

18 *Our winningest*

COACH

CO-OP

*goes to Super Bowl 16*

BUFFING

*up Vidas Field 21*

# Drexel

MAGAZINE

**Light, Smoke and Magic**

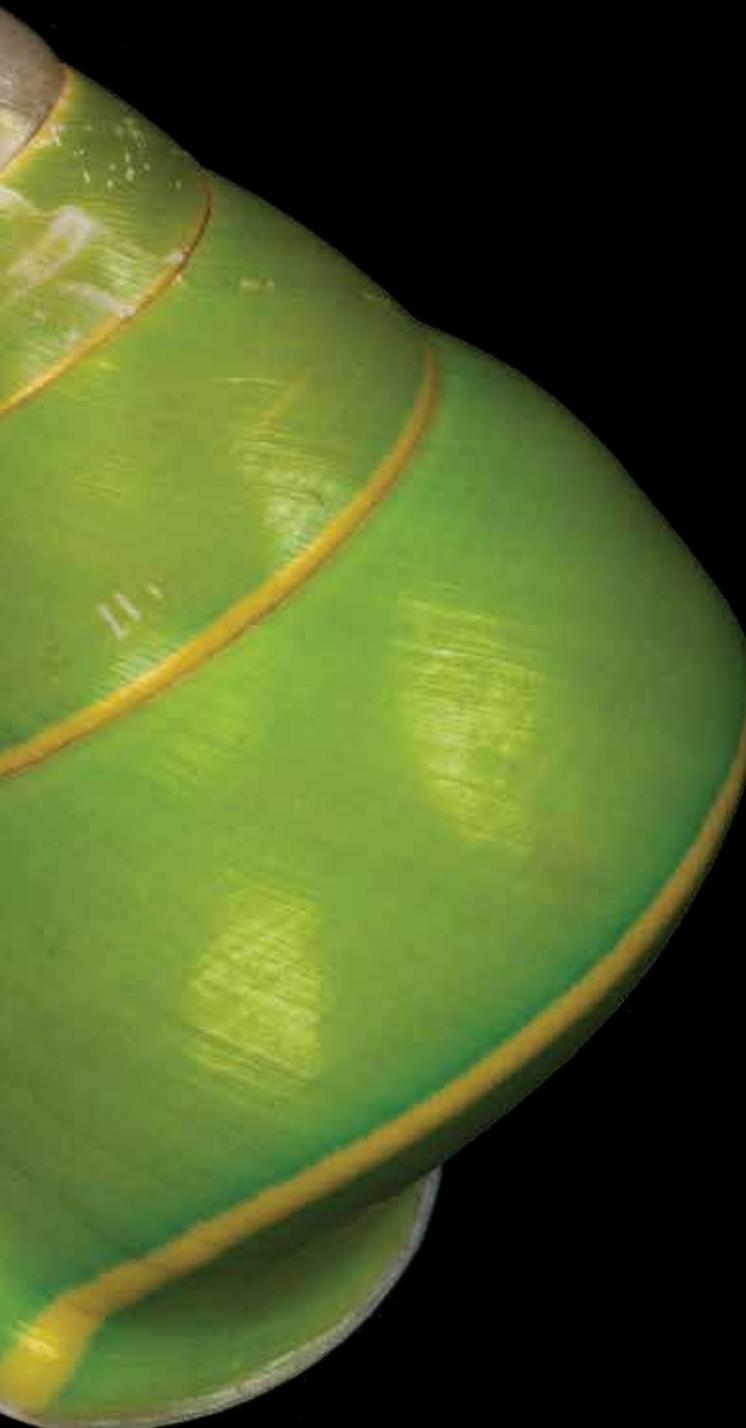
*How Westphal alumni are entertaining us with film, television and video games.*

# The Ledger



## SHELL GAME

This distinctive tree snail is one of millions of specimens in the Malacology Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. The manus green snail (*Papustyla pulcherrima*) is endemic to rain forests on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, where pressure on its habitat from logging and agriculture have made it an endangered species. However, it will exist in perpetuity in the scientific record thanks to efforts at the Academy to preserve important specimens online at the Academy's website, [ansp.org](http://ansp.org).



# 10,000,000

Number of specimens in the collection today. The shell collection now occupies more than 250 cabinets containing more than 13,000 drawers.

# 5,000

**Number of specimens viewable online.** Through digitization, the most scientifically important specimens are being catalogued as high-definition images in a fully searchable archive.

# 1812

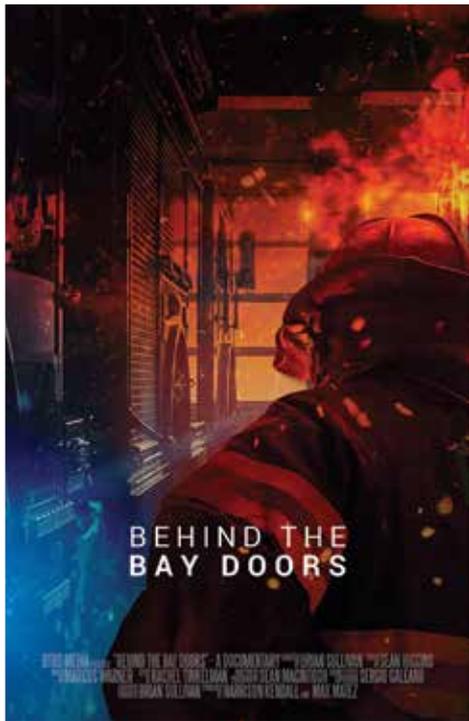
The year the Malacology Collection and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University **came into being.**

# 55

**Weight in tons** of all of the shells in the collection.

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A new gift will transform Vidas Athletic Complex.

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Paige Propp sets the tempo as the women crew team's seventh seat rower.





THE VIEW FROM MAIN

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## 5 Years, 10 Games, 1 Vision and Some Soul

Five years after the opening of Drexel's Entrepreneurial Game Studio, the video games incubator has brought 10 games into existence and is about to see one of its most ambitious creations go commercial when Gossamer Games releases "Sole" later this year.



## An "Off Campus" Reunion

We celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the student-produced Drexel TV series "Off Campus" with a visit with some of its first student creators.

With so many key initiatives coming together at your alma mater these days, I'm almost tempted to quote Yankees legend Yogi Berra's comment about a place being so crowded that "no one goes there." At the Drexel University of today, of course, there is ample capacity for all that we are doing, including: enrolling more talented students than ever, investing in top-notch faculty, and creating a more spacious and engaging campus.

For the second year in a row, Drexel received a record-breaking number of deposits from students desiring to join next fall's freshman class. When the dust settles this summer, we expect to welcome a class of about 3,300 students. More than just hitting a new record for freshmen enrollment, we know this class is one of the best-prepared to succeed at Drexel. And that can only enhance Drexel's reputation and secure its future at a time of rising competition nationally in college admissions.

In several major academic areas, these new students also will find exciting new leadership, thanks to the appointment of several new deans, and a new president at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. Johns Hopkins scholar Laura N. Gitlin is now heading up the College of Nursing and Health Professions; Yale-trained chemical and environmental engineer Sharon L. Walker will join us as dean of the College of Engineering in the fall; Paul E. Jensen now leads the LeBow College of Business, and, at the Academy, we recently welcomed museum veteran Scott Cooper to the helm. Looking ahead, a national search will yield a new dean for the College of Arts and Sciences to succeed Donna Murasko, who did an incredible job during her 15 years leading the college.

Lastly, I think you will be impressed when you visit and experience our newest amenity, Drexel Square. This new park under construction now will be the centerpiece of Schuylkill Yards and feature more than 12,000-square-feet of elliptical green space, creating a campus gateway that promises to be an urban oasis. I hope to see you on campus soon. We have plenty of room.

Sincerely,

John A. Fry / President

### 46 Cross Roads

Meet some Dragons who are in the business of making our lives more enjoyable.

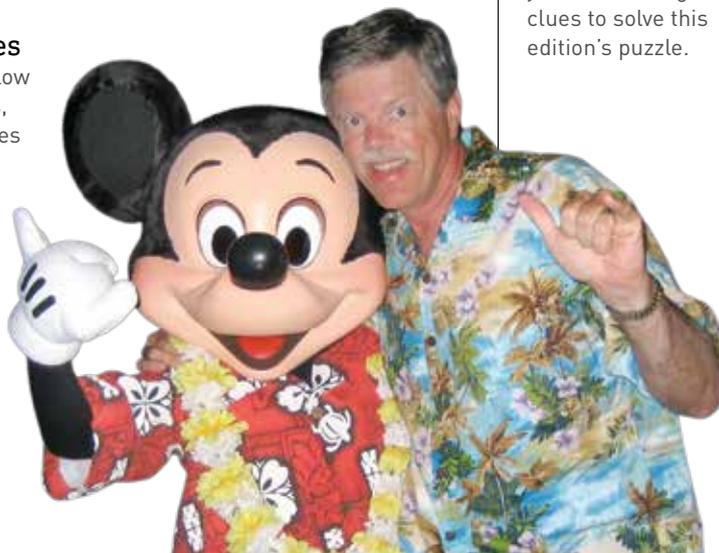
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Have a cool drink as you burn through the clues to solve this edition's puzzle.





EDITOR'S LETTER

# Let Us Entertain You

At press time, we got the news that local kid M. Night Shyamalan had agreed to be Drexel's commencement speaker. It's too early to know whether the director's address will be one of his big hits, but I'm hoping for a gasp-worthy ending that makes everyone rethink everything they thought they knew about college.

Shyamalan is a fitting figure to lead off this edition of the magazine. The theme is entertainment, and how creative alumni of the Westphal College of Media Arts & Sciences are helping to construct our culture of play, display and imagination through stories, images and technology.

Features include "Flame by Flame," Brian Sullivan's two-year odyssey to produce a full-length feature film documentary, which has taken him inside dozens upon dozens of burning buildings, destroyed numerous expensive photography equipment, and required that he learn a ton about fundraising and firefighting along the way. Meanwhile, in the world of gaming, the Gossamer Games team is trying to do something rare — to create a video game with emotional meaning, where the objective is to experience a subjective feeling. And 10 years ago, a team of students helped to debut "Off Campus," a television dramedy produced as a class project, which helped to set them on a course for success in Hollywood now as alumni. Like college graduation, the moment when a person matures from a consumer of culture to a creator or arbiter of it is a major turning point of life. That's not a universal path, of course, but for the alumni of Westphal, it's practically a given.

This is also a commendation of sorts for Westphal as a design and applied arts school, with eight nationally ranked programs. Westphal's bragging rights include numerous alumni involved in Grammy- and Academy Award-winning projects, as well as gaming industry prizes. Its graduates are the next artists, musicians, gaming engineers and television and film producers who captivate us, move us and make us think.

Enjoy, and thanks for reading.

*Sonja Sherwood*

Sonja Sherwood / Editor



**ABOUT THE COVER**

Dale Jonas, chief of the Roslyn Fire Company, photographed by Brian Sullivan '17.

SOCIAL

184 10



Drexel's therapy dog Espresso gave birth to seven puppies. They couldn't be any cuter!! #therapydogrock

322 9



[thegreatness24\\_jr](#) Proud to be a Dragon! 🐲  
[robstamm14](#) Very nice!  
[Xjaylist](#) loveee the last pic! 🍷  
[Dimples\\_799](#) Ooouuuu 🍷🍷🍷🍷



**FEB. 21** [@ted\\_michaels](#): Check out Drexel University's \$3.5 billion effort with Brandywine Realty Trust to create an innovation hub for technology and life sciences around Drexel's campus in West Philadelphia! This is a game changer for Drexel & Philly! #Drexel #SchuykillYards

**FEB. 23** [@NatEngForum](#): Wow! Just saw that #Drexel set a new Division I #mbb record, rallying from a 34-point first-half deficit to beat #Delaware 85-83. #hoops



**FEB. 13** [@NtrEd-4Philly](#)  
 Ms. Robin @DornsifeCenter helped us make a quick and healthy stir fry at our last cooking and nutrition workshop. Come see us every other Thursday in the Carriage House kitchen from 5:30 - 7:00 for more quick and healthy nutrition demos! #SNAPEd-Works

**FEB. 20** [@LigeiaWyn-ter](#) Mother of Dragons. OK: Mother of A Dragon. My daughter was accepted to #Drexel University & I had the pleasure of getting to pose with her & Mario this weekend. Sad that she'll be so far away but thrilled to see her starting the next chapter in her story!

**FEB. 26** [@setton\\_lab](#): Enjoyed conversation on entrepreneurship & innovation with visiting faculty Marcolongo from #Drexel #Engineering

**FEB. 26** [@BluJayss\\_](#)  
 I just received an email stating my graduation from Drexel University is June 15

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## CROSS WALK

SCHOLARSHIP

# From Cancer to Campus

*This past winter, Drexel honored three student recipients of the Eagles Fly for Leukemia scholarship, which helps survivors of childhood cancer complete college. By Ben Seal*

Stephen DiPietro Sr. was cleaning out his garage recently when he stopped, arrested by an old photo he wishes he could forget.

In it, his son, also named Stephen, had the telltale swollen skin and absent eyebrows of a chemotherapy patient. The boy was in eighth grade at the time, just 13 and suffering through the challenging treatment for stage 4 Hodgkin's lymphoma, a white blood cell disease that slowly destroys the immune system if unchecked.

"That's not the way I think of him," says DiPietro, who is Drexel University's vice provost for university assessment, accreditation and institutional effectiveness. "That's not the way I see him today; it's night and day."

Today, 11 years later, Stephen is healthy, and he's a Drexel graduate, thanks in large part to a full scholarship he received from Eagles Fly for Leukemia, a 45-year-old organization created by former Philadelphia Eagles tight end Fred Hill to fight pediatric cancer. Each year, the University offers a scholarship to an incoming freshman who is a childhood



Stephen DiPietro Jr. is a survivor of stage 4 Hodgkin's lymphoma and one of three Eagles Fly for Leukemia scholars honored on Dec. 7 in a ceremony in the A.J. Drexel Picture Gallery.

PHOTO BY MARK MAKELA





BoDean Messier and Carlie McWilliams were among three Drexel students who received scholarships designated for survivors of childhood cancer.

(CONT.)

cancer survivor as part of Eagles Fly's commitment to help families deal with the non-medical expenses of caring for their children.

Stephen still remembers standing in the phone booth at his high school, St. Joseph's Preparatory School, when he got the call that told him he'd be going to Drexel.

"I was shocked," he recalls. "I knew Drexel was where I wanted to go. After everything I'd been through, I saw it as another opportunity, another challenge, and I was ecstatic."

Carlie McWilliams had a similar reaction when she found out she'd be a Dragon, just a few years removed from being diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in her first year of high school in South Jersey. The bone marrow disease put her in the hospital for six months while she underwent chemotherapy at Nemours Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children.

"It means the world to me," McWilliams says of her scholarship. "Like any kid I dreamed of going away to college. I still sit back sometimes and think, 'Wow, this is real.' I'm really grateful for it."

It's no coincidence that McWilliams enrolled in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. She hadn't always intended to study nursing, but her experience in the hospital gave her a new perspective.

"I gained more respect seeing firsthand what they had to deal with," McWilliams says of her nurses. "Seeing that, I wanted to be that for someone. I want to help people. I want to maybe even work in oncology and help kids on a personal level: 'Yeah, I'm your nurse, but I know what you're going through.'"

In addition to Stephen and McWilliams, BoDean Messier was awarded a scholarship and graduated this year with a degree in biological sciences. There's a shared understanding among the Eagles Fly recipients about what they've been through.

"The opportunity that they give people who are still going through this, or have gone through it, it's so great," Stephen says. "After you deal with such a difficult period in your life, you have an opportunity to succeed in your future."

Stephen finished his bachelor's in information systems in 2015 and now works as an information protection specialist at Cigna in Philadelphia. He's finishing a master's in national security management through Drexel Online.

As for his father, DiPietro doesn't like to dwell on painful reminders of the days when his son was sick. Instead, he keeps a photo on his desk in Main Building of his son the day he graduated from Drexel. In it, father and son stand alongside President John Fry. At Fry's suggestion, DiPietro was the one who handed his son the diploma. All three are beaming.

Looking at it, there's no sign that Stephen ever dealt with the ravages of cancer. He looks like a college graduate with a bright future ahead of him, his history in hospitals now set squarely in the past.

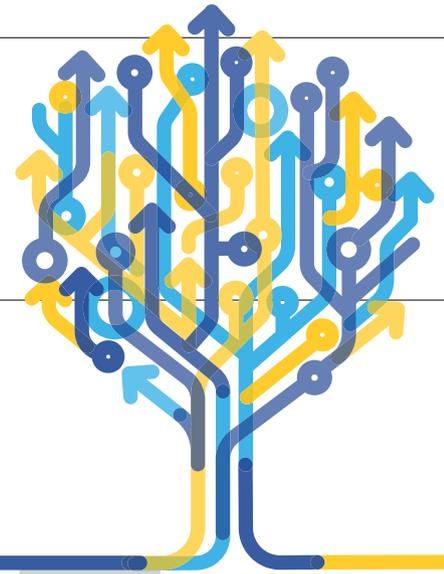
"It was incredible," Stephen says of that day. "It was a truly great end to what was a wonderful experience on campus at Drexel."

SOCIAL MEDIA

# #Drexel Spaces



Christian Ear, an international business student in the LeBow College of Business, hit the books to claim first prize in an Instagram contest highlighting the best of Drexel's unique spots to study. To get to the ledge, he had to climb the dresser in his room and somehow bring up a chair and a foldable table to use as his study table. Second-place winner Walter Babiy, an undergraduate civil engineering student in the College of Engineering, hiked up to the roof of Main Building for a picture next to the Joseph R. Lynch Observatory, which hosts the largest telescope in Philadelphia (a 16-foot Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain).



FUNDRAISING

# Fundraising Campaign Goes Public

On Nov. 11, Drexel University launched the most ambitious fundraising effort in its history.

The \$750 million effort is organized around the theme *The Future Is a Place We Make*, which reflects Drexel's history as a proving ground for talent that can creatively address emerging societal needs. Priorities of the Campaign include endowed scholarships and faculty positions, stipends for unpaid co-ops in nonprofit sectors, interdisciplinary teaching and research, academic advising and student support services, state-of-the-art learning environments, and academically driven civic engagement.

The foundational quiet phase of the Campaign kicked off in December 2013, and has so far generated more than \$451 million from 31,000 donors — nearly as much as the University's previous major fund drive, *Dream It. Do It.* That includes naming gifts for the Dana and David Dornsife School of Public Health and the Thomas R. Kline School of Law, two of the largest gifts in Drexel history.



For more about Drexel's research enterprise, see EXEL Magazine at [exelmagazine.org](http://exelmagazine.org).

# Research

## FOOD WASTE

Rescued Relish is an “upcycled” condiment made from excess produce and distributed by Philabundance, a Philadelphia hunger-relief nonprofit. The relish is modeled on a Pennsylvania Dutch chowchow recipe — a tangy mix of sweet, spicy and sour flavors.



## RELISH THE WASTE

Consumers are happy to eat food products made from ingredients that would otherwise end up in the trash, and if you market them right, they may even pay a premium for them, according to a new joint study from the Center for Food & Hospitality Management; the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems; and the Lebow College of Business. The study tested consumer attitudes toward “value-added surplus products,” like relish made from vegetables that wouldn’t sell on the produce stand. The tests showed that consumers perceived such products as having greater benefits for others than for themselves.

## ENVIRONMENT



### Nature's Water Filter

In addition to being valuable, life-sustaining habitats in their own right, the salt marshes around Barnegat Bay in New Jersey provide a critical water treatment function, capturing nutrients and keeping them from washing into the bay. Specifically,

the marshes store around 80 percent of the nitrogen and half the phosphorus that would otherwise land in the bay, according to research by Professor David Velinsky of the College of Arts and Sciences. At higher levels, those nutrients can lead to harmful algal blooms. Wetlands also help protect shorelines, and will need extra protection as sea levels rise due to climate change, Velinsky says.

