically stabilized earth-retaining walls.

Filshill heard about Koerner during his undergraduate days at Temple University and decided to take some classes at Drexel.

"How do you not at least take a couple of classes with the world expert, when he's in your same hometown?" Filshill asks. "So, I took his classes and then some more classes, and that's how I got my master's degree."

After spending five years working in Europe, Filshill met Loux while both pursued their PhDs. The geotechnical engineers' shared interests kept them connected until they completed their doctoral studies, when their paths diverged. She taught at Bucknell University, while he continued to grow a construction business he founded that was focused on geo-environmental design-build projects.

A couple of years later, Filshill bumped into Loux, who was ready for a change from academia, and he hired her as a project engineer.

During his stint overseas, Filshill learned how engineers there had

begun using foamed recycled glass in construction projects. Discarded bottles and jars are cleaned, milled into a fine powder and mixed with a foaming agent before emerging from a kiln in sheets that break into gravel-like chunks.

The lightweight material makes it ideal for construction on soft soils and for protecting underground utilities, such as water and sewer lines. Its insulating, insect-resisting and non-flammable properties also make it useful in residential and commercial construction.

And, unlike plastic or paper, recycled glass is a predictable commodity.

"It's very consistent," Filshill says, observing that engineers typically greet recycled materials with a raft of questions. "'Where did the plastic come from? Where did the paper come from? Was there contamination?' Once you get the glass clean, it's glass."

Filshill envisioned additional uses for foamed glass aggregate and obtained two patents, the first

reflecting his recognition that — when floated over the surface of a water or sewage lagoon — the permeable material lets rainwater in but blocks evaporation, reducing odors. His discovery that the material's insulating properties can prevent landfill-generated heat from damaging the geomembrane covers laid over them led to a second patent.

After launching Aero, Filshill invited Loux to join the company as the technical lead. Loux's expertise in research has enabled Aero to explore yet more uses for foamed glass aggregate, and the company now has eight patents pending. She also oversees quality control and leads efforts to educate the engineering and construction community about material that is still relatively uncommon in the United States.

The region's critical mass of Drexel-trained engineers has opened doors for the company. Aero has supplied aggregate for some 300 projects, including a new

Filshill and Loux stand next to the kiln inside the Aero Aggregates plant in Eddystone, Pennsylvania.



Rad Grads

“We’re constantly trying to explore new applications or modifying our product.”

— Theresa Andrejack Loux

apron at Philadelphia International Airport; a temporary ramp at JFK Airport; the Nassau Expressway connecting New York City to Long Island; a stretch of I-95 outside Fredericksburg, Virginia; and the I-395 connector near Bangor, Maine.

Aero’s local reputation made it an obvious choice for the I-95 rebuild. PennDOT engineers summoned to the site called Filshill within two hours of the collapse to ask if he had enough product.

Moments later, Filshill fielded the same question from Rob Buckley, the son of Bob Buckley, ’58, HD ’12, an emeritus trustee who had received word that his family firm, Buckley & Co., would be tapped to serve as general contractor to manage the emergency project.

As the sole North American manufacturer of dry-process closed-cell foamed glass aggregate, Aero was poised for tremendous growth, even before its recent burst of fame. The company now has three production lines in Eddystone, while a plant with two production lines opened in Florida in 2022 and a facility with two more production lines will open in California before the end of 2023.

That plant, in Modesto, will be run in partnership with Halo Recycling, a subsidiary of Gallo Wines.

“They’re going to be a great partner for us, and hopefully, they feel the same way,” Loux says. “We should be able to take all of the off-spec glass that they can’t use in their bottling operations.”

For Filshill and Loux, providing American builders with an aggregate suited

to diverse applications was a promising prospect from the start. That it can be produced economically made it that much better.

By making it from recycled material, Aero has achieved an engineering trifecta.

“As a company last year — and this is probably a big one for us — we’ve diverted the equivalent of over a half a billion bottles from landfills,” Filshill says. “And when California opens, that’ll be what we’ll be doing, per year, with the three facilities.”

Filshill and Loux are now advancing sustainability in other ways, says Grace Hsuan, a professor in the College of Engineering Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering who formerly taught both.

In 2018, Hsuan notes, Filshill served as a consultant to Associate Professor Yaghoob Amir Farnam, enabling him to secure a pivotal National Science Foundation I-Corps grant as well as a recent Innovation Fund grant from Drexel to develop a scalable lightweight aggregate manufacturing technology using waste ash left over from coal combustion.

More recently, Filshill and Loux have helped Hsuan and engineering colleagues with their study of a lightweight concrete aggregate that incorporates coal ash, foamed glass and composite, for which the College of Engineering conferred a Longview Fellowship.

Along the way, Hsuan says, her former students have created a valuable model.

“Removing waste from the landfill and making it into valuable construction material — I think that is a fantastic example of a circular economy,” Hsuan says, praising the two engineers for taking the time to lead seminars for her first-year students.

The admiration cuts both ways. As Filshill prepared to open the Aero plant, there was one visit he had to make.

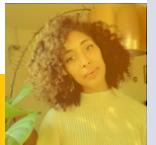
“The first bag of rocks, we took back to Drexel,” Filshill recalls. “We had a couple of professors start working on it and testing it. But it’s also been a place you can call and say, ‘Hey, we’d like to grab a cup of coffee’ and just have these roundtable discussions. Drexel has been very good that way.”



Drexel
MAGAZINE



40
UNDER
FORTY



WHERE
DID DREXEL
TAKE YOU?

Tell us what moves you, how you got ahead, and where you’re going next.

Nominate yourself or another Dragon for selection to the 40 Under 40 Class of 2025.

- Must be 39 years or younger as of March 14, 2025.
- Must have a Drexel degree.
- Must demonstrate success in business, arts, science, community or advocacy.
- Must submit high-resolution photograph and résumé.

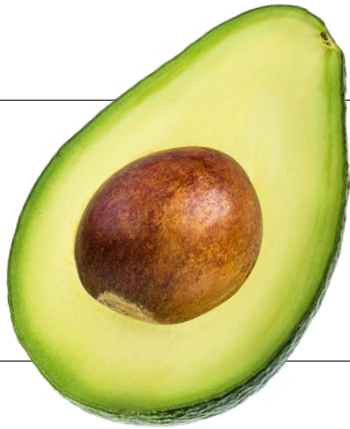
Submit nominations to
drexelmagazine.org/40U40.

Deadline: Aug. 16, 2024.

Questions?

Email magazine@drexel.edu

Hidden Gems, an alumnae-launched company, produces a refreshing beverage from avocado seeds.



Rita Toliver-Roberts, vice president of academic affairs and provost at Peirce College, addresses graduates in 2023.



STARTUPS

Planting Seeds for Minority-Owned, Local Startups

Four local minority-owned startups were chosen by the University City Science Center and Drexel to receive support from the Raynier Seed Fund for Underrepresented Founders program.

Each company will receive \$25,000, in addition to mentoring from Raynier Seed Fund community partners:

HIDDEN GEMS, a beverage company originally launched by Drexel alumnae Sheetal Bahirat, MS culinary arts & science '20, and Zuri Masud, MS food science, '19. Promoting sustainability by upcycling typically discarded food, such as avocado seeds, the startup found early success with its refreshing Reveal beverage, which won a Startup CPG Shelfie award in 2022.

NATURAZ is the creator of the Moisture Burst System, a lineup of 100% vegan, non-genetically modified conditioning shampoo; rehydrating mist and de-tangler; and hair moisturizer made with sustainably sourced ingredients.

SNAPREFUND is a financial technology company that simplifies and expedites the claim payment process for the insurance industry.

VASOWATCH, a company that has developed a non-invasive wearable device to improve postpartum hemorrhage risk prediction. This novel labor and delivery technology supports continuous monitoring of a mother's risk for postpartum hemorrhage, the leading cause of maternal death and complications.



ACCESS

Drexel, Peirce Team Up to Retool Adult Learners

Drexel has launched pilot programs with Peirce College to help adult and nontraditional learners prepare for high-demand jobs and to ready a diverse pipeline of talent for the region's employers.

The initiatives allow Peirce — which has focused on making education affordable for working adults for more than 150 years — to expand its mission, while bolstering Drexel's efforts to expand access to its academic offerings for students across the region.

The first of these programs is a Peirce-Drexel pathway to online bachelor's degree programs at Drexel for students who have fewer than 24 college credits. Students can enroll first at Peirce to earn an online associate degree, with the option of embedding select industry-relevant certifications in the program, and then transfer credits to Drexel to be applied toward select online bachelor's degrees.

The institutions are also working in partnership with St. Christopher's Hospital for Children to offer an apprenticeship opportunity to complement medical coding and billing certificates offered at Peirce, which can stack to an online bachelor's degree at Drexel.

Opportunities for program graduates will be abundant in Philadelphia, a growing hub for gene therapy and life sciences research that is expected to add tens of thousands of new jobs in health care and technology-driven medical research over the next decade.

"This program aims to remove the barriers that prevent many adults from completing their degree, enrolling at colleges and universities and acquiring the credentials and advanced skills needed to secure in-demand, well-paying jobs," President John Fry says. "This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to promote inclusive economic growth in service to the Philadelphia community."

"We know employment outcomes must improve."
— Lindsay Shea



CULTURE



Exhibit Celebrates 'Electric' Venue

Memories of Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and the sounds that influenced music for generations come roaring back through *Electrified: 50 Years of Electric Factory*.

The exhibit celebrates both the iconic venue that opened on Arch Street in 1968 and Electric Factory Concerts, which became the largest popular music promoter in the United States.

Featuring original posters, photographs and concert apparel from the club and shows mounted elsewhere, the exhibit was assembled by Drexel curators, in partnership with Larry Magid, co-founder of Electric Factory. A talent agent known in New York for promoting upcoming rock and blues musicians, Magid returned to his native Philadelphia in 1967 to join brothers Allen and Herb Spivak in opening a hip underground club.

The exhibit includes sections on the early years of Electric Factory, Live Aid, concert sound systems (with a scaled-down stage), and the psychology of rhythm underlying much of the era's music. An interactive section will close the show, inviting guests to decorate guitars virtually.

"For many Philadelphians, *Electrified* will evoke treasured musical memories, stretching back over decades," says Derek Gillman, the executive director of University Collections and Exhibitions, and distinguished teaching professor in the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design.

Sponsored by Ciright, Comcast-Spectacor, the Frank Barsalona Family, Philadelphia Music Alliance, Brian Communications, Red Spruce Capital, Saltz Mongeluzzi Bendesky, and Alan Kessler and Duane Morris, the exhibit runs through Saturday, Dec. 30 in the Paul Peck Alumni Center Gallery and the Bossone Research Center.

AUTISM

Peer Services Program Aids Adults with Autism

A new project will bolster an autistic peer support program model designed to boost community participation among young adults with autism.

The Policy, Analytics and Community Research program at the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, in partnership with Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion, launched the Community Autism Peer Specialist (CAPS) program.

Supported through a National Institute of Mental Health grant, CAPS will engage autistic adults to enhance and evaluate a peer-support program and expand it in Philadelphia.

The project will fill a void for autistic adults who age out of the services provided through the education system but need ongoing support. It also creates an opportunity for autistic adults to share skills and experiences they have acquired while navigating life in the community.

"Peer support has the unique quality of being a professional service that is personal in nature," says Aliko Koumenis, project coordinator at the institute's Policy, Analytics and Community Research program. "As someone who has been on both sides of giving and receiving this type of support, I have experienced the shared connection, empathy and empowerment that comes from connecting with someone else who can relate."

An advisory board including autistic individuals, CAPS graduates,

peer specialists, family members and the research team will guide all aspects of the research. Two part-time CAPS peer specialists will be hired from a pool of CAPS graduates. Northeast Treatment Center, a nonprofit agency that provides trauma-informed behavioral health and social services, will host the study, one of the first of its kind.

"This is also a potentially innovative funding strategy that employs autistic adults, where we know employment outcomes must improve," says Lindsay Shea, leader of the Policy, Analytics and Community research program in the Autism Institute and the project's director.

"Our work with autistic adults will pave the way to expanding additional service options and employment opportunities that we often hear from autistic adults are desperately needed."

The research team is currently recruiting autistic individuals, 18–30 years old and living in Philadelphia, who are Medicaid eligible for the study and reflect the city's racial and ethnic diversity.



"I wanted to introduce Drexel students to the world of the African immigrant community."
— Parfait Kouacou

ENGAGEMENT

West Philadelphia to West Africa in Under a Mile



If students could polish their conversational French skills, learn about West African culture, explore racial justice issues from diverse viewpoints, sample plantains and forge friendships with University City neighbors in one class, would they sign up?

Associate Teaching Professor Parfait Kouacou bet they would. The gamble not only paid off, it illustrated how community-based learning can build bridges between the University and a vibrant immigrant community in West Philadelphia.

A native of Côte d'Ivoire, Kouacou wanted to design a course to help Drexel students strengthen their French language skills while interacting with members of the nearby Francophone African community. Doing so would help the Department of Global Studies and Modern Languages

Eric Edi, president of the Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities, and Youma Ba, owner of the Senegalese restaurant, Kilimandjaro, talk with students.

in the College of Arts and Sciences fulfill its ambition of heightening students' awareness of world issues and local concerns. It would also amplify community-based learning opportunities that Drexel's Lindy Center for Civic Engagement promotes.

Kouacou collaborated with Eric Edi, the president and COO of the Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities, to develop the course, "West Africa to West Philadelphia," which allowed students to learn and speak alongside members of West Philadelphia's African immigrant community. Guest lecturers, including alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship program with which Drexel is affiliated, enlivened the discussions. The class included a shared meal at Kilimandjaro, a Senegalese restaurant on Baltimore Avenue. Initially, Kouacou envisioned offering the course every two years.

Global issues, local lens.

But after the first cohort of 10 Dragons and 10 community members enrolled in spring 2021, Kouacou taught it again in the fall of 2022.

"It was amazing to relate class topics to everyone's lived experiences," says Maéva Kadjo '24, a management information systems and business analytics major and real estate management and development minor. "It was also an opportunity for the students and community members to share their cultures with each other."

As both an educator and a collaborator, Kouacou found the course rewarding.

"In a community-engaged course, students are active learners, not just recipients of knowledge," he says. "Student learning takes place in some form beyond the traditional classroom format, through dialogue with guest participants, the community and other experiential learning."

