CAMPAIGN SUCCESSES

In March, Drexel marked a milestone of more than $615 million raised during its most ambitious fundraising campaign, thanks in large part to generous alumni. The “The Future Is a Place We Make” Campaign is more than three-quarters of the way to its goal of $750 million since launching publicly in 2017. With help from the Campaign, the University is preparing students for academic and professional success, generating research and innovation that addresses urgent societal challenges, and sustaining civic engagement initiatives that benefit the Philadelphia community and beyond. Below are some Campaign achievements.

Nicole Kalitsi ’20 completed a nonprofit co-op at the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance that was endowed by the Lenfest Foundation. To date, “The Future Is a Place We Make” campaign has raised $121 million to provide for student scholarships and co-ops.

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<tr>
<th>Amount raised</th>
<th>Million dollars raised for academic support.</th>
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<td>from parents and friends of the University and its students.</td>
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<th>Number of professorships endowed.</th>
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<th>Number of alumni engaged with the Campaign.</th>
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<th>Million dollars raised for research initiatives.</th>
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<th>Amount raised from Drexel alumni.</th>
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<th>Number of endowed professorships and chairs.</th>
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<th>Amount raised from Drexel alumni.</th>
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<td>185 M</td>
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One of my first messages to the Drexel community about the pandemic noted that “much about this new virus remains unknown.” Even after all that we learned since that time in late January, that statement remains true. In fact, we’ll be grappling for some time with many questions, such as the timetable for developing a vaccine, the long-term impact on colleges and universities, and the pace of return to a new normal.

That being said, I am confident that the Drexel community is navigating the challenges and opportunities it presents with increasing success. In that spirit, I want to assure you that our students and faculty continue to focus on making a meaningful and positive response to this extraordinary period in history.

Sincerely,

John Fry / President
Editor's note: First, what a tremendous co-op experience! Second, thank you for the clarification, I believe that stat should be restated to say that there have been no co-op employers who are headquartered in North or South Dakota.

The Ledger

On page 1 of the fall 2019 issue it mentions that co-op students had served in 48 states, all except North and South Dakota. In 1961 and 1962 while working for Catalytic Construction Company, a Philadelphia firm, I was assigned to install the final stages of Minutemen missile silos. I started in Rapid City, South Dakota, and then went to Minot, North Dakota, over a nine-month period. Although I was in the business school I was doing close order surveying to lay out the missile suspension systems and sightings apparatus prior to the delivery of the missiles.

JOHN ‘DICK’ SHELLER
BS 1961 management 67
Southbury, Maryland

The Flame of Knowledge Fountain was not relocated to North Hall until the late 2000s, when the quad was redone with the dancing fountain. I believe it was late 2007/early 2008. I lived in North Hall from 2005–2006 and it was not there while I lived there. I then lived in Summer Street and recall the relocated fountain showing up before I graduated in 2008.

JIM GARDNER
BS/MS civil engineering 80
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Editor’s note: We’ll defer to the president of the time. Thank you for rectifying that.

Fall 2019 Issue

See the Stars from Curtis Hall

Loved seeing an article about Mount Apley. I’m second in line behind the chair of the old yearbook. Back then we had a Celestron 10 in the dome. The club was building a 12-inch or 14-inch Newtonian including grading the mirror. We had to avoid NCC1776 (the Food Fair sign across Market Street) when observing to the north.

Dr. Leonard Cohen and I crossed paths about a decade later when he contacted PACS (Philadelphia Area Computer Society) looking for help with his early home computer.

JANE CHARLET
Certificate, business administration 84
Downingtown, Pennsylvania

Reading this month’s magazine. It is so chock-full of surprising and inspiring pieces. Just feel so really proud of my school, and wanted you to know it.

ELIZABETH RANHAM
BS humanities and communications 80
San Diego, California

Editor's note: Thank you for mentioning me and my novel, “Lydia: Destiny Or Choice” on p. 47 of the Class Notes section. I was absolutely thrilled to see my book mentioned. Also, get a chuckle that I was the only one mentioned from the ’50s. Guess time marches on, LOL.

VICKY NORVISA
BS administrative secretarial ’59
Erie, Pennsylvania

Editor’s note: Congrats for editing another amazing edition of Drexel Magazine! The description in the fall 2019 edition of how Hahnemann and St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children ended up part of Drexel is fascinating. Your words on St. Christopher’s took me back many years, to 1963, in fact. My 4-year-old daughter, Donna, had contracted a disease unknown to either her doctor or to our local hospital. The doctor knew he didn’t know, but the hospital in suburban Philadelphia did not.

On the second evening of the hospital, I called a member of our family, an oral surgeon in Wilmington, Delaware. He called me back: “Withdraw Donna from the hospital tomorrow morning and take her to St. Christopher’s. They will be waiting for her.”

Within 24 hours, St. Christopher’s knew she had hemolytic uremic syndrome, a rare disease first diagnosed in Argentina. It shuts down both kidneys. It took six weeks at St. Christopher’s, but our daughter we were told was the first girl in the United States to survive it. Donna is now in her 60th year giving back as a children’s research pathologist in the public school system. Our family is forever grateful to St. Christopher’s and the Lord.

Saving St. Christopher’s was a true Godsend. I am so grateful to St. Christopher’s and the Lord.

Sonja Sherwood / Editor

Kudos to your nice summary of the long, tortuous road leading to Drexel’s acquisition (in partnership with Tower Health) of St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children. As a fan of the passive voice, however, I must say that I shudder when I read the phrase “… Hahnemann University Hospital shuttered.”

Thanks for indulging this close reading.

BILL MONSELL
BS biological science ’76
Belalfonte, Pennsylvania

Congratulations for editing another smash edition of Drexel Magazine! The description in the fall 2019 edition of how Hahnemann and St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children ended up part of Drexel is fascinating. Your words on St. Christopher’s took me back many years, to 1963, in fact. My 4-year-old daughter, Donna, had contracted a disease unknown to either her doctor or to our local hospital. The doctor knew he didn’t know, but the hospital in suburban Philadelphia did not.

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BS biological science ’76
Belalfonte, Pennsylvania

I write this by way of introducing our triage edition. We cut features that were ready for layout and assigned new ones. We eliminated the sports section when athletes stopped playing. We updated what news we could with fresh information, but had to leave some facts in a state of suspension (when will community events and lecture series resume in person?) who knows. Read charitably, please; there will be typos.

Our first thoughts when Philadelphia lockdowns down was how do we can write about an empty campus? But soon there were questions to answer, rapid changes to chronicle and an incredible pandemic response to report. Right away, our community leapt into action, coming up with help, information, diagnostics and equipment. Their stories, starting on page 33, make it easy to believe that ingenuity will prevail.

Thank you for reading.
The New Year began with travel warnings about a new virus spreading rapidly in China, but the threat felt remote and unthinkable.

Alarms bells began ringing Friday, March 6, when the first two cases of the new coronavirus disease were confirmed in the state. Even then, the infections seemed far away in Wayne and Delaware counties, and the two affected individuals could trace their infections to travel or a known exposure. It felt like we had more time. Then just four days later, Philadelphia reported its first case. The city cancelled its annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

The following Monday began normally, but higher education administrators across the city had learned that grade schools were considering closure. The next day, the large Lower Merion School District outside of Philadelphia announced it would suspend classes for all grades. From that day on, circumstances changed dramatically day by day.

Grade schools did not reopen and many other businesses suspended operations. By the end of the week, faculty and administrators who had for years urged their students to embrace adaptability and resourcefulness found themselves living their own lesson plans. Drexel’s final exams were moved online, all students were instructed to pack up and begin heading home, and faculty and staff began to work remotely. Study abroad, international co-ops and faculty travel were the first programs to be suspended, followed by cancellations of campus events, most research lab work, clinical rotations, all athletic programs and Alumni Weekend.

Almost overnight, alumni and friends of Drexel pitched in tens of thousands of dollars to an emergency fund to help newly uprooted students.

In 14 days in March, our region went from discovering its first cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection to a statewide lockdown — here’s how Drexel adapted.

A City Keeps Its Distance

Jeff Fusco
students with move-out expenses. Drexel waived $31 million of spring quarter room and board charges for students in campus residences.

It took just two weeks for Pennsylvania to go from its first case to total lockdown, with all but life-sustaining businesses ordered to close by order of Governor Tom Wolf as of March 20. By 5 p.m. that night, Main Building was silent except for the buzz of floor scrubbers deep cleaning Great Court.

On the same day that the campus shut down, Drexel learned of its first case of a student diagnosed with COVID-19, who was recovering at home. The next day, another student was confirmed positive. Two doctors affiliated with Drexel’s St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children were also infected by that time. The rapid decisions of the previous two weeks had undoubtedly prevented infections. In fact, a later study by Drexel’s Urban Health Collaborative estimated the shutdown saved 7,100 lives and reduced hospitalizations by 68,000 between March 20 and May 22.

