Alumnus-turned-professor Alex Moseson ’12 is coming to the rescue of farmers in Thailand with simple tools for easier harvests.
Number of DeltaVision OMX microscopes in existence — one of which was acquired last year by Drexel’s Cell Imaging Center. The image above was captured with the boundary-breaking device, which is capable of producing super-high-resolution images of live biological samples in 3D and real time.
### [A Numerical Analysis of Life at Drexel]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Number of incoming international exchange students who are paired with Drexel students each academic year as part of the Dragon Buddies program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,516</td>
<td>Number of menu items a team of researchers led by Amy Auchincloss, an assistant professor in the School of Public Health, researched to study the nutritional value of meals in full-service restaurants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ranking that the Drexel Online MBA program received from <em>Financial Times</em>. It was the only online MBA program in Pennsylvania to make the list of the Top 15 online MBA programs in the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Number of weeks that 10 incoming freshman spent off-campus during their first term as college students. The students participated in the inaugural Freshman Frontiers program while studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Number of preserved passenger pigeons at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, which is believed to hold the most of those extinct birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Approximate number of members in Drexel's Horror Movie Discussion Group, a newly formed student organization that meets once every two weeks for film viewings and discussion with film professors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Number of Drexel buildings that will earn $6.6 million while significantly cutting their energy use, thanks to the state's Campus Energy Efficiency Fund. The buildings are the LeBow Engineering Center, the Center for Automation Technology, the Bossone Research Enterprise Center, Nesbitt Hall and the Peck Problem Solving and Research Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1.5M</td>
<td>Amount of funding, over five years, awarded to Drexel from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to improve retention of undergraduates in science, technology, engineering and math majors. Drexel was one of only 37 institutions nationwide to receive the grant, out of more than 200 that applied.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Number of new deans named this year, starting with Frank Linnehan, who after serving as interim dean since 2012 was named in February the R. John Chapel Jr. Dean of the LeBow College of Business. In April, Nancy Butler Songer from the University of Michigan was tapped as the new dean of the School of Education. And in May, it was announced that Distinguished Professor of English and “Drexel InterView” host Paula Marantz Cohen would be the new dean of the Pennoni Honors College.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212</td>
<td>Number of rooms in The Study at University City, a new hotel planned for the corner of 33rd and Chestnut streets in 2016. The hotel will be developed and owned by Hospitality 3 and operated by its subsidiary, Study Hotels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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I am proud to share this issue’s feature story on the experience of military veterans at Drexel (“The Yellow Ribbon Welcome,” page 38). Not only is it important and inspiring, but it’s very timely: As I write this, reports of incompetence and mismanagement in the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system have again ignited debate over what we owe the women and men who have served our country so well.

Meeting veterans’ needs is a moral imperative. Regardless of one’s opinion on the merits of military action we undertake as a nation, the individuals who carry out those missions give far more than we can return to them — and they are entitled to excellent care and ongoing support.

Support for veterans is also a critical component of America’s economic and social well-being. Generations of veterans have used their military experience to become leaders and entrepreneurs, holding positions of great importance in business, nonprofits and government. If we want that to continue, we must guarantee that veterans have access to outstanding health care as well as education and jobs.

More than 630 veteran students attended Drexel this year, many thanks to our commitment to the Yellow Ribbon Program, which extends Post-9/11 GI Bill™ benefits to cover the full tuition for any Drexel program. We offer a wide range of services to help those students smoothly transition to college. And I’m confident that many will go on to be as successful as the veteran alumni profiled in this issue. We owe them that.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John A. Fry
President
Last month, the world commemorated the Normandy invasion that broke Hitler’s grip on Europe 70 years ago.

I toured that French coastline 20 years ago, and I’ll never forget it. The beaches and surrounding countryside are an open-air monument to military history. During low tide, rusted barges jut from the waves where they were scuttled to create artificial breakwaters. At Omaha Beach, Americans were tasked with scaling 100-foot cliffs under constant fire from German bunkers at the summit. They had the toughest assignment that day and the deepest losses. I spent most of the visit driving through the region with a surprisingly patriotic lump in my throat.

For this edition of *Drexel Magazine*, I got to talk to five of Drexel’s alumni veterans — one who fought in each major modern conflict — who agreed to share their memories of war and college. At a time when poor treatment of veterans by military hospitals is once again in the news, it’s important to remember why we honor those who served. It’s not enough to say thank you. We should also be asking, how are you doing now? Are you getting what you need?

Drexel tries to do that. In 2009, the government began offering universities and colleges the option to join its Yellow Ribbon program, a more robust version of the GI Bill™. Under the program, universities share the cost of a college degree with the Department of Veteran Affairs — covering virtually 100 percent of tuition, fees, housing and books — for service members who enlisted after 9/11.

It’s a very nice deal, and Drexel takes it further than most schools. There are no caps on enrollment, and veterans can study any field they choose. Read about the program, and the story of Drexel’s military connections past and present, inside. (Veterans, if you have a memory to share of being a soldier-scholar, send a short note to magazine@drexel.edu. We’ll print as many letters as we have space for.)

On a personal note, my grandfather served in WWII. His service was always a bit of a mystery. He didn’t speak of it, but several times during the war, government agents came to my grandmother’s home to notify her that he was missing and presumed dead — so apparently his service was a mystery to them, too. When he eventually returned home, he gave my grandmother a small brown sack filled with a dozen scabby-looking pebbles.

Sapphires, he told her. Skeptical, she scribbled “sapphires” on the sack and put it into her jewelry box. And that was that.

After my grandmother passed away, my mother took the sack to a jeweler. Sure enough, un-cut sapphires.

The moral of this story: Hold onto memories and make time to revisit them. They’re very valuable.

*Sonja Sherwood / Editor*
LETTERS

Changing times
I’ve been receiving Drexel Magazine for a while now, but this is the first time I’ve actually sat down to give it more than a quick glance. I found it very enjoyable. I was particularly surprised to see more than one member of the LGBT community listed among your “40 Under 40.” When I attended Drexel, I recall a sociology professor asking our class how we felt about the possible formation of a gay and lesbian organization on campus. That was in 1974. The question was met with derisive comments and jeers. I’m glad to see more than just the buildings have changed at Drexel, and I’m proud to be among its alumni.

Bob Lane
BS business administration ’78
Warner Robins, Ga.

Appreciation for progress
Just a short note to Sonja and her staff. Many thanks to you and your staff for a first-class publication. It makes me proud to be an alumni and to see the tremendous progress that has developed over the past 40 years.

Best wishes and keep up the great work you are doing.

Robert W. Belz Sr.
BS business administration,
Evening College, ’74
Valley Village, Calif.

The Editor replies: Thank you for noticing! It’s wonderful to hear from alumni who attended Drexel years ago and appreciate how it has evolved.

Send letters to the editor to magazine@drexel.edu.

See more photos from Drexel’s Archives on page 38.
Paleontological Puzzle

In 2012, an amateur paleontologist hunting for shark teeth in a brook in Monmouth County, N.J., noticed a bone fossil lying on a grassy embankment.

“I picked it up and thought it was a rock at first — it was heavy,” says Gregory Harpel, an analytical chemist from Oreland, Pa.

Harpel brought the bone to Jason Schein, assistant curator of natural history at the New Jersey State Museum, who along with David Parris, the museum’s curator of natural history, recognized the fossil as a humerus — the large upper arm bone — from a turtle, but its shaft was broken so that only the distal end, or end nearest to the elbow, remained.

Parris joked with Schein that perhaps it was the missing half of a different large, partial turtle limb housed in the collections at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. The bone in the Academy’s collection was also broken at the shaft, on the opposite end. The coincidence was striking.

When Schein brought Harpel’s fossil to the Academy, sure enough, the bones matched.

“As soon as those two halves came together, like puzzle pieces, you knew it,” says Ted Daeschler, associate curator of vertebrate zoology and vice president for collections at the Academy.

Two matching turtle bones discovered at least 162 years apart are forcing paleontologists to revise their understanding of how exposed fossils deteriorate over time.

BY RACHEL EWING

The surprising puzzle assembly linked scientists from both museums to their predecessors from the 19th century, while setting the stage to advance science today.

“I didn’t think there was any chance in the world they would actually fit,” Schein says.

He believed that the Academy’s piece of the puzzle was much too old, and the conventional wisdom shared by paleontologists is that fossils found in exposed strata of rock will break down from exposure to the elements if they aren’t collected and preserved, at least within a few years — or decades at the most.

There was no reason to think a lost half of the same old bone would survive, intact and exposed, in a New Jersey streambed from at least the time of the old bone’s first scientific description in 1849, until Harpel found it in 2012.

The Academy’s older bone was also unique, making a perfect match seem even more unlikely. It was originally named and described by famed 19th-century naturalist Louis Agassiz as the first, or type specimen, of its genus and species, *Atlantochelys*.

Paleontologists calculate the animal’s overall size to be about 10 feet from tip to tail, making it one of the largest sea turtles ever known.

This illustration suggests the difference in scale between the turtle and a human.
mortonii. In the intervening years, it remained the only known fossil specimen from that genus and species.

It remained so until that fateful day when Schein carried the “new” New Jersey fossil to the Academy, where Academy paleontology staffers Jason Poole and Ned Gilmore connected the two halves. The perfect fit between the fossils left little space for doubt. Stunned by the implications, Schein and staffers called Daeschler into the room.

“Sure enough, you have two halves of the same bone, the same individual of this giant sea turtle,” says Daeschler. “One half was collected at least 162 years before the other half.”

Now, the scientists are revising conventional wisdom: Exposed fossils can survive longer than previously thought. They report their remarkable discovery in the forthcoming 2014 issue of the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences. The find was also featured in the April 2014 issue of National Geographic magazine.

“The astounding confluence of events that had to have happened for this to be true is just unbelievable, and probably completely unprecedented in paleontology,” says Schein.

The fully assembled A. mortoni humerus now gives the scientists more information about the massive sea turtle it came from, as well. With a complete limb, they have calculated the animal’s overall size — about 10 feet from tip to tail, making it one of the largest sea turtles ever known. The species may have resembled modern loggerhead turtles, but was much larger than any sea turtle species alive today.

The scientists believe that the entire unbroken bone was originally embedded in sediment during the Cretaceous Period, 70 to 75 million years ago, when the turtle lived and died. Those sediments eventually eroded and the bone fractured millions of years later during the Pleistocene or Holocene, before the bone pieces became embedded in sediments and protected from further deterioration for perhaps a few thousand more years until their discovery. [D]

Autism Outreach ON THE ROAD

The A.J. Drexel Autism Institute is taking its clinical research work to the streets with a custom-outfitted van to extend autism outreach into the community. And while health care organizations across the country use mobile health vans, Drexel’s is the first in the region, and one of the first anywhere, to specialize in delivering autism services and support.

The Mobile REACH clinic can go anywhere that services are needed and bring the clinical testing environment with it. It was custom-designed by Drexel students to conduct psycho-social, behavioral and neuro-psychological evaluations of individuals of all ages, at any location.

Eventually, this van may be the first of several, with potential future mobile clinics specially designed for various age groups in keeping with the institute’s emphasis on adolescent and adult population needs.

> The vehicle’s custom interior and exterior were designed by Drexel students for disability and adaptability.

> The interior is equipped with dimmable LED lights, neutral tones and textures and insulating materials to reduce outside sounds.

> Mobile REACH is equipped with HIPAA-compliant cameras to observe and record assessments for training purposes.

> The exterior is designed to protect the privacy of families and individuals involved in research studies — the Drexel logo and custom magnets identifying the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute can help identify the van at public outreach events. Its green hue was inspired by the van’s various donors, which include the Philadelphia Eagles.

Take a tour of the van at drexelmagazine.org.
The Return of Old Student Traditions

BY ALISSA FALCONE

If there’s anything that will get college students pumped up about their school, it’s a fight song. Students chant it at athletic events, and most can probably recite it — with gusto — years after graduation.

But as recently as five years ago, Drexel students had no such song of their own. They didn’t even have an annual homecoming affair. These two traditions, part of Drexel student life since the ’30s, had dwindled after the ’70s and nearly faded away.

The Drexel fight song and homecoming were mostly forgotten after the University lost its football team in 1973, and school spirit waned in the years afterward.

Then, in 2006, Drexel’s archivist discovered the long-lost lyrics to the Drexel Fight Song in the University’s archives. The fight song, first sung in 1938, was once an integral part of sports games. This academic year marks its 75th anniversary.

The following year, a new interest in fostering community by administrators and a group of students prompted Drexel’s Student Affairs office to create a Spirit Committee to revive and promote class spirit among alumni, students and athletics. The committee set to work organizing a relaunch of the Drexel Fight Song.

“No one except the University archivist seemed to be championing the efforts of the rich history and pride of the institution,” says Richard Kopp, director of Student Leadership Development and Traditions, who served on the Spirit Committee as the then-associate director of Alumni Relations.

Since the song was reintroduced six years ago, Kopp has taught it to the 3,000-plus incoming freshmen at every student orientation.

But first, the song required some lyrical updates. “Drexel Tech” became “Drexel U.,” to recognize the renaming of The Drexel Institute of Technology in 1970. “March down the field, boys” was replaced with “Fight on for Drexel” to remove references to the football field and to include both men’s and women’s sports.

The original version of the Drexel Fight Song, which was published inside the Drexel Marching Song booklet (above), was written by Todd Groo ’41 and Pi Kappa Phi member Gay V. Piercy ’39, and Kopp is tracking down their descendants to share the song with them. He has also created a contest for students to submit video performances of the song that could eventually be developed into a montage.

Homecoming has made a comeback, too. The current generation of Drexel students has had the opportunity to attend homecoming every year, which can’t be said of their immediate predecessors. The event at Drexel dates back to at least 1934, and homecoming kings and queens were first crowned in 1951. In those days, fraternities created papier-mâché dragons and a dance was held for current and past students.

In 1996, Drexel’s Campus Activities Board introduced “DragonFest,” but the celebration’s concerts, block parties, picnics and annual Crystal Ball gala didn’t get a lot of notice.

The homecoming tradition didn’t truly return to campus until 2009. The Campus Activities Board partnered with Drexel’s departments of Student Affairs, Alumni Relations, Athletics and the traditions program to create a combination of a week’s worth of festivities, including a Homecoming Dance Party, for current students and alumni — all of which culminate with a big basketball game.

Now that Drexel is caught up on its traditions, Kopp says he hopes to create a special tour that would highlight Drexel history, traditions and campus features shared by the students of today and yesterday. [D]

To listen to the Drexel fight song, visit drexelmagazine.org.
Spring Break in Silicon Valley

After a first-of-its-kind “field trip” to America’s technology Mecca in March, the Close School of Entrepreneurship is betting on its students building the next big thing right here on campus. BY JOSEPH MASTER

“I need an alum with a background in manufacturing! Anyone here in manufacturing?”

Caroline Cummings ’01, vice president of business development for Palo Alto Software, is almost shouting across the grand meeting space in San Jose’s chic Hotel Valencia.

She’s holding the hand of Drexel entrepreneurship major Will Andrew and pulling him through the crowd. She’s just heard his business plan, and she’s determined to pair him up with another alumnus in manufacturing.

