

Drexel

MAGAZINE

30 *Our Macintosh*
MOMENT

FAREWELL
to President Fry 34

22 *Rowing for the Gold*
AND THE GIRL



Gen Z Gets Zen

Splunk Cofounder Michael Baum '85 is mentoring a new generation of "mindful" college entrepreneurs, beginning at Drexel. 24

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

24

Michael Baum '85, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur best known for cofounding the global data company Splunk, is on a mission to cultivate a generation of "conscious, mindful" young tech leaders.



DEPARTMENTS

2 Editor's Letter

3 Ledger

A numerical and illustrated tour of Drexel.

4 Crosswalk

Students are building computer labs in Africa through a special course that demonstrates how to do culturally aware community development.

7 Research An art therapy study shows how trauma influences our perceptions...plus other findings from Drexel faculty.

8 Faces Laura Petrovich-Cheney's talent transforms storm debris into beautiful, mosaic-like wood masterpieces.

12 Seven Characters The story of an ankle implant patent that is being developed into personalized ankle replacements.

15 Quoted Drexel leaders and faculty comment on current events.

17 Show & Tell Vanessa Stoltzfus '21 traded up, turning her two co-ops with assets giant BlackRock into full-time position.

18 From the DAC

News from Drexel Athletics.

A Journey from Lakes to Olympic Pools

Leukemia and Lacrosse Bonds Two Strangers for Life

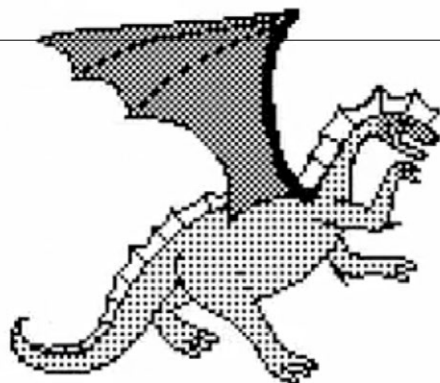
Rowing for the Gold (and the Girl)



30

Fruitful to the Core

Forty years ago, Drexel made headlines as a forwardly university when it found common cause with an ambitious startup called Apple.



THE VIEW FROM MAIN

A Message from Drexel Interim President Denis P. O'Brien

As a proud Drexel alumnus and longtime University Trustee, I have long enjoyed reading this flagship publication. Today and always, it is important to appreciate the ways Drexel continues to transform lives and shape the future for the better. This magazine helps us do just that.

This past fall, we bade farewell to our transformative president of 14 years, John Fry, who has begun the next chapter of his career in higher education leadership, and we launched a search for his permanent successor. In the meantime, I am honored to serve as interim president.

As I told the University community during my remarks at Convocation: I care deeply for Drexel and I am grateful for the impact this institution has had on my life. I am working closely with Executive Vice President and Nina Henderson Provost Paul Jensen and Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Operating Officer Helen Bowman, among other University leaders, to press ahead on Drexel's exciting plans that include achieving a sweeping Academic Transformation to position our institution for long-term success, leadership and impact. We are redesigning our curriculum, integrating our schools and colleges into pillars of interdisciplinary collaboration and expertise, and shifting to a semester calendar. These modifications and more will exponentially increase the value of a Drexel education in a rapidly changing world. The University will become nimbler and more flexible for students, and more competitive in higher education's evolving environment. This Academic Transformation will also strengthen our relationships with industry and civic partners to bolster our capacity and reputation for solving society's problems.

Plans also ensure Drexel's hallmark co-op program will continue to grow even stronger under Academic Transformation. We will create more opportunities for experiential learning, too, including plentiful options for studying abroad. Our most valuable asset for managing change and achieving Academic Transformation is our Drexel community of faculty, students, alumni and professional staff. With all of us rowing in the same direction, I am confident Drexel will emerge from this transformation better than ever before.

Sincerely,

Denis P. O'Brien

34

14 Years, Immeasurable Impact

We look back on a consequential presidency that redefined the University's campus, culture and community.



38

Clowning Away the Frowns

Nun-turned-nurse standup comic Kelli Dunham '98, '00 has serious advice on how to keep smiling even in the most stressful caregiving situations.

44 Cross Roads

Professors reflect on the 40th anniversary of Drexel's personal computer mandate with Apple.

48 Mandell at 50

Possibly Philly's most versatile theater?

52 Class Notes

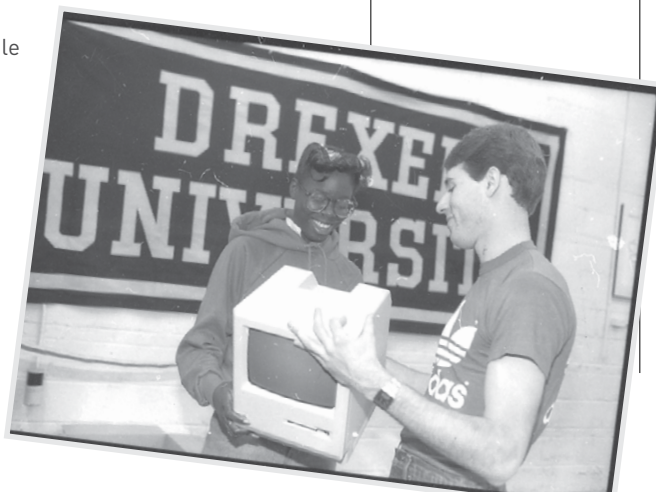
53 A.J. Drexel Society

54 Meet the Board

58 Friends We'll Miss

60 Crossword

To solve this puzzle, put on your gear and get technical.





It's the Only Constant

Change is the heartbeat of this University. It pulses through our history, shapes our present and guides us toward the future.

Maybe you felt it during Alumni Weekend, when we revisited a 1984 deal between Drexel and a plucky California startup called Apple Computer Inc. Though Apple's unreleased Macintosh was still behind curtains, Drexel signed on to become the first university in the nation to mandate that all students own one. As Alissa Falcone recounts in the story on page 30, faculty and administrators overhauled labs and curricula, equipping Dragons with the know-how for a tech revolution.

It was a bold move that didn't just embrace the future — it helped create it. The project gave Drexel national attention and planted Apple's flag in the higher education market.

That same spirit is alive and thriving today, as we stand at another time of transition. This past year, we said goodbye to John Fry after 14 years of visionary leadership that cemented impactful partnerships, redrew West Philadelphia's skyline and expanded our research horizons (page 34). A national search is underway for his successor.

Before he left, he set in motion an academic transformation that promises to be profound. As Interim President Denis O'Brien writes on the previous page, the University is re-examining itself from top to bottom. The goal is to deliver on an education that's truly relevant, flexible and interdisciplinary. Rarely does an old institution go back to the factory for a modern rebuild. Doing so puts Drexel again leaps ahead of social and technological change.

Meanwhile, we're in the midst of a merger with Salus University, which will enhance our leadership in the fast-growing health sciences field. And we're securing existing partnerships, too. By affirming a second round of funding for St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, we can ensure the city's youngest citizens get the care they need.

We're also aligning with alumni who share Drexel's entrepreneurial mindset. Our cover subject, Splunk Cofounder Michael Baum '85, launched his first digital company at Drexel during the Macintosh mandate era before becoming a Silicon Valley mogul; and he believes in this University's unique spirit. On a recent campus visit, he announced support for Drexel student startups through his foundation, Yope (page 24). He is mentoring young entrepreneurs to blend profit with purpose — demonstrating that success doesn't just come full circle; it reaches outward, creating ripples of opportunity for others.

All of these milestones and transitions are a reminder that Drexel's story has always been about motion — adapting, evolving and staying ahead of what's next.

And now *Drexel Magazine* is changing, too. As of this issue, we're moving to a digital format and a new production schedule. By this time next year, the magazine will have a refreshed website design and a digital-first content strategy: more immersive, more interactive and more reflective of how we live and connect today.

Thank you for being with us on this journey as Drexel continues to redefine what education can be.

Sonja Sherwood
magazine@drexel.edu



ABOUT THE COVER

Splunk's Michael Baum: alumnus, entrepreneur, mentor

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR

Sonja Sherwood

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

Alissa Falcone

Britt Faulstick

Lara Geragi

Niki Gianakaris

Nat Kaemmerer

Sara Keiffer

Annie Korp

Greg Richter

Emily Storz

DESIGN

Page33 Studio

ADMINISTRATION

INTERIM PRESIDENT

Denis O'Brien

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,

UNIVERSITY MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Tracy Powell

Drexel Magazine, Vol. 34, Edition 1

Drexel Magazine is published at

DrexelMagazine.org by the

University Marketing & Communications,

3141 Chestnut St., Suite 309

Philadelphia, PA 19104

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Drexel University Records,

Gifts and Stewardship

3141 Chestnut St., Room 310

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Tel: 215.895.1694

Fax: 215.895.4966

Email: bioupdates@drexel.edu

OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Peck Alumni Center

3141 Chestnut St.

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Tel: 215.895.ALUM (2586)

Toll-free: 1.888.DU.GRADS (384.7237)

Fax: 215.895.2095

Email: alumni@drexel.edu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

magazine@drexel.edu

215.571.4104

ADVERTISING

magazine@drexel.edu

215.571.4104

ACADEMICS

SIX MONTHS TO MERGE

Officials from Drexel and Salus ceremoniously commemorated the first phase of their merger with a flag-raising ceremony last summer, looking forward to the final stage this coming summer, when academic programs will combine. Doing the honors of raising the flag were Nina Henderson Provost and Executive Vice President of Drexel Paul Jensen and Bre Myers, assistant dean of Osborne Audiology at Salus at Drexel University. Pending approval this June from the U.S. Department of Education, Salus' academic programs will operate under Drexel's College of Nursing and Health Professions and the College of Medicine, with the exception of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, which will remain a stand-alone college for accreditation purposes.



13,855

Number of Salus graduates joining Drexel alumni.

45

Percentage of alumni from the Mid-Atlantic.

10.3+

Percentage of alumni who are international.

23

Percentage of alumni from the Southeast region.

18.5+

Percentage of practicing U.S. optometrists who are graduates of Salus' Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

CROSS WALK

GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

Dragons Launch Labs in Tanzania

Partnerships between campus and the African continent are introducing Drexel students to culturally aware community development. By Alissa Falcone

Drexel students and their instructors are narrowing the digital divide in Africa, thanks to an immersive global community-based learning program called the Intensive Course Abroad (ICA) program.

An ICA course that is now in its second year, “Culture & Community Development,” partnered with two on-the-ground organizations to open a computer lab at a secondary school in northern Tanzania in 2023.

This initiative not only improved digital literacy and access to educational opportunities for 400 students but also showcased the profound impact of collaborative educational initiatives. In preparation for the lab’s opening, the school received a new paint job and signage, and the district repaired a road leading to the school, which benefitted the entire area. At the launch, the district commissioner visited the school for the first time and ended up committing \$40,000 for the school to receive additional resources and improvements. In 2024, Drexel students from the ICA program helped to open two more computer labs in the country.

“It was amazing to see everything progress from the initial brainstorming to the project growing arms and legs and becoming way bigger than anyone anticipated,” says Senior Director of Education Abroad Ahaji Schreffler, who co-taught the course with Shardé Johnson,

Students in Drexel’s “Culture & Community Development” course helped bring computer access to a school in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania.





One Computer Lab
One School

This initiative aims at improving
the quality of education in
rural areas by providing computer
labs with 10-20 computers in
Government schools as
well as improving students' skills
in digital literacy.

#OneComputerLab
OneSchool

Drexel ICA students, led by instructor Ahaji Schreffler (front row, left), with Gloria Anderson (front row, third from the left), founder of the Tanzania Enlightenment Development Innovations nonprofit. The inspiring collaboration between Drexel and TEDI, born from Anderson's time as a Mandela Washington Fellow, aims to boost digital literacy for Tanzania's youth.

(CONT. FROM PAGE 4)



executive director for diversity, inclusion and belonging and director of Drexel's Center for Black Culture (CBC).

Like all ICA courses, "Culture and Community Development" involved pre-departure class sessions and community-based learning and training before that term's break week, which students then spent living and learning abroad. After the trip, the students produced a post-trip project that integrated their experiences and learning.

"We emphasize to the students throughout the entire experience that everything that we're talking about in terms of culture and how culture informs community development and approaches can be applied right here in Philadelphia," says Schreffler.

For this class, the students came from a variety of disciplines and were encouraged to think about the curriculum, culture and community development through their personal experiences and passions. The final project involved an audio-visual project; one architecture major in the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, for example, focused on using indigenous local wisdom and decolonizing architecture.

During the nine days in Tanzania, the class met with three different tribes — the Rundugai, the Maasai and the Chagga — to learn more about community development from different lenses related to education, health, business and sustainability, and how that could come together with consideration to traditions and available resources. They also visited and learned from people working in local cultural, commercial, and health centers, and went on a safari at Tarangire National Park.

"All of the community and tribal visits covered how tradition and culture shows up in the ways that people develop themselves and empower themselves, whether it's farming, health, education, other forms of business and so much more," says Schreffler.



MEDICINE

New Clinical Options for Medical Students

A number of new and expanded collaborations with regional medical centers are broadening the geographic footprint of the College of Medicine. Medical students can now gain clinical experience from a growing number of campuses.

Bayhealth Medical Center in Delaware began serving as a new regional medical campus at the start of the 2024–25 academic year.

The college has had a longstanding academic medical campus affiliation with Bayhealth, which is central and southern Delaware's largest health care system. But the new regional designation allows Drexel medical students to select Bayhealth as their primary campus for comprehensive training, completing all their required core clinical rotations there during their third- and/or fourth-year clerkships.

The health system includes two hospital locations in Kent and Sussex County, and one freestanding emergency room in Smyrna.

In addition, AtlantiCare signed an agreement to become a new academic medical campus for the College of Medicine. Third- and fourth-year medical students may pursue clerkship training at its large health system based in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. The AtlantiCare health system has a team of more than 6,500 health professionals who serve populations in many locations across the Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May and Ocean counties in New Jersey.

These new affiliations add to the roster of clinical opportunities for Drexel medical students, which include regional medical campuses in Pittsburgh, Upland, Harrisburg and York in Pennsylvania and in San Leandro, California, in addition to Drexel's four-year regional campus at Tower Health – Reading Hospital in West Reading, Pennsylvania.

GROWING CLINICAL OPTIONS FOR MED STUDENTS

PITTSBURGH
Allegheny Health Network

UPLAND
Crozer-Chester Medical Center

CALIFORNIA

Kaiser Permanente–Bay Area

HARRISBURG
UPMC

YORK
WellSpan York Hospital

WEST READING
Tower Health – Reading Hospital

RESEARCH

TRAUMA AND PERCEPTION

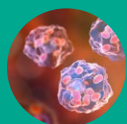
Distressing life events influence the perception of visual imagery, according to findings from the College of Nursing and Health Professions. The findings could guide approaches to therapeutic work with traumatized patients.



Original masks created by a military member

Neutral masks created by a civilian art therapist

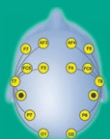
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING



Immune Cells' Sweet Spot
Researchers in the **School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems** have discovered that immune system cells have an appetite for a molecule built from sugar, and they believe it

could be used to trick cells into taking in medicine.

ARTS & SCIENCES



AI Gauge of Brain Age
An AI technique from the **College of Arts and Sciences** can estimate the age of an individual's brain from EEG brain scans, which could make early, regular screening

for degenerative brain diseases easier.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Bail Reform Benefits
A 2017 New Jersey law slashed the state's jail population without increasing firearm deaths or injuries, researchers in the **Dana and David Dornsife School of Public Health** found.

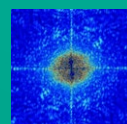
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING



VR Boosts Learning
Virtual reality enhances neural efficiency, according to a team from the **School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems**, who are the first to compare brain activity during visuospatial problem solving

in VR, 2D computer screens and physical environments.

ENGINEERING



AI Can Outsmart Itself
Although current methods for spotting manipulated digital images do not work with AI-generated video, a **College of Engineering**

team found that machine learning algorithms can be trained to identify them.

ARTS & SCIENCES

Making Memory More Reliable
Study subjects exhibited fewer memory distortions after receiving transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) to the anterior temporal lobes of their brains, psychologists in the **College of Arts and Sciences** found.

ARTS & SCIENCES



Income Inequality and Emissions
An environmental sociologist in the **College of Arts and Sciences** identified pathways for countries to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions after exploring affluent nations' carbon dioxide emissions across multiple dimensions.



SALVAGED FROM THE STORM

Laura Petrovich-Cheney's talent transforms storm debris into beautiful, mosaic-like wood masterpieces that call attention to the wreckage wrought by climate change. — *Chris Quirk*

Laura Petrovich-Cheney, MS fashion design '93, endured Hurricane Sandy in Asbury Park, one of the hardest-hit spots on the Jersey Shore. The town absorbed a broad-side blast from the 2012 storm, that left Petrovich-Cheney without power for six weeks. Driving afterward, she saw lumber ripped from houses and furniture that had been washed out of residences like flotsam littering the streets.

"It was astounding," she recalls. "I couldn't get anywhere. There were not only trees on the ground; I literally ran into a dresser."

Petrovich-Cheney couldn't help but view the debris as a tragic symbol of planetary peril. But in a stroke of insight, she had the idea of using her art to highlight the climate crisis. She collected scraps of wood from the streets and garbage piles that became raw material for her colorful, mosaic-like works — works with an underlying message.

"The storms are getting more frequent and they're happening in areas that don't always see this kind of drama," she says. "At some point, all of us are going to be affected by a climate disaster."

Petrovich-Cheney's work is riddled with dualities. Her recent creations are inspired by quilts but made of wood. They hang on the wall like two-dimensional paintings but present equally as 3D sculptures, and they dissolve the dusty genre barrier between fine art and craft by being equally at home in either context. "For me, the blurring of lines is really exciting," she says.

An avid painter from an early age, as a high schooler she one day witnessed a beautiful, yellow vintage quilt in a boutique. Petrovich-Cheney wasn't able



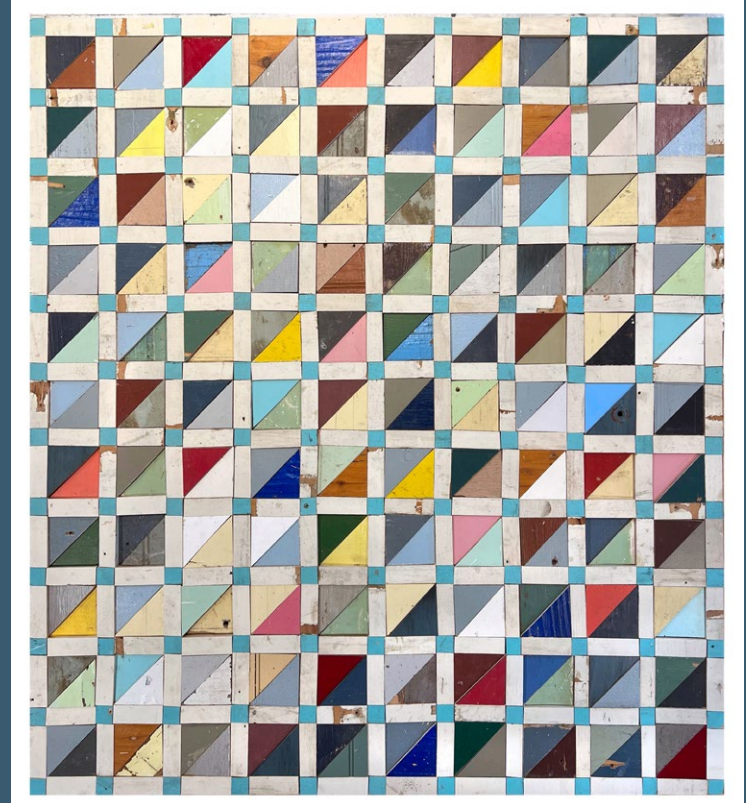
WOVEN WOOD
Some of Petrovich-Cheney's recent works include "Devotion," above, and "Enough Said" (2023) and "Sunshine and Shadow" (2023), on the opposite page. Her latest show runs through 2025 at the Fuller Craft Museum in Massachusetts.

to purchase it, so she decided to make one for herself.

"I bought a sewing machine and got all my fabric and figured out how to sew it," she recalls. "It was a complete disaster. I did not understand seam allowance and I didn't pre-wash the fabric, so it shrank in an irregular way."

But persistence is a very useful personality trait for an artist. She was just getting started.

Years later, as a graduate student in fashion design at Drexel, she vividly recalls her first task in class with the renowned designer and professor Renée Chase. "She gave us each a different pair of very



complicated cargo shorts, and said she wanted us to duplicate them in a ridiculous amount of time, maybe 24 hours — but we couldn't take them apart," recalls Petrovich-Cheney. "Then she left the room."

The assignment brought the class together, with students sharing expertise and talents. "It was like working together in a professional design house," she says. "Sure enough, we got the job done. It was a fantastic experience."

Petrovich-Cheney continued her artistic studies after Drexel, earning a master's degree in fine arts at Moore College of Arts & Design

in Philadelphia. The intuitive spark that motivated Petrovich-Cheney to meld painting and sculpture using quilt designs was perhaps born of a drive to integrate deep-rooted interests in her art. It has led to more than a decade of creative ferment.

To construct her work, Petrovich-Cheney often works from a drawn diagram — and custom cuts salvaged wood into geometric shapes to fill out the puzzle of her designs. "I don't paint any of the wood. All the wood is used as I find it," Petrovich-Cheney says. "It's endearing to me when people say that I use so many colors, but I really don't. A lot of times it's

the neutrality of more common grays and white wood I find that are prevalent, and it's a question of making colors pop and sing in the abstract design," she explains. "I employ a lot of color theory, and my color sense was strongly developed in Dennis Will's summer design intensive at Drexel."