## ART & SCIENCES

### Weight Loss Realism

Losing weight is hard. And being reminded of how hard it is may make it easier, according to new research from the College of Arts and Sciences. A three-year study published in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* found that participants who were told that self-control alone wouldn't solve their weight problems responded by exhibiting more self-control. “Rather than acting as

cheerleaders giving facile encouragement, leaders of weight loss groups might serve their clients better by providing a more sobering description of the challenges participants face,” says Professor Michael Lowe, author of the study.

## MEDICINE



### Infant Lung Damage

A study by Vineet Bhandari, MD, of the College of Medicine has

yielded promising implications for the treatment of a chronic lung disease that affects 15,000 premature infants a year. Bronchopulmonary dysplasia forms in infants who receive life-saving supplemental oxygen treatments, and can cause lifelong breathing difficulties. Neonatal mice that had been exposed to high levels of oxygen showed a 90 percent improvement in lung architecture when given a treatment that inhibits a certain gene, the research showed.

## PUBLIC HEALTH



### Underage Drinking Declines

Young people are drinking at significantly lower rates than they were at the beginning of the decade, according to a report by the Pennsylvania State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup, chaired by Philip Massey of the Dornsife School of Public Health. Among 12- to 17-year-olds, drinking rates

dropped 18 to 20 percent between 2011 and 2015, based on a self-reported survey.

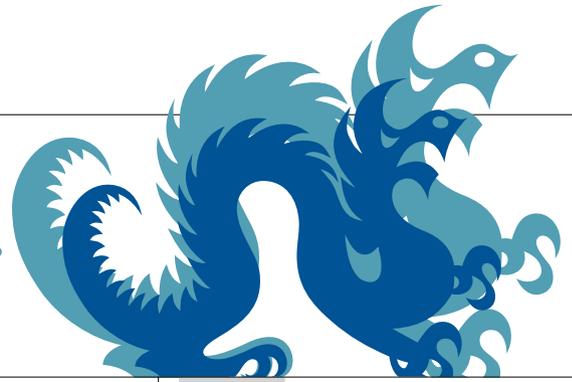
## PUBLIC HEALTH

### Death and Politics

Can a rise in deaths among white, middle-aged Americans help explain the outcome of the 2016 presidential election? Maybe so, according to a new study from Usama Bilal, a post-doc researcher with Drexel's Urban Health Collaborative. In counties that swung Republican in

2016 after voting for Democrats in 2008 and 2012, the mortality rate among whites aged 45–54 increased by an average of 10.7 per 100,000 over the past 15 years, the report showed. But in counties that voted Democratic in the past three presidential elections, mortality rates in the same group declined by 15.2 per 100,000, on average. “We should consider public health as a potent marker of social upheaval,” Bilal says.

The Dragon Fund, a stock portfolio managed by undergraduate students in the LeBow College of Business, returned 26.2 percent this year.



CAMPUS

# Korman Center Expansion Opens

On your next visit to campus, stop by Korman Quad to see the new Korman Center. Korman Center has scrapped its '50s brick façade for a contemporary steel-and-glass exterior more in keeping with nearby Gerri C. LeBow Hall, thanks to a new \$16 million makeover that began in summer 2016. A new addition to the building opened late last year, with special conference rooms, study spaces and lots and lots of natural light.

The new space has 65 open seats, six group-study tables and three enclosed group-study rooms, outfitted with shareable monitors and fritted-glass walls that can be written on with whiteboard markers. A multi-purpose audio-visual room on the second floor seats 24 people.

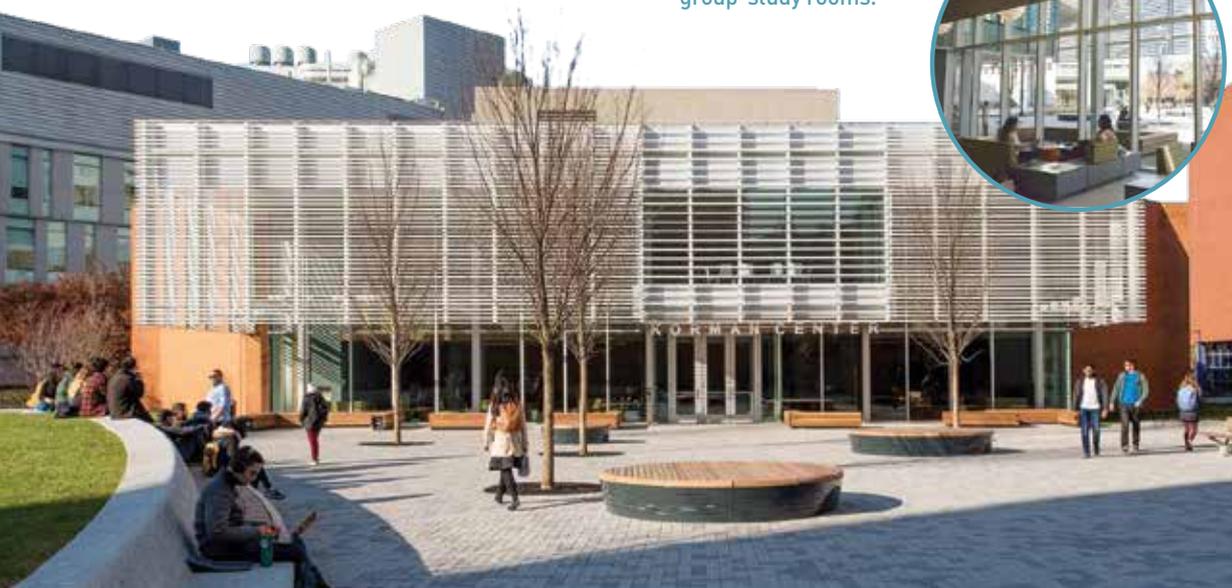
The area outside the Korman Center was redesigned as well, featuring a new front porch with four long wooden benches. The side of the building overlooking the Korman Quad features a cantilevered

terracotta screen to block sun glare. Behind that, the building has a new two-story glazed wall, transparent enough to see through.

The project involved the renovation of 6,500 square feet and the addition of 1,500 square feet. The building expansion was designed by Gluckman Tang Architects. Andropogon Associates, known for its commitment to ecological landscape design, designed the green space that opened as the Korman Quad last fall.

Originally home to Drexel's library, the Korman Center was named in 1977 in honor of alumnus Max W. Korman '29 and his brother, alumnus and trustee Samuel J. Korman '34. About four decades later, the Hyman Korman Family Foundation donated \$8 million for a 21st-century makeover of it and the adjacent Korman Quad, which the University matched.

The new space has 65 open seats, six group-study tables and three enclosed group-study rooms.



RANKINGS

## Drexel's Endowment Among Top

# 11%

The strong performance of Drexel's endowment landed the University in the top 11 percent of endowments and foundations nationwide, as ranked by the Wilshire Trust Universe Comparison Service.

Drexel's endowment totaled \$722 million and returned 14.7 percent for the fiscal year ending June 2017.

The Drexel endowment pool represents a total of \$652 million, which includes \$460 million in investable pooled assets, \$132 million in directly held real estate and \$59 million in other annuities and trusts.

Additionally, the \$69 million endowment of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University contributes to the University's overall endowment. This year, the Academy's endowment returned 13.3 percent and is composed of \$60 million in pooled assets and an additional \$9 million in annuities and trusts.

The University's endowment has returned 8.15 percent annualized for the past five years and 8.05 percent annualized since 1991.



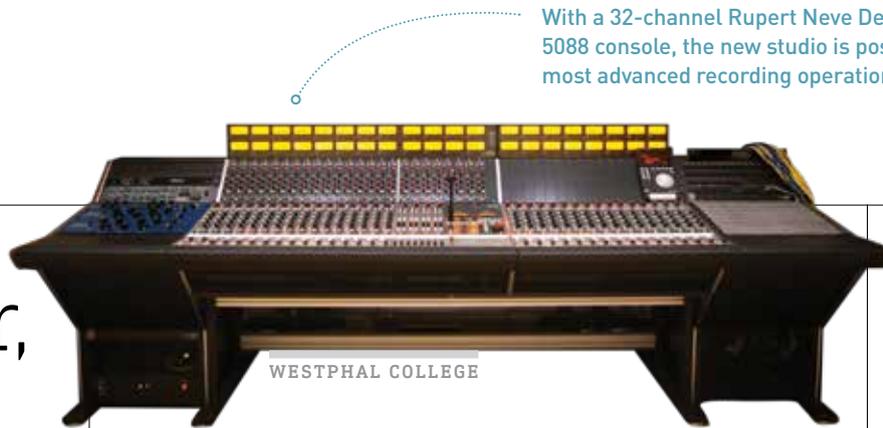
CLUBS

## Bonjour, New French Club

In fall 2015, freshman Sarah Malik had no room for language electives in a schedule packed with classes for her business and engineering major in the LeBow College of Business. But she wanted to keep her handle on French, which she'd been studying for five years, so she decided to launch the Drexel French Club.

Now counting more than 100 members on its roster, the club has made major strides in its short life. Early support from the French Department and volunteer student officers helped. But things really kicked off when the Pennoni Honors College stepped in to offer space for meetings, promotion, logistics support, and — crucially — food. Membership increased as the club held more events, including conversation hours, French movie nights and holiday parties.

In summer 2017, the organization won the French Embassy's France on Campus award, which provides funding, guidance and outreach opportunities for student organizations introducing French culture to their college campuses. The award-winning idea? "Frenchy Friends," a mentoring program that pairs advanced French-speaking students with beginners.



With a 32-channel Rupert Neve Designs 5088 console, the new studio is possibly the most advanced recording operation in town.

WESTPHAL COLLEGE

# A New Sound

Drexel's Music Industry program is turning up the volume.

As of last fall, future music producers, audio engineering and music executives being trained in the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design's Music Industry program have access to the most technologically advanced recording studio of its kind in Philadelphia.

The \$4 million facility at One Drexel Plaza boasts a state-of-the-art, 1,500-square-foot recording studio, two large electronic music labs, audio archive space and a small production studio designed by Walters Story Design Group. It was conceived by faculty in the program, in collaboration with the acoustic design team behind Jimi Hendrix's legendary Electric Lady Studios in New York and made possible by support from Thomas R. Kline, and Drexel alumni Virginia S. and Richard A. Rose Jr. '84, Cynthia C. and Ray Westphal '59 and Monica and Howard M. Benson '80.

When the Music Industry program established MAD Dragon Records, one of the nation's first student-run record labels, in 2004, the school also opened a 700-square-foot studio designed by Assistant Professor Ryan Schwabe. Since then the program has expanded into six other studio spaces and two electronic music labs, in which MAD Dragon has produced 32 titles from 17 artists over the last 13 years.

"This new studio has the best acoustics of all of our spaces," says Ryan Moys, a Grammy award-winning engineer who will serve as the studio's manager. "Having our labs, archives, student lounge area and two studios centralized also provides a home for our program and will hopefully contribute to more collaboration between students."

CREW

## Unstoppable Rowers Win Dad Vail, Again

Can we just say? It's starting to feel a little inevitable.

For the sixth (!) consecutive year in a row, Drexel crew won the overall title — and its second women's title — at the 80th annual Jefferson Dad Vail Regatta on the Schuylkill River. The Dragons took home seven medals — three gold, two silver and two bronze — en route to the two titles at the May 12 event, which is the largest collegiate regatta in the nation.

Drexel won gold in the women's second varsity eight, men's third varsity eight and men's second varsity four, while taking the silver in the women's second varsity four and the women's quad as well as the bronze in the women's varsity four and the women's third varsity eight. The women's varsity eight finished fourth overall.

The women's second varsity eight, racing in the Cara Fry boat, took home the gold with a winning time of 6:41.053 to beat second-place UMass by more than six seconds.

The men's third varsity eight, racing in the Lois Krall I boat, was victorious with a time of 6:01.075 to hold off Delaware by more than three seconds.

The men's second varsity eight, racing in the Bella Santorum boat for the finals, was the fastest in the category with a 6:44.475.



Band-Aid Boy, created by Barbara Carreño while studying product design, was exhibited at the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area.

Dean Donna Murasko, always identifiable by her signature hat, left her mark on the College of Arts and Sciences during her 15 years as dean.



ART

## Fantastic Creations in 'A World of Emotions'

Barbara Carreño, who graduated in June with a degree in product design from the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, likes to express her feelings through art. She began exhibiting her creations, which she refers to as "toy art," in 2009, in her native Venezuela. She's since held exhibitions in Barcelona and Philadelphia, where she moved in 2014.

Last fall while still a student, she showed her work in an exhibit called *A Peek Into the Unusual Imagination of Microbarbi*, at the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area.

"Basically my stuff is kind of like a world of emotions. It's about giving life to your emotions, with or without faces."

— BARBARA CARREÑO  
BS product design '18.

HEALTH



## 'Healing Hurt People' Keeps Changing Lives

An emergency-room-based program that helps city youth break free from cycles of violence has been awarded a \$446,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Healing Hurt People program in Drexel's Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice is designed to help young victims of violence heal from the emotional trauma they are coping with alongside their physical injuries. Healing Hurt People seeks to intervene in emergency departments right after injuries are suffered by addressing the trauma of violent injury, as well as the stress of these young people's day-to-day lives.

John Rich, professor of health management and policy in the Dornsife School of Public Health, and Ted Corbin, associate professor of emergency medicine in the College of Medicine, secured the grant, which will support the training and hiring of new community health worker peers, and expand the program's focus on culturally responsive healing practices, including storytelling. Additionally, the two-year grant will facilitate work with Kenneth Hardy, a professor in Drexel's College of Nursing and Health Professions who focuses on healing from racial trauma and oppression.

Healing Hurt People was founded by Corbin in 2007 at Hahnemann University Hospital's Emergency Department and has since spread to trauma centers across Philadelphia and across the country. Since its founding, the program has served 1,800 people.

FACULTY

## Comings and Goings

Over the winter Drexel said "goodbye" to a long-time dean and "hello" to a couple of new faces.

Hats off to Donna Murasko, who concludes a 15-year stint as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences this year to return to teaching. Dean Murasko elevated the reputation of the college, demonstrating that a continuum — not separation — of humanities, social sciences and physical and natural sciences is the ideal foundation for student success, regardless of major. A search for a successor is under way.

Laura N. Gitlin's commute just became much shorter. For the past seven years, the National Institutes of Health researcher has been commuting to Baltimore, where she was founding director of the Center for Innovative Care in Aging at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. In February, the native Philadelphian became Drexel's new dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

The Academy of Natural Sciences has a new president and CEO in Scott Cooper, an expert in architectural conservation and former vice president for collections, knowledge and engagement at the Royal British Columbia Museum. Before joining the Royal BC in 2014, Cooper was director of museums at the Qatar Foundation in Doha.



Culinary arts sophomores Melissa Martin and Katelyn Comerford built a gingerbread replica of Eastern State Penitentiary for a holiday showcase in Center City last winter.

CULINARY

## Gingerbread Houses, Philly Style

When Drexel culinary students make gingerbread houses, they really get into it: carefully piped icing roofs, Twizzler bows, candy cane pillars, 66 pounds of flour, six pounds of butter and four pounds of icing.

And that was just for two gingerbread houses, built in a matter of days, a week before finals last December.

Four undergraduate students in the Culinary Arts & Science Program made gingerbread versions of two Philly landmarks — Boathouse Row and Eastern State Penitentiary — to display in a holiday showcase called “Sugar & Spice & Everything Nice” at the Logan Hotel in Center City.

The students baked the dough on a Friday, froze it over the weekend, baked the pieces on the following Monday and Tuesday, started construction on Tuesday and Wednesday, and decorated and fit the pieces together on Wednesday and Thursday, all in order to have the gingerbread houses ready to be transported and displayed at the Center City hotel on Friday.

“It seemed like a fun thing to do for the holidays that was kind of stressful in a different way from other finals prep,” says Nora Vaughan, a freshman who helped cook, build and frost the Boathouse Row gingerbread house, along with fellow freshman Lauren Miller.

SCHOLARSHIP

# \$100,000 Halftime Show

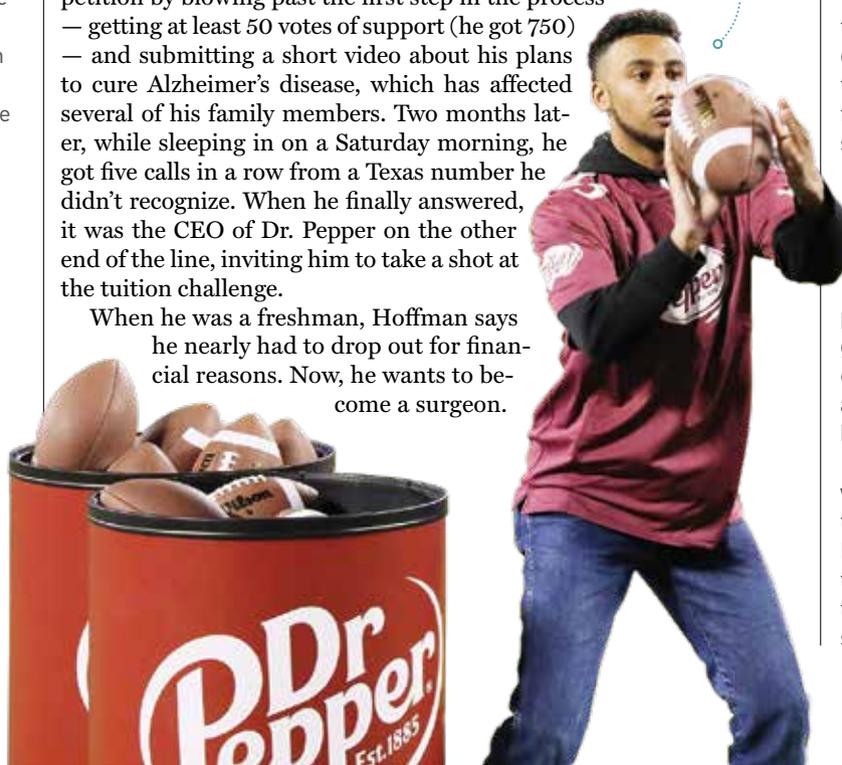
How many footballs can you toss into an oversized can of Dr. Pepper in 30 seconds? What if \$100,000 is on the line?

For Isaiah Hoffman, a pre-med double major in sociology and biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, the answer is 12.

Hoffman scored the big win at halftime of the ACC Championship Game on Dec. 2, in front of a sold-out crowd at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina. He made it into the competition by blowing past the first step in the process — getting at least 50 votes of support (he got 750) — and submitting a short video about his plans to cure Alzheimer’s disease, which has affected several of his family members. Two months later, while sleeping in on a Saturday morning, he got five calls in a row from a Texas number he didn’t recognize. When he finally answered, it was the CEO of Dr. Pepper on the other end of the line, inviting him to take a shot at the tuition challenge.

When he was a freshman, Hoffman says he nearly had to drop out for financial reasons. Now, he wants to become a surgeon.

Isaiah Hoffman, a pre-med student who hopes to find a cure for Alzheimer’s, won the Dr. Pepper Tuition Giveaway in 2017.



ACADEMICS

## Extra Help for First-Gen College Students

An estimated 30 percent of Drexel’s full-time undergraduate students are the first in their families to go to a four-year college, but it’s not always easy for first-generation students to tell who else is experiencing the same pressures.

That’s why Drexel has launched First Forward. The program is designed to connect undergraduate and graduate students with each other and with faculty and staff who have had similar experiences, who can serve as mentors or guides.

“It’s really helpful for students to hear that people they see every day are similar to them in regard to some of the challenges that first-generation students face,” says Tasha Gardner, director of the Center for Learning and Academic Success Services.

First Forward also works to make students aware of resources on campus that are in place to help them achieve their goals. The program sponsors occasional meet-and-greet mixers and lunch-and-learn events to help student progress.

Going forward, the program is working on a website and hopes to become a recognized partner of I’m First, a national organization that hosts an online community for first-generation college students.