The Drexel Facilities employees stepped up cleanings. The normally busy heart of 30th Street Station was quiet. Drexel quickly parlayed its 25 years of experience in online education into converting face-to-face final exams and courses into virtual classrooms. For spring term, Drexel’s Information Technology teams created over 5,000 Zoom accounts, began supporting around 1,000 class meetings a day, tripled the number of training sessions offered to faculty, and loaned out over 100 laptops. Protocols and funds were put in place to continue essential research work. Almost immediately, faculty pivoted toward new projects exploring ways to fight the coronavirus. Over 50 researchers are working on projects such as advancing plasma-based sanitization, anti-viral nanocoatings, washable masks and 3D printed headbands for faceshields, new drugs and virus detection methods. A $100,000 COVID-19 Rapid Response Research & Development Fund raised with help from trustees is oversubscribed by nearly double.

At the height of the pandemic, Drexel swiftly pivoted its online instruction toward preparing students for first and second diploma exams. Drexel’s pivot to online final exams was one of the most effective and efficient of any major university, reducing study times by over 70 percent for students and their families. The university has also rapidly adapted to the needs of students with disabilities and those who depend on community support structures.

Yesterday, Drexel Magazine’s message to alumni is to stay safe, scrub hands, and take care of vulnerable friends, family and neighbors. We’re all in this together, and the only way we’re getting out of it is together. — Sonja Sherwood and Beth Ann Downey

“The health of the wealthy is dependent on the health of the poor. If we don’t retain our newly gained knowledge, we will be no better prepared when the next threat emerges. Amnesia can kill.”

Robert L. Feller, School of Law and Harris School of Public Health.

“Disasters reveal inequalities in society more effectively than any other thing that we encounter. We are conducting business like it’s every other day, and clearly it is not like a wave.”

Scott Knobles, College of Arts and Sciences.

“If we don’t retain our newly gained knowledge, we will be no better prepared when the next threat emerges. Amnesia can kill.”

Robert L. Feller, School of Law and Harris School of Public Health.
The co-op

As a research assistant at Stadtarchiv (city archive) of Dornbirn, Austria, I completed a University-funded co-op to research Francis Martin Drexel, the father of Drexel University founder Anthony Joseph Drexel. The main focus was understanding what Francis Martin’s life and family were like. I worked with primary source documents, the division of estate documents and tax documents for Drexel family members.

The object

This is a self-portrait of Francis Martin painted in 1817 when he was 25. It’s one of his 28 paintings included in The Drexel Collection, the University’s collection of art and special objects.

After Napoleon’s campaign through Austria, Francis Martin fled to Switzerland to avoid being drafted into Napoleon’s army. He spent years traveling and working around Switzerland, Italy and France painting houses and carriages. Once Dornbirn returned to Austrian rule, Francis Martin could return home, but “home” felt too small for him to make a living. In 1817, he came to Philadelphia.

The takeaway

I wrote my senior thesis on how the early life of Francis Martin affected and related to his transition into banking. Post-graduation, I hope to go to graduate school for history, either in the United States or Europe. Long term, I would like to enter academia. This co-op confirmed that it would be a good fit for me career-wise, so I am taking my shot with it.

—Illiza Falcone

Show & Tell

National Grant Awarded for Dementia Care

More than 5 million Americans are living with dementia, and that number continues to grow, according to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Drexel’s College of Nursing and Health Professions is one of 30 top research institutions benefitting from a $53.4 million National Institute on Aging grant to Brown University and Harvard University to improve health care and quality of life for people living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, and their caregivers.

Laura N. Gitlin, distinguished university professor and dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, will co-lead the “Dissemination and Implementation” core, one of eight core groups in the massive research collaboration. The initiative, called Imbedded Pragmatic Alzheimer’s Disease or Alzheimer’s-Related Dementia Clinical Trials (IMPACT) Collaboration, will support 40 pilot projects aimed at improving care delivery, quality and outcomes for persons with dementia.

The College of Nursing and Health Professions will receive a $1.5 million portion of the grant award.

“This project will dramatically shift the paradigm of care for people living with Alzheimer’s and related dementias and their care partners,” says Gitlin.

Revamped Bentley Hall Reopens Better Than Ever

Bentley Hall — known to some older alumni by its previous names of Collin Hall or the Kling dorm — reopened its doors in September 2019 after $5 million in renovations. The nearly 40-year-old residence hall had been closed since the 2014-15 academic year.

Renovations to the eight-floor, 211-room residence hall included updated flooring, ceilings, lighting, HVAC system, furniture and elevators. The changes focused on creating more space for collaboration and quiet study, as well as laundry facilities and an office suite for the Bentley Hall resident director.

The hall had been closed since the 2014–15 academic year. After $5 million in renovations, the nearly 40-year-old residence hall — known to some older alumni by its previous names of Calhoun Hall or the Kling dorm — reopened its doors in September 2019.

The renovations were possible due to a gift from Greg S. Bentley, CEO of Bentley Systems, and his wife Caroline. A second phase of renovations is in progress.

The program caters to the most determined entrepreneurs who may find it challenging to balance four to five years of classes while eager to start and grow their business.

DONNA DE CAROLIS, founding dean of the Close School and Silverman Family Professor of Entrepreneurial Leadership

A Speedy Starter Degree
New Pup Lends a Paw in Ruff Times

Three generations of therapy dogs are now Drexel Recreation Athletics employees, as granddog Java joined his mother Espresso and his grandmother Chai in an important role at the University: providing emotional support and plenty of Instagram-able moments in Drexel Drags.

The first official event for the 19-month-old, 125-pound newest member of this Cane Corso therapy dog dynasty was one of the biggest and busiest held at Drexel during the year—Move-In Weekend 2019—and Java hasn’t slowed down since.

“He’s very excited to be here,” says Janine Erato, Java’s handler, who was hired by Drexel as a pack- age deal with Chai in 2016.

The “paw-pose” of bringing a therapy dog for threat to Drexel is to soothe and bring joy to Drag- ons and help students adjust to college life—and all of its complexities and stressors—while getting a new “leash” on life. The outreach, program and number of dogs has grown exponentially, ex- panding from one dog to three (plus one 19-month-old, 125-pound newest member of this Cane Corso therapy dog dynasty was one of the biggest and busiest held at Drexel during the year—Move-In Weekend 2019—and Java hasn’t slowed down since.

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RESEARCH

The International Society for Autism Research has awarded a competitive grant to the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute and other local organizations working to improve interactions between autistic individuals and the justice system.

Research has shown that autistic individuals are at an increased likelihood of coming into contact with law enforcement or other justice professionals, compared with neurotypical peers. Understanding these interactions is important to developing resources, services and programs to improve outcomes.

Autistic individuals may also encounter similar challenges in the court system, where a lack of understanding of their diagnosis, needs and strengths can lead to misinterpretation by judges and legal professionals and can put them at risk of biased or uninformed sentencing.

“Philadelphia and Pennsylvania have been leaders in collecting data about autism and criminal justice system interactions and generating data-based responses through training, resources and convening community partners,” says Shea.

This 19th century oil painting — “Portrait of Francis Martin Drexel (1792-1863)” by Jean Joseph Benjamin Constant — is believed to have been painted after Francis Martin’s death. It currently hangs in Drexel’s Paul Peck Alumni Center, along with a painting of his son Anthony Joseph Drexel, also by the same artist. Photo courtesy of The Drexel Collection.

You probably know your alma mater was founded by Anthony J. Drexel, a wealthy Philadelphia banker. But the Drexel family has a rich history that predates Philadelphia — in Dornbirn, Austria, where Anthony’s father Francis Martin was born.

For the past decade, Director of Athletics and Carl R. Pacifico Professor of Neuropsychology Eric Zilmer has been cultivating research and cultural exchanges between the University and the city of Dornbirn to better connect with the family’s roots.

“There’s this beauty in the intellectual DNA of our University,” says Zilmer. “I think that for students and alumni, it increases the value of their education when they can learn where Drexel came from.”

Dornbirn has been the ancestral seat of the Drexel family since the 16th century. Located on the western tip of Austria near the borders of Germany, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Dornbirn is a commercial and administrative center.

Francis Martin was born in 1792 and immigrated to America in 1817. During an innkeeper lifestyle painting portraits of well-to-do political figures in Latin America, he began converting his книге (book) of currences for his portraiture clients. That side business flourishcd into an incredibly successful banking firm fortune and, eventually, into the underwriting of JP Morgan’s banking career.

To this day, Francis Martin is considered one of Dornbirn’s most famous citizens. That’s unbelievable, especially for a city like Dornbirn, and the whole identity of the city and its self-confidence has grown over time,” says Dornbirn’s Mayor Andrea Kaufmann, who has been mayor since 2013 and has twice visited Philadelphia. “This is no trivial matter. Quite the reverse — the founder of one of the best private universities in America for sure has affected our town.”

Since 2009, Zilmer has visited Dornbirn more than 100 University faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends (plus Drexel family members).

Drexel University now has relationships with the city’s government and its Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences, which has enabled Drexel faculty to teach at the institution. In addition, Drexel student Isabella Sangaline ’20 completed her senior research on the Drexel family in the Dornbirn City Archives (see page 15). Several Dornbirn students have also come to the University for research and study-abroad experiences.

In the past decade, Dornbirn has publicized its connection with the University and the Drexel family by publishing articles and dedicating a chapter in a book about Dornbirn immigrants to Francis Martin. In 2013, Francis Martin’s birthplace (a hotel for the past 40 years) received an historical marker designation. In 2009, a street was named in honor of Francis Martin’s granddaughter, Saint Katharine Drexel, who relinquished her life of affluence and leisure to become the first African American woman to be named a saint by the Catholic Church.