Petrovich-Cheney has been especially busy of late. There was a solo show at the New England Quilt Museum last year, an appearance in the "Stitching the Revolution: Quilts as Agents of Change" exhibition at the Mattatuck Museum in Connecticut over the summer, a showing in "Women's Work" at the

A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art in Colorado in the fall, and from late December 2024 through September 2025, she will be showing new pieces at "Waste Not, Want Not: Craft in the Anthropocene" at the Fuller Craft Museum in Massachusetts.

Thirty years on, Petrovich-Cheney still reflects on her teachers at Drexel. "One of the reasons why my experience at Drexel was so positive is that I did well and was encouraged to do even better," she says. "A good teacher can make you believe that you're capable of anything. That was so inspirational."



The Climate Café model comes from the Climate Psychology Alliance, a nonprofit network of mental health professionals and researchers who prioritize the psychology and emotions behind climate crisis.

350



Number of applications submitted in the first year of the Drexel Promise program.

CLIMATE

Drexel Holds First Climate Café

On a sunny May afternoon after the hottest April on record, undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, professional staff and alumni gathered to share their feelings and hopes about climate changes.

Spearheaded by Associate Professor of Politics Alison Kenner and co-facilitated by Executive Director of Sustainable Development Strategy Jen Britton, the event invited an exchange of views on a topic that has become a source of anxiety for many.

In addition to sharing thoughts and questions, participants found camaraderie by exchanging feelings of radical hope.

The Climate Café model used at Drexel comes from the Climate Psychology Alliance, a nonprofit network of mental health professionals and researchers who prioritize the psychology and emotions behind climate crisis. The alliance created the Climate Café to empower people to discuss the complex feelings associated with increasing ecological disruption.

Owing to the event's success, more Climate Cafés are being planned. The cafés represent just one component of the University's efforts to chart a path toward achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through an interdisciplinary, collaborative process led by professional staff, students and faculty.

ACCESS

Expanding the Drexel Promise

Students who have earned an associate degree from any accredited community college in the United States now have the opportunity to attend Drexel at half the tuition cost.

The Drexel Promise program — which since fall 2023 has offered 50% renewable scholarships for the cost of tuition to eligible graduates of Pennsylvania and New Jersey community colleges — has been extended to community college graduates across the country.

“Our goal is to expand access to the Drexel education,” says Dawn Medley, Drexel’s senior vice president for Enrollment Management. “Our experiential education model has proven to be one of the best ways for students to prepare to be leaders in their careers,

so it’s incumbent on us to provide opportunities for more students to earn a Drexel degree.”

In its first year, the program drew applications from more than 350 students, with over 120 students from community colleges in Pennsylvania and New Jersey ultimately taking advantage of the program.

“If a program like ours can provide additional motivation for students to earn their associate degree and lower the financial barrier to invest in themselves by pursuing a four-year degree, it’s not just a win for Drexel and those students who earn a Drexel degree, it’s also helping to move society in the right direction,” says Hillen Grason Jr., vice president for Enrollment Management Admissions and Outreach.



Call for Stories

“

**Tell Us About Your
'Personal First'**

Philly is a city of bold trailblazing beginnings — from the nation's first library and hospital to the birthplace of American independence. As the city prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2026, we want to hear your story.

Have you ever taken on something thrilling (maybe even a little scary) that challenged your limits or fulfilled a lifelong dream? Whether it was an audacious adventure, a bold career move or a passion project, your experience can remind us all to dream big.

Share your story with Drexel Magazine and honor the intrepid spirit that defines our city, our alumni and our university.

Two Ways to Share:

Submit
bit.ly/DrexelMagazine

Email
magazine@drexel.edu

Deadline
June 30, 2025

Questions?
magazine@drexel.edu

Matthew Stamm



Edward Kim

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Guardrails for AI Technology

The Promise program is part of the University's ongoing effort to expand access opportunities for students who wish to earn a Drexel degree. It was inspired by Drexel's Liberty Scholars Program, which has offered full scholarships to local high school graduates for more than a decade.

"If a program like ours can provide additional motivation for students to earn their associate degree and lower the financial barrier to invest in themselves by pursuing a four-year degree, it's not just a win for Drexel and those students who earn a Drexel degree, it's also helping to move society in the right direction."

"We view this program as the next step in the process of inviting more students to bring their life experiences to Drexel and continue learning from the real-world experiences we provide as part of our unique curriculum," says April Torgun, director of Transfer Admissions. "As a result of sharing these experiences, our University continues to evolve to better prepare students for their career path after graduation."

The Drexel Promise is open to associate degree graduates of accredited U.S. community colleges who earn admission to a four-year, on-campus, bachelor's degree program at Drexel. The 50% scholarship is renewable each year to those who maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA.

Two Drexel researchers are among the first cohort the U.S. National Science Foundation has chosen for a national research pilot program to devise safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence programs.

In a White House ceremony organized by the Biden Administration in May 2024, the Office of Science and Technology Policy commended Drexel's effort to use brain-inspired machine learning algorithms to improve transparency and oversight of large language models such as ChatGPT.

The NSF and the U.S. Department of Energy are funding AI research with five goals: testing and validating systems, improving accuracy and reliability, increasing privacy and interpretability of learned models, reducing vulnerability to attacks, and advancing models that align with societal values and safety concerns.

Drexel's project will be led by Edward Kim, an associate professor in the College of Computing & Informatics, and Matthew Stamm, an associate professor in the College of Engineering.

They will employ machine learning algorithms modeled after the brain's neural pathways to ensure that large language model programs produce accurate, unbiased responses moderated by their own internal

behavioral control centers, much as a human's prefrontal cortex dictates how to behave in socially acceptable ways.

Kim's research focuses on the ethical design of AI and machine learning technology, including raising awareness of implicit bias in the algorithms that drive it. The Spiking and Recurrent Software Coding Lab he leads studies a type of AI modeled after the mammalian brain.

Stamm's Multimedia and Information Security Lab develops technologies to detect multimedia forgeries such as "deepfakes" and AI-generated images and videos. He uses constrained neural network machine learning programs to sift out the digital fingerprints of varied types of digital manipulation and the hallmarks of synthetic media.

"Being included in the federal government's first efforts to develop guardrail systems for AI technology is a significant recognition of Drexel's field-leading research and substantial faculty expertise in this area," says Aleister Saunders, Drexel's executive vice provost for Research & Innovation. "As this technology reshapes how we live, learn and interact, researchers will play a pivotal role in helping to ensure that AI is being used to society's benefit, rather than its detriment."

THE STORY OF NO.

1 0 4 3 3 9 7 0

It can take an inventor years to receive an official U.S. patent, usually represented by a seven- or eight-digit number. But the full story behind most patents is much longer. By correcting long-held misconceptions about ankle anatomy, College of Engineering Professor Sorin Siegler was able to **build a more reliable and functional ankle implant**. This is the story of how it came to be.

In **2013**, mechanical engineering Professor Sorin Siegler was studying the shape of ankle bones at the request of a medical device manufacturer, using MRIs and CT scans to create 3D renderings on a computer.

But when Siegler compared his renderings to illustrations in commonly used medical textbooks, he found two glaring discrepancies.

The textbook diagrams showed a talus bone shaped like a cone, the top of which faced the inside of the foot. Images Siegler obtained revealed the opposite: The top of the cone faced outward.

Siegler realized the medical community had been laboring under a second error: that the ankle joint is fixed, allowing movement along just one plane. This had been accepted as orthodoxy since the **1952** publication of "The Joints of the Ankle," by influential University of California physician and researcher Verne Thompson Inman.

Taken together, Siegler's twin discoveries went a long way toward explaining why ankle implants had been far less successful than hip and knee replacements.

For years, patients with arthritic or injured ankles had declined unreliable implants in favor of fusions that left them without the range of motion they'd once enjoyed.

The International Society of Biomechanics affirmed the power of Siegler's work when it conferred the Clinical Biomechanics Award upon him and members of his team in **2013**.

Others who took note included the Coulter-Drexel Translational Research Partnership, a Drexel tech commercialization program that provided seed funding and connected Siegler with Brian Garvey '12, a former student and rising star in the medical device industry.

Recognizing the promise in Siegler's work, Garvey co-founded a startup, Kinos Medical, to develop an artificial ankle that preserves a patient's full range of motion. The patent Siegler applied for in **2014** was granted in **2018**. **Two** years later, the Kinos Axiom Total Ankle System secured FDA 510(k) clearance.

It didn't take long for word to spread that the device could restore ankle joints. In **2021**, Kinos merged with restor3d [sic], a

KINOS AXIOM TOTAL ANKLE SYSTEM

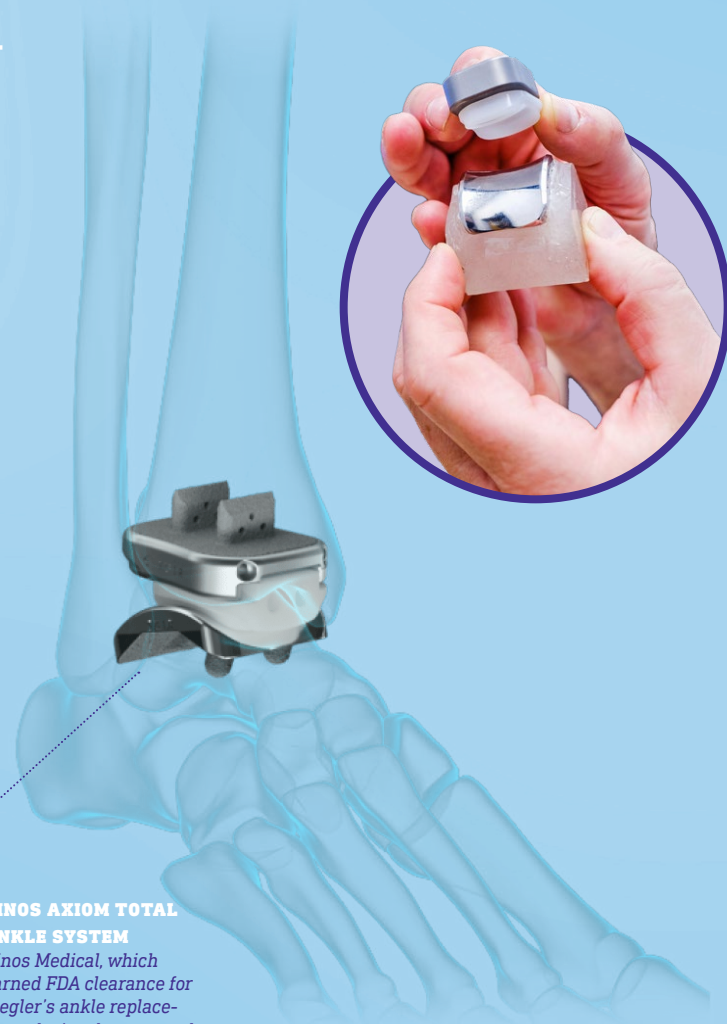
Kinos Medical, which earned FDA clearance for Siegler's ankle replacement design, has merged with restor3d to create personalized implants.

leading North Carolina-based developer of personalized orthopedic solutions through its in-house 3D printing technologies.

Restor3d has since launched several new line extensions that allow surgeons to treat a larger population of patients with ankle arthritis.

"The Kinos Axiom Total Ankle

System provides patients with motion that restores their natural function," says surgeon J. Kent Ellington, who is medical director of the Foot and Ankle Institute at OrthoCarolina. "This has been a huge advantage for them as they regain flexibility at the joint and can enjoy a more active lifestyle after ankle replacement."





SEPTA's 30th Street Station has been transformed into Drexel Station for the next five years.

ENTREPRENEURIALISM

3 Startups Win Innovation Fund Support

A sustainable cosmetics brand, a nanomaterials cleantech company and a producer of the 2D inorganic compound MXenes were selected this year to receive \$150,000 investments from the Drexel Innovation Fund, the University's seed fund.

The fund was launched in 2023 to provide early-stage support to Drexel problem-solvers tackling entrepreneurial opportunities. As an ever-green reserve, the fund's returns will be re-invested in future Drexel startups.

AER Cosmetics, a company Paige DeAngelo, BA '23, founded as a student, produces water-soluble, vegan, cruelty-free mascara tablets that go into a refillable tube. Both the mascara wand and tube come clean in the dishwasher. DeAngelo has won prizes in numerous contests including the Drexel Startups Fund, the Draper Competition and Global Student Entrepreneur Awards.

IDNano commercializes one-dimensional nanofilaments called hydroxides-derived nanostructures (HDNs), which were discovered in 2021 by Distinguished Professor Michel Barsoum and his then-doctoral researcher Hussein Badr. The nanomaterials react with sunlight to convert hydrogen from water over long durations, which has the potential to slash the cost of producing hydrogen fuel.

The third seed fund recipient, MXene Inc., is establishing itself as the leading supplier of MXenes, a nanomaterial discovered in 2011 by two groups of Drexel researchers, led by Barsoum and Distinguished University and Bach Professor Yury Gogotsi in the College of Engineering. MXenes are a class of two-dimensional inorganic compounds that consist of atomically thin layers of transition metal carbides, nitrides or carbonitrides. Their

versatility in composition, arrangement, surface chemistry and tunability creates potential benefits in applications that advance energy, electronics, optics, catalysis, biomedicine and the environment.

"The Innovation Fund plays a crucial role in Drexel's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem," says Shintaro Kaido, former vice provost for innovation and executive director of Drexel Applied Innovation. "I am very proud of the startup founders who went through a very competitive process and wish them well in their journeys to make our world a better place."

Paige DeAngelo researched mascara formulas to create a sustainable brand that comes in a refillable tube.



CAMPUS

New SEPTA Station Takes a Familiar Name

A SEPTA station gateway that serves thousands of travelers each day has been transformed into Drexel Station at 30th Street for the next five years, under an exclusive naming rights agreement.

The station recently opened after extensive renovations at Drexel Square on Market and 30th streets. It serves as a stop on the Market-Frankford Line and five city trolley routes and is adjacent to the iconic William H. Gray III 30th Street Station building.

"We're proud to join the celebration of the unveiling of a station that will serve as the gateway for so many of our students, faculty, professional staff and community partners as they arrive on campus," Drexel's then-President John Fry said at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in April. "As new educational, research and business development opportunities continue to grow in West Philadelphia, it is fitting for Drexel to welcome everyone to University City."

Named stations are common on local campuses, with Temple University, Penn Medicine and Jefferson Health also having branded SEPTA rail stations.



73-40

Final score in Drexel's first-ever Women's Big 5 game, defeating the La Salle Explorers.

Emily Roper



Neville Vakharia



Gina Lovasi



ATHLETICS

A Big 5 Basketball Debut for Drexel's Women



The Drexel women's basketball team officially joined the Philadelphia Women's Big 5 this past summer. In November, the Dragons played their first-ever game in the storied conference that is such a big part of Philadelphia's basketball history. The six Division I schools split into two pods of three teams. The teams in each pod play each other, with each team having one home and one road game. After pod play, all six schools played in the Toyota Big 5 Classic tripleheader to determine the 2024 Big 5 champion.

The Dragons, led by Head Coach Amy Mallon, faced La Salle on Nov. 13 at the Daskalakis Athletic Center in the school's first-ever Women's Big 5 game. The Dragons opened pod play with a convincing 73-40 victory over the Explorers. Amaris Baker, last year's CAA Tournament Most Valuable

Player, led Drexel with 22 points, while Deja Evans chipped in with 14 points and Chloe Hodges tallied 10.

It was the first victory for the Dragons as a member of the Big 5, but it wasn't the first for their head coach. As a student-athlete at Saint Joseph's, Mallon won a Big 5 Championship. She also won three titles as an assistant coach and is a member of the prestigious Big 5 Hall of Fame.

In the second game of the pod, the Dragons traveled up North Broad Street to face Temple. The Owls edged Drexel 52-43 as the Dragons finished second in their pod. That left Drexel with a matchup against Saint Joseph's University in the second game of the Toyota Big 5 Classic on Dec. 6. The Drexel faithful had a good showing, as the band, spirit team and a good number of Drexel students and staff made the trip out on Lancaster to the Main Line. Unfortunately, the Dragons ran into a hot-shooting Hawks team and lost to their city rivals 69-47.

Despite the results, it was a memorable experience for the Dragons. The format will continue next season as the Dragons look to bring the school its first Big 5 championship.

LEADERSHIP

Welcoming Three New Deans

New deans for the Dana and David Dornsife School of Public Health, the College of Nursing and Health Professions (CNHP) and the Pennoni Honors College have been named following national searches.

At the Dornsife School, Gina Lovasi, who had served as interim dean since the fall of 2023, was appointed dean in May 2024.

An expert in urban health who has published more than 140 peer-reviewed articles, Lovasi's research draws on large datasets and local systematic data collection to address challenges around health disparities, cardiovascular disease and geographic environments.

Her work on the health impact of retail establishments, strategies to improve air quality and urban greenspaces is widely cited and has informed national and international policies.

In July 2024, Drexel tapped triple Dragon Neville Vakharia as dean of the Pennoni Honors College, succeeding Paula Cohen who returned to teaching after a decade leading the college.

Vakharia had been associate dean of research and planning and an associate professor of arts administration and museum leadership in the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design.

His areas of teaching and expertise, which span strategic planning, social impact, entrepreneurship, information technology and more, align with the College's role as an intellectual incubator for students and faculty interested in interdisciplinary teaching and learning.

And in September 2024, Emily Roper took the reins as dean of the CNHP. Roper came to Drexel from Sam Houston State University, where she served as dean of the College of Health Sciences and was known for her interest in how gender shapes experiences, cultural meanings and societal structures in physical activity and sport.

Her strategic role at the Huntsville, Texas, university aligns with Drexel's increasingly interconnected expertise in the health sciences and its leadership in the education of nursing and health professionals.

FRANCO MONTALTO, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
(from "Higher Ground" video)

THE DESIGN OF COMMUNITIES HAS A MAJOR IMPACT ON THEIR ECOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL TEXTURE.

IN ORDER TO CREATE OTHER RECYCLING SYSTEMS, WE REALLY HAVE TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING IN THE CITY OF WHAT OUR WASTE ACTUALLY IS.

RACHEL HIGGINS, ANTOINETTE WESTPHAL COLLEGE OF MEDIA ARTS & DESIGN, on the student-led "Too Good to Toss" program (quoted by WHYY)

ENGINEERING AT ITS CORE IS TRANSFORMATIVE.

SHARON WALKER, College of Engineering (from Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network 2024 National Conference keynote)

LEON MCCREA II, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
(from an AMA Center for Health Equity video from June 2024)

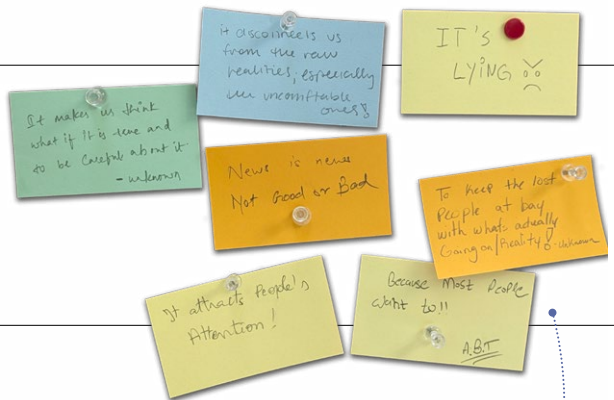
PATIENTS UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE COMPONENTS OF THEIR DISEASE PROCESSES THAT ARE BEYOND OUR CONTROL. WHAT THEY WANT IS TO FEEL AS IF THEY ARE TREATED AS A HUMAN.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION... AND EXPANDING THAT EFFECTIVE ACCESS IS REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT FOR ETHICAL REASONS, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, FOR ECONOMIC REASONS.

MICHAEL EKSTRAND, College of Computing & Informatics (from 46th European Conference on Information Retrieval workshop)



Carlton Waterhouse and Nea Maloo of Howard University, with Janelle Burke and Mathy Stanislaus of Drexel.



ENVIRONMENT

Clean Energy Education with Howard U

Drexel and Howard University in Washington, D.C., are teaming up on a cross-university exchange program and workshop series to design low-carbon environments, made possible by Howard receiving the U.S. Department of Energy’s inaugural Historically Black Colleges and Universities Clean Energy Education Prize Partnerships Track.

Students and faculty in different schools at each university will collaborate through experiential learning activities as part of the Howard/Drexel University Partnership to Foster Diverse Leadership in Clean and Just Energy Transition.

The project will “help motivate students to pursue careers in clean energy and develop innovative students for today’s and tomorrow’s energy challenges,” says Carlton Waterhouse, a professor at Howard’s School of Law and director of its Environmental and Climate Justice Center.

Students are gaining hands-on experience with building decarbonization, clean energy and smart building resiliency and electrification at workshops that began fall 2024. To structure the workshops and collaboration, Antonio Martinez-Molina, an associate professor in the

Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design and in Drexel’s College of Engineering, is collaborating with Nea Maloo, assistant professor of clean energy and architectural building technology in Howard’s College of Engineering and Architecture.

The collaboration arose when Mathy Stanislaus, vice provost and inaugural executive director of Drexel’s Environmental Collaboratory, got a Department of Energy grant to address energy justice in North Philadelphia and reached out to Waterhouse, who like him had formerly served as an assistant administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Land & Emergency Management.

“When I look at the landscape of universities educating in [the] energy space, no one is centering that on justice and climate justice,” Stanislaus says. “It’s a unique opportunity to build out a unique curriculum that I believe all those would look at as a model.”