Check out Drexel's newest alumni in a photo gallery from the 2018 commencement at [drexelmagazine.org](http://drexelmagazine.org)



Steve Kravitz, BS '68, MBA '75, and his wife Ann Snyder Kravitz, BS '69, pause for a photo with Mario at the Golden Dragon Society Luncheon. The Drexel Class of 1968 celebrated its 50-year reunion on Friday with a welcome breakfast, a class photo, the luncheon, campus tours and dinner at the Ritz-Carlton.



ALUMNI WEEKEND RECAP

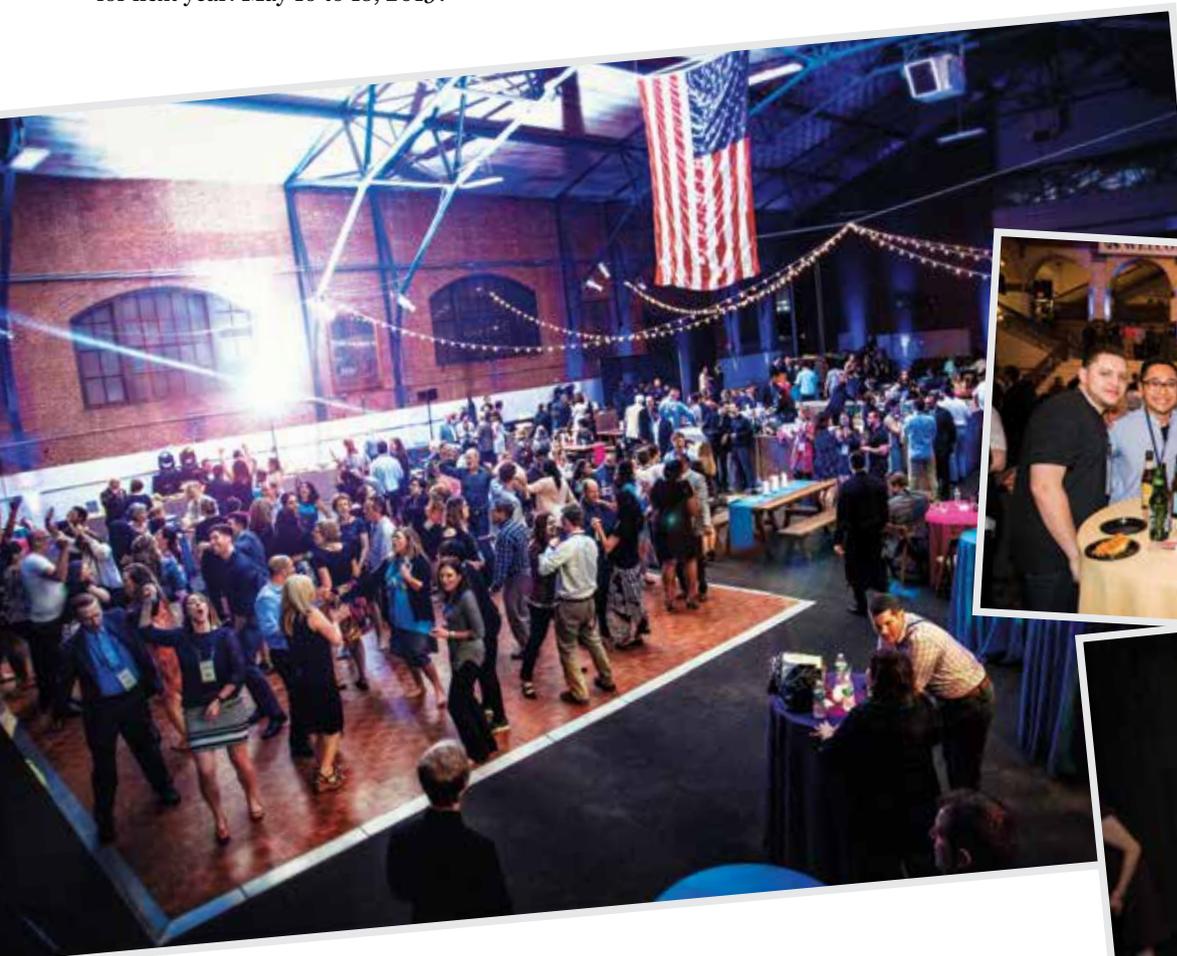
# Good to See You at Alumni Weekend

The rain couldn't dampen the fun at Alumni Weekend on May 17 to 19! Dragons descended on campus and throughout Philadelphia for events like the Young Alumni Beer Hall, the College of Medicine Celebration at the Franklin Institute, Drexel Fest at the Zoo and Drexel After Dark. This year also featured great new events including the sold-out Bourbon and Whiskey Tasting and the Golden Dragon Society Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton. Save the date for next year: May 16 to 18, 2019!

(left) The dance floor wasn't big enough to hold Drexel After Dark attendees at the 23rd Street Armory. Dragons celebrated with Stephen Starr food, drinks and live music!

(below) More than 500 recent graduates and members of the Class of 2018 flocked to the Young Alumni Beer Hall for games, music, appetizers and craft brews.

(bottom) Sanjay Goel, MD '93 MCP, 2018 recipient of the Medical College of Pennsylvania Distinguished Alumnus Award, poses with his mother and wife at the College of Medicine Award Brunch.





Send letters to the editor to [magazine@drexel.edu](mailto:magazine@drexel.edu).



Jonathan Deutsch, founder of Drexel's Food Lab, will create a national food-waste reduction curriculum.



When not connected to a computer, this cloth keyboard knitted at Drexel can be stuffed in a pocket.

FOOD

## Future Chefs Learn to Reduce Food Waste

Of the 63 million tons of food that goes to waste in the United States every year, about a third is wasted by restaurants and commercial food service businesses.

In an effort to help create a more sustainable restaurant culture, the James Beard Foundation is seeking to create a curriculum for food-waste reduction to be used in culinary schools around the country. And it has tapped Jonathan Deutsch, a professor in the Center for Food & Hospitality Management and founder of Drexel's Food Lab, to lead the charge.

Deutsch was selected in November as the inaugural fellow in the James Beard Foundation Impact Program. The program, supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, will pilot a professional development curriculum that is intended for culinary educators working across a wide range of programs, including technical schools, community colleges and four-year universities. It will offer skills training, values exchange and the curricular tools needed to inspire current and future generations of culinary students to minimize waste.

"Recovering would-be food waste and transforming it into an item people would purchase and eat will create revenue, jobs and ultimately create a more sustainable food system," says Deutsch.

ENVIRONMENT

## A Greener Campus by 2030



If you close your eyes and think about what's causing climate change, you're probably picturing industrial smokestacks and gridlocked highways. But according to the Delaware Valley Green Building Council (DVGBC), some 60 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in Philadelphia are produced by the building sector.

That's why Drexel has joined a regional partnership of property owners, utilities, energy service companies and community organizations that have pledged to help reduce energy, water use and transportation emissions by 50 percent by the year 2030.

The effort, part of a national initiative called 2030 Districts, was announced by DVGBC in October.

Drexel's participation in the initiative will involve gathering data on water consumption, building energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from shuttle buses and making adjustments to meet the 2030 district goals, according to Christopher Plummer, executive director of University Facilities. In addition to pursuing the highest levels of energy efficiency certification for all of its renovations and new construction, the University is adding monitoring technology that will allow it to gather data and focus on energy-saving procedures in each building. It is also looking at adding alternative-energy-powered shuttles to its fleet.

INNOVATION

## New Lab for Smart Fabrics

Imagine a computer keyboard knit from yarn, embedded with touch sensors and bluetooth, so soft and flexible it could be crumpled into a pocket. Such a device would be cloth-like, yet highly technological and functional. Imagine how a class of textiles like that could transform everyday life and products across multiple industries.

It sounds like science fiction, but interdisciplinary researchers working with Drexel's Center for Functional Fabrics, in partnership with a collaboration announced in 2016 with the Department of Defense-funded Advanced Functional Fabrics of America, are developing the models, standards, design and fabrication methods necessary to stimulate an industry around "functional fibers." These smart fabrics integrate yarns and fibers engineered to see, hear, sense and communicate.

In 2017, Drexel further announced that it is establishing a state-of-the-art, end-to-end advanced regional manufacturing lab capable of developing functional fabric prototypes for pilot-stage production.

It will be called the "Pennsylvania Fabric Discovery Center" and will be overseen by the Center for Functional Fabrics.

# Show and Tell

CO-OP PROGRAM

## VICTORIA LOUCA

PRE-JUNIOR, BS SPORT MANAGEMENT '20

Every year, more than 5,700 students discover their careers through the Drexel Co-op program — a signature model of education that balances classroom theory with job experience within a buzzing network of nearly 1,700 co-op employers in 51 countries. What does a Drexel co-op look like? In this regular feature, we ask a student fresh off a recent co-op to show us. — *Jared Brey*

### THE CO-OP

As an intern in the marketing department for the Philadelphia Eagles, I helped to promote the team when they won the Super Bowl. I manage our marketing inbox that's open to fans who want to reach out to us with questions or requests. I do a lot of organizing with auto-graphed inventory. It's a lot of different research projects and, during the season, a lot of game-day preparations. We have this countdown script of the times, down to the second, that things happen. I'm in charge of creating that and distributing it to the departments.

It still gives me the chills to talk about, to be able to say that I went to the Super Bowl, that I saw my team that I've been a huge fan of since I was little. It's insane.

### THE TAKEAWAY

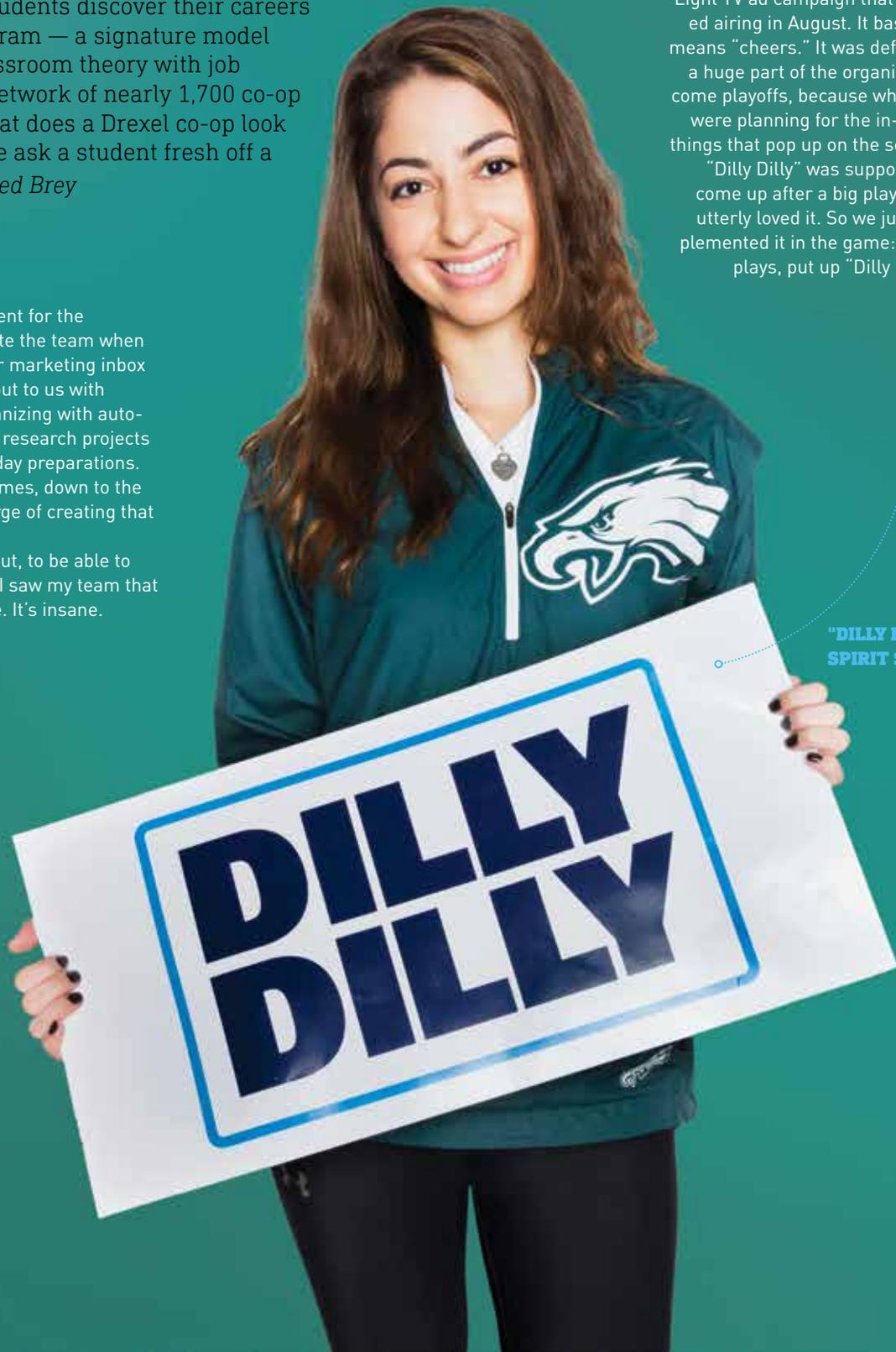
Things will get thrown at you that you sometimes don't have the answer to, and you don't even know where to start, but you have to figure it out. Even if the first thing that you want to do is go ask for help, there's definitely a lot of critical thinking and attention to detail and just playing out the different possibilities and outcomes before going to somebody else.

I actually don't know that I want to do marketing. I've taken a little bit of an interest in other departments that I've been exposed to just because I'm in the company. Community relations is interesting to me, because you're more working with the players at appearances, or public relations, looking at the way the media look at the team. I definitely want to be with an NFL team.

### THE OBJECT

"Dilly Dilly" comes from the Bud Light TV ad campaign that started airing in August. It basically means "cheers." It was definitely a huge part of the organization come playoffs, because when we were planning for the in-game things that pop up on the screen, "Dilly Dilly" was supposed to come up after a big play. Fans utterly loved it. So we just implemented it in the game: Great plays, put up "Dilly Dilly!"

### "DILLY DILLY" SPIRIT SIGN





Graduate College Interim Dean Elisabeth Van Bockstaele with Leonard Reinsfelder, National Cryptologic School commandant.



Priya Mammen

CYBERSECURITY

## NSA Agents Can Score College Creds at Drexel

For more than half a century, national security agents in training have enrolled in the National Cryptologic School to dive deep into everything from foreign languages to code-breaking. Today, the school with the classified curriculum is partnering with Drexel to offer students the opportunity to earn a master's degree in cybersecurity.



The partnership allows Cryptologic School students to transfer up to 21 credits from their own coursework and experience toward Drexel's Master of Science in Cybersecurity. NCS students will be able to earn a degree while studying at the Cryptologic School and also taking Drexel's courses online.

The University has steadily expanded its cybersecurity course offerings through grants from the NSA and the U.S. Army Reserve, in hopes of meeting the need for cybersecurity professionals in the workforce.

COMMUNITY

# Schuylkill Yards Breaks Ground

A new community park is coming to the corner of 30th and Market streets courtesy of Drexel and Brandywine Realty Trust. Known as Drexel Square, the park is the first phase of the \$3.5 billion mixed-use, master-planned mega-development known as Schuylkill Yards. Drexel and Brandywine broke ground on the project in November.

As a priority of Brandywine's curated neighborhood experience, Drexel Square will boast 1.3 acres of public space located directly across from Amtrak's 30th Street Station. The space was designed in partnership with planning and design firms SHoP Architects and West 8 Landscape Architects, and will serve as a four-season destination with dynamic community programming throughout the year. Drexel Square is just one portion of the 6.5 acres of greenspace and improved streetscape planned for Schuylkill Yards, and is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Over the next two decades, Schuylkill Yards will bring to Philadelphia a next-generation innovation community defined by thoughtful place-making, civic engagement and quality execution. When completed, the site will host a combination of repurposed buildings, new high-rises with world-class design and a diverse network of public spaces regularly programmed for community engagement and enjoyment.



INNOVATION

## New Thinking About Urban Challenges

In its quest to find new ways to solve the challenges facing Philadelphia and other cities, the Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation at Drexel has invited three community leaders to dig deeper into their research with the backing of the University's vast intellectual resources.

The inaugural class of Urban Innovation Fellows, whose work spans public health, the arts and community engagement, were introduced at the first Urban Innovation Summit at Drexel last fall.

The fellows are Priya Mammen, MD, director of public health programs and clinical associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University; Michael O'Bryan, director of youth and young adult programs at The Village of Arts and Humanities; and Chris Spahr, who is executive director of the Centennial Parkside CDC.

The fellows will be tackling workforce development, community-scale solar energy and the opioid epidemic.

"Drexel is very much of the city, and this program is about an institutional commitment to urban problem-solving," says Harris Steinberg, executive director of the Lindy Institute.



## FROM THE DAC

BASKETBALL

# Steady as She Goes

*Denise Dillon breathed life into the Drexel women's basketball program when she took over coaching the team 15 years ago. She's now the winningest coach in program history — and she's just getting started. By Ben Seal*

Denise Dillon wasn't here for the Drexel women's basketball team's down years, when the Dragons posted losing seasons from 1991 to 1999, but she remembers them nonetheless. She was watching the Dragons scuffle from her vantage on the Main Line, where she went from four-year standout on the hardwood at Villanova University right into an assistant coaching position. Even then, during the worst run in the Dragons' Division I history, she knew there was a brighter future possible at Drexel.

"I knew what Drexel was while I was a player, and it was a program that was struggling a little bit," Dillon says. "I always had the mentality that this school could be something. They could have a winning basketball program. The first step was to get my foot in the door."

Fifteen years on, few could disagree with Dillon's vision. Since she took over as the Dragons' head coach in 2003, the program has posted 12 winning seasons, a winning percentage pushing .600, a Colonial Athletic Association championship in 2009 and a Women's National Invitation Tournament championship in 2013. On New Year's Eve she pulled down her 265th career victory, making her the winningest coach in Drexel history, and this spring after the team won the regular season CAA championship she was named CAA Coach of the Year for the third time. But don't assume that she's ready to take any of the credit for all that success.

"It's all about the players who have come before this group we have, and the present players, and my coaching staff who I've been extremely fortunate to have had by my side since the start," Dillon says. "The reality is that all of us are involved with that number."

Turning the Dragons from perennial punching bags into an annual contender was a tall task for Dillon, but she knew she had fertile ground to draw from in fielding her team. The Philadelphia region, she says, is home to the best basketball in the country, in large part because of the six Division I schools that share the community. By drawing in local talent like Catherine Scanlon '06 (a forward from Drexel Hill whose name peppers the Dragons' record books) and finding a niche with international recruits like Romanian forward Gabriela Marginean '10, Drexel's

all-time leading scorer and the leader of the 2009 title team, Dillon built a winning program from the ground up.

The pitch to recruits was simple, she says: "You're going to start the winning ways here at Drexel."

She was right.

Along the way, those recruits became student-athletes and helped deliver a slew of memorable moments for Dillon. Her upstart squad beat Old Dominion University at home in the middle of last decade when the Lady Monarchs were a dominant force in the CAA, and just a few years later repeated the performance to end the team's 17-year run atop the conference. There was the double-overtime road win in 2010 over the University of Delaware and future WNBA star Elena Delle Donne, and the WNIT championship win over the University of Utah that sent the crowd at the DAC into a court-storming frenzy.

As much as the wins, she prides herself on what's happened beyond the box scores — the academic successes, the women her players have grown into, the coaching staff filled with former Dragons who wanted to remain a part of the program.

"Denise is the perfect fit for an athletics program such as ours that celebrates success on and off the court," says Athletic Director Eric Zillmer, one of the people Dillon credits with giving her a chance, along with Deputy Athletic Director Nick Gannon and former Senior Vice President Anthony Caneris. "She is a class act, and I've learned so much from her."