Show & Tell

CO-OP

NATHAN ONA

BS BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING '22

In a typical year, more than 92% of Drexel's undergraduates participate in the Drexel Co-op program — our signature model of education that balances classroom theory with job experience. What does a Drexel co-op look like? We asked recent graduate Nathan Ona to show us. He did his co-op in the lab where Nobel Prize-winning research yielded a safe, effective platform for the mRNA coronavirus vaccines and, after graduation, he went to work at the lab full time.

— Sarah Greenblatt

THE CO-OP

I was a technician in the lab of Drew Weissman, the Roberts Family Professor for Vaccine Research at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Weissman and Katalin Karikó, an adjunct professor in Neurosurgery, did years of foundational research that led to the mRNA technology employed by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna to create COVID-19 vaccines. Using cell culture and mice, I investigated how lipid nanoparticles could deliver mRNA to different areas of the body. I'd formulate particles with mRNA, which would produce a bioluminescent marker. We'd measure this marker to see if the mRNA was actually delivered into the lung, the spleen or the liver. Now that I've been hired as a full-time research specialist at the lab, I'm learning more advanced techniques that will help the team develop new mRNA vaccines for other infectious diseases.

THE TAKEAWAY

It usually takes researchers 15 to 20 years to see the fruits of their efforts. By arriving at the lab just as the COVID-19 vaccines were beginning to roll out in 2020, I got immediate gratification and saw how information has to be presented to the media and the public. It's very exciting to be in academia, where researchers answer those smaller "whys" to figure out the bigger "why."

THE OBJECTS

This is an Eppendorf tube and a tube opener that allow us to keep the contents free from contamination and sterile. I use these items constantly, because we perform new experiments every week. Naturally, I also wear gloves!



PARTNERSHIP

8.7.23

LEE CULTURAL
CENTER POOL,
WEST PHILADELPHIA

Public swimming pools across the country have struggled to remain open in recent years as declining interest and pandemic disruption have dried up the supply of new lifeguards. In Philadelphia, a public-private partnership between Drexel, Philadelphia's Department of Parks & Recreation and FAB Youth Philly — a workforce development organization — helped to keep pools running last summer by training city teens to become lifeguards.

The collaboration lasted over 12 weeks of training, after which 13 lifeguards hired by Parks & Rec allowed the city to reopen Lee Cultural Center Pool in West Philadelphia and keep others staffed during the summer of 2023.

The teens completed their training in the Drexel Recreation Center pool, courtesy of Drexel Athletics, with a certified trainer from Parks & Recreation. A physician and residents from St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, which Drexel co-owns with Tower Health, completed physical exams for the aspiring lifeguards at the Community Wellness Hub in the Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships.

Trainees received \$12 an hour, through the West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood, a U.S. Department of Education-funded program Drexel operates to create "cradle to career" opportunities for children living or attending schools in a federally designated Promise Zone area of West Philadelphia. Once hired, the lifeguards earned \$16 an hour.

JEFF FUSCO





1
THE POOL
The Lee Cultural Center pool reopened after a three-year closure with lifeguards from the program.

2
THE TRAINEES
Zahir Rivera and Luvly Johnson passed Philadelphia's lifeguard course by swimming 12 laps, diving 13 feet to retrieve a 10-pound brick and swimming backward with the brick, then treading water for two minutes.

3
THE FACILITATOR
Rachel Viddy is project director of the West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood initiative, part of Drexel's Office of University and Community Partnerships. The initiative

outfitted the teens with bathing caps, suits, goggles and flip flops. "This lifeguard training program serves as a powerful model illustrating the strength of partnership and community and how one program can meet many needs," says Viddy.

4
THE PARTNER
Rebecca Fabiano is president and founder of Fab Youth Philly, which helped the trainees pursue jobs and create résumés and LinkedIn profiles. "We know that young people who are employed as teenagers have a greater lifetime earning than those who are not, and they're also more employable as adults," she says.



FROM THE DAC

BASKETBALL

Basketball Without Borders

From Philadelphia to Poland, basketball is taking Keishana Washington on a journey in search of international athletic success. By Mike Unger

Basketball has turned Keishana Washington '22 into a globetrotter.

In July, she was in Toronto competing for her native Canada at Global Jam, an under-23 tournament featuring women's teams from around the world. A few days later, she flew to Chile for a three-on-three tournament and then headed to Hungary in August to play in the Senior Women's 3X3 Series. In September, she started her professional career in Poland, where she plays for the club Energa Torun.

All of these paths lead back to Philadelphia, where over the previous five years, she authored one of the most remarkable careers in Drexel women's basketball history.

"She is one of those players you see when you're recruiting her and you think, 'She's a program changer,'" Drexel coach Amy Mallon says. "And she certainly made her mark on our program."

Both on and off the court, Washington's 2,363 points are second all-time in program history (and fourth in Colonial Athletic Association history). Last season, she was named CAA Player of the Year and All-America honorable mention. But the award she's most proud of winning is CAA Scholar-Athlete of the Year, which she took home in 2022.

"It shows that I value my academics as much as I do my on-court performance, which is something my parents instilled in me at a very early age," says Washington, who graduated last year with a bachelor's degree in psychology, maintaining a 3.74 GPA. She was one of eight students admitted to Drexel's psychology master's program (she's still working on her graduate degree).

A native of Pickering, Ontario, Washington began shooting hoops with her dad when she was 4. By the time she was playing competitively at 9, it was her favorite sport.

"I played soccer as well but I didn't like running around and not scoring

for long periods of time," she says. "Basketball was just a lot more fun."

When she arrived at Drexel, Washington was a polished player, but she was reticent, unwilling to say much to anyone.

"She was very quiet, very shy," Mallon says. "She would have her head down when she walked through the hallways. By the end she was such a great leader on and off the floor. She set the tone just leading by example and her work ethic in the gym every day."

As she matured, she exerted her will on the court. In her junior year, she led the Dragons to their first CAA championship since 2009 by scoring a then career-high 35 points in the semifinal and 30 in the title game. She was named CAA Tournament MVP. The next season, she helped Drexel win a program best 28 games and the CAA regular season crown.

After graduating, Washington (who had one more year of eligibility remaining) was one of the most sought-out players in the country. She could have transferred anywhere but decided to come back for a fifth season.

"Having the connection that I do with everyone in the program, from coaches to teammates, administration, support staff, I think those relationships have helped me in a lot of ways," she says. "I had the chance to go wherever I wanted, but I chose to stay, and I think that shows the kind of program that we have. I became the player that I am at Drexel. I hope that people who come into this program trust the process and know that they will develop into a great player if they put in the time and the effort."

Washington certainly has, and it has paid off. She still harbors dreams of playing in the WNBA; after her playing days are over, she might become a college coach, or maybe she'll conduct research relating to the brain. But for now, she's focused on playing pro ball in Poland.

"It's something I need to give a shot," she says. "If I like it, great. If I don't, I'll find a passion somewhere else."



A Very Big Deal for Drexel Basketball

Drexel has joined the “Big 5” as its sixth member, opening the door to exciting competitions at the Wells Fargo Center against the city’s college basketball elite. By Mike Unger

For years, there was something odd about one of college basketball’s biggest brands: The Big 5. The storied alliance of Philadelphia-area schools conspicuously lacked the sixth major university in town.

Happily, that omission was rectified in April when the group — comprised of La Salle, the University of Pennsylvania, St. Joseph’s, Temple and Villanova — officially welcomed Drexel into the fold.

For Drexel basketball fans, the university’s inclusion in the renowned Big 5 is an exhilarating milestone that elevates the team to compete alongside Philadelphia’s finest and marks a momentous step toward national recognition.

“Drexel has, over the decades, positioned itself in a prominent place in Philadelphia,” Director of Athletics Maisha Kelly says. “It’s appropriate that basketball, which is a premier sport for our department, is also in that same position. This is about associating our brand with the best, and that’s what the Big 5 has represented in basketball. One of the things I often talk about is that we want to tell Drexel’s story. This is another platform that we get to do it on. We are proud to have the opportunity to talk about what it means to be a Drexel student-athlete, and our university.”

The Big 5 name won’t change, but its marquee events — tournaments pitting its men’s and women’s basketball teams against one another — will. In December, the Big 5 men’s champion will be crowned after a triple-header at the Wells Fargo Center. For the new series, the six schools will be separated into three-team pods (Drexel, Temple and La Salle in one; Villanova, St. Joe’s and Penn in the other). Each team will play the other two teams from its pod at on-campus arenas. All of the teams will participate in the Big 5 Classic triple-header at the Wells Fargo Center on Dec. 2, with the first seed in each pod competing for the championship, the second-place teams in each pod playing for third place, and the third seeds vying for fifth place.

A revamped format for the women’s basketball programs is still being worked out and will debut in the 2024–25 season, Kelly says.

Founded in 1955, the Big 5 is not a conference, but rather a grouping of schools that compete for what is essentially the most important city crown in college basketball. Three trophies were awarded that first season: one for the team with the best record against the other four, presented by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*; one for the player “best typifying the qualities of sportsmanship, scholarship and leadership,” handed out by the Food Fair grocery chain; and one from the Philadelphia Screenwriters’ Association to the most valuable player.

“The Big 5 brand has been known by anybody who’s connected to college basketball,” men’s basketball coach Zach Spiker says. “It’s synonymous with some of the best basketball in the country. For Drexel to be included in such a prestigious group is a tremendous honor and we take it very seriously. We’re excited for the opportunity to compete against these great schools every year.”

Discussions on admitting Drexel heated up beginning about two years ago, Kelly says. But Drexel has played Big 5 schools for decades. When Drexel basketball Hall of Fame player Michael Thompson ’92 arrived on campus from his home in the Bronx in the late ’80s, he was already familiar with the Big 5, which for much of its history held many of its most important games at the legendary Palestra on Penn’s campus.

“My first college game was against St. Joe’s at the Palestra,” he says. “I’m a kid from New York and I think Philadelphia is arguably the best college basketball town in America, with the tradition, all the players and coaches, and certainly an edifice like the Palestra.”

The new primary venue for the Big 5 will be the Wells Fargo Center, home of the NBA’s Philadelphia 76’ers. The arena, which is undergoing a \$350 million transformation, has been the site of numerous NCAA Tournament games, including the NCAA men’s east regionals (twice), NCAA men’s first and second round games (three times), and the 2000 NCAA Women’s Final Four. It is scheduled to host NCAA men’s first and second round games in 2026. Playing there will be a thrill for players and coaches alike. Drexel hasn’t taken the court there since Spiker took over as coach in 2016.

“When you can tell the story to prospective student-athletes, or experience it as a current student-athlete or a coach, that you are competing in an NBA arena, that is certainly an opportunity that is valued,” Kelly says. “We look forward to making this a signature event for our university.”

In addition to the prestige of Big 5 membership, both the men’s and women’s teams will gain annual opponents from competitive conferences including the Big East, Atlantic 10 and American Athletic. It’s a major step up for Spiker’s program, which is one of only five in the country that didn’t have a player enter the transfer portal after last season.

“We have built a culture where guys want to be at Drexel,” Spiker says. “We’ve added one player as a graduate transfer and one freshman, but the remaining 12 players are returning. It’s an honor to coach the group that we have, and we’re excited that this is the year we have the opportunity to go into the Big 5.”



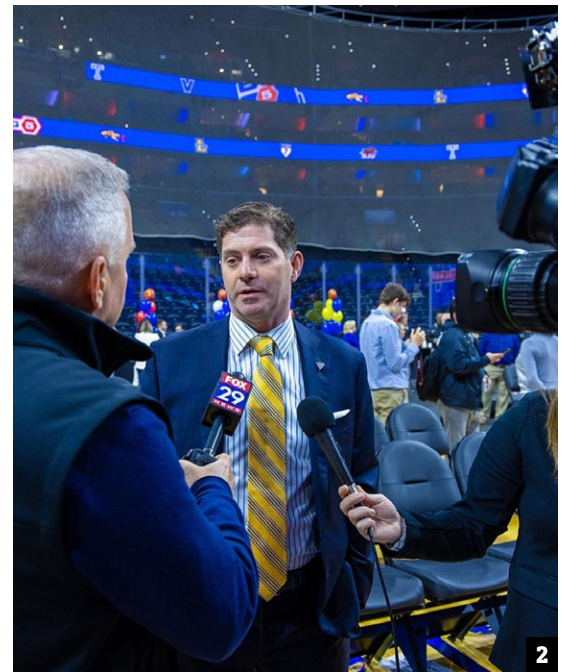
"We're excited for the opportunity to compete against these great schools every year."
 — Zach Spiker

- 1** Cheerleaders, mascots and pompoms, oh my!
- 2** Men's basketball coach Zach Spiker addresses the media.
- 3** Alumni and fans celebrate with coaches.
- 4** The Wells Fargo Center is the league's new home.

BASKETBALL



1



2



3



4



School of Hard Knocks

by Lini
Kadaba

We asked some of our most accomplished alumni to share tough life lessons that they turned into stepping stones toward resilience, growth and greater success.

W

E LIVE IN A CULTURE enthralled by egoism and tales of meteoric success. But the reality is that for most of us, success is less *meteor*, more *muscle*; it's built from discipline and training and, sometimes, straining. Along life's journey, everyone encounters challenges that can seem insurmountable, that test our strengths or push us to our limits. Yet, these moments are also outstanding invitations to gain knowledge and achievement.

As an ancient Latin writer once quipped: "Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm." It's when life doesn't go as planned that leadership shows up, turning obstacles into opportunities.

Certainly, that's true of the distinguished members of Drexel's alumni hall of fame network. The Drexel 100 — actually, 300 high-achievers — is an invitation-only group made up of less than 1% of alumni. Its membership includes two dozen executives of Fortune 500 companies, 40 CEOs, and 51 company and startup founders. They are leaders in business, law, medicine, education, government, aerospace, sports and the arts, as well as two astronauts, who have etched indelible marks on their professions. Ten of them have buildings on campus named after them. This is a crowd that knows adversity is a great teacher.

Or as **Angela Dowd-Burton '74**, MBA '79, the new Drexel 100 chairwoman and a Drexel trustee, reacted when *Drexel Magazine* asked her to share her favorite failure: *What failure?*

"When I looked at my experiences and tried to recall a failure, I couldn't think of any," says Dowd-Burton. "There are no failures — only lessons learned, right? As long as you're learning from your experiences, that's the return on the investment of your time and energy."

Early in her career, she applied to the White House Fellows program — a prestigious pathway to enter public service. She didn't get it. "I beat myself up over the failure to be selected," she says. But she recalled a favorite saying of her parents: *The secret of success is to never accept failure as final.*

She went on to land government positions as procurement commissioner, deputy director of finance and deputy commerce director for the City of Philadelphia. She built a powerful reputation in Philadelphia and launched an award-winning career and business development consultancy. Most recently, she shepherded the 2022 release of the award-winning book, *A Legacy to Share, Navigating Life's Challenges and Celebrating Our Greatest Achievements*, which chronicles the life stories of over 50 Drexel alumni. A second edition is in the works, with the proceeds going toward scholarships for Drexel students.