“When I look at the landscape of universities educating in [the] energy space, no one is centering that on justice and climate justice,” Stanislaus says. “It’s a unique opportunity to build out a unique curriculum that I believe all those would look at as a model.”

CULTURE

Good Question: ‘What Is Truth?’

A campus exhibit developed in partnership with the National Liberty Museum explored the concept of truth, who defines it and how.

Located in the W.W. Hagerty Library atrium, the interactive display reimagined the “truth*” exhibit that originally appeared at the museum in 2022 and 2023.

truth at Drexel* [sic] highlighted diverse ideas, questions and debates about truth — how it is defined, by whom and for what purpose — as well as actionable strategies for exploring those concepts.

Created at a time of social and political division, the exhibit brought current thoughts, questions and debates into focus.

All activities and information in the exhibit were aimed at promoting self-reflection and shared experiences, inviting visitors to consider how the quest for truth opens our minds to new ideas and perspectives and leads us to a more connected and understanding world. The exhibit ran through December 2024.

Visitors to the exhibit were invited to reflect on contemporary questions, such as “Why does fake news matter?”



Show & Tell

CO-OP

VANESSA STOLTZFUS

BSBA FINANCE AND ECONOMICS '21

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 contemporary Drexel co-op look like? We asked recent graduate Vanessa Stoltzfus to show us. She did two co-ops with the global asset manager, BlackRock, which secured her a full-time position with the company as a product strategy associate. — *Sarah Greenblatt*

THE CO-OP(S)

My first co-op was in BlackRock's office in Princeton, New Jersey, where I worked as a trade desk assistant, trading municipal bonds that are issued by cities, counties, states and other government entities to finance major capital projects, like building schools or highways. In that role, I executed trades in excess of \$50 million, worked with portfolio managers and monitored fund compliance. I completed a second co-op as a cash management trade assistant in the company's Philadelphia office, trading different kinds of bonds and taking part in risk and strategy meetings with the cash management team and the municipal group. Along the way, I interacted with high-profile clients spanning corporations, governments and nonprofits.

THE TAKEAWAY

My experience in an elite investment institution threw a lifetime of opportunity my way. I was able to find numerous mentors whose interests aligned with mine. The process prepared me for work with a broad array of institutional investors, doing research and helping them devise custom strategies that meet their cash-flow needs.

THE OBJECT

My one essential tool is my laptop — it's like an office that I can carry around with me. My laptop allows me to keep up with real-time changes in the markets and correspond with clients — all while on the go!

Laptop "office on the go"





FROM THE DAC

SWIMMING

A Journey from Lakes to Olympic Pools

Growing up in upstate New York's natural waters, Sebastian Smith's passion for swimming flourished without pressure. Now a rising star at Drexel, he balances discipline and fun as he aims for the 2028 Olympics. By Mike Unger

The pool Sebastian Smith dove into at the U.S. Olympic Trials in June 2024 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis couldn't have been more different than the water in which, as a kid, he developed his passion for swimming.

Smith grew up near Poughkeepsie, New York, racing in not just perfectly clear, chlorinated pools, but also in murky, muddy lakes. He shared his lanes with fish and frogs. While swimming backstroke, he often was blinded by the sun. He loved it.

"There's a lot of differences," he says of the venues. "One is you don't know where exactly you're going. You can't see the bottom. But it helped keep it fun, if that makes sense. Even with my parents, there was never any real pressure to keep swimming. They knew I was good at it, so they wanted to keep me in it. I think just having fun was the most valuable part."

That outlook has paid off for the third-year, who as a first-year was named CAA Rookie of the Year, and last summer swam with the best America has to offer at the Olympic Trials. He came up short, but there's no doubt that both in the pool and out, his future is bright.

"Seb sets extremely high floors for himself and then holds himself very accountable to them," says Nathan Lavery, Drexel's head swimming and diving coach. "It's not as much about the peak that he aims at as it is his ability to never have a bad day, or at least mitigate



PHOTO BY TOMMY LEONARDI



(CONT. FROM PAGE 18)

those days. He does this in a lot of ways and is proactive and disciplined about it.”

Smith was always a fast swimmer, but it wasn't until high school that he developed into a supremely talented one. During the COVID-19 shutdown, he had not much else to do other than lift weights and swim. He added 40 pounds to his frame and suddenly started attracting some attention from colleges.

“Seb is tall, lean and has a natural ability to maintain a high intensity for a longer period of time,” Lavery says. “For swimming specifically, he can easily break down specific areas he wants to focus on, measure them correctly, and then try things to see if those measurements change. Beyond his physical attributes, it's really that awareness and ability to change how he's applying those physical attributes that drives his success.”

He chose Drexel in part for its swim team, but also for its academics.

“I felt that this was a place of progress and a place to grow,” says the exercise science major, who last year was named to the CAA Commissioner's Academic High Honor Roll. “And in my years that I've been here, I've seen nothing but progress and success within myself in the Exercise Science program and the swim program.”

Smith's personal discipline offers a clue as to how he's excelled. He typically goes to bed around 8:30 p.m. — not exactly standard for a college kid — before waking up around 5:30 a.m. After two Rice Krispies treats for breakfast, he hits the weight room at 6:00 a.m., then swims for 90 minutes. After classes and a carb- and protein-filled lunch, he's back in the pool for afternoon swim practice.

“The more that's on my plate, the better I thrive,” he says. “There are less distractions. I only have a certain window to get things done. I always pride myself on being early. I know what it takes. And the reason I am where I am is because of the decisions that I've made.”

The crowning achievement in his career thus far is qualifying for the Olympic Trials in the 100 fly and the 50 freestyle.

The competition was held in front of record crowds in the domed stadium where the NFL's Colts play. It was a pinch-me-is-this-even-real moment, but when the competition started Smith's instincts took over. He was pleased with his efforts despite not qualifying for the Paris games.

“There's a lot to take in at a meet like that, and for me, it was a learning experience,” he says. “Obviously, I want to go out there and do well, but I think being able to take away that I did things correctly, I can go to any other meet and it's not going to be at as high of a level as the Olympic Trials were.”

He has his heart set on qualifying for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, but he also knows that other goals await. He's keeping them to himself right now, but suffice it to say, one of them is to have fun in the water.

“I know it sounds cheesy, but I've had a couple of people on the team come up to me after they've won a medal and they have said, ‘I wouldn't have done this time, and I wouldn't have been where I am today if it wasn't for your mindset, your attitude,’” he says. “That means so much more to me than winning Rookie of the Year or breaking a record because that means I made an impact. Records are going to get broken at some point but changing that person's life or their athletic career means more to me.”



LACROSSE

Leukemia and Lacrosse Bonds Two Strangers

Josh Trombley's greatest win at a lacrosse game happened years after his college playing days were done. By Mike Tuberosa

Josh Trombley '99 played in many memorable lacrosse games when he was an undergraduate business major at Drexel in the late 90's, racking up 12 wins in his senior year. Yet the most meaningful game of his life occurred 25 years later, at a Drexel-Lafayette lacrosse contest he didn't play in at all.

That particular game was in late February 2024, when Trombley and his family made a trip to Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, that they will never forget.

Years before, Trombley had become registered as a stem cell transplant donor and had hardly thought about it since. He had registered while working after graduation at St. Leo College in Florida. The college had operated a staff vs. student challenge to drive registration in Be The Match, a registry of potential donors from around the world now known as National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP). NMDP strives to match donors by blood protein markers with those in need of a stem cell or bone marrow transplant. Most recipients are fighting blood cancer like leukemia, lymphoma or multiple myeloma.

Life carried on, and Trombley eventually headed back to the Rochester, New York, area to raise three children with his wife Meg, close to where he had grown up playing lacrosse in Penn Yan.

He became a successful businessman, owning a



Josh Trombley with Susie Watson, who matched with Trombley for a vital stem cell transplant.

few restaurants in the Finger Lakes region while enjoying lacrosse on the side, which ran in his family. His father Steve owns a business, Hot Bed Lax, which makes lacrosse goals and netting for colleges, schools and other sporting facilities. His brother is the head coach at Keuka College in New York, and both his sisters love the sport, too; one was a captain for the Syracuse lacrosse team, and the other played at Hofstra.

Fall 2022 seemed like just any other in upstate New York. That all changed when Trombley received an email from Be The Match. *Was it spam?* Then he got another, and he knew it was real. Susie Watson, a 20-year-old college student from Austin, Texas, needed a life-saving stem cell transplant. After 25 years on the registry, he was being asked to cure Watson of acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Two stem cell transplants later, Watson is in remission and is finishing her junior year at the University of Texas at Austin. For a whole year, Trombley and Watson wrote back and forth anonymously before they were allowed to exchange contact information. Once they could openly communicate, they began planning to meet in person.

In a twist of fate, Watson's long-time boyfriend, who had been her primary caretaker throughout her treatment, is also a college lacrosse athlete. Cade Kilbride is a junior defenseman on the men's lacrosse team at Lafayette College, which happened to be where the Drexel Dragons were scheduled to play on Feb. 20.

They agreed to meet up at the game at Fisher Stadium in Easton. Watson flew from Texas and the Trombley family drove down on a cold Tuesday. It was an emotional evening for all involved, as they enjoyed dinner, exchanged stories and watched a competitive lacrosse game. Thanks to the Be The Match/NMDP program, these two former strangers now have a lifetime bond strengthened by a sport that means so much to the both of them.

Watson also is the founder and president of a nonprofit called Thrive Society Foundation, which fundraises for cutting-edge clinical trial cancer research.

To learn more, visit thrivesocietyfoundation.org.

FROM THE DAC



Best proposed to his fiancée, Lainey Duncan, live on NBC's "Today Show" four days after winning Olympic gold.

ROWING

Rowing for the Gold (and the Girl)

Justin Best made his dreams come true in Paris last summer when he walked away with a gold medal and a fiancée — making headlines both times. By Nat Kaemmerer

“There are people out there saying the U.S. isn’t going to do it... They say Justin Best’s too small, Liam Corrigan can’t do it, Mike Grady’s all over the place, Nick Mead’s too big... Their coach is just a high school coach.... It’s the whole team, it’s the whole team.”

That’s what many in the rowing world were saying about Team USA before the 2024 Paris Olympics. The criticisms weren’t easy to hear, but they galvanized Justin Best (BS business and engineering ’19) and his crew, who recited them before their first heat in the 2024 Paris Olympics men’s four rowing competition. Philadelphia football fans may recognize similarities to the cadence of Jason Kelce’s famous, light-your-blood-on-fire Super Bowl Parade speech from 2018, when the Eagles center reminded the world that hungry dogs run faster, that underdogs can win it all. Before taking to the water, Best and his team rewatched that famous speech.

“That part where he [Kelce] is running down the whole organization and all the reasons why people said they couldn’t do what they did, we watched that and it motivated us,” Best recalls. “You need a rallying cry like that.”

Best, who rowed for Drexel from 2015 to 2019, made history with his teammates and won the first gold medal in 60 years for Team USA in the men’s four boat on Aug. 1.

Team USA was leading late in the race when the New Zealand boat made a move to try to gain ground back. Team USA’s stroke seat made the call to go — now. They knew no one could catch them when they kicked it into high gear. They pulled away and won.

No matter how many times he’d imagined it, there’s nothing like the gold medal moment, Best says.

“It was a moment where I’ve climbed the mountain, and now I get to

look down on the valley,” he says. “The only emotional response is to smile and cry, and now millions of people know I have an ugly crying face.”

Those years of dreams began when Best was 14, after he got hooked on rowing while at summer camp. He attended Unionville High School in Pennsylvania and helped found a rowing team to compete in local rowing clubs.

He was recruited by Paul Savell and Nick Baker, the head coach and former assistant coach, respectively, for Drexel Rowing, in his junior year of high school. Once at Drexel, he rowed in the four and eight boats, earning team and individual wins in the Murphy Cup, the Henley Royal Regatta, the Dad Vail Regatta and others, plus multiple visits to the IRA National championships.

Best put in work outside of the water, too. He was on the spring-summer co-op cycle, and Coach Savell would make sure his student-athletes were off the water by 8:30 a.m. so they could make it to work. One of Best’s co-ops was at PECO, so he would ride his bike down Boathouse Row and along the Schuylkill River Trail to get to the Center City office. He would be back at the boathouse at 5 p.m.

“Everyone at Drexel seems to find their own way of maximizing what they want to do, and I think it’s an industrious place where you blaze your own trail, and there are a lot of students that are scrappy,” Best says. “You’re surrounded by these people, and it teaches you a lot ... what I didn’t know was that was going to train me in the tricks of the trade for rowing for the national team years later.”

He put to use what he learned juggling a full-time job with serious athletic drive after graduating and starting his career. Best moved to the Bay Area in 2020 to try to make the team for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The Tokyo Olympics were delayed a year by the pandemic, but Best and his three 2024 teammates made the eight-man boat, which was the top boat at the time for Team USA. Unfortunately, that Olympic cycle



ended in heartbreak. The team finished fourth — just out of medal position. Best turned that heartbreak into motivation and later made the Paris team for the four-man boat with his Tokyo teammates.

“We were still hungry,” Best says. “We wanted to go for more. I think that buy-in is something that’s tough to experience artificially. You have to go through those feelings, those emotions, and kind of learn what defeat is before you can actually entertain the possibility of victory.”

After winning gold this year, Best attended a few other Olympic events and watched other athletes’ dreams come true. But mostly, he wandered around Paris, feeling the energy of the city and of the Games — with his new fiancée, Lainey Duncan, a 2020 fashion design graduate who was on the Drexel Dance Team during her time as a Dragon.

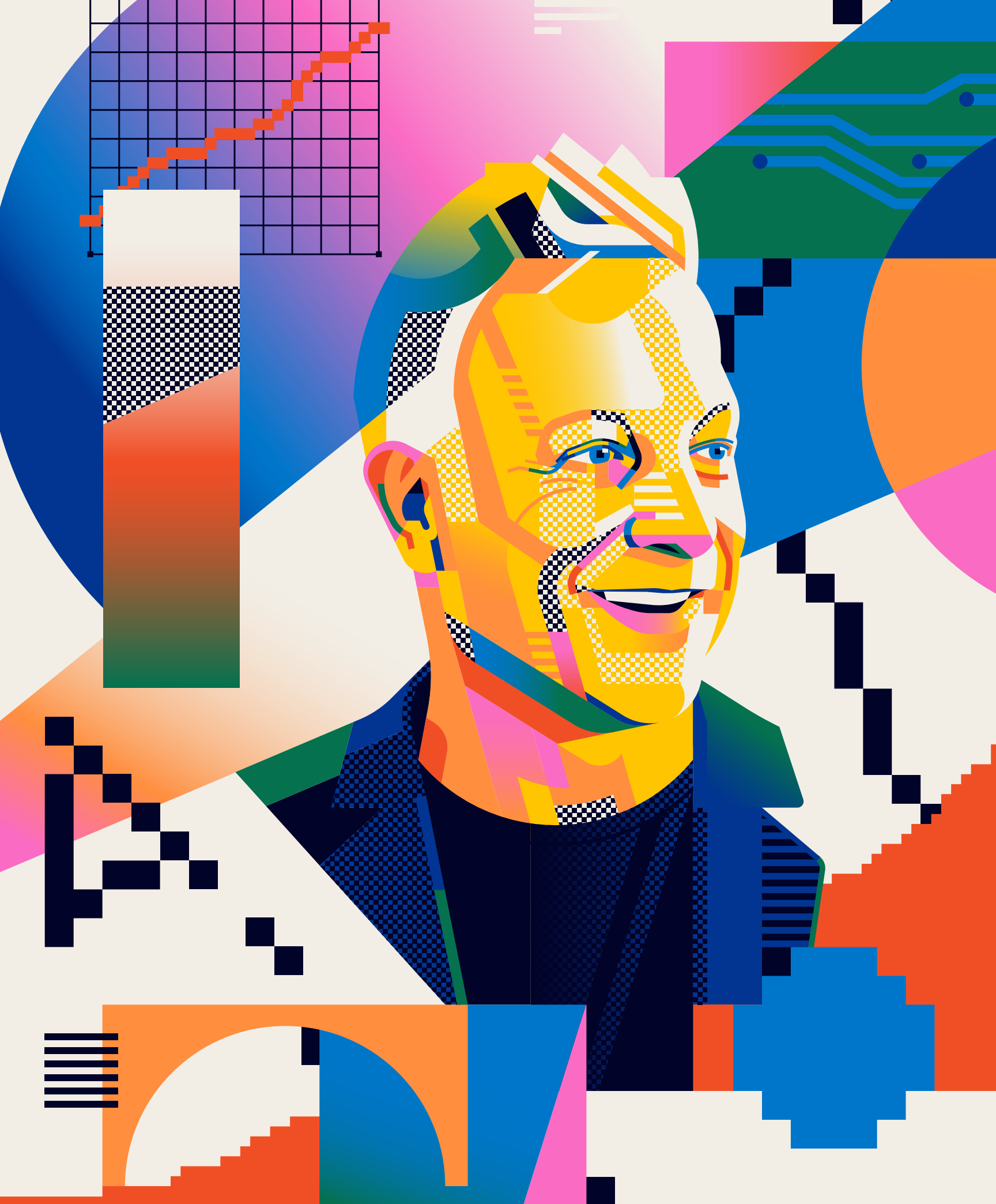
You might have seen Best and his fiancée’s proposal. It happened live on NBC’s “Today Show” four days after Best won a gold medal. He thinks Duncan knew he would pop the question during their time in France, gold medal or not, but he was still able to surprise her.

Best and Duncan, who have been dating since they became dance

partners during their high school rendition of “West Side Story” in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, have also kept up a streak of sending each other a Snapchat every day for about seven and a half years. Last summer, Snapchat contacted Best to share that the couple has one of the longest streaks on the app. When Best informed the company that he planned to propose in Paris, Snapchat helped make it magical by sending the show’s set 2,738 yellow roses, one for each day of their streak. The proposal was, of course, accepted.

No word yet on if the wedding will be decked out in blue and gold, but it will be in a fitting venue: the Waterworks near Boathouse Row. Best will be taking the next year off from international competition to focus on wedding planning and his job in investment banking. He’s not ruling out getting back on the water for the Olympic Games in 2028, but that’s a future decision.

“It’s a huge sacrifice to win; and I’m glad that I made it, and it was successful, but now I’ve done it,” Best says. “You can’t write a better ending than that.”





t

he dawn of the internet flooded the business world with a tsunami of opportunities and unexpected challenges, and Michael Baum was ready for all of it. A serial entrepreneur who helped shape the Silicon Valley ecosystem, Baum figured out how to make sense of data that countless transactions and mouse clicks generate for companies, organizations and governments around the globe.

Baum is known for co-founding Splunk, a big data software company formed in 2003 to help companies index, search and analyze machine data. As the digital universe expanded, Splunk software made it possible for companies to burrow inside — or spelunk — a dizzying volume of information generated by servers, apps, mobile devices and websites to make sense of it all.

Though Splunk isn't a familiar name to most, its software is indispensable to entities worldwide.

Baum retired as Splunk CEO in 2010 but remained a big supporter when the company went public in 2012, at a \$3.28 billion valuation. In September 2023, the networking and communications behemoth Cisco announced that it would buy Splunk for \$28 billion — its biggest acquisition ever.

The entrepreneur traced his career journey during a visit to Drexel's University City Campus last year. He spoke to computer and engineering students at an event that commemorated the 40th anniversary of a pioneering 1984 partnership between Drexel and Apple, a historic public relations spectacle in which Drexel students and faculty became the first in the country to receive the newly unveiled Macintosh computer (for the full history, see page 30).

"Every large company in the world uses our software, coming full circle all the way back to Apple," Baum told an auditorium of first-year engineering students. "Apple is our largest customer, too. Today, they use us to keep the App Store up and running, every minute."

Declaring himself "just like" the undergraduates filling Mitchell Auditorium, Baum exhorted them to focus on their "unbounded potential" and revealed the secret to his success: "If you want to build a really big outcome, solve a really big problem."

For more than a decade, Baum has nurtured student-led startups at Drexel and beyond because he knows firsthand the promise they offer, persistence they require and the paltry resources they usually receive.

>>> Voyage Without a Map <<<

As a first-generation college student and Philadelphia native who launched his first startup at Drexel, Baum understands the challenges of starting a venture at a young age.

During his final year studying computer science, Baum, his older brother — then a Wharton student — and one of his brother's classmates were dazzled by the proposition that software could prepare executives for diverse business scenarios and outcomes, just as flight simulators train pilots for takeoff under different conditions. They launched a startup, Reality Online, using algorithms shared by venture capitalist Michael Aronson, who was then a lecturer at Wharton.

This was in the early days of microcomputing, when Philadelphia was a venture-capital desert. Baum and his co-founders relied on a bank loan, investment dollars cajoled from a few professors, and their own instincts to pursue their dreams. The company's first product, Business Simulator, showed such promise for training executives to make informed production, marketing and sales decisions that corporations quickly took note. The former *BusinessWeek* magazine marketed it to readers.



Reality Online's second product, Wealth Builder, applied a portfolio optimization technique known in academic circles to eight decades' worth of performance data for stocks and bonds, handing wealth managers a powerful tool for advising clients with varied goals and appetites for risk.

"The notion that an individual money manager could have their own computer running this software, doing their own client management, was completely novel at the time," Baum says, recalling pre-broadband days when data was downloaded over phone lines via dial-up modems.

By 1994, the company came to the attention of media and finance giant Reuters, which ponied up \$13.8 million for a majority stake.