Dillon studied education at Villanova and always knew she'd like to coach at some level, whether that meant youth or high school basketball. She spent time helping out with local AAU teams and worked at basketball camps in college, but it took a season-ending shoulder injury in her junior season with the Wildcats to set her sights on collegiate coaching.

From the bench, the game made a different kind of sense.

"I could hear my coach and what he was saying, and also why he was saying it," Dillon says. "I remember being at a game and thinking, 'This is what I want to do.'" Luckily for Drexel, it stuck.



HYPER ELITE

DREXEL  
DRAGONS  
BASKETBALL

# FROM THE DAC

## PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VIDAS ATHLETIC COMPLEX

- 1 New seating for 1,600 spectators.
- 2 Film tower on top of the seating structure.
- 3 New plaza entrance with permanent ticket office.
- 4 New concession and merchandise areas.
- 5 Team rooms.
- 6 Storage areas.
- 7 Officials' locker room.
- 8 Restrooms.





"[Vince Vidas] was just so grateful for what Drexel did for him and he always thought that if he could assist other young men and women to receive the same opportunities as he did, they would succeed on the field and in life."  
— Director of Athletics Eric Zillmer

ATHLETICS

# Field of Dreams

*A new \$1 million matching gift from trustee-alumnus Jim Bean and his wife Christine for improvements at Vidas Athletic Complex continues the legacy of the late Vince Vidas. By Mike Unger*

BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, Jim Bean '91 was not the world's greatest lacrosse player during his two seasons at Drexel. He may, however, have one of the most important lasting legacies.

Bean and his wife, Christine, have donated a \$1 million challenge toward the renovation of the Vidas Athletic Complex. While the gift will go toward the \$3.5 million project that will transform the facility, Bean says he's hoping to impact more than athletics.

"I think there are several pillars of significance for any university," he says. "If we can raise our game a little bit athletically and with the facilities around it, it can put us in a different place than we are today. My motivation is bigger than just sports. It's how do we help Drexel check all the boxes that take the University to the next level?"

The gift and renovation project are particularly poignant because of the November death of legendary Drexel football player Vince Vidas '59, '64, at age 86. The facility is named for him and his wife, Judy, both longtime supporters of the athletic department.

"I knew Vince well," Director of Athletics Eric Zillmer says. "He was unpretentious and humble, even though he was a giant and a very successful person. I believe he would simply say that he would be happy that his gift was useful and that it meant something to somebody. He was just so grateful for what Drexel did for him and he always thought that if he could assist other young men and women to receive the same opportunities as he did, they would succeed on the field and in life."

Planned improvements to the facility include new seating for 1,600 spectators, a film tower on top of the seating structure, a new plaza entrance with a permanent ticket office, new concession and merchandise areas, team rooms, storage areas, an

officials' locker room and restrooms. Construction will start immediately, Zillmer says, but the projects may take three to five years to complete. All gifts and commitments \$25,000 and above will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$1 million by the Beans. Already, an alumnus has provided support for a new state-of-the-art LED video scoreboard.

Jim and Christine are both former Apple executives, now entrepreneurs and seed investors in tech and health care companies. As the former vice president of retail at Apple Inc., Bean led a global team and oversaw the operations of more than 450 stores in 17 countries. He grew up in nearby Havertown, and chose Drexel because of its academic reputation, its co-op program — and the opportunity to play lacrosse.

"I loved playing sports all throughout high school, and to be able to play Division I lacrosse for two years was an incredible honor and gift to me," he says. "Drexel prepared me to jump into the working world and have a significant leg up."

He's hoping today's Drexel students embrace that same advantage. Zillmer says the Beans' gift will be a catalyst in helping to boost the athletic program, and thus, the entire University.

"Drexel Athletics has grown to become a vibrant and dynamic part of the campus that touches upon the pulse of our University's heartbeat," he says. "This gift will kickstart our Vidas campaign and transform the complex's lower field, which is the training and competition ground for some of Drexel's winningest Division I teams — men's and women's lacrosse and men's and women's soccer. The renovations will give student-athletes a state-of-the-art playing field, with a stadium-like look, that matches their skills, talents and ambitions."







CREW

# In the River's Rhythm

*Paige Propp — daughter of former Philadelphia Flyer Brian Propp — keeps Drexel crew on pace and her eye on winning the race as the women team's seventh seat rower. By Mike Unger*

From her perch in the seventh seat of Drexel women's crew's top boat, Paige Propp's role is to set the tempo.

It's a position she's held for all four of her years on the team, and a role coach Paul Savell says she was born to fulfill.

"You can see that performing at a high level is in her blood," he says. "There's nobody more competitive than her, but she's also not afraid to work the hardest."

Propp, a senior majoring in finance and international business, says she gets much of her natural competitive nature from her father, former National Hockey League star (and longtime Philadelphia Flyer) Brian Propp. But even she admits she can sometimes take it to another level. Whether it's playing canasta with her family or coed floor hockey with her friends, it doesn't matter. She has to be the best.

"I feel competitive when it comes to grades or even comparing GPAs with other members of the team," she says. "It comes out in everything I do."

Luckily, Propp's propensity to compete doesn't irk her teammates.

"It's not like people are rolling their eyes," Savell says. "She has fun with it. But she knows she's competitive and everybody on the team knows it."

Without question, Propp — and her desire to always keep score — has been an asset to the Dragons since she pulled her first oar through the water four years ago. Growing up in the Philadelphia suburb of Cinaminson, New Jersey, she played field hockey, soccer and, of course, ice hockey, before wandering into a boathouse during her freshman year of high school.

"I had a friend with older siblings on the crew team," she recalls. "It sounded kind of interesting because I like to be on the water. I thought, 'I'll try this out and see if I'm any good at it.'"

She was. Continuing her career in the sport in college became a priority for Propp, who chose Drexel not only for its crew team but for its co-op as well. Her measurements on an ergometer, a rowing machine, impressed Savell, but he wasn't blown away by Propp until she began practicing with the team.

"When she got here, she really was so much more than what we expected," he says. "She's a multifaceted athlete. Leadership-wise, she's not afraid to speak up. And what comes out of her mouth is really insightful."

When her alarm goes off at 5:15 a.m., Propp helps encourage her roommates, rowers all, to get moving. They're usually at the boathouse on the Schuylkill River by 6 a.m. for a two-hour session on the water that leaves her soaked by either the rain, river or sweat (and sometimes all three).

"Rowing is really tough, but you learn to love your team so much because they support you," she says.

Throughout her career, Propp has pulled in a boatload of individual awards. Last season she was named the *Philadelphia Inquirer* Academic All-Area Women's Rowing Co-Performer of the Year, and was a member of the Colonial Athletic Association All-Academic team for the second straight year. Still, personal accolades pale in comparison to the feeling she got in 2017 when the women's boat she sat in won the gold medal at the prestigious Dad Vail Regatta for the first time in program history.

"That was something we'd been working toward from the day that I set foot on the team," she says. "We finally achieved it, and it was one of the greatest days of my life."

Another of the seventh seat rower's responsibilities is making sure everyone in the boat "is on the same page," Savell says.

Yet another reason why Paige Propp is the perfect person for the job.



F L A M E

B + Y

F L A M E

*How do you produce a full-length, independently budgeted documentary on a subject as intense as the inner lives of firefighters while still working your way through film school? By taking your time and some real-life risks.*

STORY BY  
BEN SEAL

PHOTOS BY  
BRIAN  
SULLIVAN



**B**rian Sullivan '17 was 33 days into production on his first feature film, working long past midnight on an exhausting day of shooting, when he finally broke into the heart of it.

He had been filming the firefighters at the center of his documentary for months and had known some of them much longer, but even halfway through the shoot he still wasn't sure what would come of it. That night, with his usual crew finished for the night — no sound guy, no producer, no second camera to back him up — he sat with members

of the fire house for an emotional interview that brought the truth of firefighting and filmmaking into sharp focus.

When he dragged himself home at dawn, Sullivan, who graduated from Drexel this spring with a bachelor's in film and video, blearily dashed off an email to Thomas Quinn, director of the Film & Video program in the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, who had first convinced Sullivan to turn a short film he threw together from odds and ends of footage into a full-length feature.

“Breaking that barrier with cast members into their deepest, darkest personal secrets, and hearing the nightmares they’ve had every night for four years, is something I never in a million years expected to get on camera,” Sullivan wrote to Quinn. “Listening to these people relive the most harrowing and humanizing things they’ve ever been a part of, detail by detail, hour by hour, is something I didn’t really ever think I’d get as a filmmaker.”

That intimacy, gained by developing trust over months and years, is a rare quality for a student film, and full-length student films are rare in their own right. Sullivan’s movie, “Behind the Bay Doors,” which is winding its way through the post-production process with eyes on a 2018 release, is just the program’s third, Quinn says. It explores the lives of the people who run into a fire when everyone else runs out — the people who protect their communities whether or not they’re recognized for it.

Fifteen of the 17 film crew members are Dragons, several of whom graduated in the spring alongside Sullivan. They handled the sound, the editing, the production and the photography. They spent the better part of two years following Sullivan’s lead to get to this point, even when it took them into burning buildings.

**S**ullivan will never forget his first fire. September 2013. A two-story twin on Fairview Avenue in Abington was fully engulfed, plumes of black smoke stretching skyward, billowing above the surrounding trees. The call came in shortly before midnight and brought together nearly 100 firefighters from neighboring departments to battle the flames in an orange haze. Sullivan stayed on the fringes, a bystander with camera in hand, documenting the scene into the early hours of the morning. It was the first time he truly understood a fire’s power.

“I was about a block and a half away,” Sullivan says, “and I felt like I was in an oven.”

The chief of his local fire house, Dale Jonas of the Roslyn Fire Company, was so impressed by the pictures Sullivan posted on social media after that night on Fairview that he wanted to learn more about the kid who’d taken them. Come on down to the station, he offered, and let’s talk about what you can do in the future. Jonas gave Sullivan a pair of keys and told him to come around anytime. He’s been coming around ever since.

He began toying around in a sort of journalistic capacity, filming and taking pictures most of the time. Before long he had enough footage to make a short film, inspired by a class with adjunct professor Steve Acito, that gave viewers a glimpse of life in a fire house.

“They brought me under their wing and I was able to go behind the bay doors, so to speak, and see what it’s like on the inside,” Sullivan says.

The short, shot through with dramatic cinematography, immediately attracted attention, drawing more than 40,000 viewers in its first week on Vimeo as it got passed among the firefighter community. But Sullivan knew offering a glimpse wasn’t enough. The audience had scarcely enough time to learn the names of the firefighters he interviewed, let alone connect with them enough to be moved in any way.

“Everybody wanted to know more,” Sullivan says. “You can’t explain a way of life in nine minutes.”

Quinn had the same reaction. Every time a firefighter started saying something interesting, they were cut off. He knew there was more story to tell. So he took an unusual step and suggested Sullivan think about making a long-form piece.

At first, Sullivan laughed it off. Students just don’t make feature-length films, he thought. But two months later he was in Los Angeles for the “Westphal in L.A.” summer program, living with four friends he’d had since his first term at Drexel, a group that had already formed a tight-knit production crew on various projects, and he decided there was nothing holding him back. They settled on a target budget of \$25,000, devised a plan for raising the funds — part crowdfunding, part private investment











and part work-for-hire with fire companies in need of promotional videos — and started rounding up the people who could make it happen.

Sergio Galeano joined the team to do sound when he was still just a sophomore in the spring of 2016, shortly before the crew started filming.

“Brian showed me the short and I was blown away,” Galeano says. “It was clear there was an idea here, clear that this had a trajectory. And not all college productions do.”

The idea, as Sullivan saw it, was to show people what it’s actually like to step into a fire house and suit up. Fighting fires is part of it, sure, but so are the more routine aspects of the job — running drills, cleaning the space, sharing meals. He wanted to dig into the personal motivations each individual holds dear, and the way those individuals coalesce, over time, into a family.

“Firefighting isn’t necessarily what people expect,” Rachel Tinkelman, the film’s story editor, says. “Brian didn’t want the Hollywood blockbuster version of firefighting.”

The crew didn’t have much of a choice, anyway. As Tinkelman says, “You show up to a fire company on a scheduled day, but you can’t schedule a fire.”

Chris Manning, at 41, is a 21-year veteran of the Flourtown Fire Company, one of the houses profiled in the movie. He knows as well as anyone that the moments that speak the loudest about life in a fire house are often the quietest, when a blaze is nowhere to be found.

“If somebody’s going to watch this as a documentary about hardcore firefighting, it’s just not for them,” he says. “It really is about the small fire department, about the camaraderie, the sacrifices that are made — all these things that go on behind the scenes.”



“THEY BROUGHT ME UNDER THEIR WING AND I WAS ABLE TO GO BEHIND THE BAY DOORS, SO TO SPEAK, AND SEE WHAT IT’S LIKE ON THE INSIDE.”

Sullivan and his team understood that from the very beginning, Manning says, and it won them the respect of their subjects. They were careful in their approach, sensitive to the stories of the people they filmed.

“It felt natural to have them there,” Manning says. “We knew they were there to capture something that is important and that we think people should know about.”

By the time a feature-length version of “Behind the Bay Doors” began coming into focus, Sullivan had been hanging around fire houses for at least two years. He knew he couldn’t just throw a bunch of unprepared film students into the fray. The crew was in for some training.

For three months, Sullivan did everything he could to get his team trained in operational awareness and the tactical side of firefighting. He gave them hours-long slideshow presentations to learn the vernacular. If

they wanted to be there for the big moments, they needed to know their way around a truck and what to expect when a call came in.

“These guys know what they’re doing,” Galeano says of the film’s subjects. “They’re in that truck before we can even blink and they know the protocol off the top of their heads. So the challenge was mostly keeping up with them, and also keeping up with our gear.”

The equipment — both firefighter and film — presented its own complications. It’s hard enough getting a boom microphone into position or maneuvering a camera around tight quarters, but tack on a pair of bulky, heat-resistant structural gloves and the degree of difficulty ratchets up. No film school can prepare a camera operator for that.

But gloves were just the beginning of the gear the crew needed to follow the firefighters out on a call. In order to get on the truck, they had to suit up in boots, suspended bunker pants, a fire-retardant hood, a heavy turnout coat, a 40-pound self-contained breathing apparatus and a helmet, all in less than 30 seconds. Once the helmet goes on, it feels like a watermelon bobbing above your shoulders, Sullivan says.

To train his crew members, Sullivan took them to live burns — controlled building fires used by firefighters to train for the real thing. Sean MacIntosh, the film’s director of photography, recalls the experience vividly.

“It was hot, obviously, and tough to breathe, because you’re wearing the face mask for the air and everything,” MacIntosh says. “It’s a very different experience. Claustrophobic. You feel very enclosed. Your adrenaline’s pumping and you’re sucking in air. It’s exciting and scary.”

Finally, by March 2016, they were ready to start shooting. Sullivan and his crew had arrangements to visit two fire houses over 70 days of principal photography and their budget had risen to \$80,000, a gap they filled by taking on more work for fire companies. Over the course of production, the crew was on hand for 48 calls, 15 of which were considered major incidents — fires, rescues and the like.

The crew applied their training when emergencies arose, but still faced the unique challenges offered by the subject matter.

“When we film, we think about not dying, not getting ourselves caught in a sticky situation and getting the shot,” Sullivan says. “We’re not worried about the technical stuff. Everybody asks what lens we used. I don’t care. As long as we’re not in a dangerous situation, the lens is secondary.”

The crew came away with 90 hours of material that are being condensed by lead editor Sean Higgins, a TV and media management sophomore, into a 90-minute film. It will hew largely to Tinkelman’s story outline, following six firefighters at varying stages of their careers. The younger volunteers had their illusions about life in a fire house dispelled along the way, and the film’s audience will share those journeys, Tinkelman says.

Two years ago, when all that existed was an intriguing short film and an ambitious 20-year-old director, getting to this point might have seemed like a shot in the dark: a group of raw college students tackling an unpredictable subject, learning on the fly about the realities of documentary filmmaking. With the right training, though, it all came together.

“It was daunting for the fact that we’d never done it before, but we wanted to so bad,” Galeano says. “It just seemed to make sense to do this. There was no reason why we shouldn’t, other than fear, and forget that, we’re almost firefighters. They don’t see fear, so why should we?”

 Late last spring, Sullivan stood on the front apron of a fire station in the midst of a night of filming, feeling unusually relaxed. He put the camera down and watched the sun set, taking in the moment with a level of calm he rarely felt throughout the film’s production. It gave him a chance to reflect on what it took to get to this point.

“I’m going to miss that — the friendships that I’ve made,” Sullivan says. “These guys will be able to look back in 30 or 40 years when they have kids and watch themselves going through something that’s really integral to their lives.”

Sullivan was referring to the documentary’s subjects, but he could just as well have been talking about the young men and women behind the camera.

He went into the project expecting some good moments, a decent bit of action. He didn’t anticipate the depth he would encounter in feature-length filmmaking, the intimate, behind-closed-doors conversations he would have with his subjects. On that revelatory night midway through the shoot, his subjects opened up about some of the most traumatic moments of their firefighting careers, sharing memories that would otherwise remain bottled up inside of them, weighing heavily.

Suddenly, Sullivan was seeing the inner lives of the men and women on the other side of the camera. As he told Quinn in that early-morning email, he learned that if he pushed hard enough, he would end up in the right place, at the right time, with the right people to catch something special.

“So many hours of footage I couldn’t have dreamt up in a million years happened tonight,” Sullivan wrote to Quinn. “It’s part of the thrill of being a documentary filmmaker. You never know what you’re going to get when you start filming for the day.”





5 YEARS

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE OPENING OF THE ENTREPRENEURIAL GAME STUDIO,

10 GAMES

THE SMALL VIDEO GAMES INCUBATOR AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY HAS BROUGHT 10 GAMES INTO EXISTENCE

1 VISION

AND IS ABOUT TO SEE ONE OF ITS MOST AMBITIOUS CREATIONS GO COMMERCIAL

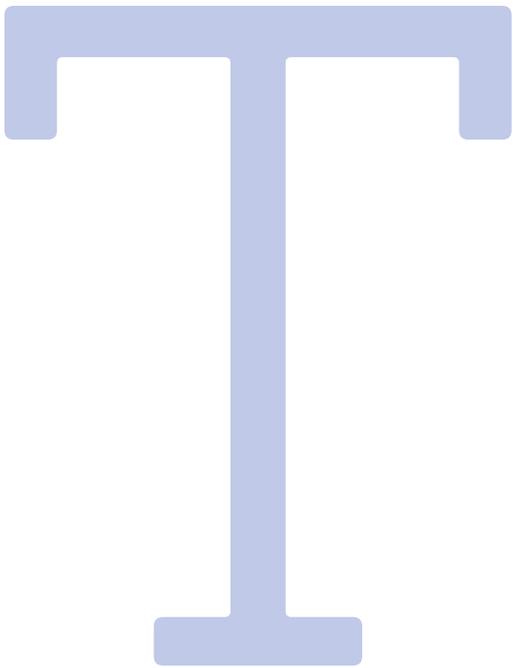
*and some* **SOUL**

WHEN GOSSAMER GAMES RELEASES "SOLE" LATER THIS YEAR. BY BEN SEAL PHOTO BY JEFF FUSCO

**BRILLIANT VISION**

Thomas Sharpe formed Gossamer Games with Nina DeLucia and Vincent De Tommaso.





THOMAS SHARPE WAS UP early one morning in 2014, finishing a class assignment in the URBN Center, the building that houses the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design. Dawn was breaking and the vaulted, industrial space was hushed and empty. As he watched the sun ricochet off the glassy Philadelphia skyline, a vision struck him.

What if he were to awake one day and find the sun had inexplicably failed to chart its usual course? What if everything stayed masked in darkness?

Sharpe, who graduated from Westphal in 2016 with a bachelor's in game art and production, grew up in Bandera, Texas, a middle-of-nowhere town an hour outside San Antonio that styles itself as the "Cowboy Capital of the World." Most of the local entertainment came on horseback. But while the rodeo rumbled, Sharpe was home playing video games, making his way through an ever-expanding universe of digital adventures.

