



# THE DREXEL 100

A Newsletter for Drexel University's "Alumni Hall of Fame" - Winter 2022

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## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Drexel 100 Members and Friends,

After a brief hiatus with this newsletter, I'm very pleased to help revive our tradition of connecting with you here. In addition to sharing news and updates on some of our Drexel 100 members, we're also excited to welcome 16 accomplished alumni to our group - Drexel's "Alumni Hall of Fame" - bringing the total number of Drexel 100 inductees to 286.

This year's honorees hail from eight different Drexel schools and colleges, representing graduation years from 1968 to 2016. I commend my fellow Drexel 100 members for again voting in a manner that fairly represents our alma mater's breadth of educational studies. We will continue to strive for even broader inclusivity in the year ahead.

In challenging times, our thoughts often turn to service and gratitude – giving back and being thankful for the opportunity. So many of you have talked about the joy of returning to Drexel and helping recruit students, creating co-op opportunities in your professions and contributing to our historic Campaign for Drexel. It's a privilege for me to join you in these crucial efforts advancing our students and our University.

In this spirit, I'm glad to share a conversation that we recently had with Drexel 100 member Tom Masci '68, who is beloved in our community for his many commitments to Drexel, including support of student and alumni military veterans. Relatedly, one of the new members we highlight, David Shulkin, MD, MCP '86, HD '19, was a leader in the US Department of Veterans Affairs under two presidents, lastly as its ninth secretary. Rear Admiral Louis Cariello, MS '94, has retired following a distinguished career in the US Navy. I'm aware that more than twenty of you have also served your country, and I express my sincere gratitude to all of you.

It is an honor to continue to serve as your Drexel 100 Chair during this challenging and promising time as the University continues to increase its visibility, distinctiveness and impact. Thank you for the opportunity to be reminded once again of the incredible talents and generosity of Drexel's alumni leaders.

As I shared with you over the summer, our goal this year is to create new opportunities for the Drexel 100 to connect with the University and each other. I hope that you will join us at our gatherings, including Alumni Weekend in the spring. You can find more information in the events calendar included in this issue. I look forward to seeing all of you.

Sincerely,

*K. Blair Christie*

K. Blair Christie '94, '99, Chair

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## ANTOINETTE WESTPHAL COLLEGE OF MEDIA ARTS & DESIGN



**Gail Onorato**  
BS '78

Ms. Onorato is a tenured apparel industry executive with a successful track record of building and shaping businesses at Fortune 500 companies to achieve both revenue growth and profitability across a variety of markets and wholesale, retail, and licensed distribution channels. She is recognized as a dynamic merchant and brand builder with the ability to adapt vision, strategy, and execution in response to consumer interests and behaviors. As Division President with Ralph Lauren, she scaled the CHAPS business in North America and China to over \$700M at retail; as Chief Merchandising Officer with Liz Claiborne, she orchestrated the successful launch of Liz & Co at JCPenney; and as Divisional President with Jones Apparel Group she created unique sub-brands to expand revenue and market share. Gail is a passionate advocate for the education, support, and development of the next generation of business professionals. She was acknowledged for nurturing corporate talent as part of the Ralph Lauren Global Mentoring Program.

At Drexel, she has been an extraordinary volunteer, serving on the President's Leadership Council, speaking to students regularly at Drexel's Westphal College of Media Arts and Design, and participating as an industry expert and panelist. She also established a fashion award in memory of her mother at Westphal. She was nominated by Drexel and named to the World Association for Cooperative Education Hall of Fame in 2018. She received the Tribute to Women and Industry Award (TWIN), which recognizes the exceptional accomplishments of women in leadership in 2006.

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



**Dorothy Louise "Dot" Buckanin**  
BS '68, MS '85,

A groundbreaker, Ms. Buckanin was the first female selected to manage an engineering and test division at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). She worked at the FAA Headquarters in Washington, DC where she was the Program Manager for New Technologies working in partnership with Air Force and NASA colleagues as well as industry on Defense Advanced Research (DARPA) projects. She had 200 engineers and scientists reporting to her. She retired as the Senior Technical Advisor, Office Director at the FAA Technical Center.

Ms. Buckanin is also a pilot and holds instrument rating and both a Commercial Pilot license and a Private Pilot license. Her logbook shows landings on all the Hawaiian Islands. For more than ten years, she volunteered for the FAA Safety Program and was designated a Lead Aviation Safety Representative. She holds the distinction of an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and

Aeronautics (AIAA). She participated in more than 50 educational seminars designed to help local pilots improve their skills and reduce accidents. She received numerous honors and awards, including from Marquis' Who's Who, Albert Nelson Marquis' Lifetime Achievement Award, and the National Aeronautics Association.

## SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND HEALTH SYSTEMS



**Mary D. Osbakken**  
MS '72, MD, PhD

Dr. Osbakken has been working for more than 20 years in academe and in the pharmaceutical field, with both large and small pharma which culminated in her starting a one-person consulting firm, Osbakken Consulting, LLC. Until 2019, Dr. Osbakken offered strategic and operational advice concerning licensing and business development opportunities, transition from pre-clinical to clinical, and drug and clinical development plans. Dr. Osbakken's services were marketed to universities or small start-ups, investment and venture capital firms, banks, virtual companies, and pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

Currently, Dr. Osbakken consults pro-bono with friends and former colleagues who have started their own small biotech and/or pharma organizations. Additionally, Dr. Osbakken is a Visiting Professor at Drexel University's School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems and previously worked as a Faculty Member at the School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania and at Penn State, Hershey Medical Center. She has received numerous awards including the Lindback Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Alcoa Faculty Award for Teaching from the American Heart Association, and the Women in Science Award. She has written numerous scientific papers in different fields and two books. In addition, she is involved in several philanthropic organizations that work to empower underserved women.

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



**Rear Admiral Louis Cariello**  
(Retired) MS '94

Rear Adm. Louis Cariello retired as a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy after a distinguished 30-year career leading facilities and engineering organizations in the United States, Europe, Southwest Asia, and the Pacific. Among his accomplishments, he had oversight of facilities management activities of all Navy and Marine Corps installations across the globe during his career. He served as Commanding Officer, deploying a battalion throughout the Al Anbar Province of Iraq and led the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment as Commander, where he deployed the regiment to Afghanistan as Commander of Task Force Alliance, responsible for multi-service engineering operations in support of the NATO and United States Forces. The culmination of his naval career was as Commander of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic in Norfolk, VA and Director of

the Energy and Environmental Readiness Division on the Chief of Naval Operations staff.

He is a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Officer and a member of the Defense Acquisition Corps. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he was selected as the 2005 recipient of Navy League's John Paul Jones Award for Inspirational Leadership. He is entitled to wear the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal and Meritorious Service Medal, along with other personal, unit and service awards. Upon retirement from Naval Service, he served as the Executive Director for National Facilities Services for Kaiser Permanente's Washington Region. Currently, he serves as Vice President of Facilities at the University of Washington.



**Denise Kirkland**  
BS '80

Ms. Kirkland is an innovative business professional with over 35 years of experience in global business management. She has worked for numerous Fortune 500 companies in a variety of cross-functional areas including manufacturing, finance, marketing, strategic planning, and general management, and has effectively managed and trained high-performance teams throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa. She founded and serves as Chief Executive Officer of Two Twelve Degrees (212), LLC, a strategic management and marketing consulting firm which provides strategic planning and business development support to small businesses and nonprofit organizations in various industries including the insurance, financial services, healthcare, and energy sectors. Her business motto is "Companies Caring for Communities Count."

Previously, Ms. Kirkland managed a chemical additives business with responsibility for P/L, sales, marketing, customer/technical service, operations, and mergers and acquisitions as a Global Director for Honeywell's Polymers Division. She established and managed cross-functional global teams in the development of new nylon fiber products as Global Segment Leader for Honeywell's Specialty Chemical Division. She worked at the Rohm and Haas Company for over ten years in various cross-functional areas including Market Manager and New Product Process Manager for the Plastics Additives Business; Manufacturing Manager for Agricultural Chemicals; and Corporate Financial Analyst. Ms. Kirkland also worked as a Senior Supply and Distribution Analyst for Mobil Oil Corporation where she developed and implemented operating plans for Mobil's fuel oil and jet fuel business in Africa.

At Drexel, she serves on the Advisory Board for Drexel's Pennoni Honors College, and she is a long-standing member and supporter of the Drexel University Black Alumni Council (DUBAC). She is the 2021 recipient of the DUBAC Distinguished Alumni award. Additionally, she has served as an Advisor for the Girl Scouts of America and continuously serves as a mentor for high school and college students. She believes "mentoring is both a responsibility and a privilege to sharpen the lives of our youth." She also serves on various other student focused boards including the Voorhees School Board of Education and as Secretary of Delta Epsilon Foundation, Inc.



**Kenneth W. Mack**  
BS '87, JD, PhD

Professor Mack is the inaugural Lawrence D. Biele Professor of Law and Affiliate Professor of History at Harvard University. He is also the Co-Faculty Leader of the Harvard Law School Program on Law and History. His interests include Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: Civil Rights History; Legal History: History of Capitalism; Legal History: American Legal and Constitutional History; Property; and Race and the Law: Critical Approaches to Race and the Law. In addition to teaching at Harvard, he has taught at Stanford and Georgetown Universities, and the University of Hawaii.

