Fresh Images in the Age of Instagram

How Drexel’s photography program stays gourmet

(COVER BY RYAN GERAGHTY '15)
Do you remember how proud you felt the day you graduated from Drexel? Have you been thinking about what it will take to continue to advance your career?

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO CONTINUE YOUR DREXEL JOURNEY AND WE CAN’T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU BACK!

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- Library Science
- Legal Studies
- Nursing
- Public Health
- Rehabilitation
- Sports
- Technology

“I learned so much in my business classes that I can apply in my family’s businesses; from strategy and competitive advantage, to marketing and business law. One thing that I can say about Drexel’s curriculum is that I’ve learned things I can apply right away. It’s truly prepared me well.”

MICHAEL MARTIN, MBA ’15
### [A NUMERICAL ANALYSIS OF LIFE AT DREXEL]

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<td>1</td>
<td>Ranking given to the Drexel Recreation Center by <em>Philly.com</em> readers in a June poll of the best gyms and sports clubs in Philadelphia.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Number of years in a row that Dragons have taken home the overall championship in U.S. college rowing’s most prestigious event, the Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta.</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Number of fashion design students who presented collections at Drexel University’s Annual Senior Fashion Show.</td>
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<td>61st</td>
<td>Drexel’s place in the National Academy of Inventors and Intellectual Property Owners Association list of the Top 100 U.S. schools by number of patents granted as of 2014. Drexel is ahead of such prestigious institutions as Yale University and Ohio State University (tied at No. 65) and Carnegie Mellon University and Dartmouth College (tied at No. 81).</td>
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<td>$242K</td>
<td>Amount raised in the 14th Annual Manuel Stamatakis Golf Classic, hosted by the College of Medicine to raise scholarship funds for medical students.</td>
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<td>70–85%</td>
<td>Ratio of common areas in Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) residences with detectable nicotine levels. The finding, by School of Public Health Professor Ann Klassen, motivated the PHA to ban smoking in its communities.</td>
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<td>3,000</td>
<td>Number of cinematic works for which John Avarase, an assistant teaching professor in the Westphal College of Media Arts &amp; Design, has created soundtracks during his 30 years as a composer.</td>
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THE VIEW FROM MAIN

Co-op is what Drexel does better than anyone else. If you were a Drexel undergrad, your co-op experiences are probably among your most durable memories. It’s quite possible, in fact, that co-op helped define your career.

This issue’s cover story offers “the whole picture” of Westphal College’s remarkable Photography program. Once again, I’m struck by how co-op further separates an already outstanding academic program from its competition.

“You are not going to get a job in this business without prior experience,” says Program Director Paul Runyon. “It will not happen.” That’s true of many careers, and it’s why co-op is the best educational model for today’s economy.

Runyon and his colleagues use their wide industry networks to help their students find the best placements. And across the University, faculty members and the outstanding staff of the Steinbright Career Development Center work tirelessly to develop opportunities that change our students’ lives.

In terms of quantifiable impact, U.S. Department of Education statistics show that a college internship adds 2.2 percent to average earnings in the first decade after graduation, but a co-op experience adds 8.8 percent. And a Brookings Institute study found that Drexel bachelor’s degree holders earn $17,852 more than graduates of comparable institutions, placing them in the top 13 percent of graduates from all four-year institutions.

Beyond the numbers, there’s the reputation that Drexel graduates have among employers as self-starters, and the value our students place on knowing how the real world works. Those are the biggest benefits of experiential learning. And after nearly 100 years of co-op at Drexel, no university is better at providing them.

Sincerely,

John A. Fry / President
Drexel happens to own one of the few intact copies of Larry Clark’s “Tulsa” photo series, and right now it’s on display in Drexel’s Main Building. If you’re local and into photography, this is a rare chance to see it.

The grim images of Clark and his childhood friends self-destructing on drugs and violence made Clark instantly famous, inspired filmmakers such as Scorsese and Coppola, and led a movement in “confessional” art.

Some of the drama of “Tulsa” comes from Clark’s use of a darkroom technique called “dodge and burn” to heighten the images’ dynamic range, creating deep shadows here, luminous light there.

Today, any iPhone can snap a high-dynamic range photo with that signature intensity, contrast and detail. But before there were smartphones, photographers had to use desktop software and tone mapping to combine shots of multiple exposures. And before there was software, they had to control exposure manually in the darkroom using handmade stencils. One famous example, a 1954 photo of Dr. Albert Schweitzer working under the beam of a table lamp, took the photographer five painstaking days to perfect.

Photography — the tools, the techniques, the talents that matter — has been undergoing constant evolution since its invention. Our current epoch has been called the Age of Instagram.

How should photography be taught and studied now? How do you make a career out of taking pictures when everyone thinks they’re a photographer? We asked faculty and alumni those questions for our cover story, “Depth of Field.” We hired a photography alumnus to write it. We illustrated it with photos by seniors in the program. Our cover — part of a photo series on comfort foods by Ryan Geraghty, a recent photography graduate — appealed to us as a playful subversion of the “food porn” genre.

Here’s the short answer from the article: Knowledge and experience are the best antidotes against cliché.

In my pocket, I carry a camcorder, a tilt-shift camera, a dozen or more lenses ranging from macro to zoom and from prime to fisheye, an entire darkroom, and every filter and photo-editing program imaginable. It’s Hermione’s handbag in there. My smartphone makes me a walking Fotomat, and believe me when I say that my cat-paw pictures are to die for.

If only the tools made the photographer. We’d all be one.

Sincerely,

Sonja Sherwood / Editor
It Started Here
Fantastic article (“Where the Society Started,” summer 2015)! My son currently attends Drexel where he is studying biomedical engineering. I loved hearing about the founding of the Society of Women Engineers. I remember receiving a certificate of achievement in high school from SWE for excellence in math and science and I was a member when I was in college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (‘83). There were only about 7 percent women in mechanical engineering at the University of Wisconsin back then.

Mary Ellen Raymond
Former SWE member and Drexel parent
Rising Sun, Maryland

Family History
That’s my mom! It was thrilling to read “Where the Society Started.” My mom (C. Dolan in the picture on page 36 of the article) tells me of getting a C on a test where her male counterparts got an A for the same answers. When she asked the professor why, he told her she didn’t need an A because he knew she was only there to find a man. She went on to get her degree in chemical engineering and later also earned a degree in music at Chestnut Hill College. An amazing, smart, well-rounded person — I know she fought hard in a man’s world for things that men took for granted. My step-daughter received a scholarship from the SWE in 2008 and earned an engineering degree from Cal Poly a few years ago. Now her career is taking off, partly because of the persistence and strength of these Drexel women.

John Simon
Son of Catherine Simon (née Dolan) ’53
Sebastopol, California

University City
Check out the New Porch at 30th Street Station!

University City District works to enhance the neighborhood you love. Whether it’s been five months or five years since you last visited University City, chances are there’s something new to see, to eat, or to experience. Plan a trip back today!
AWAKENS, THE FORCE DOES CROSS WALK
Once upon a time, not all that long ago, on a campus quite close by, students formed a club dedicated to the dazzling glow of the lightsaber.

A lightsaber is a fictional beam of energy that can cut through anything. In a way, that description speaks to the mission of Drexel’s Dragon Jedi club: if you believe in something strongly enough, anything is possible.

The Dragon Jedi club is a group of Drexel students and “Star Wars” enthusiasts connected by their love of the film franchise. Together, they learn and teach combat choreography skills for live performances at parades, birthday parties, conventions and anywhere the group can give back in its unique way.

“We give back to the community through costumed performances and appearances while also teaching leadership skills, teamwork and unity,” says Steven Fox, the club’s co-founder, past president and 2015 graduate of the College of Computing & Informatics.

Underestimate the Dragon Jedi, you should not. The group isn’t just playing around in costumes. There is real, actual training underway. After every fight practice, the members give each other feedback on their performance. More seasoned members usually work with beginner members — the club’s padawans use “boffers” constructed from PVC pipe, pipe insulation and tape (for color). Eventually, more advanced members move to the “real” sabers: stylized aluminum pipe with LED and a trigger button, along with a polycarbonate tube acting as the blade.

This holiday season, “Star Wars” fans will go back to the future for the newest film, “The Force Awakens.” Though the group has no plans for a viewing party, since the movie premiere occurs over Drexel’s winter break, it’s a safe bet what members will be doing at midnight on Christmas Eve. The majority opinion of the Dragon Jedi, says junior biology major and current club president Erika Kroesen, is that the upcoming film could echo the very nature of the light saber’s power: it’s going to be either really good or really bad. — Katie Clark
SHARE YOUR DREXEL MEMORIES
Next year, Drexel will mark 125 years since its founding — and a pair of Drexel professors are inviting alumni to help Drexel celebrate by sharing their memories in a book they’re producing about Drexel’s history.

“It’s a big institution and a complicated story,” says Richardson Dilworth, associate professor of history and politics. “It’s gone through so many different reorganizations and so many people have flowed in and out.”

Dilworth and Scott Knowles, an associate professor of history and politics, will unveil their official history book and online oral history next year.

“The history of this place is not just annual reports,” says Knowles. “The history is in the people.”

The pair is seeking the help of everyone connected to the University — faculty, staff, students, alumni, neighbors — to tell their stories and provide suggestions for what should be covered in Drexel’s history.

“My expectation is most people have a story to tell, maybe they just haven’t been asked,” Knowles says. “So we’re asking.”

If you’re interested in contributing, email Dilworth at Dilworth@drexel.edu, Knowles at sgk23@drexel.edu or Carley Roche at cmr334@drexel.edu.

CHIMING IN
The Rittenhouse Orrery Clock is a true darling of The Drexel Collection — and now its 18th-century sounds have been collected in an iPad for anyone to hear at any time.

Gifted to the University in 1894 by the widow of Drexel family friend George W. Childs, the clock underwent a total conservation in 2005 and another smaller tweaking completed last year. The piece is beyond worthy of such attention — its technical and orrery dials tell the time (including real time versus sundial time), date, positions of the planets, the rotation of the sun, the phases of the moon and signs of the zodiac. It’s breathtaking, a true masterpiece of engineering and craftsmanship, and the career highpoint for 18th-century astronomer and clockmaker David Rittenhouse.

It’s been named “the most important clock in America” (a name bestowed by Drexel alumnus Ron Hoppes BS ’60, a longstanding conservator of the clock, in a book he wrote about the clock in 2009).

Now, attention is shifting to recording and perfecting the clock’s music, which plays on the hour, half-hour and even the quarter-hour. The on-the-hour offerings include 10 tinkly chimes that are now available at the touch of a visitor’s fingertip via a new interactive iPad display. Audio files of each chime ring out; something that you’d have to wait 10 hours to experience previously.

Conservators continue to work on the pitch and scale of the clock’s music-making bells to make them sound more like music rather than the current wind chime-like sound. Once that work is complete, a team of music professionals is standing by to help identify the clock’s 10 songs.

Drexel crew posing in 1915.
NEW NAME FOR SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Drexel University’s School of Public Health has been named the Dana and David Dornsife School of Public Health in honor of a transformative $45 million gift from longtime philanthropists Dana and David Dornsife.

The couple has donated a total of $58 million to the University over the years, including support for a center for neighborhood partnerships, an office of experiential learning and the Dornsife Global Development Scholars program, which funds students to work on development projects related to water, sanitation and hygiene in Africa.

Dana Dornsife received her bachelor’s degree in business from Drexel in 1983. She is the founder, president and CEO of the Lazarex Cancer Foundation.

David Dornsife, a University of Southern California trustee and 1965 alumnus, is chairman of the Herrick Corp., the largest steel fabricator and contractor on the West Coast.

DREXEL WELCOMES NEW PROVOST

M. Brian Blake took over as the University’s provost and executive vice president for academic affairs in August.

He replaces English and literature scholar Mark L. Greenberg, who will return to teaching after a year sabbatical.

Blake comes to Drexel from the University of Miami in Florida, where he served as vice provost for academic affairs and the dean of the Graduate School. Previous roles include associate dean for research and graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame, and department chair and graduate studies director for computer science at Georgetown University.

Before his career took him to higher education, Blake worked as a software engineer and architect for Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and The MITRE Co. — all experience that prepared him quite well for a career as an administrator in higher ed, he says.

“My formal training as a software engineer really was about taking a problem that has many different facets and taking a huge group of people with different skills and making them all work together to develop one product,” he says. That “product” in this case is Drexel and its success.

Blake spent the first few months on the job scheduling regular meetings with Drexel’s Faculty Senate and full-day shadowing sessions with each college and school to meet deans, associate deans, faculty and students.

250 YEARS OF FASHION

This fall, stroll among lush Renaissance textiles and French couture, stunning contemporary couture by Philadelphia native Ralph Rucci (pictured), garments worn by American socialite and style icon Babe Paley and Princess Grace of Monaco, and so much more on a journey through more than 250 years of fashion.

Through Dec. 12 in Drexel’s Leonard Pearlstein Gallery, gorgeous historic fashions from the University’s Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection are being displayed in the collection’s first large-scale, retrospective exhibition, Immortal Beauty: Highlights from the Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection, an exhibit funded by support from the Richard C. von Hess Foundation, features more than 75 objects from the museum-quality collection of more than 12,000 garments, accessories and textiles.

The exhibit is free and open to the public.
NEW GRADUATE COLLEGE

At Drexel, it’s a good time to be a grad student. The University has completely reenergized its efforts to give graduate students the space, support, opportunities and overall Drexel experience they deserve. The biggest change came in the summer when Drexel announced the establishment of a new Graduate College and introduced then-Interim Provost James Herbert as its founding dean.

The college has a team of core and support staff with four main objectives: continuing and expanding the great work already set in motion by the former Office of Graduate Studies in supporting and advocating for grad students, fostering interdisciplinary research and graduate programs, offering various professional development opportunities to students, and communicating the “Drexel difference” as a way to promote the University’s programs.

In addition, the Graduate College will soon have its very own home: renovated space on the third floor of Main Building that will serve as a place for graduate students to gather and collaborate. Completion is expected in early 2016.