Across the room, a flock of Drexel students — most of them freshman members of the Close School of Entrepreneurship’s inaugural Entrepreneurship Living-Learning Community — have gathered to hear the evening’s guest of honor, Jim Bean ’91, Apple’s vice president of retail.

They’ve formed a ring around him and he’s answering questions, smiling ear to ear.

“I’m more interested in asking the students questions,” he says. “They are just so impressive. They’re disrupting the status quo. I love it.”

But back to Caroline and Will. They finally find an alumnus in manufacturing. Introductions are made. Information is exchanged. You see, Will Andrew has a pretty solid idea. Let’s just say it involves innovating the longboard skateboarding industry.

He’ll leave tonight’s event with strong connections — perhaps even a student co-founder for a company that didn’t exist just hours ago.

The same goes for another handful of students. Some are upperclassmen mentors; others already started businesses that helped them secure entrepreneurship co-ops through the Close School, where they are enjoying an unprecedented opportunity to work for themselves and build their ventures under the tutelage of Close School professors with the full support of Drexel’s Baiada Institute.

After tonight, they have dozens of business cards and leads — their brains buzzing with funding ideas and counsel from alumni who work at Facebook and other pulsars in the Valley’s tech galaxy.


This is what a Drexel University alumni event looks like in Silicon Valley.

It’s not just an opportunity for 16 Close School students to network with alumni. It’s more like communing with kindred spirits. In Silicon Valley, dreams come true. The world really is flat. It rarely rains. Folks don’t wear suits. During the fourth quarter of 2013 alone, 124 companies headquartered in Silicon Valley raised venture capital. People call it the tech startup promised land.

Close School Dean Donna De Carolis calls this field trip a once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity for a group of budding entrepreneurs.

“When you look at entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley, they are no different than entrepreneurs in Philadelphia,” De Carolis says. “The common bond is the passion. Our students have so much passion to build new technologies and to solve the world’s problems. It was energizing to listen to their conversations. They’re building their own community, right here on campus. And the Close School is supporting that community.”

During the trip, students visited co-working spaces like Tumml and WeWork. They met Shazam co-founder Philip Inghelbrecht and learned about the importance of timing and due diligence. They met with eBay CMO Richelle Parham ’91 to learn how Bluetooth technology is revolutionizing retail.

And then there was a trip to Apple, where Jim Bean spoke for close to two hours about his career journey. Bean invited students to tell him about their own startups. He asked them questions; called them the stars. His humility was more than inspirational to a group of millennials who worship at the Apple altar. It was a watershed moment. A reminder that finding success isn’t always about finding the right idea; it’s about how you treat others. It’s about community.

During the last full day of the trip, Close School students and staff convened in a hotel conference room to reflect. Tears were shed. They called the trip humbling. They hugged, laughed. Some shared shortcomings and fears.

Others talked about pride — both in being part of the Drexel community at large, and in being part of a community of young entrepreneurs in the Close School. They said there was a buzz on campus that reminds them of Silicon Valley. They said it’s up to them to keep the momentum going.

They pledged to support each other. To collaborate. To care.

Mission accomplished. [D]
DREXEL PURCHASES UNIVERSITY CITY HIGH SCHOOL SITE

In the next few years, the Drexel footprint will have some room to breathe — about 14 acres. In February, the School District of Philadelphia selected Drexel’s proposal for acquisition of the site that formerly housed the now-vacant University City High School property at 36th and Filbert streets as well as the Charles Drew Elementary School and The Walnut Center. The deal closed in June.

The proposal submitted by Drexel and its joint venture partner, Wexford Science & Technology (developer of the University City Science Center), includes plans to develop approximately 2.7 million square feet of commercial, academic, research, office and residential space, as well as the potential for a K-8 school.

Upon full completion, the project will cost almost $1 billion and will have created 4,300 construction jobs. The new site is expected to house 3,700 employees and produce a substantial economic and fiscal benefit to both the city and Pennsylvania.

A 2013 study on the project’s impact on Philadelphia by the Econsult Corp. estimated that its impact would total $1.2 billion in expenditures and $11.2 million in tax revenues during construction. After the project’s completion, Econsult estimated it would contribute $711 million a year in total expenditures and $20 million in total tax revenue to the city, plus an additional $7 million of tax revenue to the School District of Philadelphia.

OBAMA: WEST PHILLY HAS ‘PROMISE’

The City of Philadelphia and a portion of West Philadelphia adjacent to Drexel’s University City Campus were among three cities and five areas, respectively, selected by President Barack Obama as Promise Zones earlier this year. Areas earning the designation become eligible for employer tax incentives to create jobs and attract private capital.

Drexel will play a key role in revitalization efforts in its West Philadelphia neighborhoods.

The West Philadelphia Promise Zone is a nearly two-square-mile area bordered by the Schuylkill River on the east, Girard Avenue on the north, 48th Street to the west and Sansom Street to the south. It is home to 35,315 residents.

The Philadelphia Promise Zone plans to use the area’s assets, including its proximity to transportation, strong anchor institutions like Drexel, the Lancaster Avenue commercial corridor, Fairmount Park and the Philadelphia Zoo, to support the creation of jobs, increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, reduce violent crime and leverage private investment.

FISH ‘N’ HIPS

The discovery of new fossil materials from the ancient fish species Tiktaalik roseae has revealed a key link in the evolution of hind limbs. The team of scientists who discovered Tiktaalik, a 375-million-year-old transitional species between fish and the first legged animals, suggest that the evolution of hind legs actually began as enhanced hind fins. This challenges existing theory that large, mobile hind legs were developed only after vertebrates transitioned to land.

A lobe-finned fish with a broad flat head and sharp teeth, Tiktaalik roseae looked like a cross between a fish and a crocodile, growing up to a length of 9 feet as it hunted in shallow freshwater environments.

The Tiktaalik fossil was discovered in 2004 in northern Canada by a team that included Ted Daeschler, who is vice president for collections and associate curator of vertebrate zoology at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University as well as an associate professor of Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Science.

Until recently, only material from the front portion of Tiktaalik had been described. The rear portion, which contained the pelvis and partial pelvic fin, was retrieved when researchers investigated additional blocks recovered from the dig site, making a direct comparison of the front and rear appendages of a single animal possible. The Tiktaalik pelvis has a prominent ball and socket hip joint, which connects to a highly mobile femur that could extend beneath the body. Scientists suggest that the size and mobility of the pelvis, hip joint and fin of Tiktaalik made a wide range of motor behaviors possible.

NEW STARTUP CLINIC MOVES INTO THE SCIENCE CENTER

A new hub for startups and entrepreneurs called the Innovation Center @ 3401 will open next April inside the University City Science Center. The business incubator is a partnership between Drexel, the Science Center and Dreamit Ventures, an independent business accelerator with a $30 million capital fund and a track record of successfully launching startups (more than 125 since 2008).

As part of the agreement, the 17,500-square-foot space at 3401 Market St. will become Dreamit Ventures’ new world headquarters and Drexel will contribute $3 million toward a Dreamit fund to fuel promising new business ideas.
FASHION FRIENDS

Drexel’s museum-quality collection of more than 12,000 garments, textiles and accessories has been renamed the Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection in recognition of a $1 million gift from Robert (Hon. ’13) and Penny Fox (Hon. ’13).

Penny Fox calls the collection a “truly unique asset” of the University. “We invested...in part, to help it become more accessible and open to the public than it has been in the past,” she says. “In addition to preserving thousands of objects of great beauty, the collection can be an even greater source of inspiration for students, faculty and others who value timeless, elegant design and cultural history.”

The collection was previously open by appointment only, but has recently been made available to the public through educational events which each include an in-depth presentation on a particular aspect of fashion history and a private viewing of the collection.

The collection is one facet of the Drexel Costume Collection, formed in the late 1890s by A.J. Drexel as an educational resource. Through the generosity of donors, the costume collection has become one of the finest research collections in the United States.

ANSWER TO SKynet

As recent headlines about Chinese hackers make clear, we are a nation under cyberattack. With the launch of a new institute, Drexel aims to deliver a counterblow against this growing threat.

Officially launched in February, the Drexel University Cybersecurity Institute is the latest development in the University’s commitment to addressing challenges in big data and cybersecurity. The institute, housed in the College of Computing & Informatics, will pull from Drexel’s many resources in online data management and protection to address national cyber-based threats and prepare the next generation of cybersecurity leaders. It will serve as a center for research, teaching and training; and as a cybersecurity resource for industry, government and the military.

Researchers and students studying cyber-risk management will work and train in the institute’s laboratories using simulations of cyberattacks. The Auerbach and Berger Families Cybersecurity Lab is a 2,500-square-foot space with state-of-the-art computing capabilities that will allow for hands-on experience in protection, defense and attack operations without disturbing real-world networks.

THE NEXT GREAT APP?

New apps developed by Drexel students regularly make headlines – you may have heard of MyKlipsPics, which helps users achieve the perfect haircut, and Scholly, the app that helps students find available scholarship money (where was this app when you needed it?).

Expect more app development out of Drexel now that the University has an official headquarters for it, thanks to a recent gift from software company Bentley Systems. The new Application Development Laboratory (APP Lab) is a dedicated space for students to collaborate with each other, faculty and external entrepreneurs on mobile apps.

Staffed by experienced developers, the lab is equipped with computers and a library of standard code and data useful for building apps. There are also plans for occasional apps-related public events, panel discussions and demonstrations, and showcases for student research and development projects.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH MOVES TO UNIVERSITY CITY

Earlier this year, the School of Public Health moved from Center City into its new home in Nesbitt Hall on the University City Campus.

Nesbitt Hall, the former home to the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, received more than $13 million in renovations over the past year to meet the needs of faculty and staff of the School of Public Health.

Renovations include a number of Drexel “firsts,” such as a dedicated nursing mother’s room for use by Drexel students, faculty and staff, and a gender-neutral bathroom. In addition, the new interior features instructional computer labs, research spaces and an environmental and industrial hygiene laboratory, as well as many open-space collaboration areas, conference areas and student lounges.

Drexel business student Christopher Gray is one of the many success stories to come out of Drexel this past year. He created the Scholly app, which helps students find available scholarship money.
Drexel University’s 127th Annual Commencement — Class of 2014

More than 6,400 people joined your alumni network this spring and summer during four Commencement events in Philadelphia and Sacramento.

LeBow College of Business graduate Cara Kurica is more than a little happy about becoming part of the Drexel alumni network.

Say Cheese! With tassels crossed, College of Arts and Sciences graduates ham it up for the camera.

College of Engineering graduate Abraham Cook transforms a molecular structure into a Commencement fashion statement.

Matthew Floro shows a little Sacramento pride in honor of his new MBA.

Laura Gordon, who graduated magna cum laude, holds her infant son as Professor Donald Tibbs hoods her at the School of Law’s Commencement ceremony.

College of Medicine graduate Elizabeth Ungerman lets someone in the audience know she’s happy about reaching this milestone.
Twitter
@marcvetri: March 25 — great article on @DrexelUniv Pres. John Fry. “If you want to lead, just try it!” great words of advice

@TEDxPhiladelphia: March 28 — Pushing the boundaries of @Drexeluniv’s #smartgarments lab: with multidisciplinary teams and supercapacitors #GenevieveDion #TEDXPHL14

@iamcarolina: March 25 — Excited to spend the day in the Silicon Valley with @DrexelUniv #CloseSchool students #DrexelSiliconValley Heading to @Apple campus

@ducoachflint: June 13 — Graduation at Drexel today. My 6 srs moving on. Gonna miss them. Best group of kids I’ve been around. So proud of them. Dragons for life.

@annemost245: June 13 — I’ve worked 4 hard years for today. Happy graduation #classof2014 #drexeluniversity

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Check out all the buzz around Drexel Commencement 2014 at https://storify.com/DrexelUniv/commencement2014
“It’s no longer enough to be technically proficient. You need that business sense, that savvy, to succeed. You need a community.”
— Michael Traud, assistant teaching professor and program director for hospitality and tourism in the Center for Hospitality and Sports Management, on the benefits of learning the culinary arts at Drexel.

“It is really a disconnection between the enormous value of the games compared to the degree to which some portion of the competitors really continue to do this for love and not for money.”
— Ellen Staurowsky, a professor of sport management, on the financial hardships Olympians take on to make their dreams come true.

“At best, so-called competency- and proficiency-based higher education is a world of good intentions and uncritical enthusiasms. At worst, it seems to be the fulfillment of conservative cost-cutting visions that will put our most enriching higher education experiences still further out of reach for many Americans.”
— Amy Slaton, a professor in the Department of History and Politics, on competency education.

“A lot of people who are feeling bad feel bad in silence.”
— Guy Diamond, associate professor and director of the Center for Family Intervention Science, on the importance of reaching out to someone.

“You are getting new styles and influences and flavors coming forward. Rock just has to share the stage with a lot of other stuff.”
— Devon Powers, an assistant professor of communication, on the declining influence of rock music.

“The best feeling is from that smile they give you when you’ve written it down exactly how it happened like you were right there with them.”
— Michelle Johnson, a pre-junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, on her co-op recording memories of Alzheimer’s patients and senior citizens through Spaces Between Your Fingers, a nonprofit founded by adjunct professor Matthew Smith.

“It’s really about telling the full story of what’s happening in the basin and how the water quality is being affected by the work that’s being done.”
— Roland Wall, senior director for environmental initiatives at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, on the William Penn Foundation’s initiative to protect and restore the water quality in the Delaware River watershed.

“We know that there is an apparent increase in the millennial generation, especially white, college-educated people settling in parts of Philadelphia. And we know that they have a preference for not owning a car.”
— Mimi Sheller, director of the Center for Mobilities Research and Policy and professor of sociology, on a study ranking Philadelphia among large U.S. cities where people are living vehicle-free.
A Milestone for Drexel, and Philadelphia’s Own

About four years ago, Asha-Le Davis sat in the Anthony J. Drexel Picture Gallery, the Drexel family’s portraits looking on. She was waiting to interview for an opportunity that would change her life.

On April 25, she was back in the picture gallery. But she was standing, speaking to a room full of jubilant students, families and Drexel officials. Surrounded by Drexel history on the walls, she remembered the moment that came after her interview four years back: when the envelope came in the mail telling her she’d be part of Drexel’s first class of Liberty Scholars.

“I cried,” Davis recalls, “because that dream that just a few months ago I didn’t think would be a reality was now coming to fruition.”

In 2010, Drexel announced a new scholarship program: the Drexel Liberty Scholars. The University began awarding 50 full scholarships each year to academically talented Philadelphia high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This summer, the first cohort of 16 accepted their diplomas.

At a special dinner event in April, the University celebrated the Scholars’ achievements and the success of a program that’s as strongly connected to Drexel’s founder as are the portraits hanging on the walls of the picture gallery.

“The Liberty Scholars program really, in the end, represents the essence of why Drexel was founded in 1891,” President John Fry told a smiling crowd of Liberty Scholars, their families, their mentors and other Drexel officials. A.J. Drexel founded his University, Fry explained, so that hard-working bright Philadelphians could have access to a great education, regardless of their financial resources.

“There’s not enough thanks,” says Milane Shoukri, the mother of two of the scholars graduating this year. She raised her twin daughters, Guovanna and Sylvia Shoukri, as a single mother in South Philadelphia, and she feared she wouldn’t be able to afford to send them to college.