He served as Senior Visiting Scholar at the Centre for History and Economics at Cambridge University. In 2016, President Obama appointed him to the Permanent Committee for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise. He is also a member of the American Law Institute. He began his professional career as an Electrical Engineer at Bell Laboratories before turning to law and history. Before joining the faculty at Harvard Law School, he clerked for the Honorable Robert L. Carter, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and then practiced law in the Washington, D.C. office of the firm, Covington & Burling.

His 2012 book, "Representing the Race: The Creation of the Civil Rights Lawyer" (Harvard University Press), was a Washington Post Best Book of the Year, a National Book Festival Selection, was awarded honorable mention for the J. Willard Hurst Award by the Law and Society Association and was a finalist for the Julia Ward Howe Book Award. He is also the Co-Editor of "The New Black: What Has Changed – And What Has Not – With Race in America" (New Press, 2013). His work has been published in the *Harvard Law Review*, *Yale Law Journal*, *Journal of American History*, *Law and History Review* and other scholarly journals. In 2016-2017, he was a Radcliffe Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. He has served as the Co-Director of the Workshops on "The History of Capitalism in the Americas" and "The Long Civil Rights Movement" at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University. He is currently working on a book project that examines the social and political history of race and political economy in the United States after 1975.



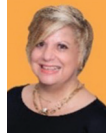
**Paul Richards**  
BS '87

Mr. Richards retired from NASA after a 30+ year career as an engineer, astronaut, and program manager.

His projects included the Hubble Space Telescope Project, Space Shuttle, International Space Station (ISS), GOES-R next-generation weather satellites, and the Laser Communication Relay Demonstration. As an astronaut, he flew on STS-102 Discovery, the eighth shuttle mission to visit the ISS, and logged more than 307 hours in space, including a 6.4-hour spacewalk. He received numerous awards and honors from NASA including the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, the Department of Defense Superior Service Medal, and several patents for power tools that built the International Space Station. While at NASA, Paul also served his country for 20 years as a Naval Reserve Officer.

He has held several positions in private industry as Chief Technology Officer and is currently the Senior Manager for Satellites at Amazon's Project Kuiper. Paul served on the College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council for over 17 years and was nominated by Drexel and named to the World Association Cooperative Education Hall of Fame, and he is a member of Drexel's College of Engineering Alumni Circle of Engineering.

## LEBOW COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



**Diane Marie Fanelli**  
BS '87

Ms. Fanelli is Chief Operating Officer at iCIMS, a cloud-based enterprise recruiting platform. She is responsible for leading the company's award-winning customer success, professional services, technical support, training, and partnerships teams, as iCIMS continues to scale. In 2019, Ms. Fanelli was recognized with a CRN Channel Chief award and the CRN Women of the Channel award in 2018 and 2017 for her success in driving innovation, growth, and revenue through channel partners and customers.

Prior to joining iCIMS, Ms. Fanelli served as Chief Operating Officer, Sales and Services at Citrix. From 1994 to 2019, she held a variety of roles at SAP, including Senior Vice President – Global Presales and Solutions, and Chief Operating Officer – Platform Solutions Division. Additionally, Ms. Fanelli served as the Global Customer Operations Executive Sponsor on Diversity and Executive Sponsor of the SAP Veterans to Work program. The Veterans to Work program was established to alleviate the shortage of highly skilled talent in the technology industry. Additionally, she was a part of SAP's Autism at Work program. Before joining SAP, she was the Assistant Controller at Pincus Bros. Inc. and Senior Auditor at Laventhol & Horwath.

She serves on the board at the Pennsylvania Diversity Council and on the board at Archbishop John Carroll High School. She has also served as a volunteer for the Lower Moreland School District mentoring young professionals. At Drexel, she serves on the CCI Dean's Advisory Council.



**Cleo Kirkland**  
BS '78

A leading insurance expert, Mr. Kirkland serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of PK Financial Group, LLC, an insurance and benefits provider. Clients include Aetna, AmeriHealth, the Philadelphia Art Museum, and The Philadelphia Tribune. Additionally, Mr. Kirkland and his wife co-own Two Twelve Degrees, a consulting firm which focuses on assisting small businesses in strategic planning and management consulting. Previously, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer at AV International, Inc, one of America's largest minority-owned insurance brokers, and before that, he held senior management positions at Caesar's Entertainment Corporation, ExxonMobil, Rohm and Haas Corporation, General Electric, and the Atlantic City Convention Authority. Mr. Kirkland is the former Chairman of the Board of

Spectrum Health Services and the former Treasurer of the Women's Christian Alliance.

A dedicated Drexel alumnus, he serves on the President's Leadership Council and as a member of the Drexel University Black Alumni Council. He was named by the World Association of Cooperative Education to the Co-op Hall of Fame in 2014. In 2016, he was honored for his service as Chairman of the Board of Spectrum Health Services.

## COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



**Regina Hampton**  
MD, MCP '98, FACS

Dr. Hampton's goal is to decrease the high mortality rate for breast cancer in African American women. She is Medical Director of the Breast Center at Luminis Health-DCMC in Prince Georges County, MD. Dr. Hampton is the only dedicated breast surgeon in full-time practice in northern Prince Georges County and was instrumental in bringing a multidisciplinary team approach to breast cancer care. She is Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder of Breast Care for Washington, a nonprofit with the only 3-D mammography screening facility east of the Anacostia River in Washington, DC. Additionally, she is Co-Founder and Executive Vice President of Cherry Blossom Intimates, a retail lingerie store that supplies breast prosthetics for women of diverse skin tones.



**Ana Pujols-McKee**  
MD, HU '79

Dr. McKee is the Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of the Joint Commission, the global leader for health care accreditation. She represents The Joint Commission enterprise as she focuses on and develops policies and strategies for promoting patient safety and quality improvement in health care. Dr. McKee also provides clinical guidance and support to the Joint Commission Center for transforming healthcare, Joint Commission resources, and Joint Commission International.

In addition, Dr. McKee leads the Joint Commission's efforts in supporting physician leaders through the annual physician leader forums and corporate CMO Council, and she serves as Founding Leader of the National Patient Safety Collaborative.

Prior to her current position, Dr. McKee served as Chief Medical Officer and Associate Executive Director at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center at the University of Pennsylvania Health System and Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the Penn's School of Medicine. Dr. McKee is a former board member of the American Cancer Society, the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, Philadelphia AIDS Consortium, and former board chair for the Pennsylvania Safety Authority. She has also served on the Food and Drug Administration's Advisory Committee and several committees of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. McKee was named as one of Modern Healthcare's 2014 and 2020 Top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare.



**David Shulkin**  
MD, MCP '86, HD '19

The Honorable Dr. David J. Shulkin was the ninth Secretary of the US Department of Veterans Affairs in the Trump Administration and VA's Under Secretary of Health in the Obama Administration. As such, Secretary Shulkin was the only member of the Cabinet to have served both Presidents and to have been confirmed by the US Senate by a vote of 100-0. As Secretary, Dr. Shulkin represented the 21 million American veterans and was responsible for the nation's largest integrated health care system with over 1,200 sites of care, serving over 9 million Veterans. VA is also the nation's largest provider of graduate medical education and major contributor of medical research and provides veterans with disability payments, education through the GI bill, home loans, and runs a national cemetery system.

Secretary Shulkin is a widely respected healthcare executive having served as chief executive of leading hospitals and health systems including Beth Israel in New York City, Morristown Medical Center in Northern NJ, and currently advises leading health systems. Secretary Shulkin has held numerous physician leadership roles including the Chief Medical Officer of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University Hospital, and the Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital. Secretary Shulkin has held academic positions including the Chairman of Medicine and Vice Dean at Drexel University School of Medicine. As an entrepreneur, he founded and served as the Chairman and CEO of DoctorQuality one of the first consumer orientated sources of information for quality and safety in healthcare. Secretary Shulkin has served on boards of managed care companies, technology companies, and health care organizations. He now works with healthcare organizations that are leading the transformation of medicine around the world.

Secretary Shulkin is a board-certified internist. He received his medical degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, his internship at Yale University School of Medicine, and a residency and Fellowship in General Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Presbyterian Medical Center. He received advanced training in outcomes research and economics as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania. He served as past Chairman of the NJ Council of Teaching Hospitals. He Co-Founded and served as past President of the Patient Safety Officer Society, and he also founded and served as President as Physicians for Research in Cost Effectiveness.

Over his career Secretary Shulkin has been named "One Hundred Most Influential People in American Healthcare" by *Modern Healthcare*. He continues to advocate on behalf of the country's veterans by serving on the board of numerous nonprofits that serve veterans, is the host of the popular Policy Vets Podcast, and is the author of the recent book, "It Shouldn't Be This Hard to Serve Your Country: Our Broken Government and the Plight of Veterans".

## COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS



**Patricia DeAngelis**  
BS, HU '83

Ms. DeAngelis is President of DeAngelis Leadership Consulting, an Executive Coaching and Leadership Development Organization. She works with CEO's and their executive teams to develop powerful leaders and vibrant cultures. As a former nurse and 30-year veteran of the hospital industry, Ms. DeAngelis served in a variety of nursing leadership roles at health care institutions throughout the Delaware Valley, including Hahnemann University Hospital, Abington Memorial Hospital, Presbyterian Medical Center, St. Agnes Medical Center, and St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, DE. She served as President and CEO of Nazareth Hospital, during which time she led the organization through a dramatic financial, clinical, and cultural turnaround. She had also served as the Executive Director of the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital (Ryan-VHUP) at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She was responsible for the entire business administration of Ryan-VHUP and worked in close partnership with the School's Chair to optimize support for Penn Vet's academic missions. She was also a member of the Dean's Council at Penn Veterinary Medicine.