“I couldn’t be more excited about the new college,” Herbert says. “Drexel already has many excellent graduate programs, and this gives us the opportunity to build new programs and strengthen existing ones in ways that will benefit the whole university.”

ENGINEERING COURSES FOR ‘RENAISSANCE PEOPLE’

Drexel has created a new suite of engineering courses intended for non-engineers who want to understand how things work.

College of Engineering leaders liken the approach to a Renaissance education.

“At the time of the Renaissance, someone like Leonardo Da Vinci could know everything there was to know,” says Bruce Eisenstein, vice dean of the College of Engineering. “He knew arts, he knew science, he knew medicine — he knew everything.”

The new courses are nicknamed “Ex3,” which stands for “Explore, Explain, Experience.” Courses can be taken by any undergraduate regardless of major or school, with no prerequisites.

“If you look at the best lawyers, some of the best physicians, some of the people starting businesses, many of them have started with a technological basis for their education,” Eisenstein adds.

“That’s the way the 21st century works.”

LIBERTY SCHOLARS AT THE FINISH LINE

Each year, 50 young lives get a head start thanks to a unique scholarship program. Drexel’s Liberty Scholars program awards 50 full scholarships annually to Philadelphia high school students who might otherwise have not had the means to attend the University or college at all.

At a celebration honoring 35 of the scholarship holders who graduated in May, Nick Perez, director of the 5-year-old program, says, “This is what it’s all about. It’s fantastic because this is the goal — graduation — and we’re here at the finish line.”

“Liberty Scholars meant everything,” says recent program graduate Zoë Jamison. “All of this wouldn’t have been possible.”

“At Drexel, I was able to reach my potential,” says Linda Vu, an alumna of last year’s inaugural class of scholars who is now a NICU nurse at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. “I didn’t have any bills and I was able to go to class and not have to worry and do my best. That’s how I’m able to be where I am.”

“They’re all successful in whatever major they chose,” says Stephanie Tran, an alumna of the first class of scholars who now works as a tax accountant. “It shows this program works.”
Get a Grip
A soft, robotic exoskeleton glove developed at Drexel could hold the key to new ways of restoring function to individuals with hand injuries. The fingers are connected to actuators that pull or release tendon-like threads that run from the wrist to the fingertips, exerting force on the fingers. When connected to a computer, the glove can help patients practice hand exercises and improve mobility.

Nanobots in Our Veins
Swarms of microscopic, magnetic, robotic beads developed at Drexel could one day scrub in beside vascular surgeons to combat blocked arteries. These microrobots, which look and move like spiral-shaped bacteria, are being developed as a part of a surgical toolkit being assembled by the Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST) in South Korea. Drexel is the only team member from the United States in the 11-institute DGIST partnership, which boasts some of the top engineers and roboticists in the world.

Second Chances
Every year, police arrest 1,500 public school students in Philadelphia — an alarming number that has life-altering consequences for the kids involved. Drexel Psychology Professor Naomi Goldstein is evaluating a new city-led diversion program that steers youth toward the help they need instead of putting them behind bars. Already the number of arrests has fallen by 55 percent since the program’s launch in 2014.

I ♥ 3D
What if you could hold your own heart in the palm of your hand and study it while your cardiologist explained your condition? Jason Kirk, an adjunct professor of digital media, recently succeeded in translating 2-D data into a patient-specific, 3-D-printed replica of a human heart that doctors can use to help patients understand their condition.

Hive Mind
Groupthink is real and it reduces brain power — at least among insect societies. That’s what Drexel’s entomologist Sean O’Donnell, an expert in using social insects to answer questions about biology and evolution, discovered in his latest study. He examined several species of wasps and found that social insects operate under the idea of distributed cognition — the more of them there are, the less intelligent each individual needs to be. It’s the exact opposite of vertebrate societies, like humans, which evolve with a sharper intelligence as competition increases.
“THE DOTS ARE ALL THERE. JUST CONNECT THEM.”

— JONATHAN DEUTSCH, professor and founding director of the Center for Hospitality and Sport Management, on a new partnership between Drexel University and the Monell Chemical Senses Center, the premier sensory science research institution.

“SOME STUDENTS HAVE LITTLE COOKING SKILLS. OTHERS HAVE A KEEN INTEREST IN COOKING. REMARKABLY, THE FOOD TURNS OUT DELICIOUS.”

— EDWARD BOTTONE, chef and assistant teaching professor in the Center for Hospitality and Sport Management, on his honors course “Food in the Arts: Film,” in which non-culinary major students cook cuisine related to each film’s setting.

“THE DOTS ARE ALL THERE. JUST CONNECT THEM.”

— A.J. Drexel Autism Institute Associate Professor DIANA ROBINS in an August New York Times article on the importance of early autism screening.

“EDGAR DERBY’S STORY ENDS, ‘SO IT GOES.’ I WANT MY STUDENTS TO KNOW WHAT HE DIED FOR. THE URN IN THE DREXEL COLLECTION GIVES THEM A CLUE.”

— CHRISTOPHER NIELSON, an assistant department head and teaching professor of English in the College of Arts and Sciences, on why he takes freshmen to see a Dresden urn in The Drexel Collection while teaching Kurt Vonnegut’s “Slaughterhouse-Five.”

“You can’t do everything for everyone. You have to accept that. You can’t make everyone happy.”

— MAYOR MICHAEL NUTTER on his role as the city’s leader at a July Leadership Matters talk, a lecture series hosted by the LeBow College of Business.

“I’VE NEVER HAD ANY CONCERNS ABOUT BEING A WOMAN IN THE INDUSTRY... I THINK MOST PEOPLE IN THIS FIELD ARE JUST CONCERNED ABOUT GETTING A JOB, IN GENERAL.”

— LAUREN MO, one of the three-woman team of Drexel students called Lunar Rabbit, which recently released a game developed in Drexel’s Entrepreneurial Game Studio called Starbright.
It can take an inventor years to receive an official U.S. patent, usually represented by a seven-digit number. But the full story behind most patents is much longer. Wan Shih’s patent for the iBreastExam is one of nearly 300 issued to Drexel faculty, and this is how it came to be.

Wan Shih has to pause and think for a bit to tally up all of her patents. Over a quarter century as a researcher at Drexel — where she has teaching appointments in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems and in the College of Engineering — she’s accumulated 30 patents, and has another 21 pending.

And while she loves all of her creations, one has gone farther than the rest down the long road toward commercialization.

U.S. Pat. No. 7497133 describes a device that promises women here and in the developing world a safe, affordable and precise way of detecting breast tumors — with no harmful X-rays.

The device uses subtle piezoelectric (electrical charges in response to pressure) measurements to detect abnormal elasticity in human tissue where tumors are developing. It can detect tiny early tumors, even in dense breasts.

The iBreastExam won FDA approval in March and a company is now looking to manufacture it in India.

Shih is herself a breast cancer survivor, but if you think that’s how she got the idea for this device, you’d be wrong. In 2008, she was diagnosed with aggressive ductal carcinoma and underwent surgery and radiation.

By then, she’d already been developing the device for about eight years. Ironically, the inspiration for her potentially life-saving idea came while she was doing research for the military.

In the late 1990s, Shih was investigating piezoelectricity to create lightweight actuators and sensors for soldiers’ gear. When a fellow researcher challenged her to think about piezoelectricity’s possibilities in human medicine, she began developing a hand-held tumor detector. Then, during a Drexel Research Day in the early 2000s, she happened to be presenting alongside a researcher focused on breast cancer. She saw her neighbor’s poster — and the piezoelectric bulb, so to speak, went on.

— Sonja Sherwood

The iBreastExam is a small handheld sensor that detects changes in breast tissue elasticity, as shown on a laptop.
The corner of 34th and Lancaster Avenue, looking beautiful during the sunset after a June rainstorm, captured by EarthCam. You can see all of the progress made on The Summit, Drexel’s newest student housing in collaboration with American Campus Communities.

Congratulations to the class of 2015!

Thank goodness for those few days in July where the rain held up and the heat wasn’t stifling, making for a pleasant, picturesque walk across campus.

Mario gets a makeover in preparation for the June commencement events. #DragonManiPedi

This outstanding photo of the red June sky lit up social media everywhere after it was posted by the College of Arts and Sciences.
Twitter
@BillieJeanKing: JUNE 13
So proud to be part of @DrexelUniv commencement Friday and honored to receive an honorary degree from them.

@ashleyjohnson: JUNE 15
Dear @DrexelUniv & @DrexelCNHP Thank you for everything. - Ash. #ProudAlumni

@smithsonianMag: JULY 1
@DrexelUniv engineers are developing micro-swimmers that clear clogged arteries. smithmag.co/n29pBj

@PHLBizJournal: JULY 22
2 apps available for purchase on the iOS App store & the @GoogleStore owe their existence to a @DrexelUniv grad

@PeaceTechLab: JULY 27
Our new partnership with @DrexelEngr prepares upcoming humanitarian engineers #PeaceTech @DrexelUniv

@coleypalm: SEPTEMBER 3
1 week until move in couldn’t be more excited #Drexel 💕💕

@sandyhook: SEPTEMBER 3
@DrexelUniv has become the first U.S. college to deploy a “mental health kiosk.” #ACheckUpFromTheNeckUp

@GaybriellB: SEPTEMBER 8
Shout out to Drexel. Great Students who volunteer time to help clean their block! @DrexelDornsife @DrexelUniv

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Pet Project

Want to know how to dog whisper or build an apiary that bees will flock to like honey?


The book is a collection of life lessons Stewart, BS design and merchandising ’90, has gleaned from her life caring for animals as an animal advocate, former veterinary technician and farmstead owner. She lives in New Jersey with former “Daily Show” host Jon Stewart and their two kids, plus four dogs, two horses, two pigs, two hamsters, three rabbits, two guinea pigs, one parrot and two fish.

If this sounds like a lot of critters just wait until she completes her current project, which is to turn the couple’s farm into a home for farm animals rescued from cruelty.

The addition of “book author” and “farm sanctuary owner” are just the latest lines on her extensive résumé. The Philadelphia native is also a one-time organic café owner and current founder and editor-in-chief of an online family lifestyle publication.

At the heart of each project is Stewart’s desire to improve the welfare of living things.

“My life has been so touched and vastly improved by my relationship with animals that I felt compelled to give back to them,” Stewart says. “Animals tap into the nurturer, the creative and the adventurer in all of us, and I hope my book inspires readers on each of those levels with its projects, adventures and life lessons.”

Stewart, who describes her Drexel co-ops and study abroad experiences as “still on my Top 10 list of meaningful experiences,” worked in various design-related fields for about 10 years after graduation.

“There wasn’t a job I couldn’t get or keep,” she recalls. “Curse you, Drexel! My success made it all the more difficult to decide to go back to school to become a veterinary technician at the age of 31.”

She added, “It wasn’t until after I had my kids that I realized I could merge my design and veterinary training. When I was young, I knew I loved art, design and animals, but when I grew up I realized I also loved children, people and education.”

Stewart combined her interests by opening Moomah Café, a New York City “sanctuary for overwhelmed parents” who could enjoy organic, health-conscious fare while their children engaged in classes and arts and crafts projects.

The neighborhood favorite closed for good in 2012, but Stewart has continued carrying out its family-friendly and pro-animal values and outreach through Moomah the Magazine, an online parenting publication that offers everything from vegan fashion and recipe ideas to family activities and advice on pet care.

“It wasn’t lost on me how every step of my journey had taken me right where I’ve needed to go,” Stewart reflects. “Apparently my dad was onto something when he strongly suggested I study both art and business.” [D]
Mantua resident Myna Whitney sometimes thinks about what Robert Frost immortalized as “the road not taken.”

“I find myself thinking where I would have been or who I would have been,” she says. “But I will never know. And I’m OK with it because I like who I am.”

The road that Whitney did take was one that made her a certified medical assistant in Drexel Gastroenterology. She credits Drexel’s outreach into its surrounding neighborhoods for her ability to take that path.

Whitney is one of a growing number of residents from Drexel’s nearby neighborhoods like Mantua and West Powelton who now work at the University. Drexel’s hires from these neighborhoods are at a nine-year high.

Whitney got her job through the University’s Medical Assistant Pipeline, which has been one of Drexel’s most successful community hiring projects. The pipeline helped place the residents who already had medical assistant certifications at the College of Medicine.

Backyard Workforce

Through local hires and community outreach, Drexel is dedicated to helping its neighborhoods prosper while recruiting an inclusive workforce. BY FRANK OTTO

The pipeline has attracted quality employees and improved retention. It worked so well that the basic model was modified to focus on helping fill job positions with Drexel’s outside vendors, such as Sodexo-MAGIC, which runs campus dining.

Just over 400 Drexel faculty and staff members live in West Philadelphia, and they make up roughly 8.4 percent of the University’s employees. Minorities make up at least 207 of those employees, approximately 51 percent of the West Philadelphians working at the University.

With last year’s opening of the Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships and the continuation of older job placement initiatives, Drexel is in a good position to keep those numbers growing. [D]

income for life

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Drexel’s hires from neighborhoods in West Philadelphia are at a nine-year high.
from the DAC

mind game
Golf takes astute patience and tremendous control, of both the body and mind. Junior finance major Chris Crawford has spent four years perfecting this formula and earned Drexel’s first-ever title of CAA Men’s Golfer of the Year. His secret? “Be in the moment.”

You don’t win at golf just by swinging straighter, hitting harder, driving cleaner. You win by thinking better.

“A big part of it is, what is going on in your head,” says Chris Crawford. “At a highly competitive level everyone can play, so you have to find something else, some mental strength: Staying focused, staying in the moment.”

Crawford should know. As the Bensalem, Pennsylvania, native enters his fourth year at Drexel, he has achieved a place among the top golfers on the college circuit today and recognition as Drexel’s first-ever Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Men’s Golfer of the Year.