But then, near the end of her senior year of high school, Guovanna found out she would be a Liberty Scholar. And a few days later, Sylvia learned she would be one, too.

“When it seemed impossible, this made it possible,” Guovanna says.

The sisters both studied biology, and now they both have the same post-graduation plan: to earn doctorates and become nurse practitioners. Without the Liberty Scholars program, they say, things would have been different.

“We wouldn’t have gotten the experiences that we’ve gotten, and wouldn’t have been able to make the connections with professionals that we’ve made,” Sylvia says.

Not only that, but they also took a burden off their mother’s shoulders. Guovanna remembered watching her mother cry as a television station interviewed her and her sister about the scholarship four years ago. “I would pay a million dollars to see that over again,” she says.

Twins Guovanna and Sylvia Shoukri weren’t sure they’d be able to afford college. Now they’re planning on earning doctorates.

See a video of Drexel’s Liberty Scholars at drexelmagazine.org.
Sometimes a short trip can lead to a long journey. Drexel tennis coach Mehdi Rhazali started playing the sport at age four for the simplest of reasons: his family’s house in their hometown, the Moroccan capital of Rabat, was located quite close to a tennis club.

On those six red clay courts, Rhazali formed a lifelong love affair with the game that ultimately brought him to Philadelphia. “A turning point in my life came after a local tennis competition, where I witnessed my [older] brothers’ success in the tournament,” the 25-year-old says. “My primary athletic interest has been developing my tennis skills ever since.” Those talents now include coaching and teaching. Rhazali is in his second year leading the Dragons’ men’s and women’s teams, and the results have been impressive. Last season the men reached the Colonial Athletic Association semifinals for the first time in school history, while the women posted a winning overall record. Both programs saw student-athletes earn first-team all-conference honors for the first time in their respective histories. Junior Badr Ouabdelmoumen, the men’s No. 1, and Zeynep Mafa were the decorated players.

“Coach Rhazali saw the best in me, and even at my best, he knew that I could do better,” says Mafa, a senior from Los Angeles, Calif. “He helped me realize that there is always room for improvement. Mentally, he made me strong and he taught me that no matter how good a player is, they can’t go any further without believing in themselves and giving 110 percent.” Occasionally Rhazali pinches himself to ensure that his job — coaching his alma mater’s tennis program, the team for which he starred for three seasons as a singles player just a few years ago — is not a dream. Coaching wasn’t on his radar when he first picked up a racquet, or even when he quit Morocco’s most popular sport, soccer, at age 10 to focus on his groundstrokes. As a teenager, he visited his brother Faycal (who was playing tennis at Radford University) nearly every summer to play tournaments and acclimate himself to American culture.

After high school, he took a year off to train and improve his English before enrolling at Mercy College in New York. There he adjusted to the American game quickly, rising to No. 6 on the East Coast in Division II schools and earning rookie-of-the-week honors three times. But he yearned to be challenged more academically. Rhazali found what he was looking for at Drexel, where he earned his undergraduate degree in business administration in 2011 and served as co-captain of the tennis team his junior and senior years. During his co-op, he worked at a financial firm, which solidified his desire to become a tennis teacher.

“I wanted to [coach] somebody that you’re going to be with for a while and you can help improve and watch grow,” he says. “You find that more in college.” Fortuitously for him, the Drexel position opened in 2012, and Director of Athletics Eric Zillmer tapped him for the job.

“Mehdi has, in a remarkably short period of time, brought a high level of competitive excitement to men’s and women’s tennis at Drexel,” Zillmer says. “I think he is the perfect fit for Drexel. He is serious about being a coach, yet playful and elegant in his interactions with players and professional staff. Mehdi also brings a cross-cultural perspective to the team that I appreciate very much. All of this is not a surprise to me, since Mehdi exhibited those characteristics, love for the game of tennis and commitment to being a Dragon, while he was a Drexel student-athlete.”

Rhazali’s approach to the position is multifaceted. He not only works with his players on forehand and backhand technique, but on time management, fitness and academic issues as well. His philosophy has three pillars: one athletic, one academic and one personality-based. His goal is to lead the school to the CAA Championship, and one day, into the national rankings. “Tennis is a sport that defines who you are on the court, and basically I always say this to them: You’ve got to play what the ball gives you,” he says. “When you are pushed back you are on defense. Basically life is like that. You cannot rush the steps, you cannot sprint to the goal, you’ve got to go one step at a time.”

As Rhazali knows, there’s no telling where in life those steps will lead you. [D]
“Tennis is a sport that defines who you are on the court.”
— MEHDI RHAZALI
A Swift Ascension

Drexel’s rugby team may be a club activity but the coach and players walk, talk and practice like it’s a varsity sport. That attitude helped the team win its first-ever invitation to the Rugby 7s, the sport’s most prestigious collegiate championship.

BY JOHN A. FANTINO

A year ago, some of Drexel’s rugby players ventured to PPL Park in Chester to watch the annual Collegiate Rugby Championship Invitational, or as the players casually call it, the “Rugby 7s.”

This spring, however, they were on the pitch rather than in the stands.

The Dragons’ debut in the prestigious national tournament, which was held May 31–June 1 at the 18,500-seat PPL Park, rewarded the sweat, dedication and passion poured into a club that’s made huge strides at Drexel in recent years.

Arguably the zenith of collegiate rugby, the 7s championship produces a field of the nation’s top 20 teams, with several of the games televised live on NBC networks.

“I don’t think a lot of people realize just how big a deal this is,” says Michael Phan, a senior from Wilkes Barre, Pa., and three-year veteran with the Dragons. “It’s in a big stadium. It’s on national TV. It’s huge.”

It also shows how far rugby has progressed at Drexel under fourth-year coach Michael Burch, a former Dragons’ rugby standout who graduated in 2003.

In a sport that long ago built a reputation for teams throwing big parties after matches on campuses throughout the country, Drexel’s program has done its part to help erase the stigma.

“The big goal when I took over was to get everybody to buy into the sport of rugby,” Burch says. “In the past, it became a social thing. But now, there are probably 60–70 schools in Pennsylvania that play high school rugby. It’s [even] in the Olympics. I wanted to come here and change the atmosphere, and make it as close to a varsity sport as possible.”

It’s been more than just lip service. Rugby is one of Drexel’s 35 club sports, in which no scholar-
“I don’t think a lot of people realize just how big a deal this is. It’s in a big stadium. It’s on national TV. It’s huge.” — Michael Phan

ships are granted and students fund their own activities. That hasn’t deterred the Dragons, who have held intense practices in advance of the 7s collegiate championship and also worked out with the school’s varsity strength and conditioning coach at 6 a.m., three times a week. In addition, they gathered weekly for film sessions.

“IT’S A CLUB SPORT, BUT RUGBY HERE IS HIGHLY ORGANIZED,” says Daniel Simmons, Drexel’s senior associate athletic director and head of the school’s recreational sports. “We are playing at a top level.”

Drexel also has a 15s team, established in 1987, that fared well in the Mid-Atlantic Rugby Conference.

When Burch launched Drexel’s 7s team — an increasingly popular version of rugby that consists of seven players per team on the pitch instead of 15 — in 2013, the Dragons enjoyed instant success with a second-place finish in a tournament among Philadelphia’s six college programs.

“Compared to when I first got here, we’ve definitely improved so much,” says Robert Pletcher, a senior standout from Mount Holly, N.J. “When I was a freshman, the sophomores at the time really took over the team; they really helped turn it around, brought more guys out.”

The beauty of rugby, according to Burch, is that it’s a sport an athlete with little or no experience can take up in college and thrive at a high level. Participation numbers at Drexel have swelled to between 40 and 50, he says.

“The hope is that this year’s exposure in the national 7s tournament will help garner more popularity on campus as well as support from alumni.”

“I think a big problem is some people just don’t know what rugby is, or that we have a team on campus,” says Joe Midwig, a senior from the Baltimore area. “Any little noise helps. Just a little splash can make a wave.”

Drexel opened the Collegiate Rugby Championship, held this year on May 31 to June 1, with a 26-0 loss to Maryland and a 36-0 defeat to University of California, the eventual national champion. The Dragons bounced back with a 12-7 victory over city-rival Temple University in the final match of pool play. In a consolation match the final day of the competition, Drexel fell 17-5 to St. Joseph’s University.
As a child, Chris McKendry was faced with a choice: play anything she wanted, but do it alone; or play sports, and enjoy the company of three energetic brothers.

“When you grow up with three brothers, if you want to have a playmate, you have to do what they are doing,” says the 1990 communications graduate. “So I was exposed to athletics at an early age. I would go play soccer with them, or go shoot hoops. I am a Title IX child.”

Her love of sports continued at Drexel, where she played three years of tennis under head coach Laura White. After graduating, McKendry worked in television sports broadcasting in Minnesota and Washington, D.C., before landing a job at ESPN in 1996. She has been there ever since, currently as the mid-day anchor of the popular “SportsCenter” news program. And her days of tennis didn’t end at Drexel — she hosts Grand Slam tennis events around the world and covered Wimbledon in 2007. Since 2010, she has covered the Australian, French and U.S. Opens.

This summer, hosting the Wimbledon Championships, the “crown jewel” of tennis tournaments, stands as her most prestigious assignment to date, she says.

McKendry spoke to Drexel Magazine about growing up in a sports family, how she ended up at Drexel and how she made the transition from tennis courts to television studios.

Why did you choose to attend Drexel? I grew up in Northeast Philadelphia. My brother Dan (a 1989 graduate) was on a soccer scholarship at Drexel before I went there. He was a goalkeeper for the soccer team, and that’s when I was first exposed to the school. I played a lot of tennis and I really love the sport — I felt really comfortable at Drexel, a school with so many commuters and athletes who really stuck together.

I am a city kid at heart. I knew after visiting a couple of schools a city school would suit me best. That was Drexel. Even today, I truly miss the vitality and energy of city living.

How did your tennis career at Drexel help you get into broadcasting? I played three years and going into my fourth I got my first job in television. It was a full-time job at the KYW studios for Westinghouse, where I was a field producer for sports. I chose to leave the team to start my professional career. But, [my tennis coach] Laura [White] was so good about it and said, “You came here [to Drexel] to go to school and get a job.” I got an earlier start to my career than others.

What were some of the pivotal experiences for you at Drexel? Who were some professors or coaches who made a significant impression on you? I was a student interested in communications at an engineering school, and I wanted to work in sports broadcasting. I went against the norm. I had a lot of incredible opportunities at Drexel with the co-op program. You get out there in the real world and make contacts. You head into the city and find a job in your field. People were going off to work all the time. [White] was a great influence for encouraging me. She is so passionate about athletics, and she was a great role model for us at that time because she was starting a family of her own.

Did you consider yourself a pioneer early in your career? I don’t consider myself a pioneer at all. It was just something new (for a woman in Washington sports). Now it seems like every (woman) who did your tennis career at Drexel help you get into broadcasting? I played three years and going into my fourth I got my first job in television. It was a full-time job at the KYW studios for Westinghouse, where I was a field producer for sports. I chose to leave the team to start my professional career. But, [my tennis coach] Laura [White] was so good about it and said, “You came here [to Drexel] to go to school and get a job.” I got an earlier start to my career than others.

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Did you consider yourself a pioneer early in your career? I don’t consider myself a pioneer at all. It was just something new (for a woman in Washington sports). Now it seems like every (woman) who comes to ESPN comes from Washington — there are so many of us. I was only 24 in Wash-
Historic Lacrosse Run Ends Against Denver in NCAA Quarter Finals

After nine straight wins and then defeating University of Pennsylvania for a place in the NCAA Tournament, the Drexel men’s lacrosse team’s season met its end against Denver in the quarterfinals. BY BRITT FAULSTICK

Eleven-point-three seconds.

It’s barely enough time to tie a shoelace, buckle up a helmet or strap on pads. But in 11.3 seconds the fate of Drexel’s men’s lacrosse program tipped.

In past seasons and leading up to those fleeting moments in the May 11 game against rival Penn, it’s safe to say that some of the most visceral memories for Drexel fans and former players were of pain and frustration. But this season, Drexel gave its fans some unforgettable moments of joy. And the transition from NCAA newcomer to upset sensation happened in an instant. Or 11.3 of them, to be precise.

Drexel walked away that day with a 16-11 win against the team that many considered to be among the top four in the nation. While the Dragons would eventually fall to a dominant Denver team in the NCAA quarterfinals on May 18, the tremor of Drexel’s victory on Franklin Field felt more like a continental shift as it reverberated through the college lacrosse landscape.

The Dragons’ nine straight victories, their first conference championship and first NCAA Tournament appearance amounted to the final sprint in a grueling marathon that had spanned 43 years of lacrosse in West Philadelphia. Then, in a matter of 11.3 seconds, the Dragons arrived.

Drexel Crew Defends DAD VAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

For the second year in a row, the Drexel men’s crew team won the Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta, the largest collegiate regatta in the nation. BY BRITT FAULSTICK

Drexel’s ascent among the collegiate rowing community continued this season with a successful defense of its Dad Vail team championship on Philadelphia’s Schuylkill River in May.

“Everybody had a part in scoring points for the team,” says Director of Rowing Paul Savell. “This was a complete team effort, it’s something they’ve worked hard at all year and it’s great to see them come through with a hard-earned victory.”

Drexel’s 41 team points bested its next closest competitors Bucknell (37) and Massachusetts (32) by a margin that equated to one medal. The men tallied 23 points, finishing just one behind Delaware for third place. On the women’s side, Drexel accrued 18 points to land in the third spot as well.

The men’s second varsity eight boat took home the team’s lone gold medal, by pulling the course in just over six minutes and 38 seconds — three seconds better than Michigan and seven ahead of Temple University in the next closest boats.

The women’s varsity eight final came down to a sprint to the finish — Drexel held off a late charge from Grand Valley to take the silver by less than a second and earn points that were crucial for the overall team victory. This marked the best finish for a Drexel women’s varsity eight boat at the Dad Vail.
Activity in the Fossil Prep Lab at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University plays out like a prehistoric soap opera. Lab technicians are literally digging for clues — as they free a fossil from its protective plaster “field jacket,” details emerge about how that particular dinosaur lived, and how it may have died. The whole drama unfolds in full public view.

Currently, staff in the prep lab are unearthing a set of T. rex fossils from blocks of sandstone that recently arrived from Elk Basin, Wyo., a dig site that New Jersey State Museum paleontologists have been exploring for more than 50 years. Through an ongoing partnership between the Academy and the museum, the job of preparing the fossils collected there occurs in the Academy’s Fossil Prep Lab.

Led by Fossil Prep Lab Coordinator Jason Poole, a team of skilled Academy staff and volunteers will work for the next several months to carefully remove the T. rex fossils from the plaster jackets and then from the many layers of hard sandstone that encase them. Eventually, these fossils will be added to the research collection at the New Jersey State Museum.

Fossils prepared in the lab come from dig sites around the world. Often, the lab workers don’t know exactly what they’re going to uncover.

“That’s what’s so neat about it,” says Poole. “There are always surprises that we didn’t expect.”