"If you live your life believing as a door closes a window opens," she says of her optimistic outlook, "then it's always, 'What's next?'"

As the authors of the 2022 book *My Favorite Failure: How Setbacks Can Lead to Learning and Growth*, Ronald A. Beghetto and Laura McBain, put it: "Failure changes how we see ourselves, how we approach the world, and how we see others."

Four alumni we interviewed echoed those sentiments as they shared moments that challenged them, what they learned, and how they ultimately turned their fortunes around.



Regina Hampton MCP '98

Sometimes a slow walk is needed rather than a fast run



Dr. **Regina Hampton MCP '98** is chief of breast cancer surgery at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center in Prince George's County, Maryland, but early in her journey, she almost flunked out of medical school.

She managed to find an atypical way through her degree and now advocates for women of color facing breast cancer.

"What I learned is that I don't have to travel the path that everyone else is traveling, and it's OK," says Hampton, 55, of Bowie, Maryland. She also cofounded the nonprofit organization Breast Care for Washington, which provides mammograms for women without insurance, and co-owns Cherry Blossom Intimates, a bra and prosthetics store for women of diverse skin tones who have experienced breast cancer.

During her second year at the then Medical College of Pennsylvania, the nontraditional student who worked as a radiation therapist before entering med school was struggling with biochemistry, physics and other hard-core science classes. The administration, particularly vested in its students'

success, suggested Hampton split the year into two years, allowing her to spread out the more heavy-hitting courses. She didn't take to the idea at first.

"I felt disappointed in myself," she says. "The way it was communicated to me was very thoughtful, so as not to make me feel like an idiot or big failure. But for me internally, I thought, you're supposed to get this done in four years. The fact I'm not doing that, I did feel bad."

But Hampton eventually took the offer. "The goal was for me to finish successfully and not focus on the time," she says. "One of the professors said, 'Whether you finish in one year, two years, five years or 10 years, you're still going to be a doctor, and that's all that matters.'"

At another medical school, Hampton says, she likely would have had to drop out. Now, she says she carries the lesson of a more measured approach with her as she tackles barriers to treatment and health misinformation among some of the African American women and Latinas she treats.

"I have patients who come from different backgrounds and different situations in life," she says. "I really learned that for some patients you have to slow the process down, like I had to in medical school. It's allowing people to go through that emotional journey to get to that treatment part.

"It's really taught me patience," she says of her med school experience, "and to realize that everybody does things in different ways.... Society makes us feel like we have to rush, rush, rush. Sometimes a slow walk is needed rather than a fast run."

It's not about what the plan is, but that you have one



Paul W. Richards '87



Over the course of his 59 years, astronaut and mechanical engineer **Paul W. Richards '87** says three failures stand out — ones that ultimately led to better outcomes for him even if he was discouraged in the moment.

Richards didn't get into his first-choice college. But co-op at Drexel helped him pay for, and therefore complete, his education. Then early in his career at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, he took a hiatus to pursue the Navy's four-month dive school to help attain his long-time goal of becoming

About the Drexel 100

The Drexel 100 began in 1992 as part of Drexel's centennial celebration and currently consists of 298 alumni. Members are nominated by their peers and other members of the Drexel community and elected by the current Drexel 100 membership every two years.

To learn more, visit:
<https://shorturl.at/ijm56>

an astronaut. After just two weeks, he dropped out — "personally devastating," he says. But Richards resumed leadership of a next-gen power tool NASA project that had faltered in his absence and might have failed if he had remained at dive school. The tool helped repair the Hubble Space Telescope and build the International Space Station — successes, he says, that proved pivotal to his 1996 selection as a mission specialist astronaut.

Then in 2021, Richards, retired from NASA, moved cross country with his wife to Seattle to take a promising job at a space startup. "After I showed up, it changed its business model. My relationship with the company lasted six weeks. Our moving van and pod were not even unpacked.

"I was totally floored," he says. At that stage of his career, he had never expected to be suddenly out of work and rudderless. "But as I did with the other things in my life, I tried to look for the positive. I went into overdrive, obsessive-compulsive overdrive, to find the next thing. I always feel it's not as important what your plan is but that you have a plan. It gives you a destination to go toward."

Richards took a board of director position at Agile Space Industries and a job with Amazon's Project Kuiper, an initiative to provide broadband to unserved and underserved communities. His heart, though, was set on space startups, he says. Earlier this year, a connection at the original company that didn't work out asked Richards to help with Boston-based jet propulsion startup Accion Systems as its chief operating officer — an ideal opportunity, he says. He and his wife plan to move to Boston.

"No one is immune to failure at any stage of life," he says. "We never know how these dominos are going to happen, and in the moment, even though I've always said there's no such thing as failure, only temporary setbacks, sometimes it's a lot harder to pull out what's the benefit when you're feeling the angst.

"In hindsight all these things that seemed like failures were actually just another step in the process to success," he continues. "It's all in how you utilize them."

The nature of building a fashion brand, says apparel industry executive **Gail Onorato '78**, is figuring out what resonates with the psyche of the customer — and that's no easy task. "Every Monday," she says of a career focused on building brands, including more than a decade at Ralph Lauren as president and chief merchandising officer, "you true up the decisions made in the last week. You pivot off that. So, you don't necessarily view them as big failures or big wins."

In fact, the failure that Onorato, 67, considers the most significant in her life is a highly personal choice she initiated in her 50s: She got divorced. "I don't know if it's fair to categorize divorce as failure," she reflects. "It was definitely a huge decision and pivot in my life that changed the architecture of my future in many ways."

The mother of two daughters in college at the time says she walked away in 2007 from a marriage of 29 years and a seemingly storybook suburban lifestyle outside Philadelphia. She then moved to New York City and started over, "becoming the truest definition of empowered" and taking on her dream job at Ralph Lauren.

"I discovered myself, I found myself, and all the potential I had," says Onorato. In 2018, she left the company and now runs her own fashion business consultancy, Merchant Strategies, out of Los Angeles. "The decision I made was to bet on myself, my ability to make this decision and come out the other side in a better place. I learned I could be on my own. It built a level of confidence in me."

Difficult as it was to leave her old life behind, it changed her perspective: "The biggest thing you learn about failure in your life is not to fear it. Fearing failure makes you take a different path. Once you embrace that fact, you view it as an opportunity for change. It's not as terrifying, and it doesn't overtake your ability to make a decision. That's all failure is — this ability to pivot, pick yourself up, and move on to something else."

Failure is the ability to pivot, pick yourself up, and move on



Gail Onorato
'78

"The biggest challenge was when I went from being a technical professional, which was fun and easy, to management and working with more people," says Buckanin, 77, and retired in Davenport, Florida. "As a mathematician one and one equals two. Guess what? When you're working with people, one and one does not equal two. Sometimes you can make one and one equal three. Or you can have it equal minus one, when it's not working."

"I was kind of shocked — why what I needed to happen, wouldn't happen," she continues of those early management days. "I always told my people, you have three steps to getting anything done in federal government. You have to have the budget and the technical expertise, but you also have to have the team working toward it. And I needed to figure out how to get the team working better."

It took "years and years," Buckanin says, of attending management classes, seeking advice from mentors (including "special" mentor husband Steve '69) and networking to acquire the negotiating skills to successfully engage with NASA, the U.S. Air Force and industry organizations, each with their own goals. "Learning to negotiate, learning to see other people's point of view, were some of the things totally technical people don't get, normally," she adds. "By increasing my negotiating skills, I gradually became more successful, and I used those skills to help my organization become more successful!"

Buckanin also faced another challenge: Certain members of her organization didn't, well, appreciate a woman at the helm. "Some of them were not terribly cooperative," she recalls. "Some of them had never had a woman manager before in a technical position. And they plain didn't like it." They made that clear, she says, through comments during division meetings and a practice of noncooperation. "I had one who was such a... I don't want to use the word, but he just didn't cooperate at all. He started rumors that were false. He was a constant challenge."

By broadening her skills to overcome the initial failure — she prefers to call it a learning experience — she found her way. "I've got a little bit of a stubborn streak," she says. "I'm going to make it through this, and that's the way it's going to be. I was determined.... We're always on a continuous learning experience."

Buckanin mastered management enough that she became the go-to person for the professional development of others in her division. "That to me, in management, was one of the greatest successes," she says. "I was developing people."

There is no failure—only learning experiences



Dorothy "Dot" Buckanin
'68, MS'85



Groundbreaker **Dorothy "Dot" Buckanin '68, MS'85**, was the first woman selected to manage an engineering and test division at the FAA Technical Center in the mid-1990s. It was a career-making honor, but along the way she had to learn to manage a team of 200.

ATWATER KENT COLLECTION:

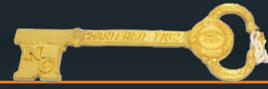
UNBOXED



REBOOTED

 Lini S. Kadaba

Thousands of



urban artifacts

from the shuttered



Philadelphia History



Museum returned



to public view this



year through Drexel's

stewardship of the



Atwater Kent



Collection.



**Philco
Predicta
Siesta
Television**

With a glass and metal picture tube, this 1959 television model was marketed, along with other Philco Predictas, as the world's first swivel-screen TV set. Philco, an American electronics manufacturer headquartered in Philadelphia, was a pioneer in battery, radio and television production. This television was designed by Catherine Winkler, Severin Jonnaffen and Richard Whipple.

INSIDE A STORAGE suite of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Stacey Swigart punches the name *Cavada* into a database she's building for the Atwater Kent Collection, and — presto! — a little-known morsel of Philadelphia history pops onto her screen.

It's an image of a painting. In the 1862 *Battle of Fredericksburg*, Cuban American artist Ferderico Fernández Cavada depicted a smoke-filled Civil War battle scene of Union troops on the move. Turns out, Cavada was a civil engineer and illustrator who lived on Spruce Street and attended Central High School. During the war, he went up in hot-air balloons to sketch enemy positions, and even wrote a book about his time as a Confederate prisoner. He later joined the Cuban independence fight but was killed by firing squad in 1871 as a rebel.

"I'd never heard of this guy," Swigart says. "This is an amazing Philadelphia story without being a Founding Fathers story. These are the things that give me goosebumps."

Such are the curiosities in the Atwater Kent Collection (AKC), a trove of Philadelphia-centric relics that had until recently been packed away in a warehouse in East Falls. Drexel pledged to steward the collection in 2019 and brought it to PAFA last year, naming Swigart director and charging her with making the collection accessible to the city once again.

She and colleagues have spent the past year and a half ensuring each piece is carefully preserved, catalogued, photographed and organized so they can reintroduce the assemblage to the public through exhibits, careful loans, and through Swigart's database, which went live in February at philadelphiahistory.org.

All told, the Atwater Kent is 130,000 pieces of memorabilia, artifacts, documents, furniture and garments from 300 years of Philadelphia's history, industry and families. It was established by Philadelphia radio manufacturer A. Atwater Kent Sr. in 1938 when he donated a building at 15 S. 7th Street for the creation of a Philadelphia History Museum.

On May 10, 2022, the Orphan's Court cleared a path for Drexel to eventually become permanent trustee of the collection.

Here's the brief backstory of how Drexel came to be the collection's steward: Five years ago, after struggling with waning visitors for many years, the Philadelphia History Museum closed its doors. For a while, its collection appeared to teeter on the verge of being sold off in bits and pieces. When no other institution stepped forward, Drexel volunteered to keep the Atwater Kent Collection (AKC) intact and to preserve and protect its record of the history of Philadelphia's many communities and peoples such as Cavada.

"It is one of the few collections where Philadelphians can see their experiences, their neighborhoods and their traditions reflected," says Kelly Lee, Philadelphia's chief cultural officer and director of its Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy. "This collection must remain in Philadelphia."

Many at Drexel, with President John Fry leading



Bulletin Bench

This 20th-century, well-used blue newsboy bench with yellow lettering was a gift to the Philadelphia History Museum from David Rasner, whose grandparents ran a newsstand in a building on Arch Street near the Center for Architecture and Design (AIA Philadelphia). For many years, the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, an evening daily newspaper published from 1847 to 1982, enjoyed the highest circulation rates in the city.

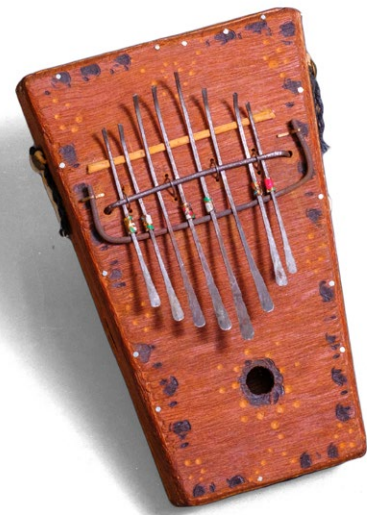


the way, realized early on what was at stake, says Rosalind Remer, senior vice provost for collections and exhibitions and executive director of the University's Lenfest Center for Cultural Partnerships. "The collection would get scattered to the four winds if the museum closed and no one managed it," she says. "You will never be able to put that back together again. It's like Humpty-Dumpty."

AKC is a great match for Drexel's tradition of accessible art and hands-on education, Remer says. In the works is a loan program to libraries and schools, and the collection's



Stacey Swigart and Michael Shepherd, director and assistant director respectively of the Atwater Kent Collection, have spent the past year packing, unpacking, and repackaging urban mementos to make them accessible to Philly history fans.



management offers experiential learning opportunities for future art program graduates. Already, the digital database has been incorporated into courses, projects and extracurriculars, with more planned.

“Because the collection is so varied,” Remer says, “there is almost no class that couldn’t use something.”

Museums are increasingly focused on storytelling rather than the intrinsic value of an item, notes Derek Gillman, executive director of University collections and exhibitions and Drexel’s distinguished teaching professor of art history and museum leadership. “With Atwater Kent,” Gillman says, “there are literally hundreds of thousands of stories that can be attached to these objects.”