It’s also the third year in which the 21 year old has received league honors, as he was named CAA Rookie of the Year and to the All-CAA Second Team in 2013. He finished in the Top 10 in every tournament he played in during the 2014–15 season and had a league-best average score of 71.76 over 25 rounds.

These are significant achievements in a game where so many variables can throw you off. Wind speed, the quality of the grass — such subtle points can cost a player a stroke here or there. As Crawford sees it, the way to overcome these obstacles begins with the mental game. His coach agrees.

“He has a good heart, good nerves. You have to have the skills, but you also need that mental capacity, and you’ve got to have heart;” says Mike Dynda, Drexel’s head golf coach, who has worked with Crawford steadily since the young golfer came to the University. “The first time I ever saw him play, I saw a maturity beyond his age. I saw someone with the ability to make decisions in the heat of the moment.”

When he isn’t on the links, Crawford has done his co-op work with Horsham, Pennsylvania-based Paragon Surety Group, a financial underwriter. As an accounting major, he’s found it to be a natural fit. “I have really enjoyed the finance classes at Drexel. I wasn’t a calculus guy growing up, but I like these applicable concepts with numbers. This makes sense to me,” he says.

Just as the hands-on nature of accounting appeals to him, it’s the practical nature of golf — connecting that club to the ball — that gets him most excited, more so than any of those awards.

“Honors like that are nice to get. It is nice to be recognized at the end of the season, but I don’t play for them necessarily,” he says. “You play as well as you can individually, and it is only going to help the team, but I don’t think about the awards when I am playing.”

Nor does Crawford spend much time worrying about the other players teeing off all around him. “I don’t really think about anyone else. I can only control what I am doing,” he says. “It can be nice to know where you stand on the leaderboard in a tournament, especially later on, but even then I can’t control what anyone else does. I can only control what I do, and if I feel like I have done that as well as I could, then I can live with the result.”

If the awards don’t motivate, and the competition does not distract, what is it that helps him to hone that mental game? How does he get himself into that unique zone of focus that makes winning possible? Three words: Practice, practice, practice.

“You have to have the work ethic, you have to practice constantly,” he says. That means a lot of time spent in Drexel’s indoor golf facility in the Daskalakis Athletic Center, where Crawford swings his clubs all through the winter, when outdoor play isn’t possible. “I play almost every day, hitting balls on the range, playing, putting, just mentally visualizing. So much of the game is just about repetition.”

So far all that repetition has led to repeated wins, and we are likely to see more as Crawford continues his stellar career. [D]
What’s it like for a team, in just three short years, to transform from the no-pressure underdogs to the second-best in the entire country?

“It’s surreal, to say the least,” says Maaez Veqar, president of Drexel’s Cricket Club and a LeBow College of Business junior.

Back in 2012 when it was established, the team was casual in nature, with low expectations.

“We just wanted to play cricket,” says Veqar. “So we joined American College Cricket, a league where 70-plus teams participate.”

It didn’t take long to see that just playing the game wasn’t enough.

“We played our first game against Princeton University,” Veqar recalls. “We were defeated by them and that’s when I realized that this is not a joke. The desire to win came after that loss. It did not feel good and we knew we had to step it up.”

Practices increased and the team was able to secure victories against the University of Pennsylvania, qualifying them for the 2013 American College Cricket Regionals.

Their stay in the regionals was short-lived, lasting just a game, but Veqar says Dragons showed “potential … in bits and pieces.”

Veqar also had a vision to “build Drexel as a name” in cricket, not just to increase the talent pool of his team, but to also build the University as a whole.

“I know for a fact that when a lot of students apply for colleges from countries like Australia, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and others, the first thing they look at after the school itself is whether it has a cricket team,” Veqar explains. “It’s in our blood. We love it.”

The team began to realize its potential when it qualified for the regionals again in 2014, and made it to the regional finals against the University of Maryland at Baltimore County, a Top 5 team in American College Cricket: the second-year players against a juggernaut.

“We knew it was going to be tough so we spoke about it in the team huddle and just said, ‘We are going to give them a fight,’” says Veqar. “We played an unbelievable final and just fell short of defeating them. It was heart-breaking but, at the same time, we were proud of ourselves.”
Keying off that success, Drexel’s team made it to the 2015 national tournament in March.

Happy to have come so far in such a short time, Veqar says they were fine with whatever result they achieved, as long as they played hard.

Drexel’s hard-nosed play turned into a semi-final match with the defending American College Cricket champions, the University of South Florida, then ranked first in the country. And, at first, it didn’t go well.

“We were getting hammered, as expected,” Veqar says. “But who knew we would fight back the way we did? We ended up winning the closest game we have ever played. We were in tears.”

“Two years ago, we lost to Princeton University, a team not even in the Top 40,” Veqar adds. “And that day, we defeated the No. 1 team. It was unbelievable.”

The Dragons didn’t win the championship against the University of Texas-Dallas, but Veqar’s squad achieved his goal — Drexel was now a name in the college cricket world.

“You can throw sticks, stones, hurdles, whatever you want, at the team, but they will come back stronger and prove that Drexel cricket is no joke,” Veqar says. “We were proud to wear the Drexel logo on our jerseys, we fought tooth-and-nail, and the journey wasn’t easy, but it was extremely memorable.”

Veqar knows the team has the talent to take the championship in March 2016.

“We always played with a nothing-to-lose mentality but this is the first time Drexel will be favorites to reach the finals,” he says. “I want to give the team the taste of victory, the pride of knowing that we are the champions. It’s the best feeling in the world.”

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Gift certificates available
Love was in the air and printed on the banners flying over Paine's Park on May 9, when a team of Drexel cohorts transformed the skateboard haven into a free all-day street festival full of live music, food, artists and even circus acts.

The LOTS fest — which stands for “Love on the Streets” festival — was the city's first-ever street festival in a skate park, and the organizers hope to make it an annual fundraising event that will raise donations for nontraditional youth education programs inspired by skate park activities.

“Without programs for these parks they’ll just become disheveled and no one will care about them,” says Joe Esposito '15, the executive producer of the event. “Many cities have lost their skate parks because they never put programming around them. So the ‘love on the streets’ is the love for the city and Philadelphia and it’s all geared toward making the park a loving and sustainable place.”

The idea for the festival was Esposito’s, a lifelong skateboarder and freshly minted graduate in entertainment and arts management from the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design. The festival is the culmination of his co-op last year with Franklin’s Paine Skatepark Fund, the nonprofit that builds and maintains skate parks throughout the city. There, Esposito gained the know-how to put together the ingredients for a good street fair while attending trade shows on FPSF's behalf.

The five members of the event team spent six months organizing the festival between classes at Drexel. Sitting in the bottom row: Matt Olenik '15, Aaron Harel '16, Emily Egan '15 and John Landers '16. Standing in the back row: Esposito and Mike Canals, the event co-producer.

Seven Philadelphia bands performed on a stage set up in the center of the skate bowl. The headline acts were the punk outfit Radiator Hospital and the electronica band Moon Bounce.

The skateboard-themed restaurant chain Wahoo’s served as the official food sponsor. Stationed along the periphery of the park were food trucks and art vendors that included Getup (The Electric Factory’s in-house artist) and the local artist MSM Soul.

An estimated 1,500 to 2,000 people visited the festival, and it all went perfectly, says Esposito. “There was no beef or any problem with anybody; it was just a very loving day,” he says. “I'm enthralled about how people were and the feedback we’re getting from people saying it was so well planned, and how smooth it was. I'd like to one day use this as my own business model and take this to other cities.”
**SHOW AND TELL**

EVERY YEAR, MORE THAN 5,200 STUDENTS DISCOVER THEIR CAREERS THROUGH THE DREXEL CO-OP PROGRAM — A SIGNATURE MODEL OF EDUCATION THAT BALANCES CLASSROOM THEORY WITH ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCE FROM A BUZZING NETWORK OF MORE THAN 1,600 EMPLOYERS IN 49 COUNTRIES. WHAT DOES A DREXEL CO-OP LOOK LIKE? WE ASKED SOME DRAGONS FRESH OFF THEIR MOST RECENT CO-OP TO SHOW US. — Katie Clark

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**FOR THE BIRDS**

ARAKS OHANYAN — 2015 GRAD, BIOLOGY

**THE CO-OP:** This co-op was with a Scarlet Macaw Reintroduction Project in Palenque, Mexico, which is an effort to boost populations of the endangered bird. I worked for the National Autonomous University of Mexico as a volunteer research assistant. I performed a variety of tasks including feeding and monitoring macaws, marking them for identification, fitting them with radio collars, and conducting ground and radio surveys to find out more about the macaws’ feeding behaviors, social behaviors and habitat selection.

**THE OBJECT:** My binoculars are the weapon of choice for many types of field research, and are absolutely essential for ornithological work. I also wore my field clothes. Field research is not a glamorous thing. We wear clothes that are comfortable and practical — hiking boots and quick-dry pants — for being in remote locations with variable conditions.

**THE TAKEAWAY:** I learned so many different skills during this co-op. I learned how to use specific types of equipment (telemetry units, radio collars, GPS technology), and I got hands-on experience working with and around macaws. There were very few people working on the project, so I was tasked with training four other volunteers. I also had a hand in developing protocols and routes for the different surveys we conducted. I also picked up some useful life skills along the way. Living in Mexico, I was forced to start speaking Spanish and communicating with non-English speakers almost immediately. It helped push me to better my Spanish and my communication skills, and to adapt to new cultures.

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**TEAM PLAYER**

MARCUS TATUM — PRE-JUNIOR, SPORT MANAGEMENT

**THE CO-OP:** I grew up around sports and learned a lot about life through sports — the ups and downs of it all. So, it was pretty cool to work as a team operations intern for the Philadelphia Union. I had a very big hand in practices, and I was also like an equipment manager. I had to make sure balls were pumped up, there was a lot of moving of equipment, and I had to make sure equipment was ready for practice as well as set up and break down the locker room before and after each game. On game days, I worked as the technical operations coordinator, which meant I was in charge of relaying information from the TV producers airing the game that day to the on-field officials about when to start the game or second half.

**THE OBJECT:** I brought a soccer ball and wore my uniform, which are soccer shorts and a training jersey that we would wear for practice.

**THE TAKEAWAY:** I learned that the players do a lot of work off the field, out in the community. I developed a close relationship with head coach Jim Curtin, who knew I’d be interested in coaching one day, so he gave me a lot of pointers, lot of advice, and a book filled with drills and stuff. It was all really cool to work with guys who I had idolized while growing up. I learned that even though this isn’t a 9-to-5 kind of profession, there is still a lot of hard work that goes into it.

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**BRIDGE BUILDER**

DANIELLE SCHROEDER — JUNIOR, CIVIL ENGINEERING

**THE CO-OP:** I worked for Pennoni Associates, a Philadelphia engineering firm, in the transportation division. I got to help with a variety of construction projects, including bridge reconstruction and rehabilitation projects.

**THE OBJECT:** A defining moment was going on my first bridge inspection, where I had to wear this high-visibility vest and hardhat. You can only learn so much from an office environment and CADD drawings. Being able to see a bridge in such detail — which is required for inspection — really put it all into perspective for me.

**THE TAKEAWAY:** One of the most important things I learned was time management; at any one time I had several projects I was working on with hard deadlines to manage and prioritize. I am staying on at Pennoni part-time as I continue my collegiate education, and I can absolutely see myself there after graduation.

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**BUGS UNDER GLASS**

VAUGHN SHIREY — JUNIOR, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

**THE CO-OP:** I worked in historical collections in the Entomology Department at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University as a research assistant. I was tasked with creating a specimen-level database for a portion of the collection, collected at Franklin Parker Preserve in New Jersey.

**THE OBJECT:** I chose a framed collection of Lepidoptera (butterfly and moth) wings because I think it’s important for people to connect to the insect world. Insects can be beautiful, they can be destructive, or even beneficial, but we don’t often think about them unless we run into a particularly infamous variety, like cockroaches. There’s also the element of curiosity that natural history collections are born from — being able to understand the natural world and why these beautiful wing patterns and colors evolved, for instance.

**THE TAKEAWAY:** My co-op inspired me to discover beauty and seek understanding in the insect world around us. I was able to see a project from initial stages through to completion and was even kept on as a staff member in the Entomology Department. I gained a lot of confidence in project management and development and a greater appreciation of natural history collections. It definitely steered my career interests toward similar work.
Drexel’s John Kounios and his collaborator were the first scientists to use brain scans to study how our minds make the leap from methodical thinking to sudden insight. In their new book, Kounios shares what they’ve learned about cultivating creativity.
When Drexel University Professor of Psychology John Kounios has a problem to solve, he takes a ride in the quiet car on the regional rail line for the 45-minute commute between his home in West Chester and Drexel’s University City Campus.

Leaning back in his seat, he dons special noise-cancelling headphones, slaps on his sunglasses and closes his eyes. No cellphone ringtones. No chatter of voices. No distractions, not even the rumble of the train nor the scenery streaking past the window.

Then, Kounios lets his thoughts wander.

In this relaxed state where the mind is most open, the affable, 58-year-old with a shock of gray hair allows associations to flow as he turns ideas over in his mind.

Often enough, he has what’s called a Eureka! or aha! moment, that sudden, unexpected answer — or through insightful thought — that is, a solution, not even the rumble of the train nor the scenery streaking past the window.

Kounios’ work on the neural basis of insight study. The electrode-laden cap is positioned on her cranium. Next, each electrode, including reference nodes behind her ears, is painstakingly filled with a conducting gel that ferries a small voltage from the scalp to the electrode.

Then, Truelove-Hill is shown a series of anagrams. For example, she sees the letters free, and comes up with reef. Or she sees endo, and finds done. After each try, she notes whether she arrived at the solution through insightful thought — that is, a sudden, unexpected answer — or through analytical thought, which requires methodically trying different options. Reef, she says, required analysis, but done just came to her.

All the while, her brain waves rise and fall like peaks and valleys on a mountain range on a nearby computer screen. Later, the researchers scan the waves for signals that stand out from the general noise of the working brain.