That morning, watching day break in University City, an idea for an unusual video game stirred in Sharpe, and he embarked on his biggest journey yet.

Soon after, he joined the Entrepreneurial Game Studio, an incubator for student-run video game startups within Westphal. Sharpe assembled a team

of fellow student programmers and artists to join his studio, Gossamer Games. Over the next two years, an evolving team built on his vision, creating a single-player game that explores the quality of loneliness in a world gone dark. In "Sole," a player travels alone as a tiny ball of light through a somber, quiet city where it is the only source of illumination, revealing the world as it goes. In an industry brimming with brash first-person shooters and candy-colored, mindless mobile games, "Sole" stands out as meditative, introspective and, most rare of all, emotionally resonant.

When "Sole" is released later this year, it will be the 10th game to emerge from the Entrepreneurial Game Studio since its inception five years ago. And judging from the landscapes Sharpe and his team have already completed, it will be the program's most artistically ambitious game yet.

#### INSIDE THE GAMER'S STUDIO

The Entrepreneurial Game Studio is a tiny hub tucked inside Drexel's Expressive and Creative Interactive Technologies (ExCITe) Center, a suite of labs and classrooms where on any given day students may be weaving functional fabrics, building out a virtual reality experience or tinkering with robotic technology. The studio's unofficial signpost is a Super Mario Bros. illustration, familiar green tubes and all, that runs the length of the center's back wall. A few paces down the hall, the studio itself occupies a small room filled with computer equipment and, most days, at least a handful of busy programmers designing three-dimensional chairs or trees or kittens hurtling through outer space (for whatever reason, at least two teams of students have developed games that feature felines in the cosmos). A painting of a Pac-Man chomps across the back wall.

The Entrepreneurial Game Studio was founded in 2013 by Frank Lee, a professor of digital media in Westphal, with funding from Drexel and Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development. Lee is perhaps best known locally for programming the exterior lights of the 29-story-high Cira Centre to play a massive game of Pong in 2013 and Tetris in 2014.

His inspiration for the studio was, partly, desperation. In 2008, when he helped establish the Game Design undergraduate program at Drexel, there was no local commercial gaming industry that his students could turn to for co-ops and jobs. For years, he watched students graduate from his program and disappear to other cities. He tried to convince some big names in the industry to set up shop in the city, and even worked to get the state legislature to pass a bill that would support them with tax credits and the like, but it all fell through. So, in the Drexel spirit, he struck out on his own to fill the void.

"I felt like it was completely out of my control," Lee says. "But what I could do was create a factory for video game startups and hope one of them hits it big."

He dreams that one of his student-run companies will find success and lay roots in the neighborhood. All it takes is one company, he says. In Gossamer, he hopes to have that seed.

Ten student startups have emerged from the Entrepreneurial Game Studio since it was established by Professor of Digital Media Frank Lee five years ago:

**GOSSAMER GAMES**

**SWEET ROLL STUDIOS**

**LUNAR RABBIT GAMES**

**AQUARIUS GAMES**

**BURNING SKY GAMES**

**THE FOX AND THE LITTLE PRINCE**

**TRILLY GAMES**

**EVIL QUACKS**

**MT. AUTUMN**

**LONELY ELF**



In a typical year, there are 40-plus students involved with the Entrepreneurial Game Studio, split into teams of four or five members and tasked with creating a company — not just a student project, but an actual functioning LLC. Their objective is to publish a commercial game by the end of the year.

Lee wants his students to cope with the real-world issues they'll encounter beyond Drexel — starting a company, pitching ideas to colleagues and investors, showcasing progress, developing a popular product. Sharpe and his Gossamer team went to conferences and entered competitions, showing off their work and developing skills along the way in business and marketing that he says he lacked when he joined the program. They did it all with Lee's support, knowing that they were in a safe space designed to encourage and support their growth.

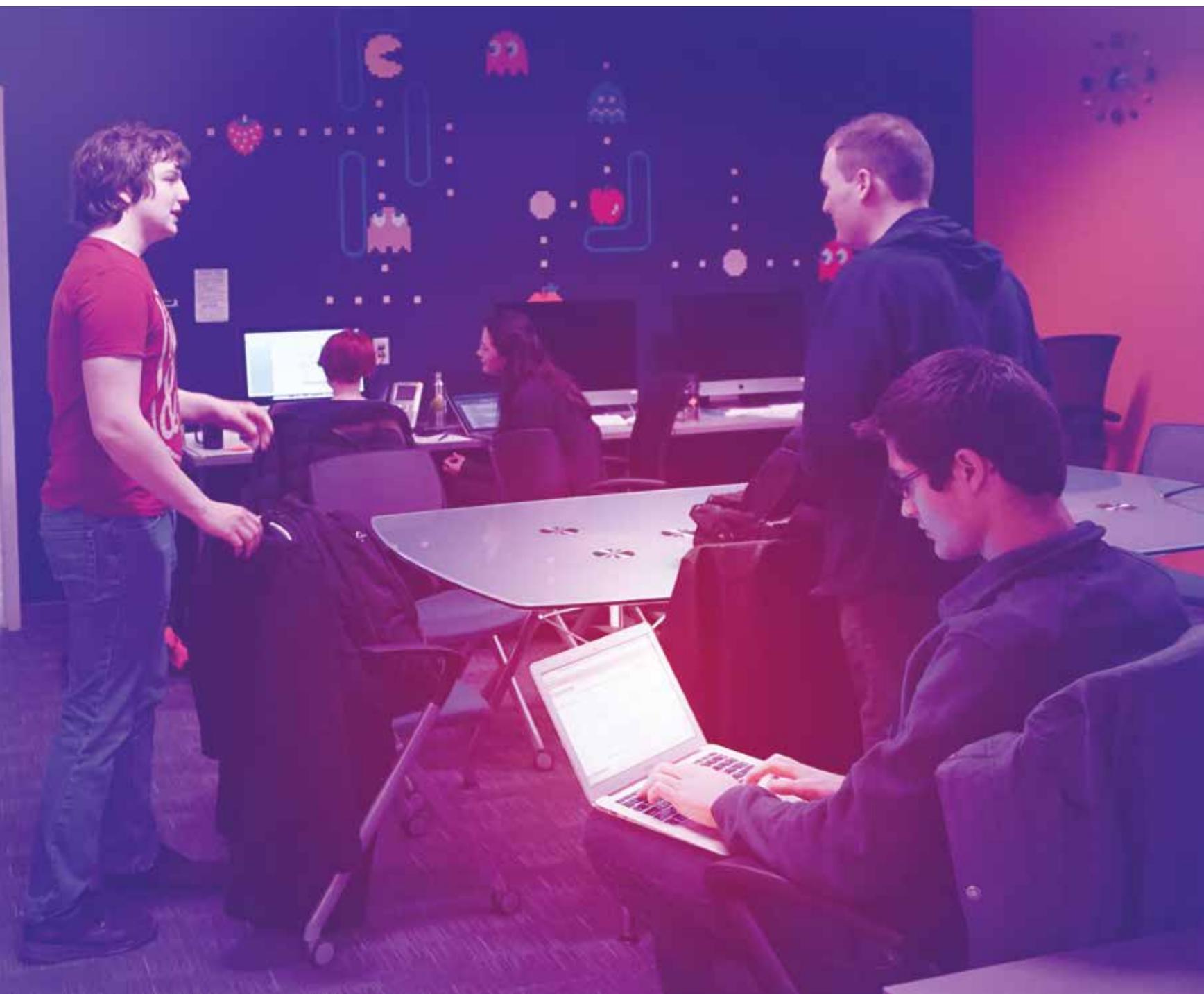
“In order to be a successful entrepreneur, you have to make a ton of mistakes,” Lee says. “I want students to make all those mistakes with me, while they're at Drexel, so they can succeed once they leave.”

Studio membership is an act of dedication. Students must apply to join but receive no course credit for their participation. If they miss a meeting they're placed on leave. They even fix their class schedules around the mandatory Wednesday afternoon project update meetings. The expectations result in a passionate collective of game designers.

The mood in the small studio space is typically jovial, even playful. There are regulars, just like at a neighborhood coffeehouse. Arianna Gass, the studio's former program manager, used to work in there with all the students until it got too loud to concentrate and she relocated. Spending so much time

#### **PLAY STATION**

The Entrepreneurial Game Studio is a members-only incubator for gaming teams intent on creating startups.

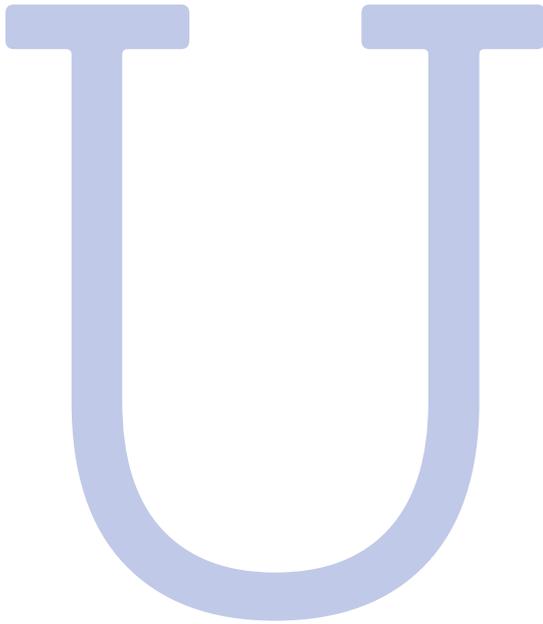


among like-minded, games-crazed designers and programmers has created a tight-knit, supportive group, she says.

"I've had former students at Drexel contact me and say that the community is so important, it was so helpful while they were here and the kinds of conversations they were having with students were way better than the ones they're having now in the indie community," Gass says.

For Sharpe and others, the strong community makes the games better. When he has needed it, he can get an assist from a member of another team with an eye for color palettes, or a second opinion on a new idea. Even something as simple as a closer look at marketing copy helps the finished product.

"People are always seeing the game, looking over your shoulder, offering feedback, and I think that has tremendous value," Sharpe says. "A lot of times when you're working on a game, you're in the dark. You don't see the game how other people see it. So having somebody constantly looking over your shoulder who has fresh eyes ... I think that's very unique in this kind of collaborative co-working space."



Up to this point, most of the games developed inside the Entrepreneurial Game Studio have been on mobile platforms because their smaller scope and lighter technical requirements make quick production with

a small team feasible. The studio's output includes Lunar Rabbit's "Starbright," a two-dimensional, physics-based game that sees a star hurtling through the galaxy, gaining mass as it avoids black holes. Sweet Roll Studio's "Malevolence Inc." is a competitive pass-and-play mobile game in which players assume the role of villains working to trap their opponents as they run through disco-themed, platform-style levels. Still others involve navigating a fish through a maze (Aquarius Games' "Chubby Guppy") or breaking blocks under pressure, like a spin on "Tetris" (Fox and the Little Prince's "Alchemia").

Last year, the studio hit a milestone when one of its student startups released a computer game — Sweet Roll's "Fantasy Fairways" — on Steam, the digital games storefront available to PC, Mac and Linux users. "Fairways" is a puzzle game of sorts that imagines a round of golf played on a Rube Goldberg-style obstacle course. It is the studio's furthest foray yet into a video game industry that now brings in more than \$100 billion globally each year, according to market analysis firm Newzoo.

The top end of the industry is dominated by blockbuster games — sports franchises like "Madden" and "NBA 2K" and massively popular series like "Call of Duty" and "Grand Theft Auto" — that cost tens of millions to develop and several times that to market, on the way to millions of copies sold. For most indie games, which are typically designed by much smaller teams with lesser funds for release on Steam and the consoles' downloadable marketplaces, success means selling tens of thousands of copies.

Over the past decade, indies have become more prominent in the gaming conversation as technology has helped lower the barriers to entry for creative minds. The revolution has nurtured a niche of games that take a different direction, toward concepts that draw players in with narrative and aesthetics — less action, more art. The approach is hardly new; one of the earliest computer games, the 1980s adventure game "Zork" (created by two students at MIT, it so happens) was all narrative — literally just lines of text on a screen.

But with Steam and downloadable marketplaces on Sony and Microsoft's consoles, indie developers have flourished. Games like "Limbo," a side-scroller about a boy looking for his sister in the afterlife, and "Gone Home," a first-person adventure about a young woman who returns home from college to a deserted house and an eerie mystery, are attracting — and inspiring — a new audience. It's that small corner of the gaming world — more brains than brawn, more conceptual than competitive — that Gossamer hopes to edge into.

"Sole" started while Sharpe was a student and has become a post-graduate project with team members Nina DeLucia (animation and visual FX '16) and Vincent De Tommaso (game art and production '17), with Nabeel Ansari (junior, applied mathematics and music) providing music and sound. It represents a step toward the abstract.

It has the look, sound and feel of the more inven-

#### THE LONELY ORB

In Gossamer Games' "Sole," the player travels as a small glowing ball through an uninhabited city where it is the only source of light, illuminating the landscape as it passes.



tive indie games populating the indie marketplace — “as much art as game,” Lee says.

A few days after graduating last year, Sharpe found out that Gossamer Games had been accepted for a year-long fellowship in the Baiada Institute for Entrepreneurship, a student-startup incubator inside the Close School of Entrepreneurship. With greater funding, space and business resources than those available in the smaller, less-formal Entrepreneurial Game Studio, Sharpe focused on building the world of “Sole.” He had the team to do it.

De Tommaso, Gossamer’s senior environment artist, was fresh off seven years working in finance when he came to Drexel for a second undergraduate degree. He was happy to leave corporate life. “You sit in your cubicle in rows of a thousand and the most creative thing you can do in a day is make an Excel sheet,” he says.

He wanted to get back the feeling he used to have going to the mall with his grandmother to pick through the bin of games — still on floppy disks back then — and plug in a new experience. All of his life he’s been jotting down ideas for games, maybe hundreds in all, and when he learned about the Entrepreneurial Game Studio, he decided it was time to see some of his ideas through.

“You get to invent everything,” De Tommaso says about the lure of making video games. “With ‘Sole,’ we got to invent the history of this planet, the people who lived there, every little thing about them. That’s the most fun. World creation.”

DeLucia, the 3-D texture artist on “Sole,” grew up with role-playing games — richly detailed journeys through expansive environments. “Final Fantasy XII” was the first one she remembers playing, and the one that inspired her.

“It never occurred to me when I was younger that someone had to make these games I was playing, and then I remember I was playing ‘Final Fantasy XII’ and there are these arches that looked exactly like something I had just studied that day in art history,” DeLucia recalls. “I started seeing all the relationships between the real world and this fictional world, how they altered things to make it fit, and I thought, ‘I want to be a part of that.’”

Sharpe draws his own inspiration from games designed by studios like Thatgamecompany, which published “Flower” and “Journey.” In “Flower,” players control the wind, blowing petals through the air and painting fields with color. “Journey” is a co-operative trip through a desert played with an anonymous online counterpart. Both games discard the mechanics-driven, action-focused experiences gamers are used to and focus on something more ineffable. For Sharpe, the results are unusually moving.

“The story in ‘Flower’ is very loose, almost non-existent,” Sharpe says. “It’s about transformation. It taught me you can have this very heavy atmospheric experience that is deeply affecting.”

He chose Gossamer Games for the name of his studio because he wants to capture something abstract — the thin, fleeting moments in life that can’t quite be put into words but that carry so much weight.

“I want to explore games as an empathetic medium and as a means for not only storytelling but communicating abstract emotions,” Sharpe says. “Some experiences and emotions can only be communicated through doing something, and I think play is a perfect medium for that. It lets you explore different perspectives and see things in a different light.”

That intention shines through in “Sole.” The game is immersive, owing in large part to Ansari’s pensive score and the simple but effective premise. Wandering the world Gossamer has built and filling it with light feels like an act of creation in itself.

After years of work, the Gossamer team is anxious to see how the experience they’ve dreamed up will play with the public.

“The environment has to carry itself,” De Tommaso says. “If we did it right, people will come away being curious. They’ll want to find out more about the world that we’ve created.”

Though the game is still in final development, the team has started to get recognition for it. “Sole” won for Excellence in Mobile Gaming at the 2016 Rensselaer GameFest. (At the time it was still intended first and foremost as a mobile game, but it’s now set for a multiplatform release.) It was nominated for an International Mobile Gaming Award in February 2017, and earned a spot at the Intel University Games Showcase last March. Gossamer raised \$16,000 from 268 backers on Kickstarter to fund the game’s completion, and this winter it announced the game will be launching on Xbox One, opening it up to a wide audience.

With momentum at its back, “Sole” could break through to find success. If it does, Gossamer would help to realize Lee’s vision of a community of game developers setting down roots in Philadelphia.

### THE ART OF THE GAME

In 2012, long before Sharpe had started thinking about “Sole” and before the Entrepreneurial Game Studio even existed, he went to Washington, D.C., to see an exhibit on the art of video games at the Smithsonian. Among the game developers present was the team from Thatgamecompany.

At the time, Sharpe was still tangling with his own ideas about the moral and cultural value of games, whether they truly mattered at all. It took him nearly 20 minutes to muster the courage to ask the creators of his favorite games about the creative process that fueled their unique visions, but he came away with a newfound confidence in himself and his ideas.

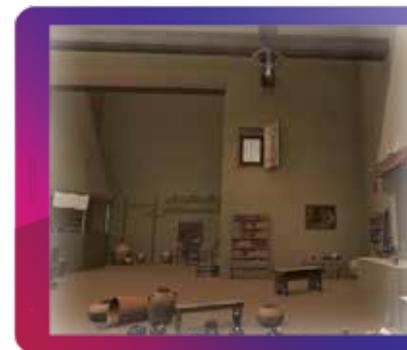
“I don’t know if I’d be doing what I’m doing if I hadn’t had that conversation with them,” Sharpe says.

Five years later, at another event at the Smithsonian last summer, he and the Gossamer team got to show off their own game. For hours, people streamed by — young and old, video game novices and veterans alike — and took “Sole” for a test run. They took control of the ball of light and entered the world Sharpe had dreamt up. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

“It was proof,” Sharpe says, “that all those years of hard work were truly worthwhile.”

### COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

In 2017, Gossamer Games was hired by the Science History Institute in Old City Philadelphia to create a first-person mobile game that will help visitors engage with the institute’s collection of art, books and artifacts related to medieval alchemy. Funded by a \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Gossamer’s *Age of Alchemy: The Goldsmith’s Daughter* invites players on a puzzle adventure that takes them through the “golden age” of alchemy in mid-17th century London.



ANDREW CATANIA  
BS film and video  
production '12



ANDREW SUSSKIND  
program director, TV production  
and media management



MEGAN POLLIN  
BS film and video production '13



SAM MOSKOWITZ  
BS film and video  
production '13



RYAN GOLDBERG  
BS film and video  
production '10



LAUREL CHADWICK  
BS television '12



## An "Off Campus" Reunion

Far from Drexel in Hollywood, five alumni from the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design's film and television program gather to discuss life after college — and to reminisce about the Drexel TV series they helped to shape while undergraduates.

"Off Campus" is a millennial dramedy about a group of recent college graduates living together near campus, produced entirely by students in Drexel's Department of Cinema and Television.

As it marks its 10th season, the program boasts five nominations and three wins from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' College Production Awards of Excellence at the Mid-Atlantic Emmys. It also received a wink from

the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, which called it "the longest-running Philadelphia television show you never heard of," and a slot on CBS' CW Philly 57 network, which has aired all 10 of the half-hour episodes since picking up the series in 2011.

The five alumni — still close friends and now pursuing successful entertainment-industry careers in Los Angeles — were among the first cohort of students to work on the series. They spent countless hours writing, directing, photographing and even acting in the show.

Over a reunion dinner in Los Angeles, they recounted how their own lives as young adults have unfolded since graduation. If the evening were a script of "The Making of 'Off Campus,'" it might go something like this. — *Jon Caroulis*

illustrations by Andrew Hammond

OPEN TO BLACK

An unidentified INTERVIEWER is heard:

(INTERVIEWER O.S.)