The Pennoni Honors College and Thomas R. Kline School of Law partnered in the fall to promote civil discussions of hot-button issues through a new “Wednesdays at the Kline” series.

The public discussions were first hosted at the Kline Institute of Trial Advocacy in Center City every Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and were then changed to virtual monthly meetings.

“These are conversations that people want to have, but are unable to find the space for,” says Melinda Lewis, the associate director of marketing and media for the Pennoni Honors College who moderates the discussions. For law students who choose to attend, Kline School of Law Dean Daniel Filler said there is the added bonus of seeing how these types of conversations can be a part of creating law, part of the “construction of democracy” witnessed in real time.

Ellen Harrison, BS ’90 and a resident of Smith Philadelphia, started coming to “Wednesdays at the Kline” discussions regularly because she liked the idea of having a forum to discuss the issues of the day.

“I’m very much committed to discussions in this way they do.”

Research with CHOP colleagues may be eligible for non-traditional personnel status at CHOP while continuing to receive competitive grant funding. CHOP scientists at CHOP will be offered opportunities for Drexel doctoral and master’s students at select colleges.

This initiative is the latest example of innovative collaboration among institutions within Philadelphia’s “meds and eds” corridor,” says President John Fry. “By cultivating new opportunities for collaboration among our talented researchers, we are laying the groundwork for tomorrow’s discoveries, the impact of which will be felt locally and internationally.”

DREXEL’S FRIENDLY TIES TO DORNBIRN

Over the past decade, one professor has cultivated an international friendship with the Austrian city where A.J. Drexel’s father was born. — Alissa Falcone

The Pennoni Honors College and Thomas R. Kline School of Law partnered in the fall to promote civil discussions of hot-button issues through a new “Wednesdays at the Kline” series.

Students interested in the intellectual DNA of our University...
Athletics

Bubbles Stand Ready

If you visited Drexel’s University City Campus this past winter, than you probably saw — and remember — the ‘bubbles.’ Two very hard-to-miss massive gray domes were inflated over the three tennis courts at Vidas Athletic Complex and the turf field at Buckley Recreational Field during the winter months in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Equipped with climate control, LED sports lighting and transparent roofs that let in daylight, the bubbles have expanded Drexel Athletics’ programming sports season. Throughout last winter, that meant more playing time at the Vidas bubble for the men’s and women’s tennis teams, and everything from softball to Quidditch to soccer to flag football under the larger Buckley Bubble.

When inflated, the 20,000- and 30,000-square-foot, respectively, bubbles are among the biggest venues on campus. The University has afforded them to Philadelphia as emergency space in the pandemic fight, if needed.

They were made possible thanks to Jackie and Stan Silverman as well as Marlene and Bob Buckley, who provided leadership gifts through the Campaign for Drexel.

Academics

Medicine and Nursing to Move to University City

With Hahnemann University Hospital closed, Drexel plans to relocate the College of Medicine and the College of Nursing and Health Professions to University City, where they will be side by side in a new “vCity Square” development being built at 36th and Filbert streets.

Wexford Science & Technology, at its own cost, began construction on the vCity Square site in the spring. When pandemic closure orders are lifted, Wexford aims to resume construction and hopes to open for initial occupancy in the academic year 2022-23.

Nursing and Health Professions will move to the new space first, followed by College of Medicine administrative functions in 2023, along with the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies and Drexel’s first-and second-year medical program.

Eventually, the College of Medicine will vacate all leased space in Center City as well as the Queen Lane campus. College of Medicine researchers will remain at Queen Lane and in the new College Building until Center City leases expire.

In addition, a new College of Medicine facility near Tower Health’s headquarters in West Reading, Pennsylvania, is slated to begin educating 60 additional first-year medical students in 2021.

Health

Historic Group Has Drexel Ties

The world’s first graduate program in arts therapy to matriculate students was founded at the then-Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital in 1969, which became Hahnemann University in 1981 and was absorbed by Drexel in 2002.

So it’s fitting that in 2019, as the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) celebrates its 50-year anniversary, a Drexel professor — who graduated from the institution that initiated the program and teaches at the college that absorbed it — was recently voted to lead the organization.

Girija Kaimal, an associate professor in the College of Nursing and Health Professions’ Creative Arts Therapies Department, was sworn in as AATA’s president-elect, a position she will retain for two years before becoming president for two more years. She follows in the footsteps of Myra Levick, who co-founded the American Art Therapy Association in 1969 and served as its first president.

Levick also co-founded the world’s first graduate program in arts therapy to matriculate students at the then-Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital. At that time, art therapy wasn’t generally well-known or accepted within the medical community. Both the program and the professional organization launched in part to grow the field as a mental health discipline separate from psychiatry, with its own practices, training and education.

What made the creation of Hahnemann’s arts therapy program so radical was that it was housed in a medical college, where its students could work alongside psychiatrists and nurses.

“AATA mission, simply put, is to advance the field,” says Kaimal.

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Westphal Students Win with ‘Eating Game’

Game design students Tara Boonngamaneng and Note Nuchprayoen won first place and $20,000 in the second round of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) game challenge for their obesity prevention game, “Well Spent.”

“‘Well Spent’ is a grocery shopping game in which the player must balance money, time and healthy eating. It heeds the game challenge objective of creating a game focused on obesity prevention or weight control for women and girls, but the team also wanted to make sure their proposed game told both a unique and an inclusive approach.

“Our game doesn’t really teach the player how to eat healthy; that’s not the goal,” Boonngamaneng says. “Our main goal is to decrease stigma around obesity, and be like ‘Hey, there are a lot of factors that go into someone being obese.’ There’s a link between low-income communities and obesity.”

The students, both second-years when they won in the fall term, were given the rest of the academic year to complete the game. If their final version also wows the judges, they could be eligible for additional funding.

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Myra Levick and Paul Fink, MD, director of Hahnemann’s program, in an undated photo.
Recently the University commemorated a decade of participation in the Post-9/11 GI Bill™ Yellow Ribbon Program, a federal program established in 2008 to cover tuition and fees for post-9/11 veterans. The University has committed $2 million to cover tuition and fees for post-9/11 veterans, and has offered the program, and has committed $2 million to cover tuition and fees for post-9/11 veterans. The University has offered the program, and has committed $2 million to cover tuition and fees for post-9/11 veterans. The University has offered the program, and has committed $2 million to cover tuition and fees for post-9/11 veterans.
DON’T WE ALL NEED A SUPERHERO?

With a great costume comes great campus responsibility.
— Beth Ann Downey

The true identity of Drexel Spidey — a masked superhero known around campus for his spur-of-the-moment dance-offs and shared selfies — isn’t widely known, and won’t be revealed here.

All we will say is that he’s a third-year student from the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, and he’s been spinning his magic around Drexel since 2018, when he first donned the red and blue Spider-Man costume in his freshman year. That year, a video on Instagram of him dancing with a fellow student in the Korman Quad went viral.

Since then, he’s been making regular appearances on campus with one goal in mind. “I want to make people’s day,” he says. “I love spreading good energy and making people laugh — it’s what I do.”

Drexel Spidey says he also enjoys personifying the Marvel character as a way to represent and bring recognition to Drexel. His mom is an alumna of the University, and he himself is attending on a full scholarship after excelling in high school despite coming from a “struggling background,” he says.

“I’m able to take those experiences from growing up to appreciate what I have now and cherish the good things I have in my life and where I come from, to know that I never want to be in that position again,” Spidey says. “It motivates me to work harder and do my best to keep a positive mentality and spread positive vibes as much as I can to the community, which is what inspires Drexel Spidey.”

Although some of his peers know his true identity, he doesn’t plan to come out publicly any time soon. He wants to keep the mystery alive, at least until he graduates.

“Just thought this would be a cool thing that comes out of my college experience,” he says. “But one day I do plan on just like going, ‘Hey, I’m the guy who’s been dancing around as Spider-Man.’”

When the COVID-19 crisis hit Philadelphia, Evan Ehlers ’19 was ready to help — thanks to his Drexel co-op.

Evan’s co-op in the Close School of Entrepreneurship gave him the opportunity to launch his nonprofit, Sharing Excess, which redistributed thousands of pounds of uncooked food from restaurants shuttered by the pandemic to those who needed it most.

The real-world experience provided by the Drexel Co-op program prepares Dragons to make a real-world impact, as students and alumni.

Now, more than ever, students on co-op need your support.

Due to the need for social distancing and the resulting economic fallout, the COVID-19 pandemic has jeopardized essential co-op experiences for many Drexel students. You can help!

Donor investment enables students to pursue co-ops where industry funding doesn’t exist or is very limited. Your gift can help create research, entrepreneurial and non-profit positions that allow students to make a vital difference today while launching their future careers.

LEARN HOW YOU CAN CREATE OPPORTUNITY NOW AT giving.drexel.edu/co-op
Virtual Help for Home Cooks

Are canned tomatoes better than fresh tomatoes for making pizza sauce? And what’s the secret, cheddar chocolate chip cookie: room temperature butter or melted butter?

For most questions, Rosemary Trout, assistant clinical professor and program’s new lecture series.