“It’s like panning for gold,” Kounios says. “You get rid of the junk and then you find that nugget.”

By now, most cognitive psychologists agree that insight is distinct from analytical thought, but when Kounios and Beeman met as researchers at the University of Pennsylvania in late 2000, skeptics in cognitive science were arguing that aha! moments were nothing more than emotional reactions to otherwise deliberate, analytical thoughts.

Kounios and Beeman believed something was different.

In what might now be regarded as an inspired choice, they decided to use brain scans to study a topic long explored only with behavioral experiments.

Each scientist brought his expertise to the lab. Kounios’ work on the neural basis of semantic memory (how people acquire, use and sometimes forget knowledge) involved EEG scans; Beeman was versed in functional MRI (fMRI, a method of measuring brain activity through changes in blood flow) through his study of language comprehension and the brain’s right hemisphere, which is used to draw together distantly related information.

The EEG can spot when things happen in the brain within milliseconds. But it’s not so
Below: Kounios uses this cap equipped with electrodes to create an electroencephalogram (EEG) record of brain wave patterns.
great with where. fMRI, however, can produce “exquisitely detailed” maps of where things are happening. Its limitation was in pinpointing when.

Put the two together, the researchers figured, and they might see what happens in the brain at the precise moment of insight.

The next challenge was to design an experiment to illuminate the instant when a person solved a problem with a sudden idea. After all, Kounios and Beeman couldn’t follow subjects around 24/7 hoping for epiphanies.

That’s where word puzzles came in. Consider pine, crab and sauce. Then figure out a common word that makes a familiar compound or phrase with each. (Spoiler alert: apple.)

These puzzles can be solved either with solutions that pop into the mind suddenly or through trial and error.

Each did the experiment in his own lab with a set of subjects and analyzed the data. Then the scientists traded brain scans. When the images were overlaid, what they saw was astounding in many ways.

“You couldn’t find a more perfect match,” Beeman says.

Here’s what the researchers uncovered: At the moment of insight, high-frequency EEG activity known as gamma waves occurred above the right ear. (Gamma waves represent cognitive processes that link together different pieces of information.) The fMRI showed a corresponding increase in blood flow in part of the brain’s right temporal lobe involved in making connections between ideas (think jokes or metaphors), as Beeman suspected.

The kicker: This activity was not present in analytical solutions to the word problems.

The two had discovered the pathway in the brain triggered during an aha! moment: a part of the right temporal lobe located just above the right ear, lights up when a flash of knowledge occurs.

“By showing that insights have a different neural correlate from analytical thought … we could show that insight is really different,” Kounios explains. “This sudden neural event occurs right about the time an idea pops into awareness.”

“When an idea pops into awareness, it seems to come from nowhere. But it’s not coming from nowhere. There are events in the brain that lead up to that aha! moment.”

JOHN KOUNIOS, DREXEL UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

“Around the lab, Kounios’ graduate students expect a lot of “Star Trek” quotes and ample puns. “John sees the humor in the struggle,” says Brian Erickson, a PhD candidate who is the lab manager and research coordinator. He describes his boss as Type A when it comes to research and doing it right “but interpersonally, he’s completely Type B” and democratic. “He really treats us like researchers, like colleagues even,” he says.
Their 2004 article in the journal *PLoS Biology* fired the public’s imagination. *The Times of London* proclaimed the discovery of the brain’s E-spot, E standing for Eureka!

“John is one of the leading EEG researchers in the world,” says James D. Herbert, dean of Drexel’s new Graduate College and former head of the Psychology Department.

He points out that EEG has often been the stepchild of fMRI, even though it is considerably cheaper to use. “What he is brilliant at is using EEG to address questions that everyone else is using much more expensive technology to address,” says Herbert.

In fact, Kounios is finding more ways to translate his work into inexpensive, real-world applications.

He’s investigating how to use EEGs as an early screening test for conditions as diverse as Alzheimer’s disease and obesity. Another project underway applies EEG to the emerging field of neuro-marketing to better predict consumer interest in products.

“It’s in keeping with the Drexel way: Doing things in the most efficient way possible,” says Herbert.

**Beyond the E-Spot**

Kounios has taught introductory and graduate-level courses, but his first love is research, and he and Beeman, who moved to Northwestern in 2002, have continued to collaborate, with some interesting results.

One study showed that a couple of seconds before a puzzle is presented to a subject, the brain engages in different activity depending upon whether that individual ultimately solves the problem insightfully or analytically. Another documented that even during a resting brain state, distinct areas light up, pushing subjects toward one type of thought or other. “We’re getting very consistent results,” Kounios says. “When an idea pops into awareness, it seems to come from nowhere. But it’s not coming from nowhere. There are events in the brain that lead up to that aha! moment.”

Going forward, the scientists want to explore the influence of genetics on creativity and what other factors, besides mood and anxiety, might play a role.

Currently, Kounios has a proposal out that will look at whether people who have a track record of creative accomplishment tend to move back and forth between insight and analysis more often than the average person.

Most people have a predilection. Kounios says he favors insight. But true success, of course, demands measures of both. Every great idea needs an analytical workhorse to make it happen. And the most methodical person will never achieve significant progress without a dose of spur-of-the-moment creativity.

“The Eureka Factor” is replete with interesting examples. Did you know that Paul McCartney keeps a piano bedside to try out ideas that come to him in the middle of the night? Judah Folkman, a cancer surgeon and researcher, created the new field of angiogenesis around his insight that cancer tumors need a substantial blood supply to grow. “The West Wing” creator Aaron Sorkin says he overcomes writer’s block by taking six or more showers a day, as a way to cut off distractions.

For the rest of us, Kounios suggests three strategies to stimulate creativity:

1. **Stay positive.** A good mood has a powerful effect on creativity, he says.
2. **Focus inward.** Take time outs to recharge, even if only for a split second.

When his book, *The Eureka Factor*, was published in 2000, Kounios didn’t consider it a success. He had hoped it would show up on the bestseller lists and make it big. But sales were low. It stuck.

But his book was a first. His next book, *The Eureka Factor: The New Science of Insight*, was a smash hit. It sold over a million copies worldwide. For Kounios, one of the leading EEG researchers in the world, the book was the result of years of work and research. And it was a significant achievement for him.

When John Kounios started out, there was no name for the field of science he has helped shape. The term “Eureka!” was coined in ancient Greece to describe an insight. And in the late-1980s, when Kounios began looking at the functional aspects of the brain, the field he ultimately pursued — cognitive neuroscience — did not even exist. It wasn’t until the development of neuroimaging in the mid- to late-1980s that scientists began looking at the functional aspects of the brain.

After a post-doc at Princeton University, where he explored the origins of memory, Kounios joined Tufts University in 1987 as an assistant professor. Eventually, he made his way to the University of Pennsylvania in 1996 as a research associate professor and soon became director of the Cognitive Electrophysiology Lab at the school’s Institute for Research in Cognitive Science.

There, Kounios had his own Eureka! Insight, he realized, would be an ideal new field to explore. While creativity, including insight, had been studied for decades, nothing had been done on the neural basis of the process. By 2003, Kounios was recruited to Drexel, by none other than his grad-school friend Papadakis. Within a year, he and Beeman had published their discovery.

Kounios delighted in playing the piano, which he occasionally still does, but figured he’d “have a better shot at not starving” by pursuing psychology as a career.

**Train of Thought**

When John Kounios started out, there was no name for the field of science he has helped shape and define. In fact, few people believed that insight was even a topic worthy of study.

As an undergraduate at Haverford College, this son of a banker and schoolteacher knew he wanted to double major in psychology and music theory and composition.

Kounios delighted in playing the piano, which he occasionally still does, but figured he’d “have a better shot at not starving” by pursuing psychology as a career.
Drexel’s Photography Program combines deep visual literacy with the practical proficiencies to prosper in an era when everyone’s a photographer. By Michael Bucher
Paul Runyon takes a couple of steps back and views his handiwork. Equipped with a power drill, screws, tape measure and level, the director of Drexel’s Photography program methodically hangs students’ work — 16 portfolios of about eight images each, side by side, perfectly level. It’s the day before the opening of Drexel’s annual Senior Thesis Exhibition, and he fills the jigsaw-puzzle-like walls inside Drexel’s Leonard Pearlstein Gallery with a curator’s eye, as he used to back in New York City’s prestigious Light Gallery where he once displayed photographs from greats such as Harry Callahan and Emmet Gowin.

Once complete, the exhibition gleams with professional polish. The collection (partially represented in this layout) is diverse and beautifully arrayed, including portraits, landscapes and still lifes; in black and white and color, naturally and artificially lit.

On display is the capstone of nine months of independent study and four years of visual training. In quality, the images are a reflection of the program’s fine art aspirations, while also symbolizing its pragmatism — these portfolios will be the students’ calling cards as they pursue careers after graduation.
Anyone teaching or studying photography today must answer to changes in the field over the past five to 10 years.

The megapixel arms race among smartphone manufacturers has meant that nearly everyone carries a highly capable camera in their pocket everywhere they go. Instagram’s 300 million active users have uploaded over 30 billion photos. Facebook users upload 300 million images a day. Flickr holds nearly 350 million images in its public Creative Commons domain alone, plus billions more in private accounts. Digital photography, mobile apps and the Internet have made photos cheap to produce, simple to edit and fast to deliver.

Never has it been so seemingly easy for an untrained amateur to take arresting photographs. So why should anyone spend four or five years of college studying photography?

It’s a question Runyon often hears from prospective students and parents during open houses. After all, some traditional photography careers — staff photojournalism, stock photography, some forms of editorial — have changed significantly. And lower barriers to entry have drawn eager, albeit untested, competitors into certain segments of the industry.

But at the same time, visual communication has never been more important, and the cream, as they say, always rises to the top.

“Photography is in many ways becoming the new English 101,” says Runyon. “If people are not literate in visual communication it will be harder for them to succeed; it’s becoming as common in many ways as using Word or Excel.”

Visual literacy — the conceptual framework of an image — sets the pro photographers apart from the dilettantes. Technology has simplified picture-taking techniques, but that doesn’t mean people understand or are aware of the messages their pictures convey. Composition, framing, light and context convey clues about the image that may not be obvious to the untrained viewer. Conversely, a photographer who understands the history of the medium can reference that history to create a powerful image that resonates in fresh ways.

Imagine, for example, the lighting and style of a 17th-century Dutch vanitas — a style of painting meant to remind viewers of life’s futility and brevity — applied to a contemporary photo series depicting addiction.

“The world has enough photos of pretty sunsets,” quips Runyon. “It’s very easy for someone to make a very technically perfect, but uninformed picture.”

Runyon has kept Drexel abreast of changes in the field by furnishing up-to-date photo facilities and hiring instructors well versed in both the artistic and commercial sides of the business. Under his leadership over the past 15 years, he has expanded the program’s reach from a local institution to a national one, with students graduating this year from California, Florida, Hawaii, Texas and Virginia.

He proudly puts his students’ work on par with nationally respected programs like Columbia College in Chicago, the School of Visual Arts in New York and Rochester Institute of Technology.

Photography majors study a curriculum heavy in art history, photo history and design — as well as courses on the business of photography to ready them to negotiate rates and estimate shoots as independent artists.
They have at their disposal a photography facility lavishly equipped with diverse and first-rate gear, including professional Canon DSLR cameras, 4x5 field cameras, Hasselblads, and professional studio lighting equipment. Students can print in the program’s one surviving darkroom—an increasingly rare opportunity; Drexel once had nine—or at the 50 digital workstations networked with professional Epson printers.

The combined focus on art history, design and technical skill prepares graduates to go on to become advertising, editorial, architectural, wedding and portrait photographers; photo editors; artists; documentarians; gallery curators; educators and art directors, to name a few common paths.

“I tell people, ‘We are not an art school, and we are not just a technical school. We are both; we blend the worlds of art and commerce together,’” says Runyon.

He rattles off names of successful alumni. An art director for Fast

NOAH ADDIS ’97

Career Migrant

For 11 years, Noah Addis practiced photojournalism at the respected Star-Ledger in Newark, racking up three New Jersey Press Photographer of the Year awards and a team Pulitzer Prize.

But as the newspaper industry shrank, he took a buyout in 2008 and embarked on a career of independent documentary projects. His transition was made easier because his photography professors always pushed him to do work outside of his comfort zone, he says. “At the time, I didn’t appreciate how important this was, but my time at Drexel taught me to grow and adapt even years after graduation,” he says.

He was part of a group commissioned by the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts in collaboration with fellow photographer Brian Cohen to photograph the effects of the Marcellus Shale gas industry—work which became a travelling exhibition.

He’s now building a collection of photos supported by artist grants that document the effects of urban migration around the world, called Future Cities. The idea for the project first came to him when he was in Lagos, Nigeria, for an assignment for The Star-Ledger. Traveling from the airport, he was moved by the sight of the city’s immense slums, which made him think about the social and economic processes that form such communities. When finished, he intends to publish a book of the photographs.

“Photographic technology has changed tremendously since I graduated, but the faculty emphasized that photography is all about ideas,” he says. “They encouraged the importance of developing a personal photographic vision. Those skills are still as relevant as ever.”
About a third of alumni find ways to use their skills without touching a camera — doing design work, photo editing, or representation of other photographers, for example.

“Our alumni do quite well in terms of outcome,” says Runyon. “Because of the way we teach, along with the applied/technical skills they receive in our program, the range of careers they go on to pursue is quite varied.”

Runyon’s ideas about photography come from a long career bouncing between art and commercial photography, built on the foundation of a BFA in photography from the University of New Mexico.

“That education made me extremely literate about the history of the medium and taught me the importance of having a very deep visual resource to draw from,” he says. “Without that resource to draw from, you’re just going to reinvent the wheel.”

After graduation, he went to New York City and worked in one of the world’s first premier photo galleries, Light Gallery. After a stint running the Photography Place Gallery in Philadelphia, his independent spirit took over and he opened his own advertising photography studio. For 17 years, Runyon produced commercial work for Fortune 500 clients.