Here you are all together, recent graduates, starting out your lives and careers. It's like "2,800 miles of campus."

Ambient sounds gradually get louder - we hear LAUGHTER and the CLANK AND CHATTER of a busy restaurant.

FADE IN:

INT. LOS ANGELES RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A Mexican restaurant in a quiet part of town that tonight is very loud. Everyone at the table is having a good time. The lights are low over a large, round table. The camera slowly pans to each person seated, and a chyron identifies them: RYAN GOLDBERG '10, ANDREW CATANIA '12, LAUREL CHADWICK '12, SAM MOSKOWITZ '13 and MEGAN POLLIN '13. While this is happening we hear:

Close Up - Andrew Catania, smiling and talking with others off screen

ANDREW CATANIA (V.O.)

We knew we could do it, because we had already done it. Making "Off Campus" felt like we were making a legitimate product, what you have to do in the real world. We took all the things we learned in all the classes and made it a lab.

INTERVIEW (O.S.)

So, what was it like?

ANDREW CATANIA (V.O.)

Andrew Susskind was like the network, breathing down our necks.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUILDING THAT HOUSES THE WESTPHAL COLLEGE OF MEDIA ARTS AND DESIGN CINEMA AND TELEVISION DEPARTMENT  
Establishing shot.

CUT TO:

INT. PROFESSOR ANDREW SUSSKIND'S OFFICE

Inside PROFESSOR ANDREW SUSSKIND's office are mementos of his career as a television and film producer for projects such as "Parenthood" and "Married...With Children." He is now program director of the TV production and media management program in the Department of Cinema and Television and the faculty executive producer of the 20 to 25 students who crew "Off Campus" each year. He leans back in his chair and recounts the show's origins.

PROFESSOR SUSSKIND

When I first came to Drexel, Westphal Dean Allen Sabinson asked me to supervise a production class that would emulate a network prime-time experience. So I taught a writing class of 12 students, divided into two groups of six, and assigned the task of creating a show that would allow them to use their personal experiences.

(a reflective pause)

Interestingly, each group came up with essentially the same idea: a group of recent college graduates living together near campus as they begin their journey into adulthood. And even though the two approaches were very different in terms of tone - one was very broad, the other more serious - the ideas and the concerns of the characters were very similar. I picked the more serious show, which had enough smart comedic material to make into a half-hour show.

ACT ONE: "SEASON ONE"

FLASHBACK:

EXT. DREXEL'S UNIVERSITY CITY CAMPUS - DAY  
It's the year 2008 and class is in session in Philadelphia.

CUT TO:

INT. EMPTY APARTMENT

Students are furnishing the set - a nondescript apartment - and preparing to film a scene for the first episode of "Off Campus." RYAN GOLDBERG is conferring with actors and crew. As this happens:

RYAN GOLDBERG (V.O.)

Being one of the creators and writers, I always felt like a core member of the show, the show felt like my baby. Besides our teacher Andrew Susskind, I was pretty much running the production on my episodes and making a lot of final decisions from casting to crew to budget to the art department and set dressings, and okayed a lot of our student directors' ideas.

CUT TO:

INT. PROFESSOR SUSSKIND'S OFFICE

PROFESSOR SUSSKIND

The students of "Off Campus" work in a professional environment, with a large crew of 25, over 20 weeks. There is a hierarchy of departments, with department heads reporting to two supervising producers. The cast is mostly young professional actors. A single episode is produced over the course of an academic year, and students experience all of the ups and downs of producing a prime-time series.

*(reminiscing, Susskind continues)*

Ryan was the first student to run the "Off Campus" production by himself, which was an immense undertaking. At first, he was intimidated by the experience, and by me. And initially, anytime something went wrong, or someone didn't do their job correctly, he blamed himself. By the end of production, he had gained self-confidence and was prepared to enter the industry.

CUT TO:

INT. MEGAN POLLIN WORKING IN THE DREXEL TV EDITING ROOM

MEGAN POLLIN

When Professor Susskind screened the first scene I had cut for the crew, I was definitely nervous because no one had really seen much of anything I'd cut, but everyone was excited to see the raw footage coming together and seemed impressed with the cut. So it was a relief for me, but also really satisfying.

CUT TO:

INT. PROFESSOR SUSSKIND'S OFFICE

PROFESSOR SUSSKIND

When Pollin first joined "Off Campus" as editor, she was very shy, especially around me. It didn't take long for me to realize that she possessed major-league talent, with particularly great instincts for comedy. She also became a highly confident and articulate creative partner for any producers and directors smart and lucky enough to hire her.

CUT TO:

INT. "OFF CAMPUS" SET

Sam Moskowitz is setting up a camera inside the "Off Campus" living room. Over this we hear:

SAM MOSKOWITZ (V.O.)  
The second two years for me, I was the gaffer and then the director of photography; and in both of those positions, I really felt like I had a lot of control over the look of the show because I arranged the lighting and what camera angles to use.

CUT TO:

INT. PROFESSOR SUSSKIND'S OFFICE

PROFESSOR SUSSKIND  
Sam is a great charmer with a heart of gold, and a supremely talented director of photography and gaffer. He also has incredible good fortune in choice of bride.

JUMP TO:

Sam Moskowitz and Laurel Chadwick, dressed in bridal outfits, walking down the aisle together as the wedding march plays. CHYRON: Maine, Aug. 27, 2016.

ACT TWO: "SEASON TWO"

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY PARK - MIDDAY

This is the second year of "Off Campus" production, and the cast and crew are in busy Clark Park in West Philadelphia, lugging TV equipment while dodging dog walkers and joggers.

LAUREL CHADWICK (V.O.)  
My first year on the show was fairly easy. There wasn't a lot of prep that had to be done, because once the set was built, we knew what to expect each and every Tuesday. But...

(a beat, and she continues.)

...for the second season, all of a sudden there was a scene in the park. I was only a sophomore and I had to find a park, get parking permits, and cast 10 or so extras. Some were friends who volunteered, others responded to ads we used on Craigslist. I worked with the Greater Philadelphia Film Office to obtain permits for parking and filming. It felt like we were making a legitimate product, what you have to do in the real world.

ANDREW CATANIA (V.O.)  
Working on the second show, the full importance of the undertaking hit home. It had a bigger budget, a larger crew and a dialogue-driven plot that featured shots in a real bar and at Clark Park, about a mile from the campus.

CUT TO:

A CLIP FROM THE SECOND SEASON OF "OFF CAMPUS"  
It's as if we're watching a scene of "Off Campus" on a TV monitor. We see a small apartment, furnished casually. In one of the bedrooms two "Off Campus" actors are doing a scene in which DEAN is telling his roommate FELIX that he should break up with his new girlfriend whom he just met and instantly fallen in love with.

DEAN

How do you know she feels the same way about you?

FELIX

I don't have to know. I feel it. Here.

(he taps his heart)

DEAN

OK. You're obviously impaired, so I'm going to take the adult role here.  
In the future, just remember to thank me.

As the actors say their lines the VOLUME decreases and we hear:

(NARRATOR V.O.)

This episode featured actors playing out real-world scenarios written by undergraduates just dipping their feet into the real world themselves. The comedic relief comes from Dean's bright idea of breaking up Felix and his new girlfriend before they get too involved. This sets in motion events that lead to Dean's own girlfriend dumping him.

We faintly hear the actors deliver their lines, muting gradually into silence as the scene

FADES TO:

ACT THREE - "LIVES AFTER GRADUATION"

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

We're back in the Mexican restaurant in Los Angeles. The scene has quieted and the hour is late. Off-screen, the unidentified interviewer continues:

(INTERVIEWER O.S.)

How did Drexel experiences help you find your first jobs in Hollywood?  
One by one, the camera swivels rapidly to each person as they respond, almost like they're being called on in class. Occasionally, a WAITER flits past filling water glasses or bringing plates.

ANDREW CATANIA

We worked on projects with alumni and upperclassmen to get a foot in the door, and they were the ones who would continue to call us as they got jobs. The professors helped teach us the basics, but if we were motivated to start a career in film and television, then we had to go out and search for ourselves. In essence, if you weren't motivated to go do it on your own, then you weren't going to get far in the business. Still holds true to this day, I think.

MEGAN POLLIN

I knew one of the assistant editors on the film "Trainwreck" from my co-op at a post facility called sixteen19 in New York. I had also recently moved to L.A., and I met with her for coffee when I first came out. Their post-production assistant got another job offer, and when he left, my résumé was pushed forward.

LAUREL CHADWICK

My first job was as an assistant to a talent agent at ICM Partners. I got this job from my co-op! They told me to keep in touch after I graduated and they would hire me back, and they did.

SAM MOSKOWITZ

My first job was on the show "American Dream Builders" on NBC. I got the job from a Drexel alumna, Angelina Zak. I did the interview, and I actually didn't get the full-time gig, but they had me on as a day player and after the first day they decided that they needed to hire me for the run of the show, which went for about five months.

ANDREW CATANIA

Jon Wolf, from the class of 2011, got me a few production assistant jobs at CollegeHumor when I first got to L.A., and I eventually started coordinating for them.

RYAN GOLDBERG

When I arrived in Los Angeles in August 2012, I only knew a handful of people, mostly Drexel alums and alums from "Off Campus," including a lot of our original actors who also moved out here the same time as me. We all were friends and hung out, which was nice because it helped ease the move and the lessen the feeling of being so far away from home. My first job in California was production office assistant for a trailer house called Seismic Productions.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO SHOW ALL FIVE GRADUATES AT ONCE.

(NARRATOR V.O.)

Initial jobs led to more opportunities and Laurel Chadwick is now the assistant to the co-executive producer on the TV show, "This is Us." Megan Pollin is a post-production coordinator at a company called Pilgrim and editing a weekly sketch comedy written by Drexel grads. Ryan Goldberg shoots and edits videos at Creative Artists Agency. Sam Moskowitz recently spent a month in Miami as the assistant production coordinator working on a show for Verizon Go 90. Andrew Catania worked on the Hugh Jackman film "The Greatest Showman." Several of the group are also making independent short films.

CUT TO:

INT. PROFESSOR ANDREW SUSSKIND'S OFFICE

PROFESSOR SUSSKIND

I believe that this group of young professionals are exceptionally talented as practitioners and extraordinarily gifted human beings. They comprise the group of which I'm most confident in their professional success and most honored to have played a small part in their education.

CUT TO:

A GOOGLE SEARCH PAGE ON A COMPUTER SCREEN

Camera zooms to the page's search box. One by one, capital letters appear as IMDB. Beneath it is a chyron: "Internet Movie Database." We see the IMDB, and hear a CLICK, as if someone is striking a computer key.

In the box, Andrew Catania's name appears one letter at a time. CLICK. Next we see the page appear with a list of search results. Another CLICK, and Catania's IMDB credits are listed. This process is quickly repeated for the other graduates.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT NIGHT

A man too handsome to be a waiter walks up to the table and presents the alumni with the bill. As this happens the camera slowly begins to pull back.

(NARRATOR V.O.)

Relocating to California wasn't easy for this quintet, being so far from family and friends, but they agree that if you want to work in entertainment, Southern California is the place to be. . . though of course, they still root for the Phillies when the team comes to play the Dodgers.

As the scene begins to FADE OUT we hear one of them say:

(ANDREW CATANIA O.S.)

I remember we were shooting a scene outside one day and someone did drive by saying, "Off Campus?" I saw you guys on TV." If that's our only fan in the world, I'd be OK with that.

FADE TO BLACK



**Mike West '75 has developed, written or produced nearly 100 story-driven concepts, attractions and new business initiatives during his career with Walt Disney Imagineering and Universal Creative Studios.**

# Engineers of Happiness

*These Dragons manufacture thrills, chills and bliss.*

*By Wendy Univer and Nancy Parello*

Drexel alumni often make headlines with inventions and discoveries in fields like computer engineering, public health and materials sciences.

What sometimes flies below the radar is all of the pioneering work they do to make our lives more beautiful, more exciting, more delicious. In short: engineers of happiness!

It would be easy to assume that happiness is simply the result of being lucky enough to lead a relatively trouble-free life. Shouldn't wealth, success and health lead to happiness?

In fact, a large body of scientific data shows that the reverse is true. People who are fundamentally happy to begin with end up achieving more and leading happier, healthier, wealthier and even longer lives.

One study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health also shows a direct correlation between happiness and resilience, another cornerstone of well-being. The research, published under the title "Happiness Unpacked: Positive Emotions Increase Life Satisfaction by Building Resilience," concludes that it is the accumulation of many in-the-moment positive emotions that leads people to feel happy overall — not the other way around.

In-the-moment happiness is precisely the business of these Drexel alumni. Whether it's the magical feelings of joy shared with children at a theme park, or the rush of adrenaline from an amazing meal, these Dragons are pioneers and superstars. They break new ground, set the trends and keep pushing the limits on the happiness quotient in our lives.

## **MIKE WEST**

### **BS COMMUNICATIONS '75**

Storytelling is one of the oldest art forms, and one of the newest.

No one knows this better than Mike West '75, who has held senior positions in Walt Disney Imagineering and Universal Creative Studios, two of the most renowned entertainment companies in the world.

West attributes much of this to his ability to recognize and tell great stories.

While earning his communications degree and honing the craft of writing, West was a four-year

member of the Drexel Players and gained some experience in radio and as a DJ.

After a few years in retail, he landed a spot at Walt Disney Imagineering as a show writer for theme parks around the world. As he progressed into producing projects and directing many of the voice-over actors in his shows, he began doing voice work himself.

Ultimately, West had a hand in creating some of the most beloved rides in the Disney pantheon, such as "The Living Seas" (now known as "The Seas with Nemo and Friends").



## CROSS ROADS

"You're creating products with the sole purpose of making people happy," he says. "It's so much fun to do, you don't think of it as a job."

In 2006, West joined Universal Creative Studio as executive producer/senior director. He now leads project creative teams from early concept design through production and installation, and his teams have been responsible for wildly popular attractions such as "Skull Island: Reign of Kong" and "The Simpsons Ride." These attractions pioneered the use of 3-D technology, animatronics and computer-generated imagery to create immersive, intricately fashioned alternate realities.

"The most challenging and exciting part is working with numerous operating partners on a fresh, new innovative design that will actually function in the real world and still provide an amazing guest experience," West notes.

In the real world, these experiences have to compete with personal entertainment systems and virtual-reality options that allow people to consume content at home or even walking down the street with a cell phone. But West isn't worried.

"The fact that you can create a

**Mike West (third from the right) with director Thierry Coup (second from the right) and actors for "Skull Island: Reign of Kong" at Universal's Islands of Adventure.**

story, which should always be the driving force behind any experience, invite guests to board a ride vehicle or step into an immersive, theatrical environment with a bunch of strangers and share the laughs, the screams, the technological wonder...that's what sets us apart," he says. "It's the all-for-one, one-for-all mentality that will keep guests coming back."



**FRANCIS X. HOGAN**  
**BS HOTEL AND RESTAURANT**  
**MANAGEMENT '03**

Francis X. Hogan '03, acclaimed chef and restaurateur, says that you can "create delight by staying in tune with your ingredients."

If he has a sixth sense for the language of food, Hogan also possesses an uncanny intuition about location. He repeatedly sniffs out untapped market potential and pioneers the next great place,

**"There's no way to learn everything you need to know [about restaurants] in four years...But what [Drexel] excels at is putting you in a position to learn in the field faster than most."**

**— FRANCIS X. HOGAN**

whether that's an old, Italian Philadelphia neighborhood or a suburb in northern California.

Hogan says his bachelor's of science degree in hotel and restaurant management equipped him with a priceless combination of theory and real-world experience.

"There's no way to learn everything you need to know [about restaurants] in four years," he says, "and Drexel understands that. But what they excel at is putting you in a position to learn in the field faster than most." He adds that the study-abroad program in London was "one of the greatest parts of my college education."

Inspired by a professor who lamented the limited dining options in South Philadelphia, Hogan and his partner launched gastropub 1601 in 2005.

"When we opened 1601, the East Passyunk corridor wasn't nearly what it is today," he says. "There were restaurants, but predominantly traditional Italian-American. Having recently moved there from Center City myself, I saw a trend of younger

people starting to migrate to the neighborhood because you could get more living space for your money. I also realized that there weren't any places for us 'younger folks' to hang out, like in Center City or Northern Liberties."

As one of the earliest upscale pubs in the area, 1601 quickly became a hit and helped lead the way for an influx of other young, enterprising chefs.

Hogan later moved west and honed his craft under some of the nation's top chefs in San Francisco. In 2015, he broke new ground once again with Sabio on Main in Pleasanton, California.

The press dubbed it a "bold move" to put his Spanish-influenced, modern tapas menu in a suburban location not known for fine dining.

"I see a lot of smiles," Hogan reports. "We're delivering an elevated experience. We want our guests to say, 'wow and wow.' That's what I'm looking for. So when we nail it, it feels good."

**(continued on page 50)**

## 60s

**Ronald Kostoff, BS mechanical engineering '61**, published a monograph presenting a comprehensive five-step Alzheimer's disease (AD) treatment protocol, offering the promise of potentially preventing and reversing AD in selected cases and dramatically lowering AD health care costs.

**Norman Smith, BS business administration '69, MBA '71** president emeritus of Elmira College and Wagner College, was the opening keynote speaker at the 2018 annual meeting of the American Association of University Administrators. Attendees received his latest book, "Top Problems Facing Colleges."

**Rich Westcott, BS business administration '60**, published his 26th book, "Biz Mackey — A Giant Behind the Plate," covering the life and career of the Hall of Fame catcher and one of the great Negro League players of all time.

## 70s

**Scott Bailey, MBA business administration '72**, and his wife Melanie, led discussions on his book "Vacations & Libations: Enjoy France and Europe 'Our Way'" aboard M/S Crystal Serenity in October 2017.

**Sheila Cronin, MCAT creative arts '74**, published "Best of All Gifts," a sequel to her award-winning novel, "The Gift Counselor."

**Muriel Efron, MS library science '71**, moved to Israel in 2015, after a decades-long career as a legal librarian for various firms and academic institutions. She turned 92 in November and has four children, 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. After graduating from Drexel, she

### OBITUARY

# Remembering Vince Vidas

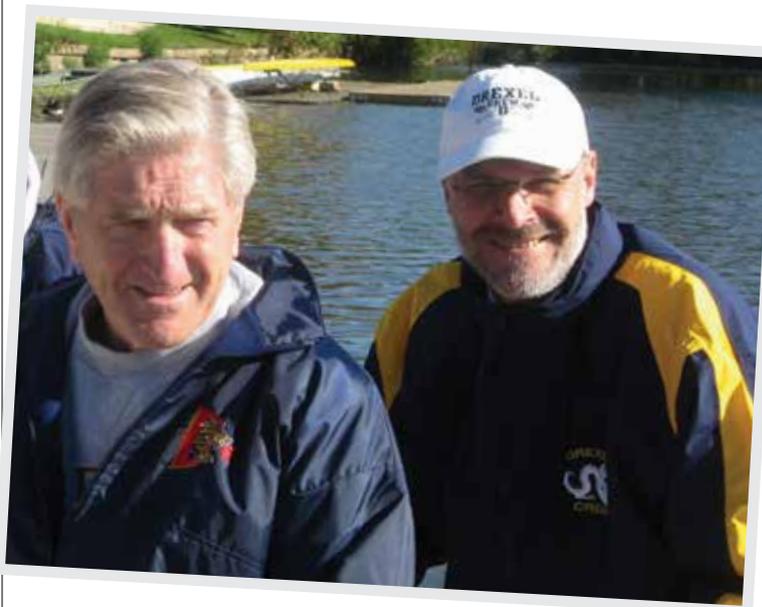
Vince Vidas '59, '64, one of Drexel's most decorated football players, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017. He was the only Drexel football player ever named to two All-America teams, after both his junior and senior seasons. Vidas was a captain of the team as a senior.