After Drexel, Baum picked up an MBA at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and then headed to California. In Silicon Valley he launched a string of startups, beginning with Pensoft, which aimed to meet mobile computing technology needs. "A complete failure," Baum says of it; the company was purchased by AT&T before the communications giant grasped its limitations,



giving investors a payday and inspiring the entrepreneur to develop software for web-based computing and application servers. His third startup, focused on e-commerce, was snapped up by Disney, which wanted a competitive online presence. Baum then designed software for online payment systems, which became his fourth startup, dotBank. Yahoo! acquired the venture and hired Baum to launch and lead Yahoo! Pay Direct, Yahoo! Auctions, Yahoo! Wallet and Yahoo! Stores.

As Baum dived deeper into the scaling Internet he realized that the vast trove of data it unleashed could render systems impossible for humans to understand. Recognizing that companies the world over were spending billions of dollars annually to manage data centers — and doing so “very inefficiently” — Baum and two collaborators hatched a plan to launch Splunk.

“Every company has a huge amount of information that is being generated by every one of its computers, and there’s lots to be learned from that data,” says David Hornik, a venture capitalist and founding partner of Lobby Capital, based in Palo Alto, California.

“Michael and his co-founders created a solution, and it changed the way that companies were run.”

Before Splunk came along, “nobody was talking about big data,” adds Hornik, who made one of two \$4 million investments that got the start-up off the ground.

Calling Baum “a force of nature,” Hornik says he combines the intellectual curiosity needed to innovate with the persuasive power to overcome doubts: “He was able to raise money with an idea, was able to build a team when they were just getting started and was able to convince giant companies to use this software when that was risky and uncertain and unproven.”

>>> Ally to Young Entrepreneurs <<<

But Baum could see the limitations of the venture capital community, which had a tendency to invest only in surefire money makers. And he never forgot about the power of universities — which he calls “bubbling cauldrons of solutions to problems” — to promote innovation.

In 2012, Baum established Founder.org, a nonprofit foundation that supports young entrepreneurs based at universities. Since its launch, the foundation has invested in 125 student-led businesses at 50 universities, including four startups at Drexel. The companies

have gone on to raise more than \$3 billion in additional funding.

Collin Cavote, BS '15, founder and CEO of Biome, a company that produces patented hardware devices that remove moisture from ambient air to autonomously grow plants and maintain biodiversity indoors and outdoors, was stunned to gain support from Founder.org in 2014.

An embryonic business idea based on biomimetics — applying models from nature to solve complex problems — Biome was not an obvious choice for most investors, but Baum provided mentoring and a \$250,000 seed investment.

“There is a surprisingly small amount of capital and resources for concept-level, big ideas that can change the status quo,” Cavote says. “A lot of investors have preferred writing big checks to startups that are just doing things incrementally better than the competition. Early-stage capital has become so concentrated that it’s no longer worthwhile for investors to write small checks to founders pursuing big, untapped opportunities.”

Cavote completed Founder.org’s yearlong company-building process, which includes online courses and quarterly conferences in San Francisco, Boston and Stockholm, where international cohorts of young entrepreneurs soak up energy from peers and wisdom from seasoned experts.

In the process, Cavote learned to think beyond the product he had so carefully designed.

“What Michael helped cement in my mind was this idea that — while you’re building — keep absolutely fixated on the people you’re actually building for,” says Cavote, whose customers include J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., Cushman & Wakefield, TIAA and Fidelity Investments. “That has served us well at Biome, because we’ve developed an entirely new product category and — through listening closely to our customers — found the first market for it.”

When Pramod Abichandani, MS '07, PhD '12, wanted to launch a company that builds low-cost robots to help teach coding to high school students, Baum braced him for harsh realities.

“Academia is very forgiving; business is not,” says Abichandani, who received support from Founder.org to launch LocoRobo with three undergraduate students while working as a teaching professor in Drexel’s College of Engineering. “That’s something he explained to me.”

Now an assistant professor at New Jersey Institute of Technology, Abichandani credits Baum with enabling him to craft a viable strategy for generating revenue in the finite educational marketplace. Academic mentors provide guidance and polish, Abichandani says, but Baum’s approach is “10 times more intense...the role he played in my life has been absolutely pivotal, both as an entrepreneur and as a human being.”

LocoRobo now has a six-person team developing and marketing programmable robots and drones for classrooms as well as freestanding math and science curricula. His products have found their way into nearly 10,000 schools and are used by more

than 250,000 students, with a trajectory of slow but steady growth, according Abichandani.

>>> A Forward-Looking Partnership <<<

In Drexel, Baum recognizes a mutual determination to stoke innovation.

“Of all the schools I see everywhere in the world, I think it’s extremely unique,” he said during his recent visit to campus.

Features built into Drexel’s Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship and the Baiada Institute for Entrepreneurship that it operates align closely with Baum’s foundation. The Close School, which launched in 2013, promotes skills that apply to innovation in business as well as any career pathway that plows new ground. The Baiada Institute has helped more than 110 businesses launched by Drexel students and recent graduates get off the ground by providing guidance, mentorship, a dedicated space to collaborate and multiple competitions each year where entrepreneurs pitch their ideas to investors.

In 2023, the University launched the Innovation Fund, investing as much as \$600,000 annually in up to four student and postgraduate startups as well as those that commercialize the results of scientific research at Drexel.

This year, Baum renewed his commitment to young entrepreneurs, pledging to give Drexel and nine other universities \$100,000 apiece annually to support student-led startups for the next five years.

“I see the Close School as a fertile incubator for where Drexel needs to go in the next 50 to 100 years,” Baum says, observing that the requirement for students to complete minors in disciplines unrelated to entrepreneurship creates “tentacles of integration” across the entire University. “I’m really excited about what they’re doing at Drexel.”

Baum’s support creates even more opportunities in Drexel’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, says Donna DeCarolis, founding dean of the Close School.

“We have this place on campus where students can come and try out their big ideas,” DeCarolis says. “Michael is extremely supportive of it, and it really complements Drexel’s strategy and strategic plan as a very innovative entrepreneurial University.”

For student entrepreneurs in particular, layering mentorship atop money is “a wonderful combination,” says Charles Sacco, vice dean of the Close School and director of the Baiada Institute.

>>> Meeting the Moment <<<

During Baum’s March visit to Drexel’s campus, he announced Founder.org was rebranding with a new name and a heightened focus on cultivating leadership skills in entrepreneurs who seek to solve massive challenges, from climate change to health-care inequities.

Michael Baum's Impact Odyssey

Sep 2010– Present

CEO & Propriétaire Château de Pommard

Château de Pommard is a 300-year-old wine estate known for its regenerative architecture practices and biodynamic wines focusing on sustainable viticulture, hospitality and wine education.

2012–Present

Founder & CEO The Yope Foundation

Yope empowers the next generation to build companies that ignite positive global change, setting a standard where “conscious innovation” is the key to leadership.

2010–Present

Investor & Board Member

The companies supported by Baum’s foundation include BIOS, Cevotec, Dendra Systems, Eko Health, IC-EYE, KONUX, Madorra, Plushcare, RapidSOS, Securly, Skin Analytics, Verdigris, and Volumental — spanning diverse industries such as advanced materials, artificial intelligence, brain computer interfaces, biodiversity, digital health, earth observation, e-mobility, climate engineering, cybersecurity and 3D body scanning.

2011–July 2013

**Venture Partner
Rembrandt**

Rembrandt is a venture capital firm that works with passionate entrepreneurs to create and win new markets and build category-defining technology companies.

2003–2010

**Founder & CEO
Splunk Inc.**

Splunk helps organizations monitor and act on massive volumes of data generated by their business operations.

2000–2001

**VP e-Commerce Services
Yahoo!**

Yahoo! offers services like email, search, news, finance and social networking.

1999–2000

**Founder & CEO
dotBank**

DotBank was an online payment service acquired by Yahoo! in 2000 to integrate its person-to-person electronic payment services into Yahoo!'s growing suite of online commerce tools.

1997 –1999

**VP e-Commerce
Walt Disney
Internet Group**

Disney's Internet Group launched with a vision to bring media, entertainment and commerce online. Baum managed the group's e-Commerce business.

Renamed Yope (for You are the Hope), the foundation aims to inspire and empower the next generation of startups to help heal the world.

"A decade ago, we saw many entrepreneurs with clever ideas wanting to become unicorns," Baum says. "Some of them were to better society, some of them were just to make money."

The landscape has changed, Baum explains, as Gen Z grapples with challenges that are unfolding rapidly.

"We see young people in their early 20s struggling with the mess our generation left them and feeling a real sense of responsibility to do something about it," Baum says. "We see more and more young innovators, young entrepreneurs very focused on the well-being of people, the well-being of the planet."

Yope will reward entrepreneurs who consider the consequences of their innovations and those who find ways to use technology to benefit society.

"We're more focused today on the impact of the ventures that we're getting involved in," Baum explains. "Can they articulate their reduction of CO₂, the number of lives touched, or whatever their measurement is, and do they have a core innovation that can really make a difference in that area?"

While Founder.org emphasized tactics to build out entrepreneurs' businesses, Yope aims to also inculcate mindfulness and an awareness of the societal environment where startups reside.

Baum, who became aware of meditation and mindfulness in the last decade, says he has witnessed how these practices can improve teamwork.

"Some time ago, I was in Germany with one of the companies I've worked with for 11 years," Baum says. "We're brainstorming a solution to a problem, and everybody's kind of stuck. And we take time out to do a quick breathwork session. Fifteen minutes later, the ideas are just flowing."

Young entrepreneurs will benefit from such practices, Baum contends.

"Our focus with our new program is on building a generation of conscious young leaders," he says. "In the next 10 years, if we can create an army of 10,000 conscious young leaders — regardless of the outcome of any of the ventures we get involved in — we will achieve our mission."

Leading that charge is Baum protégé Andreas Loy, who knows firsthand how a company's success can carry costs all its own. With early funding support from Baum, he cofounded Konux to use AI and sensor data to increase rail networks' capacity, reliability and cost efficiency — then wound up in the hospital with heart problems at age 29.

"I was pushing, pushing, pushing," says Loy, who stepped away from the company that had raised \$180 million, created more than 100 jobs and optimized railways across Europe and beyond.

Loy is now helping to build out Yope's conscious leadership program as the foundation's "chief consciousness officer."

By giving the next generation of entrepreneurs the tools to build resilience while staying true to their impact on people and humanity, the program aims to make entrepreneurship itself more sustainable.

"What [Baum] actually started subconsciously or consciously is a seed for an ecosystem of next-generation innovators that get support and then give back," Loys says, tallying 10 entrepreneurs who built companies worth more than \$100 million with Baum's help. "They are now also feeling called back to support the next generation... Imagine them supporting 10 more. It ripples, in a good way."

In the meantime, Cavote says that Baum's philanthropy can ignite optimism in a generation that desperately needs it.

"Most young people think this world is too big, the problems too complex," Cavote says. "We're just little cogs in this wheel. How are we actually going to create any change in this failing world?"

The support and affirmation Cavote received for his venture altered his thinking.

"This has been an opportunity to carve out a different, hopeful reality," he says.

1996–1997

**Founder & CEO
280 Inc.**

280 created a content management system for real-time workplace collaboration, acquired by Infoseek in the late 1990s.

1992–1996

**Principal
Advent Intl.**

Advent is a global venture capital and private-equity firm where Baum managed investment activities for corporate venture funds.

1989–1992


**Founder & CEO
Pensoft**

Pensoft was acquired by AT&T to expand its portfolio in personal communication devices.

1984–1987

**Founder & VP Engineering
Reality Online**

Reality Online specialized in stock market modeling and personal investment software, acquired by Reuters in 1989.

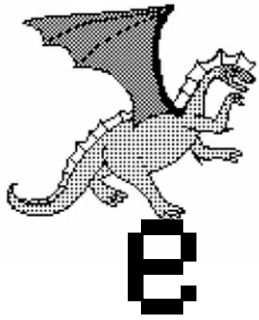


Fruitful to the core

The History of Drexel and the Mac

Forty years ago, Drexel made headlines as a forward-thinking university when it found common cause with an ambitious startup called Apple Computer Inc.

By Alissa Faloone_



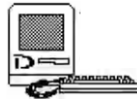
arly in the 1980s, universities across the United States faced declining numbers of college-aged students, and an upstart California computer company was scheming to topple its titanic rival.

These unrelated circumstances intertwined when Drexel and Apple Computer Inc. inked a deal that allowed students and faculty to buy newly minted Macintosh personal computers at a deep discount in March 1984, before the general public could acquire them at any price.

The historic partnership propelled Drexel into the national spotlight and gave Apple — then just an eight-year-old startup — a template for success in the lucrative higher education marketplace.

The partnership stemmed from Drexel's decision to answer demographic and technological trends with a bold move mandating computer experience for all students. That policy — announced in 1982 by Drexel's then-president, William W. Hagerty — set in motion a series of changes to campus and to learning and teaching modes to help students succeed in the emerging digital era.

The story of Drexel's Microcomputing Program, as the initiative was known, illustrates how University leaders anticipated the workplace of the future, just as A.J. Drexel vowed the institution would do when he founded it in 1891.



HEAD OF THE PARADE By the early 1980s, Drexel had already acquired three decades of experience with computers, mostly for academic research and administrative data.

Drexel opened the first computing center in Delaware Valley in 1958, making it one of just 75 educational institutions in the country to offer one. The center provided training, supported research and helped faculty teach classes related to programming and digital computers for engineering, mathematics and business.

Computers quickly gained a broader presence at Drexel. A computer science-mathematics major was first offered in 1975, and the library began incorporating computer services and searches.

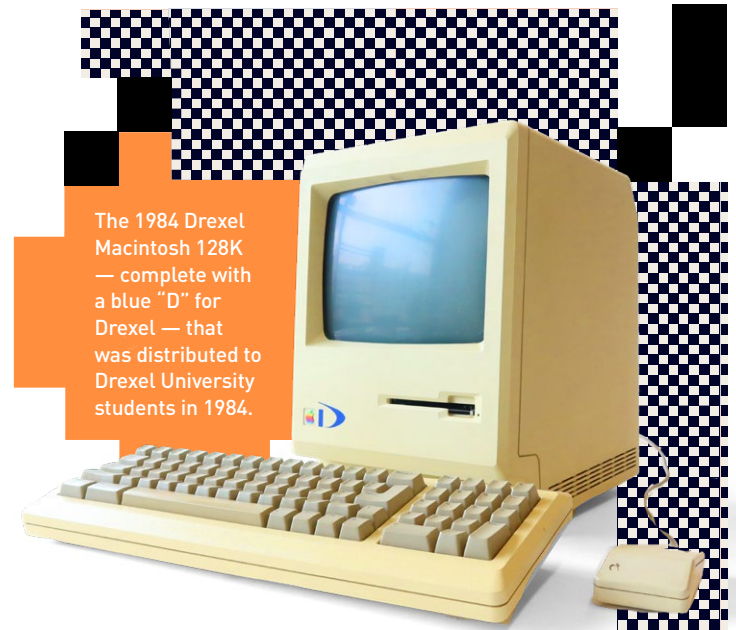
In 1980, Bernie Sagik arrived as vice president for academic affairs, as massive changes swirled on and off campus. Drexel had transitioned from an institute to a university just 10 years before, economic and demographic trends hampered enrollment, federal financial aid sustained deep cuts and the local population was declining.

Sagik proposed mandatory computers only for engineering students. Hagerty initially rejected the idea but changed his mind when business colleagues told him to open it up to all students and bask in the national publicity that would inevitably come.

Once Hagerty approved the idea for the Microcomputing Program, he set an ambitious pace.

“The freshmen now entering Drexel will spend the greater portion of their professional lives in the 21st century, in an environment in which the computer will be an everyday, even commonplace tool,” Hagerty proclaimed. “In every field of endeavor the successful practitioner will utilize computer technology in order to understand and deal with the challenges of everyday life.”

Hagerty's announcement meant that all incoming students starting in 1983 would need access to a personal microcomputer — a first within



higher education that earned Drexel a national reputation as a bold and technologically advanced institution.

But the aggressive timeline worried Sagik and the faculty, who urged Hagerty to delay the start date until 1984.

“Fundamentally, what he said was ‘By 1984, everybody else will have done it and you’ll be bringing up the end of the parade, and that’s not where Drexel wants to be,’” Sagik recalls in “Going National,” a documentary about Drexel's deal with Apple.

There was much work to do. Internal reports showed that on-campus computer literacy was poor at the time. More than half of the full-time faculty members had used computers, but only one in five had taught with them. Most who had prior experience were scientists and engineers who used machines for computations and research.

AN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY RALLIES Brian Hawkins, then the assistant vice president for academic affairs, was tapped to oversee the integration of technology throughout Drexel's campus, community and curriculum.

Drexel spent about \$7 million (about \$22 million in today's dollars) updating its campus technology infrastructure. The University created “clusters” outfitted with shared computers and printers and staffed with co-op students, while academic departments got their own machines.

With a \$2.8 million grant (almost \$9 million today), Drexel started computer training classes and seminars that about 70% of the faculty attended in 1983. Additional faculty completed introductory seminars on word processing, spreadsheets, database management and educational software.

“I had pre-existing programming experience, but I didn't know how

to use a spreadsheet or a personal computer,” recalls Eva Thury, associate professor of English in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Thury had started at Drexel in 1979 as a graduate student at the School of Library and Information Science (today’s College of Computing & Informatics) and as an instructor in the English Department. Later, she began teaching computer programming classes for English students.

Using an Apple Lisa (a business computer that preceded the Macintosh), Thury wrote Tools for Writers, a program that allowed students to analyze and revise their work or to improve their skills. Later, she shared the project with M. Carl Drott, then a School of Library and Information Science associate professor (and her future husband). The program tallied words, sentences and other stylistic characteristics. Thury also developed “literature labs” where students used the software to talk about style in quantitative ways. Tools for Writers was eventually used throughout Drexel and sold nationally through Apple’s program catalog.

A computer savvy community of collaborators coalesced. Thury and other Drexel faculty developed nearly 100 programs — sometimes with help from students or expert programmers — to use in courses, ranging from an electronic periodic table to a program that could replace polygraph machines. Dragons also developed University-specific programs, like the Drexel Disk introductory software given to all entering first years.

Professors had become computer proficient in time for the 1983–84 deadline. But choosing which computer to adopt would pose unprecedented challenges.



PICKING THE APPLE Drexel’s computer mandate did not specify a brand, but a deal with a manufacturer could make computers more affordable for students and allow for uniform deployment across campus. The national attention Drexel garnered from its policy gave campus leaders hundreds of options.

The computer had to be sophisticated enough for technical users and programs but flexible enough for novices. A portable, stand-alone unit would serve the needs of commuters who made up half the first-year class and enable students to use their computers on co-op.

The University had equipped its computer centers with IBM machines for decades, giving the company a significant advantage. But IBM balked at Drexel’s \$1,000 per-unit price cap (about \$3,000 today), for which the University had issued a bond to make a high-volume purchase of computers to resell to students.

IBM’s much younger competitor, Apple, was content to meet Drexel’s demand, provided the University agreed to secret negotiations that kept details of its newest, unreleased personal computer under wraps.

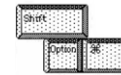
It fell to Bruce Eisenstein, Arthur J. Rowland Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, who headed the College of Engineering Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, to vet Apple’s offerings. The company promised a machine with novel properties: a mouse, a screen with icons and font options. It was more powerful and far easier for novices to master than earlier personal computers, since no one had to memorize or enter coded commands. And Apple agreed to a \$1,000 price tag for a model that would retail for \$2,495.

“I went back to the selection committee, and I said, ‘Listen, you have to forget the IBM. This new computer from Apple is the one you have to get. They are going to make it available to us for a thousand dollars — that’s all inclusive.’ And the first question was ‘Is it compatible with the IBM computer?’ Well, no. ‘Was there software for it?’ No. ‘Were there any programs for it, like a word processor?’ Not yet. So, the committee justifiably kept saying, ‘Well, what’s the name of this? What’s it like?’ I couldn’t tell them. I had to say ‘You just gotta trust me on this.’ So they took a vote and unanimously voted to adopt the unknown computer that turned out to be the Macintosh,” Eisenstein recounts in “Building

Drexel: The University and Its City, 1891–2016.”

Drexel chose the untested Macintosh, knowing that Apple wouldn’t publicly unveil it until January 1984 and that the computers wouldn’t be ready until March, almost halfway through that momentous academic year.

The University’s agreement laid the groundwork for the Apple University Consortium, made up of 23 more institutions including Ivy League schools that followed in Drexel’s footsteps by committing to plan and implement personal-computer applications with the California startup.



COUNTDOWN TO 1984 In the fall of 1983, Drexel welcomed its largest first-year class ever, with 1,882 students. The class included 500 electrical engineering students, up from 120 or 130 in previous years. Only about 20% of male first-years and 9% of female first-years owned a programmable computer.

Those students still didn’t know what computers they’d already purchased, or when they’d get them. The mystery evaporated after an arresting Ridley Scott-directed commercial that aired during Super Bowl XVIII proclaimed: “On January 24, Apple Computer will introduce Macintosh. And you’ll see why 1984 won’t be like ‘1984.’” Two days later, Apple introduced the Macintosh in a press release that also announced the Apple University Consortium.

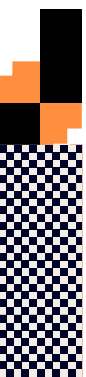
By the time 2,000 Apple computers arrived at Drexel, campus officials had put elaborate plans in place to store and distribute the machines. Staff verified the contents of each box and added to the bundle. Each Macintosh 128K package included a computer, mouse, keyboard, power cord, manual, system diskette, blank disk for backup, programming switch, audio cassette “guided tour,” user manuals and programs including MacWrite, MacPaint and Microsoft Multiplan software. Each computer was branded with a blue Drexel “D” (known as the “flying D”).