Runyon sees many reasons to be excited about being a photographer today. For one, the cost to launch a photography business is a fraction of the $100,000 investment it cost him to open his Old City commercial studio in 1986. Today, he says, photographers can work based on their talents and vision, not on their ability to own and operate expensive equipment. He says that the opportunities that exist today in advertising, architecture, pharmaceutical, fashion and wedding photography are some of the best he’s seen.

“If somebody’s willing to put in the effort, they can do it,” he says.

In some ways, things are easier than they used to be. One old barrier that has fallen is the wall between photographers and commercial buyers like Cali Capodici, who hires photographers for 10 to 15 shoots a year for Digitas, the largest advertising agency in Philadelphia. Every year, she teaches an adjunct class at Drexel to help students market their portfolios commercially.

“It is much easier to get your work in front of people like me at minimal cost,” Capodici says. “Gone are the days of cold calling and sending a letter to someone via snail mail. I can go to a website and immediately get a sense for who a photographer is as an artist instead of having to call in a portfolio to review.”

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**ALISON MEYER ’03**

**Photographers’ Friend**

Alison Meyer enrolled at Drexel intending to become a photographer, but her co-op experience set her on the path of art photography representation and production instead, and now she uses her training to help other photographers market themselves.

Her co-op was with Frank Meo at his New York City photo agency, Meo Represents, where she learned about creating estimates, photo shoot production and photography representation.

Through her connection with Meo, she landed a job at Getty Images, one of the largest assignment and stock photo agencies in the world. By the time she left six years later, she was representing award-winning photojournalists in one of the agency’s boutique brands, Reportage by Getty Images.

What followed was a short stint at VII Photo, an elite international photojournalism agency where, in addition to photographer representation, she also managed negotiating sales and licensing, commissioned photo assignments and targeted new business prospects. A year later, she was introduced to Pat Bates, the owner of a lifestyle photography agency in New York City. Bates found her through a mutual business connection and offered Meyer a job to represent a roster of eight photographers.

“You learned how to look at a photograph objectively,” Meyer says of her training at Drexel. “That’s something I’ve learned to take with me and apply to my job.”
At Digitas, it’s not unheard for a complex, all-rights, on-location photo shoot to bill out at up to half a million dollars — but those big jobs don’t go to unproven people.

“It’s a much more competitive field now, because everyone thinks they are a photographer,” she says, “but the talented ones can and do create thriving careers in the industry. A successful commercial photographer can make a very good living well into the six figures.”

The art market is thriving, also.

Runyon recalls that when he worked at Light Gallery in the late ’70s, Ansel Adams landscapes sold for $500 apiece and prints by Harry Callahan, one of the most important photographers of the 20th century, were selling for $450 (around $2,500 in today’s dollars).

It’s now routine for photographers with gallery representation to sell pictures for between $10,000 and $20,000 apiece, he says. Digital technology helped to make that possible — it has become easier to reproduce high-resolution prints on large scale, which puts them on par with media such as paintings.

Photographers today also have more freedom to straddle genres. It’s no longer unusual to see photojournalists exhibiting in an art gallery, for instance, or art photographers producing corporate images.

“Twenty years ago, the idea that advertising photographers like Jill Greenberg would have shows in galleries would have been implausible,” says Runyon, referring to Greenberg’s show this past winter at ClampArt Gallery in New York City. “No one would have considered that a possibility because they were two
different worlds."

When Runyon had an opening in 2005 for a new professor, he looked nationwide for someone who would fortify the program’s balance of art practice with commercial preparedness and help students thrive in either world. With 200 applications, Runyon decided on Andrea Modica, a fine art photographer specializing in an 8x10 view camera and a 19th-century process called platinum printing.

She’s published numerous books of her personal photo projects and exhibitions across the world, but she also handles more routine projects such as annual reports and fundraising books for groups like the American Indian College Fund, as well as assignments for The New York Times Magazine, Newsweek and Time.

“She knows how to do assignment-based work using her style,” says Runyon. “That is critical to the mission we have here.”

In an age where students might otherwise feel pressure to use the latest technology to be relevant, Modica embodies Drexel’s emphasis on the end result, not the tool. Through weekly critques and open class discussion, her students learn how to make judgments about the elements within the photograph and get feedback on the messages that their images convey — intended or not.
Modica recalls an incident from earlier in her teaching career when a student presented images of nude female figures superimposed onto a giant male hand, unaware that women in the class would find the image offensive. They saw it as a depiction of domination and control; he just thought it looked cool.

“Photography really makes us face what we might think to be the case and what really is the case,” explains Modica. “You teach that by requiring the students to stick to a language that can only be applied to things they can point to in the picture.”

To achieve this level of visual sophistication, seniors spend their entire fourth year producing a single portfolio — the Senior Thesis. Such intense focus on the ideas underlying a body of images can lead to striking creative breakthroughs.

Modica recalls how one senior, Taylor Pick, hunted for a topic that resonated with her. Pick eventually decided on flowers and plants — a subject that’s extremely challenging to portray in a fresh way. Her early attempts were in full color and heavily lit, bursting with clichés of that genre. Over the course of the year, she experimented with styles until she found her own.

“[Modica] made larger connections between what I was photographing and what I was trying to achieve,” says Pick. “It became more enjoyable because I knew where I was going and she encouraged me no matter what.”

In the middle of winter term, Pick came to Modica’s office and laid out a portfolio of flowing black-on-white leaves, pods and stalks — simple, minimalist and arresting. On display was the growth and perseverance a photographer must discover to make satisfying work — it brought both to tears.

“I know with my own work that turning those corners never ends.”

JEFFREY STOCKBRIDGE ’05
DIY Documentarian

In the 10 years since graduating from Drexel’s Photography program, Jeffrey Stockbridge has catapulted himself from apprentice to entrepreneur, printer and acclaimed documentarian. In 2006, while assisting his former co-op employer, an architectural photographer, he earned fellowships from the Center for Emerging Visual Artists and the Independence Foundation Fellowship in the Arts, providing him a handful of exhibitions and a $10,000 grant. With the grant, he bought an inkjet printer and used what he’d learned at Drexel to make great prints. When the first show opened, Stockbridge had 14 framed prints from his project on abandoned spaces in Philadelphia ranging in size from 24”x30” to 40”x50” — and a bill totaling $20,000.

“It was a challenging experience because it was something a lot of people might have been freaked out by,” he says. “To invest that much in yourself as an artist, you have to be a little crazy.”

The quality of the prints impressed people so much they started hiring him for printing jobs, accidently starting his printing business, Stockbridge Fine Art Print.

Next, he began a critically acclaimed documentary project about a former working-class neighborhood now known for drugs and prostitution, called “Kensington Blues.” He is finished shooting the project and working on publishing the book himself after frustratingly finishing runner-up four years in a row for a photography book award.

“I’m making my book dummies and I’m going to be psyched on them,” says Stockbridge. “It’ll take more time and cost more money, but at least I’ll get it done.”
“I go through periods of working and working and feeling like I’ll never get to the next level where I’m surprised again. And then it happens. It’s like turning a corner and bumping into your destiny.”

A distinguishing feature of Drexel’s Photography program is, of course, Drexel’s Co-op program. Students typically spend half of their junior year working for a private employer. No brief internship, the co-op is a six-month immersion in the field.

Runyon, Professor Stuart Rome (who built Drexel’s initial Photography program in 1985 and recruited Runyon in 1996) and Modica have employer contacts across the country in fashion, advertising, architecture, museums, galleries, nonprofits and magazine publishing.

Last year, Runyon helped Mikaela Wegerhoff ’15 land a co-op with New York editorial photographer Jeff Riedel. Equipped with technical training in digital film scanning and image processing, Wegerhoff was able to digitize a huge collection of the photographer’s earlier negatives. The collection — now featured online — is being published into a book.

“Photographers are willing to take Drexel students on because they have useful, real-world skills,” says Runyon. “The six-month co-op allows our students to make a significant contribution to the

DANA LEONETTI ’05
Designer Devotee
Dana Leonetti wasn’t sure where photography would lead her, but while studying it at Drexel she took classes in digital retouching and inkjet printing that ended up defining her career much more than a camera.

While still in school she followed her interest in magazines by landing an editorial internship at Seventeen magazine, where she joined sets for photo shoots and photographed street fashion for articles. When graduation came, her experience with retouching and printing quickly landed her a job at the Cartoon Bank, an offshoot of The New Yorker that sold published and unpublished cartoons from the magazine.

As her interests shifted more toward graphic design, she joined Vanity Fair as a designer and worked her way up to associate art director. She stayed with the magazine for five years building concepts, producing photo shoots for special advertising sections and designing other marketing material. After a stint with another Condé Nast title, Self, she arrived at Fast Company, where she is currently the marketing art director.

In September, she oversaw the week-long 20th anniversary of the magazine’s Innovation Festival in New York City, which hosts thousands of creatives and innovators for talks, workshops and tours.
explaining the reasoning for an advertising portfolio development course.

The new course helps students, especially those focused on fine art, to think realistically about how their pictures can function commercially.

One graduating senior, Sydney Arroyo ’15, brought to Capodici a body of work featuring older people posed in crafted tableaus designed to throw into question the implied reality in a photograph — a fine art project. When Capodici saw the images, she advised Arroyo that they had potential to earn her pharmaceutical jobs, a market Capodici works with regularly.

“The class emphasized how you should hold yourself professionally and how to be taken seriously,” recalls Arroyo. “She was the extra push you need to get on your feet and be like, ‘OK, I’m going to be OK after I graduate. I’m still terrified, but I’m going to be fine.’”

Mike Froio ’01 parlayed his personal interest in photographing the trains, rails and landscapes of the Pennsylvania Railroad into a job for Conrail making a video documentary of the rebuilding of a freight train bridge on the Delaware River.

Recalling the three-day video shoot, he says the November weather was so cold, that in the middle of the night, he had to drive to a nearby drugstore to get heating pads to prevent his hard drives from shutting down. Despite the difficulties, he says the job never felt like work because it was so closely related to his personal photo project.

“With your personal work, you try to figure out how to make it interesting for you without making it eye candy,” says Froio, who now works at Drexel as the photo department facility manager and an adjunct professor. “With commercial work, it’s about how to satisfy the client’s need and get that same gratification the personal work gives you.”

On the walls of Runyon’s office hang some of his personal work — color photographs from the American West, a landscape he fell in love with in college.

Every spring, he and half a dozen student photographers fly into Las Vegas to spend 10 days photographing national parks such as Capitol Reef, Arches and Canyonlands. It’s not a vacation but a lesson on climate change and industrial tourism. Students make pictures along areas of Lake Mead that were once 100 feet below water. They photograph the parched earth. They record the evidence of devastating wildfires. As they were taught to do in their classrooms back in Philadelphia, they practice using photography to express thoughts on something meaningful. Changing landscapes. Development. Ecology.

“I want the students to understand it’s a very easy place to make Ansel Adams-type pictures. It’s really easy to come away with sunsets. But the reality is quite different,” says Runyon. “You have to get past that impulse to take those [pretty] pictures and go to areas that are more important.”
S arah Stolfa — the raven-haired, elaborately inked doyenne of the Philadelphia Photo Arts Center — rules an airy former warehouse in the Crane Arts Building of Kensington that is home to a special art organization.

Stolfa dreamed up the PPAC six years ago, soon after finishing an education in photography and fine art. She imagined an all-in-one digital photo lab, gallery space and educational organization — a place for artists to display their work and for novices to learn about photography and access technology to improve their craft.

Nothing like it existed outside of university programs.

One of the first people she went to for advice about her idea was Stuart Rome, an influential photography professor with deep roots in Drexel’s Photography program.

“You know what this is going to do to you as an artist, right?” he asked, remembering firsthand the toll it took on him to help design the Photography program at Drexel in the ’80s.

“I know, but I’m OK with that,” she told him. “I don’t think it’ll be like that forever.”

Stolfa, who already had a 2005 degree in photography from Drexel, had just graduated from Yale with an MFA in photography in 2008. In 2009, she published a book of portraits that she’d started while at Drexel — and which won her the New York Times Magazine College Photography Contest — called “The Regulars.” Based on portraits of bar patrons she served as a bartender at Philadelphia’s McGlinchey’s Tavern, the photo series combines the lighting, depth and detail of 17th-century Dutch paintings with contemporary commentary on social isolation. An artistic career awaited her, but Stolfa had a lot of ideas she wanted to see through first.

In her heart, she worried that investing her energy in running an organization would stifle her creative work. On top of that, she had plans to start a family. But Rome was moved by her desire to give back to Philadelphia and agreed to help get the project off the ground. Stolfa reasoned that she was laying the foundation for an organization that could someday live on without her.

Now passing its five-year milestone, the PPAC has become a fixture in Philadelphia’s photographic community, host to an annual photo day popular with the public and regular classes and photographic exhibitions. The space has doubled and the full-time staff has grown from two to five. It has attracted a robust 16-person board of trustees made up of successful businesspeople, doctors and photographers. The budget this year approaches $1 million, up almost tenfold from year one.

“The challenge when we opened was getting support and getting people in the door on little resources,” recalls Stolfa.

Today, the problem isn’t getting people in the door; it’s finding room for them all. The Free After School Teen Program, of which Stolfa is particularly proud, has too many applicants. Stolfa faces adding a second section to fit demand, but she is unsure exactly how.

“We need an extra $10,000 because we need an instructor and teaching assistant and a couple more books or we have to turn kids away,” she says. “And that’s not success to me. We’re not turning kids away.”

Her commitment hasn’t always been easy on her. During the first year, she was teaching a class and pregnant with her first child when she thought she felt contractions. Her doctor’s office told her to come in immediately.

“I hung up, and then was like, I’m gonna finish teaching this class,” she says, determined not to let her students down.

When she finally arrived at the hospital, she was in preterm labor and ended up hospitalized for five days (the doctors were able to interrupt the labor and she went on to deliver at full term).