He stayed active in the Drexel community after graduation. Vidas and his wife, Judy '56, played a major role in the upgrade of Drexel's Athletic Complex at 43rd Street and Powelton Avenue. Now called the Vidas Athletic Complex, the facility is home to the field hockey, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer, and men's and women's tennis teams. Vidas was inducted into the Drexel Athletics Hall of Fame in 1973.

"Vince was bigger than life, on and off the field," says Drexel Director of Athletics Eric Zillmer. "He was a great friend to Drexel Athletics through his and his wife Judy's generosity and should be credited for helping elevate our varsity athletics programs."

Vidas was born in Philadelphia and served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. After returning from the war, he enrolled at Drexel and received his BS and MS in electrical engineering. After graduation, he co-founded SEMCOR Inc., a provider of systems engineering and management support services.

Vidas is survived by his wife and their children, Lisa Reese (Arthur), Jeffrey Vidas (Annlouise) and Kristen Vidas, as well as their grandchildren, Amanda and Ryan Reese, Jacob Kegel and Trevor Vidas. He is also survived by two great-grandchildren, Gaige and Ava, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Vince Vidas (left) with Director of Athletics Eric Zillmer.

received her master's degree in public administration and her juris doctor degree.

**Kim Holston, MS library science '76**, had his latest book, "Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Film Sequels, Series and Remakes: An Illustrated Filmography, Volume II," published by McFarland & Co.

**Gary Krimstock, BS business administration '70**, of the Philadelphia-based Fineman, Krekstein & Harris P.C. law firm, participated as moderator of the Pennsylvania and Delaware Valley Community Associations Institute Chapter State of the Industry Breakfast at the Union League, attended by 105 industry professionals.

**Lawrence Ricci, MD medicine '73**, authored the book, "What Happened in the Woodshed: The Secret Lives of battered Children and a New Profession Protecting Them" — a look into the field of child abuse pediatrics.

**Roseann Termini, BS human behavior and development '75**, was appointed vice-chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Disability Services Committee. She also spoke at the 71st Annual Conference for the Society of Cosmetic Chemists in New York and was invited to serve on a panel concerning the solutions to the opioid epidemic at the University of Pennsylvania Law School's Center or Ethics and Rule of Law.

## 80s

**Keith Hartz, BS electrical engineering '86**, retired and moved to St. George, Utah, where he is a substitute school bus driver and enjoys hiking the great southwest.



We're interested in hearing about your weddings, new babies, special traditions, group trips and regular get-togethers with fellow alumni. Send stories and photos to **Lara Geragi** at [tec36@drexel.edu](mailto:tec36@drexel.edu).

BABY DRAGONS & WEDDING



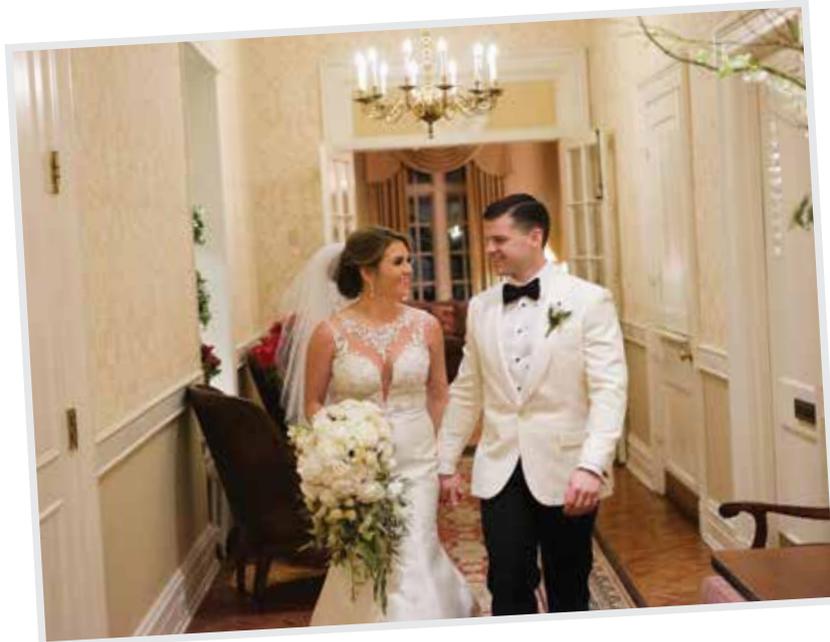
**Margaret Cunningham, MS environmental science '10, MS teaching, learning and curriculum '14, and Steven Pearson, PhD environmental science '13,** had a son, Fitzgerald Tupelo, October 10, 2017.



**Justin Tomevi, JD law '12, and Kimberlee Rose Tomevi, MS special education '12,** had a son, Noah Austin, on February 19, 2018.



**Steve Wittenberg, BS finance/marketing '98, and Jen Wittenberg** had a son, Leo Asher, on February 22, 2018.



**Angela Luciani, BS nutrition and foods '13 and Ryan Monkman, BS civil engineering '12,** were married on December 31, 2017.

**Brian Kelly, MD medicine '89,** was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology based on his contributions to teaching, academics, community service and patient care.

**Edward Koehler, MS engineering management '85,** released his latest book, "Felix Leiter USMC," which, based on real incidences and real people, follows SEAL Team One in the rapid domination strategy to bring down Saddam Hussein.

**John Luciani, BS civil engineering '82,** president of First Capital Engineering Inc., officially registered as a professional engineer and professional land surveyor in Delaware.

**Sarah Oski Hanley, BS retail management '83,** was promoted to executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia, leading the organization's Mission Advancement Services Team.

**90s**

**Lee Anderson, MBA business administration '99,** has been promoted to executive vice president and holds the new title of director of technology and operations at Pennsylvania Trust.

**Michael Britt, BS civil engineering '83, MS '90,** was promoted to CEO of Modjeski and Masters, a bridge engineering firm he started at as a co-op student in 1979.

**Anthony Burokas, BS film and video production '92,** opened his own video production studio called Frisco Studios, which focuses on local corporate and creative video production and is the only rentable production space in Frisco, Texas.

**Stefanie Caccese, BS corporate communication '91,** joined Furia Rubel Communications Inc., a marketing and public relations agency, as director of marketing and operations.

**Lisa Gensemer Pflaumer, BS history and politics '91,** was appointed the first executive director of Michael's Giving H.A.N.D. in Philadelphia, a non-profit focused on awareness and support of teens battling anxiety and depression.

**Roberta Trombetta, BS marketing '90,** is the founder and CEO of CB Community School in Roxborough, Pennsylvania, the first private school in the country with a mission to educate children in the foster-care system and set them on course for a stable future.

**00s**

**Patrick Stephen Griffin, BS computer engineering '06,** an associate at the intellectual property law firm Cantor Colburn LLP, became a member of the board of directors of Lilypad, a nonprofit in South Philadelphia that provides a play space and other programming for families.

**H. Adam Holt, MBA business administration '04,** started Asset Map LLC, which is now a finalist in the Philly Stellar Start-up competition.

**Anina Ledevise Major, BS graphic design '03,** had her ceramic installation "Bessie's Backbone" on display as part of the "We Suffer to Remain" exhibition at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas.

**Daniel Marques, BS business administration '09,** was promoted to principal of Drucker & Scacetti, a strategic tax planning and consulting firm, after joining the firm in 2013.

**Keith Peacock, BA architecture '09,** was promoted to senior associate at Kitchen & Associates, an architecture, engineering, planning, interior design and energy-related consulting firm in Collingswood, New Jersey.

(continued from page 47)

PROFILE

# Designing for Disney



Kristy Pron, BS digital media '06, MS '07.

When Kristy Pron '06, '07, was in sixth grade, she wrote a letter to Disney's then-CEO Michael Eisner, expressing her desire to one day work at Walt Disney World.

The return letter advised her to study subjects she loves.

Pron followed that advice, majoring in digital media at Drexel's Westphal College of Media Arts & Design. That decision ultimately led to her dream job as Imagineer, a member of the Walt Disney Co.'s R&D team tasked with creating experiences that delight millions of people each year.

As a media and art pipeline developer, Pron focuses on the initial concepts for Disney theme parks, resorts, attractions and cruise ships. She has had a role in bringing some of the most beloved family films to life as rides or destinations, including "Frozen Ever After," a ride through the world of "Frozen," "Miss Adventure Falls," a thrilling waterpark, and the hotel "Copper Creek Cabins."

Working in the "digital immersion showroom," Pron manipulates huge 3-D models to create and perfect designs so they translate successfully into thrilling, family-friendly experiences.

"I work on the pre-visualization of attractions during the concept phase and help the team work through design issues early on," she explains. The tools of her trade include virtual reality, game engines, puppetry and other things that sound as if they don't belong in the serious world of work.

Her Westphal education equipped her with critical skills that were instrumental in her career advancement — "everything from web design to 3-D modeling," Pron says.

While at Drexel, she won a design competition sponsored by Disney that garnered her a seven-month internship with the Imagineering department. Her co-op at a Philadelphia architecture firm broadened her range of skills and knowledge about construction.

Pron says, "I hope that my work helps the teams to create better guest experiences by allowing them to pre-visualize their work and art direct and redesign it so that when they actually build it, it comes out exactly how they envisioned it."

In other words, Pron is in the business of helping everyone make their dreams come true.

**Stephanie Salerno, BS graphic design '07**, was promoted to art director of Rizco, a creative campaign agency, after joining as a senior designer in October 2013.

**Sheba Thomas Vine, BS biomedical engineering '04**, was named vice president and general counsel for First Healthcare Compliance, a privately owned business enterprise that helps physicians and other health care providers comply with federal rules and regulations.

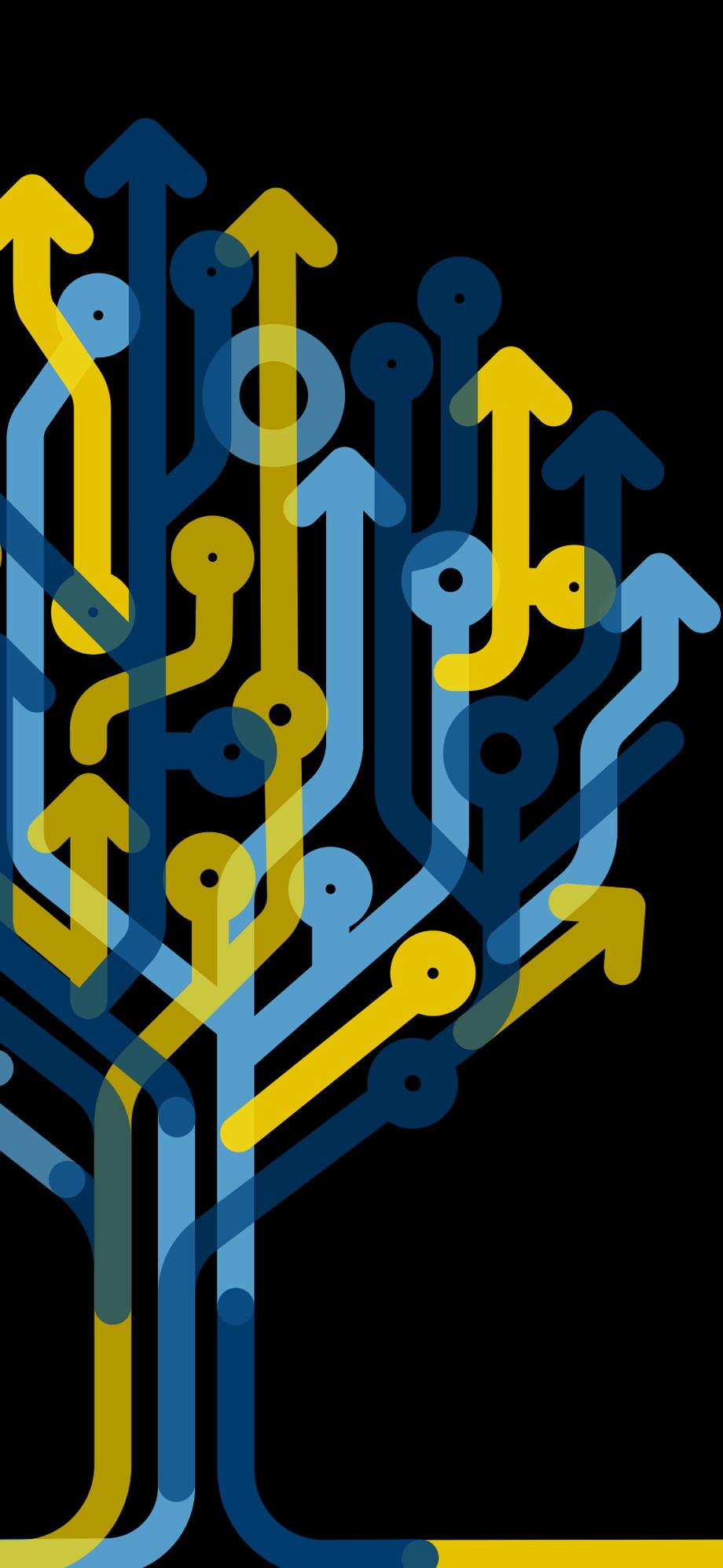
**Denise Welsh Richards, civil engineering '00**, was promoted to principal of Keast & Hood Structural Engineers, where she has managed some of the firm's largest and most complex work, including the Statue of Liberty National Monument Life-Safety Upgrades.

## 10s

**Joseph Kestlar, MS library and information science '12**, is the first librarian to be inducted as a fellow at CodeX, the Stanford Center for Legal Informatics.

**Robert Kudenchak, MBA business administration '17**, was named to ENR MidAtlantic's 2018 Top Young Professionals list, which showcases individuals who have built extraordinary industry portfolios in just a few short years and dedicate significant amounts of time and expertise to serve their communities.

**Gregory Lobanov, BS digital media '14**, took a bike trip across the country after graduation which inspired his latest video game, "Wandersong." The game became available for Nintendo Switch in 2018.



# The *future* is a place we make.

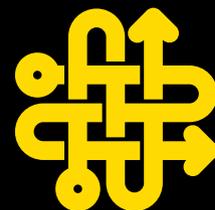
At Drexel University, the future is not a hazy glow on the horizon. It is a place our students and faculty actively create, engineer and design.

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR DREXEL

**Deepa Mankikar, MPH environmental and occupational health '15**, presented on the burden of global air pollution and sat on a panel for the United Nations' event, Universal Healthcare: Integration of Physical and Mental Healthcare for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases.

**Shahla Mazdeh, PhD educational leadership and learning technologies '12**, published a book named "Davazdahgam Khandevadeh" (Family Twelve Steps) in Farsi to introduce the Twelve Step program to Persian-speaking families who are dealing with addiction problems.

**Aubrey Nagle, BA English '15**, re-launched the BOOM newsletter which helps readers become more media literate. She also wrote the new web series "Crash Course: Media Literacy," executive produced by John Green and Hank Green for their YouTube channel and company, Complexly.

**Marie Plaisime, MPH public health/environmental and occupational health '14**, was selected to the 2017 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholars Program. As part of the program, Plaisime will explore the linkages between unconscious bias and health care processes and outcomes.

**Rochelle Spahn, BARCH architecture '10**, was named to *Lighting Magazine's* 40 Under 40 North America Class of 2018.

**Lisa Strohman, MA clinical psychology '90, PhD law-psychology '05**, founder of Technology Wellness Center and Digital Citizen Academy organizations, participated in TEDxPasadenaWomen, speaking on empowering kids to rise above technology addiction.

## Friends We'll Miss

### 1930s

**Hugh Bowman**, MD medicine '38  
**Lawrence Paul**, BS mechanical engineering '30  
**Eunice Siegel Holmes**, BS secretarial '33  
**Charles Thayer**, BS civil engineering '35

### 1940s

**Nicholas C. Battafarano**, MD medicine '49  
**Edna Berry Hannum**, BS home economics '49  
**Charles K. Brauer**, MD medicine '41  
**Harry E. Broadbent**, BS mechanical engineering '48  
**James S. Brown**, D/C mechanical engineering '41  
**James E. Burns**, BS business administration '49  
**Einer P. Christensen**, BS mechanical engineering '40  
**Harley L. Collins**, BS electrical engineering '48  
**John F. Coneys**, BS business administration '47  
**Walter Drobot**, BS chemical engineering '44

**Ellsworth K. Gentel**, D/C mechanical engineering '42  
**Romeo A. Gibboni**, BS electrical engineering '41  
**Betty Good Davis**, BS retail management '49  
**William G. Hamm**, MD medicine '48  
**Richard A. Handschumacher**, BS commerce and engineering '43, MBA business administration '50

**Robert S. Hayes**, BS business administration '48  
**J. Elizabeth Jeffress**, MD medicine '49  
**Doris L. Kalmbacher**, BS home economics '45  
**Thomas C. Karanzalis**, D/C mechanical engineering '49  
**Marie Kelly Vogel**, BS business teacher education '49  
**Kathleen Kraft Chamberlain**, BS home economics '48  
**Arch R. Krenzel**, MD medicine '49

**Thomas Charles Lyons**, BS chemical engineering '49  
**Hubert F. Manuzak**, MD medicine '42  
**William L. McHale**, BS chemical engineering '49  
**Agnes McMurrin Johnson**, D/C library science '47  
**John W. Milroy**, BS chemical engineering '47  
**Elma J. Mirto**, RN nursing '41  
**Emily Mojiscak Black**, BS home economics '49  
**Richard E. Neuman**, BS commerce and engineering '43  
**Marion Northup Johnston**, MD medicine '47  
**Edwin J. Porter**, BS mechanical engineering '49  
**Lillian Rachlin**, MD medicine '42  
**Shirley Rau Freyman**, BS home economics '49  
**Eugene S. Reynolds**, D/C electrical engineering '42  
**Daniel D. Rosard**, BS mechanical engineering '47  
**Francis P. Salvatore**, MD medicine '48  
**Albert R. Schooley**, D/C mechanical engineering '41  
**Charles W. Spindler**, BS electrical engineering '48, MS '54  
**Mildred Stahlnecker Miller**, BS home economics '41, MS '47  
**Sidney H. Starrels**, MD medicine '49  
**Lorraine I. Stengl**, MD medicine '47  
**Mario B. Tatonetti**, BS electrical engineering '49, MS '68  
**Mary A.H. Thomas**, MD medicine '47

### 1950s

**Joan Albert Zeller**, BS dietetics '52  
**Robert F. Arehart**, BS electrical engineering '51  
**Albert Beatty Jr.**, MD medicine '58  
**Clarence S. Berger**, BS electrical engineering '54  
**Peter T. Bernot**, BS mechanical engineering '50  
**Lawrence H. Berul**, BS commerce and engineering '57, MBA business administration '67  
**Winifred Bischoff Sontag**, RN nursing '53  
**Eugene F. Brady**, BS mechanical engineering '55  
**Herman Brandes**, BS civil engineering '59  
**Robert S. Bunker**, BS business administration '58  
**Florence J. Chinn**, MD medicine '53  
**James A. Commins**, MS physics and atmospheric science '56  
**Marvin R. Cressman**, MD medicine '59  
**James K. Davis**, MD medicine '59  
**Charles P. DeFeo**, MD medicine '52  
**Frank J. Drechsler**, BS civil engineering '54  
**Walter R. Earley**, BS chemical engineering '52, MBA business administration '63  
**Herman Egner**, BS business administration '52, MBA '57  
**Walter S. Farley**, D/C electrical engineering '52, BS '53  
**Barbara Faulkner Haniffee**, RN nursing '59  
**Harry Fereshetian**, BS electrical engineering '50  
**Gloria Fioravanti Bartosic**, BS home economics '52  
**John A. Fisher**, MD medicine '52  
**Harvey L. Fox**, BS business administration '56  
**John S. Furnstahl**, D/C electrical engineering '58, BS '61  
**Gustave R. Gaschnig**, D/C electrical engineering '54, BS '56  
**William H. Gates**, BS chemical engineering '52  
**Michael F. Gaughan**, D/C metallurgical engineering '57, BS '58  
**George C. Ginter**, MD medicine '54  
**Murray Goldstein**, BS civil engineering '58  
**William Alfred Graul**, BS chemical engineering '52  
**Clair W. Graver**, BS chemistry '59  
**William R. Haden**, BS electrical engineering '57, MBA business administration '72  
**John B. Haubert**, BS mechanical engineering '57  
**Marjorie Harriet Hendry**, MD medicine '53  
**Joseph Hutton**, BS business administration '53  
**Mervin N. Issacman**, BS business administration '51  
**Joseph G. Irwin**, D/C electrical