Chief-cooking concerns have never been so relevant as now, when millions of Americans have had to step up their home cooking while under stay-at-home orders. Fortunately, the answers are readily available online in various Condé Nast videos recorded by Trout’s appearances as well.

“The kids are processing a lot right now, so we’re going to give them mental skills and confidence, enhance their focus and concentration and feel more positive about themselves,” says Andrea Irvine, a mental performance coach. She works with teams and individual athletes to help them increase their self-awareness in dealing with what’s happening in the world right now, dealing with the adjustment to being at home, and finding ways to stay motivated.”

“Getting into our new normal is the goal right now,” says Barlow, speaking in March a couple of weeks after Drexel closed the campus and sports facilities. “I’m going to be giving them mental skills for dealing with what’s happening in the world right now, dealing with the adjustment to being at home, potentially not having much access to exercise equipment, and finding ways to stay motivated.”

“Close to nearly any artist who expresses interest in working with him, even though his reputation could afford him more selectivity. Though his reputation could afford him more selectivity, his interest in working with him even though his reputation could afford him more selectivity.”

“I still think that any resource of mine is a resource of the community,” Albini said. “That was a guiding principle behind building the studio.”

“Good nutrition is all encompassing,” she says. “It’s making sure that over a long period of time you’re eating the correct macronutrients and micronutrients. Food is not clean or dirty; it’s not good or bad. Food is food. It’s that if you really like nachos, there’s a time and a place for that. You don’t have to have negative feelings around that. There are a lot of variables. How many times are you eating that food? The quantity of what you’re eating, the time in your training. We’re teaching them how to eat, how much to eat and what they need. I want them to have good relationships with food as athletes and beyond.”

The outbreak caused an abrupt end to several teams’ seasons and student-athletes’ careers. That can be extremely difficult to accept for those who are single-minded in their approach to their sport and life, Barlow says. She should know — she wrote her dissertation on the transition out of sport.

“When it comes down to it we’re not truly ready to move on, fully especially when our identity is rooted in sport,” she says. “Acknowledging that this was ripped out from underneath them is important. Focusing that sense of loss, grief, anger, disappointment, whatever emotions they’re having.”

With Drexel’s student-athletes scattered around the world, she is connecting with them through phone calls or video chats.

“Even if you think you don’t need to check in with a person, check in with them,” she says. Each individual will have a different experience during this crisis, especially considering the differences in personal and environmental factors. Some are living by themselves in a one-bedroom apartment in New York may have different dietary or emotional needs than someone living with their family in a big house in the suburbs. There’s the potential to feel isolated, which can lead to anxious feelings of hopelessness. Barlow says that’s why in her online meetings and messages with coaches and student-athletes, she stresses the importance of hope.

“Having a sense of helpfulness that we will be able to play again, we will be able to go back to work again, we will be able to interact again, is essential,” she says.
Before the world was faced with an all-too-real contagion, Drexel nursing students were already training to cope with the chaos and danger of a pandemic, through simulation.

These seniors are partaking in the College of Nursing and Health Professions’ recurring Disaster Simulation, a rite of passage for all of Drexel’s nursing students and a key component of the required class titled, “Population Health Concepts.”

It simulates the worst-case, yet realistic scenarios that nurses might come across in their career, from pandemics to natural disasters to mass-casualty situations — for the chance to practice before they treat real patients in the field.

Some nursing schools do only less-immersive table-top simulations, if they do simulations at all. But the College of Nursing and Health Professions invests thousands of dollars into equipment and trains a crew of around 35 faculty, staff and simulated patient actors to make this experience as realistic as possible.

At the same time, the college ensures that the events are coordinated with meaningful debriefing sessions and that they create a psychologically safe learning environment for students, says Helen Teng, assistant clinical professor and the course chair.

Simulations like this help students in nursing and other health-related fields develop skills in interprofessional teamwork, multiple patient management and crisis resource management, as well as communication, collaboration and leadership.

“It is good to expose our students to these ways of thinking and encourage them and engage in their psychomotor domain of learning by doing,” says Teng.

— Beth Ann Downey

### THE SPACE

Simulations are conducted in the College’s simulation labs run through its Center for Interprofessional Clinical Simulation and Practice, whose purse encompasses more than 22,000 square feet of lab space and includes the art simulation technology. Pictured is the 2,300-square-foot Hilton Patient Simulation Lab. Its two large configurable spaces contain three bays each, and each bay has two cameras and two overhead microphones for faculty to remotely observe their students. Each bay also has a monitor similar to those in hospitals to display a simulated patient’s vital signs.

### THE STUDENTS

Here, Audrey Tibay (left), Melissa Radcliff (center) and Luan Ta (right), all fifth-year nursing students, work to revive a simulated patient. Over the course of three hours of non-stop simulation, they’ll encounter four separate disaster scenarios, each more stressful than the last.

This scenario encompasses a fictional ER with multiple victims arriving following a mass casualty event. Expected chaos ensues as the students work to corral the confused while walk-ins vie for their attention.

### THE EQUIPMENT

The simulations use high-fidelity, remote-controlled mannequins, like the SimMan Essential seen here, to portray patients. SimMan can mimic everything from human breathing and eye movement to resuscitation, cardiac and circulatory abnormalities and distress.

The average cost to purchase one can be anywhere from $89,000 to $150,000, according to the manufacturer, Laerdal Medical. Students also practice using other hospital equipment, like the pictured emergency cart containing various medications, airway equipment and a defibrillator, and the bag-valve mask being used by Ta to treat SimMan’s respiratory distress.

### THE EXTRAS

Trained individuals not pictured are paid $22 an hour to portray standardized patients. Some provide voice by mannequins, screaming and crying through microphones in the control room. Others don moulage or make up that simulates burns, cuts, bone breaks, etc. and interact with the students. The use of standardized patient actors is one of the things that helps to differentiate Drexel’s simulation offering from those at other schools, says Teng.
When a crisis hits, everyone looks for the cavalry. This spring, it wasn’t Washington, D.C., or the Army Corps or the National Guard. Instead, almost immediately, ordinary people stepped up. Our tremendous community of faculty, staff, students and alumni leapt into action, bringing information, aid and gear to those impacted.

We learned of alumni who were pitching in to provide food, economic aid and emergency medical supplies to the city. On campus, students collected supplies and created resources to keep others informed and connected. Meanwhile dozens of faculty members launched new COVID-19 research projects, with 17 faculty awarded fundings for diagnostics, devices and scientific studies that promise to save lives and advance our understanding of the virus.

Though we selected 19 stories to share in Drexel Magazine, many more went untold. Here are some of the Dragons who answered crisis’ call in the early weeks of the pandemic.

Illustrations by Victor Juhasz

Contribute to the cause: drexel.edu/helpstudentsnow

SUMMER 2020
When the coronavirus outbreak reached the United States, EIR Healthcare quickly partnered with three different manufacturers to ensure they could step up their production capability from just a couple of units a week to as many as 75. They entered discussions with officials from the University of Pennsylvania, Montgomery County in Pennsylvania, Bergen County in New Jersey and even the government of Kazakhstan. Other cities have grappled with surges of COVID-19 patients by rapidly erecting emergency field hospitals. In Philadelphia, the Liacouras Center at Temple University was outfitted to take in up to 180 patients who were in the final stages of recovery. Even Drexel’s Athletic Bubble are on standby if needed. Should the situation become dire in Philadelphia — or anywhere else — EIR Healthcare’s modular hospital rooms can also function as mobile units to treat patients in a pandemic. They can even be built as negative-pressure chambers, the gold standard in isolating infectious patients.

“If manufacturers want rooms for a building or I manufacture something temporary, it’s essentially the same product,” said CEO Grant Geiger (BS/BA international business administration and marketing ’11), who runs the company with Chief Product Officer Patrick Fenningham (BS biomedical engineering ’11). “The only difference is where it’s going. Instead of a building, it’s going into a convention center or a gym.”

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“What we’re trying to do is make sure that this is bigger than business,” said Fenningham. “This is really talking about people in a life-or-death perspective.” — Jen Miller

Karen Verderame

When the city went into lockdown, almost everyone brought work home with them. For Karen Verderame, that meant bringing home several colonies of housing cockroaches, a couple of twenty tarantulas and some centipedes.

As an animal programs developer for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, she led a team of essential personnel who cared for the museum’s collection of hundreds of live animals and insects when the museum closed on March 13.

“Once the shutdown was initiated, we went into complete triage mode,” Verderame recalled. “There were contingency plans in place: other information to share, safety measures to put into place, work schedules and food shipments to manage, and worst-case scenarios to prep for. Thanks to her work, the many creatures depending on her team — 16 snakes, 13 tarantulas and tarantula-like orb weavers, three frogs, five rabbits, three armadillos, two guinea pigs, two ducks, two turkey vultures, one chinchilla, numerous live invertebrates and a variety of fish — will survive to see the return of class field trips. — Beth Ann Downey

Evan Ehlers

Evan Ehlers founded Sharing Excess in 2018 as a way for college students to donate unused portions of their campus meal plans, but it has grown to include 48 food service partners and seven university chapters that help Sharing Excess to redistribute their surplus food.