She has since pulled back from most teaching, but one class is special. It’s a project-based group that has been meeting for two and a half years. One of her students, a freelance writer named Debbie Lerman, has pushed herself especially hard to make better work. It’s paid off, earning Lerman a Fleisher Art Memorial Wind Challenge and a solo show in 2017.

“When she came in here, she was making simple, cliché pictures,” says Stolfa. “She’s very open to experimenting and pushed her way through stuff.”

Lerman says Stolfa is different from other instructors she’s had in classes at Fleisher Art Memorial and University of the Arts. From Stolfa, she gets honest feedback.

“That was so refreshing because in the classes I’d taken before, everyone wanted to be real positive,” says Lerman, “which is great for confidence but not great for making progress.”

This fall, PPAC will host its 6th annual Philly Photo Day — an outreach program collecting thousands of photos from mainly amateur photographers throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. Although growing in popularity, Philly Photo Day will take a hiatus next year because Stolfa fears it’s becoming the only thing PPAC is known for. What PPAC provides for the community is always changing, she says. She believes art education and photography are evolving disciplines and it’s her mission to adapt with the needs of local artists.

“If we’re still doing well and relevant — that’s my goal,” says Stolfa. “What that means in 10 years, your guess is as good as mine.”

By Michael Bucher

a ‘regular’ job

SIX YEARS AFTER VENTURING INTO THE WORLD OF BUSINESS TO OPEN A CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY, SARAH STOLFA ’15 IS DOING ALMOST TOO WELL — THE ARTIST IN HER WILL HAVE TO WAIT A BIT LONGER TO RETURN TO THE LENS. By Michael Bucher
1960s

Bruce Maryanoff, BS chemistry ’69, PhD ’72, and Cynthia Mildwski Maryanoff, BS chemistry ’72, were honored with the 2015 Community Commitment Award by the Hepatitis B Foundation on April 17, 2015.

Thomas Leonard, BS business administration ’68, was selected for inclusion in the 2015 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers in the area of business litigation.

Virginia Raynes Lund, BS physics ’69, received the Golden Violet Award from Sigma Sigma Sigma as a result of her 50 years of membership. She is treasurer of the Nashville alumnae chapter.

Stewart Weintraub, BS business administration ’68, was named a 2015 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer for the 12th year in a row.

1970s

Joanne Barone Dragun, BS home economics ’72, MD medicine ’88, was elected to the Board of Chancellors of the American College of Radiation Oncology.


Catherine Mercer Bing, BS education and sociology ’71, wrote the book “Many Cultures, One Team: Build Your Cultural Repertoire.”

Cynthia Mildwski Maryanoff, BS chemistry ’72, and Bruce Maryanoff, BS chemistry ’69, PhD ’72, were honored with the 2015 Community Commitment Award by the Hepatitis B Foundation on April 17, 2015.

1980s

Kirk Coughlin Simmet, BS finance ’84, was elected president of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Payroll Association for a second term.

Michael DellaVecchia, MS biomedical engineering and science, PhD ’84, was sworn in as the Philadelphia County Medical Society’s 154th president.

William Leonard, BS accounting ’81, was selected for inclusion in 2015 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers in the area of business litigation.

Margo Noyovitz Orlin, MPT physical therapy ’86, PhD ’03, received the American Physical Therapy Association’s Catherine Worthingham Fellow Award.

Balachandar Rajaraman, MS electrical engineering ’89, was given the distinction of IBM Fellow, the company’s most prestigious technical honor.

David Shulkin, MD medicine ’86, president of the Morristown Medical Center in New Jersey, was sworn in as the undersecretary of health for Veterans Affairs. Shulkin was nominated for the position by President Obama.

Catherine Swift Sennett, BS humanities and communications ’80, received the 2015 Philadelphia SmartCEO Brava! Award.

Drew Techtner, BS humanities and communications ’89, was promoted to police captain in the Philadelphia Police Department. Techtner was honored with the Distinguished Achievement Award at the Philadelphia Chapter Conference of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and was selected as Reserve Force Officer of the Year.

Natalie A. Webb, BS dietetics ’85, was recognized as a Fellow by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

1990s

Anne Bowen-Long, MBA business administration ’95, was elected secretary for Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta.

Anthony Bracali, BA architecture ’99, appeared on the Philadelphia Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 list for having created some of Philadelphia’s most popular places as owner of Friday Architects/Planners Inc.

Agnieszka Dusza Lapinski, BS architectural engineering ’95, BS civil engineering ’95, MS ’00, was named a senior associate of Gannett Fleming in the firm’s Mount Laurel, New Jersey, office.

Gina Furia Rubel, BS corporate communication ’91, received the Four Way Test Award in the business category from the Rotary Club of Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Jason H. Gart, BS history and politics ’94, was appointed vice president and director of litigation research at History Associates Incorporated in Rockville, Maryland.
Lisa Gensemer Pflaumer, BS history and politics ’91, joined the Hill at Whitemarsh, a continuing-care retirement community in Philadelphia, as director of sales.

Paul K. Johnson, BS marketing ’92, MBA business administration ’02, received a 25-year coaching award from the American Baseball Coaches Association.

Jim Lanzalotto, MBA business administration ’93, is senior vice president of the Staffing & Health Care Vertical at Monster.


Glenn Stambo, MD medicine ’91, authored a chapter in the 2015 edition of the textbook “Urgent Interventional Therapies” titled, “Catheter Interventions in Acute Ischemia of Upper Extremities.”


Todd Zino, BS computer science ’99, co-founder and former chief technology officer of Wallaby Financial Inc., sold his company to Bankrate Inc.

2000s

Daphne Brooks, BS behavioral health counseling ’09, published her first children’s book “Kennedy’s Big Visit.”

Jason Burgess, BS history and politics ’02, participated in Race Across America, riding across country for RedRover, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance to pet owners and animals in need.

Jessica Coughlin Sharp, BS communications ’02, founder of Maven Communications, joined Gift of Life Family House’s Advisory Board to support its mission of providing temporary and affordable housing to patients and their families who travel to Philadelphia to receive treatment.

Elizabeth Flanagan McNichol, MBA business administration ’06, was promoted to partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers’ Philadelphia Metro market.

Roger Giles, BS electrical engineering ’06, was hired as manager of power services and lead electrical engineer for Gannett Fleming.

David B. Gornish, BS mechanical engineering ’01, joined the intellectual property law firm Caesar Rivise as partner.

Donald Gusic, BS civil engineering ’01, was named Transportation Engineer of the Year for 2015 by the Philadelphia section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Charis Jones, BS psychology ’08, MPH public health ’10, left her position as a director of development in the Washington, D.C., area to pursue her singing career.

Sandra Oliver, MS science of instruction ’03, is principal at Mechanicsville Elementary School in Maryland.

Alexande Rice, BA architecture ’02, joined the architecture firm Archer & Buchanan. Rice was also named Citizen of the Year by the Philadelphia Inquirer for being a “unifying force” and an “inspiration for the City” as the coach and manager of the Taney Dragons little league team.

Stephanie Salerno, BS graphic design ’07, was the lead designer on the logo and website design for Thea’s Star of Hope.

BABY DRAGONS

Kimberlee Tomevi, MS special education ’12, and Justin Tomevi, JD law ’12, welcomed a son, Luke Alexander, in April 2015.

Dayton (Charlie) Cooper IV, MS library and information science ’12, accepted a position at Cumberland County Library in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Peter D. Coyl, MS library and information science ’10, was promoted to district manager at the Dallas Public Library. Coyl also began his year term as chair of the American Library Association’s Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Round Table.

Jesse Moore, MPH public health ’10, is Duke University’s swimming and diving assistant coach and director of recruiting and communication.

To submit your Class Note for the next issue of Drexel Magazine, email Lara Geragi at lec36@drexel.edu.
WEDDINGS

Michael Byzon, MPH '11, and Jolene Nieves, MS public communication '11, were married on March 28, 2015.

Farah Dailey, MS sport management '10, and Lanette Reese-Jones, MS higher education '10, were married on July 23, 2011.

George Daisey Jr., BS chemical engineering '88, and Sherrie Lee Morris, AS nursing '97, BS '98, were married on Dec. 7, 2014.

Brent Schrader, BS civil engineering '11, and Lydia Smith, BS interior design '12, were married on April 18, 2015.

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The Beautiful and the Deadly
REPTILES
Sept. 30–Jan. 10

Get eyeball to eyeball with live deadly snakes, colorful lizards, bizarre turtles, and rugged crocodilians from around the world. Nestled in naturalistic habitats, these cold-blooded animals will help dispel common myths and foster a basic understanding of how reptiles fit into the animal kingdom and their native environments.

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1920s
Ann N. Moyer Zeltz, AS nursing ’29

1930s
Dorothy Darlington Mastriena, RN nursing ’31
Margaret Gawthrop Fagan, DC secretarial ’37
Mary Lawson Hardie, DC library science ’38
Robert Lazovitz, BS civil engineering ’34
Eunice Levy Magill, BS home economics ’36
A. Kathryn Oller, DC library science ’39
Jane Riley Sloan, DC secretarial ’36

1940s
Catherine Albrecht Lehman, BS home economics ’40
Grace R. Ashburn Grimes, RN nursing ’47
Marilyn Barr Ord, BS home economics ’45
Stella Y. Botelho, MD unknown ’49
Sol Cohen Rosenbaum, DC library science ’40
Eleanor Concerios Thomas, RN nursing ’45
Jean Day Bickley, BS home economics ’48
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Fay Turovsketsky Cooperhouse, BS home economics ’46, MS ’50
James H. Wallace, BS business administration ’49
Grace Ward Peterson, DC secretarial ’49
Catherine Elizabeth White Kudler, RN nursing ’46
Helen E. Wolfe Merrill, DC secretarial ’47
Sol Zechter, BS electrical engineering ’48

1950s
Virginia Ashworth Sternberg, DC library science ’50
John W. Beaston, BS business administration ’57, MBA business administration ’69
Wesley C. Bising, BS mechanical engineering ’52
Elizabeth Brown O’Brien, BS business administration ’50
Jean Bryson McCracken, BS home economics ’50
Edmund A. Carlson, BS commerce and engineering ’58
Roy Case, BS business administration ’50
Thomas A. Cetola, BS business administration ’56
Anthony A. Cetrone, BS electrical engineering ’57
Vincent E. Chiaverini, BS mechanical engineering ’57
John A. Ciarrocchi, BS electrical engineering ’55, MS ’64
Raymond Clark, MS electrical engineering ’56
John C. Clydesdale, BS metallurgical engineering ’56
Joanne Colt McGowan, BS home economics ’55
Robert J. Conlon, DC electrical engineering ’59, BS ’61, MS ’61
Donald C. Craft, BS mechanical engineering ’56
James A. Daniels, BS electrical engineering ’57
Justin T. DiGirolamo, DC mechanical engineering ’55, BS ’55
Eugene T. Dotts, BS civil engineering ’50, MBA business administration ’56
Ralph W. Drebby, BS business administration ’50
Thomas W. Ellison, BS mechanical engineering ’59
Jeanne A. Epstein, MD unknown ’53
Robert I. Epstein, MS mechanical engineering ’59
Pasquale Falgie, DC electrical engineering ’58
Thomas P. Ferguson, BS business administration ’54
Vincent J. Filliben, BS commerce and engineering ’52
James H. Foard, BS civil engineering ’58
Walter W. Frederick, MD medicine ’58
Edward D. Frick, BS commerce and engineering ’53
Lewis J. Gerlach, BS metallurgical engineering ’52
Carolyn Quinn Greenstone, BS home economics ’52
William H. Hammer, DC mechanical engineering ’58
Richard E. Hannum, BS mechanical engineering ’50
James J. Hanretty, BS chemical engineering ’51
William D. Harris, MD medicine ’55
William H. Hitchins, BS business administration ’52
Hazel Irene Holst, MD unknown ’58
William H. Hulse, BS electrical engineering ’50
Edmond S. Ianni, DC civil engineering ’55
Albert Kalen, BS electrical engineering ’51
John L. Kehr, DC architecture ’52
Edwin B. Kelsey, BS business administration ’54
Richard A. Knerr, MD medicine ’55
Ralph M. Levy, DC mechanical engineering ’55
Nicholas J. Lombardo, DC architecture ’52
Forrest B. Mapp, DC electrical engineering ’59, BS ’61
Thomas Massey, DC electrical engineering ’54, BS ’55
James J. May, BS mechanical engineering ’51
Thomas J. McKnight, BS mechanical engineering ’55, MS engineering management ’71
Clara Monigle Truitt, BS home economics ’50
Alexander C. Montgomery, DC mechanical engineering ’57, BS ’59
Joseph P. Mooney, DC mechanical engineering ’55
John P. Motley, MD medical engineering ’55
Richard H. Mundy, BS business administration ’51
Gloria Naccio After, BS home economics ’59
Warren D. Neal, BS mechanical engineering ’56
Wilbur W. Oaks, MD medicine ’55
Richard Payne Gosnell, BS business administration ’52
Howard M. Potter, BS business administration ’53
Jean M. Povoloski Masters, RN nursing ’53

Robert D. Rae, DC mechanical engineering ’54
Anthony F. Ramondo, DC civil engineering ’54
Robert R. Regl, BS civil engineering ’57
Peter N. Reuter, DC mechanical engineering ’53
John R. Roberts, BS chemical engineering ’52
Richard Robinson, BS business administration ’55
Richard R. Rowlands, BS chemical engineering ’51
Thomas Y. Sakaguchi, DC electrical engineering ’58, BS ’59
Raymond P. Schiwall, BS chemical engineering ’59
Marilyn M. Schmidt Maloney, RN nursing ’53
David J. Schwartz, MD medicine ’57
Marvin Sheetman, BS electrical engineering ’57, MS ’61
Roberta M. Sherwin, MD unknown ’55
Joe M. Solis, DC civil engineering ’52
Donald G. Stewart, BS business administration ’53
Jack W. Streeter, BS electrical engineering ’51, MBA business administration ’56
James S. Swanson, BS commerce and engineering ’55
Kenneth L. Swartz, DC mechanical engineering ’50, BS ’53
Chester J. Tadzynski, DC mechanical engineering ’55
Jeanne Tanguy Levergood, DC home economics ’54
Lina G. Vardaro, MD medicine ’50
Andrew G. Wagner, BS business administration ’53
Jacqueline J. Weckman Munch, BS home economics ’50
Joseph E. Williams, BS civil engineering ’53
Benjamin G. Wright, BS civil engineering ’59
Brian A. Wummer, MD medicine ’56
George P. Yost, BS electrical engineering ’51
Paul Zakarian, BS electrical engineering ’59