1 /// THE LAB: The Academy’s Fossil Prep Lab opened in 1998 and is part of the museum’s permanent Dinosaur Hall exhibit. Poole says most visitors are amazed to learn that the fossils on display in Dinosaur Hall represent less than 1 percent of the Academy’s collection.

2 /// THE COORDINATOR: Jason Poole has been an educator and seasoned field crew manager at the Academy for nearly 20 years. His is a business of collaboration — he’s often teamed up with other paleontologists who are interested in educating the public about our ancient past. Recent projects have positioned him alongside Drexel Associate Professor Ken Lacovara: Their team unearthed *Paralititan*, a new type of titanic dinosaur, during an expedition to Egypt in 2000 and, in 2004, they were part of a crew that discovered a 66-million-year-old, super-massive dinosaur fossil in Patagonia, Argentina. The fossils from both of these expeditions were prepared in the Academy’s lab.

3 /// THE T. REX: This fossil is roughly 67 million years old. So far, technicians have freed a claw. Badly mashed by time, the fossil had to be painstakingly pieced back together. Lab workers are also preparing fossils from an edmontosaur (duck-billed dinosaur) and an ankylosaur (spiny-covered dinosaur with a club-tail), both collected from Elk Basin.

4 /// THE TOOLS: Poole and other skilled workers in the lab use a number of tools to gingerly free the fossils from their “tombs,” including an airscribe (like an engraving device), dental picks and hobby knives.

— Katie Clark
Hadrosaur
Elk Basin Wyoming
NJSM+ANSP

- Skull
- Jaw
- Cheek
- Scapula
- Humerus
Cirque de Solidarity

Soviet-era Polish posters and the art of oblique protest

Everybody loves a circus—except when life has become a mad circus and citizens see the “tent” around them as a prison, as was the experience of many Polish citizens living under Soviet influence in the 20th century.

Polish poster art and design emerged at the end of World War II and reached its height during the Cold War. Many artists of the time used allusion and metaphor to present sly commentary on the totalitarian state while evading official state censors, according to Mark Willie, teaching professor in the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design and steward of Drexel’s poster collections. Drexel owns the Frank Fox Polish Poster Collection and the Kenneth F. Lewalski Polish Posters Collection, housed in Drexel’s URBN Center. Together, they represent one of the country’s largest collections of Soviet-era Polish posters.

Over the past several years, a number of undergraduates have explored the collection in their research. Recently, graphic design junior Courtney Sabo studied subliminal messaging in posters designed for the Russian circus (“cyrk”) in Poland, for a project titled, “Beyond the Big Top: The Art of the Polish Cyrk Poster.” Some of her analysis is presented here.

“During this period, poster artists focused on creating well-designed pieces of art rather than developing advertisements,” she says. “With this artistic freedom, artists’ individual styles flourished through their brilliant compositions.”

Lions, tigers and clowns—oh my!

In the 1960s, the Polish State Entertainment Agency commissioned poster artists to create promotional pieces for the circus, or “cyrk,” imported from the Soviet Union. When the circus first toured Poland in the 1950s, Warsaw’s Jan Mlodozeniec (1929–2000) and Wrocław’s Jerzy Czerniawski (1947–present) were two among many artists who covered the streets with illustrative design posters promoting the circus. As with many other Polish posters of this era, some of the colorful posters for “cyrk” sent subliminal political messages to the public.

1. Jen Lenica, Cyrk, 1976 – Frank Fox Polish Poster Collection at Drexel University
2. Tadeusz Jodłowski, Cyrk, 1979 – Frank Fox Polish Poster Collection at Drexel University
This poster (left) for cyrk by Młodozeniec features simplified flat shapes, bright colors and a bold font. The clown wears a top hat and carries a sling shot made of the letter “Y.” The viewer could interpret the actions of the clown as he sneaks out of the frame with the “Y” as an underlying message about sociopolitical issues.

(Left) Some circus posters did not send any feelings of happiness. Here, Czerniawski creates discomfort with the monotone figure that sits in an abnormal pose and refuses to look at the viewer. Although viewers can perceive the character as a flexible acrobat, this poster could symbolize irritation felt by the Poles in the Soviet economy.

4. Jan Młodozeniec, Cyrk, 1979 – Frank Fox Polish Poster Collection at Drexel University
5. Jerzy Czerniawski, Cyrk, 1975 – Frank Fox Poster Collection at Drexel University
6. Hubert Hilscher, Cyrk, 1975 – Frank Fox Polish Poster Collection at Drexel University
7. Tomasz Sarmel, Solidarnosc, 1989 – Frank Fox Polish Poster Collection at Drexel University
8. Andrzej Pajkowski, Cyrk, 1978 – Frank Fox Polish Poster Collection at Drexel University
10. Stasys Eidrigevicius, Zwierciadlo, 1989 – Frank Fox Polish Poster Collection at Drexel University
11. Wilktor Sadowski, Opera Za Trzy Grosze, 1985 – Frank Fox Polish Poster Collection at Drexel University
12. Wilktor Sadowski, My Fair Lady, 1986 – Frank Fox Polish Poster Collection at Drexel University
On the streets of New York in February, Brent Luvaas noticed a subtle change.

Perched at the entrance of Lincoln Center, on the grand plaza that leads into the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week tent, Luvaas counted fewer photographers on the sidewalks this year snapping photos of the models, magazine editors, buyers and celebrities who swarm the annual event.

No doubt the sub-freezing temperatures that marked Fashion Week this year kept many photographers away, but Luvaas also attributes the cooling of the scene to an industry backlash.

This year, event organizer IMG issued 20 percent fewer invitations in an effort to reduce the hoards of photographer-bloggers — and the circus-like, sidewalk spectacle they’ve created — on the plaza.

Luvaas, an assistant professor of anthropology in Drexel’s College of Arts and Sciences, has been chronicling the creative ecosystem outside the Fashion Week tents for years, collecting observations for his forthcoming book, Street Style Anthropology (Bloomsbury Publishers).

While most photographers focus their lenses on the catwalk or shoot glossy editorial spreads for fashion magazines, street-style photographers (Luvaas’ term) document the everyday style of “ordinary” people on city streets and post the images in their blogs. Some of the best known among them, such as Liisa Jokinen of Hel Looks, Scott Schuman of The Sartorialist and Yvan Rodic of Face Hunter, have built huge online audiences.

To Luvaas’ eye, their place in the fashion world is an intriguing, contested space. Where is the line between “insider” and “outsider” fashion photography? What are the broader implications for the democratization of fashion, photography and creative work?

On the rise since the early aughts, the art of photographing fashionable urban strollers has skyrocketed from simple point-and-shoot laymen’s lookbooks to a veritable industry packed with creative novices who want to turn their eye for style into a career. In February, they collide on the glamorous grounds of Fashion Week in New York, London, Milan and Paris.

“Long-time bloggers like Phil Oh and Tommy Ton describe their first seasons at Fashion Weeks, back in 2007 or 2008, as being very quiet, with only a few bloggers present,” Luvaas says. “Now, the major shows will often have a couple of hundred swarming outside the doors. Oh described the events as ‘trench warfare’ and admitted it has taken some of the fun out of what he does.”

In an effort to make sense of street-style blogging as a social and cultural phenomenon, Luvaas started his own street-style blog, Urban Fieldnotes, in March 2012. Part hobby, part research tool, the blog is filled with street photos of his own as well as his interviews with photographer-bloggers such as the well-known Gunnar Hämmerle of Styleclicker and a growing blogroll of ambitious amateurs.

Through the blog, he observes, reports on and — to a certain extent — imitates his subject.

He’s watched many of the photographers he studies become influential voices in the fashion industry.

Schuman, for instance, was one of the first amateur photographers to spotlight well-dressed unknowns when he launched The Sartorialist
Drexel anthropologist Brent Luvaas went native to study the culture of street photographer-bloggers and how their coverage of “off-runway” couture is changing the fashion industry.
in 2005. His blog now attracts roughly 30,000 unique visits a month. Rodic's Face Hunter has put off-the-fashion-radar cities like Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Oslo on the map. Jokinen began her Helsinki-based blog Hel Looks in 2005 as a hobby to document the often outlandish, surreal-ist style of Finland’s natives. Its international notoriety allowed her to quit her 9-to-5 job and write for Finnish magazines.

Early bloggers are now seen as fashion celebrities in their own right and get invitations to fashion events, contract work for major magazines and sponsorship deals worth tens of thousands of dollars. But as the reputations of photographer-bloggers soared and they began getting access to Fashion Week tent shows, Luvaas says another breed emerged.

The outsider, DIY ethos of the early blogger-photographers has given rise to what he calls “street fashion” photographers, who collect most of their shots during Fashion Week rather than scour less glamorous locales for ordinary people of style. According to Alyssa Vingan, writing for the blog Fashionista, some big-name magazines will pay photographers as much as $12,000 or even $30,000 to provide daily image galleries throughout Fashion Month.

“Street-style photography, to this day, retains something of this anthropological orientation, presenting visual documents of ‘real fashion’ that often counter the glamorized ideal of beauty represented in the fashion industry,” Luvaas says.

In old anthropological field expedition photos of the late 19th century, researchers captured single individuals, looking directly at the camera with little expression, dressed in their “everyday costumes.”

“Street-style photography, to this day, retains something of this anthropological orientation, presenting visual documents of ‘real fashion’ that often counter the glamorized ideal of beauty represented in the fashion industry,” Luvaas says.

In contrast, street fashion bloggers typically only photograph editors, models and style celebrities — because that’s where the money is. According to Alyssa Vingan, writing for the blog Fashionista, some big-name magazines will pay photographers as much as $12,000 or even $30,000 to provide daily image galleries throughout Fashion Month.

“As street-style photography has ballooned in popularity, it has also become an established — though frequently resented — part of the fashion industry,” Luvaas says.

Just as technology-enabled “democratization” of the creative work of music, journalism and amateur art has impacted the livelihoods
of established content creators, new entrants have changed the field’s economics.

“Online fashion magazines now have such a plethora of professional-quality images to choose from, they barely need to pay anything to attain them,” explains Luvaas. “Many amateur photographers are willing to give away their photos for free, in exchange for name-recognition and increased traffic to their websites.”

Why pay for content at all, when you can get it for free? Even professional fashion photographers are no longer as competitive as they used to be, says Luvaas.

“There may be far more avenues for photographers to get their work out there than there ever have been, but making a living as a photographer has never been more difficult,” Luvaas says. “Increasingly, the cultural industries depend on volunteer labor. And volunteer labor, by definition, is labor that doesn’t pay.”

Nels Frye, of Beijing-based street-style blog Stylites, who has since moved on to being an editor-in-chief at LifeStyle Magazine, says that the scene peaked three or four years ago. “At some point,” he says, “you have to figure out a financial model.”

“A lot of people who are getting involved in street style now, or blogging in general, don’t share the DIY ethos that defined the early blogs,” says Luvaas. “These are people who admire fashion and would like to be part of that world and see blogging as an avenue in, rather than attempting to maintain some sort of outsider position. DIY is a measure of democratic potential, and street-style photography as it’s practiced now is by no means DIY. Most of the people who are doing it are using $10,000 cameras and lenses, very often paying to have their blogs professionally managed.”

“Now, if you are involved in street style, you are also complicit in the fashion industry,” he says.

Some photographer-bloggers have responded to the changing scene by eschewing Fashion Week altogether and returning to shooting ordinary people on the street — or at least, looking like they do.

Styleclicker’s Hämmerle, for example, now has a professional career shooting for GQ and Conde Nast affiliates in Europe, but a couple of years ago he removed all of the ads from his blog and now only posts photos from Munich, where he’s based, using blown-out exposures made to look intentionally amateurish. “He’s continually navigating that line [between insider and outsider]. He still sees himself as an outsider even though he’s kind of within,” Luvaas says.

“There is this tension, or an ongoing debate, about what gets to count as street-style,” Luvaas says.

“There are certain people who try to maintain this kind of street-style thing within the fashion world,” Luvaas says. He knows of one well-known blogger who intentionally shoots his subjects a block or two away from the Fashion Week tents. “It creates the illusion that he’s just wandering the streets, even though he pretty much only shoots industry people,” Luvaas says.

Luvaas believes that the attempt by Fashion Week organizers to “reinstate a fashion elite” by restricting invitations may further motivate photographers to return to cataloging street style in its purest form.

“There will be people saying, ‘You know what? I don’t have any potential hope for being a part of this industry, but I don’t really care. I’m just going to do the kind of stuff that I’m interested in doing, that focuses on real people, and stays away from all that,’” Luvaas says.

And though the anthropologist claims that “the outside doesn’t really exist anymore,” when looking at his carefully candid photos of ordinary people on the street, it’s clear that he hopes that that isn’t true. Additional reporting by Alex McKechnie.
The most successful surgeries get you back in the swing of things quickly. That’s why the surgeons at Drexel Medicine are so skilled in all types of minimally invasive surgical techniques — just one benefit of our patient-driven approach to providing access to the latest medical breakthroughs.

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Armed with a new $100,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Moseson and his interdisciplinary team of Drexel students are poised to write the next chapter of a remarkable story that has connected two cultures from halfway around the world and could drastically improve the lives of a people who have farmed using basically the same methods for 700 years.

"Being able to leverage technology in a way that is transformative gets me excited," says Moseson, who completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees in materials engineering from Drexel in 2008 and finished his doctorate in mechanical engineering in 2012. “There is a shameful amount of technology that has already been invented and fully understood but not yet adapted or deployed to solve some of the world’s most serious problems.”
Alex Moseson directs the SEED Lab, a social-impact program founded in 2011. It empowers and improves the lives of marginalized populations through technology, using the ingenuity of Drexel educators and students. In addition to developing agricultural tools and water purification technology in rural Thailand, Drexel teams are improving manufacturing capacity in Tanzania and developing green cements in the United States and India.
The SEED Lab is aiming to change that. In Thailand, Moseson learned that many of the subsistence rice farmers in the region suffer from chronic pain.

“Typically, for planting, one person has a long pole that they have screwed a crude iron pick onto,” he says. “On these very steep slopes, which can be literally up to 70 degrees, they jab at the ground in a random fashion, and somebody, usually a woman, follows behind to throw rice into the holes. This person is hunched over for many hours per day, and is getting kicked in the face and having rocks thrown into their face. It’s really a dangerous place to be.”

Moseson knew he could create a tool that would make farming easier, and when he returned to Philadelphia from that first trip, he resolved to act.

His project, originally known as the Thai Harvest Initiative, yielded a design for a planting device that used a PVC pipe to store rice seed, drill a hole in the ground and drop 10 grains all in one motion.

“Engineering is powerful stuff, and the best sustainable engineering is invisible.”

One of the first students that he and the project’s first faculty adviser, Associate Professor James Tangorra, brought on board was Marie LaPosta. LaPosta, now a mechanical engineer with Amtrak, was looking for a senior design project (a requirement for Drexel engineering majors) with social impact because, as she says, “Engineering is powerful stuff, and the best sustainable engineering is invisible.”

They learned a lot from building their first prototype.

“The tool that we devised would not have been easy for a villager to design, both from a knowledge and a resources standpoint,” she says. “But once we incorporated local materials and local feedback into our design, it would be hard for an observer to know that the designers were outsiders.”

