



THE DREXEL 100

A Newsletter for Drexel University's "Alumni Hall of Fame" - Fall 2025

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Drexel 100 Members,

As another exciting year — and my time as the chair of Drexel 100 — comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the incredible energy, generosity and commitment that this community has shown since I started this role in 2023.

Over the past two years, the Drexel 100 has continued to demonstrate what makes this group so special: our members' unwavering dedication to the University and to one another. Our members attended over 100 University events and programs, served on over 50 boards, councils, and committees, volunteered with over 35 University groups, and contributed nearly \$55,000,000 to 245 different areas of the University. This level of engagement is nothing short of extraordinary.

As we look ahead, there are many ways to carry forward that momentum. I encourage you to:

- Support the Drexel 100 Endowed Scholarship Fund, joining President Merlo's mission to expand scholarship opportunities and enhance the Drexel student experience.
- Hire a Drexel co-op, reaping the benefits of a highly skilled talent pipeline for your organization while providing students with real-world experience in their fields.
- Vote for the next class of the Drexel 100 to help us recognize and celebrate excellence in our alumni community.
- Join us for the Drexel 100 Luncheon during Alumni Weekend, an opportunity to welcome new members and meet President Merlo. While you're on campus, you can also visit the recognition wall honoring the Drexel 100 in the Main Building.

You'll find more details about each of these opportunities throughout this newsletter. I hope you'll take part in as many as you can, as your engagement drives the success of our University and its students.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your trust and partnership during my term. It has been a privilege to serve such an impressive and inspiring group of alumni whose impact continues to shape Drexel's legacy. I am deeply proud of what we've achieved together — and even more excited for what lies ahead.

Thank you, as always, for continuing to share your time, talent and passion to strengthen the Drexel community.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Dowd-Burton".

Angela Dowd-Burton '74, '79

Drexel University Trustee
Chair, The Drexel 100

CHARGED WITH PURPOSE

Scholarships Power Student's Passion for Sustainable Energy

Ariela Sinani, chemical engineering '26 may still be an undergraduate, but her resume and research experience reflect that of a seasoned master's student — and someone who could one day be inducted into the Drexel 100. "Honestly," she says, "that's all thanks to Drexel and the scholarship donors that got me there." Below, her story captures the difference you can make when you support scholarships like the Drexel 100 Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Born to an orthopedic surgeon and an immunologist off the coast of southern Albania, Ariela initially studied medicine at a college in Tirana. Within one year, though, she decided to pursue her true passion: the physical sciences.

"I looked at different universities around the world, but Drexel's emphasis on research for undergrads stood out to me," Ariela recalls. "My scholarships were another key factor. Albania is a post-communist country, so there aren't many opportunities for financial support. The scholarships I received from Drexel allowed me to focus on school and research without feeling financially burdened."

And focus she did. Ariela spent a year researching micro-kinetic modeling in Dr. Maureen Tang's Lab at Drexel's Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering; meanwhile, she also developed an app aiding in downstream processing size-up steps during her six-month co-op in Johnson & Johnson's Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients Department. Then, she began a co-op that would transform her professional trajectory.

"My favorite memory is my co-op in Drexel's Battery Dynamics and Engineering Lab. We studied the behavior of anode-free lithium metal batteries when exposed to

discharge protocols that are similar to electrical vehicle dynamics," Ariela explains. "The experience taught me how to challenge myself, and it gave me an opportunity to understand my capabilities not just as an engineer and a researcher but also as a person and a thinker."

This one experience blossomed into many. She presented her research at the International Symposium on Beyond Lithium-Ion Batteries in Padova, Italy — where she was the only undergraduate student! "It was wonderful having high-level conversations about my findings with graduate students and professors who are in the same field I am interested in," she says. "It made me want to continue exploring battery technology and renewable energy opportunities to support a more sustainable future."

Later, she also earned a prestigious co-op as a Cell Engineering Intern at Tesla, where she witnessed the real-world application of her research focus.