Certain high-profile pieces tend to get all of the attention. A certain president’s desk. Another’s hat. Some prized boxing gloves. But the bulk is everyday stuff, a mish-mash that has earned AKC the moniker “Philadelphia’s Attic.” Stacked upon shelves within the PAFA storeroom where the collection is now kept are vacuum cleaners, glass medicine bottles, tools from the now-defunct Disston Saw Works in Tacony, hats from the once Kensington-based Stetson Hat Factory (but no cowboy ones, alas), weights and measures,



Thumb Piano

This 1980s plywood box, decorated with a dot pattern of indentations, has eight bent metal keys that are plucked with thumbs and are decorated with beads of painted metal. Carved into one end are the initials “AK” — the signature of African American instrument maker and street artist Adimu Kuumba (1952–2021), who lived at the time of the gift on Bernard Street in Philadelphia. This object came to the collection from the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies.



candy boxes, street lights, roller skates, handkerchiefs, shoehorns, grandfather clocks, and more. Lots more.

“We even have the kitchen sink,” Swigart says. “It’s a miniature dollhouse fixture.”

Each piece has a story to tell about the city. And, for the first time in years, the collection is speaking again.

Over the summer, visitors glimpsed AKC artifacts in the first public exhibit organized by Drexel, at PAFA. “Seeing Philadelphia” juxtaposed old and new perspectives on city life, showing different views of Philadelphia over the generations. Archival prints, drawings, photographs, paintings and maps were displayed alongside new contemporary pieces created by members of Drexel’s Writers Room, a storytelling program in which students and non-students collaborate creatively.

Next July, a larger viewing will be on display when PAFA hosts “Philadelphia Revealed: Unpacking the Attic.” Many pieces from the AKC also will be on loan to museums across the city during the celebration of Philadelphia’s 250 years starting in 2025.

Major cities the world over have museums dedicated to telling their stories, points out Paul Steinke, executive director of the nonprofit Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. “Atwater Kent was — and hopefully will be again — our answer to that, a way to tell Philadelphia’s compelling story to its own people but also the state, the nation and the world,” he says. “It should be a priority.”

That future depends on Drexel now, and Steinke, for one, is optimistic. “Critics will say that you’re taking something that the public owns and putting it into the hands of a private institution,” he says. “But Drexel has time and time again shown that it has the wellbeing of Philadelphia’s civic interest at heart of everything it has done with the collection to date.”

WHEN IT WAS FIRST founded, the Philadelphia History Museum bought or accepted loans of historical items regardless of where they were from, says Swigart. “It wasn’t necessarily Philadelphia history; it was history,” she says, noting that some of the earliest pieces acquired were produced by artists sponsored by the Works Progress Administration. Over time, the museum began absorbing materials from other local institutions that shuttered or whittled their holdings.

Gradually, the Atwater Kent Collection became caretaker to many of the city’s orphaned artifacts. For instance, from the Charles Willson Peale’s Philadelphia Museum, considered the first public museum in the country, it has about 30 Peale family paintings. Swigart ticks off others that surrendered their accessions to the AKC: Long’s Museum and Varieties. The Police Historical Society. The Commercial Museum/Civic Center Museum. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The CIGNA Collection.

It became, Swigart says, “a collection of collections.”

But over the years, the museum struggled. Despite its vast mix, it only exhibited a small portion. It fell into arrears as attendance dropped to just 10,000 a year on average. When the museum closed its doors in 2018, just 276 items were on display.

The following year, Drexel began talks with the city to steward the AKC. By fall 2019, a transfer plan was approved that included a five-year, \$1.5 million contract to inventory and evaluate the collection. The University was granted oversight in April 2022.

Later that year, 101 truckloads transported the collection to PAFA, where Drexel is leasing 11,000 square feet of climate-controlled storage space. The largest items, too big to bring into the academy, are stored offsite. One is the very first Atwater Kent acquisition: a 6-foot-long scale model of Elfreth’s Alley constructed by artists during the Depression (shown on the next page).

Meanwhile, Melissa Clemmer, associate director at the Lenfest Center, went to work applying for grants to support digitization, exhibits and other programs.

So far, Drexel has won about 15 public and private grants, including from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Archives, totaling more than \$1.85 million. Most recently, the Pew Charitable Trusts contributed a \$850,000 grant to support conservation, digitalization and a community lending program.

“The more we’re able to raise,” Clemmer says, “the more we can do to get the collection out of storage and into the community.”

One priority is to restore the collection to the public for research and learning. A 2020 Colonial Academic Alliance grant supported two Drexel graduate students with degrees in arts administration and museum leadership — Jasmine Mathis, MS ’21 and Caleb Craig MS ’21 — in developing a school program that incorporates African American artifacts as a vehicle to discuss race, identity and negative stereotypes. Craig, a banjo player, focused on a “Plantation Banjo Chant” music sheet promoting a popular minstrel as a starting point to discuss the harmful consequences of blackface. Mathis used dolls depicting African American Quakers as part of a unit on citizenship and “American” attributes.

Drexel also has collaborated with the University of Delaware’s Center for Material Culture Studies on a toolkit focused on using historical collections for innovative teaching. Craig, 32, of Vestal, New York, says the 50-page report documents evidence-based best practices for “different styles of learning that can be utilized to uplift voices typically not looked at or ignored.”

Drexel’s track record of building and overseeing collections goes back to its very first days. One of the earliest acts of the University’s first president, James A. MacAlister, was to establish a museum to complement the study of materials and textiles, now part of Drexel’s Founding Collection. MacAlister used \$1 million from founder Anthony J. Drexel

“We even have the kitchen sink. It’s a miniature dollhouse fixture.”

—Stacey Swigart



Atwater Kent Radio Model 84 Super Heterodyne

This 1932 cathedral-style radio has a dark red wood case and a speaker grill cutout backed with a gold fabric screen. The back is uncovered, revealing the inner workings and multiple tubes. It was manufactured by the company founded by inventor A. Atwater Kent Sr., the largest producer of radios in the world in the late 1920s.







Elfreth's Alley

This incredibly detailed — there's even a tiny working garden gate — miniature of Philadelphia's most famous historical block was created during the Great Depression by out-of-work artists. The six-foot diorama was the first item acquired by the Philadelphia History Museum.







In June, Drexel organized its first Atwater Kent Collection public exhibit. "Seeing Philadelphia" juxtaposed historical images of the city with contemporary pieces created by students and community members who belong to the Drexel's Writers Room. A larger exhibit is being planned for next July.

1. Benjamin Ridgway Evans
Reading Railroad Crossing and Fairmount Avenue, 1885
 Pen and ink and watercolor on paper
 Museum Acquisition (MAM) / Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel

2. McCluskey, WPA Museum Extension Project
Railroad crossing and Fairmount Avenue, 1933
 Photograph
 Herbert & Betty Rolles, Museum Acquisition (MAM) / Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel

3. Janae Kindt
Kat Odums at Cira Green, 2023
 Digital photograph

to acquire objects overseas such as redware bowls from Pakistan, wall tiles from Turkey and a copper ewer from Antwerp. The University maintains six other collections, including the Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection, the Polish Poster Collection and specimens within the Academy of Natural Sciences.

"We collect," says Gillman, who before coming to Drexel had a nearly 30-year career in art museum leadership on three continents, including having served as president and director of PAFA and executive director and president of the Barnes Foundation, where he oversaw the relocation of the collection from Lower Merion to Center City. "We've been collecting for 130 years."

IN PAFA'S STOREROOM, among labeled metal shelves packed with nostalgia, Michael Shepherd is photographing a Wanamaker sewing machine from the left, right, behind and above. He captures a model number and some scrollwork that he anticipates researchers might find interesting when they search the database portal.

"Any kind of detail you might think of," says Shepherd. "I love the every day."

As the collection's assistant director, he has put in many hours documenting objects. He dwelled on the collection's paintings, zooming in on handwritten notes in pencil on the backs that are easy to overlook. His favorite find is a 19th-century deck of cards. On the back of a Joker is a tally in pencil of the winnings accrued by a mom, uncle and son.



"Anything that tells a story," he adds, echoing Swigart.

A double Dragon, Shepherd returned to college as an adult in his 30s after studying architecture and photography, when he realized that what he really loves is handling old objects, especially vintage photos. He enrolled for history (2014) and library and information science, with a concentration in archival studies and digital curation (2018) and did his co-op with Drexel's Fox Historic Costume Collection. That led to a job with the costume collection, which led to the Atwater Kent.



“That was our love letter to Philly.”

—Stacey Swigart, on a stash of AKC historic Valentine's included in the collection



John B. Stetson Company Hatbox

This circa 1920, oval-shaped paper hatbox with lid features logos printed around the box and includes an image of the Stetson factory located on Germantown Avenue. It was the largest hat factory in the world at the time. A size chart on the side of the box has a pencil mark at 7 1/8, and on the bottom of the box is an inscription. The hatbox was a gift of Helen M. Beittler to the Atwater Kent Museum.

He's living his dream job, he says. He grew up in Upper Darby and *loves* city history. “I wrote about Philadelphia as an undergraduate so much that my thesis adviser said I needed to write about something else,” he says, smiling. He believes Philadelphians treasure history told through daily life.

“We've all seen the Liberty Bell 15,000 times,” he says. “But if you talk about the building in your neighborhood that used to be a movie theater, people's faces light up. They want to tell you what they know about it. It's a very hyper-local sense of history here.”

Swigart agrees. She loved to visit PHM as a kid, obsessed with dolls and miniatures; these days, it's hard for her to pick a favorite object. Near the top, though, is Young's Candies and its tools of the trade, including ice cream scoops, dishes and candy molds.

“It's wonderful,” she says of the 110-year-old business that closed in 2007. “They designed this particular chocolate bunny. People would line up to get it at Easter.”

Preserving these histories stokes her passion for her work, she says, and keeps her going through the more mundane aspects. Early on, Swigart was tasked with dismantling PHM, down to the exhibit cases and office furniture, along with Page Talbott, the Lenfest Center's director of museum outreach and AKC project evaluator. The two women spent hours organizing and evaluating the warehouse's contents — when not dealing with the building's leaky roofs and toilets.

Talbott, with assistance from Swigart, has the herculean task of determining the strength of each item's connection to Philadelphia on a one to four scale, four representing no connection. So far, all 37,000 objects have been evaluated and assigned to one or more of the 44 categories (say Ceramics and Glass or Numismatic or Toys) that Talbott and Swigart devised as part of the taxonomy of the portal. Objects also are tagged with keywords. Each month they add about 100 items, including pictures and short descriptions, to the portal. (The same process is under way for the 45,000 items in archives.)

“It's tedious,” Talbott allows, but adds it's essential to making the collection accessible. Consider a dividend check announcement card from the Union Traction Company, which controlled the trolley system in Philadelphia.

“You're yawning,” she half jokes. But for those interested in this bit of history, Talbott says, the tags make the difference. “You might tag it as Union Traction Company or as trolley or as situated on Dawson Street or as dividend. You have to think, ‘What are people going to put in a search bar?’”

The painstakingly curated portal officially went live Feb. 14 with 1,212 items, including a stash of AKC historic Valentine's.

“That was our love letter to Philly,” Swigart says. “It's still a work in progress. There are a million and one things.”

She tracks her progress and any problems by writing notes in journals ringed with numerous color tabs sticking out. She's already filled 12 journals.

Clearly, all that work is paying dividends. Since the portal launched, the searchable items have grown to

3,406 as of early September, with a target of 7,000 objects within the next several years. Through the end of August, the portal was used 15,227 times, with the random image generator a popular option. Common keyword searches include *Franklin*, *radio*, *Rocky* and *wampum*, among others.

“It's a museum without walls,” Remer says with a measure of pride. “There are more items online than there ever were on display.”

ON THIS SUMMER evening, the vibe at PAFAs Francis M. Maguire Gallery is electric as “Seeing Philadelphia” celebrates its opening — and the first public debut of Drexel's stewardship of the Atwater Kent Collection.

Eric Pryor, PAFAs president and CEO, praises the “great strategic alliance” between the University and the academy. The city's Lee says the show is “an example of how Drexel will use this collection to continue to tell the story of Philadelphia for generations to come.” And Youngmoo Kim, vice provost for university and community partnerships, notes that Drexel “strives to be the most civically engaged university in the country, and through innovative partnerships and programs like this exhibit, we're able to pursue this goal.”

Twenty-three-year-old Kat Odoms '23, an English major, mingles with friends. She is one of the people who contributed some of the contemporary images to the show through her participation in an intergenerational storytelling initiative organized by Drexel's Writers Room.

“The city,” she says, “is constantly changing from within and without.”

One of Odoms' three photographs is a head-on shot of the Le Meridien Hotel at 1421 Broad St. It is juxtaposed with Benjamin Ridgway Evans' 1831 pen-and-ink and watercolor depiction of the elegant Indian Queen Hotel at 15 S. 4th St., since demolished, and McLintock's (first name unknown) 1940 WPA photo of the same address showing a row of jammed-together businesses.

She picked the hotel because it used to house the YMCA where her mother worked and where she often visited as a child. Odoms, who has plans to work in community organizing, credits the Writers Room's TRIPOD program — and access to AKC photos and etchings, a first for the program — with broadening her view of the city she loves and how old neighborhoods have evolved and redeveloped.

“I really wanted to speak on how can we keep that history and not erase it, but also make room for new things and new growth?” she says.

That's exactly the type of critical thinking and contextualizing experience that Drexel expects the collection to help imbue.

“This is a glimpse,” Remer says to the crowd. “The exhibition you see here is what I like to look at as a down payment on future programs and exhibitions.”

Swigart, standing nearby, beams, and along with all the others, offers her hearty applause.





How Do You Teach

Altruism

A new early childhood education lab at Drexel is pouring empathy, collaboration and resilience into the world — one classroom and one child at a time.

By Ben Seal

SERA ANELLO'S CAREER in teaching began during a fraught moment for education, to say the least.

The 21-year-old (pictured at left) was co-leading her first class of fourth graders at Anne Frank Elementary School in Northeast Philadelphia, when COVID changed everything. Kids went home with Chromebooks, and they didn't fully return for two years.

As Anello got to know the students who returned, she saw how the pandemic had changed them. At the start of the school year, she asked them to strike up conversations with their neighbors.

It was "chilling," she says.

"You usually can't get kids to shut up at that age," she laughs, "[but] it took me two weeks to have my kids feel comfortable turning and talking to someone. They didn't know how to have conversations, because they were used to hiding behind their screens."

Simply sitting next to a classmate made the children anxious. They cried or threw tantrums when classmates took their pencil or tapped a finger too loudly on a desk. They cursed at each other — and at Anello. Given an exam, they crumpled it and threw it in the trash.

"My 9-year-olds were acting like 5-year-olds," she says.

Anello knew she needed support, so she turned to Drexel's Lisa and John McNichol Early Childhood Education Lab.

Established in 2019, the young lab's faculty and college students work alongside outside practitioner partners — currently more than 30 educational center directors, school counselors, principals and teachers from throughout Philadelphia and beyond — to incubate strategies for early childhood education.