“Once the shutdown was initiated, we went into complete triage mode,” Verderame recalled. “There were contingency plans in place: other information to share, safety measures to put into place, work schedules and food shipments to manage, and worst-case scenarios to prep for. Thanks to her work, the many creatures depending on her team — 16 snakes, 13 tarantulas and tarantula-like orb weavers, three frogs, five rabbits, three armadillos, two guinea pigs, two ducks, two turkey vultures, one chinchilla, numerous live invertebrates and a variety of fish — will survive to see the return of class field trips. — Beth Ann Downey

Charles Cairns

The idea of using phone apps to track infections may make Americans uneasy, but there’s no question that tracking technology helped quell outbreaks in China, Singapore and South Korea. Here in the United States, Apple and Google are developing a cell phone beacon for instantaneous contact tracing, but full capability is reportedly months away. In the meantime, there’s the Drexel Health Tracker App, released in April. The app was developed by a team of collaborators led by Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean of the College of Medicine and Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs Charles B. Cairns, MD, at Drexel University faculty, staff and students to monitor their symptoms and receive urgent health alerts from the city and the University. Dragons can use the app to follow outbreaks of the SARS-CoV-2 virus over time and across locations. The developers see the app eventually being adopted and customized by other academic and medical institutions. — Alissa Falcone
Scott Knowles

Drexel Department of History head Scott Knowles’ first thought when the pandemic arrived was to do what he always does as a disaster historian: call up experts to find out more. After all, it’s what he did after 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. His second thought, though, was to do something completely new: broadcast his calls to the public and archive them for posterity.

On March 16, Knowles began hosting live discussions, referred to as #COVIDCalls, every weekday at 3 p.m. with historians, journalists, professors, researchers and other experts and professionals who could shed some light on the pandemic. Topics range from emergency preparedness, virus testing, grief, crime rates, rural health, past pandemics and disaster response, just to name a few. The recordings are available at soundcloud.com/ScottKnowles.

Knowles wanted to paint a picture of what was happening not only in America, but around the world, where other experts were watching the crisis unfold in their home countries.

“Part of my research is about communication in disaster, so I’m literally doing that work in real time,” said Knowles, who in 2011 published “The Disaster Experts: Mastering Risk in Modern America.” Along the way, this has been a one-in-a-lifetime chance to promote his field. “We do not have great capacity in the United States for multi-disciplinary disaster research, but I want to show that there is a community that can come together, and when their voices get together, it’s pretty powerful,” said Knowles.

“Do I wish we could have started something like a Union of Concerned Scientists, but for disaster? Can I do that with a daily one-hour webinar? No. But can we use this as an opportunity to build a stronger community of researchers? Absolutely!” — Alissa Falcone

Geneviève Dion

Just last September, Drexel’s Pennsylvania Fabric Discovery Center at the Center for Functional Fabrics released a state-of-the-art research facility at 3101 Market St. to develop next-generation functional textiles and original products. When the pandemic arrived six months later, the center’s 3D knitting machines and cutting-edge prototypes became a lifeline to front-line workers in need of filtering masks.

Inside the 16,000-square-foot, $7 million space, Director and Professor of Design Geneviève Dion rapidly assembled a team of six to move two mask prototypes — one for health care providers and one for the public — into full production, compressing years of R&D into a few weeks.

Within 24 hours of deciding to take on this project, Dion had the center reconfigured as necessary. A few days after that, she was already reviewing an initial design with College of Medicine colleagues. Within two weeks, the designs were in production, and by week four, her team had made about 1,200 washable, adjustable masks.

Dion estimates the masks are nearly as effective as respirators, though there has been no time for FDA testing. “The feedback we’ve received indicates that they’re close,” she said. “But you don’t want to make false claims for a product, especially one that people’s lives depend on.”

Dion’s target is to make 70,000 masks per week, as long as needed. She’s proud of how the team’s young tissue sample center, which was created with funds to make the region’s cotton and garment manufacturing, has proved itself capable of rapid response.

“The center was designed with that in mind, but it’s rare to have the opportunity to help demonstrate it,” Dion said. “This emergency has forced us to show what we can do in a short amount of time.” — Beth Ann Downey

Alexander Fridman

As scientists around the world began raising concerns that SARS-CoV-2 could remain airborne longer than previously believed, Drexel researchers were already dusting off an air sterilizer they built more than 10 years prior to combat anthrax attacks after 9/11.

The device is a filter created by College of Engineering Professor and Director of Drexel’s C. & J. Nyheim Plasma Institute Alexander Fridman. It was proven to be more than 99 percent successful at removing airborne spores from the air.

The filter uses cold plasmas — air particles activated by electrical pulses — to blast apart airborne chemical contaminants and bacteria. The researchers speculated that forcing air through a grid of cold plasmas could deactivate small particles. Though coronaviruses are smaller than bacteria or airborne spores, they have some of the same structural vulnerabilities. Researchers are now adapting it for a new use, and for possible installation in homes and industrial air-handling units. The project is supported by a $200,000 National Science Foundation grant, one of the first to study ways to eliminate SARS-CoV-2 from the air. — Alissa Falcone

Arun Ramakrishnan, Michael Lane et al.

When calls went out in March for donations of personal protective equipment for staff in local hospitals and clinics, Dragons acted fast.

On the morning of March 24, faculty at the College of Nursing and Health Professionals decided to donate the college’s unused lab supplies. That afternoon, Director of Research Laboratories Arun Ramakrishnan collected 700 medical masks, 200 gowns and 25 containers of liquid and foam hand sanitizers. By nightfall, everything had been delivered to local hospitals and other critical organizations.

Meanwhile, College of Medicine Associate Professor Michael Lane led staff and graduate students on a hunt for unused equipment in research labs and supply closets. By the end of March, they had rounded up 16,400 exam gloves, 742 sterile gloves, 179 disposable gowns, 590 masks (including 20 N95 masks), 105 safety glasses and one large box of liquid sanitizers.

A separate group led by medical students Kriz Smith and Estefania Alba reached out to local businesses like construction companies, museums, hardware stores, auto shops, nail salons, tattoo parlors, veterinary hospitals and neighboring universities. In March, they were able to donate a large supply of N95 masks and nitrile gloves and gowns to St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, which Drexel co-owns with Tower Health. By mid-April they had collected even more — totaling 39,477 exam gloves, 2,367 procedure masks, 1,516 sterile gloves, 651 disposable gowns, 243 exam masks, 200 safety goggles/face glasses, 151 N95 respirators, 32 face shields, 47 Tyvek coveralls and hundreds of microliterial materials such as scrub and cleansing supplies.

Scientists and staff of Drexel’s Academy of Natural Sciences raided specimen-handling supplies to collect approximately 90 boxes of gloves, 100 masks, 30 boxes of wipes, three bottles of Fentanyl and 620 safety goggles.

Even Drexel Sports Medicine donated masks and gloves normally used in the treatment of student-athletes to give to staff at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children. — Alissa Falcone
MAKING THE MOST OF A SITUATION 30

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DAVID SHULKIN (MD ’86, HD ’19), FORMER SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION, REFLECTS ON THE AFFLICTION OF AMERICAN PARTISANSHIP DURING THE CORONAVIRUS. WRITEN BY SONJA SHERWOOD.

David Shulkin’s book, “It Shouldn’t Be This Hard to Serve Your Country” (PublicAffairs, Oct. 2019), is a detailed personal account of what it was like to serve in President Donald Trump’s cabinet as ninth secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs—a post that ended 13 months later with a Trump tweet.

In his book, Shulkin describes feeling pressure to please “the Mar-a-Lago crowd,” particularly Trump pal the Perlmutter, chairman of Marvel Entertainment. He watched his work undermined by political appointees who viewed him as an obstacle to privatizing Veterans Affairs. Eventually, his reputation suffered when news media grouped him in with officials accused of misusing taxpayer money (less publicized was the report that cleared him).

Readers, however, may conclude that he is exactly the kind of person government needs—especially now, with the world hostage to disease. A physician trained at the Medical College of Pennsylvania (now part of Drexel’s College of Medicine) with experience running major hospital systems in New York and New Jersey, Shulkin entered public service with a pragmatic desire to make government work for its constituents. His wide-ranging career includes serving as co-chair of Drexel’s Department of Medicine and, later, as vice dean of the College of Medicine. He served Obama as undersecretary for health at Veterans Affairs before being recruited by Trump’s campaign, and he is Trump’s only cabinet pick to be unanimously confirmed. During his time at Veterans Affairs, he eliminated long wait times for 57,000 veterans with urgent needs, instituted same-day services at every V.A. facility, expanded telemedicine and improved accountability across the national system.
Q. Did we? How do you rate the pandemic response in the United States, but we’re playing catch up.

Q. Is the government response working well?

Q. You’re the highest-ranking government official who will have to live with the consequences of the pandemic and, at the same time, we’re hearing a lot about conditions that are necessary to prepare.

Q. That seemed to be a theme in your book of the Trump administration putting econom-ical development ahead of any other consideration.

Q. You’ve been in the position of having to talk about the role or value of government in our health care system.

Q. Well, I do think that the Pres-ident challenge some of the people that we surround the President with, whom we need in government. It’s just that if you don’t want to do well when you’re fired, that you should go away and stay silent. And I just think... I don’t think the President was fix-ing Veterans Affairs.