Today, Ariela is preparing to graduate while paying it forward to other students. As a member of Drexel's Student Philanthropy Council, she advocates for the same kinds of scholarships that supported her growth.

"My scholarships enabled me to pursue undergraduate research, co-ops and conferences that shaped my academic path, professional skills and career goals," she says. "I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for not just my scholarships but for every single scholarship that is out there for domestic students, for international students, for students in STEM and in the arts. Thank you for believing in us, for believing in our potential and for making our dreams tangible."

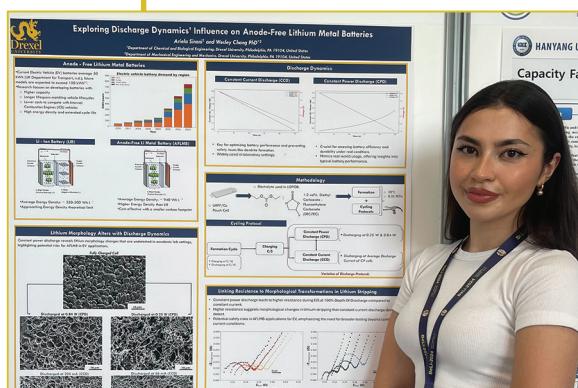
Support more students like Ariela.

The Drexel 100 has always led by example. Now, we have an opportunity to come together around one of President Merlo's key priorities: expanding access to a Drexel education through scholarships. You can join his mission and support more students like Ariela by making a gift to the **DREXEL 100 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND**.

This scholarship represents our collective commitment to supporting the next generation of talented students — future Drexel 100 members who will drive change in their fields and communities. By contributing, you help ensure that cost is never a barrier for exceptional students who exemplify the Drexel 100's spirit of innovation and excellence.

Every gift strengthens our legacy as distinguished alumni who uplift our students. You can make your gift today at

giving.drexel.edu/Drexel100



TOP THREE REASONS TO HIRE A DREXEL CO-OP



As part of the Drexel 100, you embody the excellence that our students hope to achieve one day. By participating in Drexel's Co-op program, you not only help our students take those first steps toward professional success but also strengthen your own organization in equally meaningful ways.

Established in 1919, Drexel's Co-op program has a history of connecting top-tier students with forward-thinking employers. While students receive real-world industry experience, companies also reap numerous benefits, including:

1. Building a strong talent pipeline:

Employing co-ops allows companies to recruit, train and evaluate potential full-time hires. It's a proactive way to invest in future team members who already understand your culture and workflows.

2. Injecting fresh and innovative perspectives: Students bring new ideas and approaches shaped by their unique experiences and generational insight. Their contributions can challenge assumptions and spark creative solutions.

3. Accessing cutting-edge skills and knowledge: Co-op students are immersed in the latest technology, techniques and trends of their discipline. Their up-to-date knowledge can complement and enhance your existing capabilities.

Drexel's Steinbright Career Development Center makes the process incredibly smooth. They provide comprehensive support with outreach, job description development, candidate matching and all related logistics — ensuring a streamlined process and seamless experience from start to finish.

READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

Complete our brief interest form by visiting alumni.drexel.edu/hire-a-dragon or scanning the code below.



CAST YOUR VOTE!

Every two years, we elect a new class of exceptional alumni to the Drexel 100. This marks a celebration of individual achievement and the enduring influence of a Drexel education. As esteemed members of the Drexel 100, your insight is highly valuable in selecting the next group of inductees.

Please review the biographies and then cast your vote for your top 10 candidates by December 12 at

alumni.drexel.edu/Drexel100Election



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SAVE THE DATE

DREXEL 100 LUNCHEON & INDUCTION

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Join us as we induct the new Drexel 100 Chair
and hear President Antonio Merlo, PhD,
discuss his inspiring vision for Drexel's future.

*All events held on Drexel's main campus.
Formal invitations to follow.*