Most of the lab's research work is animated by Executive Director Michael Haslip's interest in

social-emotional learning, or SEL, which is the development of children's moral and social character. Simply put: empathy, collaboration and altruism.

The lab was exactly what Anello needed. She joined in the winter of 2021 and was inspired by the exchange of ideas.

"I had felt like I was on my own, and then I joined the lab, and it made me feel like I had a team," recalls Anello, who holds degrees in early childhood education and English as a second language from Temple University and has since completed a master's in curriculum and instruction from the University of Virginia.

She learned how to use "courtesy scripts" in the classroom, a method Haslip developed that gives children a simple sentence starter to encourage kindness in the face of confrontation. When two students butted heads, she instructed one to ask the other what they wanted, beginning with, "Will you please?" Students could choose from a set of appropriate responses: "OK," "Sorry," or, "That wasn't me."

Gradually, relationships and understanding improved. Tattling and arguing diminished. Soon, Anello could end most disputes simply by reminding students to use the courtesy scripts.

"That's the power of it," she says. "They are learning how to handle things themselves, and they feel good when they don't have to run and get their teacher. SEL enhances students' coping skills — their ability to be resilient, to face challenges, to identify their emotions. When they can do these things, so many other things start to come on like building blocks."

A trained yoga instructor, Anello began incorporating breathwork into the classroom, too, to help the children soothe their own emotions. Over time, as they learned to self-regulate and pause their active minds, the students began asking to do breathwork

together after recess. They even encouraged Anello herself to partake when they noticed her becoming frustrated. “They’d say, ‘Miss A, do you think we should all take a breath?’” Anello says. “It was amazing to see. They had no awareness of themselves and now they have developed awareness of others.”

She saw firsthand the ways that small interventions — subtle changes in language, mindset and attitude — can have an enormous impact.

“If we can teach children early on how to be good, kind, empathetic people, we’re going to start seeing shifts not only in schools, but in the way we act as an entire society,” she says.

A New Way Forward

It wasn’t hard for Haslip to understand what Anello was going through. When he began teaching first and second grade in a disadvantaged Virginia neighborhood more than a decade ago, he saw similar emotional challenges and struggles with self-regulation. While pursuing his master’s and doctorate in early childhood education from Old Dominion University, he’d been trained to use a behavior chart to reward good behavior and discourage rule-breaking, moving students up or down a ladder and doling out consequences as needed. He quickly realized it wasn’t working.

Punishment, he says, “just makes a child sad, disappointed, upset and fearful, and they resist engaging in the learning process.” Instead, he found a new way forward, offering children special privileges for kind and helpful behavior — sports equipment for recess, for example, or selecting their own seat — while preserving everyone’s basic rights. Still, he felt he needed more robust tools.

“I spent the whole summer after my first year of teaching thinking about what SEL skills children were missing,” Haslip recalls. “What would I need to teach children so peer conflict would reduce or even disappear? It came down to how they were speaking to each other.”

The result was the courtesy scripts that had made such a difference in Anello’s classroom, as well as other strategies Haslip began testing. When he took over leadership of the Early Childhood Education Lab in 2021, after spending six years as an assistant professor in the School of Education, he gathered those strategies together into JustUnity, a collaborative professional development project that is now central to the lab’s efforts. It offers SEL-related teaching strategies that promote conflict resolution, character strength and healthy emotional expression, reflecting Haslip’s vision for the lab: a collaborative space to promote and support research on educational tools that can be applied directly in the classroom.

“It’s a microcosm of Drexel’s approach to civic engagement, brought down to the early childhood level,” Haslip says. “Where do we start with the vision of a holistically developed, community-engaged citizen? What are the traits? They have to be those SEL and character-related traits like empathy for others, and they have to be involved in projects that are meaningfully impacting their community.”

John (BS ’74, PhD ’79) and Lisa McNichol, whose eponymous gift established the lab, say the lab’s approach gives it “real-world actionability.” Before launching a career in pharmaceuticals and biotech, John studied as a graduate student the impact of a high-quality early childhood education (ECE) program on children in under-resourced households near Temple University’s campus. He saw how early childhood education led to improvements in graduation and job rates and to declines in crime and teen pregnancy. Later in life, he and Lisa became active volunteers and philanthropists for initiatives to improve education in economically distressed neighborhoods, including those surrounding Drexel.

“These programs break the cycle of poverty through education,” John says.

He and Lisa want the lab to be a place where anyone with a stake in teaching young children — inside or outside of Drexel and in any field —

is welcome to gather and learn how to best achieve those goals.

In a short time, the lab has exceeded all expectations, the McNichols say.

The lab has quickly built a network through its annual teacher awards program. Each year at a special ceremony, nominated practitioners who excel in SEL are honored with the Penny Hammrich Teacher Excellence Award, named for the School of Education’s late dean, who passed away last summer.

All honorees are invited to join the lab as members. They participate in monthly social meetings, consult collectively, join service or research projects, and share professional development opportunities and mentorship. The lab’s commitment to recognize and value excellent teachers took another step this summer with the launch of a new campaign to promote teachers to higher ranks while retaining them in the classroom (www.TeacherPromotion.com).

In just three years, the lab’s members have published or are in progress on eight manuscripts. They’ve made 13 presentations at educational conferences and events and have nine active research projects and four service initiatives. One is a research project led by Christopher Beissel ’21, the principal at Hamburg Area High School in Berks County. Haslip supervised Beissel’s dissertation, in which Beissel conceptualized a new construct he calls “SEL mindset,” aimed at measuring a teacher’s aptitude for SEL instruction so administrators can learn how to better support educators in sharing these principles with students. The lab also maintains a grant database, a tutoring center with three staff, and a lending library. Haslip also manages two scholarship programs he brought to the School of Education that combine to support 50 students attending Drexel. Scholarship recipients are members of the ECE workforce and attend Drexel tuition free or pay a nominal co-pay of less than 5%.

The lab provides three professional learning courses which enrolled more than 150 educators from 10 countries in the past year, which Haslip estimates equates to indirectly helping more than 3,000 students.

“It’s thrilling to know that the hearts and minds of children are being nurtured through the teachers we support,” Haslip says.

Haslip points out that the SEL principles have a significant positive effect on academic achievement. One meta-analysis of 40 different SEL-related research studies across all grade levels found meaningful benefits for reading, math and science achievement, and urged the U.S. Department of Education to invest in new SEL program interventions.

Perhaps even more importantly, SEL also teaches children how to be civic-minded individuals in a deeply connected world.

“The idea of improving other people’s lives starts with the youngest children,” Haslip says. “Our real contribution here is to say that we shouldn’t be waiting until college to teach kids to be active citizens. They need to be fostering those skills and attitudes in early childhood.”



It’s a microcosm of Drexel’s approach to civic engagement, brought down to the early childhood level. Where do we start with the vision of a holistically developed, community-engaged citizen? What are the traits? They have to be those SEL and character-related traits like empathy for others, and children have to be involved in projects that are meaningfully impacting their community.

Michael Haslip

*Executive Director,
Lisa and John
McNichol Early
Childhood
Education Lab*



Big, Lofty, Achievable Goals

Everyone involved with the lab recognizes that the world is changing, and education needs to change with it. To raise good citizens, it's not enough to promote academic and character growth, Haslip says. In a world roiled by climate change and global crises around food security, clean drinking water, health and sanitation, educators must also raise young students' awareness of sustainability.

"We're preparing children for their civic duties, not just teaching them how to add and subtract," Anello says.

To that end, the lab offers teachers a course called Sustainability and Altruism through Project-Based Learning, or SAPBL. The course frames classroom education through the lens of the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals, which include eliminating poverty and hunger and promoting health and well-being, resiliency and responsible consumption. The project can be visited at www.teachESD.org, which stands for Education for Sustainable Development.

Before taking the course, some teachers expressed skepticism that a topic like sustainability could be relevant to preschool and early elementary school students...it seemed too complex and weighty. But even during the debut of the course, in summer 2022, the lab's members heard positive feedback from teachers who began to see how it could help students build their skills and understanding over time.

The lab's members have now taught the online course to three cohorts, including educators in Pakistan and China, helping them build lesson plans organized around questions linked to one or more of the UN's goals: *How does water connect us*, for example, or *How can we mitigate climate change impacts?*

The lessons are as varied as the teachers giving them. In one, students learned about consumption and waste in their school, including where trash and recycling end up and the small changes they can make to have an impact. Another used a nearby bay to explore marine ecosystems and the ways humans connect with the oceans for food, jobs and other activities.

"We frame sustainability as a process of engaging with others, of relating with others, of seeing ourselves as intricately related to the welfare of others," explains Monica Blaisdell, a PhD candidate in the School of Education who is the lab's co-director and also a co-designer of the course. "We're hoping that way of thinking about the world — as being part of something bigger than ourselves and part of a larger community — will impact children throughout the rest of their lives."

Teachers say the course has given them the courage to tackle challenging issues in their classrooms and their students have responded with enthusiasm and compassion for the people and the world around them. One instructor had her students contemplate sustainable initiatives they could promote at their school, then watched as they went above and beyond, researching how other schools had implemented recycling programs or installed rain gardens.

"My kids just fell in love with it," she says. "They were like little advocates at the end of my lesson."

Embracing the lab's research agenda, members study the experience of educators who have taken the course and use it to fine-tune the

program. Slowly but surely, they are determining the best methods to shape good citizens and spreading that knowledge far and wide.

The lab's purpose is "to cultivate the skills and dispositions needed in young people from an early age to make change in their communities, whether that's through sustainability or social-emotional leadership," Blaisdell says. "These are big, lofty goals, but I'm seeing it happen. We're all brought together by that mission."

Making the Grade

Back at Anne Frank Elementary in Philadelphia, Principal Mickey Komins noticed the changes in Anello's classroom.

As a final school project at the end of her first year, Anello asked her fourth graders to create their own sustainability initiatives, calling upon them to use all she'd taught them about how to be positive change agents in their community. They advocated for ideas like waste-free lunches where plastic utensils were eliminated, and excess food was donated to shelters. Inspired by Anello, the students took their cause to Principal Komins. Impressed, he gave them all reusable water bottles.

"My kids are 9," Anello emphasizes.

Seeing all she had accomplished in her classroom, Komins asked Anello to teach her SEL strategies to other teachers in their school. Eventually, every classroom morning meeting began with an emotional check-in, followed by a piece of SEL-focused curriculum centered on a word of the month — "acceptance" or "caring," for example. Soon, Anello was a districtwide expert on SEL learning; she expanded the concepts into professional development workshops that reached hundreds of educators. Teachers told her, "Entire classroom cultures were shifting."

Komins has seen the shift as well. "The kids have the language to communicate with each other; that's what I hear more: 'You should be more tolerant of this,'" he says. "Hearing a third grader say 'Be more tolerant' is worth the price of admission."

Anello is now taking her SEL advocacy further afield. She's authored research with Haslip on positive self-talk for young learners that is awaiting review, and she's planning a paper about how breathwork made her students feel "calmer, happier and more confident."

But she took the biggest step when she left Anne Frank this school year to join MindUP, a national organization advancing SEL curriculum. Through MindUP, she's working with educators across many districts, dispersing the successful teaching strategies she learned from the Lisa and John McNichol Early Childhood Education Lab throughout the country's educational system.

Just as the lab's creators intended.

The lab provides

3

professional learning courses

which enrolled

150

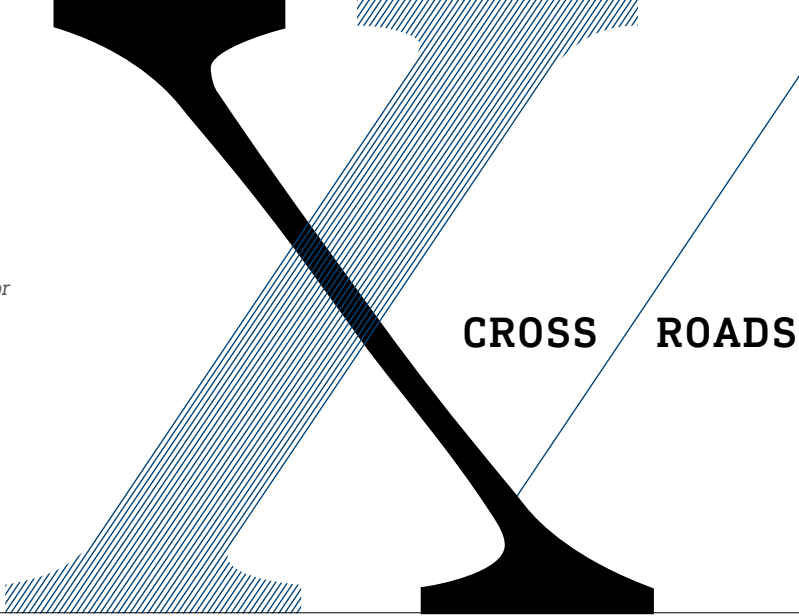
educators from

10

countries in the past year.



For more information on the Alumni Turkey Project, to make a gift to support the Project or to register for Packing Day or Distribution Day, visit drexel.edu/alumni/turkey.



The Alumni Turkey Project: 50 Years Strong

The Alumni Holiday Turkey Project (renamed the Alumni Turkey Project) started out as a grassroots effort by the Drexel Alumnae Planning Board — a group established in the 1960s to serve as a support network for female alumni. One of its early members, Lynne Bloom '55, was there at the beginning.

“What started off as a small, women-led initiative has grown into the University-wide program it is today,” says Bloom. “In the beginning, we called alumni to ask for donations, which we would then use to purchase food and give out to the community. Our group felt like we had a role in helping our neighbors, and we always hoped the project would grow into what it has become.”

Over the past five decades, the Turkey Project has expanded into

an alumni tradition that continues to grow, now serving more than 50 community organizations by providing holiday meals — turkeys and side dishes — to those experiencing hunger and food insecurity throughout the Greater Philadelphia area.

“It’s been so gratifying to know that I was part of the Turkey Project’s foundation,” says Bloom. “It fills me with so much pride.”

The Turkey Project has been steadfast in serving the community despite challenging times, including the last great recession in 2008 and the pandemic in 2020. And since its inception, more than 17,000 generous supporters have donated over \$825,000 to its cause. You can join them this year by visiting giving.drexel.edu/tradition to make a gift in honor of the project’s golden anniversary.

THE TURKEY PROJECT in Their Words

Some of the Turkey Project’s most loyal supporters reflect on why it is such an important and impactful Drexel Alumni tradition.