Students picked up their machines starting on March 5, with 60 time slots per hour spread across a week. Tech-forward students who had served on an advisory committee for the Drexel Microcomputing Program founded DUUsers, an organization that helped train other students and served as a liaison to the administration.

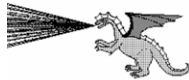
Publicity about Drexel’s program prompted pleas for help from peer institutions. The University received so many requests that the Drexel University Microcomputing Program Working Paper Series was created to share white papers, faculty-penned essays and the results of a five-year longitudinal study.

Drexel’s initiative also resonated among employers, with some of the country’s biggest accounting firms informing the University president that they would require first-year accountants to own a computer.

About a year after the Macintosh distribution, Drexel hosted a black-tie, red-carpet premiere of “Going National” in the Mandell Theater, which Steve Jobs attended.



“I said, ‘Listen, you have to forget the IBM. This new computer from Apple is the one you have to get.’”



A FORCE FOR INNOVATION IN TEACHING Drexel was dubbed “the Macintosh capital of higher education” by PBS in 1990, at which point there were about 14,000 Macs on campus. Faculty continued to give on-campus presentations and brown bag seminars. Publishing a new program was on par with penning a scholarly article.

The University demonstrated innovation with computers in other ways, beginning to offer online courses in 1995 and starting one of the country’s first fully online degree programs — the MS in information systems — a year later. Drexel had become fully wireless everywhere on campus except the dorms by 2000, when it was the first university to provide free voice-recognition software to students. In 2002, Drexel earned another “first” after launching a mobile Web-portal service to access grades, schedules and other alerts.

Over time, the University broadened its reach, providing communities off campus and around the world with access to technology.

In 2012, TechServ, a student organization determined to bridge the technological divide, began hosting “Community Genius Bars” that continue to this day. The organization refurbishes old and donated laptops, distributing them to local organizations and community residents. In 2023, TechServ donated more than 100 computers to organizations including The Center for Returning Citizens, which helps people reenter society after incarceration. It expanded to international projects, donating 15 laptops to start a secondary school’s computer lab in Tanzania through a Drexel Intensive Course Abroad, with plans to furnish additional computers for a school in Liberia.

In 2013, Vice Provost for University and Community Partnerships Youngmoo Kim, who is the founding director of Drexel’s Expressive and Creative Interaction Technologies (ExCITE) Center, was recognized as an Apple Distinguished Educator. That year, Drexel University Libraries became the third university on the East Coast to dispense MacBooks for in-library use after hours.

In 2020, the ExCITE Center was designated as one of three organizations to improve digital inclusion for residents of West Philadelphia through the city’s Digital Navigator program. Members assist with in-person skills training and programming at the Beachell Family Learning Center’s KEYSPOt computer lab at Drexel’s Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships.

The University’s pioneering computer mandate has even become the subject of classes, such as the “History of Games” course taught by Tony Rowe, associate teaching professor in the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design. Studying the history of personal computer games and the evolution of personal computers, students are prone to express surprise and intrigue when learning about Drexel’s synergy with Apple, “and hopefully become a little proud,” Rowe adds.



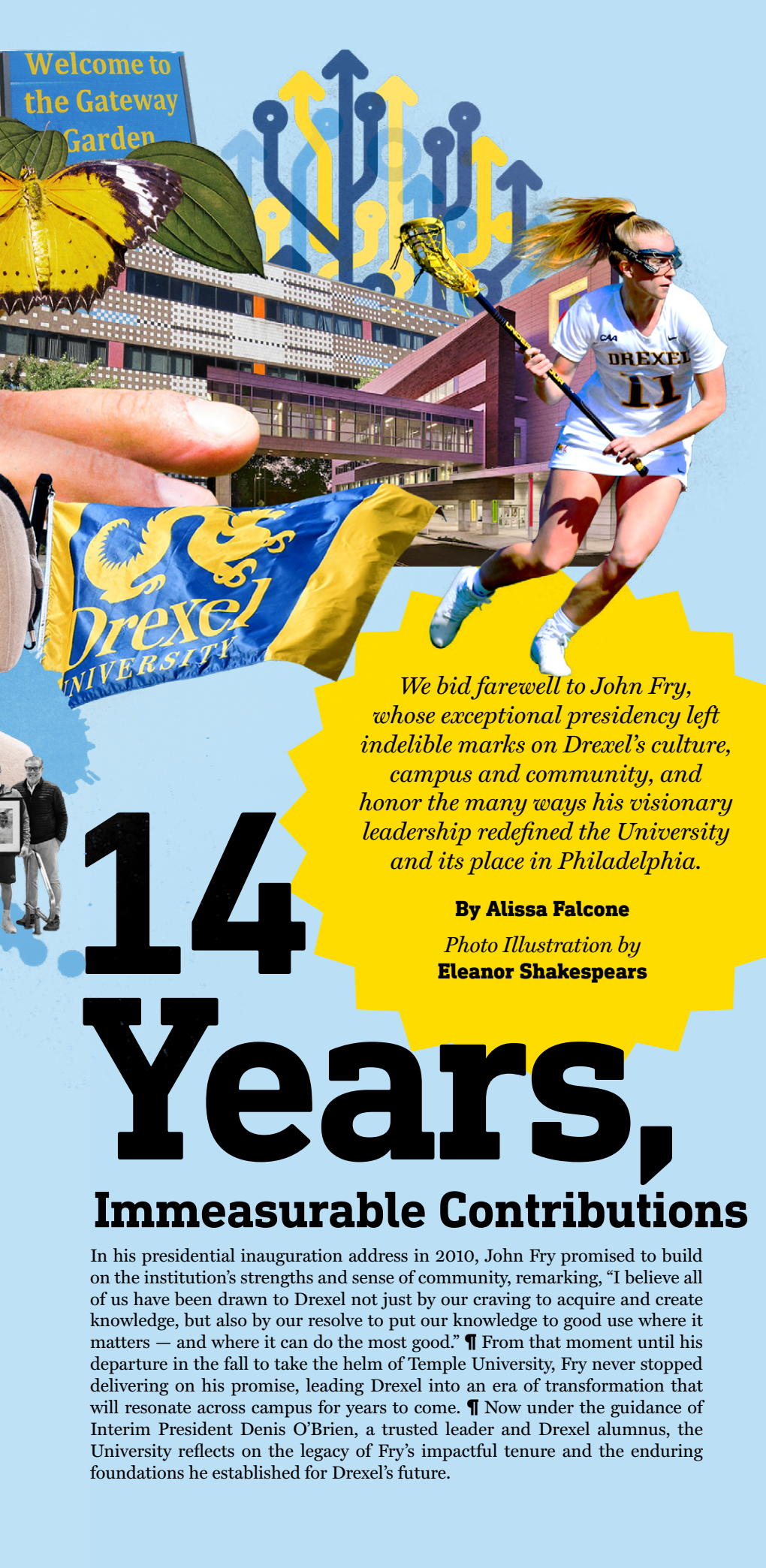
Drexel invested the equivalent of

\$22

million

to update its campus technology infrastructure, creating computer centers and training classes.





ON AND OFF CAMPUS

The University City Campus — and University City as a whole — looks very different from when Fry joined the University. The campus now includes enhanced spaces for academics, research and student life, benefitting all the Dragons who can now work, learn and live together in those buildings and outdoor areas. The result is a more vibrant Drexel for generations of Drexel students, faculty and professional staff members.

Drexel's newest state-of-the-art buildings include the Constantine N. Papadakis Integrated Sciences Building (PISB) with North America's largest living biowall The Gerri C. LeBow Hall offers innovative spaces for business education, and the URBN Center houses labs, studios and other facilities in media, arts and design fields. Many of Drexel's health-related programs are now in one building, on one campus, with the opening of the University City Campus' Health Sciences Building in 2022. Fry also brokered a partnership with American Campus Communities that led to additional on-campus student residence halls and retail shops at Chestnut Square and the Summit.

Throughout campus, existing spaces have also been renovated to house essential Drexel programs and offerings, often with new modernized facades that noticeably beautify the environment. For example, the new Korman Center was remodeled to accommodate the new Academic Resource Center (ARC) to house academic tutoring, coaching and advising services, which reduces barriers for students seeking support. Plus, new parklike areas such as Drexel Square and Raymond G. Perelman Plaza have added green space to campus, with the latest opening in November on the site of the former Myers Hall.

One of his most high-profile acts was to spearhead plans to develop an innovation ecosystem on and around campus. This includes the creation of the \$3.5 billion mixed-use development Schuylkill Yards on the eastern edge of campus with building partner Brandywine Realty Trust towards the eastern side of campus, and the development of uCity Square with Wexford Science & Technology to the west. The projects have attracted new neighborhood residents, potential partners and employers to West Philadelphia, seeding West Philadelphia's burgeoning life sciences industry with companies that could provide future job opportunities in University City, such as Spark Therapeutics' gene therapy innovation center.

We bid farewell to John Fry, whose exceptional presidency left indelible marks on Drexel's culture, campus and community, and honor the many ways his visionary leadership redefined the University and its place in Philadelphia.

By Alissa Falcone

Photo Illustration by Eleanor Shakespears

14 Years, Immeasurable Contributions

In his presidential inauguration address in 2010, John Fry promised to build on the institution's strengths and sense of community, remarking, "I believe all of us have been drawn to Drexel not just by our craving to acquire and create knowledge, but also by our resolve to put our knowledge to good use where it matters — and where it can do the most good." ¶ From that moment until his departure in the fall to take the helm of Temple University, Fry never stopped delivering on his promise, leading Drexel into an era of transformation that will resonate across campus for years to come. ¶ Now under the guidance of Interim President Denis O'Brien, a trusted leader and Drexel alumnus, the University reflects on the legacy of Fry's impactful tenure and the enduring foundations he established for Drexel's future.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN NEW PLACES

Drexel's impact reaches from the neighborhoods adjacent to the University all the way to various continents and countries around the world.

In 2019, Fry faced a significant challenge when Drexel's teaching hospital partner, Hahnemann University Hospital, declared bankruptcy. The event was a crisis for the city and for the University itself, but one that Fry had been anticipating. He engineered an acquisition with Tower Health of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children that ensured the hospital would survive Hahnemann's sudden closure and secured the future of the College of Medicine, one of the nation's most prolific teaching hospitals. This work has positioned Drexel to continue to grow its health sciences and health professions excellence for future professionals and the local communities they serve.

Several years later, Drexel ensured continued high-quality training for Drexel medical students with the opening of the Drexel University College of Medicine at its West Reading campus in 2021.

The new training site increased the University's network of medical school campuses and clinical rotation sites throughout the country, placing the University at the forefront of a growing national trend. Among his final years, he led Drexel through a merger with Salus University (now Salus at Drexel University) and added Salus' graduate health science programs to Drexel's academic portfolio.

During Fry's presidency, Drexel's scope of experiential learning expanded. Students gained new opportunities for paid co-ops and unique research engagements with industry partners in the Greater Philadelphia Area, across the country and around the world. The University's signature co-op program has flourished during this time, celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2019.

In 2022, the University completed its most ambitious fundraising and engagement campaign ever, raising more than \$800 million from more than 42,000 alumni and 4,000 friends of the University in about nine years. More than half of that funding went toward benefiting student success, research and academics.

Fry also helped to advance Drexel's international reach, expanding the University's ability to educate global citizens and foster wide-ranging collaborations for Dragons and international partners to work on solutions to global challenges. The University now has more than 100 global partnerships with universities on six continents, which has increased opportunities for faculty research and exchanges as well as student co-op and educational options abroad. At the same time, Drexel has been welcoming more and more international students, faculty and professional staff to its campus; currently, there are over 1,675 international, full-time undergraduate students who came to the University from 117 different countries.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Civic engagement has been one of the defining characteristics of Fry's presidency since the beginning.

Most notably, Fry championed "cradle to career" educational access and opportunities for local K-12 students in the Promise Neighborhood, a 10-year U.S. Department of Education-funded program benefitting families in West Philadelphia. Drexel has partnered with the School District of Philadelphia to develop the facility housing two West Philadelphia public schools: Samuel Powel Elementary School and Science Leadership Academy Middle School. Drexel students, faculty and professional staff, including those from the School of Education, have offered expertise, programming and learning opportunities for local public students and teachers.

Fry assembled an infrastructure across the University to encourage and support civic engagement and community partnerships, from community-directed scholarship and research to the establishment of "CIVIC 101" classes taken by thousands of first-year students each year.

On the northernmost edge of campus, he helped to open the Dana and David Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships to establish a home for community-driven programs and resources organized with Drexel schools and partners. The Expressive and Creative Interaction Technologies (ExCITe) Center opened in 2012 for similar activities related to technology access and bridging the digital divide.

Drexel is now one of only 16 private institutions holding *both* R1 (very high research activity) and Community Engagement rankings from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, reflective of how research and civic engagement are interwoven in the University's mission.

The University has also been recognized for its implementation of socially responsible purchasing throughout Procurement Services to benefit both the Drexel community and minority business owners who do business with the University.

RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

As Drexel's president, Fry always believed in backing big ideas with huge potential, and he has helmed an era of growing innovation and entrepreneurialism on and off campus. As a result, Dragons have advanced in their individual fields and interdisciplinary work, developed new companies with real-world implications and innovations, and collaborated with esteemed national and international institutions for academic and research projects.

The expansion of the current Office of Research & Innovation in 2019 formalized and empowered Drexel's research enterprise, resulting in increases in funding, sponsored research, awarded patents, technology transfer, student and faculty conference



In 2019, Fry engineered an acquisition with Tower Health of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, a move that secured the future of the College of Medicine and ensured continuing care for Philadelphia's families.

presentations, award-winning student poster competition entries and more.

During Fry's tenure, Drexel was first nationally recognized as an R1 institution in 2018 and again in 2022, and was also designated a top-ranked mid-sized University for Innovation Impact in 2020.

Fry championed the creation of new centers of research that have yielded socially transformative prototypes, scholarship and advocacy, such as the Center for Functional Fabrics, the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute and The Environmental Collaboratory. He also oversaw the establishment of the Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship in 2013, and his support of entrepreneurialism encouraged the growth and diversity of local startups through the Drexel University Innovation Fund, which provides financial support for early-stage alumni- and student-founded companies, and the Raynier Seed Fund, which backs underserved entrepreneurs.

Drexel is also one of just a small number of research universities endowed by the Coulter Foundation to bring promising biomedical inventions to market through its Coulter-Drexel Translational Research Partnership Program.

Early in Fry's tenure, the University matched the Foundation's prestigious \$10 million grant to create an endowment that continues to fund the tech-commercialization dreams of faculty inventors in the health sciences field.

ELEVATING ARTS & CULTURE

Since its founding as the Drexel Institute of Art, Science and Industry in 1891, Drexel has made its art and collections available to students and the general public through classes, campus galleries and exhibitions. Under Fry's leadership, those cultural offerings have been shaped and expanded like never before.

Toward the beginning of Fry's tenure, Drexel entered an affiliation with the Academy of Natural Sciences, the oldest natural history museum in North America, whose operations and collections have since been incorporated into a variety of Drexel academic programs and co-ops. More recently, he guided Drexel through its stewardship of the collection of the former Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater Kent, now called the Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel University, to preserve and display more than 350 years of Philadelphia artifacts.

Within the University, Fry united Drexel's various archives and collections through the Office of University Collections and Exhibitions, including the Founding Collection, Legacy Center Archives & Special Collections, Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection, Polish Poster Collections, Drexel University Archives, Drexel Audio Archives and the Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel University. With his wife Cara, he provided the lead gift for a \$2 million endowment, which was also supported by 38 trustees and friends, to support the Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection.

INCLUSIVENESS AND BELONGING FOR ALL

Drexel has always been open to students of all genders, races, ages, religions and socioeconomic backgrounds. In recent years, under Fry's leadership and in response to the country's social landscape and internal reflections, Drexel has deepened how it upholds that commitment.

During the upheavals of the George Floyd marches in 2020, he honored his pledge to make Drexel an anti-racist University that offered a welcoming and wholly inclusive campus environment, most notably with the creations of the Anti-Racism Task Force and the Center for Black Culture.

And in 2023, when the Israel-Hamas war raised tensions at many universities, Fry reaffirmed Drexel's unwavering commitment to maintain a safe, supportive and welcoming environment for the Drexel community while reacting swiftly to unlawful conduct. He also

launched an External Review to strengthen policies and procedures for protecting free speech and peaceful protest and combatting unlawful discrimination and harassment.

Inclusivity and equity figure prominently in the policies and structure of Drexel's 2030 strategic plan, and extended to areas of Student Life, pedagogy, recruitment, retention and experiential learning.

LEVELING UP DREXEL ATHLETICS

In the world of college athletics, Drexel's reputation, amenities and offerings have made great strides over the years. And during Fry's presidency, the academic profile of Drexel's student-athletes received national and conference recognition.

In 2011, Fry and the University planted the seeds for internal and external opportunities in squash, starting varsity-level squash teams for men and women that have been perennial national championship contenders.

Drexel has hosted the US Open Squash Championships through an innovative decades-long partnership with US Squash that led to the opening of the Arlen Specter US Squash Center on Drexel's campus. This space opens up the sport to local Philadelphians and increases Drexel's visibility to those using the facilities, including future Olympic contenders.

In 2021, both the men's and women's basketball teams won the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) championships and entered the NCAA March Madness tournaments. The women's team also won the conference and entered the tournaments in 2024, and in 2013 won the Women's National Invitation Championship, the first postseason title for Drexel and the first for any NCAA Division I women's basketball team in Philadelphia. And the city's famous Big 5 welcomed Drexel's men's and women's basketball teams in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

A SEAMLESS TRANSITION

Over his long tenure, Fry laid a foundation for Drexel to take on all the challenges that higher education is facing and will face. He has earned a reputation as a transformative and visionary captain at the helm of one of the city's most prominent universities, who has helped make West Philadelphia a new center of gravity within the city.

He will be remembered not only for transforming Drexel into a more innovative and consequential University, but also for forging groundbreaking partnerships with neighborhood stakeholders and businesses and other organizations throughout the city and around the world to spur progress writ large.

That work will continue throughout the coming year, under the leadership of Interim President Denis O'Brien, a former Exelon Corp. executive and long-serving member of Drexel's board of trustees, as he ensures a smooth transition in presidential leadership. A search is under way for the next University president — its 16th in its 132-year history — to lead the institution into its next great stage.

GLOWNING AWAY THE FROWNS

Nun-turned-nurse and standup comic Kelli Dunham '98, '00 has serious advice on how to keep smiling even in the most stressful caregiving situations.

BY

SHARON
WATERS

At the grocery store, Kelli Dunham called her girlfriend Heather MacAllister to ask if she needed anything. When MacAllister, who was living with a terminal illness, replied, "How about three-quarters-pound of a will to live?" Dunham answered, "They only have organic, and now they're all out." MacAllister shot back, "Damn. I had a coupon."

"She was trying to communicate something to me," says Dunham about her girlfriend, who died seven weeks later. "Her fight was waning, which is a very important thing for a family member to communicate, and she needed me to take it with the same lightness that she threw it to me. That was a difficult exchange, but it was much different because of the humor."

The deaths of MacAllister and another partner motivated Dunham to pursue a career making serious situations a bit lighter. Leveraging her bachelor's degree in nursing



and clinical experience with stints as a stand-up comic, Dunham speaks at conferences and nursing schools, offering tools for health care providers to use humor to combat secondary post-trauma response and compassion fatigue.

It doesn't require the wit of Robin Williams, she says.

"People get scared it's going to be like a 'Patch Adams' thing, like, I'm going to make people wear a clown nose," says Dunham. "It's not about being funny, it's *seeing* the funny. ... It's not about you having to be the funny person. It's about responding to patients' humor. It's about seeing the humor in things."

Lightness in heavy situations is sorely needed in the high-burnout field of medicine. The COVID-19 pandemic drove about 100,000 registered nurses to quit, according to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The government projects an ongoing shortfall of more than 275,000 nurses through 2030.

Dunham didn't expect to specialize in this type of work. She went from living in a convent to standing up in comedy clubs, with some years at Drexel along the way, before launching her current consulting business. After two years with the Missionaries of Charity in Harlem, Dunham realized religious life was "a terrible fit," and the order agreed. It was a Sunday night when a superior with the order took Dunham to Port Authority transit station, where Durham blurted "Philadelphia"

when the older woman asked for a destination. Dunham knew that her sister lived there. "I was in a desperate situation," says Dunham, who had volunteered in Haiti with the nuns before joining the order.

Dunham wanted to continue helping people "but not be broke," as she puts it. "I wanted to stabilize my life in some way and have something concrete to offer besides my smile," she says. A friend suggested nursing, and Dunham enrolled at Hahnemann Hospital School of Nursing soon before it merged with Drexel and became the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Dunham earned her associate's degree in 1998 and then her bachelor's degree in nursing in 2000 from Drexel through the RN to BSN program.

Thanks to the William and Theresa M. Rubert Memorial Scholarship Trust, Dunham received a full ride for academics. "It just gave me breathing room," says Dunham about being free from student loans. "I can make choices based on what I would like to do and what is going to make the world a better place."



"IT'S NOT ABOUT
BEING FUNNY,
IT'S SEEING THE
FUNNY."

Kelli Dunham is an RN, author, and comedian who connects art and humor to caregiving and LGBT culture. She's graced Showtime and the Discovery Channel, and her comedy albums are regulars on SiriusXM.

She is also co-founder of the popular Queer Memoir series, where she mixes humor with heartfelt stories. Currently, she's booking her latest show, "Second Helping: Two Dead Lovers, Dead Funny."