Collaboration is key in the SEED Lab model. Despite major language, financial and geographical barriers, Moseson and his students know it is vital that any engineering solution be designed with, not simply for, the Thai farmers. Every year, he returns to Thailand with a group of undergraduates so that the original tool design can be adjusted to become more efficient and functional. Each group of undergraduates (all of whom volunteer their time) tries to improve on the previous group’s work. Other units across campus — including the departments of Mechanical Engineering, Chemical and Biological Engineering; Civil and Environmental Engineering; Film and Video;
graphic Design; and the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems — have contributed in some way.

Students are now working on the third iteration of the tool prototype, trying to eliminate jamming (mud tends to get stuck in the device) and increase its efficiency.

“Basically, now we are able to strike the ground and just move along,” Moseson says. “It does everything in one motion. When you’re striking the ground, you’re no longer just drilling a hole, you’re now putting the right number of seeds in it. This means that one person can do the work of two or three.”

That’s important because the planting season is dependent on annual rains and villagers sometimes only have two short, stressful weeks to plant an entire crop.

The farmers weed the land for much longer periods of time — for several months they work on this laborious task for up to 10 hours each day. So Drexel engineers went back to the drawing board to create a new weeder.

After trying several designs, they settled on a PVC-based pole with a custom-made blade and aiming device that allows the user to gently lay it down where he wants to strike the weed, and then push just once.

“You get both accuracy and power, plus the better ergonomics of standing upright,” Moseson says.

Until now, the SEED Lab’s economic model of distributing the tools has been to hold workshops in conjunction with its Thai-based partner, the Sustainable Development Research Foundation (SDRF). During the events farmers come and construct their own tools. This process has, in many ways, empowered the farmers, says James Gustafson, the foundation’s director of international relations.
The project has had a growing impact on the Thai farmers in the province of Nan where the SDRF works,” he says. “It began by stimulating their creativity as it invited them to participate in a workshop to design an appropriate weeder and mountain rice planter. It also provided the farmers with an opportunity to learn from the Drexel teams that visited and helped in the workshops on the design and manufacture of the tools.”

Gustafson credits the sensitivity of Moseson and his team as being key to getting local farmers to participate.

“Alex and the Drexel teams included the farmers in the whole process of design and manufacture, which affirmed the farmers in a way that opened them up to the potential of working together,” Gustafson says. “Research knowledge and indigenous knowledge were mutually involved in the process of design and manufacture. A sense of balance has dominated the interaction between Drexel and the indigenous farmers.”

Indeed, time and time again when discussing the project, Moseson returns to theme of collaboration.

“We’re not just there to transfer technology, we’re there to transfer ideas, in both directions,” Moseson says. “Our main deliverables are not just the devices, but pictorial manuals that have been translated into Thai so that the people can understand them. It’s an opportunity for teaching, not just selling or giving away a product.”

November, the SEED Lab became one of roughly 80 winners of the Gates Foundation’s Grand Challenges Exploration Grants. Only about 2 percent of applicants are awarded the prize, Moseson says.

The SEED Lab team will use the grant to establish a local social entrepreneurship center to produce 50 tools per day.

“There are 100 million sloped-field farmers in Southeast Asia alone who could see their quality of life improved by these tools,” he says. “Putting the tools in the hands of so many others is a very exciting possibility.”

In the meantime, Moseson and his team are tweaking the tool designs and continuing work on a third aspect of the project — producing a clean water filter.

“Both projects have their own challenges,” says Sukitta Oumcome-
sung, a senior undergraduate member of the water filter and planter tool design teams, and a native of Thailand. “The groups are currently designing and experimenting processes to see which are the suitable solutions. I hope I can help. These two projects are not only to help just people in Thailand, but also others who are facing similar issues in the rest of the world.”

Moseson traces his devotion to sustainable engineering back to some work he did in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. He also credits his graduate adviser, M.W. Barsoum, now the A.W. Grosvenor professor in the Department of Materials and Science Engineering, for helping to make this path in life possible for him. Moseson now devotes much of his professional energy toward the project in Thailand.

“This type of work really motivates me to get up in the morning,” he says. “In an age — this is going to sound cliché — where we can put a man on the moon, there’s no technical reason that people should be without food, water, shelter, sanitation, the basics of life. It’s a real honor for me to be allowed to pursue what I see as my calling. It’s been a way to validate my path toward trying to serve some of the most deserving people in the world with technology.”

In doing so, he’s set a course for his students to follow. LaPosta, for one, says her time on the project gave her hope.

“It made me feel that I, as an engineer, can be an agent of positive change by using my skills in the right way,” she says. “Before going [to Thailand], I didn’t think I truly believed that our tool would be what they needed, or make an impact on their lives. The reality was very different. I saw that what we made was helpful to people where even a little help makes a big difference. I saw that they valued what we made, and it would be useful to them, and I wanted to do that again in my life.” [D]
Drexel’s longstanding dedication to military veterans continues to this day in its unqualified support of the Post-9/11 GI Bill™.

BY THERESA EVERLINE

a modest room inside the century-old Armory on Drexel’s campus hangs the first infantry flag flown on the field at the Battle of Gettysburg. This rare artifact keeps company with lavish swords presented to Civil War officers, a soldier’s wooden leg from the Mexican-American War, and an early 19th-century military accessory known as a tar-bucket hat.

These are just a few of the gems in the collection of the little museum, generally not open to the public. It’s dedicated to the 103rd Engineering Battalion of the National Guard, the oldest continually existing military unit in the state of Pennsylvania. Curator Mike Benson can tell story after story about the battalion’s history, including the fact that in 1922 the unit decided to make engineering its focus.

“We did that because we were right here on Drexel’s campus,” says Benson. “It was like, ‘Hey, look at all the engineers!’”

Down the hall from the museum is the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps headquarters and the gymnasium where young ROTC members train. Until 1969 all male Drexel students were required to participate in the ROTC, and when they completed their qualifications they got a commission as a 2nd lieutenant.

The Armory is also home to the Veterans Lounge that was opened in 2011 for student veterans to study, socialize and host meetings. The space includes a small collection of art by internationally recognized...
graphic artist Poto Liefi from his “Freedom’s On Me” series.

While the Armory is a nexus for Drexel’s ties to the military past and present, the spirit of dedication to military personnel fills corridors campus-wide.

Since Congress passed the Post-9/11 GI Bill™ in 2008 to provide up to 36 months’ worth of tuition aid for those who served in the military after the 2001 terrorist attacks, Drexel has created an elaborate welcome network and a generous tuition waiver for veteran students.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill™ pays the full tab at state public universities but generally only a percentage of private-school tuition. Drexel, however, went to the next level. It joined the bill’s Yellow Ribbon Program, in which institutions agree to cover full tuition in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs above the standard amount paid for by the government.

Unlike many other Yellow Ribbon universities, Drexel doesn’t put any limits on how many veterans can enroll or on what they study.

“Here, they can attend any program — medical, law, undergrad, grad. There are no quotas whatsoever,” says Melissa Englund, assistant vice president for student financial services.

Drexel’s efforts have earned it a “military-friendly school” designation by Victory Media for five straight years, since the list began. In addition, Drexel was recently ranked No. 12 in the nation by US News & World Report as a top school for veterans. US News also named Drexel No. 13 for best online bachelor’s program for veterans and No. 7 for best online graduate engineering program for veterans.

But while Drexel’s tuition aid enables eligible veterans to attend for free, several challenging factors specific to their situation can impact their success once they’re on campus.

For example, the strict 36-month-maximum limit on GI Bill™ benefits means that student veterans must manage their credits wisely and succeed academically.

“Not being in a rigorous academic program before, I was going in thinking: ‘Can I do this?’” says Katherine Cassel, a nursing student who spent 10 years in the Army as a medic during the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns and with a Kosovo peacekeeping mission. “You have to be humble enough to say, ‘I need someone who’s an expert at this field to teach me how to understand the information and apply it.’”

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Years after Tom Matthews commanded the mission popularly known as “Black Hawk Down” in 1993, he continued to fight for an honest portrayal of the Battle of Mogadishu in book and film.

Here’s a Trader Joe’s around the corner. Cars wait patiently at the light. Handsome large-ish suburban homes line up neatly along the cul de sac. It’s an ordinary Northern Virginia suburb.

The house is typical, too. Lucy the boxer bounds out the front door. Jessica Matthews ’73 leads the way to a tidy kitchen island and pops open a Coke for the visitor.

It’s all so normal. Hard to believe former U.S. Army Colonel and Drexel ’72 alumnus Thomas Matthews led American troops through the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu, immortalized in the book and movie “Black Hawk Down.” In brief, the U.S. military set out to capture a couple of high-ranking aides to a particularly vicious Somali warlord. Eighteen Americans died in a thunderous gun battle, along with hundreds of Somalis. Matthews directed it all from a helicopter, remaining aloft for 18 hours.

Hard to believe he’s one of ours — two decades earlier, Matthews was a business student at Drexel. At school, he says, “you have to strive, you have to achieve, you have to prove yourself academically. I also had sports, football and lacrosse. You have to walk away with a well-rounded experience.”

Here at Drexel, in the early ’70s, he honed his mind and his body, and, yes, he was in the campus ROTC also, acquiring some of the steel he would draw on later as a battle commander and later still, as an uncompromising consultant to filmmakers and authors.

In 2000, moviemakers sent Matthews a screenplay for his consideration.

“My comments were all pretty negative,” he recalls. “This was how someone who had never been in the military would have seen it.”

The filmmakers didn’t flinch. When they asked him to consult on the film, Matthews balked, but wife Jessie urged him to take on the project: Maybe he could make the film more true to life. Matthews thought of his comrades in arms — “I did it for the memory of those guys, given the story was going to be told anyway” — and soon was on set beside director Ridley Scott. They shot for five months in Morocco.

Matthews keeps the memorabilia hanging in his basement stairwell: Movie posters signed by the director and the cast. A signed photo from President Bill Clinton, taken during a White House ceremony honoring American casualties.

Read up on Mogadishu and you’ll quickly wonder: Did we win this one? By most accounts it’s a tossup, unless you ask Matthews, who calls it a clear victory. To get to the truth, he says, you have to understand the context.

His men went to Somalia on a combat mission. People shoot at you in combat. You shoot back. So that’s point No. 1: Despite what some might think, this was war.

But what is a war? Last time Americans had seen fighting, they were watching smart bombs flung at Iraqi troops from miles away. No one really fought. War had become antisep tic. So when they suddenly saw Americans engaged in bloody violence, in a war most people didn’t even know we were fighting — well, the news was not well received.

“No one saw this coming. No one even told them we were at war,” Matthews says.

Then came the book “Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War” by then-Inquirer staff writer Mark Bowden (very well received in military circles) and then the film. Getting the story right took endless conversations between the director and the military consultant, but at the end of the day, it all worked out. “I am OK with the product,” Matthews says.

Scott and Matthews butted heads. The director wanted a Movie, while the soldier wanted History. A major clash occurred when the filmmaker decided to use the real names of the fighters. At that point Matthews had to draw a line.

“I felt, you cannot depict the death of an American soldier unless you show it exactly the way their families have been told,” he says. “Once you use their names, at that point this isn’t a movie anymore. It is a combat operation. They died for their country. Their families really suffered those losses.”

By pushing for realism at every step, Matthews was able to steer a more meaningful experience for moviegoers. “Instead of getting entertained, the average American got an education. Instead of suspending reality, they got a dose of just how dirty and dangerous an urban fight can be,” he says.

Looking back on America’s involvement in Somalia, and his own experience on that battlefield, Matthews says he has only one real regret. He’s sorry that we went home so soon after the battle.

“Here’s what matters to me. When you commit the U.S. military to a mission, you finish it,” he says. “If you are going to put us there in the first place, don’t pull us out until we finish the mission. If it wasn’t worth the consequences, don’t put us in. That’s what the people in the mission said. That’s what they felt. Yes, we may take casualties. But let us finish the mission.”
—Adam Stone
A GI Bill™ student who fails a course must repay the cost of those credits to the government. “So there are a lot of things riding on succeeding in an intense program,” explains Cassel.

In addition, student veterans have to make social adjustments: They’re generally older than their classmates, may have spouses and children, and have already faced many extreme challenges.

“I started here when I was 30,” says Christopher Diaz, who spent six years in the Navy and two years as a corpsman in Afghanistan before using the Yellow Ribbon program to attend Drexel’s accelerated BS/MS program in clinical psychology.

“Think about being in a big math class with 18-year-olds,” Diaz says. “There’s a huge disconnect.”

The identity shift that occurs might be jarring, also. Simply taking off the uniform can make for a difficult transition, observes Peter Altavilla ’83, a retired lieutenant commander in the Navy and two years as a corpsman in Afghanistan before using the

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remained until drafted as a private in 1941. For the next four years, he served in field artillery, Army ordnance, and in the 8th Army Air Force — eventually finishing the war as a first lieutenant. He spent four years between wars as a captain with the Pennsylvania Air National Guard before rejoining the war effort in the Korean War. After the war, he returned to Reading and put his business degree to use managing a furniture store until his retirement in 1985.

STARTING OUT: “I graduated from high school in Reading in 1936. Drexel Institute of Technology sparked my interest with their five-year co-op program, and I enrolled that September. Annual costs were $335 for tuition, books, fees and supplies.”

SCHOOL MEMORIES: “There were no men’s dormitories, as Drexel consisted of a girl’s dormitory and the Main Building. Out-of-town students rented rooms in frat houses. My fondest memory of Drexel is the time I spent with my date on the sofa behind the piano in the girl’s dormitory.”

LIFE IN THE SERVICE: “In July 1941, I was drafted into the Army and sent to Fort Bragg, N.C., for the princely salary of $21 a month. After basic training, I was assigned to a special human salvage operation, Battery B. This unit received men who could not read and write or who were physically uncoordinated. Our job was to help them overcome their problems. We then salvaged for the artillery those with whom we were successful and discharged the remainder.

In 1942, I graduated from the ordnance officer’s candidate school in Aberdeen, Md., as a second lieutenant and eventually ended up at Fort George Wright in Spokane, Wash., where the 351st Bomb Group of B-17 Flying Fortresses was being formed. My team loaded planes with bombs and ammunition. After five months of training, we were on board the Queen Elizabeth passenger liner, four officers to a stateroom, headed for Polebrook in England, which was a Rothschild estate whose home was turned into a recuperative hospital and whose land was turned into an airfield.”

WAR STORIES: “Clark Gable was in our outfit and made a movie of it titled “Combat America.” We occasionally had dances on the base, and about three girls for every man would show up because the girls wanted to see Gable. He never came, but they didn’t know that. I had dinner with him one day and we both discussed how we hoped we wouldn’t be sent to Russia or the Pacific.

FONDST MEMORY: “My most meaningful memory of my service is when we arrived in England. I had no garage to maintain my trucks and trailers. One day my mechanic spied a metal hut across the road from our base. After making inquiries, I learned it was an abandoned anti-aircraft site. In one night, my mechanic single-handedly dismantled that hut in the English blackout and hauled it back to the base. A remarkable feat.

The men dug a trench between the buildings and bootlegged the electricity from my office to the garage so we could work at night.