Adeline Kieffer '77

“I started out serving as a Turkey Project volunteer after graduating in 1977. It was created with the intent to help our neighbors, and that mission has never changed. It’s been a wonderful initiative that benefits both Drexel and the recipients and strengthens the University’s relationship with the community. Seeing the success of the initiative confirms for me that this project is important and serves a lasting purpose.”

Jeff Spence '09

“The Alumni Holiday Turkey Project shines as an example of Drexel’s longstanding commitment to civic engagement, and I’ve been fortunate to support it for more than 20 years as an alumni volunteer, donor and staff member. I continue to be inspired by its mission to extend the reach of the Drexel alumni community in support of the University’s neighbors in need.”



Fred Ulmer '57 and his wife, Sue, have been volunteering with the Turkey Project for more than 25 years.

Philadelphia-Area Alumni: Mark Your Calendars!

SATURDAY, DEC. 9
SHARING EXCESS
PACKING DAY

Pack bags of non-perishable canned goods to go with the turkeys at Sharing Excess, a nonprofit founded by Evan Ehlers '19 that fights food insecurity and addresses the root causes of hunger in Philadelphia.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16
DISTRIBUTION DAY

Head to DAC entrance on Market Street to help spread holiday joy and hand out turkeys and side dishes to community organizations.

The Turkey Project brings generations of Dragons together in the spirit of community service.



Pamela '96 and David Bershas '96

"Participating in the Alumni Turkey Project with our children demonstrates the importance of community service in our lives. It shows our children that not everyone has the same financial or societal situation as they do, and it teaches them that empathy, giving and compassion are good traits to possess. We hope our children understand how good it feels to volunteer...and how their contribution helps to better our society."

Fred Ulmer '57

"I couldn't have gone to college without the scholarships given to me by Drexel, so after I graduated, I felt like it was my time to give back. The community partners that pick up the holiday meals have started to recognize me as a familiar face and it's nice to see them year after year. I'm 91 now, but as long as I'm physically able, I'll keep volunteering!"

Your Gift Creates Meals

Every year, donors to the Turkey Project make it possible for hundreds of our Greater Philadelphia area neighbors to receive holiday meals. Your gift provides a turkey dinner and sides to those who need support and furthers the Turkey Project's longstanding tradition of helping to fight local hunger and food insecurity.



Make your gift to the Turkey Project at giving.drexel.edu/tradition.

50s

Sandra Schultz Newman, Esq., BS home economics '59, HD '01, was presented with the Fifty-Year Member Award by the Pennsylvania Bar Association, in recognition of her outstanding leadership in the legal profession and extraordinary service and long-standing membership in the association.

60s

Samuel H. Basch, MD, HMC medicine '61, was honored by Mount Sinai Hospital for his 50 years of service to the Mount Sinai community. Upon completing his residency as chief resident with the Mount Sinai Hospital in 1965, Basch began his service and teaching career at the Mount Sinai Hospital as the assistant chief of Consultation-Liaison Service where he supervised and taught psychiatric, medical, surgical interns and residents on in-patient and outpatient services. Throughout his career at Mount Sinai, Basch served as clinical professor, attending psychiatrist, member of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS) Admissions Committee, supervisor of the Psychiatric Residents at ISMMS, member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Attending Staff at MSH, and a recurring member of the Faculty Psychotherapy Conference.

70s

Daniel M. Yulo, BS business administration '73, completed his first book, "Meeting SECURE: A SECURE Novel," a story of an investigation into mysterious occurrences that may be tied to a top-secret mission from the past and a potential terrorist plot. Prior to his retirement, Yulo worked for more than 40 years in the public and corporate finance industry for both small independent and large public companies.



80s

Martin G. Belisario, BS mechanical engineering '85, of Panitch Schwarze Belisario & Nadel LLP, was included in the 2023 *IAM Patent 1000*, a guide to the firms and attorneys deemed outstanding in the field of patent law. His firm was also ranked among the top law firms in intellectual property law by *Chambers USA*, a leading legal ranking guide.

Hugh Gallagher, BS accounting '86, retired as the CFO of Marathon Digital Holdings Inc. on May 12, 2023. Prior to joining Marathon, Gallagher held several senior positions at UGI and AmeriGas.

Joseph J. Golden, BS accounting '81, was recognized on the *Philadelphia Business Journal* 2023 list of CFOs of the Year. Golden is the chief financial officer of Primo Hoagies.

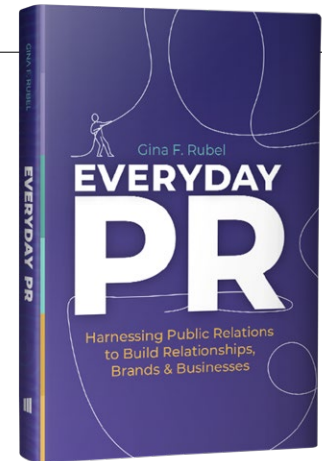
Rajiv Malik, MBA business administration '89, performed songs from his new album, "Time of the Glowing," at the Mt. Airy Art Garage. Malik has spent 30 years playing in music ensembles and as a solo performer, starting out in rock music but transitioning to Indian and world music.

Samuel H. Pond, Esq., BS business administration '81, founding partner at Pond Lehocky Giordano, LLP, was named by the Philadelphia Trial

Lawyers Association as the winner of the prestigious 42nd annual Justice Michael A. Musmanno Award. Pond is the first workers' compensation attorney to receive the award. The award is a distinguished honor that recognizes outstanding contributions to the legal profession, particularly in the areas of human rights, civil liberties and social justice.

90s

Daniel J. McCormick, BS finance '90, visited The Ungelt Theater in Prague, Czech Republic, to see the performance of his off-Broadway play, "The Violin," under the translated title, "Housle."



Gina Furia Rubel, BS corporate communications '91, CEO of Furia Rubel Communications Inc., was recognized among the Lawdrag-on Global 100 Leaders in Legal Strategy and Consulting. Rubel also announced the release of the





WE WANT YOUR UPDATES! Tell us about your weddings, new babies, promotions, awards, trips or special traditions with fellow alumni. Send information and photos to Sara Keiffer at seb434@drexel.edu for inclusion in the next issue of the Drexel Magazine.

book “Everyday PR,” which offers readers a comprehensive guide to navigating the ever-evolving world of public relations.

Carla B. Russell, BS teacher education '96, was among the 60 Philadelphia public school teachers to receive this year’s Lindback Award for Distinguished Teachers, from the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation. Russell is a teacher at Northeast Community Propel Academy.

00s

Diana Bharucha, MD medicine '07, was honored by the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) with a Tribute Award for her significant contributions toward helping those with neuromuscular diseases through scientific discovery, care and fundraising. Bharucha is an associate professor who works in pediatrics and neurology at the Children’s National Hospital.

Yanatha Desouvre, BS business administration '01, was a featured guest speaker at Let’s Talk About It: Transformative Conversations with Our Community for Our Community. Following the performance of “Create Dangerously,” an adaptation of the award-winning book by Edwidge Danticat, the discussion unpacked the Haitian immigrant experience and explored the power of creativity in the face of adversity.

Kimberly A. DiGiovanni, BS environmental engineering '08, MS '08, PhD '13, associate teaching professor of civil engineering at Quinnipiac University, received the Emerging Leader Award from the American Council on Education Women’s Network in Connecticut. DiGiovanni received the award for her commitment to student learning and development as she strives to support student progress with opportunities to apply what they learn in and through their work with community organizations,

municipalities, and other nonprofit organizations.

Celeste Fields, BS business administration '00, was recognized on the *Philadelphia Business Journal* 2023 list of CFOs of the Year. Fields is the senior executive vice president and chief administrative and financial officer of Philadelphia Housing Authority.

David Heyduk, MS library & information science '09, was honored by Hartwick College at the Quinquennial Awards ceremony. The award is presented to Hartwick College faculty and staff members who served for 20 years or more. In 2009, Heyduk was appointed the interim director of library and information resources. He has chaired the Library & Educational Technology Committee and overseen improvements to the interlibrary loan system and the restructuring of library instructional courses for first-year students. In 2023, Heyduk was appointed director of library and information resources.

Marlon Jones, BS industrial engineering '01, was among the 60 Philadelphia public school teachers to receive this year’s Lindback Award for Distinguished Teachers, from the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation. Jones is a teacher at Swenson Arts & Technology High School.



Curtis J. O'Malley, BS architectural engineering '05, BS civil engineering '05, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received the Mentor Award at a ceremony at Q Station in Albu-

querque, along with other winners of the 2023 Excellence in STEM Awards (the STEMYS). The annual awards honor students, teachers, volunteers and other New Mexicans for their science, technology, engineering and math education outreach efforts.

Kerry Sautner, MS science of instruction '04, EdD educational leadership & management '17, was appointed president and CEO of Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, effective July 10. Sautner previously worked on program development at the Franklin Institute and most recently was the chief learning officer of the National Constitution Center.

10s

Jane Cebulskie Bokunewicz, MS higher education '14, PhD communication, culture & media '14, faculty director of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming Hospitality and Tourism at Stockton University and a longtime casino executive, was honored with the Spirit of Hospitality Award at the 24th Annual Atlantic City Host and Spirit of Hospitality Awards.

Nooraldean M. Dabdoub, BS civil engineering '17, was presented with the Community Outreach and Service Award for 2023 from the Philadelphia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Dabdoub has served as a field verification manager with Lennar in Hamilton, New Jersey, for the past five years.

Assunta Daprano, BS civil engineering '16, was presented with the Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award for 2023 from the Philadelphia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Daprano is a certified project manager in the Goods Movement/Transit Group of AE-COM in Center City, where she has worked for the past seven years.

Jimmie Foster Jr., MS higher education '13, was named vice president of Enrollment Planning at the College of Charleston.

Melissa Giberson, CERT physical therapy '11, published her memoir, “Late Bloomer: Finding My Authentic Self at Midlife.” It is a story about a woman coming out and coming into her true self.

Adit Gupta, BS software engineering '19, MS computer science '23, is the co-founder of Lula Convenience, which received recognition by Pennsylvania Alliance for Capital and Technology (PACT) in the technology startup category during its 30th Enterprise Awards ceremony. Lula is an e-commerce platform that allows convenience stores to easily connect with delivery apps and track inventory. Additionally, Gupta was interviewed during the Steering Startups event hosted by PHL Inno, the *Philadelphia Business Journal*’s innovation vertical focused on technology and startups.

Amanda Hill-Hennie, MS special education '12, is proud to announce her school’s recent accomplishments under her leadership. Her students made exemplary academic progress in their first post-pandemic state assessment, which was administered in the 2021–2022 school year. Additionally, the school’s Black, Hispanic, and English language learner subgroups exceeded their statewide academic growth goal by almost 20 percentage points. Finally, the number of teachers who demonstrated significant evidence that their students exceeded the growth standard increased by almost 40 percentage points from the last pre-pandemic state assessment, which was administered in the 2018–2019 school year.

Paige A. Joffe, Esq., BS legal studies-business '15, JD '20, joined Hyland Levin Shapiro LLP as an

associate. Joffe is a member of the litigation and employment practice groups. She continues her practice in commercial litigation, with a focus on construction, employment and business divorce litigation. She also continues her transactional practice with drafting and negotiating a variety of real estate and business agreements, including employment contracts for physicians and other white-collar professionals.



Zach Gosling, BS entrepreneurship '15, and **Emily Maiers Gosling, BS entrepreneurship '15**, had a son, Hayes, on July 1, 2023.

Lauren Pitts-Bounds, MFT family therapy '13, **EdD educational leadership & management '17**,

had her first book, "The Queen Within: Becoming the Woman God Intended," featured at the 2023 London Book Fair. The book is about her life challenges and turning them into opportunities to move forward, focusing on getting the right help when everything else was bringing her down.

Sean Stabler, MS materials science and engineering '12, vice president of innovation for global manufacturing company Sekisui Kyxid in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award from Pennsylvania College of Technology. This award is presented to those who have made significant contributions in their chosen fields, demonstrated the importance of their education at Penn College or its predecessors, participated in leadership roles within the community, and proven a commitment to their alma mater.

Joe Stolarick, MS library & information science '18, started a new position as archivist for Clair

Global in Lititz, Pennsylvania.

20s

Shayna Davis, BS film & video '21, a Philadelphia-based filmmaker, kicked off the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival with two of her own comedic films.

Thomas Falzani, BS graphic design '20, is the co-founder of Lula Convenience, which received recognition by Pennsylvania Alliance for Capital and Technology (PACT) in the technology startup category during its 30th Enterprise Awards ceremony. Lula is an e-commerce platform that allows convenience stores to easily connect with delivery apps and track inventory.

Christopher G. Hytha, BA architecture '21, was profiled in an article, "Young Photographer Captures Irreplaceable Art Deco Peaks of Buffalo and Beyond" in *The Buffalo News*.

Anthony J. D'Orazio, MLIS library & information science '88, was

Earthquake Aid for Morocco



Dounia Tamri-Loeper, BS graphic design '10, raised more than \$10,000 for victims of the earthquake that struck Morocco on Sept. 8, 2023, through the Marrakech Earthquake Survivors Relief Fund she launched on GoFundMe. Dounia, who is from Morocco and has a business working with artisans there, is asking for donations of cash, tents and sleeping bags to aid some 4.2 million residents of affected areas.

profiled by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* about Carversville, a farm located in Mechanicsville, Bucks County that he created. The farm gives away 100% of what it grows and raises to nonprofits in Philadelphia, Camden, and Bucks counties.

Pamela Rothka, CPA, BS accounting '95, was appointed chief financial officer of Empower AI (formerly NCI Information Systems), a leading provider of advanced information technology solutions and professional services to U.S. government agencies. As CFO, Rothka is responsible for all aspects of Empower AI's financial, treasury, and corporate strategies, including financial planning and analysis, capital and cash management, accounting functions, and M&A.

Paul Bloomfield, BA architecture '00, was profiled in the *Philadelphia Business Journal*. Bloomfield, who started his career as a cabinet maker and has been an architect for the last 25 years, is now building a series of homes on the Main Line that fit his description of modern — reminiscent of something found in the hills of California rather than in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Nicole Dalrymple Conahan, BS design & merchandising '10, was featured in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in an article about the general store, Dalrymple's Card & Gift Shoppe in Sea Isle City, New Jersey, which her family founded. Conahan now manages the store and is expecting to take Dalrymple's into the future.

Drexel ALUMNI

DUBAC CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!

Throughout 2024, the Drexel University Black Alumni Council (DUBAC) will commemorate 10 years of fostering meaningful ties between students and alumni and empowering the next generation of Black alumni.