Dunham worked for Drexel for nearly a decade, including roles in Stephen and Sandra Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services — where she was the first primary care nurse — and the Nurse Family Partnership, where she trained new mothers in their homes. She also was a community school director for the New York City Department of Education, tutoring students to help them prepare for pre-nursing exams, among other duties. Through those jobs, Dunham saw firsthand the stress absorbed by nurses, social workers and others immersed in fields that focus on helping people.

During nursing school, Dunham began performing at open-mic nights. As the youngest of seven children, Dunham grew up on a farm in Hartford, Wisconsin, and always wanted to be a stand-up comic. "It really helped to be the funny kid," Dunham says about her big family. "I used to tell jokes to the cows."

After losing two partners to cancer, Dunham believed she couldn't be a comic anymore — she wanted to talk about serious subjects like death instead. But then she realized a perfect intersection of everything she had done: comedy for people who work with trauma, such as nurses and victim advocates. Dunham decided to teach them how to intentionally insert more humor into their serious jobs.

She began speaking at conferences, equipped with a CEU-ready curriculum. Her 2000 book, "How to Survive and Maybe Even Love Nursing School: A Guide for Students by Students" — now in its third edition — prompted invitations to speak at nursing schools. In 2013, Dunham published "Freak of Nurture," a collection of essays.

During the pandemic, Dunham pivoted to Zoom shows and virtual presentations, finding her comedy even more relevant. "It did open up a window in some ways. We had a little moment when people wanted to address grief, and so many people were grieving," she says.

Dunham's presentations include practical advice for bringing levity into a caregiving workplace.

One tip is to celebrate everything. Dunham was working with people who were advocates for prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, and the crew made a banner "Welcome Home from the Post Office" after someone had run a mail errand. "We were just going to celebrate everything because there wasn't a lot to celebrate, right? Think about celebrating the smallest, most ludicrous, little positive thing," Dunham says. "It can make a huge difference, especially in a job where you don't have a lot of wins. You might not make things better. You're just trying to keep things from getting worse."

Dunham emphasizes letting the patient take the lead related to humor, especially for health care professionals working in hospice. Using a baseball analogy, she says, "The patient throws [a joke], but your job is to catch it and you can throw it back. But only after they've thrown it to you first and no harder than they throw at you."

Using humor to highlight incongruent situations

is a way to charm and disarm listeners while granting them permission to discuss loaded topics like death, says Eric A. Zillmer, Carl R. Pacifico Professor of Neuropsychology and director of the Happiness Lab at Drexel.

"Humor can provide a door to walk through to manage this taboo topic, and it's not the person walking through, it's the situation that we're dealing with as a group," Zillmer says. "I like it when [practitioners] are actually not funny, but the situation is funny, and everybody kind of pointed it out, and by doing that, they came together as a team."

Zillmer, who worked in hospitals and directed athletics at Drexel, understands how humor relieves stress in high-intensity settings where teams need to work together while the clock ticks.

Still, it is crucial to be aware of sensitivities to avoid insulting a coworker, patient or loved one. "You don't know what people find funny, so you want to stay nuanced... You want to find a way to use humor so it passes from the mind to the heart, so to speak. And if you can do that, without offending people, then it's truly medicine. It's comfort food for the soul," Zillmer says.

Humor can be as simple as telling a story, an art form that Dunham deploys whenever she steps up to a microphone.

"I think that storytelling and improv together is a great way for professionals, health care and otherwise, to laugh at themselves a little and to share both the good and bad of the worlds they inhabit to help them cope with sometimes really difficult situations," says Michael Yudell, interim dean and professor in the College of Health Solutions at Arizona State University.

When he was a professor at Drexel's Dana and David Dornsife School of Public Health, Yudell helped start Philadelphia-based Study Hall, a performance where professionals of all industries deliver a lecture and then comedians create an improv routine on the topic, serving up a show of learning and laughter. Aware of sensitive topics — which could range from racism to autism, as well as lighter subjects — the cast works to ensure they are never punching down.

"We want to elevate the material in a way that may include satire, it may include laughing at ourselves, but we are never laughing at anybody in particular," says Yudell.

But you don't need to stand on a stage to make coworkers or patients smile, Dunham advises. She recommends intentionally adding humor to the physical space, such as keeping a hand puppet or other conversation-starter on your desk. Dunham recalls how an employee taped New Yorker cartoons on the outside of an office door near where EMTs and cops gather in the emergency department.

"It was a very soft offering," Dunham says. "I think of humor as an option. It can be a productive way of dealing with things, but like any coping mechanism, it can't be stuffed down people's throats."



CROSS ROADS

Reflections on 'the Apple Legacy'

Professors shared how technology has helped their fields and pedagogy thrive during a TED Talk-style event honoring Drexel's 1984 computer mandate.

In 1984, personal computing was in its infancy. Hardly any households had a computer, and hardly anyone brought one to college. Taking a bold risk, and partnering with the young Apple Computer Inc. to supply students with the company's Macintosh machines, Drexel became the first university in the nation to require that all incoming students have a personal computer (get the full story of how Drexel geared up for the computer generation on page 30).

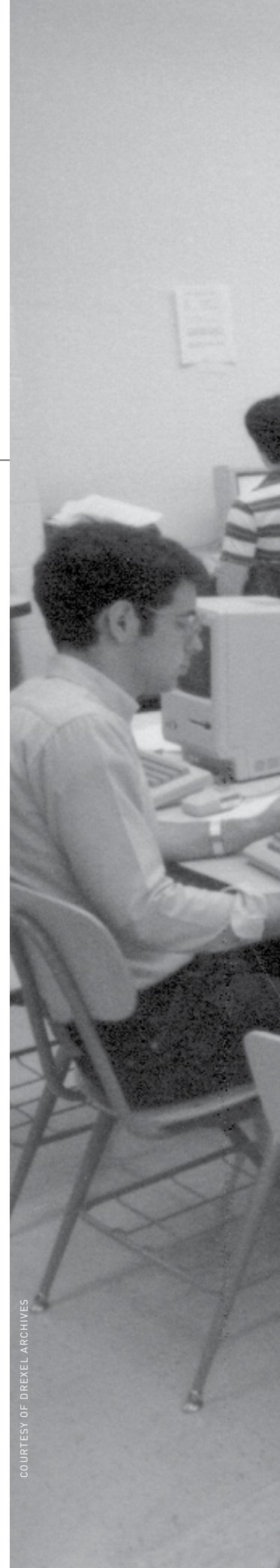
Looking toward a future 21st century, Drexel's then-president William W. Hagerty declared, "In every field, the successful practitioner will utilize computer technology to understand and deal with the challenges of everyday life." Dubbed Drexel's Microcomputing Program, it was a visionary initiative that embodied Drexel's tradition of innovating to meet the needs of a changing world, a value that continues to shape a Drexel education today.

Youngmoo Kim, vice provost of university and community partnerships, highlighted this pivotal moment in Drexel history as he introduced the speakers during a TED Talk-style event during Alumni Weekend 2024. "In 1984, Drexel saw that everyone would need a computer and technology skills," he remarked. "Today, we're still committed to digital equity and are leading efforts to ensure that everyone has access to technology, training and education."

Connecting past and present, he added that this pioneering spirit continues to evolve and deepen at Drexel, in ways that go beyond technology. "Innovation drives our commitment to community and society," he says. "At Drexel, we also apply innovative process, build on our collective knowledge, and put it to use in our local communities and for society at large."

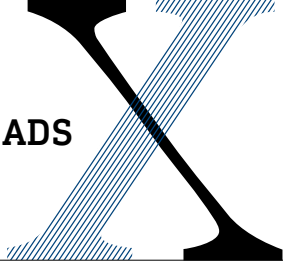


In the early 1980s, Drexel's Microcomputing Program revolutionized higher education by requiring all incoming students to use a desktop computer, launching the national rollout of Apple's revolutionary new Macintosh model. In commemoration of this groundbreaking mandate, the University hosted a speakers' panel, "The Apple Legacy: Drexel's Innovation in Education," during Alumni Weekend 2024 featuring faculty whose programs exemplify innovation in education at Drexel.



COURTESY OF DREXEL ARCHIVES





Preparing for Disaster

Kate Morse *assistant dean for experiential learning and innovation and associate clinical professor*

Helen Teng *associate clinical professor*

In her talk, “Preparing for Disaster,” Kate Morse, assistant dean for experiential learning and innovation and associate clinical professor, and Helen Teng, assistant clinical professor, both from the College of Nursing and Health Professions (CHNP), shared how Drexel uses simulations to prepare nursing students for unexpected situations.

Central to a CHNP education is time logged in the Center of Inter-professional Clinical Simulation and Practice. It’s an 18,000-square-foot facility equipped with skills labs, operating theaters, hospital rooms, high-fidelity mannequins and access to live actor-patients, all designed to allow students to practice patient care and a range of care-delivery and disaster simulations in realistic settings.

Sharing an example, Teng introduced a disaster scenario about a nurse working at a large urban hospital. She asked the audience to imagine that a state of emergency has been declared, and the public is told to stay home. Hospitals are expecting large numbers of patients exhibiting symptoms of unknown origin. The nurse is anxious but becomes focused on the work at hand, harnessing the skills learned through Drexel’s intensive simulation training.

This example is reminiscent of the early days of COVID-19, but the forward-looking CNHP has been training students through this sort of disaster simulation since even before the pandemic. “Even in high-stress environments, students learn to methodically assess patients, note symptoms, and develop nursing care plans,” Teng shared. “They leave the experience feeling more confident in their clinical decision-making.”

In this area, Drexel stands apart from its peers, said Morse. “Simulation has become woven into curricula across the country, but Drexel has a remarkable physical capacity now because of the Center. We’re also able to plan interprofessional simulations with our College of Medicine colleagues, which is important for learning how to work in teams.”



Detecting Deepfakes

Matthew Stamm *associate professor of electrical and computer engineering*

Matthew Stamm, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, spoke on “Detecting Deepfakes,” in which he discussed the tools he and his team at Drexel’s Multimedia and Information Security Lab have developed to detect manipulated media.

“Watching the news, it’s apparent that there are new information security challenges created by fake, manipulated and AI-generated images and video, and increasingly audio,” he warned. “They’re being used in political campaigns and to commit fraud and cybercrime.”

Stamm’s lab is leading the way in developing techniques called multimedia forensics that identify these deepfakes. “We use the fundamental precept of traditional forensics, that every contact leaves a trace, like a criminal leaving fingerprints at a crime scene,” he explained. “Multimedia forensic algorithms search for traces left by the generative AI or editing operations used to create or modify an image, video or audio file.”

Using a special type of neural network pioneered by his lab, Stamm is able to break up an image into little pieces and find forensic traces in each piece. “Our tool can identify the editing techniques used to falsify images and videos,” he said. “We’ve created these tools for the U.S. Department of Defense, and they’re being distributed throughout the U.S. government.”

The work of Drexel’s Multimedia and Information Security Lab is constantly evolving and advancing; even so, Stamm acknowledges the limits of technology. He concluded his talk saying, “We can’t solve this problem entirely by technology; it’s fundamentally a human problem. We need contributions from law, public policy, psychology, communication, philosophy and ethics. Here at Drexel, we have scholars from multiple fields looking at this problem from multidisciplinary perspectives.”





Learning from the Land

Steve Vásquez Dolph *associate teaching professor of Spanish and associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion*

In the final presentation of “The Apple Legacy” event, Steve Vásquez Dolph, associate teaching professor of Spanish and associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion, spoke about a community-based learning course he teaches called “Food and Land Security in Philadelphia.” The course, sponsored by the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement and the Writers Room UnMapping Project, examines the causes of the food crisis in Philadelphia. It looks at food access through a social justice lens, and his students work with local agricultural organizations addressing these issues.

Dolph’s program doesn’t apply a technological solution to a problem in the conventional sense. However, *culture* is the fundamental technology of a just food system. And Dolph’s approach to community-based teaching and learning exemplifies Drexel’s innovation in educational process, experiential learning and providing students with immersive experiences to be part of a solution.

Describing the issue, Dolph said, “In Philadelphia, one in six families is food insecure, and for children, it’s closer to one in three. Food insecurity is linked to historical segregation, disinvestment and was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The framework of the “Food and Land Security” course centers upon “milpa,” an ancient system of agriculture using corn, beans and squash — known as the Three Sisters of traditional farming. Dolph explained, “Indigenous people have long used these crops to create sustainable food systems and to organize social structure and religious practice. In this course, we translate ‘milpa’ into an educational system. Our work is collaborative, it engages ancestral knowledge, and more than anything, it’s community-based and land-based.”

Dolph’s students engage directly with community agricultural projects in Black and Latinx neighborhoods in Philadelphia, studying foods like purple hull peas and okra and practicing seed keeping. They are encouraged to consider the work as sacred and an act of cultural preservation. Dolph explained, “Food work is about engaging in a reverential relationship with each other and with the land. Students participate in this work as a kind of social justice practiced by growers, promoters and policymakers here in our city.”

Continue

The academic investigations highlighted here just skim the surface of what’s happening at Drexel today and how Drexel’s innovative academic model is making an impact. As Vice Provost Youngmoo Kim says, “There are many more ways where Drexel faculty are pushing the boundaries of what we know and what is possible.”

Help ensure today’s students have access to cutting-edge innovation, advanced technology and expert faculty by visiting **giving.drexel.edu/Advance**. Your contribution can make a transformative difference in their education and future success!



Much Ado About Mandell

In its five decades as Drexel's premier stage, the Mandell Theater has served as performance venue, community hub and real-world classroom for generations of audiences. By Alissa Falcone

Back in 1973, Drexel's Samuel P. Mandell Theater debuted as a venue with student performances of Noël Coward's "Red Peppers" and "Ways and Means" and ended with Stephen Sondheim's "Company."

Fifty years later, at the kick off of a year-long anniversary celebration of the theater, the flavor on stage was likewise light, with a flair of mythic fantasy as the curtains rose for a series of special performances.

On Nov. 10, 2023, 50 years to the day when Mandell Theater was dedicated in 1973, Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design honored Mandell's central place in Drexel's performance arts and momentous occasions as a university, starting with student performances from Drexel Theatre Program's of "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical," and followed by performances later in the season of the Drexel Dance Program's "Together We Move" dance series and the Drexel Music Program's "Perspectives: What We Hold Most Dear" band concert.

The performances were all part of Mandell at 50, hosted by the Department of Performing Arts in the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design.

"Celebrating 50 years of the Samuel P. Mandell Theater is a testament to Drexel's commitment to fostering creativity, scholarship and innovation in the arts," said Westphal College Dean Jason Schupbach. "This milestone is not just about honoring our past but also about looking forward to the future, where the Mandell Theater will continue to be a vibrant hub for artistic expression and community engagement."

Mandell at 50

The anniversary celebrations throughout 2023–2024 featured one monumental event per term from each program. Two events with external performers — "Kristina Wong, Food Bank Influencer" on Oct. 12 and an April 18 concert by Afro-Indigenous musician Mumu Fresh — were put on through the Mandell Presents series as part of Mandell at 50.

The special opening night was attended by alumni who had been involved with the Mandell Theater during their time on campus

— including a few alumni couples! — as well as Adelle Rubin, who had been the director of the theatre program for 38 years and was involved with its creation.

Students, faculty and professional staff from Westphal College's theater, dance and music programs participated in opening night and all of the year's productions, just like generations of Dragons have been for the *many* concerts, recitals and plays presented in that space.

"Students take administrative and technical leadership roles like they would in a real theater company, and they read plays and musicals to recommend what we should perform based off of what's appropriate, what would bring in a large audience, what could challenge us and what we have the budget to do," says Nick Anselmo, teaching professor, program director for theatre and producing artistic director for theatre. "They chose 'Percy Jackson,' and when I read through the script, I thought it would be a lot of fun and fit our mission."

The winter term featured Feb. 9 and 10 performances of the Drexel Dance Ensemble and a Mandell 50th celebratory reception. Professional choreographers from the region and New York City worked with the ensemble to create eight Mandell 50th premieres in "Together We Move," a concert showcasing the dancers' versatility and skills in genres ranging from hip-hop to contemporary ballet.

"The dance programming for the 50th anniversary year is reflective of the University's core values," said Jennifer Morley, associate teaching professor, program director for dance and of the Drexel Pilates Training Program. "As an institution that is rooted in community, we proudly partner with local choreographers who are developing meaningful work from a range of perspectives. We are also thrilled to integrate national and international choreographers into the mix as a means of inviting our students to embody global citizenship."

[Mandell Theater anniversary celebrations kicked off with a student performance by the Drexel Theatre Program of "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical" in November 2023.](#)



The Mandell at 50 programming concluded June 7 with the Drexel University Concert Band (DUCB)'s spring concert, "Perspectives: What We Hold Most Dear." The Drexel Music Program's performances feature guest artists, as is common. For example, on June 9, the Philadelphia Orchestra's concertmaster David Kim and associate principal viola Kirsten Johnson joined the Drexel University Symphony Orchestra's spring concert.

"Our DUCB season has been built around this idea that music can be a way to see or experience what is outside of our everyday and that it can provide perspective. Our final program this year is full of musical affirmations of identity. Central to this program is Katahji Copley's new work for wind ensemble, 'Dope,' which was created after Copley realized he had been compartmentalizing his musical inspirations," says Patrick Bailey, ensemble director and conductor of DUCB.

Mandell Today

"The Mandell Theater is a jewel among West Philadelphia's theaters," says Anselmo. "It's a great performance venue and a cultural destination."

The expansive 424-seat theater is in constant use. Drexel's three performance programs rotate using the space to rehearse and perform on stage for weeks — a "huge gift of time," says Dance Ensemble and FreshDance Ensemble Director Rebecca Malcolm-Naib, who noted that most rental theaters usually give one to two days of tech and rehearsals.

"Mandell is a very welcoming and comfortable space to bring our audiences into," says Luke Abruzzo, associate teaching professor program director for Drexel Music Program. "It's incredibly vital."

It also functions as a real-world classroom, providing experiential learning opportunities related to the performing arts, stage production and technical operations, as well as building soft skills.

"At this beautiful, fully equipped theater, Drexel Dance and FreshDance Ensembles can use this fabulous performance venue for choreographers to see their work produced in a professional setting and dancers to perform on an expansive proscenium stage for captive audiences. Students work side-by-side with professionals, learning how to produce and run the shows from the administrative and technical sides," says Malcolm-Naib.

The space, which is run by Managing Director Caroline Leipf and Technical Director Chris Totoro, also is used for other Drexel events as well as presentations by outside organizations (like The Philadelphia Dance Academy's "The Nutcracker" and Chocolate Ballerina Company's "A Nutcracker Dipped in Chocolate"). Guest speakers and experts have also come to Mandell for discussions, workshops, performances and other collaborations with Drexel partners.

"The Mandell Theater is one of Drexel's great assets. Both of our Department of Performing Arts venues — Mandell and URBN Annex Black Box Theaters — are places where curriculum,

SUBJECT
TECHNICAL DATA



1 Photo proofs of Samuel and Ida Mandell and then-Drexel President William Hagerty, among other guests at the Nov. 10, 1973, inaugural opening of the Mandell Theater. **2** The Jazz Orchestra performed in the Mandell Theater during a concert in the winter of 2024. **3** Nick Anselmo, teaching professor, program director for theatre and producing artistic director for theatre, with Adelle Rubin, who had formerly been the director of the theatre program for 38 years, including during the creation of the Mandell Theater, at the Mandell Theater 50th anniversary celebration in November 2023. **4** Undated photo of the Samuel P. Mandell Theater.





community and student life come together. They are also places where we welcome all of Philly into Drexel,” says Leipf.

Mandell Over the Years

The arts have always had a home at Drexel. In its founding year in 1891, when the institution was the Drexel Institute of Art, Science and Industry and based in today’s Main Building, Drexel offered its auditorium to the Philadelphia Chorus as a rehearsal space; bringing in community from the very beginning.

For the next nine decades, Drexel events, performances and organizations related to dance, theatre and music were mostly held through student organizations, extracurricular activities and informal classes and programs. Students practiced and performed in Main Building and other spaces on campus before the creation of the Mandell Theater in 1973. It was still primarily used by the Drexel Players, a student theatre organization founded in 1963 and whose faculty adviser, Adelle Rubin, had been hired in 1967 both to advise the student group and teach theatre and speech classes. Rubin had also advocated for and was heavily involved in the creation and continuation of what was known as the Mandell Theater Complex in the Educational Activities Center (today’s MacAlister Hall).

The theater was named for Board of Trustees member Samuel P. Mandell, who had joined in 1972 and retired a year later as vice president of Food Fair Stores Inc. Upon the theater’s dedication, he and his wife Ida received lifetime passes to all theater productions.

Since then, many artistic performers and performances have graced Mandell Theater. There are now multiple dance ensembles, and students have both performed a variety of dance styles and partnered with external dancers for workshops and shows over the decades (for example, dancing monks of Assam, India, who performed an ancient ritual of dance at Mandell in addition to master classes and workshops). There are now five choral groups, two large bands, a jazz orchestra, a symphony orchestra and a variety of smaller instrumental groups for students to join. Drexel students involved in those music, dance and theatre offerings now perform at least once a term in Mandell.

Since its beginning, Mandell has welcomed a panoply of events: In its first year, the space hosted the Drexel Talent Show as well as the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia, for example. Mandell has also housed a variety of notable visiting speakers, including Nobel Laureates like nuclear physicist Hans Bethe; fashion designers like Emilio Pucci; activists like Yolanda King, the eldest daughter of Martin Luther King Jr.; government officials; academics; authors and so much more. Apple founder Steve Jobs attended a red-carpet movie premiere at Mandell for “Going National,” a 1983 documentary about Drexel’s historic requirement for all students to have access to a microcomputer, which were supplied through a legendary partnership with Apple (see related story on page 30).