DeAngelis has served on the boards of Father Judge High School, Manor College, the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Nazareth Health Care Foundation, the Catholic Leadership Institute, and Northwestern Human Services. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Holy Family University. At Drexel, she served on the Dean's Executive Advisory Council for the College of Nursing and Health Professions and the Friends of 11th Street Campaign Committee.



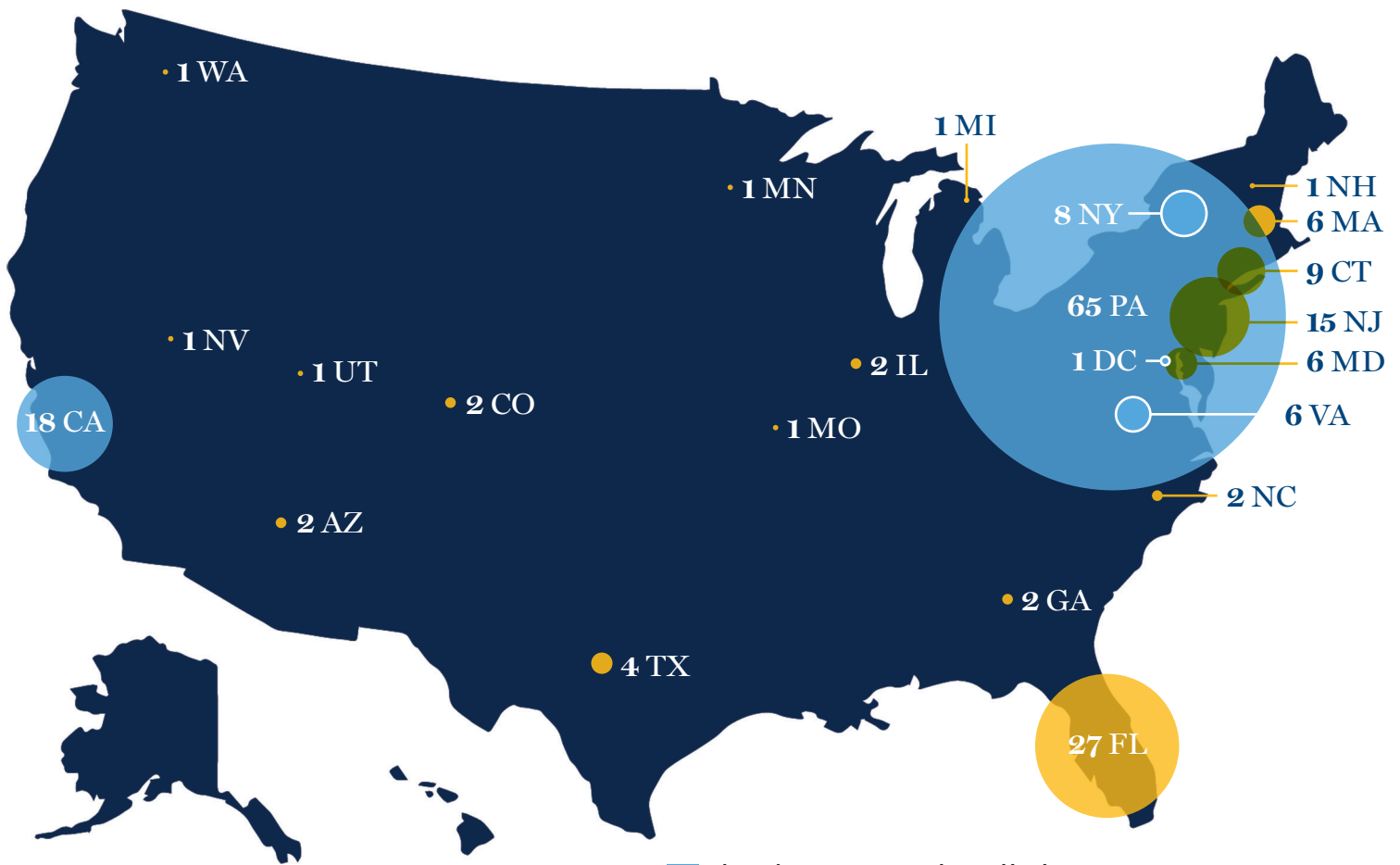
**Joanne Miller**  
DNP '16, RN, NEA-BC

Dr. Miller is currently the Interim Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services at Baystate Health. She is also a Baldrige Executive Fellow and proven transformational leader with successful outcomes for creating innovative approaches to patient care and patient experience delivery models. Her passions include eliminating preventable harm, improving the patient's experience, and creating a healthy work environment for team members. She previously served as the Chief Nursing Officer of Carson Tahoe Health and Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care for Johns Hopkins Medicine/Sibley Memorial Hospital, a not-for-profit in Washington, DC, within the Johns Hopkins Health System. At Sibley, she led the development of nursing practice and patient care standards across the acute care hospital, ambulatory sites and its skilled nursing and assisted living facilities.