Q. You’re the highest-ranking person to serve in both the United States, and when it comes to social distancing and isolation, it’s not a decision that is one of the other. We have to do something about that. That in an economic way that’s not necessarily new territory, but we’re seeing changes under the current administration putting econom-ical development ahead of any other consideration.

Q. What do you think is important to keep the Veterans Affairs health care system intact? The system serves a specific population of 9.5 million wounded veterans with conditions that require specialized expertise that is not readily available in the private sector, and it’s the only place that delivers care in a way that honors their military service.

Q. What happened to me was an organiza-tional choice. We had people around you who are concerned about privatization. I also think that the President doesn’t want to do well for the country. It’s just that if you don’t want to do well when you’re fired, that you should go away and stay silent. And I just think... I don’t think the President was fix- ing Veterans Affairs.

In addition, it trains more doctors, nurses, psychologists and social workers than any other health system in the country. The VA operates a national training site, the rest of the country has a definite skill in qualified health care professionals. It also has 1.2 billion of revenue, which is largest. The VA is also a leader in caring for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, which is one of the most common conditions that veterans face. We have to address what it might be like, that in an economic way that’s not necessarily new territory, but we’re seeing changes under the current administration putting econom-ical development ahead of any other consideration.

Q. On the day my book was released, I was supposed to be on many national network shows. I got bumped from them all because the book was so controversial. And then you had the administra-tion officials saying she was wrong, she was a Democrat; to get rid of my undersecretary; to get rid of the people that are organized campaign by political appointees to spread myths and lies, and the Trump administration.

Q. You’re the highest-ranking person to serve in both the United States, and when it comes to social distancing and isolation, it’s not a decision that is one of the other. We have to do something about that. That in an economic way that’s not necessarily new territory, but we’re seeing changes under the current administration putting econom-ical development ahead of any other consideration.

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Philadelphia is one of a handful of cities experimenting with year-long apprenticeship programs to address teacher shortages in public schools. Now Drexel has joined the effort to train new math and science instructors who are well-prepared — and financially supported — from day one.

By BETH ANN DOWNEY

Photos by CHARLES SHAN CERRONE AND BRANDEN EASTWOOD
Illustrations by JOE ANDERSON

It's late September 2018 and a new school year is underway at Albert M. Greenfield Elementary in Philadelphia's Fitler Square neighborhood. Inside Room 309, math teacher Jessica Charmont teaches linear equations, functions and algebra to her class of eighth graders. She also has a much more grown-up pupil in class today: 27-year-old Brittany Jackson, a Drexel University School of Education graduate student working toward her Pennsylvania teaching certification in middle school math.

Jackson will spend the academic year shadowing Charmont, learning from the seasoned instructor how to be an exceptional public school teacher. Jackson is part of a small cohort of School of Education grad students participating in the Philadelphia Teacher Residency (PTR) program, a full-time teacher-certification program aimed at producing well-prepared educators, with a current focus on math and science educators, to teach in the city’s public schools.

Today, Jackson is looking over Charmont’s shoulder at her laptop as they plan the day’s lessons. The two chat about upcoming conferences and workshops and geek out about the class’ TI-Nspire calculators. They go over concerns like timing and when to introduce new concepts to the class, and they share some laughs along the way. Then the bell rings, signaling the start of class.

“Log in, have a seat, notebooks out, pencils out,” Charmont bellows, now all business.

Charmont and the class get right into solving equations. Students submit answers on their calculators and a breakdown of their responses appears on an interactive Smartboard screen at the front of the room. The class is fast-paced and technology driven. At times, Charmont gives the students just 10 seconds to solve an equation. Then, with the press of a button, she can slow everything down.

“Ha! I have control!” she jokes as she halts the algebra lesson. “I can pause you whenever I want!”

From the back of the classroom, Jackson is settling pods of students. She takes a seat in the back once the class has reached its groove.

“I’m not used to standing all day,” she whispers exhaustively, out of earshot of the students.

But for Jackson, being on her feet all day is a small price to pay. She always wanted to teach, but after earning a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Rutgers University, she found it would be too difficult to also earn her certification as it would mean going back to school and picking up another degree in education. She fell into a series of customer service and finance positions, but the PTR program allowed her to change lanes toward the career she’s always wanted.

She’s already been doing some grading and working one-on-one and in small groups with students, but soon she will move from observer to active teacher.

“I think that being able to kind of sit back and see what’s happening while students are learning gives me a lot of insight in how to engage students and react to different behaviors,” Jackson says. “I just announced my takeover to two of the classes, and I want them to know that they’re integral to my learning — I’m learning from them and they’re learning from me.”
Diverse Pathways, Diverse Classrooms

One of the goals of the Philadelphia Teacher Residency Program is to draw professionals from a variety of fields into teaching as a second career, as well as people who are not currently pursuing a traditional teacher preparation pathway. The program is designed to be inclusive, offering opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds and diverse experiences into teaching.

A strong teacher residency program does more than simply provide new teachers with crucial instructional skills; it also trains experienced professionals to take on more leadership roles in the classroom. It enables us to develop the skills and confidence that are necessary to become leaders in our own neighborhoods.

The program includes a mix of assignments that are designed to help new teachers develop their professional identities. These assignments include working closely with mentor teachers, participating in a series of seminars on research-based strategies for effective teaching, and collaborating with peers on a variety of projects. This allows participants to learn from one another and to develop a sense of community and support.

The program has been successful in attracting participants from a variety of backgrounds, including former researchers, business owners, and street-level workers. This diversity has contributed to the program’s success, and it is one of the key reasons why the program continues to grow.

One of the program’s most distinctive features is its focus on diversity. The program aims to attract individuals from diverse ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as individuals with diverse experiences and expertise. This diversity is essential to creating a more inclusive and effective education system.

In conclusion, the Philadelphia Teacher Residency Program is a valuable resource for attracting individuals from diverse backgrounds into the teaching profession. It provides a unique and innovative approach to teacher preparation that is designed to help individuals from all walks of life become effective and successful teachers. This program is an example of how we can work to create a more inclusive and equitable education system for all students.
Even after the program ends and the students have graduated, their professional guidance continues. Drexel provides three years of post-program support to PTR students at no cost, including professional development, onsite coaching and networking opportunities. Graduates can also obtain additional certifications or a master’s degree still at a 50 percent tuition discount.

“We say once PTR, always PTR,” Ulrich says. “As teachers, we’re lifelong learners.”

Social Studies

It’s now late January at Greenfield Elementary, and Jackson and Charmont are prepping for class during a quiet period. This time, the roles of master and pupil are reversed; Charmont is looking over Jackson’s shoulder as Jackson prepares to take over the day’s lesson on decimals and fractions.

Charmont says it’s gratifying to see how far Jackson has come in her ability to command the classroom. “When she was first here, she was more of an amazing assistant,” Charmont notes. “Over time, she is taking control of the classroom, which is wonderful. She’s doing exactly what she should be doing. She’s managing transitions. She’s establishing routines for the students. She is developing strong lessons that engage the students with a variety of modalities… You’re experimenting with so many ways to engage them.”

Though the school year is only midway, Jackson already feels that she’ll be leaving in June with many new skills — like establishing effective reward systems, managing time and re-focusing student attention.

The program creates a natural feedback loop that aids the learning process, Jackson adds. Even when Jackson is leading a class, Charmont takes opportunities during the lesson to whisper suggestions into Jackson’s ear. Or, vice versa, Jackson will sneak over to Charmont’s desk to ask a question.

“I’m trying to get into a routine of taking notes and giving her direct feedback, now that we’re in this more stable situation where I don’t have to monitor every detail,” Charmont says.

Ideally, such intimacy comes naturally in an apprenticeship, but even when it doesn’t, the PTR program employs site directors, or University liaisons with education backgrounds, who visit classrooms weekly to provide additional help and feedback.

Pam Bryan, an adjunct with the School of Education at Drexel University, is currently working with Jackson and Charmont. “I provide communication support,” she says. “I’m a third person who’s not [always] around, so I can listen to both [the resident and mentor] objectively: They’re together all year long and may have different organizational, leadership and teaching preferences. So, how do you maneuver the differences?”

She recalls one pair she worked with who successfully navigated their differences and helped the students reach success by the end of the school year.

“They had many differences: world experiences, teaching styles, educational philosophies and working styles,” Bryan says of the resident and mentor. “What they shared was their desire for the students to experience academic success and that became their common working ground. From that point of reference, they built a practice classroom experience that focused on collaboration and exploring new ideas. It was a growth opportunity for all.”

Final Exam

By late May there are only a couple of weeks left in the school year at Greenfield. This prep period, Jackson is planning for class completely independently while Charmont works with students one-on-one.

Once class is underway, Jackson crochets down next to a student who hadn’t completed some missing assignments.

“Hi, Jackson is leading a class, Charmont takes opportunities during the lesson to whisper suggestions into Jackson’s ear. Or, vice versa, Jackson will sneak over to Charmont’s desk to ask a question.

“You’re an A student,” she encourages him. Then she tells him a story about how she moved recently, and she saved money little by little to ensure she could afford to do so — turning it into a lesson about planning ahead and setting goals.

The scene captures the biggest lesson Jackson says she learned in her residency year that she will take with her into her own classroom.

“It’s important to be consistent, and to always hold the students accountable — holding them to very high expectations,” she says.