Celebrate the past, present and future of DUBAC at events during Homecoming and Alumni Weekend, a trip to Paris in September, a capstone celebration next fall and more!

VISIT: drexel.edu/alumni/dubacinterest
Check out DUBAC on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram @dubac_philly to stay up to date.



Join the thousands of Drexel alumni and students making lasting connections on Dragon Network at dragonnetwork.drexel.edu.

NETWORKING

Dragon Network. Find a Perfect Mentor



In September 2022, **Julie Park '23** had just begun her final year as a Drexel Dragon, kicking the year off by studying abroad in Spain. She was excited, hopeful and panicked.

“The senior anxiety hit me pretty bad,” says Park, a global/international studies major with a concentration in business, economics and development. “As a Drexel student you’re always go, go, go. It’s like they say, ‘Ambition can’t wait.’ In that moment, I realized I had no idea what the future held, and it scared me.”

At the suggestion of her adviser, Park joined Dragon Network, Drexel’s online professional development community for alumni and students. Dragon Network serves as a one-stop shop that facilitates career-focused conversations, provides professional development opportunities and unites Dragons from around the world — one connection at a time. It was there that Park uncovered the confidence and inspiration to explore what the future held, thanks to a new mentor, friend and fellow Drexel Dragon, **James Varughese '06**.

Upon joining Dragon Network, Park discovered Varughese, a Drexel alumnus living in the San Francisco Bay area. Varughese was a suggested connection for Park based on their shared professional and personal interests, all detailed in their Dragon Network profiles. Within a week of their initial connection, the two scheduled their first call to learn more about one another, says Park.

“I was interested in the platform purely for networking purposes, but by connecting with James, I’ve gained so much more than that — he’s become an incredible mentor who has a shared understanding of the Drexel experience,” she says.

For Varughese, who currently serves as a customer experience leader at Intuit, joining Dragon Network as an alumnus provided its own benefits.

“My career has gone through many ups and downs. I’ve worked in organizations of various sizes, in a number of roles, and Drexel helped prepare me for that,” he says. “I’m keen on the belief that people can’t do things alone, and this was a way for me to give back.”

Over the course of a year, Varughese and Park’s relationship has evolved into a true mentorship, one that continues to prepare Park for life after graduation and allows Varughese to share his experience and insights — and even continue learning himself.

“One day, I’m going to be a leader who is responsible for a team

comprised of different generations, and I’m going to need to understand how they work, what they value, and what motivates them — those are things I’m really interested in learning,” says Varughese.

Both Park and Varughese agree that one of the aspects that sets Dragon Network apart is its design, providing the opportunity for users to share interests, hobbies and professional goals that have the potential to yield stronger, more meaningful connections.

For Varughese, this framework builds on his personal mission to act as a resource for a new generation of Drexel undergraduate and young alumni, finding ways to share the experiences that shaped his own post-graduate journey. As a frequent guest speaker for Drexel marketing students, Varughese has talked at length about his move from the East Coast to the West Coast, a topic that has resonated with a growing number of students. Moving to California was a key milestone for Varughese, one that he attributes as central to his professional and personal growth. These speaking engagements, much like his participation in Dragon Network, have provided an opportunity for Varughese to start conversations around important topics for students at this critical point in their lives, something he wishes had been more accessible to him as an undergraduate.

“From a student perspective, this platform allows current students to create connections with people who want to help and who understand where they are in their life, which is so valuable and can be hard to find,” Varughese says.

“You get out of it what you put in, so you have to be a little more open and willing to share more about yourself, but it’s in service of helping folks who could have been just like me. I wish I had someone like that early in my career,” he adds.

Today, Varughese and Park maintain their regular check-ins, where, admittedly, Park’s focus has shifted from affirmation to exploration.

“Finding a mentor like James has kept me grounded, and now I know there’s no such thing as ‘doing it right,’” Park says.

“Putting myself out there on Dragon Network and meeting James, it’s helped me realize that there are a number of ways to grow both personally and professionally, to shape who you want to be in the future,” she adds. “It wasn’t at all what I was expecting, but that vulnerability has helped me to be less scared of the future and embrace what lies ahead.”

New Additions to the Board of Governors



DEVON LENÉ CARNEY

BS design & merchandising '15

*Jersey City, New Jersey
Designer, Women's Footwear,
Cole Haan*

What's something interesting about you that people would be surprised to know? I hiked through Nepal to Everest Base Camp at 17,598 feet (about 5.36 km).

Why did you decide to become a member of the Alumni Board of Governors? If not for my Drexel experience, I passionately believe that I would not be as accomplished as I am today. My education shaped and formed me into a leader, and with heartfelt enthusiasm, I am driven to help young individuals come to this same realization and strive to reach their highest potential.



FAN FENG

BS finance '17

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Founding Partner, Liberty One
Wealth Advisors*

What's something interesting about you that people would be surprised to know? When I was younger, I was an avid hiker and fisher. I used to spend every weekend in the mountains with my dad and our hiking group back in my hometown in China. I love the mountains.

Why did you decide to become a member of the Alumni Board of Governors? I believe in impacts, and I believe that through genuine connections and meaningful conversations, we can create more programming and engagements for Drexel alumni and Dragons. I have the vision of creating a more personable and customized mentor-mentee matching mechanism to help students who want to learn about the different career paths available to them.



DREW O'NEILL

BS accounting & finance '92

*Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania
Cybersecurity Adviser,
Crosslake Technologies*

What's something interesting about you that people would be surprised to know? I enjoy the outdoors and most sports. Highlights include hiking trails with our golden retriever and making time to play golf and go skiing with family and friends as much as possible. Something that I miss dearly from the college days is that we used to hang out at the Drexel gym most afternoons and play a few hours of pick-up basketball games, with a few Drexel professors playing, too. It was great camaraderie.

Why did you decide to become a member of the Alumni Board of Governors? I have volunteered on committees of several nonprofit organizations over the years and have helped organize and manage events including fundraising. I would like to leverage my past experiences to develop new events with a focus on re-engaging Drexel alumni.



JENNIFER JOHNSON KEBEA

EdD educational leadership & management '16

*Media, Pennsylvania
President, Campus Philly*

What's something interesting about you that people would be surprised to know? During my time leading the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement, I spearheaded the launch of CIVC 101, Drexel's introductory civic engagement course for first-year students. To date, over 30,000 students have taken the one-credit course.

Why did you decide to become a member of the Alumni Board of Governors? To give back to the university that afforded me such incredible opportunities for personal and professional growth.



To learn more about the work of the Drexel alumni Board of Governors and to meet all of the current elected directors, visit drexel.edu/alumni/about.

The newest elected directors of the Alumni Board of Governors bring experience, expertise, enthusiasm and unique perspectives to this volunteer leadership role. **Welcome, Dragons!**



DIANE LEE

BS chemical engineering '79, MBA business administration '91, DBA '20

*Cheltenham, Pennsylvania
Administrator, Department of
Emergency Medicine, Einstein
Healthcare Network*

What's something interesting about you that people would be surprised to know? I co-authored two research publications addressing the challenges facing a medically underserved population in accessing quality health care and self-health-care management. I'm also a Triple Dragon.

Why did you decide to become a member of the Alumni Board of Governors? I viewed my participation as an excellent opportunity to engage in supporting leadership and strategic initiatives by utilizing my education and my professional experience to motivate, develop and cultivate the passion I have for Drexel to current and future alumni in giving back to the University that has opened so many professional doors.



GEOFF HOWLAND

BS mechanical engineering '76, MS engineering management '83

*Middletown, Delaware
Retired Dual Career Executive,
Manufacturing/Energy*

What's something interesting about you that people would be surprised to know? My very first experience flying was when I flew, alone, from Cleveland to Philadelphia on an Allegheny Airlines late night flight in a propeller driven "airliner" to enroll at Drexel, some 52 years ago.

Why did you decide to become a member of the Alumni Board of Governors? Drexel has done a lot for me and has given me a great launching pad for a successful career. My five-year undergraduate experience at Drexel was instrumental in providing life and learning skills that would prove to be critical to an enduring success. My post-graduate experience at Drexel provided that extra career achievement boost. I am proud to be a Drexel graduate. I owe a debt of gratitude for my Drexel experience. I want to give back to Drexel and its students and continue to associate with other achievement-minded leaders.



NATALIE SHAAK

MS publication management '15, BS culinary arts & science '22

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Associate Director,
Communication and Administration,
Drexel University Center for
Hunger-Free Communities*

What's something interesting about you that people would be surprised to know? I am currently working on writing a cookbook based on my Pennsylvania Dutch heritage — a project I started in my culinary senior design class.

Why did you decide to become a member of the Alumni Board of Governors? I have been a part of the Drexel community for 13 years as a student and staff member. I really want to give back and ensure current and future students continue to have the unique Drexel experience — one that centers on experiential learning, diversity and community engagement. I also wanted to be able to represent the perspectives of students and alumni from both of my academic programs.



CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

BS/MBA business administration '11

*Erwinna, Pennsylvania
Entrepreneur in Residence, Mach49*

What's something interesting about you that people would be surprised to know? When my wife and I moved to upper Bucks County, we became more in touch with the outdoors. I took up the enjoyable hobby of making maple syrup in the winters, collecting sap from maple trees and turning it into liquid gold. Not only is it a fun and rewarding process, but who can resist the delightful aroma of maple syrup wafting through the house?

Why did you decide to become a member of the Alumni Board of Governors? With a wealth of experience in building digital startup companies and a strong entrepreneurial drive, I am excited to join the Alumni Board of Governors. My expertise can help the board effectively engage and connect with alumni worldwide. Witnessing the transformative impact the University has on its students fuels my motivation. As an adjunct professor in entrepreneurship and innovation, I have observed the institution shaping students' futures. I'm committed to actively contributing to the University's ongoing success by providing resources, education and support. I'm humbled and enthusiastic about the opportunity to help drive Drexel's continued growth.

OBITS

Friends We'll Miss

1940s

- Harry Bartels**, BS Electrical Engineering 1948, MS Physics & Atmospheric Science 1956
- Robert Eschelmann**, BS Mechanical Engineering 1948
- Carol Johnston Watson**, BS Home Economics 1948
- William Kale**, BS Business Administration 1949
- Nancy Merris Hagood**, Cert. Secretarial 1940
- William Meyers**, BS Chemical Engineering 1947
- Michael Pompa**, Cert. Mechanical Engineering 1941
- Ethel Rossiter Vandegrift**, BS Home Economics 1948
- Lois Runkle Brady**, RN Nursing 1948
- Ruth Shellhamer Stolarick**, BS Home Economics 1947

1950s

- Brearley Bennett Karsch**, BS Home Economics 1951, MS 1972
- Leonard Brown**, MD Medicine 1954
- Patricia Carroll Kolle**, BS Retail Management 1951
- Joseph DeMichele**, MD Medicine 1958
- Joy Digirolamo Dolin**, BS Home Economics 1958
- Douglas Dove**, BS Civil Engineering 1959
- Robert Farrow**, BS Commerce & Engineering 1952
- William Joachim**, BS Electrical Engineering 1958
- Leighton Jones**, MD Medicine 1958
- Walter Kleponis**, BS Mechanical Engineering 1955
- Norman Kline**, Cert. Mechanical Engineering 1955
- William Kohl**, BS Mechanical Engineering 1953
- Norman Kohl**, BS Mechanical Engineering 1957
- William Kraft**, BS Civil Engineering 1954
- Charles Kreitler**, MS Electrical Engineering 1955



PROFESSOR JOHN M. (JACK) REID

Professor John M. (Jack) Reid, the inaugural Calhoun Chair Professor in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, passed away June 25, 2023, at age 97.

Professor Reid's pioneering work contributed to the design of equipment that translates ultrasonic signals into visual images of human tissue. The breakthrough that Reid and a colleague achieved in 1952 introduced the world to a non-invasive technique for diagnosing breast cancer that has revolutionized approaches to treating this disease. In addition, he mentored countless alumni and young colleagues after joining the school in 1980, when it was known as the Institute of Biomedical Engineering and Science.

He was admired and respected by peers and by younger faculty whom he mentored, and within the scholarly community, where his work laid the foundation for advancements that continue to benefit countless lives.

In a message from his colleagues, he is remembered as "an exceptional teacher, pivotal mentor to many, and a globally recognized scholar" who "guided and inspired numerous students who now carry his legacy forward."

RAINER JOHN "RAY" WESTPHAL

Trustee emeritus and benefactor Rainer John "Ray" Westphal passed away Aug. 7, 2023, at age 88.

After receiving his BS in business administration in 1959, Westphal went on to support many initiatives at the University. His generosity led to naming the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design in honor of his late wife, Antoinette Passo Westphal, whom he met while the two pursued degrees at the University.

Westphal applied his knowledge of computer science at the Educational Testing Service, where he served on a team that designed the scoring system for the SAT exam. He founded Vertex in 1978 and led the company for 20 years, creating one of the first true outsourcing companies in the United States.

He served as a member of the LeBow Advisory Board and as a University trustee, receiving confirmation as an emeritus trustee in 2014. He was inducted into the Drexel 100 in 1992 and the World Association of Cooperative Education Hall of Fame in 2003. He received an honorary degree from Drexel in 2002 and the Golden Dragon Award in 2009.