One day, British civilian contractors were digging nearby and hit the hot wire. All hell broke loose and I was summoned by the base commander. The British clerk of the works was there, and he shoved a map in my face, saying, ‘The hut is not in the plans! It’s not in the plans!’ The colonel asked me, ‘Schneider, where did that hut come from?’ I innocently said, ‘It was here when we got here.’ Again I heard, ‘It’s not in the plans.’ After the clerk left, I told the colonel the true story and he was amazed. His only reprimand was, ‘For God’s sake, bury that electric line deeper.’ The ingenuity of the American soldier is what won the war.”
CHARLES VINCENT
BS ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING '57

Charles “Chuck” Vincent, 83, says that when he first came to Drexel he was undisciplined, and his grades showed it. After “busting out” of his chemical engineering program, he decided to join the U.S. Marine Corps — the first step in a 20-plus-year military career that took him to Korea, the Caribbean, Germany, Turkey and Vietnam and earned him 24 medals and ribbons.

He served in the Korean War as a Marine staff sergeant from 1950 to 1953, where he became a radar specialist. From the backseat of an AD Skyraider attack aircraft, he detected and jammed enemy radar signals on 67 flight missions over Korea.

In 1954, he returned to Drexel, with better results the second time around. He switched to electrical engineering, co-op’d with Westinghouse, celebrated his graduation and then headed immediately back to the military in 1957, finishing as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1975. While serving as an electronic intelligence specialist with the National Security Agency, he was selected for classified intel work during the building of the Berlin Wall and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

In peace time, Vincent had a long second career as an engineer for the Public Works Department of Prince William County in Virginia, a large property management firm, and Patton Harris Rust Associates (now Pennoni Associates Inc.) until his retirement in 2005.

COLLEGE BOUND: “Upon my graduation from Ocean City High School, N.J., in June 1948, I had planned on studying chemistry at Washington College in Maryland. The week after graduation, I was fishing with my neighbor, ‘Doc,’ and he asked me my plans. After I told him, he asked if I had considered chemical engineering. He told me about Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia and the co-op program. The next week, with his help, I went for an interview and testing at Drexel, and was able to enroll in September.

Although I had fished with ‘Doc’ for two summers, I did not know he was Dr. Henry E. Warner, chair of Drexel’s Chemical Engineering Department at the time.”

SCHOOL RECOLLECTIONS: “Although I found academics very difficult, I enjoyed the fraternity activities socially, and the inter-fraternity athletic competitions. Initially I joined the Glee Club, but dropped it for wrestling, which I did for two years. I also enjoyed ROTC — at that time, two years of ROTC was mandatory for students. I struggled for two years, and decided that if I couldn’t make it at Drexel that I had to do something, so in December 1950, with the Korean War heating up and the draft beckoning, I enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.”

JAMMING RADAR IN KOREA: “At the end of boot camp I was selected to receive aviation electronics (now known as avionics) training, no doubt because of the basic science course I had taken at Drexel. I went off to training at the Naval Air Station Memphis in Tennessee and for some strange reason I took to it like a fish to water. Afterward I went to Korea and was assigned to seek out enemy ground-based radar and then jam it physically or electronically. Once in a while we’d get painted by an aircraft [hit by a radar] and we’d get out of there in a hurry.”

BACK FROM THE WAR: “In January 1954, I returned to Drexel in electrical engineering. I was a more mature and confident student, which I credit to the basic ROTC and Marine training that I had undergone. This training also opened my eyes to a career that I felt was both honorable and satisfying, so with that in mind, I enrolled in Senior ROTC with the goal of being commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers upon graduation in 1957.

A highlight of that time was in 1962, at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis, when a small group of naval personnel and I were tasked with analyzing electronic signals collected by reconnaissance aircraft flying over Cuba. We identified the types of radar being used in Cuba and its location. Later, while watching a retired U.S. Navy pilot on “The History Channel” discuss a mission and what he faced as he flew over Cuba, I realized the significance of the intelligence that we were providing.

My early military training provided me with the discipline to be successful academically and athletically upon my return. I went on to receive two more degrees with relative ease and had a reputation in the military and civilian career for being a problem solver. I attribute this to my ‘Drexel experience.’”
I. MICHAEL HARRIS
BS ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ’75

Michael Harris, 72, has earned his accolades. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1964 to 1967, a three-year stint punctuated by a 13-month tour in Vietnam, where he made sergeant.

As a radio operator and combat team leader, Harris stood out. His leadership on the battlefield is the subject of a chapter of the book “From the Horse’s Mouth — Selected Thoughts on Small Unit Leadership” by Major Ted McKeldin.

Backed by an engineering education from Drexel, Harris went on to distinguish himself in civilian life, retiring recently from a prestigious career at The Johns Hopkins Hospital as senior director of physics and engineering services in the Department of Radiology.

MILITARY EXIT: “My favorite military memory is of receiving orders from my battalion commander assigning me to go back to the United States after 13 months and one day in Vietnam. I was at Dong Ha in the northernmost enclave at that time in South Vietnam, just several miles from the demilitarized zone. We were on a hillside, Razorback Ridge, guarding infiltration points from the north. I was sitting on a hillside preparing for action at night and the platoon sergeant came over to me. He said: ‘Your serial number came over the radio. They want you to pack up your equipment and return back to base. You’re going home.’

I knew I was close to the end of my tour of duty but they don’t give you an exact day, and when you are in combat you don’t think about what day it is or the date. The only thing you are thinking about is the sun rising in the morning when you can check off another day in the war. It was a complete surprise.”

CAREER LAUNCH: “While I was in the service, prior to going to Vietnam, I had enrolled in courses through the military. I took a calculus course and I was planning at that time to go into a full engineering program. I decided that when I got discharged that I would enroll at Drexel.

FAVORITE MEMORY: “When I was selected to head the school’s branch of the IEEE student organization [Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers], it allowed me to explore different fields within the engineering area. There are so many specialties within electrical engineering, it can be hard to decide which to pursue.

We would have a monthly presentation from an engineer within a particular field. I was really motivated by the presentations on medical engineering and eventually I got an opportunity to work with GE Medical Systems Group while I was still attending school. I started working on medical imaging equipment until my graduation in 1975 and I remained with GE after that. It was IEEE that inspired me to choose that career path.”

LEARNING TO LEAD: “A traumatic event like Vietnam, it taught me leadership skills I could never have gotten any other way. And I think those leadership skills have pretty much defined the rest of my life experience. It allows me to not be immobilized by traumatic events, by difficult issues. It allows me to communicate with staff: to empathize with them on their issues, while at the same time defining goals and responsibilities for them. I am able to show them that reaching those goals may not be a perfect experience: that day-to-day life is always going to be packed with challenges. A leader has to be receptive to that. You have to understand people’s motivations if you are going to direct them toward an optimal performance.” —Adam Stone

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colonel with the Army and an active member of the Drexel Veterans Alumni Network, a group that helps student veterans navigate entry into civilian life. “In the military you’re part of a family, you wear that uniform every day, you have an identity, there’s structure.”

Given these issues, Drexel’s administrators recognized that their commitment to the Yellow Ribbon Program needed to be all-encompassing. “We said, ‘If we are going to do this, we need an infrastructure to support our student veterans,’” says Rebecca Weidensaul, associate dean of students.

So in 2009, Drexel established a Veterans Task Force to support veterans at every step, from admissions to alumni.

Veterans can seek out designated personnel in admissions, counseling, disability services and student affairs. They receive a dedicated orientation program, priority registration to keep their coursework on track and recognition at graduation.

The number of student veterans and their dependents on campus has jumped from 172 in 2009 to almost 800 as of fall 2013.

The Veterans Task Force also helps orchestrate events, such as Veterans Day, and Memorial Day Primers and panel discussions geared toward educating the community about military service. “We’re like matchmakers in a way, because we know the relationship [between veterans and civilians] might not unfold without some awkwardness,” says Weidensaul, who co-chairs the task force with Englund. “But there are ways to bring in tradition and patriotism, and open up organic conversations.”

Not surprisingly, veterans themselves have developed sup-
port networks. Chuck Vincent ‘57 is active in the aforementioned Drexel Veterans Alumni Network and often travels from his home in Virginia to participate in events with current student veterans. “When I came back from Korea I knew there were other veterans, but they were not organized,” he recalls.

The Drexel Veterans Association, or DVA, does community outreach and acts as an advocacy group and social and career network. “We want to bridge that divide between the veteran and the civilian,” says Diaz, who is president of the DVA. “We’ve opened up our membership. Anyone can join.”

DVA Vice President Andrew Gerard notes that the group “helps reintegrate people back into civilian life, specifically college life — which really isn’t like regular civilian life,” he says with a laugh. Gerard joined the Air Force in 2009 and was deployed to Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan.

“Drexel has been great to veterans,” says Gerard. “They’ve been doing as much as possible.”

That praise would please members of the founding Drexel family, who themselves had notable military careers. Anthony Joseph Drexel Biddle, the colorful grandson of founder Anthony J. Drexel, attained the rank of colonel in the Marines and at the outbreak of World War I opened a military training camp near Lansdowne. His son had a distinguished career as an ambassador before and during World War II until 1944, when he retired from diplomatic service, joined the Army as lieutenant colonel and served on Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower’s staff. The contacts he made in the occupied nations from his diplomatic years provided intelligence for the Allied invasion.

Drexel’s long-standing military history underscores its dedication to its Yellow Ribbon veterans today. “We want to help them use all their skills, talents, experiences and leadership abilities,” says Weidensaul. “They make the community better and richer.” [D]
1960s

Eleanor Schlenker, MS home economics ’68, professor of human nutrition, foods and exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, was conferred the title of professor emerita by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

Stewart Weintraub, Esq., BS business administration ’68, of Chamberlain-Hrdlicka, was elected to the 2014 “Best Lawyers” list for the Philadelphia area.

1970s

Thomas Fee Jr., BS business administration ’74, president of Haefele Flanagan, was elected to the North America Board of Directors of CPA Associates International Inc., a leading association of accounting firms.

Roseann Termini, Esq., BS human behavior and development ’75, was the conference planner and speaker at the fourth annual Food and Drug Law Program held on March 26, 2014, at Widener School of Law. The seventh edition of her book “Food and Drug Law” was published in print and eBook formats.

1980s

Cheryl Bartky, MCAT creative arts ’81, authored and published “Angelina’s Prayer,” a fiction chapter book for children 8 years old and up.

Kathleen Coon, MS library science ’82, director of the library services department of Montgomery McCraken, was appointed to serve as the Local Arrangements Committee co-chair for the American Association of Law Libraries’ 108th Annual Meeting.

1990s

Christa Duelberg-Kraftician, AIA, LEED AP, BS architecture ’94, of Spillman Farmer Architects in Bethlehem, Pa., won the first AIA Pennsylvania Firm Award, which recognizes the most prominent and achieved architectural studios in the state.

Gina Furia Rubel, BS corporate communication ’91, president and CEO of Furia Rubel Communications, received the Maxine Elkin Award for Distinguished Service from the Public Relations Society of America’s Philadelphia Chapter. She was also reappointed by Chancellor William P. Fedullo as chair of the Bar-News Media Committee and co-chair of the Law Practice Management Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association for 2014.

Richard Liu, BS corporate communication ’94, joined Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. as global medical education project manager in their infectious disease division with a focus on HIV and Hepatitis C.

2000s

Sanjay Mathur, BS mechanical engineering ’95, is co-founder and CEO of Silicon Valley Data Science, a startup providing big data services to help customers with data-driven product development, data science and agile software engineering.

Robert McKinley, Esq., BS electrical engineering ’92, registered U.S. patent attorney and litigator, joined the firm Lauletta Birnbaum.

Teri Taylor, MS library and information science ’99, U.S. documents collections supervisor at the New Jersey State Library, was appointed to serve a three-year term on the Depository Library Council.

Randy Galilotto, LEED AP, BS architecture ’08, of Spillman Farmer Architects from Bethlehem, Pa., won the first AIA Pennsylvania Firm Award, which recognizes the most prominent and achieved architectural studios in the state.

Xiaodong Han, MBA business administration ’02, his wife Yonghui Huo (Clara), MBA business administration ’05, MS accounting ’05, and their daughter Carol traveled from their home in China to visit Drexel while in the United States to visit friends across the country.

John Henson, MS civil engineering ’03, joined Dewberry, a professional services firm, as the transportation department manager in the Mount Laurel, N.J., office.

Sarah McKinlin, JD, BS economics ’07, joined the firm Tully Rinckey as an associate in its federal employment law practice group.

Michael Metzger, BS architecture ’00, of Spillman Farmer Architects from Bethlehem, Pa., won the first AIA Pennsylvania Firm Award, which recognizes the most prominent and achieved architectural studios in the state.

Aristotel Moumas, BS business administration ’07, BS economics ’07, JD law ’11, joined the Workers’ Compensation Department in Capehart Scatchard’s Mount Laurel, N.J., office.

Weddings

John M. Morelli, BS film and video production ’06, and Kristen Przasnyski, BS film and video production ’06, were married on Oct. 19, 2013.
BRENNER

Elizabeth Ridgeway, MS teaching, learning and curriculum '13, and Jesse Ridgeway had a daughter, Reagan Maybelle, on Sept. 19, 2013.

Brett Rosen, BS chemistry '07, MD medicine '11, was one of the chief editors for the textbook “Rules of the Road for Medical Students in Emergency Medicine.”

Evan Solomon, BS business administration '04, MS information systems '05, was named a board member of the Foundation for Breast and Prostate Health, a nonprofit dedicated to raising funds for education, public awareness and programs for breast and prostate cancers.

Kate Warner, MPH public health '08, was named the director of quality and education for the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and its sister organization, the Rochester Regional Health Care Association.

2010s

Nancy Barker, MS nursing '10, joined Immaculata University’s division of nursing as an instructor teaching classes in pharmacology and holistic nursing care.

Eric M. Colton, BS film and video production '10, MS arts administration '13, was hired as assistant business manager at the award-winning Studio Theatre in Washington, D.C.

David Gola, BS business administration '10, was promoted to senior associate at ParenteBeard, a Top 25 accounting firm.

Eugene Grant, MS sport management ‘12, of Southeast Guilford High School, was named the 2013 Teacher of the Year for Guilford County Schools in North Carolina.

Bridget O’Brien, MS interior architecture and design '11, joined Archer & Buchanan Architecture Ltd. as an interior designer and director of marketing.