Jackson went on after her residency year to teach sixth- and seventh-grade math at Hill-Freedman World Academy in the East Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia starting in the fall of 2019.

Greenfield Principal Dan Lazar was sad to see her go.

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Testimonials like these showcase the power of the PTR program.

“If we can shorten that learning curve and retain people after the residency, I think we’re knocking it out of the park and demonstrating that the investment is worthwhile,” Bates says.

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Dance, Cook, Listen, Breathe

Tips from Drexel faculty on how to maintain balance and well-being in an upended world.

NURTURE A GREEN SPACE
Says Program Coordinator Kristen Norine

"Gardening can be creative, whether it’s a small potted houseplant, a container garden in a city backyard or in a yard in the suburbs. Plant care is all in the details. Where is the best place for a plant so it can thrive and can enhance the visual aspect it brings to your surroundings? What can you repurpose to help a plant reach its potential by creating a trellis or hanging container? If growing herbs and flowers, consider the best place for those aromas."

MIND YOUR DIGITAL MINDFULNESS
Says Assistant Clinical Professor Abby Dougherty

"Deep breathing sends a message to our brains to calm down. There are many wonderful mindfulness apps we can easily use such as Headspace, Calm and Stop Breathing & Think. There are also many wonderful applications for mindfulness in virtual reality. You can meditate live as a VR avatar in AltspaceVR with people all around the world."

LISTEN TO MUSIC
Says Professor and Director of the PhD Program in Creative Arts Therapies Joka Bradt

"Music has lots of health-promoting qualities. Most of us will have already experienced that music can improve your mood and reduce your stress. Listening to music can also make you feel supported and less lonely. Music is not just a feel-good thing. Neuro-imaging studies have shown that music impacts areas of the brain that play a crucial role in reducing stress hormones and releasing dopamine and endorphins (i.e. feel-good hormones). Research has also shown that listening to music and singing improves your immune system. So try using some focused music listening or, even better, sing along to your favorite song!"

COOKING CAN BE CREATIVE
Says Associate Professor Girija Kaimal

"Cooking is one of the few activities in life that can engage all our senses. Use the time at home to feel the textures, smells, sights, tastes and sounds of foods. Take time to create a new dish from things in the pantry. Or better still, find a favorite family recipe, savor the tastes, lay out the dish, enjoy the colors and smells and create a mealtime to cherish."

JUST DANCE
Says Assistant Clinical Professor Dawn Morningstar

"Dancing can give you vitality, energy and lift your mood. Pick a song with a good beat that makes you feel happy. Dance in your kitchen, living room or down your hallway. Invite those in your home to join you. Dance like no one is watching — and nobody will be watching you since they are all [keeping their distance] anyway."

TREAT YOURSELF
Says Admissions Coordinator Kate Haskins

"It is extremely important to be great to yourself during stressful times. Treat yourself to some things that you might not normally do. Listen to calming music and paint. Meditate. Make a travel wish list. Find a new recipe on Pinterest and cook with your loved ones. Utilize every moment of being home and most important, don’t forget to call your loved ones who are long distance. There is nothing like a familiar voice in unprecedented times."

GO FOR A HIKE
Says Associate Clinical Professor and Director of Art Therapy and Counseling Natalie Carlton

"Being in nature can be creative and restorative. Nature can also engage multiple levels of sensory engagement and remind us of ‘scale’ beyond humanness. Our bodies, psyches and minds in nature can enjoy alternative soundscapes while taking in the minute of sight, sound and texture that can be crowded out. Being in nature is essentially being with ourselves as attentive to small details while encouraging an endless ‘mind wander.’"

SUPPORT YOUR SENSORY DIET
Says Associate Clinical Professor and Program Director for Dance/Movement Therapy & Counseling Christina Devereux

"Just like we want to make sure that we nourish our bodies with a healthy diet, we also need to nourish our minds and bodies with a sensory diet. For example, provide opportunities where you start the day with different sensory experiences. Perhaps light a candle to engage your sense of smell, or pick fresh flowers with a walk in nature. Have areas where vibrant colors or visual information engages our observation. Engage our sense of hearing by putting on an audio book, or some music. And finally, engage the tactile sense where we can take what is heard into something that we build. Use variation of sensory experiences to keep the flow throughout the day."

There’s a lot going on in the world right now, and we’ve all had to make major adjustments to our daily lives. So much change can make anxieties run high, but there are ways to manage yourself creatively and effectively while you’re keeping safe. Here are some tips and ideas for keeping calm from faculty and staff from Drexel’s Creative Arts Therapies Department in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. — Alissa Falcone
Each year, the Drexel Alumni Awards honor the outstanding accomplishments of alumni and students.

This year’s award recipients represent how entrepreneurs, advocates, engineers and business, community and creative leaders can create substantive, spur progress and tangibly enhance people’s lives. We recognize the following Dragons for their boundless capacity for innovation, their creativity and their determination to improve their communities and beyond.

1. A SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST AND PHOTOJOURNALIST Young Alumni Entrepreneur Award

RACHEL WISNIEWSKI
BA photography ’16
Owner, Rachel Wisniewski Photography

“Wisniewski has combined her passions for social justice and photojournalism to speak to special issues such as HIV/AIDS, income inequality, LGBT rights and the MeToo movement. She says that she hopes to ‘use photojournalism to educate, dispel stereotypes and provide platforms to causes that have been under-reported.’”

2. A YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR COMBATTING TEEN SUICIDE Outstanding Student Award

GABBY FROST
Class of 2020, music industry

CEO and Founder of Buddy Project

“At 15 years old, after hearing many of her friends online express their deep feelings of loneliness and depression, Frost started the organization Buddy Project as an online support system for young people suffering from suicidal thoughts and mental health issues. “Just giving people a community gives them a sense of belonging. I knew I wanted to create that,” she says.

3. A CHAMPION FOR WOMEN LEADERS IN ENGINEERING Service to Profession Award

ELIZABETH BOFFMAN
BS materials science and engineering ’02, PhD ’07

Director of Innovation and University Engagement, Savannah River National Laboratory

“Hoffman works to integrate lab-wide programs to expand and deepen research that supports the Department of Energy missions. Her nominator, former College of Engineering Department Head and Professor Michele Marcilhon, says, “As a woman leader in a largely male-dominated field, Liz serves as a role model to others to achieve their potential within science and engineering fields.””

4. A VOICE FOR ASIAN AMERICANS, REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS Press Society Award for Civic Engagement

MARY KITH
BS business administration ’03, MS family therapy ’07

Kith came to the United States as a refugee from the Khmer Rouge–ruled Cambodia and has been on a mission to serve the Asian-American and refugee population. “Since graduation in 2007, Mary has used her education, her experience and her hard-earned privilege to give back to her community — to raise up families and individuals in need so that they, too, may thrive in this country,” says her nominator Jocelyn Jennings, MFT ’07.

5. A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN STEM Young Alumni Distinguished Service Award

GABRIEL B. BURNS MS/PhD materials science and engineering ’18

Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Burns wears many hats — all of which are dedicated to introducing STEM education to those who are underrepresented and underserved. “His work of being an educator and engineer extends beyond the lab or the classroom to positively impacting his community and society as a whole,” says his nominator, former College of Engineering Department Head and Professor Michele Marcilhon.

6. A PIONEER IN ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGY Young Alumni Emerging Leader Award

JATYSH DAVE
MS biomedical engineering ’08, PhD ’13

Associate Professor, Department of Radiology, Thomas Jefferson University

“Dave is transferring his prior theo- ries into action. As a pioneer in the field of nonlinear ultrasound, he is focusing on improving and detecting cardiac disease. He frequently lectures undergraduate and graduate students on medical ultrasound and also serves as a thesis advisor to biomedical engineering graduate students at Drexel,” says his nominator John Eisenberg, MS ’04, PhD ’10.

7. AN ADVOCATE FOR THE UNDERREPRESENTED IN ACADEMIC SPACES Faculty/Staff Alumni Award for Campus Impact

NATALIE CHERNETS
PhD electrical engineering ’14

Director of Postdoctoral Affairs and Professional Development, Associate Director of the MD/PhD Program, Drexel College of Medicine

“Chernets regularly goes beyond her daily duties of supporting, promoting and advocating for Drexel’s postdoctoral and MD/PhD community. “She works hard to make sure that there is representation of women and underrepresented minorities in academic spaces and she does so, boldly, with a strong sense of determination and collaboration across the University,” says her nominator, Shavonna Thom- as-Ei, BS ’10, MS ’16, PhD ’19.

8. A TRAILBLAZER IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN Alumni Entrepreneur Award

MAX ZAINRISER
MS architecture ’13

CEO, Nexus City Coho

“Zainriser is a Philadelphia leader in the areas of regeneration design and sustainability, starting the city’s only sustainable co-working space, Nexus City Coho. And his work helps the Drexel community as well. “Max co-developed the Sus- tainable Built Environment minor in the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, and continues to teach in it, while also advising students interested in advancing his area,” says his nominator and member of the Alumni Board of Governors, Paul Gendek, BS ’74.

Alumni Awards Recognize Distinguished Dragons

50s
John C. Monos, BS retail management ’53, opposed before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to receive a special award for his TV show, “Communicating Today.”

60s
Charles A. Cianfrani, BS physics and atmospheres science ’64, MS business administration ’71, published his eighth book, “The Journey — Achieving Sustained Organizational Success.”