William Krugel, Cert. Commerce & Engineering 1959
Richard Ludwig, BS Mechanical Engineering 1956, MS Business Administration 1960
Leona Makosky Krevitski, BS Home Economics 1954
Aaron Medow, MD Medicine 1956
John Monsul, BS Retail Management 1953
Jane Perrine, MD Medicine 1955
Glenn Pethick, BS Business Administration 1952
Sara Quinn Madden, Cert. Admin Secretarial 1954
Mary Rando Eberhardt, MD Medicine 1956
George Rehffuss, BS Commerce and Engineering 1953
Martha Ross Einloth, MLS Library Science 1955
Herbert Rossman, MBA Business Administration 1958
Jerome Sirken, BS Electrical Engineering 1958, MS 1967
Robert Steelman, Cert. 1950 Mechanical Engineering, BS 1954
William Thorum, Cert. Business Administration 1955
Rita Wiedmann Belfield, BS Home Economics 1950

1960s

Eugene Adams, BS Business Administration 1960
Gary Baldwin, BS Physics & Atmospheric Science 1961
Gerhard Bold, BS Physics & Atmospheric Science 1967
Frank Carroll, MD Medicine 1967
Melvin Cohen, BS Chemical Engineering 1962
John Connor, MS Electrical Engineering 1968
Herbert Cox, BS Physics & Atmospheric Science 1967
Walter Cronkright, MS Chemical Engineering 1960
Daniel Dorrian, BS Business Administration 1966
David Ellis, MS Electrical Engineering 1963
Frederick Endres, BS Electrical Engineering 1962
Dolores Gerber Homan, RN Nursing 1960
Francisco Guillen, MS Electrical Engineering 1968
Lucille Hillpot Baldwin, BS Home

Economics 1960
Benjamin Jacobson, MBA Business Administration 1966
Robert Johnston, BS Business Administration 1960, MBA 1969
Anthony Kazlouski, Cert. Mechanical Engineering 1969, BS 1974
John King, BS Mechanical Engineering 1961
William Knippschild, BS Electrical Engineering 1963, MS 1967
Edward Kobayashi, BS Electrical Engineering 1961
Russell Kolmus, BS Industry Administration 1960
Chester Kosiorek, BS Electrical Engineering 1969
Melvyn Kosmin, BS Electrical Engineering 1968
Dennis Kozak, BS Mechanical Engineering 1962
Richard Krall, MS Engineering Management 1968
Francis Krieger, BS Mechanical Engineering 1967
B. Krigelman, BS Mechanical Engineering 1960
Stephen Kuntz, BS Business Administration 1960
Clifford Kutcher, MS Mechanical Engineering 1961
Donald Kreal, BS Business Administration 1969, MBA 1972
Anne Mansfield Quinn, BS Fashion Design 1963
Joseph McCaffrey, BS Business Administration 1969
Robert Owen, BS Chemistry 1969
Francis Perna, MD Medicine 1960
Dante Piccone, BS Electrical Engineering 1962, MS 1968
Joseph Pinelli, BS Commerce & Engineering 1963
Anthony Prinzo, BS Mechanical Engineering 1966
Jack Rosensteel, MS Computing and Informatics 1961
Edmund Shane, BS Metallurgical Engineering 1962
E. Shane, MBA Business Administration 1968
Richard Shiavi, MS Biomedical Engineering & Science 1969, PhD 1972
Maureen Shrader, BS Home Economics 1966
Thomas Skopal, BS Industry

Administration 1967
Edmund Sobresky, BS Mechanical Engineering 1961, MBA Business Administration 1970
Kenneth Thom, BS Electrical Engineering 1960
Stephen Waxman, MS Chemistry 1965
Ronald Yerkes, BS Mechanical Engineering 1965

1970s

Frances Bailey Pinnel, MS Library Science 1972
Janice Britten Del Rossi, BS Retail Management 1976
Leroy Carhart, MD Medicine 1973
Michael Cyter, MBA Business Administration 1975
Norman Doherty, MD Medicine 1974
Joan Edsell, MS Library Science 1971
Susan Higley Bray, MD Medicine 1970
William Koffke, BS Mechanical Engineering 1971, MS 1973
Henry Krajewski, BS Metallurgical Engineering 1972
Michael Krivins, BS Chemical Engineering 1972
Jolanta Kulpa-Gubernat, MD Medicine 1972
Stephen Lick, BS Accounting 1978
Natalie Molitor, MS Library Science 1971
John Moser, MD Medicine 1979
William Nessler, BS Business Administration 1972, MBA 1975
Maureen Nowak Messenger, BS Chemistry 1979
Steven O'Kane, BS Electrical Engineering 1974
Stephen Overline, BS Business Administration 1978
Alan Rademan, MD Medicine 1973
Nona Rawdin, BS Mental Health Technology 1977
George Rizzo, BS Chemistry 1971
Carl Roe, BS Civil Engineering 1973
Robert Sunenblick, MD Medicine 1974

1980s

Don Bender, BS Management of Computerized Information Systems 1980
Albert Creely, BS Mechanical Engineering 1980

Susan Gardner Herrle, BS Mechanical Engineering 1986
Walter Green, BS Architecture 1980
Daniel Heaney, BS Electrical Engineering 1988
Edwin Hedger, BS Construction Management 1984
William Koby, BS Metallurgical Engineering 1980
Cuong Phan, BS Mathematics 1981
Jeffrey Silveira, MD Medicine 1987
Ellen Weinstein Tallos, MS Reading Speciality 1987

1990s

George Baer, MBA Business Administration 1991
Lothar Budike, BS Mechanical Engineering 1992
Thomas Creachen, BS Accounting 1996
Karen Dougherty-Bossert, AS Nursing 1991
Jon Lebano, Cert. Physician Assistant 1999
James Livoti, BARCH Architecture 1991
Anthony Merendino, BS Accounting 1996
Michael Scott, BARCH Architecture 1994

2000s

Cathy Cardella Bonett, MS Science of Instruction 2006
Robert Diodato, MS Electrical Engineering 2004
William Irby, MS Library & Information Science 2005
Tina Maiorano, MD Medicine 2005
David Morton, MS Finance 2004
William Paffett, BS Mechanical Engineering 2006
Christine Rapacchiano Kimber, MS Nursing 2004
Michael Shine, BS Fashion Design 2006
Joseph Zebbeckes, BARCH Architecture 2005

2010s

Nancy Langerfeld, BSN Nursing 2017
Diane Patterson, MSN Nursing 2013

2020s

Nataline Kolbe, BS Computer Science 2020

Crossword



THINK YOU'VE GOT ALL THE ANSWERS? If so, send your completed puzzle to the address at right to be entered into a drawing to win a great Drexel prize. And congratulations to the winner of our winter/spring edition contest: Daniel Ziegler of Eureka, California.

Drexel University
Office of University Communications
3141 Chestnut Street
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Philadelphia, PA 19104-2875

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY

Follow the narrator of this puzzle as they take a tour of the city. When you finish, see if you can find a secret meta answer that's very Philly.

ACROSS

- 1 Smoothie chain that dropped "Juice" from its name in 2019
- 6 Lumber-cutting tool
- 9 Whirled like a top
- 13 Aquafina rival, or a word meaning "innocent" in reverse
- 14 ___ butter (ingredient in some moisturizers)
- 15 Approximately
- 16 "I arrived at the Philadelphia Museum of Art at 1 in the afternoon. I ran up the steps and did some shadowboxing at the top just like that scene in a 1976 film, but then I slipped and fell as I took a big swing, so my day got off to a ___."
- 18 "Wet Hot American Summer" actor Rudd
- 19 Site of an anatomical cap
- 20 Not as forthcoming, as with information
- 22 Furious feeling
- 23 Fashion designer Christian
- 25 Stirs up
- 27 Investigative journalist ___ B. Wells
- 30 "At 5, I went to John F. Kennedy Plaza where I got to see Robert Indiana's famous sculpture. People adore this piece of art and have written passionate messages expressing admiration for its ___."
- 32 Writing tool used in many reenactments of the signing of the Declaration of Independence
- 34 Kaitlin's role on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"
- 35 ___ homer (Phillies highlight with no one on base)
- 36 Cry from a frustrated Homer Simpson
- 38 Performs like Meek Mill
- 42 Auto financing initials
- 45 "You're doing great, don't stop now"
- 48 "Then at 8, I went down to Lincoln Financial Field to catch an Eagles game. What a great atmosphere! Some people may think football is trivial and pointless, but we all had a lot of fun rooting ___."
- 52 Org. concerned with the effects of acid rain
- 53 Collection at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, e.g.
- 54 Skewed view
- 56 Idiosyncrasy
- 57 Sics on
- 59 Many a citizen of Oman or Yemen
- 63 Target for the 76ers
- 65 "Finally, at 12 midnight, I went to Old City and walked by the landmark symbolizing liberty and independence. An onlooker turned to me and said, 'Legend has it that it got its crack in 1835 when it tolled during the funeral of Chief Justice John Marshall.' I vaguely remembered hearing this story before and said, 'Oh yeah, that ___.'"
- 67 "Someone to Watch Over Me" singer Fitzgerald
- 68 Philadelphia TV reporter Huggins, or actress Falco
- 69 Building shelf with gargoyles, perhaps
- 70 Scan the pages of the *Inquirer*, say
- 71 What a band plays during a gig
- 72 "Look at the time! I have to catch the ___ Street Line back home. By the way, the beginning of this clue is a hint to finding four squares that spell out the meta answer, which describes in a ___ way everything I saw today."

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
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			23	24			25			26			
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56				57			58			59	60	61	62
63			64		65					66			
67					68					69			
70					71					72			

DOWN

- 1 Sharp, sudden pull
- 2 Stratford-upon-___ (town where Shakespeare was born)
- 3 Furry scurriers
- 4 Prepared like many of the treats at Federal Donuts
- 5 Whichever you want
- 6 Chase down, as fly balls that might be hit at Citizens Bank Park
- 7 Like coverage provided by a blimp
- 8 Tended to, as flowers in a garden
- 9 Soak (up), as gravy on bread
- 10 Feature of a rave review
- 11 Loan shark
- 12 To boot
- 14 ___ for attention
- 17 Ice cream serving at Franklin Fountain, say
- 21 Mechanical style of learning
- 24 Not feeling 100%
- 26 Wombs
- 27 Figs. calculated in part from logic and reasoning tests
- 28 Hall & Oates, e.g.
- 29 Feel less than 100%
- 31 Japanese mushroom that might be added to a bowl of ramen
- 33 Reluctant (to)
- 37 Soft and leafy plants, collectively
- 39 Had a hoagie or a Philly cheesesteak, say
- 40 Baby seal
- 41 Business with a sauna and a hot tub
- 43 Apt name for a man living in the City of Brotherly Love
- 44 Thinks very highly of
- 46 Makes changes, as for
- an article in Drexel's alumni magazine
- 47 Ad encouraging drivers to wear seat belts, e.g.
- 48 Will Smith, to Jaden, Willow, and Trey
- 49 State bird of Maryland
- 50 Soda brand that once had the slogan "Shake things up"
- 51 Happen
- 55 Cavalry officer's sword
- 58 Irritated mood
- 60 Give a makeover to
- 61 Aquatic plant
- 62 Ran, as colors at the laundromat
- 64 Bit of protection for a member of the Flyers
- 66 Priest's garment

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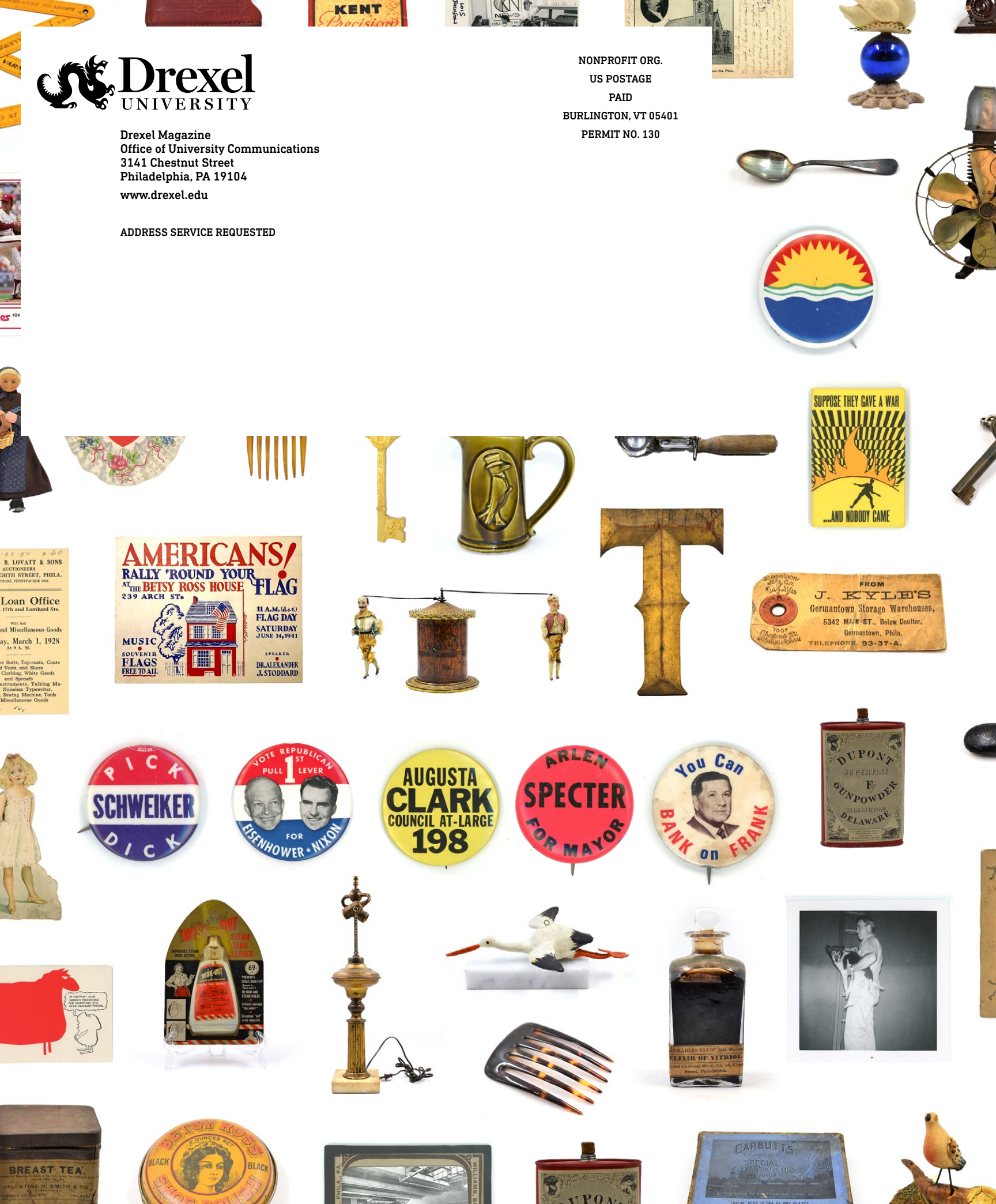
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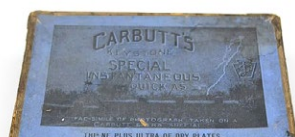
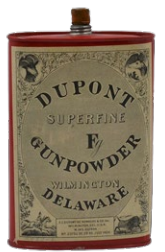


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SCHOOL
of Hard Knocks 28

16 *The Grads Who*
SAVED I-95

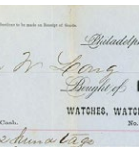
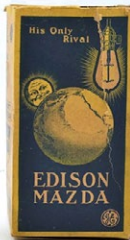
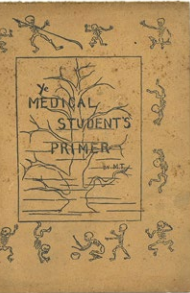
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in Grade School

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