FRIENDS WE’LL MISS

1930s

James Chiappetta, medicine '36
Charles Diehl, civil engineering '39
Arthur Gauss, electrical engineering '33
Edwin Jankiewicz, electrical engineering '39
Christine Moore Morris, home economics '38
Golda Nobel, (unknown) '31
Anna Powell, nursing '30
Harriet Rockefeller, secretarial '34
Isabel Rodgers Eckardt, nursing '34
J. Rodman, mechanical engineering '30
Elizabeth Schick Dunn, secretarial '39
Edward Schuenemann, business administration '34
Evelyn Strauss Wasserstrom, home economics '35
Richard Teich, electrical engineering '37
George Wilson, mechanical engineering '30

1940s

Lois Anthony Bollinger, nursing '48
Charles Apprendi, business administration '48
Robert Bacorn, medicine '45
Selgene Balaban, electrical engineering '49
David Bantle, mechanical engineering '47
Jane Bass Kleinert, secretarial '49
Eleanor Battafarano Fadeley, home economics '46
Margaret Bernotas Miller, nursing '40
Emily Berns Mozola, nursing '44
Shерwood Berryann, chemical engineering '45
Ervin Bickey, chemical engineering '42
Arthur Bohlinger, mechanical engineering '45
William Bonnet, chemical engineering '47
Edmund Bossone, mechanical engineering '48, '53, HD '07
Sophie Brenner, (unknown) '45
Franklin Brown, business administration '49
John Burrows, electrical engineering '41
Samuel Cissel Ill, medicine '47
George Cloud, business administration '43
Morton Coane, medicine '43
TommiLou DeHollBohn, home economics '48
Frank De Vaux, mechanical engineering '47
Harry Dobbs, business administration '41
Robert Dorwart, commerce and engineering '48
Richard Dowd, mechanical engineering '46
William Duck, chemical engineering '45
Neil Durst Frank, home economics '47, '69
Morton Eisenberg, electrical engineering '43, '41
Regina Fittl, medicine '49
Stanley Floersheim, mechanical engineering '42
J. Glenn Freedy, chemical engineering '47
Jean Gailey Rorke, secretarial '45
Jeannette Gernert Leuchak, home economics '49
Richard Githens, chemical engineering '43
Marian Hautz Smith, home economics '46
Ward Heinrich, medicine '41
Carl Hokholt, (unknown) '43
Robert Hough, chemical engineering '47
Bernard Husock, electrical engineering '47
James Hutchison, electrical engineering '47
Ethel Joyce Rozanski, nursing '48
Peter Kenmore, medicine '47
Marianne Kirk House, secretarial '43
Mary Kittelman Shelly, retail management '46
Marydelle Kramer Fraizer, home economics '40
Carl Kuehfluss, chemical engineering '40
Edna Larsen Raby, secretarial '41
Cornelius Last, medicine '47
Francis Logue, mechanical engineering '43
Samuel Long, civil engineering '48
Horace Marucci, medicine '44

1950s

Robert Bacorn, medicine '45
Charles Apprendi, business administration '48
Robert Bean, business administration '41
Robert Dorward, commerce and engineering '48
William Dowd, mechanical engineering '46
William Duck, chemical engineering '45
Neil Durst, home economics '47, '69
Morton Eisenberg, electrical engineering '43, '41
Regina Fittl, medicine '49
Stanley Floersheim, mechanical engineering '42
J. Glenn Freedy, chemical engineering '47
Jean Gailey Rorke, secretarial '45
Jeannette Gernert Leuchak, home economics '49
Richard Githens, chemical engineering '43
Marian Hautz Smith, home economics '46
Ward Heinrich, medicine '41
Carl Hokholt, (unknown) '43
Robert Hough, chemical engineering '47
Bernard Husock, electrical engineering '47
James Hutchison, electrical engineering '47
Ethel Joyce Rozanski, nursing '48
Peter Kenmore, medicine '47
Marianne Kirk House, secretarial '43
Mary Kittelman Shelly, retail management '46
Marydelle Kramer Fraizer, home economics '40
Carl Kuehfluss, chemical engineering '40
Edna Larsen Raby, secretarial '41
Cornelius Last, medicine '47
Francis Logue, mechanical engineering '43
Samuel Long, civil engineering '48
Horace Marucci, medicine '44

To submit your Class Note for the next issue of Drexel Magazine, email Lara Geragi at lec36@drexel.edu.
Willard Gillum, mechanical engineering '53, '62
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Owen Denn, electrical engineering '53, '55
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Peter Hexter, business administration '51
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Leonard Nowak, mechanical engineering '55
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Molly Tan Hayden, unknown '59
Richard Tatlow, general studies '59
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John Teal, mechanical engineering '51
Merrell Thallinger, medicine '58
Bill Tilden, civil engineering '58, mechanical engineering '62
Benjamin Tom, medicine '55
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F. Urwiller, civil engineering '57
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F. Walton, mechanical engineering '56
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Raymond Wedler, mechanical engineering '58
Joel Whitcomb, business administration '55
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Alexander Wilson, electrical engineering '51
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David Bogan, civil engineering '65
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Edward Buckalew, business administration '67

John Buzzy, civil engineering '61
Vincent Canney, electrical engineering '65
Robert Clothier, business administration '69
Charles Colver, general studies '67
Barbara Coppe Lesley, library science '67
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Arthur Dunivoff, civil engineering '66
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Marie Faraci, (unknown) '65
Eileen Farrell Rutgers, nursing '63
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James Finnegan, medicine '64
Calvin Fisher, business administration '65
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Boris Frenkel, electrical engineering '63
Marilyn Geffert Nelson, biological science '69
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Karl Giulian, medicine '62
William Graff, electrical engineering '62
Charles Graham, electrical engineering '61
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Stanley Hall, electrical engineering '63
Francis Hamlin, business administration '69
Barrie Hellwell, mechanical engineering '67
Ann Hertzler, home economics '60
Raymond Hibbs, electrical engineering '62
Arnold Hirshey, general studies '64
Thomas Hoover, general studies '68
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Judith Joseph, library science '68
Susan Kallenbach, library science '67
Mark Karpuk, Cambridge, home economics '68
Patricia Kemetz, nursing '64
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Martin Kleepe, business administration '60
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Roland Linin, industrial administration '62
Alfred Lisiewski, business administration '68
Kenneth Long, electrical engineering '60
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Robert Madden, medicine '64
Robert Marley, business administration '65
John March, mechanical engineering '62
Lucia Marino, library science '67
Bruce Mathis, physics and atmospheric science '68
Francis McCabe, mechanical engineering '61
Thomas McCluskey, mechanical engineering '69
Thomas McKee, business administration '69
Trevor McKissick, medicine '62
Daniel McNerney, electrical engineering '61
John Meehan, mechanical engineering '61
Keith Miller, mechanical engineering '62
Victor Nicolaide, electrical engineering '66
Sidney Numerof, electrical engineering '62
John Paul, business administration '62
William Peterson, library science '63
E. Vincent Pietrdomino, industrial administration '64
Cassio Pietrowski, electrical engineering '60
Joan Plante Weil, home economics ’66
George Podraza, electrical engineering ’61
Josef Pollich, mechanical engineering ’68
Elizabeth Pope, library science ’66
Robert Quindlen, business administration ’63
Richard Rebecca, library science ’68
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Lawrence Rieg, business administration ’61
Richard Rodia, civil engineering ’65
John Ruchalski, general studies ’66
Barbara Russell King, library science ’67
Edward Sammler, general studies ’67
Maryanne Sauers Lee, business administration ’69
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Harold Schnabel, business administration ’60
Lorraine Shottz Lanes, nursing ’67
John Skiblaik, chemical engineering ’63
John Skillinger, medicine ’61
Victor Slotnick, microbiology and immunology ’60
Walter Smith, electrical engineering ’62
Robert Smith, electrical engineering ’59
Clayton Stahl, mechanical engineering ’68
Barry Stavrou, mechanical engineering ’68
Max Stein, mechanical engineering ’69
LeRoy Steinbrecher, medicine ’62
Jeffrey Stoner, civil engineering ’65
Walter Suszczynski, electrical engineering ’63
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R. Frank Trout, electrical engineering ’62
David Vaders, mechanical engineering ’66
George Vogt, mechanical engineering ’65
John Walch, medicine ’67
Rodger Waldman, engineering management ’67
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Randolph Waterfield Jr., business administration ’55, former trustee
James Wiland, mechanical engineering ’64
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Joseph Barr, metallurgical engineering ’72
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William Brader, mechanical engineering ’70, environmental engineering ’74
John Brinsko, (unknown) ’77
Linda Brodsky, (unknown) ’79
Pauline Brown Ximenes, environmental engineering ’75
Brian Cooper, chemical engineering ’72
James Coyle, chemical engineering ’79
Lorraine Denicola Marano, library science ’70
Marianna Ducker, home economics ’72
Robert Edmonds, business administration ’72
Richard Edsell, environmental engineering ’71, ’73
Sydney Fluck, electrical engineering ’73
Joseph Foy, electrical engineering ’77
John Gastaldo, medicine ’72
James Gaul, business administration ’73
Carole Gladfelter, library science ’72
Ruth Grayson Silverman, nutrition and food science ’74
Francis Greene, business administration ’73
Charles Harris, business administration ’71
Margery Hawe Connor, library science ’72
Donald Headley, math ’75
Wen-Ying Hsiang, home economics ’73
Mary Hudak, (unknown) ’78
Brad Hunter, humanities and communication ’76
Nicholas Itri, business administration ’72
John Kane, mechanical engineering ’76
Brenda Keller, home economics ’72
Mary Beth Lamplugh Kraft, business administration ’74
William Leech, business administration ’74
Jean Paul LeSaint, general studies ’70
James Long, business administration ’72
Robert Marshall, business administration ’72
Sandra McGruder, (unknown) ’77
Robert Miller, business administration ’77
Susan Nickleach Cooperstein, library science ’70
John Quinn, mechanical engineering ’70
Paul Roda, medicine ’76
John Sawicki, electrical engineering ’70
Roberta Shelling Taber, biological science ’75
Michael Simon, metallurgical engineering ’71, business administration ’76
William Stahl, mechanical engineering ’72, ’76
William Steckiel, general studies ’72
Howard Steelman, environmental engineering ’79
William Swanseen, electrical engineering ’70
Mark Thalmyer, commerce and engineering ’79, business administration ’82
Fredlyn Tolitzis, library science ’70
Peter Vico, accounting ’75, business administration ’77
James Wilson, business administration ’70

1980s
John Aubor, electrical engineering ’88
William Beatty, retail management ’85
Linda Bingaman Napierslok, nursing ’81
Denis Carlson, business administration ’84
Joanna Cooley Bikes, home economics ’80
Kathleen Delaney, business administration ’85
Theresa Dirkes Fredericks, electrical engineering ’85
Sandra Fox O’Hara, group process and group psychology ’86
Edward Fuller, library science ’80
Mary Gilligan, electrical engineering ’87
Lionel Gillston, engineering management ’83
Craig Gleason, chemical engineering ’81
Marc Goshko, environmental engineering ’80
Dale Haupt, business administration ’83
David Hipner, mechanical engineering ’84
John Hohenstein, business administration ’82, electrical engineering ’99, information science and technology ’06
Brian Humbert, computer science ’85
Robert Kuniega, chemical engineering ’82
PaulLuckro, general studies ’80
Andrew Lergel, business administration ’80
Michael Lesavae, electrical engineering ’88
Raymond Leva, retail management ’83
Edward Lewis, accounting ’89
Maryann Malone Ellis, nursing ’88
James Marinelli, mechanical engineering ’81
James McMahon, accounting ’88
M. Morgan, operations management ’82
Mark Neary, electrical engineering ’83
Michael Panella, (unknown) ’89
Joseph Smith, business administration ’80
Joseph Spinner, retail management ’89
Dawn Tidball, mental health technology ’87
David Toy, mechanical engineering ’81
Andrey Tverdokhlebov, mechanical engineering ’89
Geoffrey Zola, accounting ’84

1990s
Lisa Bollenbacher, family therapy ’94
Angela Botta, finance ’90
Forrest Burnham, electrical engineering ’93
Gloria Cesarano Cunningham, management information systems ’93
Andra Cyronak, medicine ’94
Lori Diorio, accounting ’98
John Hoffman, chemical engineering ’96
Annette Kaiser Voorhees, creative arts ’90
Patrick Kane, architectural engineering ’91
Robert Kayros, electrical engineering ’92, engineering management ’92
Stephen Latta, business administration ’90, ’07
Marcella Macguire, electrical engineering ’92
Peter Pacenta, nursing ’94
Deborah Pera, physician assistant ’92
Donna Pride Scott, (unknown) ’90
Daniel Rettberg, library science ’90
David Reynolds, electrical engineering ’90
Eric Zempl, graphic design ’93
Allan Ziegler, accounting ’91

2000s
Kamran Arshad, business administration ’09
Badia Bentley, health systems and technology ’03
Chad Cripe, nursing anesthesia ’00, medicine ’04
Dorothy Gray, physician assistant ’08
Michael Heberlein, emergency medical services ’01, ’05
Nicholas Lamberson, business administration ’06
Tanya Mazakas, nutrition and food science ’06
Jennifer Nonas, creative arts ’09
Kevin Seybold, emergency medical services ’01
James Warrick, behavior and addiction counseling ’07

2010s
Grace Ahmed, psychology ’11
Stephanie Morin, library and information science ’14
John Treston, general studies ’10
Do You Want to Be an Alumni Ambassador?

The Alumni Ambassador program, a partnership between the Drexel University Alumni Association and the Office of Enrollment Management, was created in 1996 with a specific purpose: To connect alumni with prospective students. When these meaningful connections are made, alumni become valuable resources, sharing their own Drexel experiences, answering questions and helping students decide if Drexel is right for them.

“Drexel is a unique school and who better to convey what makes Drexel unique than its alumni,” says Matthew Hagerty, assistant director of recruitment outreach in Drexel’s Office of Enrollment Management. “To students, the alumni voice is authentic, and that authenticity is really important.”

Alumni Ambassadors can volunteer with the program in a number of ways. They can visit campus for open houses to meet and speak with prospective students and families, or they can represent Drexel at college fairs held in their local community.

Marc Blumberg ’04 has been volunteering as an Alumni Ambassador since 2008. “I feel like I owe much of my success to Drexel and the co-op experiences that I had,” he says. “I thought that serving as an Alumni Ambassador would be a great way to get the word out about the co-op program.”

Blumberg explained that he tries to attend as many college fairs as he can, and he also comes to campus for Accepted Students Day and open houses.

Alumni Ambassadors can also volunteer for the Ask a Dragon program, which is facilitated entirely online. Alumni provide their name, class year, major, city in which they live and contact information (email address and/or phone number) to be posted on the Ask a Dragon page of the Undergraduate Admissions website. From there, prospective students are encouraged to contact these alumni to ask whatever questions they may have about life at Drexel.

“The contact is initiated by the students and it allows them to get a Drexel perspective no matter where they live,” says Hagerty. He noted that in the last year there were 236 inquiries to alumni through the Ask a Dragon webpage from prospective students.

While many Alumni Ambassadors are recent graduates, others have been involved with the program for several years. Bill Schwarze ’73 has been connecting with students as an Alumni Ambassador for nearly a decade. “I wanted to give back to Drexel in a way that I think is just as important as financial support,” he said. “I also feel more connected to Drexel through my involvement.”

“I became part of the program because I wanted to stay involved at Drexel,” says Caitlin Meehan ’12, who decided upon graduation to become an Alumni Ambassador. “I had a great experience at Drexel and I love being able to share my story with prospective students.”

To learn about the Alumni Ambassador program, visit drexel.edu/alumni/ambassadors.asp or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@drexel.edu or 1.888.DU.GRADS.

Tom McGrew ’12 echoed Meehan’s sentiments, saying that his primary motivation for volunteering as an Alumni Ambassador was to share his enthusiasm and experiences as a Drexel student. “I have found that students and parents are most receptive to an honest approach from a former student,” he says.