University-wide events like Convocation have been held in Mandell Theater, which has also been used for commencement ceremonies. And Mandell has hosted community performances as well as events for external programs, like a National Endowment for the Arts 2016 Big Read program event recognizing writer Zora Neale Hurston.

“A theater should always be a communal space, and I also mean this in the highest artistic sense. It’s where we come together as a community, but it also is a community center,” says Anselmo, the theater director.

The Future of Mandell

Portraits of Samuel and Ida Mandell presented during the theater’s opening still hang to this day, and their grandson Jonathan will soon be making his own mark in the space.

This winter, a glass mosaic wall panel created by Jonathan Mandell will be installed in the theater’s lobby. Mandell is a local fine art artist whose tile and mosaic work is on display at the National Constitution Center and Citizens Bank Park. In addition to his studio practice, he’s also been an instructor in Westphal. The installation will be unveiled this spring and will remain in the lobby indefinitely.

The Department of Performing Arts’ programming, Mandell Presents, is partly funded by the Samuel P. Mandell Foundation, which has been managed by the Mandell family since Samuel died in 1978 and Ida in 1982. As part of the gift creating Mandell Presents in 2021, all tickets for performances in the theater have been fully subsidized for the first five years so everyone can attend for free. The Mandell Foundation also generously supports capital improvements and maintenance. Most recently, a theatrical lighting upgrade converted the entire theater to an LED system, which was both a technical and sustainable improvement.

And those performances? Well, plans are already being made for future performances in the Mandell Theater — one step toward, hopefully, the space’s 100th anniversary, too.

70s

Robert Ratonyi, MS engineering management '70, participated in an author event on May 28 at the Atlanta History Center to discuss his book, "From Darkness Into Light: My Journey through Nazism, Fascism, and Communism to Freedom." Ratonyi is a survivor of the Holocaust who regularly speaks to middle and high school students on behalf of the William Breman Jewish Heritage and Holocaust Museum and the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust.

Susan O. Seidelman, BS communication '73, HD '91, released her memoir, "Desperately Seeking Something," in June 2024. In her memoir, Seidelman looks back at her trailblazing movie and television career.

Al Valentine, BS electrical engineering '73, was featured in an article by Lincoln University for his expertise in digital imaging and contributions to theoretical physics and artificial intelligence.

80s

Thomas Burgoyne, BS marketing '88, who portrayed the Phillie Phanatic for 30 years and has written 20 children's books about the mascot, gave away his latest Phanatic book to all fans 14 and under at the May 19 game. His latest book is about the Phanatic teaching a group of kids from a fictional Pennsylvania town how to play baseball and then guiding them to the Little League World Series. His book series also pushed the Phillies to create a reading program for students in preschool through eighth grade called The Phanatic About Reading program.

Laura Gerber, BS accounting '86, received the *Philadelphia Business Journal* Corporate Leadership Award for 2024 at an awards ceremony on July 11. Gerber is chief financial officer at Blank Rome.

Rodger Levenson, MBA '89, chairman, president and CEO of WSFS Financial Corporation, was named by Community Volunteers in Medicine as honorary chair of its annual fundraising event. The organization provides free, high-quality health-care to uninsured working people with low incomes to help them live healthy, productive lives and to assure health equity in the Chester County area.

Mary I. O'Connor, MD, MCP medicine '85, co-founder and chief medical officer of Vori Health, was featured in an episode of the Disruption Interruption Podcast, hosted by Karla Jo Helms. In the episode, O'Connor discusses Vori Health's integrated team approach to musculoskeletal care, emphasizing patient engagement and the benefits of telehealth for accessibility. She also highlights how Vori Health addresses health disparities, especially in women's health, through a hybrid virtual and in-person services model.

Alex H. Tartar, BS accounting '82, received the *Philadelphia Business Journal* Corporate Leadership Award for 2024 at an award ceremony on July 11. Tartar is chief financial officer at Green Lawn Fertilizing/Green Pest Solutions.

90s

Rhonda DiMascio, MS arts administration '94, was featured in an article about her role as executive director of Morven Museum & Garden. DiMascio steps into the role during Morven's 20th year in operation as well as the museum's preparations for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Semiquincentennial in 2026.

Matthew Jamerson, BS biological sciences '95, captain in the U.S. Navy, is assigned to the Naval Submarine Medical Research Labo-

ratory in Groton, Connecticut, where he currently serves as the Commanding Officer. He was selected by the Navy Surgeon General as the next Deputy Commander for the Naval Medical Research Command and associated eight-laboratory Naval Medical R&D Enterprise.

Stephanie Berry McCoy, BS accounting '92, has supported her two young sons, ages 16 and 13, in their book writing endeavors and each child recently copyrighted and published their own children's book: "Jokes that STEM from a Child" by Andrew McCoy and "Cooking for Fun: An Interactive Cookbook for Children" by Stephen McCoy. The books were also accepted by the Young Readers Center at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Thomas Merrick, BS electrical engineering '92, was featured in a *Town and Country* article about his company Tom's Help Desk. The company provides on-site, in-store and remote access computing solutions to optimize efficiencies and productivity and has received numerous awards for Best Computer Repair Service and Best Computer Store, among others.

Robyn Frankel-Tiger, MD, MCP medicine '91, the founder of StressFreeMD, published her new book "Feeling Stressed is Optional: Transforming the Life of the Chronically Stressed Physician."

00s

Miya J. Benintende, BS photography '07, MS teaching, learning & curriculum '13, was awarded the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teachers and will receive \$3,500 from the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation.

Ronica Cleary, MS communication '08, was honored as a "Rising Star" at the 2024 Top Women Awards by *PRN News*. She founded Cleary Strategies in 2018 and serves as CEO.

Rev. Edward J. Dolphin, BS information systems '09, celebrated mass during his first-time home since he was ordained as a Catholic priest this past April.

Stephen A. Graham, BS accounting '96, MBA '08, joined William Penn Charter School as chief financial officer. He most recently was the senior vice president and chief financial officer at Howard University.

Kelly Gibb Piasecki, BA architecture '06, was promoted to associate at CICADA Architecture. She was awarded a Drexel 40 Under 40 in 2014.



Patrick S. Griffin, BS computer engineering '06, attorney at Volpe Koenig Law, was recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* in the 2025 edition. This is the second consecutive year that he has been recognized for his achievements in patent law.

Jacque Maldonado, BS business administration '08, was a guest on an episode of the podcast Her Story, hosted by 93.3 WMMR-FM radio personality Kathy Romano. Maldonado is the founder of The Prana House, an apothecary store and holistic wellness and community center.

Angelica E. Roiz, BS business administration '09, was recognized as a *Philadelphia Business Journal* 40 Under 40 honoree and was profiled in an article by the publication. Roiz is a partner at Grant Thornton.



To learn more about becoming part of the Anthony J. Drexel Society, please visit giving.drexel.edu/AJDS or contact Catherine Hutchinson at donorel@drexel.edu.

GIVING

THE ANTHONY J. DREXEL SOCIETY:

One Act of Kindness Can Change the World

When Anthony J. Drexel founded our University in 1891, he could not have foreseen the extraordinary ripple effects of his philanthropic act. In the century since, our University has evolved and expanded beyond what he envisioned because of individuals who share his passion. **Today, we recognize those individuals with the Anthony J. Drexel Society, a vibrant community of annual supporters who continue to change the world one gift at a time.**

Drexel's philanthropic basis has flourished from one 19th century banking entrepreneur to thousands of donors from all walks of life. **Anthony J. Drexel Society members represent a wide range of Drexel Dragons.** They are engineers, entrepreneurs, educators, artists, doctors and businesspeople. They are Drexel graduates, faculty, staff and parents. They are alumni of five decades and alumni of five years.

They are individuals like Erin Deck, BSBA '09. As a student, Erin earned multiple scholarships supported by donors at the Anthony J. Drexel Society level. Now, she is a successful chief administrative officer who can pay it forward. She shares, "After building success in my career, I reflected on what helped get me there. Being able to give back, I worked with Drexel to establish a scholarship for recipients who are passionate, driven, involved contributors with leadership potential."

Through her giving, Erin stands alongside our founder and her former scholarship supporters. Each has performed a powerful act of kindness, making significant charitable contributions to better our University and those we serve.

The Anthony J. Drexel Society recognizes households that contribute \$2,500 or more — and recent undergraduate alumni who contribute \$500 or more — in a single fiscal year. Whether supporting young scholars, an area of the University, or our partners at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, their contributions help students and faculty drive breakthroughs in science and technology, push the boundaries of performing and visual arts, provide equitable health care across our community, take part in educational co-op experiences, expand their perspectives by traveling abroad, and so much more.

In other words, they help students and faculty change the world. Take Kara Spiller, for example. As a student, Kara Spiller, BS/MS '07, PhD '10, benefitted from the generosity of donors.

"Financial aid during my time as a student completely changed my life," Spiller shares. "I was accepted into the first class of STAR scholars in 2003. I had never done research before; in fact, I had never met a researcher or scientist before. But it turned out that research became my greatest passion and my greatest skill. As a graduate student, I initiated a research collaboration with a lab in Shanghai, China, which was funded by several scholarships. My time in Shanghai was totally life altering. Now a major part of my mission is to increase international research



opportunities for students."

Today, Spiller is doing just that. A Drexel professor since 2012, she was recently named the URBN Endowed Professor of Biomedical Innovation in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems. She is passionate about creating the same opportunities she had by supporting student research in a dozen different countries.

Under Spiller, Drexel's Biomaterials and Regenerative Medicine Laboratory has produced 15 patents, 75 publications and more than 100 research awards. Her lab has pioneered immune engineering for tissue healing, research that could significantly improve the lives of those suffering from diseases like cancer and diabetes all around the world.

Spiller's story embodies the ripple effect of the Anthony J. Drexel Society — each contribution made to the University can transform not only one life today but also thousands and even millions in the future.

We invite you to join this group of change-makers today. To recognize our supporters' far-reaching impact, we offer private events, educational workshops and exclusive communications.

Creating Connection and Community

The Alumni Board of Governors' chair and vice chair begin a new term with a fresh focus.

“Coming out of the pandemic, there’s a genuine desire for community — from students who just graduated to alumni who are actively engaged, to alumni who are disconnected,” says **Bernard Greene, BS electrical engineering ’99, MBA ’14**. “What better way to harness that desire for connection than to build affinity for the University where we all spent so much time?”

Greene, who just completed a three-year term as vice chair of the Alumni Board of Governors, began his term as chair in July. Joining him as the new vice chair is **Angela V. Harris, BS information systems ’02**. For both officers, growing an active alumni community is the key priority for the upcoming term.

Greene and Harris come to the board as experienced alumni volunteers. Greene began volunteering after graduation, mentoring and tutoring students, and his activity in the Drexel chapter of the Society for Black Engineers kept him close to the University.

It was about 10 years after graduation that Harris felt the call to give back. Starting out on the alumni board for the College of Computing and Informatics

CHAIR
Bernard Greene
BS electrical engineering
’99, MBA ’14.

VICE CHAIR
Angela V. Harris
BS information systems ’02

(CCI), she was then elected to the Drexel University Black Alumni Council (DUBAC).

Now, as Greene and Harris begin their three-year term as board chair and vice chair, they not only have their own vision but are continuing to build on the board’s existing priorities, which include a diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) initiative.

Says Harris, “In terms of DE&I, the Alumni Board of Governors is more diverse than when I joined. More colleges are represented, it’s geographically diverse, and our work benefits from the different perspectives.” Greene echoes Harris, saying that it will always be a priority for the board to include diverse voices.

Looking ahead, Greene and Harris are bringing a fresh focus on growing alumni connections. It’s their top priority, particularly among alumni who are disengaged. “We want to drive impact within Drexel’s alumni network and show people the benefits of reconnecting with the University,” says Harris. “It’s been wonderful for me — I’ve made lifelong friends since I’ve become reengaged.”

Reflecting on the strategies for increasing alumni involvement, Greene says, “One thing I encourage alumni to do is to think about their passions. They can leverage their passions within the Drexel alumni community. We have opportunities for everyone, and our job as a board is to make those opportunities available and discoverable. It’s also our job to listen, so I invite alumni to give us feedback about opportunities that are missing.”

Building connections through family engagement is another area of focus. Greene says, “There are many disengaged alumni whose kids also went to Drexel. There’s opportunity here to reestablish alumni connections from a familial perspective. We celebrate couples who met at Drexel, but we haven’t recognized Drexel families as much. I’d like to spend some time thinking about how we can leverage these family connections.”

Also recognizing that alumni engagement needs to begin during their time as students, Greene says, “There is also something different about the Class of 2024. They started college at the height of a pandemic and experienced something no other class has experienced. There’s a unique opportunity to think about how we can support these folks and keep them together as alumni.”

Both Greene and Harris are excited about their upcoming service on the board. Says Harris, “I’m looking forward to connecting with and meeting new alumni. I want to encourage them to reach out. Don’t hesitate.”

Remarks Greene, “I’m excited about providing community. I’m looking forward to being on campus and being a true resource. And to other alumni, I say, ‘Come along with us. We’re here for you.’”





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.



Meet the newest elected directors and hear what motivated them to run for the Drexel Alumni Board of Governors.

“I will forever be part of the ‘Drexel Dragon’ crew, and I’m ready to forge a future where alumni are supportive of each other and promote the development of Drexel’s vibrant and diverse community.”

— **Dustin Almon, BS interior design ’07**

“I wanted to leverage my experience in the music and entertainment industries to support and mentor young alumni. I believe in giving back to the community that played a crucial role in shaping my career.”

— **Theo Feldman, BS music industry ’19**

“I’m leaning into my purpose of paying it forward and using my powers for greater good.”

— **Carrol Franklyn, BS biomedical engineering ’08**

“I really valued the liberal arts curriculum. Drexel is so known for its vocational education that I wanted to be sure we had a voice on the board who supports continuing and bolstering our broader educational mission.”

— **Jamison Langguth, BS psychology ’10**

Brigitte Weinstein, MS library & information science ’09, was named the H. Carton Rogers III vice provost and director of the Penn Libraries by the University of Pennsylvania.

Grant Williams, MD, medicine ’09, was appointed president of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology. Williams previously served as president-elect and treasurer at the International Society of Geriatric Oncology.

10s

Bimpe Z. “Bebe” Adenusi, MS nurse anesthesia ’10, was presented with the Janice Drake CRNA Humanitarian Award by the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology at the 2024 Annual Congress. Adenusi is program director at Cedar Crest College Nurse Anesthesia Program in Allentown and is also the founder and president of the Nigerian American Nurse Anesthetists Association.

Lary Campbell, PBC LGBT health certificate ’17, screened his film, “My Mother, My Self,” at the Nice International Film Festival in France in May. The film tells his story about his diagnosis of HIV and the relationship between a mother and son, as well as the legacy of trauma.

Andrew Gold, PBC medical science preparatory ’10, MS biological science ’11, was recognized as a *Philadelphia Business Journal* 40 Under 40 honoree. Gold is assistant professor of anesthesiology and critical care and co-director surgical intensive care unit at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Adit Gupta, BS software engineering ’19, MS computer science ’23, was recognized as a *Philadelphia Business Journal* 40 Under 40 honoree as co-founder and CEO at Lula.

James Haro, BS entertainment & arts management ’13, Mexi-

can-American singer/songwriter based in Philadelphia, released his first EP.

Jennifer Hope, PhD microbiology & immunology ’17, was awarded the Bristol Myers Squibb-MRA Young Investigator Award by the 2024 Melanoma Research Alliance. This award empowers the next generation of early career researchers and serves as a training ground for researchers through mentorship with a senior melanoma investigator. Hope’s research focuses on overcoming resistance to immune checkpoint blockade therapy with PSGL-1.

Seth A. Jacobson, MS global & international education ’13, PhD educational leadership development and learning technologies ’18, was recognized as a *Philadelphia Business Journal* 40 Under 40 honoree and was profiled in an article by the publication. Jacobson is associate vice president at Community College of Philadelphia. He was named a Drexel 40 Under 40 in 2024.

Dan K. Lee, BS culinary arts & science ’18, opened and launched a new Farina Pasta Bar food truck with the support of a nonprofit “food truck incubator” for veterans and active military spouses.

Christopher E. Mora, BS business administration ’11, received the *Philadelphia Business Journal* Corporate Leadership Award for 2024 at an award ceremony in July. Mora is chief revenue officer at Centri Business Consulting.

Thom Wall, MS arts administration ’15, earned the American Youth Circus Organization / American Circus Educator’s “Innovation in Education” lifetime achievement award for his contributions to publishing, documentation and critique within the circus community. He is a developmental editor for Modern Vaudeville Press.

Jennifer Pesch Waters, MS engineering management '11, was recognized as one of the 2024 Trailblazers in Building & Infrastructure by the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters and Pennoni. Waters is vice president and Philadelphia regional manager at Urban Engineers.

20s

Stephanie Aranda, BA architecture '21, was named the 2023 Associate Member of the Year by the Texas Society of Architects.

Jeannine A. Cook, MFA '22, secured a two-book deal with Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. She is an activist and owner of Harriett's Bookshop in Philadelphia and Ida's Bookshop in Collingswood, New Jersey.



Julianna L. Hunt, BS chemistry '20, MLS legal studies '21, a patent attorney, joined the intellectual property law firm Panitch Schwarze Belisario & Nadel LLP as an associate.

Marina Lamphier, BS fashion design '24, was one of the finalists for the Host Supima Design Compe-

titition. The competition, now in its 17th year, aims to support emerging talent by enlisting outstanding graduates from top design universities across the country. Lamphier will present her final designs during New York Fashion Week, and the winner will be revealed live during the Supima Design Competition runway show.

Lia Lewandowski, BA international area studies '21, made her professional boxing debut on Sept. 14 at the 2300 Arena. She has competed in five amateur boxing fights as well as the Olympic trials in Lafayette, Louisiana. At one point, Lewandowski was ranked No. 5 in the nation at 114 pounds and No. 6 at 110 pounds.

Colleen Lindenau, MS physics '23, was selected for the Office of Science Graduate Student Research

program by the Department of Energy's Office of Science. Lindenau will be conducting research at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, a multipurpose research institution funded by the Department of Energy.

Niaka Porte, BS business analytics '22, was featured in an article in *Cuisine Noir* magazine that details her journey in bringing Sasas Mix into the market. Sasas Mix is Porte's Philadelphia-based business that produces and sells her brand of West African bread mixes.

Nicko Reyes, BS accounting '24, joined Duane Morris LLP as a staff accountant.

Visit [DrexelMagazine.org](https://www.drexel.edu/magazine) for an extended list of Class Notes, weddings and births.

ON DRAGON NETWORK YOU'RE ONE CLICK AWAY FROM...

Connecting with industry experts, uncovering your next career opportunity or becoming a mentor for students.



Sign up today to join over 10,000 alumni and students!

DRAGONNETWORK.DREXEL.EDU



THE DREXEL 100: BY THE NUMBERS

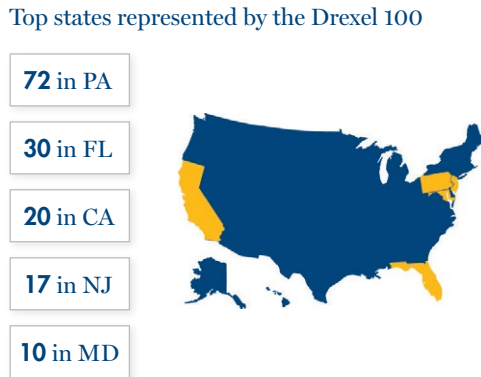
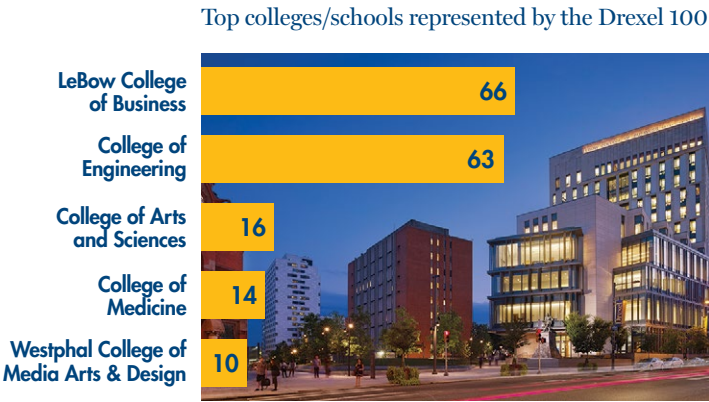
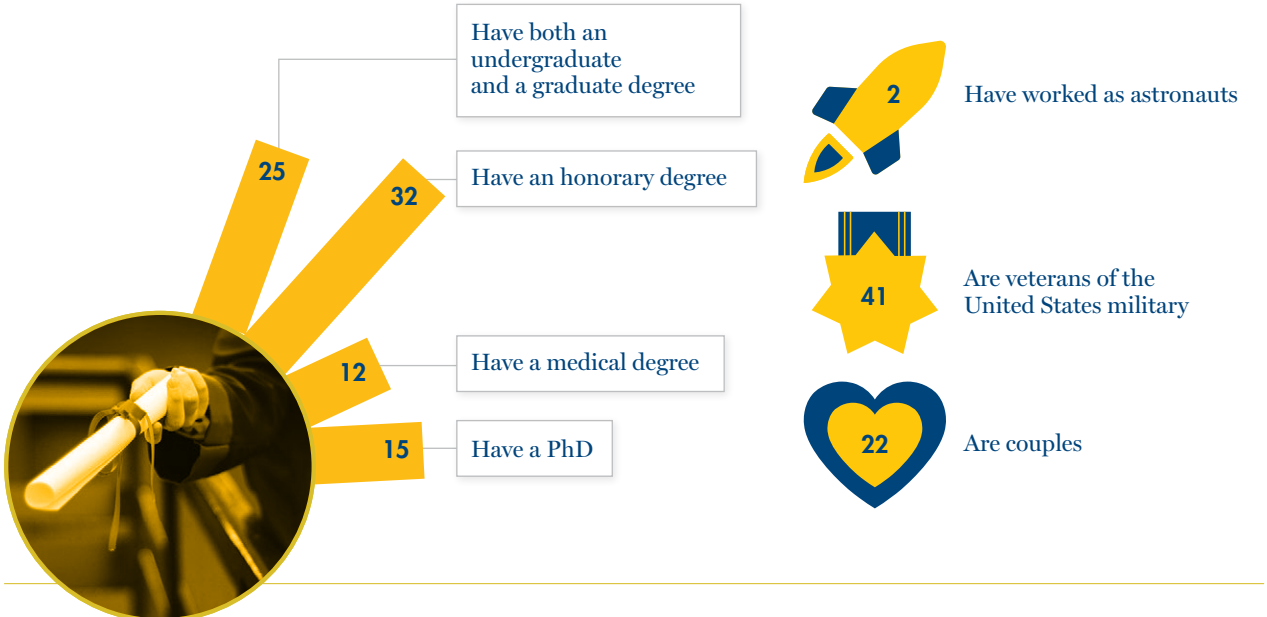
Induction into the Drexel 100, the University's hall of fame, represents the highest honor alumni can achieve. This prestigious group recognizes a wide range of Drexel graduates who have made significant contributions to their fields, to their communities and to the University. [Learn more at **drexel.edu/drexel100**](https://drexel.edu/drexel100).