- engineering '58, BS '60  
**Vincent W. Kafka**, MBA business administration '56  
**Mary Karwan Holliday**, D/C secretarial '54  
**Miriam Klebaner Jacobs**, MD medicine '54  
**Barton E. Kligerman**, BS civil engineering '50  
**Bernard L. Klionsky**, MD medicine '52  
**Elaine Koons Lipton**, RN nursing '51  
**Edgar C. Lloyd**, MD medicine '54  
**Louis H. Maedel**, D/C civil engineering '58, BS '60  
**Nora Maguire Pohl**, RN nursing '53  
**Margaret Malone Llewellyn**, AS mechanical engineering '50, BS '54  
**Joseph F. Martignetti**, BS civil engineering '58  
**Bruce R. Meuron**, BS electrical engineering '58  
**L. Robert Neumann**, BS electrical engineering '54  
**Balys Platukis**, D/C mechanical engineering '55  
**Augustus Prince**, MS physics and atmospheric science '57  
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**Walter W. Rostron**, BS electrical engineering '50  
**Donald Silverman**, BS business administration '53  
**James Lyman Smith**, BS business administration '57  
**Victor A. Smith**, BS electrical engineering '59  
**Barbara Sterling Selman**, BS home economics '50  
**John Stone**, D/C electrical engineering '51, BS '55  
**Richard M. Sware**, D/C electrical engineering '54  
**George L. Taylor**, BS business administration '55  
**Edward H. Tempest**, BS business administration '58  
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**Richard E. Van Doren**, BS mechanical engineering '50  
**Vincent G. Vidas**, BS electrical engineering '59, MS '64  
**John R. Warner**, BS business administration '53  
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**Harvey B. Becker**, D/C business administration '61, BS civil engineering '67  
**Marjorie Bell Farr**, BS home economics '63, MS '67  
**John E. Braun**, BS electrical engineering '68  
**Raymond T. Breeger**, BS business administration '64  
**Virginia Burger Van Dame**, MS home economics '68  
**John F. Clark**, BS electrical engineering '63  
**Gerald K. Clymer**, MS chemistry '61  
**James Conway**, MS electrical engineering '68  
**Benjamin S. Crawford**, BS business administration '65  
**Gail Crompton Barch**, BS biological science '68  
**Michael J. Daly**, BS mechanical engineering '60, MS engineering management '70  
**Anna Marie Damore Nowak**, RN nursing '68  
**Bonnie Damsker Krafchick**, BS business administration '64  
**William E. K. Davis**, MD medicine '66  
**Charles J. De Angelo**, BS chemistry '63  
**Anthony W. Deering**, BS business administration '69  
**Harry E. Diamond**, BS industry administration '63  
**Elise DuBois Tanney**, RN nursing '69  
**Daniel R. Evans**, BS architecture '68  
**Jerold H. Feinstein**, MS electrical engineering '68  
**Michael S. Feldman**, MD medicine '67  
**Howard Z. Finkel**, MD medicine '69  
**Melvyn L. Fisher**, BS business administration '68, MBA '73  
**Rhoda Fishman Sandler**, MS library science '68  
**Robert C. Francis**, BS mechanical engineering '63  
**Jerome J. Freundlich**, MS biomedical engineering and science '65  
**Eugene D. Greenberg**, BS electrical engineering '63  
**Charles R. Grossman**, BS electrical engineering '67  
**James E. Gruver**, BS civil engineering '65  
**Frank J. Hanson**, BS electrical engineering '60  
**Elsie M. Harold Hart**, MS library and information science '68  
**Harold M. Harper**, BS electrical engineering '68  
**Virgil Dean Hemphill**, BS chemical engineering '62  
**Mary Hendrick Hudson**, MD medicine '61  
**Grace Hoffmeyer Sedgwick**, BS home economics '68  
**Alan L. Itskowitz**, MD medicine '64  
**Richard August James**, BS electrical engineering '63  
**Stephen T. Jones**, BS industry administration '66  
**Kenneth Kaminker**, MD medicine '64  
**H. Lawrence Karasic**, MD medicine '60  
**Steven E. Katz**, MD medicine '63  
**Ronald W. Kavchok**, BS chemical engineering '68  
**Frank Kratzinger**, BS commerce and engineering '68  
**James A. Kunkle**, BS electrical engineering '63  
**Richard A. Ladner**, BS mechanical engineering '62  
**Eleanor Olga Leise**, MD medicine '64  
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**Melvin Levin**, MS interior design '68  
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**Paul A. Magil**, BS electrical engineering '68  
**Charles A. Mallowe**, MBA business administration '68  
**Theodore E. Mandras**, BS mechanical engineering '67  
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**Edgar O. Morgenson**, BS electrical engineering '62  
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**James F. Mulligan**, MD medicine '69  
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**Floyd T. Nasuti**, MD medicine '61  
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**Fleur H. Weinberg**, MS library science '68  
**Carl F. Wolf**, MD medicine '68  
**Kenneth E. Wright**, MS mechanical engineering '63

**1970s**

**Albert E. Barskey**, BS commerce and engineering '71, MBA business administration '77

**Stephen M. Bartha**, BS business administration '72

**W. J. Blatherwick**, MBA business administration '71

**Karen Brandt MacDonald**, BS home economics '71

**Robert T. Cavanaugh**, BS business administration '70

**Mary Wei-May Chen**, MD medicine '79

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**Franklin Connell**, BS business administration '76

**Dolores Czupick Groseck**, BS home economics '72

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**Christopher Glenn Everett**, BS

marketing '74

**Douglas R. Fitts**, MBA business administration '72

**Lawrence J. Frantz**, BS mechanical engineering '76

**Robert P. Gittler**, BS mechanical engineering '73

**Robert Goncharsky**, BS mechanical engineering '72

**Joseph I. Greene**, BS accounting '78

**Judy E. Harris**, AS radiologic tech '76, BS health and society '05

**John A. Henry**, MS family therapy '78

**K. Richard Knoblauch**, MS biomedical engineering and science '71

**Peter P. Kocur**, BS business administration '74

**John J. Ladden**, MD medicine '76

**John C. Lovett**, BS business ad-

ministration '72

**Lubomir Luchanko**, BS business administration '74

**Stephen W. Maloney**, BS civil engineering '76, MS environmental engineering '78, PhD '82

**Rosemary Marshall**, MS library science '70

**Linda McHale-Smith**, MS library science '71

**Lorle Patzau Wolfson**, MS home economics '72

**Ruth Reinks Montgomery**, MS library science '71

**Gary E. W. Rossi**, BS electrical engineering '79

**Louise E. Seltzer**, MS library science '71

**Richard V. Sherwood**, BS operations management '74

**Nancy Steere**, BS business for women '70

**Virginia M. Stellmacher**, MD

medicine '72

**Laurel Tobias Rudavsky**, MS library science '77

**Mary Yergan Hughes**, MS library science '77

**1980s**

**Susan Alexander Bogart**, BS design '82

**Donna Benner Braunlinger**, BS accounting '82

**Randall M. Brammer**, AS nursing '85, BS '89

**Darryl R. Brown**, MD medicine '86

**Jeffrey B. Feinman**, BS accounting '84

**Edward J. Galbally**, MBA business administration '80

**Matthew H. Krekstein**, BS accounting '82

**Hans F. Levy**, MBA business administration '80

**Catherine Meehan Gould**, MBA business administration '85

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George Campbell Jr., BS Physics and Atmospheric Science '68, HD '00  
*Golden Dragon Society Award*

Afshin Daryoush, MS Electrical Engineering '84, PhD '86  
*Faculty/Staff Alumni Award for Campus Impact*

Nicholas DeBenedictis, BS Commerce and Engineering '68, MS Environmental Science '69, HD '97, Trustee  
*Golden Dragon Society Award*

Danielle Fernandez, MPH Epidemiology '15  
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Sean Gallagher, BS Finance/Marketing '93, Trustee  
*Silver Dragon Society Award*

Anthony Gold, BS Electrical Engineering '88  
*Alumni Entrepreneur Award*

Kristen Green Knouft, BS Finance '93  
*Silver Dragon Society Award*

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*Service to Community Award*

David Knouft, BS Finance '93  
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**Susan Swartz Badolato**, AS nursing '81  
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**Kimberly Wagoner Wesdock**, P-SC physical therapy '83

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**Janet C. Headen**, AS nursing '91  
**Adelaide Lee Silver**, MD medicine '90  
**Michael M. Macekura**, MS science of instruction '96  
**Keith L. Newport**, MS mechanical engineering '92  
**Kevin A. Shannon**, BS mechanical engineering '98  
**Faith E. Smith**, MS interior design '90

### 2000s

**Ronald B. Abrams**, MS science of instruction '06  
**Roman L. Carinci**, BS business administration '05  
**Shana Chimpky**, MBA business administration '08  
**John T. DelGiorno**, PhD physical therapy '03  
**Naira Harutyunyan**, MS nursing '05  
**Lanetta Hyppolite**, BS teacher education '08  
**James A. Mazzuchelli**, BS commerce and engineering '08  
**Robin L. Miller**, BS graphic design '06  
**Rodrigo F. Morales**, BS construction management '07  
**Joseph D. Nies**, BS digital media '05  
**Kevin A. Richart**, MS information

systems '06  
**Brett J. Roney**, information systems '08  
**Rebecca Teetsel**, BS nursing '09  
**Steven M. Thompson**, MS information systems '04  
**Patricia Thornton**, MS teaching, learning and curriculum '09

### 2010s

**Edith S. Brown**, MS nursing '10  
**Paul R. DeGregory**, BS chemistry '12  
**Harry L. Gaymon**, BS behavioral health counseling '10  
**Kyle Gerardi**, BS political science '15  
**Carol A. Guthrie**, MS human resources development '13  
**Lauren E. Hartman**, BS nursing '17  
**Khushbu Kheti**, BS psychology '10

**Kim B. Kuhn**, BS nursing '15  
**Suzanne L. Leffler**, MS nursing anesthesia '14  
**Eng C. Lor**, MS global and international education '12  
**Alexandra McKechnie**, BS nursing '15  
**Krista R. McKenzie**, MS library and information science '11  
**Darcie Moloshok**, BS psychology '10  
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# Crossword



**THINK YOU'VE GOT ALL THE ANSWERS?** If so, send your completed puzzle to the address at right to be entered into a drawing to win a great Drexel prize. And congratulations to the winner of our winter/spring edition contest: Marie Wagner, MBA '83, of Honolulu, HI.

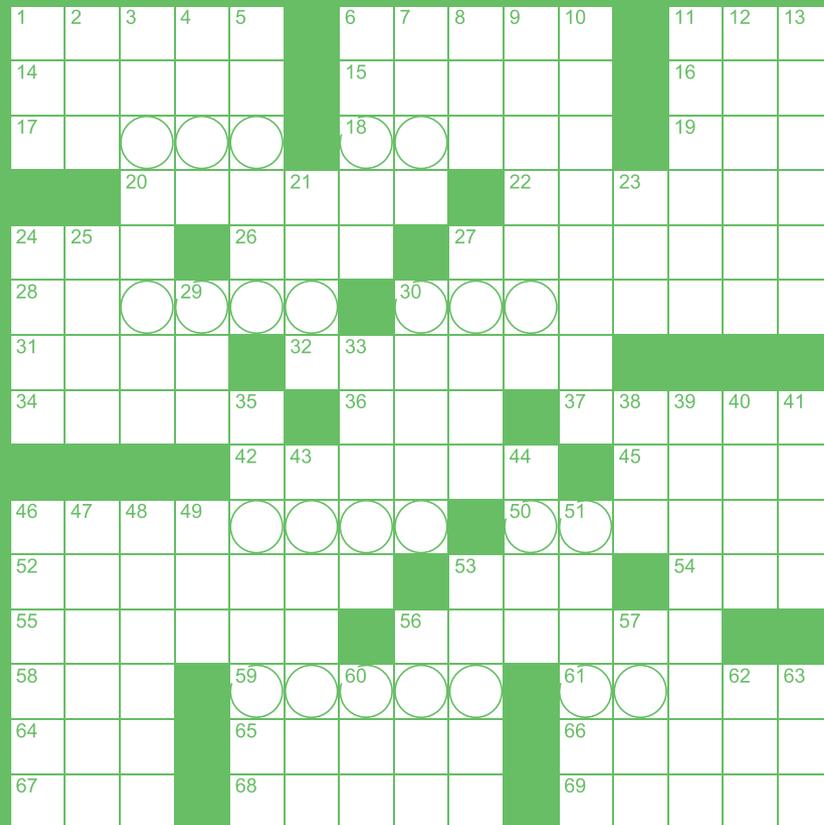
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## FIRE CRACKERS

Have a cool drink this summer as you burn through these clues.

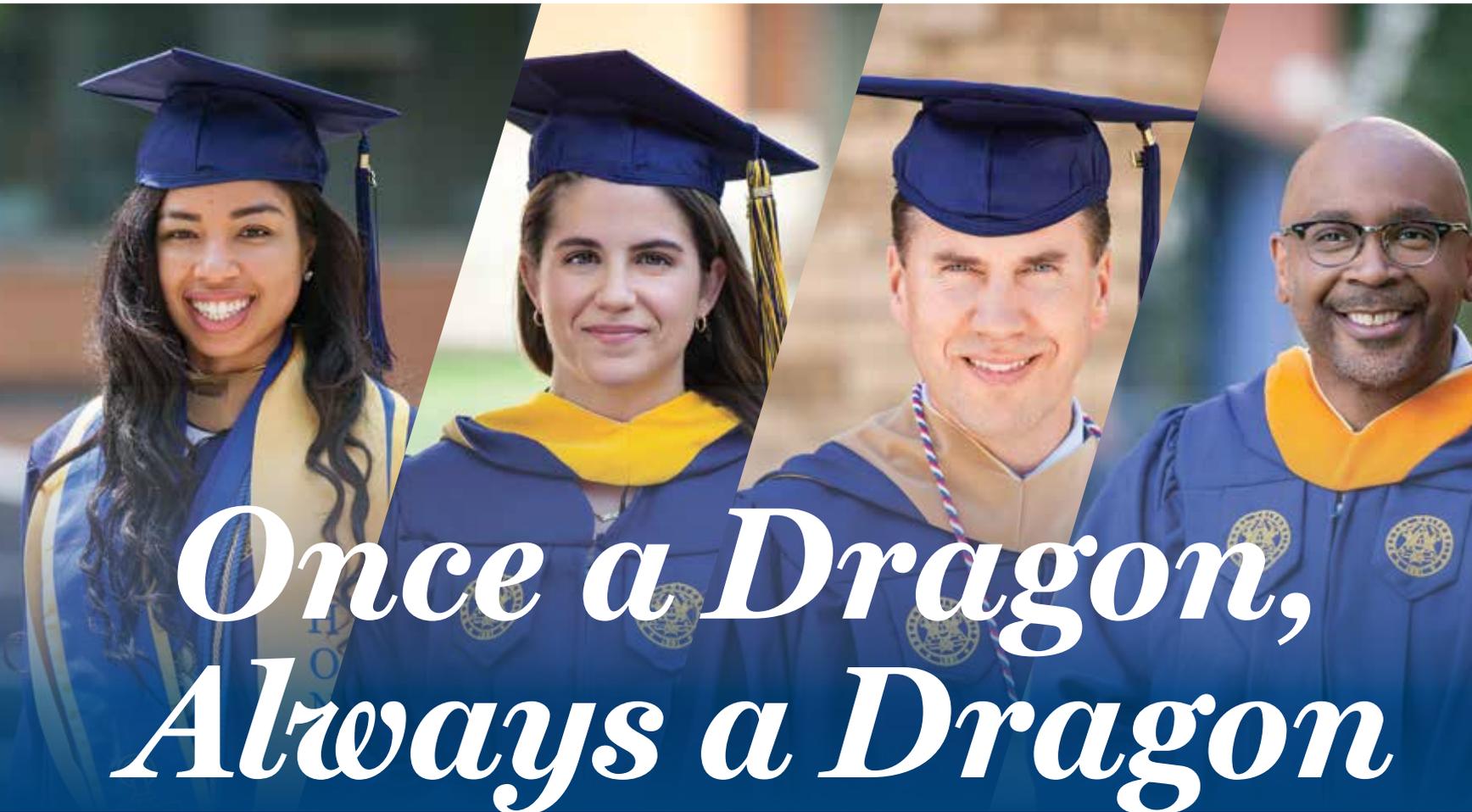
### ACROSS

- 1 Body parts stereotypically bitten by vampires
- 6 George who founded the Chicago Bears
- 11 Piece of concert equipment that could go to 11, in "This Is Spinal Tap"
- 14 Blue eyes, e.g.
- 15 "Don't continue with the mission!"
- 16 Catch a glimpse of
- 17 "Se \_\_\_ espanol"
- 18 Equine with stripes
- 19 Show that introduced the character Debbie Downer, briefly
- 20 Lounged around
- 22 Buoyed by a life preserver, say
- 24 Common deli request
- 26 Sushi roll ingredient, at times
- 27 Operational, as a rule
- 28 Alabama university that won the college football national championship game in 2011
- 30 Swallowed
- 31 Ones paid to play
- 32 Bivalve at a raw bar
- 34 High dice rolls
- 36 Philadelphia Brewing Co.'s Kilty Pleasure, e.g.
- 37 Features of Dalmatians
- 42 Fill with dismay
- 45 Currency in Luxembourg
- 46 Swindle
- 50 Third-party account that may be involved in real estate transactions
- 52 Company event with team-building exercises, perhaps
- 53 "Please, take a chair"
- 54 Owned by that gent
- 55 Town in the Italian province of Perugia
- 56 Circling movement at a square dance
- 58 Cloak-and-dagger org.
- 59 Conclude from evidence
- 61 Cloak and dagger, e.g.
- 64 Machine component
- 65 Clear, as a windshield
- 66 Rec room console
- 67 "Nerve Net" composer Brian
- 68 Reason for a computer warning
- 69 Squalid



### DOWN

- 1 High power, in math class
- 2 Victorian \_\_\_\_
- 3 Device that may be installed by a Comcast technician
- 4 Unit seized by a narc
- 5 Less fresh
- 6 Brownish-green color
- 7 Lying down, maybe
- 8 High-arcing tennis shot
- 9 Adapt, as a song
- 10 Congressional workers
- 11 Categorize
- 12 Dangerous individual
- 13 Clobbered, as with snowballs
- 21 Comedian who wrote the foreword to Mac Ragan's book "Hot Wheels Cars"
- 23 \_\_\_ Alamos
- 24 Participates in a certain musical battle
- 25 Gagarin on Vostok 1
- 27 Spy's collection, briefly
- 29 "What's the \_\_\_?"
- 30 Hadithist's faith
- 33 Protest to, like a puppy would
- 35 What the risk-averse stay on
- 38 Muscle strengthened by bench presses, briefly
- 39 Domestic-sounding song title for both Madness and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young
- 40 Enterprise counselor
- 41 Mothers in pens
- 43 More ordinary
- 44 Rings at luaus
- 46 Site of an 18th-century revolution
- 47 Tutor's teaching
- 48 "The mission can proceed!"
- 49 Way in which someone might get into your head, briefly?
- 51 Tours of duty
- 53 More irritated
- 56 Art \_\_\_\_
- 57 Avian symbol of peace
- 60 Source of needles
- 62 Stark family patriarch on "Game of Thrones"
- 63 Place for 41-Down



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