Richard N. Westcott, BS business administration ’60, is the author of 26 books and a lifelong newspaper and magazine writer and editor. He has been elected to four halls of fame, has appeared on 10 baseball film documentaries and is past president of the Philadelphia Sports Writers Association.

70s
Lou G. Davidson, BS human behavior and development ’79, unveiled the First Light Project Pilot Farm Project located within the West Berks Street warehouse of Philadelphia.

Virginia E. Hall, MD ’72, is chair of the Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and serves on the board of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra.

Roger Midgette, BS business administration ’70, was appointed to the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide National Technology and Security Committee.
80s

Martin G. Belisario, Esq., BS mechanical engineering '81, was named CEO of Global Plasma Solutions Inc.

Dominic J. DeSimone, BS accounting '86, was named to the Philadelphia Business Journal's Best of the Bar: Philadelphia's Top Lawyers list.

Amy E. Furness, BS retail management '89, was elected vice president–sustaining of PLAC. PLAC is a nonprofit association of product manufacturers, suppliers, retailers, and select regulatory, litigation and appellate professionals.

Stephen H. Hall, MBA '82, was recognized as the 2020 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year.

Dottie Leonard, BS Finance '86, was promoted to shareholder at Drucker & Scaccetti.

David E. Longacre III, BS retail management '80, represented the United States in the recent UIM Bi- athlet/Triathlet World Championship held Oct. 26 and 27 in St. Peters- burg, Florida.

Perspective from 25-Year Co-op Manager

Bill Waldron '90 has been working for AT&T for 30 years and through four name changes, and he’s met a ton of Drexel co-op students.

For 25 of his 30 years, he has been a direct manager of Drexel engineering co-op students, working with up to eight students per six-month cycle. He’s the reason AT&T became a co-op employer, in fact. When he started at the company, there weren’t any. A 1990 electrical and comput- er engineering grad himself, he was quick to initiate a co-op program as soon as he landed a supervisory role.

“We have had co-ops/interns from other schools on occasion, and Drexel students are typically more prepared for the work experience,” says Waldron, who is now AT&T Mobility’s radio network design man-ager. “It’s not just a ‘summer job’ for them. The six-month cycle gives our staff.”

“I keep a list of all the co-ops we’ve hired by year, and in the ’90s we had 20 percent women, in the 2000s it was 27 percent, and in the ’20s it was 41 percent. Since 2013, it’s been over 50 percent,” he says. “We’re looking for the best candidate available. We don’t care male, female, whatever, but the women engineers have been outstanding lately. We see a lot more ré- sumés from women than we used to … that’s been good to see.”

CO-OP

Vicki Popen, BS chemical engi- neering ‘94, moderated a panel on U.S.–China relations at The Conference Board 2019 Fall Policy Conference and was appointed to Drexel’s College of Computing and Informatics Advisory Board.

Glenn T. Ault, MD ‘93, was elected to serve as the president of the American Board of Colonel and Rectal Surgery.

Gina Farina Rubel, BS corporate communication ‘91, was appointed co-chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Law Firm Risk Man-agement Committee.

Scott D. Heisman, BS Information systems ‘93, was promoted to chief integration officer at Versus LLC.

Robert S. Hutchinson, BS architec- tural engineering ‘90, announced his solo escape entitled “Memory Houses at Mexico City’s Museo Casa Luis Barragan.”

Richard C. Lii, BS corporate communication ‘94, was named to the board of directors at Valley Youth House in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Christine Palmer Hemingay, BS Finance ‘90, was honored as a 2019 Power Woman by Main Line Today Magazine.

Elmar Pinzon, MD ‘94; Mike Ad- demola, MD ‘93; and Jack Lee, MD ‘93, met up in Baton Rouge, Louisi- ana, for the LSU vs. Florida football game in October 2019.

Thomas J. Riordan, MD ‘93, gave a presentation on the PA State Pre-scription Drug Monitoring program at the Patient Safety-Risk Manage- ment Conference.

Mark V. Wiley, BS applied sociology ‘94, wrote and produced a kung fu/romantic comedy feature film called "Made in Chinatown."

00s

Christopher Andrew Bliss, MD ‘08, was appointed associate director for St. Peter’s Health Partners Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery.

Heather E. Claus, MD ‘02, was named senior associate dean of fac- ulty affairs for the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University.

Jessica Coughlin Sharp, BS com- munications ‘02, was named the 2019 Young Entrepreneur of the Year by The Chamber of Com- merce for Greater Philadelphia.

Yanatha Desouvre, BS business administration ‘01, recorded a cross-generational duet of Jacques Brel’s “Ne Me Quitte Pas” with his late uncle Daniel Charles Coulanges.

Andrew Knox, BS history and politics ‘04, will be included in the 2020 edition of “The Best Lawyers in America.”

Ben Legum, BS biomedical engineering ‘08, MS materials engineering ‘08; Jennifer Ven- dran, BS biomedical engineering ‘07, MS materials engineering ‘07; and Amber Stitik, BS bio- medical engineering ‘08, MBA ‘11, JD ‘13, published the book, “Engineering Innovation: From Idea to Market Through Concepts and Case Studies.”

Daniels J. Marques, BS business administration ‘09, was promoted to shareholder at Drucker & Scaccetti.

Scott C. Millhouse, BS mechanical engineering ‘04, was promoted to commander in the U.S. Navy.

Emily Record, BS computer engi- neering ‘04, was appointed Guilford College’s first women’s rugby head coach on the school’s history.

LEFT Matthew Ryan, BS entrepreneurship ‘15, and Annette O’Malley, BS business administration ‘15, were married at St. John the Evangelist in Philadelphia on Sept. 7, 2019.

TOP LEFT Steven Cornellia, BS computer science ‘11, and Jessica Appar, BA communications ‘11, MS ‘14, were married on July 29, 2019.

TOP RIGHT Timothy J. Wilwert, BS mechanical engineering ‘12, and Nicole Elizabeth Kaufman, BS marketing ‘14, were engaged in Paris in the Trocadéro Gardens while traveling for his Alpha Pi Lambda brother’s wedding.

MIDDLE Scott Kaane, BS accounting ‘13, and Taylor Ferrara, BSN ‘15, were married Nov. 30, 2019.

BOTTOM RIGHT Travis J. Hart, BS/ MS mechanical engineering ‘17, and Emily Lyn Ballantyne, BS mechanical engineering ‘17, were married on Aug. 17, 2019.

Thomas Fone, BS civil engineering/architectural engineering ‘13, and Amanda Gourdin, BS mechanical engineering ‘13, welcomed a son on July 15, 2019.

Scott Goehringer, BS/MS mechanical engineering ‘11, MS mechanical engineering ‘16 and Sarah Goehringer, BS elementary education ‘11, MS educational learning technologies ‘15, welcomed a daughter, Gemma Sky Goehringer, on Nov. 20, 2018.

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Engineer of the Year.
the 2020 Delaware Valley Young Engineering '10, has been named Jesse T. Gromley, BS/MS en- Delaware Today.
was named the 2019 Top Lawyer by Goldberg, Miller & Rubin’s Phila-
epilepsy patients age out.
attending at Children’s Hospital an
Goldberg, Miller & Rubin’s Phila-
joined the law firm
engineering '07,
made partner
consulting firm that helps health care organizations
Midwife to honor the critical role they play in serving the public
we’re celebrating by showcasing the tremendous accomplish-
Improving Quality of Care through Opportunity and Inclusion
was elected to the executive board of the
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Tribute to a Friend in China

Xiaodong Han, MBA ’03, was a dedicated regional network volunteer and elected director of the Drexel Alumni Board of Governors. — Lara Geragi

Xiaodong Han, MBA ’03, was a dedicated regional network volunteer and do everything to make everyone to be happy private. He kept the cause of death including his wife, Clara many Dragons, friends in conference calls and Zoom meetings. We are grateful for his impact to serve as a network leader for the city and recruited alumni volunteers in Beijing and Shenzhen to do the same.

“I got to know Xiaodong exactly 20 years ago when he came to Drexel for his MBA and I was just graduating,” says longtime friend Han Wang ’00. “He was instrumental in uniting the whole Drexel China community and organizing activities to promote Drexel and build closer relationships among alumni from all classes.”

Friends recall how Han proudly sported his Drexel gear — from baseball caps to sweatshirts to T-shirts — and would happily meet with current on-campus and study-abroad students in the region. He was always on the lookout for ways to forge partnerships with local universities, such as ShanghaiTech, to support alumni engagement.

Franklin recalls Han as positive, happy and fun to be around. “The Dragon community in China was devastated to hear about his sudden passing and we hope to honor him by continuing his legacy of a strong Dragon community in China,” he says.

“His enthusiasm was always noticed, even through his participation in conference calls and Zoom meetings. We are grateful for his impact on several areas of the board,” Franklin continued.

In his professional life, Han was the managing partner at Taichi, a management consulting company in China. He was the managing partner at Taichi, a management consulting company in China. Han joined the Alumni Board of Governors in 2018, becoming the first elected director to be based in China. “Because of his location, many of us on the board never had the opportunity to meet Xiaodong in person,” says Amish Desai ’03, chair of the Alumni Board of Governors.

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