Meet the 2024 Inductees

- Linda M. Abriola**, PhD; BS '76
- Major General Theresa C. Carter (USAF, Retired)**, DBA '21
- Captain Paulette R. T. Cazares**, MD, EMPH '11
- Leonard A. Comma**, BS '92
- Lynne L. Cutler**, BS '72
- John J. Degnan III**, PhD; BS '68
- Kathleen M. Devine**, MS '11, DrNP '17, NEA-BC
- Carole Gardner Dodson**, BS '71
- Christine Ann Dorfler**, MBA '09
- Faith Dyson-Washington**, MS '03, PhD '06, MBA '20
- Daniel K. Fitzpatrick**, CPA, CFA; MBA '92
- Rajeev Gautam**, PhD; MS '76
- Randolph Holmes III**, BS '70
- Helen Meeks Horstmann**, MD, MCP '72
- W. Nicholas Howley III**, BS '75
- Mariell Jessup**, MD, HU '76
- Rita Johnson-Greene**, BS '99
- Mary Ann Leeper**, PhD; BS '62
- Judson C. Linville**, PsyD, HU '85
- Jerry J. Martin**, BS '77
- Patricia McCaul**, AIA, LEED AP; BS '87
- Andrew J. Pennoni**, BS/BS '91
- Ron Philip**, BS '96
- Joel E. Ruffin Sr.**, BS '05
- Richard M. Satava Jr.**, MD, HU '68, FACS

218 living members **306** total members

5 Serve on a Presidential Council **29** Are trustees of Drexel or the Academy of Natural Sciences **20** Served on the Drexel Alumni Board of Governors



OBITUARIES

Friends We'll Miss

Farewell to departed alumni, as reported to the University between May 25 and Nov. 1, 2024.

1940s

Marion Barron Burrowes, BS Home Economics 1945
Elinor Campbell Brady, BS Home Economics 1949
Walter Dasher, Cert. Mechanical Engineering 1949
Jane Harting, AS Medical Laboratory Technology 1945
William Hess, BS Business Administration 1944
William Knapp, MD Medicine 1947
Mary Lentz Logue, BS Home Economics 1947
Janet Levy Rowland, BS Home Economics 1947
Frank Maggitti, BS Electrical Engineering 1947
Jacob Paul, BS Mechanical Engineering 1940
Holley Reed, MD Medicine 1946
Louise Schilgen Slama, BS Home Economics 1940
Hubert Riester, BS Electrical Engineering 1948
Edith Ross Russ, BS Home Economics 1949
Mildred Vogel Fetterhoff, RN Nursing 1947

1950s

Stephen Adelson, MD Medicine 1959
Harvey Beatty, BS Electrical Engineering 1955
J. Becker, BS Business Administration 1959
Caroline Billhime Busch, BS Home Economics 1950
Margaret Bistrichan Putnick, RN Nursing 1955
Doris Booth Gettings, RN Nursing 1950
Maria Cerny Brabb, MD Medicine

1958
Pasquale Chiacchiere, BS Electrical Engineering 1952
G. Clemons Cuddy, Cert. Architecture 1958
Ross Day, BS Mechanical Engineering 1956
Massimo Di Donato, Cert. Mechanical Engineering 1951
Grace Doherty Hughes, BS Home Economics 1955
Arlene Eason Grede, MS Unknown 1951
William Evans, MD Medicine 1957
Matthew Flanagan, BS Civil Engineering 1956
Miriam Geyer Sursa, BS Home Economics 1955
James Gillon, Cert. Mechanical Engineering 1955, BS 1958
George Ginther, BS Mechanical Engineering 1950
Louis Guarini, BS Chemical Engineering 1958
John Heany, BS Civil Engineering 1955, MS Engineering Management 1967
Herbert Hofmaier, BS Chemical Engineering 1952
Naomi Hurowitz Bash, BS Retail Management 1950
Elaine Johnson Fiorillo, RN Nursing 1959
Joseph Junod, BS Metallurgical Engineering 1959
Stafford Keer, Cert. Electrical Engineering 1959, BS 1961
Albert Knouse, MD Medicine 1958
Andrew Kohan, Cert. Mechanical Engineering 1954, BS 1956
Decima Martin Anderson, BS Business Teacher Education 1953
Arthur Mattia, BS Mechanical Engineering 1959, MS 1964
Norton Olshin, BS Business Administration 1950
Nancy Nielsen Schupp, BS Admin Secretarial 1956
Anthony Perrella, Cert. Chemical Engineering 1954
John Pierce, MBA Business Administration 1958
Charles Reilly, BS Mechanical Engineering 1958

Richard Rossbauer, BS Mechanical Engineering 1950
Raymond Rudolph, Cert. Electrical Engineering 1956
Stella Savaris Harriston, BS Home Economics 1958
David Schnall, MD Medicine 1950
Suzanne Seeman King, BS Home Economics 1951
Margaret Slimm Tomlinson, RN Nursing 1953
Dorothy Swope Harvey, BS Home Economics 1959
Phyllis Treglia Liesch, RN Nursing 1951
Louis Trummel, BS Mechanical Engineering 1952
William VanKleeck, BS Chemical Engineering 1956
Thomas Vincent, BS Electrical Engineering 1956

1960s

Russell Agreen, BS Mathematics 1969
Roger Altomose, BS Business Administration 1961
Peter Astheimer, BS Mechanical Engineering 1969
Barbara Atkinson Lykens, RN Nurse Anesthesia 1969
Gail Ballweg, MD Medicine 1966
Richard Barras, BS Chemical Engineering 1962
Nathan Berger, MD Medicine 1966
John Biller, BS Mechanical Engineering 1966
Theodore Blum, MS Electrical Engineering 1965
Myron Blumberg, MD Medicine 1960
Howard Bregman, BS Electrical Engineering 1968
William Bricker, BS Commerce and Engineering 1966, MBA 1972
Richard Brown, BS Electrical Engineering 1967
Joseph Browne, BS Electrical Engineering 1960
Edward Burroughs, BS Mechanical Engineering 1966, MS 1968
John Bush, BS Chemistry 1966
Maureen Cattie, MS Library Science 1965
Roslyn Coskery Souser, MD Medicine 1966
Hilary Coudriet, BS Business Administration 1968
Patricia Curran, RN Nursing 1966
Stephen Daciuk, BS Electrical Engineering 1967
Franklin DeRusso, MD Medicine 1960
John Dobson, MS Electrical Engineering 1964, MBA 1970
David Erickson, BS Civil Engineering 1961
Nicholas Falcone, BS Business Administration 1962, MBA 1971
James Flanagan, BS Business Administration 1968
Denis Franklin, MD Medicine 1964
Robert Gessler, BS Electrical Engineering 1969
James Gimpel, BS Electrical Engineering 1960
Joseph Glatz, BS Metallurgical Engineering 1962, MS Engineering Management 1972
Jacques Goeller, MS Mechanical Engineering 1962
Richard Grandzol, BS Chemical Engineering 1969, PhD 1973
Charles Greene, BS Commerce and Engineering 1965
Ronald Heckman, BS Electrical Engineering 1968
Sandy Helman, MS Biomedical Engineering and Science 1962
Kirk Heselbarth, BS Business Administration 1968
Polly Huff, RN Nursing 1967
James Hughes, MD Medicine 1967
Walter Kalin, BS Electrical Engineering 1962
Charles Knothe, MBA 1968
Veronica Krepol Conboy, BS Home Economics 1969
Paul Lesutis, MBA 1969
Anne Lindsay Kerr, MS Library Science 1968
Joseph Lisa, BS Mechanical Engineering 1961
David Loomis, BS Business Administration 1968, MBA 1970
Rosemary Loughery, BS Business Administration 1966
Rimas Lukas, BS Electrical

Engineering 1961
John Marks, BS Mechanical Engineering 1960
Paul Martin, MS Biomedical Engineering and Science 1962
Jeanne McElroy Kyle, BS Mathematics 1968
George Merkson, BS Physics and Atmospheric Science 1963
Mary Mundell, BS Home Economics 1962
Robert Muntz, BS Commerce and Engineering 1967
Frederick Oddi, MD Medicine 1964
Matthew Oleynick, BS Business Administration 1962
Linda Rice Harkins, Cert. Secretarial 1960, BS Business Teacher Education 1962
Antoinette Ripepi Cramer, MD Medicine 1961
Donald Ritter, BS Metallurgical Engineering 1963
Susan Schafer Reul, RN Nursing 1966
William Schumacher, BS Metallurgical Engineering 1966
Jerrold Schwartz, BS Business Administration 1969
Kishor Sheth, PhD Unknown 1968
Georg Simon, BS Commerce and Engineering 1960
Jovitas Skucas, MD Medicine 1968
Katherine Smith, MS Library Science 1969
Lawrence Stone, BS Business Administration 1962
Beverly Storck Wynn, MS Home Economics 1960
George Templeton, BS Business Administration 1960
Jeffrey Thomas, BS Chemical Engineering 1965
Rose Tse, MD Medicine 1960
Alex Weinbaum, MS Library Science 1966
William Wind, MBA 1968
Ivan Wolfson, BS Business Administration 1968

1970s

Patricia Adelsberger Cronin, RN Nursing 1976

Philip Anderson, MS Electrical Engineering 1977, PhD Physics and Atmospheric Science 1979
John Bartholomeo, BS Civil Engineering 1974, MS 1985
Jeanne Brugger, HD 1976
Gerald Campbell, BS Business Administration 1970
Betty Carr, MS Library Science 1973
Lennox Caruth, BS Architecture 1974
John Cerasoli, BS Accounting 1976
Edwin Crombie, BS Metallurgical Engineering 1971, MS Materials Engineering 1975
Nikola Cvetkovic, BS Business Administration 1975
Edwin Dardzinski, BS Architecture 1974
Julia Dejarlais Branan, MS Library Science 1972
Deborah Dickinson Mazzagatti, BS Design 1977
Beverly Eisenberg, BS Design 1974
Theodore Ellis, MBA 1971
Robert Galler, BS Mechanical Engineering 1970
Frederick Garber, BS Civil Engineering 1971
Timothy Gardner, BS Nutrition and Food 1975
Peggy Hagy, MS Library Science 1970
Donald Hobman, BS Mechanical Engineering 1974
Ted Hoffman, MBA 1978
James Hulsizer, BS Chemistry 1975
David Husman, BS Civil Engineering 1979
Barbara Klein, MD Medicine 1975
Robert Konzelman, BS Electrical Engineering 1975
Paige Levitt Carney, BS Business for Women 1972
Stephen Nelson, MD Medicine 1975
Joseph Noselli, BS Accounting 1978
John O'Donnell, MD Medicine 1974
Thomas Ott, BS Mechanical/Industrial Engineering 1973
Mary Paulus, MD Medicine 1970
Anthony Palmaccio, MD Medicine 1973
Robert Schamis, BS Electrical

Engineering 1976
Hillard Sharf, MD Medicine 1975
Jeffrey Stead, MD Medicine 1978
Joseph Sweeney, BS Chemical Engineering 1972, MS 1974
Rocco Tenaglia, BS Accounting 1979
Michael Turco, MS Environmental Science 1976, MBA 1985
Imant Valainis, BS Civil Engineering 1971

1980s

Douglas Berson, MD Medicine 1983
Dale Braun, BS Accounting 1987
Tilakraj Chandela, AS Physician Assistant 1987
Pauline Chusid, MD Medicine 1980
David Cooke, AS Mental Health Technology 1981
James Deola, BS Mechanical Engineering 1982
Robin Dhillon, MD Medicine 1986
Alice Gooch, BS Mental Health Technology 1985
Steven Gottshall, AS Nursing 1983, BS 1987
Edward Hagman, BS Business Administration 1982
Patrick Kelly, BS Computer Science 1985
Brent Kennedy, MD Medicine 1981
Diane Kerman Zweben, MS Speech Pathology and Audiology 1985
Mark Koffel, BS Computer Science 1983
Marijane Madigan, MS Mathematics 1982
Frank Moran, BS Computer Science 1989
Robert Novak, MS Environmental Engineering 1984
Kathleen Piperato, MS Information Studies 1986
Michael Prushan, BS Business Administration 1985, MBA 1990
Mary Watkins, NONMA Medical Technology 1986

1990s

Greg Ahearn, MD Medicine 1995
Richard Daines, MS Library and Information Science 1991
Cynthia Engler, BS Nursing 1998

James Eppright, MS Library and Information Science 1996
Glenn Fletcher, MS Electrical Engineering 1999
Mark Kane, MD Medicine 1994
Kathryn Keuthley, PsyD Clinical Psychology 1990
Mary Longcope Smith, MS Library Science 1990
Matthew Milner, BS Electrical Engineering 1997
Kristin Nocco, MBA 1998
Manuel Rios, MS Mechanical Engineering 1993, PhD 2012
Giuseppe Sagolla, BS Mechanical Engineering 1998, MS 2001
Jeanette Soltero Konicki, BS Fashion Design 1992
Joseph Stellabotte, MD Medicine 1996
Paul Stratis, BS Accounting 1990

2000s

Bradford Bachman, MS Engineering Management 2002
Graham Case, MD Medicine 2004
Lisa Feldman, BS Behavior and Addiction Counseling Science 2006
Diane Mitchell Harris, MS Science of Instruction 2009
Miriam Punzalan, MSN Nursing 2001
Margaret Roos, DPT Physical Therapy 2006
Michael Smithwick, MBA 2000

2010s

Susan Gavin-Leone, MSLIS Library & Information Science 2019
Kevin Henry, BS Behavioral Health Counseling 2012
Jonathan Loeb, BA Mathematics 2018
Diane Nast, MPH Executive Master of Public Health 2010
Jennifer Olive, BSN Nursing 2015

2020s

Nicholas Moy, BS Animation and Visual Effects 2021
Tonya Runac, BS Health Services Administration 2021

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. You can also email an image of your completed puzzle to magazine@drexel.edu.

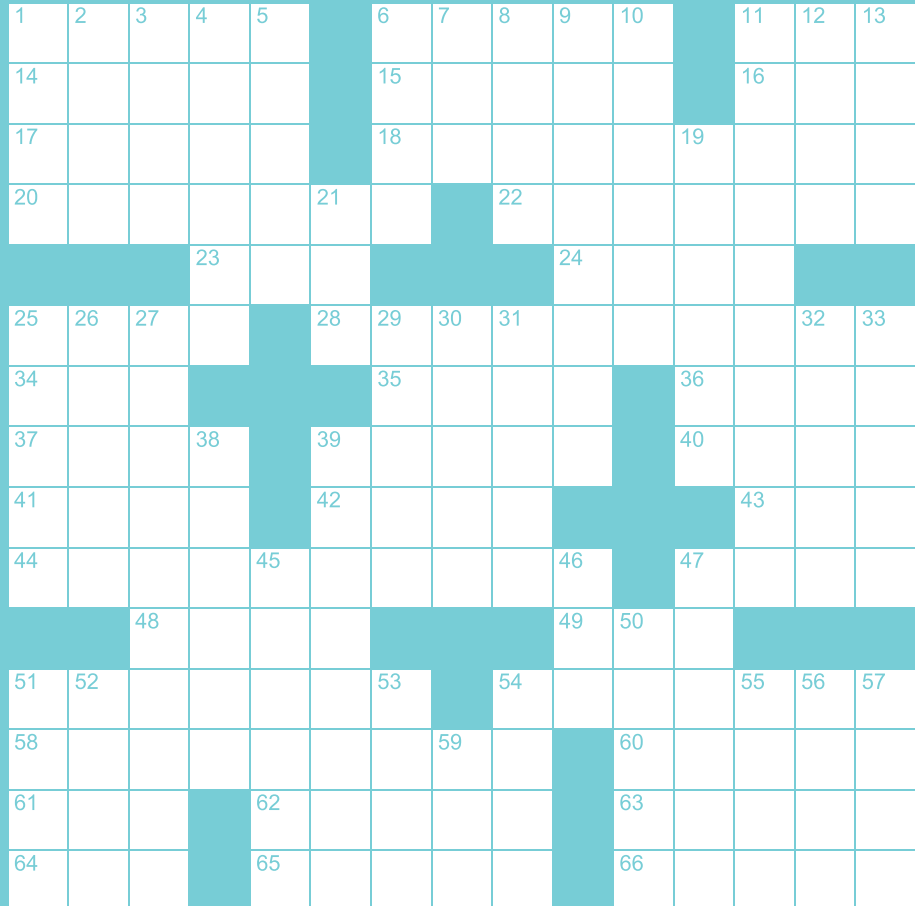
Drexel University
Office of University Communications
3141 Chestnut Street
Main Building, Suite 309
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2875

CUTTING EDGE

Prepare to get technical to solve this puzzle.

ACROSS

- 1 Clerk's workplace
- 6 Like a baby's hands and face after eating yogurt, perhaps
- 11 Like the competitors on the reality competition series "Physical: 100"
- 14 Promotes, as a highly anticipated product
- 15 Deliver a commencement address, say
- 16 "Radio: An Illustrated Guide" co-author Glass
- 17 5-Downs in newspapers
- 18 Doc's order of coffee?
- 20 Way back in the past
- 22 As a group
- 23 "Beauty is in the ___ of the beholder"
- 24 Sharp projectile in a pub
- 25 "Buh-bye!"
- 28 Robotic Atlantic fish?
- 34 ___ Moskowitz, "Cobra Kai" character with the nickname "Hawk"
- 35 Self-absorbed
- 36 Magazine that publishes "The State of Black Beauty" on its website
- 37 Expected result
- 39 Small songbirds
- 40 Nothing, in Spanish
- 41 ___/them pronouns
- 42 Deserted locale in tropes
- 43 ___ bin (rhyming nickname of the penalty box in hockey)
- 44 The study of bowlers, boaters, and fedoras throughout time?
- 47 "That makes perfect sense now!"
- 48 Take a load off
- 49 Alleged ability tested by Zener cards, briefly
- 51 Vehicles used in Last Ride matches involving the WWE's Undertaker
- 54 Small rug by a shower
- 58 Device that measures the number of times one has watched a horror movie about a demonic clown?
- 60 Shake awake
- 61 Beast of burden
- 62 Many a Chopin composition
- 63 Bit of hijinks
- 64 Beast of burden
- 65 Treat often depicted with pink frosting and rainbow sprinkles on "The Simpsons"
- 66 "Man, that's such a pain!"



DOWN

- 1 Item of footwear that serves as an old woman's home, in a nursery rhyme
- 2 Feature of this clue that crossword editors try to avoid most of the time
- 3 Unlock
- 4 Body of water between Sudan and Saudi Arabia
- 5 Author's composition
- 6 Personal magnetism
- 7 Significant period
- 8 Preserve, as a computer document
- 9 Proxies
- 10 Gent who's always agreeing with the boss
- 11 Expensive travel accommodation
- 12 Colorful part of the 23-Across
- 13 Masking ___ (adhesive used by painters)
- 19 Swerve wildly
- 21 Aquamarine or sapphire, e.g.
- 25 Final frame of a bowling game
- 26 Song of welcome at a luau
- 27 Certain impressions on a dirt road
- 29 "Halt," to a pirate
- 30 Monte ___
- 31 One enjoying a trip through forest trails
- 32 Song on a vinyl record, typically
- 33 Silas ___, 18th-century delegate of the Continental Congress who became a diplomat to France
- 38 "You rescued me!"
- 39 Heed
- 45 Distributed, as a license or a stamp
- 46 Supportive call in Congress
- 47 Macworld 2007 debut
- 50 Like some pets that have not yet been adopted
- 51 "Howdy!"
- 52 Due-in hrs. at the airport
- 53 "Set Phasers to ___: 50 Years of Star Trek" (2016 book by Marcus Berkman)
- 54 Saberhagen in the Kansas City Royals Hall of Fame
- 55 Silence button on Zoom
- 56 Yard sale caveat
- 57 Industry spelled out by the letters that have been cut from the edges of four computer- and internet-related phrases in this puzzle
- 59 Domain name ending for Drexel students, say