Her experience includes 30 years of hospital operations experience and nursing excellence, including 18 years as Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services, Vice President of Surgical

Services, and Chief Nursing Officer in both major academic health systems and community-based hospitals. She has held system responsibility for standardizing nursing practice for both the Johns Hopkins Health System and Mount Sinai. She engages and collaborates with the Deans of Schools of Nursing to create a new generation of highly skilled nurses.

# THE DREXEL 100: NATIONAL REACH



■ top five regions for all alumni

\*1 member does not live in the U.S.



In the Great Court of Drexel's landmark Main Building, a recognition wall showcases the entire membership of Drexel's Alumni Hall of Fame - the Drexel 100. This distinctive tribute was a thoughtful gift from our Immediate Past Chair, David Geltzer '77, his wife Leslee and the Geltzer Family Foundation. Pictured last year with **William C. (Bill) Chatman '52** (inducted in 1998) are his wife Helen Chatman, daughter Susan Webb and son-in-law Nick Webb.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Alumni Weekend

Thursday, May 19, 2022 - Monday, May 22, 2022

### Drexel 100 Induction, Luncheon and Recognition Wall Unveiling

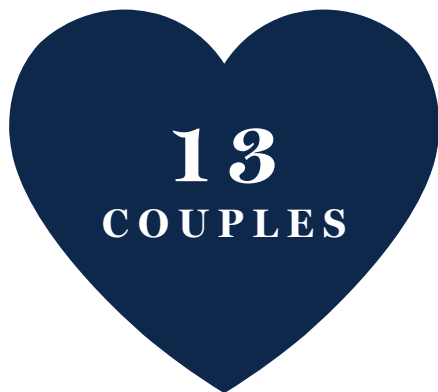
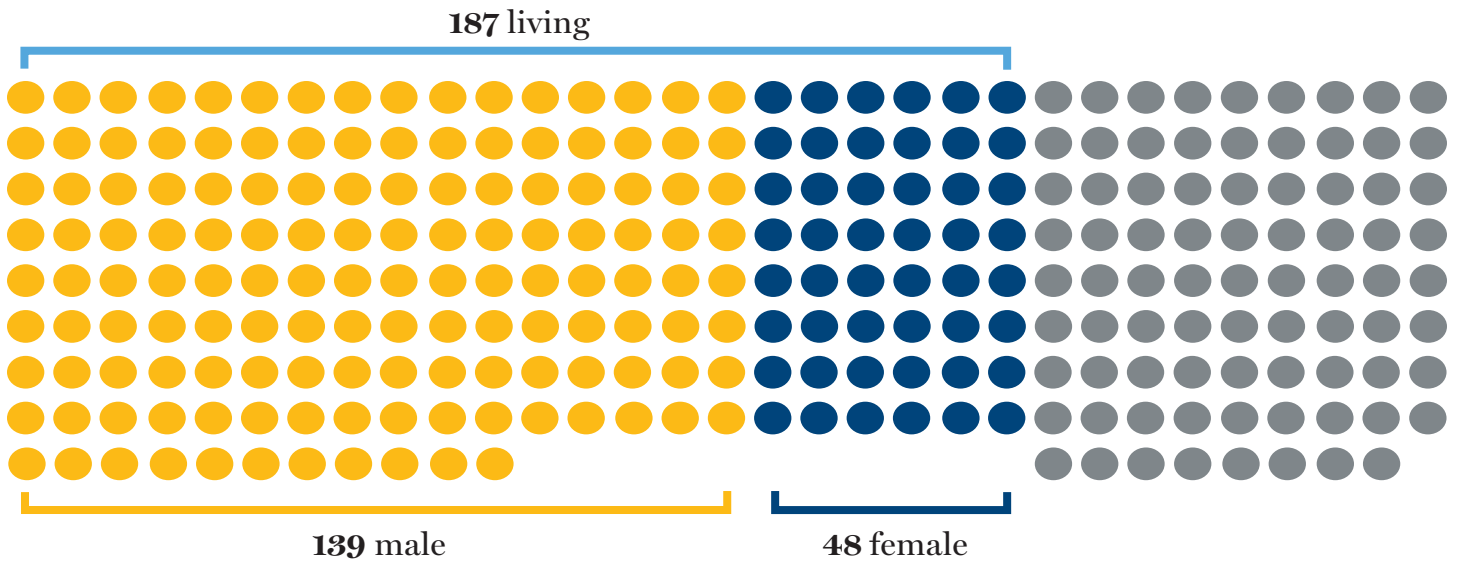
Saturday, May 21, 2022