1960s
Lenore Alber Rudissil, DC home economics ’65
Glory J. Anderson, BS chemical engineering ’66
Orrin Anderson, BS electrical engineering ’68
Raphael F. Armenta, BS electrical engineering ’61
Paul R. Benner, BS mechanical engineering ’64
William P. Bergin, BS electrical engineering ’66
Irving B. Berman, BS electrical engineering ’61
Elliott Michael Black, BS electrical engineering ’61
David Bock, MS electrical engineering ’60
Donald J. Brown, MD medicine ’60
Mark Canty, BS mechanical engineering ’62, MS engineering management ’70
John J. Cotter, BS electrical engineering ’67, MBA business administration ’76
Frank L. Craymer, BS business administration ’62
Vincent F. Cutilli, DC mechanical engineering ’60
Roman W. Cyhan, MS mechanical engineering ’67
Dennis C. Dobie, BS mechanical engineering ’69
Andrew W. Dower, BS electrical engineering ’66
Paul L. Fasig, BS mechanical/industrial engineering ’53
Horace Walker Feaster, BS business administration ’66
Cynthia F. Fulchiero Baute, RN nursing ’63
Thomas B. Gain, MD medicine ’67
Robert A. Gardenghi, BS electrical engineering ’60
Robert C. Geick, BS mechanical engineering ’69
Jay N. Gerfin, BS electrical engineering ’67
John A. Grant, BS mechanical engineering ’68
Raymond H. Griffin, BS electrical engineering ’68
Louis M. Gugliotti, MS electrical engineering ’62
Robert W. Harris, DC electrical engineering ’60
James T. Hartman, BS electrical engineering ’68, MS ’70, PhD ’73
Henry H. Haven, MD medicine ’61
Allen M. Hein, BS mechanical engineering ’60
Sylvan D. Hersh, BS chemistry ’62
2 CASH AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2016

BAYADA AWARD

for Technological Innovation in Health Care Education and Practice

WIN $10,000

The BAYADA Award for Technological Innovation in Health Care Education and Practice, created in 2004 by BAYADA Home Health Care, recognizes health care providers who have made significant contributions to education or practice through the development or adoption of new technologies.

Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions is proud to facilitate the award process and seeks nominations for consideration of $20,000 in awards; $10,000 each, for innovation in:

Patient Care: Improving efficiency of health care delivery, preventing/decreasing errors and improving outcomes; or

Health Care Education (both didactic and clinical): Innovation in curricular delivery methods, improving student clinical competency and learning outcomes.

Awards will be formally presented to winners in Philadelphia in spring 2016 at the BAYADA Home Health Care Speaker Series at the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Winners must be present; accommodation, travel and expenses will be paid.

Special consideration will be given to applications demonstrating impact upon home health care.

The deadline for submission is Tuesday, March 1, 2016

For an application, visit:
drexel.edu/cnhp/about/BAYADA

For more information, contact:
Amanda Keen • amk377@drexel.edu • 267.359.5693

### 1970s

- Joseph M. James, BS electrical engineering '63
- Richard A. Jeryan, BS mechanical engineering '67
- Henry F. Joerg, BS business administration '64
- Arthur W. John, MBA business administration '62
- Edgar A. Keyser, BS mechanical engineering '62, MBA business administration '66
- Thomas G. Kilroy, BS mechanical engineering '63
- Mary M. Klingelhoeffer, MS '62
- Robert J. Kuhar, BS electrical engineering '66
- Bruce J. Leson, BS business administration '65
- Gunter M. Lewin, MBA business administration '61
- David R. McIlvain, BS mathematics '69
- Ronald P. Milovcich, DC unknown '68
- Walter D. Modern, BS electrical engineering '63
- Stanley A. Moore, MS mechanical engineering '62
- James N. Morgan, BS mechanical engineering '62
- Robert L. Nay, MS library science '68
- Joseph F. Noll, BS metallurgical engineering '62
- Louis Petruzzelli, BS electrical engineering '61
- Edward F. Pfister, BS business administration '60
- Michael J. Quinn, BS business administration '67
- Charles J. Riebel, BS electrical engineering '69
- Frank J. Roggio, BS mechanical engineering '65, MS aerospace engineering '70
- John D. Rowell, BS electrical engineering '68
- William G. Saddlington, BS chemical engineering '62
- Henry A. Samsel, BS industrial administration '64
- Harold L. Schwartz, MS electrical engineering '65, MS biomedical engineering and science '74, PhD '82
- Gerald E. Seaburn, BS civil engineering '64
- Paul V. Shaver, BS mechanical engineering '60
- Patricia A. Smith, MS library science '65
- Douglas N. Starch, MS electrical engineering '61
- Barbara Stark Comisso, BS retail management '61
- Murray E. Wolf, BS mechanical engineering '61
- Jon F. Wolfe, BS commerce and engineering '68

### 1980s

- Mary E. Conroy, BS home economics '73
- Allen L. Davidson, MS electrical engineering '70
- Joseph J. Deal, BS commerce and engineering '73
- Betty Emley Clark, MS library science '72
- Robert J. Goldberg, PhD microbiology and immunology '70
- Alan R. Hagerty, BS general studies '77
- Stephen F. Henner, MS library science '76
- Arnold Komisar, MD medicine '75
- Gerard L. Lafond, BS mechanical engineering '70
- Nicholas L. Lebra, MBA business administration '75
- William H. McDermott, MS library science '77
- John C. McGraw, BS metallurgical engineering '71
- Philip A. Palmer, MS environmental engineering '72
- Marcia L. Pawlina, MS library science '74
- Lloyd W. Rankin, BS electrical engineering '72, MS '79
- Elmer G. Reiter, MBA business administration '70
- Leon A. Rennebaum, BS mechanical engineering '72
- Robert E. Schmukler, BS chemistry '72, MS biomedical engineering and science '76
- Harry F. Schumacher, BS commerce and engineering '70
- William N. Schwarze, BS business administration '73
- Paul J. Sestak, BS architecture '79
- Isabella K. Sharpe, MD medicine '73
- Daniel J. Signore, BS general business '76
- Robert G. Siedlovich, BS mechanical engineering '71
- Douglas E. Spotts, MBA business administration '71
- Richard D. Styer, BS mechanical engineering '73
- Hope Teller Schwab, BS business administration '72
- Ronald C. Tobin, BS mechanical engineering '70
- Eleanor B. Toewe, BS business administration '71, MBA '79
- Robert W. White, BS business administration '70, MBA '79
- Daniel R. Windheim, MBA business administration '71

- Bernice Alper, BS mental health technology '82
- Jean Ann Bialas, MD unknown '85
- William D. Bell, MBA business administration '80
- Jacob Palmer Boyce, BS electrical engineering '83
- Kevin D. Brady, MD medicine '80
- Mary Elizabeth Fritz, BS accounting '88
- Akiko Fukumoto Balchiunas, BS electrical engineering '80

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- Robert J. Kuhar, BS electrical engineering '66
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- Gunter M. Lewin, MBA business administration '61
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- Gerard L. Lafond, BS mechanical engineering '70
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- Eleanor B. Toewe, BS business administration '71, MBA '79
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- Bernice Alper, BS mental health technology '82
- Jean Ann Bialas, MD unknown '85
- William D. Bell, MBA business administration '80
- Jacob Palmer Boyce, BS electrical engineering '83
- Kevin D. Brady, MD medicine '80
- Mary Elizabeth Fritz, BS accounting '88
- Akiko Fukumoto Balchiunas, BS electrical engineering '80

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drexel.edu/cnhp/about/BAYADA

For more information, contact:
Amanda Keen • amk377@drexel.edu • 267.359.5693
“Members of the faculty and the ECE staff who knew Dr. Coren remember a person who commanded a wide scope of interests. He had wide and deep knowledge in his areas of professional expertise, but also in politics, economics, history and philosophy. He was broad-minded and well read, and possessed a commitment to social action and a strong sense of justice. His dedication to the establishment of a shared governance structure at Drexel was a cause to which he devoted years of his life, and which required leadership abilities, significant persuasion and negotiation talents, great patience, and superb writing and oral communication skills. Dr. Coren’s availability, care, kindness and humanity, especially when it came to his role as departmental graduate adviser, were critical to the education and development of numerous graduate students in all areas, students whom he guided and advised to graduation. He was also blessed with a sense of perceptiveness and the ability to pour wit and dry humor at the right times into the most serious and complicated discussions.”

— The above is a portion of a message from Moshe Kam, former head of Drexel’s Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, on Dr. Coren’s June 2014 passing.
Snapshot: Alumni Association Celebrates 50 Years

2015 has been an ongoing celebration of the Drexel University Alumni Association’s 50th anniversary. To honor this special occasion, the association has been hosting signature events, highlighting the past five decades online, and holding contests and giveaways on social media – like #50days50giveaways and #shareadragon. Learn more about the Alumni Association’s 50th anniversary at drexel.edu/alumni.

Boston Foodie Tour
Boston-area alumni were treated to a culinary adventure through the charming and historic neighborhood of Beacon Hill. Stops along the way included the James Beard Award–winning Italian restaurant Scampo; Savenor’s Market, widely known as Julia Child’s butcher; Fastachi, which the Boston Globe rates as having the best roasted nuts in Boston; Beacon Hill Chocolates, a three-time Best of Boston Chocolatiers winner; and the newly opened juice bar, Pressed.

#50days50giveaways
Stephanie Weekly Bujak ’08 finds her #50days50giveaways prize comes in handy! The Alumni Association will continue its popular online giveaways until the end of 2015. Each week, a new prize is awarded, so follow along on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and like, comment or share the #50days50giveaways post and you could be a winner!

Alumni Day at the Philadelphia Zoo
The Alumni Association hosted a summer afternoon for graduates and their families at America’s First Zoo. Guests met for a picnic lunch featuring everyone’s favorite summertime foods, a live animal show and face painting, all before strolling the zoo for the remainder of the day.
Drexel Sleepover at the Academy of Natural Sciences
One hundred young alumni and students packed their blankets and pillows and showed up in pajamas for the association’s first-ever Drexel sleepover for adults at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. The evening included food, drinks, games, behind-the-scenes tours and a sci-fi flick at midnight.

Alumni Weekend 2015
This year at Alumni Weekend, the classes of 1965 and 1990 celebrated their Golden and Silver Dragon reunions. Popular events for alumni of all ages included a wine pairing dinner, a champagne reception for Drexel couples and the weekend’s signature event, Drexel After Dark.

State of the Campus Tour
Bob Francis, vice president of University Facilities (second from right), hit the road this year with the Alumni Association to give graduates an exclusive look at the many changes taking place at Drexel. Some topics of discussion were student learning and dining terraces, the Innovation Neighborhood, repurposing the Armory and the flurry of development along Chestnut Street. Tour stops included Washington, D.C.; Haddonfield, New Jersey; and a California tour of Santa Monica, Newport Beach, Sacramento and San Francisco.
Most Likely to Succeed

This year’s Alumni Association Award winners, like those who have come before them, are passionate and successful. They’re innovators, entrepreneurs and mentors. Congratulations to the outstanding alumni of 2015.

Fred Crotchfelt III, BS ’65, MBA ’66
GOLDEN DRAGON SOCIETY AWARD RECIPIENT

Of what are you most proud? I’m most proud of my children for how they live their lives and the values they have — and are instilling in their children — and for my wife who helped me raise them.

Why did you go to Drexel? I went for the co-op program. I thought the co-op periods would pay for my education and would give me great insight into the business world. For the most part they did! But, Drexel provided so much more. I met my wife, Annette, there. It gave me the opportunity to make many lifelong friends through the Alpha Pi Lambda fraternity and other student groups with which I was associated. As it has turned out, when we moved back into the area, these friends provided links for us to reconnect with Drexel through the Alumni Association — and we have subsequently made even more Drexel friends.

What is your favorite way to spend free time? I spend time with wife, children and grandchildren, help other people through volunteer work, and travel in the United States and around the world.

What is the most valuable lesson you’ve learned? Treat others how you want to be treated. We come in contact with people every day in work, social and volunteer situations. Helping each other makes us all better.

If you could say “thank you” to someone at Drexel who would it be and why? Joe Ford — my accounting teacher and advisor when I attended Drexel. Pete Frisko — Annette and I met him when we first became involved with the Drexel Alumni Board of Governors and he has been a friend ever since. Dr. Constantine Papadakis — Taki was an important mentor to me during my time with the Alumni Association and when I was chair of the Alumni Board of Governors.

Mark Gress Jr., BS ’06, MS ’12
EMERGING LEADER AWARD RECIPIENT

Why did you choose Drexel? The co-op program was the primary reason. The fact that my résumé would be more powerful than most non-Drexel students — including our neighborhood Ivy League friends — really excited me.

If you could share a meal with anyone — dead or alive — who would it be and why? Instead of defaulting to a famous person or historical figure, I’d have to say my Mommom Finn. She passed away more than 10 years ago, but I was lucky enough to have her in my life for as long as I did. I would cherish the opportunity to tell her how much I love her and miss her over some pierogies and kielbasa.

Of what are you most proud? I would humbly say that I am most proud of accomplishing everything that I have in my career at such a young age, while not sacrificing work-life balance. Obviously my career is very important, but my wife and son are my top priority. I never want them to feel like they are taking a back seat.

What three words best describe you? Dedicated, innovative, easygoing.