McGrew recalled a particular student whom he met at a college fair two years ago who initially had no interest in applying to Drexel. “When I began talking about Drexel and the co-op program, the student began asking questions and wanted to learn more. By the end, she told me that she appreciated my honesty and she was going to apply. She even reached out to me about a week later with additional questions about my experience at Drexel.”

“Alumni see the program as a unique way to give back to the University because they are able to give their time to directly help students,” says Hagerty. “They help us recruit talented students, which in turn helps to ensure Drexel’s long-term success. They are definitely considered part of our recruitment team.”

Five hundred and seventeen students who met an Alumni Ambassador at college fairs applied to Drexel for the incoming fall 2014 class, and just under 90 percent of those students were accepted, which speaks to the quality of the students recruited by Alumni Ambassadors.

Recognizing the valuable role that alumni play in helping prospective students learn more about Drexel, the University offers the Dragon Alumni Scholarship, which is a $4,000 scholarship awarded to full-time undergraduate students who have been recommended by a Drexel graduate.

Blumberg adds, “It brings me great pleasure to write recommendations for the Dragon Alumni Scholarship. In 2008 I wrote a recommendation for a student from central New Jersey who very much wanted to be accepted into our BS/MD program. He was admitted and he wrote me a great email thanking me for all of my help. It made me feel very good to have helped him in his journey to become a doctor.”

In past years, the deadline for the scholarship has been mid-January. However, to allow for more incoming students to apply, the deadline has been extended to later in the spring beginning in 2015. Scholarship details are available at drexel.edu/alumni/grants_scholarships.asp.

Alumni of all class years, in all locations worldwide are welcome to volunteer as Alumni Ambassadors.

“The main requirement is a willingness to speak honestly and enthusiastically about the University with incoming students and families,” says Hagerty.

While alumni of all majors are welcome to volunteer for the program, there is a particular need for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, and the College of Nursing and Health Professions.
NEW EXHIBIT

Birds of Paradise
May 3–Sept. 1

Codeveloped by:
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A Global Handshake

Drexel graduates from across the world gathered with fellow Dragons for the fourth annual Alumni Global Night of Networking. BY LARA GERAGI

By now, you’ve probably heard of the Drexel University Alumni Association’s Global Night of Networking (GNN), which was held this year on April 2. Maybe you were even one of the 1,315 alumni who gathered that day at a GNN reception or on the 24-hour Virtual Site. If so, thank you for being part of the celebration.

At this year’s GNN, Drexel graduates joined in from 36 locations around the world, as well as online through the Virtual Site, to network and celebrate their shared Drexel connection.

“As someone new to Washington, D.C., I thought it would be a great idea to attend so I could meet new people and interact with alumni in my area,” says Eric Colton ’10, MS ’13, who attended the GNN for the first time this year. “While we all come from different backgrounds and have different class years and majors, we have one thing in common – we are all Drexel Dragons.”

Jessica Arner, MPH ’10, a GNN regular, says, “I’ve always enjoyed the GNN. I can speak from experience when I say that I have never had a bad time visiting and learning the stories and life experiences of my fellow Drexel alumni.”

Arner attended the GNN reception in Scottsdale, Ariz., an area that she moved to from Philadelphia. In addition to the GNN, she said she also attends other Alumni Association events in Arizona to network and meet new people. “Because I’ve attended several Drexel alumni events, I have been able to meet up again pretty regularly with a lot of the alumni contacts I met when I first moved here,” she says.

The Alumni Association was able to execute the 36 GNN alumni receptions and the 24-hour Virtual Site on a single day with the help of 127 alumni, faculty, staff and student volunteers. Alumni social media ambassadors spread the word and built the buzz about the GNN on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, and volunteers shared their time and talents as Virtual Site presenters. In addition, alumni from all over the world volunteered to invite fellow alumni to participate in the GNN and hosted in-person receptions in their cities.

“I came to know about the GNN through the Mumbai alumni host, A Global Handshake. Drexel graduates from across the world gathered with fellow Dragons for the fourth annual Alumni Global Night of Networking. #DrexelGNN was tweeted 480 times. The GNN was possible with support from 127 alumni, student, faculty and staff volunteers. Alumni have been celebrating the GNN for 4 years. The Alumni Association was able to execute the 36 GNN alumni receptions and the 24-hour Virtual Site on a single day with the help of 127 alumni, faculty, staff and student volunteers. Alumni social media ambassadors spread the word and built the buzz about the GNN on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, and volunteers shared their time and talents as Virtual Site presenters. In addition, alumni from all over the world volunteered to invite fellow alumni to participate in the GNN and hosted in-person receptions in their cities. “I came to know about the GNN through the Mumbai alumni host, A Global Handshake. Drexel graduates from across the world gathered with fellow Dragons for the fourth annual Alumni Global Night of Networking. #DrexelGNN was tweeted 480 times. The GNN was possible with support from 127 alumni, student, faculty and staff volunteers. Alumni have been celebrating the GNN for 4 years. The Alumni Association was able to execute the 36 GNN alumni receptions and the 24-hour Virtual Site on a single day with the help of 127 alumni, faculty, staff and student volunteers. Alumni social media ambassadors spread the word and built the buzz about the GNN on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, and volunteers shared their time and talents as Virtual Site presenters. In addition, alumni from all over the world volunteered to invite fellow alumni to participate in the GNN and hosted in-person receptions in their cities. “I came to know about the GNN through the Mumbai alumni host, A Global Handshake.
Manoj Agrawal (MS ’90), and I have now attended for the third time,” says Joydeep Dutta, MS ’87. “I have very happy memories of my days in Philadelphia, and it was very nostalgic to reminisce with fellow alumni. I’m already looking forward to attending in 2015!”

Alumni also had the option to participate in the GNN online by tuning in to the 24-hour Virtual Site. Original programs featuring Drexel alumni, faculty and professional staff covered topics such as working out during the workday, the Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection, the alumni food truck scene and a variety of Alumni Career Services programs.

Kurt Ruoff ’07, who tuned into the Virtual Site from New Jersey, says that he wanted to network with fellow alumni but couldn’t make it to any of the GNN receptions. “I tuned in to see one of my favorite professors, Rich Freedman, present,” he says. “I think the Virtual Site was a great way to involve alumni who had scheduling conflicts or geographic limitations.”

Archived Virtual Site videos can be watched anytime by clicking on the GNN playlist at youtube.com/user/DrexelUnivAlumni. Plus, you can click through the GNN photo album on the Alumni Association Facebook page.

More and more Drexel alumni look forward to the GNN each year. In 2015, the GNN will celebrate its fifth year. If you attended this year, you can help the Alumni Association by filling out a brief survey at bit.ly/GNNSurvey2014 to share your experience. Your feedback will be extremely helpful as plans begin for an even bigger and better celebration next year. [D]
Six years ago, the economy was such that many people were looking for jobs or they were in transition from one job to another, and our graduates were coming to Drexel for support,” says Lauren Villanueva ’04, MS ’09, director of alumni career services and lifelong learning in the Office of Alumni Relations.

The Drexel University Alumni Association’s Alumni Career Services (ACS) program is a series of in-person events, online workshops and website content that supports the professional development of Drexel alumni. Since its start in 2008, it continues to be one of the most utilized resources provided by the Alumni Association, giving alumni of various class years and majors the tools they need to take that next career step.

In the early years of the program, the resources offered were primarily skills-based programs focusing on interviewing, job search strategies and career transition. But as the state of the economy continues to change, so do the professional-development needs of Drexel’s alumni.

“The economy is improving and we are expanding our offerings to focus on things people can use to advance their current career, grow as leaders, and explore what it’s like to work in different industries,” says Villanueva.

The Alumni Association also plans to expand the ACS programs offered online to accommodate alumni who have a lot of demands competing for their time. Future plans include providing more online workshops and recording and archiving in-person programs on the Alumni Association website so they can be accessed anytime. The majority of the ACS programming will continue to be in-person, in order to provide alumni with the valuable opportunity to meet and network with one another.

“The alumni interaction is very important,” said Andrei Jablokow ’84, president of Osbakken Consulting, served as a panelist for a discussion held in Philadelphia on the topic of managing career transition.

“It was worth it to me to volunteer for the exposure and the credibility that it gives me as a writer and a presenter.”

— Andrei Jablokow

“Our program is different because our alumni let us know that they want content delivered by their classmates,” says Villanueva. “They already have a shared connection by virtue of their Drexel experience and these alumni-to-alumni programs further strengthen that bond.”

The Alumni Association has been able to deliver quality programs because of the many alumni volunteers who are willing to share their time, experiences and expertise.

Lenny Comma ’92, president and chief operating officer of Jack in the Box Inc., hosted an ACS discussion in San Diego, Calif., on the topic of being an effective leader in today’s global, multicultural and virtual settings.

“I decided to volunteer for a program because I finally got to the point where I realized my career experience could provide encouragement to others,” says Comma. “I was impressed by the professional setting and complete engagement by the audience.”

In addition to alumni-led talks and presentations, the program offers panel discussions featuring lively question-and-answer sessions.

Mary Osbakken, MS ’72, president of Osbakken Consulting, served as a panelist for a discussion held in Philadelphia on the topic of managing career transition.

“I decided to volunteer because I think that it is my responsibility to help others find similar enlightenment.”

— Mary Osbakken

Not only do these programs benefit the attendees, but the volunteers, like Osbakken, also make meaningful connections as a result of their volunteer experience.

“The participants asked me very interesting questions, which made

“As a woman who has had a variety of successful careers, I think that it is my responsibility to help others find similar enlightenment.”

— Mary Osbakken
me think about what could be accomplished with a little 
foresight and ingenuity,” says Osbakken. “The whole 
experience was quite positive.”

Alumni interested in volunteering as ACS speakers or 
panelists, or who have ideas for upcoming ACS programs, 
are encouraged to contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 
alumni@drexel.edu or 1.888.DU.GRADS. 

“The ACS program is all about alumni sharing their real-
life experiences with each other,” says Villanueva. “We want 
to continue to grow the program based on the needs and 
interests of our alumni.”

For more information on the ACS program, visit drexel. 
edu/alumni. [D]
Alumni with a good grasp of Drexel’s old and new student traditions will have an advantage finding the answers to this issue’s puzzle.

ACROSS
1 One of John A. Fry’s underlings, for short
5 “That’s tough”
11 Scrooge’s epithet
14 Berry for the health-conscious
15 Not ready to be picked
16 “Botch-____” (Cloney tune)
17 Drexel Main Auditorium instrument
19 With 38-Across, Drexel’s sports fanatics
20 Brewer’s need
21 Hare ___ (religious sect)
23 Senior Class ___
25 “Ceremony” done in the first week of medical school
27 Cable inits. for sales pitches
28 Grant-____ (Federal subsidy)
30 Small woods
31 “So that’s how it is!”
32 Tortilla ingredient
33 Terra- cousin
34 Lancaster ___ (“Make Your Mark” site)
36 Clock with the inscription “Be On Time”
38 See 18-Across
42 Code-busting org.
44 Neeson of “Taken”
46 One of a semina’s seven
47 “That tastes awful!”
50 The brainy bunch
51 Giant great
52 Annual party held for graduating seniors on the Delaware River
54 “The Magnificent”
56 Rubbernecks’ neckwear
57 Filmedom’s Vittorio De___
58 “Drexel ___” (song written by James M. Dickinson and Virginia Carter Castleman)
59 Statue whose toes are rubbed for good luck prior to exams
64 Preceders of xis
65 Ochoa of women’s golf
66 “Lo, here ___/ Never to rise again”, “Hamlet”
67 Letters from St. Paul
68 Neil, Robert and Sean
69 Target of a military press

DOWN
1 Cleaner, for short
2 Coin depicting Louis XVI
3 Drum site?
4 Sandwich pockets
5 Walrus’s weapon
6 “Kiss, Kiss, Kiss” singer
7 Rink great Bobby
8 16-year-old, perhaps
9 Not close
10 “Let’s Hear It For the Boy” singer Williams
11 Shortstop’s bane
12 Some stoves
13 Goddess associated with witchcraft
18 Ritual conclusion?
22 Reporter’s hope
23 January occurrence
24 Govt. workplace watchdog
25 Careful
26 Kicker
29 Funnywoman Dunn
33 Foie ___
35 Roguish guy
37 German one
39 “Aw-ww!”-evoking
40 Credit card name under a red arc
41 Comic book sidekick with a chauffeur’s cap
43 Anon
47 1950s First Lady
48 Put on cargo
49 Entangle
50 Capital of Lesotho
53 Web-surfer’s cry?
55 Nasty-tasting
57 Subway map array: Abbr.
60 Harmless cyst
61 “Life of Pi” director Lee
62 Dipstick coating
63 For the present

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: Joe O’Connor ’85 of Rockledge, Pa.
THE VALUE OF A DREXEL EDUCATION

A college education is an investment. Drexel's unique approach to learning yields solid returns.

GRADUATING FROM DREXEL:
One-Year-Out Alumni Survey, graduating class of 2012

92% of those working full-time are working in professions that are closely or somewhat related to their field of study at Drexel.

94% of those working full-time were satisfied with their positions.

EARNING MORE AFTER GRADUATION:

A survey of 11,000 college graduates, conducted by the U.S. Department of Education, found that those who had a co-op experience earned more than those who had an internship.

EARNING POTENTIAL WITH A CO-OP EXPERIENCE:
Estimated annual earnings 10 years after graduating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No co-op or internship</th>
<th>Internship</th>
<th>Co-op</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2% more income</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.8% more income</td>
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$44,630 Cumulative additional income as compared to an internship 10 years after graduation

Footnotes referenced in the infographic on data sources:
1. One-Year-Out Alumni telephone survey, conducted from April 10–July 21, 2013, of 1,703 undergraduate students graduating in spring 2012, and asked about their status as of April 2013. 658 students responded. The survey was conducted by Franklin & Marshall College's Center for Opinion Research. Adjusting for students that could not be reached due to inaccurate or lapsed telephone contact information, the adjusted response rate was 48% (calculation based on the American Association of Public Opinion Research guidelines). The survey data were weighted to correct for any potential biases created by differential non-response across Drexel's nine schools and colleges with undergraduate programs.

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ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

As part of its commitment to lifelong learning, the Drexel University Alumni Association offers unique group travel opportunities. These alumni travel programs combine educational forums and excursions to places of historical and cultural interest, with the opportunity to enjoy unplanned experiences and meet local people. Join fellow alumni in wonderful new destinations each year. You will be offered the highest-quality travel experience through the Alumni Association’s partnerships with experienced travel providers.

2015 TRIPS

Discover Down Under February 10–28
Cuban Discovery February
Greece: Athens & Island of Poros April 22–May 2
Burgundy & Provence River Cruise May 3–14
Amalfi: The Divine Coast June 2–10
Alaska Passages Cruise July 14–24
Jewels of the Aegean & Holy Lands Cruise September 16–27
Sicily September 18–27
The Great Parks of California September/October
Spain: Valencia and Barcelona October 12–21
Machu Picchu, Cusco & the Sacred Valley November

FOR DETAILS ON ALL OF THE TRIPS, VISIT DREXEL.EDU/ALUMNI/TRAVEL OR CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS: 1.888.DU.GRADS OR EMAIL ALUMNI@DREXEL.EDU