*All events held on University City campus, Philadelphia. Formal invitations to follow.*

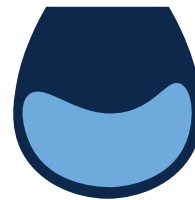
# THE DREXEL 100: BY THE NUMBERS

*Through your significant contributions to The Campaign for Drexel, wise advice and counsel to the University and generous time mentoring and serving as examples to students and younger alumni, members of The Drexel 100 have been critical and visionary leaders in Drexel's success and continuous growth in reach, visibility and impact.*

## THE DU 100 COUNTS 267 MEMBERS.



**2** coffee  
farm owners

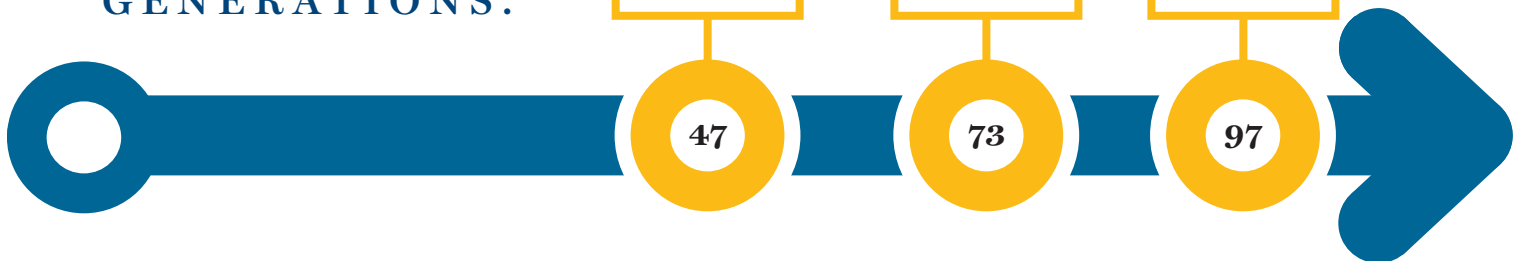


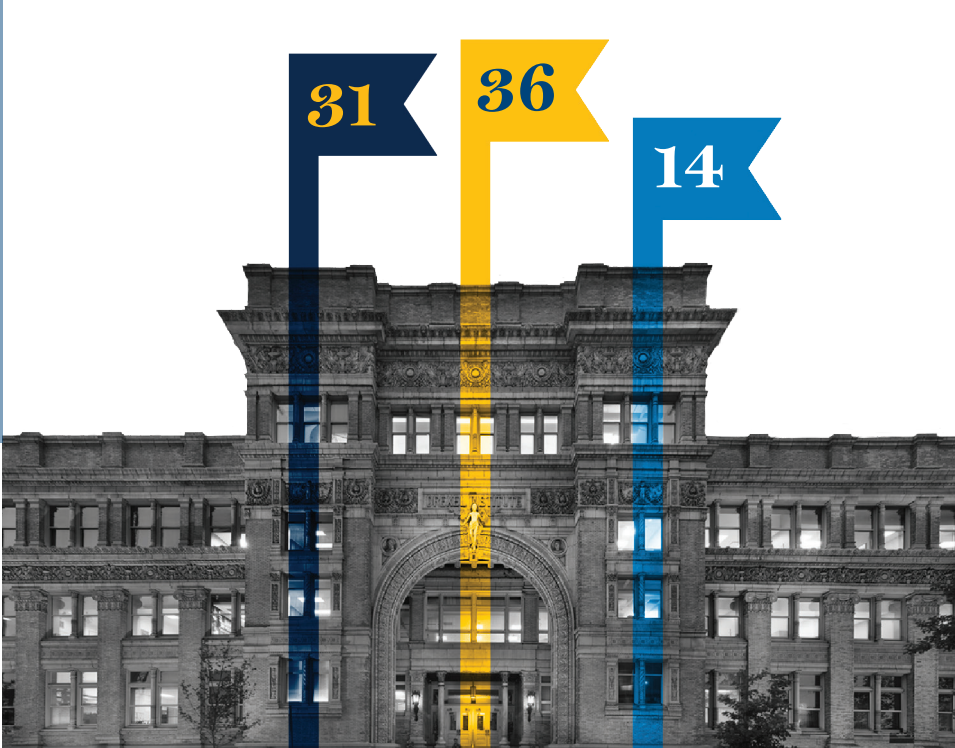
**1** winery  
owner



**23** veterans of  
the US military

OUR MEMBERS  
SPAN MULTIPLE  
GENERATIONS.





## ENGAGED AS DREXEL ALUMNI, FACULTY AND STAFF

- 36 earned multiple degrees
- 31 Drexel faculty/staff
- 14 earned Drexel medical degrees

## DU 100 LEADERSHIP.

66 elected trustees of Drexel and the Academy

52 in Drexel Legacy Society

10 with a name on a Drexel building

2 named in a Drexel professorship



## DU 100 PHILANTHROPY.



- 144 gave campaign gifts
- 31 endowed scholarships
- 4 endowed chairs and offices

## PRIDE AND PURPOSE

### Tom Masci '68

When you speak with Thomas A. (Tom) Masci Jr., BS accounting '68 – a member of the Drexel 100 since 2019 – you know instantly that he loves life and bringing people together, he takes pride in making a difference in the lives of others and he cares deeply about Drexel. For Masci, a graduate from what is now the LeBow College of Business, being at Drexel in the 1960s was a pivotal moment in his life. He's committed to giving back to the people and programs that reflect his experiences as a commuter student, as an accounting major and as a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Masci's engagement in the Drexel community is evident not only by campus spaces that feature the Masci family name – the Masci Family Accounting Lobby in Gerri C. LeBow Hall, an auditorium seat in the same building and the Masci Family Student Veterans Lounge in the Creese Student Center are examples – but also in his personal engagement in the life of the University. In 2016, Masci was inducted into the Drexel Army ROTC Hall of Fame, and he's a member of LeBow's Accounting Advisory Council. He's attended campus events and hosted "Dragonfests" at his home, bringing together Drexel students, alumni, faculty and administrators.

His enthusiasm for being of service to Drexel has made him a backbone of support and advocacy for several programs that provide important student resources.

"I started giving to LeBow's Commuter Learning Community (CLC) because I was a commuter student myself," says Masci. "Back then, opportunities to bond with people beyond the classroom weren't common. I gave the CLC funding to organize get-togethers, but I also found out that they organized projects to make the whole community better, like raising money for the American Heart Association. I'm proud of what they have accomplished."

To honor the accounting program from which his daughter, Kimberly Cartwright '94, also graduated, Masci dedicates a portion of his support to tutoring resources for accounting students. Both Masci and Cartwright appreciate the role of their Drexel education in their professional success. Masci was co-founder, executive vice president and chief financial officer of Health Advocate, Inc., and Cartwright led a 17-year career at Comcast in content acquisition.

While commuter and accounting student services remain priorities for Masci, the lion's share of his support goes toward Drexel's Center for Military and Veteran Services. As a U.S. Army veteran, it's the cause closest to his heart.

**"My late wife, Ellen, was very much a supporter of veterans," says Masci. "Giving back to the people who made sacrifices or gave their lives for our freedoms feels like a bonus."**

Masci's generous giving has established the Masci Veterans Student Resource Center and supported courses that help returning veterans transition into college life. He also provides salary funding for a Student Veteran Ambassador,



who has a critical role in representing the evolving needs of the student veteran community. More recently, Masci expanded his support to fund the renovation of a space which opened in spring 2019 as the Masci Family Student Veterans Lounge. (Pictured above, Masci in center.)

Remarks Masci, "Where they were before was small and noisy, and now they have a comfortable, nice-sized place to study or get together socially. I just renewed my financial commitment, and I feel good knowing it will be taken care of year after year."

Drexel's assistant vice president of student services, Rebecca Weidensaul '95, '01, oversees the Center for Military and Veteran Services and underscores how meaningful the lounge is. "We're honored that the lounge is named after Tom and his family," says Weidensaul. The old space wasn't integrated into the larger campus community. Now, it's in the student center and a dedicated space where student veterans can feel at home and have a sense of belonging and pride."

"Looking ahead," adds Weidensaul. "Tom's support will enhance the lounge with new computers, a welcome station staffed by student veteran ambassadors and a cantina space with a new refrigerator."

Masci is also popular among student veterans, and as Weidensaul says, "they gravitate to him because of his military service and his openness to share life lessons." Through his engagement with Drexel, Masci made a lifelong friend in student, now alumnus, Andrew Stoffer, BS health science '20, (pictured above, left of Masci) and Masci is always there to celebrate successes and provide encouragement through challenges. Says Masci, "Andy is a great friend and a great Navy veteran. I've invited him to various veterans' events, and during COVID, he offered to go shopping for me. What a wonderful guy!"

Weidensaul adds, "Tom and Andrew are both kind, giving people who value their military families. And like Tom, Andrew pays it forward. As alumnus working in healthcare, he helps student veterans find internships and jobs."

Masci's pride in his family, military career and Drexel run deep, and his generosity – and generosity of spirit – will benefit Drexel and its students for years to come.

**For information, comments or questions about the Drexel 100, please contact:**

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Advancement  
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