If you could say “thank you” to someone at Drexel who would it be and why? There is not just one person. I owe a great deal of gratitude to Drexel’s Sport Management program, Athletics, LeBow College of Business and the Steinbright Career Development Center. They gave me so much as a student and have continued to be a major part of my success since graduating.

Deanna Guano Schaffer, AS ’90, BS ’92, MS ’99
SILVER DRAGON SOCIETY AWARD RECIPIENT

Where in the world have you never been and would love to visit? I would love to head to Alaska. The pictures are beautiful — nature at its finest. I imagine it as being peaceful.

Why did you choose Drexel? It wasn’t Drexel at the time. I have three degrees, all from the same building. One from Hahnemann University, one from Allegheny University, and one from MCP-Hahnemann University, as run by Drexel. I went in order to become a nurse as quickly as possible. I graduated from my associate’s program at 19 years old and sat for my RN license. I remained with the school mainly because of tuition reimbursement. I stay today because I have truly embraced the Drexel philosophy and the Dragon within myself.
Of what are you most proud? I am most proud of my three children and their accomplishments. It amazes me how well they have turned out, considering that I was a full-time employee, full-time student, and full-time mom as they were being raised. They say it takes a village, and my husband and our families were very supportive in raising them. My proudest moment is when someone compliments me on them.

How would your best friend describe you? Dependable, funny, dedicated.

What is your favorite way to spend free time? Reading. Books are my addiction. I read anything and everything I can get my hands on. The problem is, once I start I can’t stop. When “Harry Potter” was new, I would go to the bookstore at midnight, get the book and stay up all night to finish it by noon the next day so that no one could ruin it for me.

Jeffrey Lisinicchia, BS ’90
SILVER DRAGON SOCIETY AWARD RECIPIENT

If you could share a meal with anyone – dead or alive – who would it be and why? Benjamin Franklin: statesman, author, inventor, diplomat and scientist.

What is a little-known fact about you? In school, my grades were OK in math, and it was not my favorite subject. This may sound strange coming from someone who is now a financial executive, certified public accountant and who immerses himself in numbers all day as part of his job.

Why did you choose Drexel? Drexel was always my top choice. I applied “early decision” and thankfully was accepted in the fall of my senior year. The co-op program and Drexel’s fine academic reputation were very attractive to me. Having grown up in a small town, the idea of going to a college located right in the heart of a major city, with all that it has to offer, was really exciting for me. Looking back, I am thankful that as a teenager I had the wisdom to choose Drexel because it has had such a profound impact on my life, both personally and professionally.

What inspires you? My youngest brother, Carmen, who tragically passed away 14 years ago, was and still is an inspiration to me. Even though he is no longer here, he still impacts my life every day. He was born with cerebral palsy and, despite his physical handicap, he was the most positive, outgoing person I ever knew, and his “can-do” spirit was truly inspiring. In addition to overcoming obstacles all his life, about five years before his unexpected passing, he courageously and unselfishly became a living donor and donated one of his kidneys to my older brother who had succumbed to a kidney disease. Now, Carmen’s legacy continues through my older brother who carries his donated kidney in his abdomen. They are both heroes to me.

What is the toughest decision you’ve ever made? In 2000, I was working for a major financial services company in the Philadelphia area, that had just acquired a company in Orange County, California. I was chosen to manage the integration of the acquired company’s finance, accounting and treasury functions in what was supposed to be a two-year assignment in California. The first decision — to take the assignment — meant that I would have to leave my family and friends and relocate over 3,000 miles away. I accepted the assignment and now, 15 years later, still call Orange County my adopted home. The decision to take the assignment and later to leave the company and stay in California was pivotal in my professional development because it offered me the opportunity to work with industry pioneers in the field of mortgage finance. In 2002, I became the first CFO of a startup mortgage company, which later grew to be a nationwide lender with over 900 employees and $5 billion in annual lending volume.

Eugene “Gene” Muller, MS ’84
ALUMNI ENTREPRENEUR AWARD RECIPIENT

Of what are you most proud? Creating a business that makes products people really enjoy. The best part of my job is when someone says they are going to serve our beer at their wedding or another milestone event. It’s gratifying to be able to enhance, in some little way, one of their life’s major moments. It’s also nice to have created a business where people are happy and excited to visit.


What is your favorite way to spend free time? Getting outdoors, hiking, enjoying nature and travel.

What is the most valuable lesson you’ve learned? Go with your gut instinct. The few really big mistakes I made came when I ignored that little voice that said “maybe this isn’t a good idea.”

If you could say “thank you” to someone at Drexel, who would it be and why? Philip Terranova hired me for my first “real” job as a writer in Drexel’s University Relations Department. I started at Drexel as an employee and was inspired by the environment there to pursue a master’s degree. I really appreciate that he took a chance on someone with an unproven track record, which started me on a path that, with some twists and turns, ended up with me where I am today.

To learn more about the Alumni Association Awards, and to find out how to nominate a worthy candidate, visit drexel.edu/alumni.
Dean O’Brien, MBA ’12
YOUNG ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Where in the world have you never been and would love to visit? I would love to visit Southeast Asia. The food, culture and people are something I am looking forward to experiencing firsthand.

Of what are you most proud? One of my proudest accomplishments is organizing and leading the Drexel University Sacramento Alumni Group. While providing stewardship over the last four years, the Sacramento Alumni Group has grown from 76 alumni in 2012 to over 650 alumni in 2015. As president of the Sacramento Alumni Group, I host regular meetings, events and sports teams including dodgeball, kickball and softball designed to promote alumni engagement in the area. During my tenure the primary focus has been increasing young alumni engagement and building strong community ties through volunteer, sporting and networking events, in addition to partnering with local nonprofits and the Drexel University Alumni Office at the University City Campus.

What is a little known fact about you? I am an avid cyclist. I bike to work every day and ride at least 100 miles per week. During Sacramento’s annual May is Bike Month Challenge, I led a team of Drexel alumni who rode a combined 2,490 miles and helped lead the charge, logging 1,105.1 miles individually in May 2015.

What is your personal or professional mantra? I try to live by the mantra of being a man for others in all aspects of my personal and professional life.

If you could share a meal with anyone — dead or alive — who would it be and why? Thomas Jefferson. In 1962, when hosting an array of Nobel Prize winners in the White House, John F. Kennedy declared that never before had the White House had a dinner for such an “extraordinary collection of talent and human knowledge...except with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone.” I would love to know Jefferson’s reaction to the way in which the Constitution has been interpreted in modern times on subjects including bearing arms.

Who is your mentor? There is no one person, but during my near-decade as a dean at Harvard University, Harvard’s president at the time, Derek Bok, was my role model as the ideal university leader. He is someone I have attempted to emulate throughout my three decades as a college and university president.

Why did you choose Drexel? I needed to be able to work my way through college. The o-op program enabled me to graduate debt free.

If you could say “thank you” to someone at Drexel, who would it be and why? Chuck Pennoni, former Drexel Board of Trustees chair and interim president, for taking the lead in “saving” Drexel and enabling the greatness that Drexel has become since my graduation nearly 50 years ago. I am also grateful for the way in which he has singularly kept me engaged with Drexel for decades.

Ronald W. Smith, PhD ’85
SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENT

What is a little known fact about you? I was a good football running back in high school.

How would your best friend describe you? Dedicated, passionate about helping others, and one who does what he says.

What is the most valuable lesson you’ve learned? Life is short so don’t waste it.

What inspires you? Success. Achieving one’s goals.

What is the toughest decision you’ve ever had to make? To take time away from my family to get my PhD.

Additional 2015 Alumni Association Award recipients include: Robert “Bob” Byers, BS ’65, HD ’02, former trustee emeritus, Golden Dragon Society Award recipient; and Eric Hahn, BS ’11, Young Alumni Entrepreneur Award recipient. [D]
NOCE by the NUMBERS

Meet the brand new chair of the Alumni Association Board of Governors, Tony Noce. As a student, he was engaged with Drexel in many ways and now — 40 years later — not much has changed. Below is the story of Noce’s Drexel life, past and present, by the numbers.

As a student, Tony Noce ’80 was president of his senior class, of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and of the Inter-Fraternity Association. As an alumnus, he was one of the founders and president of the Drexel Inter-Fraternity Alumni Association, and served as president of the Pi Kappa Phi Alumni Housing Corp., where he was instrumental in the re-chartering of the chapter and renovation of the chapter house by organizing a capital campaign that raised over $500,000.

Noce and his wife Kathy ’79 have been together since 1978. (She asked him out to her Delta Zeta Sorority formal.)

Noce graduated from Drexel in 1980 with a BS in civil engineering and went on to get his law degree from Widener University.

He has been a member of the Drexel University Alumni Association Board of Governors for FIVE years. He’ll be chair of the Board of Governors until June 30, 2017.

His TWO main initiatives as chair are to create a program to track and recognize alumni engagement and to and support and strengthen Drexel’s network of recent alumni (those who graduated in the past 10 years).

The Noces have FIVE children. THREE are Drexel graduates, ONE is a Drexel freshman, and ONE went to Villanova University (but we won’t hold that against him).

To this day, SEVEN of the Noce’s closest friends are Drexel alumni: Steve ’80 and Laura ’80 Markley, Steve ’82 and Sharon ’80 White, and Karl Douglass ’80. Karl’s wife didn’t go to Drexel, but they let her hang out with them on occasion.

For the past FOUR years, Noce has been president of AMN Development, a commercial real estate development firm based out of North Wales, Pennsylvania.

He’s also treasurer on the board of directors of Pi Kappa Phi Properties Inc., which helps chapters in acquiring, operating and maintaining housing and currently owns 20 chapter houses nationwide.

Over the years, Noce has attended countless Drexel alumni events. This summer he and Kathy hosted their FOURTH New Dragon Meet-Up in their home for incoming Drexel students and their families.

His last name, Noce, is mispronounced almost 100% of the time. By the way, it’s “NO-chāy.” [D]
A picture is worth a thousand words. An education in both the artisty and industry of photography is worth even more. In this issue, we pay homage to Drexel’s Photography program, which enables confident young photographers to find satisfying careers making arresting images.

**ACROSS**
1  Marina sight
6  Moviedom’s Merrill
10  Spice
14  Quiet
15  On an ___ keel
16  Big carrier at Ben Gurion
17  Head of the Drexel Photography program
19  Muggy
20  “We’re #1!,” e.g.
21  With 59-Across, Drexel Photography professor whose more famous work is “Treadwell”
23  Pet store sounds
25  Hardship’s antithesis
28  “Miami Vice” actor
29  Drexel Facility Manager Mike
32  IX sextupled
33  Artist’s paste
34  Feature of Japan’s flag
36  Gutsy spades bid
38  Locations of many a 17-Across-led student summer field trip for photography
44  In liquid form
45  Speechwriter Peggy
47  Daskalakis Athletic Center, e.g.
52  Bodily member
54  Nuts
55  Scholarship source
56  Eye hair
58  Cause of overtime
59  See 21-Across
61  Work at Drexel
64  Radio host Don
65  Co-developer of the Photography curriculum at Drexel
70  Pep Boys purchase
71  Galloping Gourmet Graham
72  Measuring tool
73  Meets, as a bet
74  ___ serif (plain type style)
75  “Chasing Pavements” singer

**DOWN**
1  Keep talking
2  SEC st.
3  Cocktail component, at times
4  Good religious symbol
5  Banks on a runway
6  Type of hygiene
7  Novelist Compton-Burnett
8  New beginning
9  Actress Kendrick
10  Butt in
11  Anti-theft-system components, often
12  Role types
13  City on the Rio Grande
18  Press into service
22  Yuletide yummy
23  It’s south of Eur.
24  Spring singer
26  “My Way” singer
27  It’s a bad thing
30  Ending for lobby or hobby
31  Montreal affirmative
32  Presently
33  Hosp. employee, perhaps
35  Patricia of “Ghost Story”
39  Fine letters?
40  Quintana ___ (Cancún’s state)
41  Present vs. past
42  Board blemish
43  Pen name for H. H. Munro
44  Allows to pass
45  Dormer?
46  “Science Guy” Bill
47  Makes a request
48  Predecessor of the Gillette Mach3
49  Have legs
50  Clamors
51  Rainbow, for one
52  Daffy’s voice
53  Partner of him
54  Hot or cold quaff
55  Previous to, in poesy
56  Clamors
57  Partner of him
58  Makes a request
59  Hot or cold quaff
60  Predecessor of the Gillette Mach3
62  Hot or cold quaff
63  Daffy’s voice
64  Previous to, in poesy
65  Clamors
66  Predecessor of the Gillette Mach3
67  Daffy’s voice
68  Previous to, in poesy
69  Hot or cold quaff

Think you’ve got all the answers?

If so, send your completed puzzle to the address at right to be entered into a drawing to win a great Drexel prize. And congratulations to the winner of our summer edition contest: Dolores ’60 and Robert ’56 Hammaker of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.
Where students love living.

It’s not just our new tagline. It’s how we run our business every day.

We believe every student should love where they live, no matter what their budget. That’s why whether we’re creating a new development, upgrading an acquired property, or partnering with a university to develop or manage on-campus housing, our goal is the same: Deliver the best possible experience for students by creating communities designed for healthy living, personal growth and academic success. It’s a philosophy that shapes our values as an organization, motivates our people, and drives our decisions every day.

Thank you for your award winning partnership, Drexel University. It’s a win-win. Because when students succeed, we all do.

www.americancampus.com
42nd Annual Alumni Holiday Turkey Project

YOU CAN HELP!

The Drexel University Alumni Association Turkey Project provides Philadelphia families with a warm meal during the holiday season.

In 2014, Drexel alumni and friends of the University donated more than $25,000 and provided 1,200 turkeys to our neighbors in need.

A gift of any size will make a difference.

HERE’S HOW

Donations are accepted year round. To make yours, visit drexel.edu/alumni or call 1.888.DU.GRADS.

The Turkey Project is the Drexel University Alumni Association’s tradition of providing holiday turkeys to families in need within the University’s West Philadelphia neighborhood and to those served by Drexel’s Stephen and Sandra Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services Center in North Philadelphia and the Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships.