



WINTER NEWSLETTER

2019-2020



EVENTS CALENDAR

Women in Leadership Series

Philadelphia - Tentatively Fall 2020

New York City - Tentatively Fall 2020

DUBAC Alumni Mixer - Tentatively Fall 2020

Student Life Awards - TBD

William S. Pittman Ceremony - TBD

AWARD HONOREE BIOS

Dr Fields Legacy Award

Dr. Veronica Carey



Dr. Veronica Carey is the Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions. She is an Associate Clinical Professor within the Behavioral Health Department for Counseling and Family Therapy; the Chair of the Academy for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, and Vice President of the Caravan of Life an NGO in Pakistan. As a frequent guest lecturer and workshop presenter, Dr. Carey has addressed the implementation of psychiatric rehabilitation services, as well as the incorporation of diversity and inclusion to bodies of faculty, professional staff, and students across the country. Her articles on direct-care staff development in community-based treatment settings have been published in the "Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal" and "Psychiatric Services". Dr. Carey trains internationally having presented in Abu Dhabi, United Emirates; Cairo, Egypt; Milan, Italy; Karachi, Pakistan; and Singapore. A personal factoid is Veronica enjoys interior design and is co-partners with her sister in real estate flipping houses.

Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award

Denise Kirkland

Denise Kirkland is an innovative business professional with over 35 years of experience in Global Business Management. She and has worked for numerous fortune 500 companies in a number of cross-functional areas including manufacturing, finance, marketing, strategic planning and general management, and has effectively managed and trained high-performance teams throughout the US, Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Denise is Founder and 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".

Prior to forming Two Twelve Degrees, Denise garnered her Global executive experience while working at various Chemical and Energy companies in a variety of positions. She 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. Denise 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 Rohm and Haas Company for over 10 years in various cross-functional areas including Market Manager and New Product Process Manager for the Plastics Additives Business; Manufacturing Manager for the Agricultural Chemicals Business; and Corporate Financial Analyst. Denise also worked as a Senior Supply and Distribution Analyst for Mobil Oil Corporation



where she developed and implemented logistical supply chain and distribution operating plans for supply chain and distribution operating plans for Mobil's fuel oil and jet fuel business in Africa.

Denise is a long standing member and supporter of DUBAC, and currently serves on Drexel's Pennoni Honors College Advisory Board. She has also served as an advisor for the Girl Scouts of America, and continuously mentors high school and college students. Denise also serves on various other student focused Boards including Voorhees School Board of Education; and as Secretary of Delta Epsilon Foundation, Inc. Denise believes "mentoring is both a responsibility and a privilege to sharpen the lives of our youth".

Denise is a 1980 Dual Degree graduate of Drexel (Magna Cum Laude) and Lincoln University (Summa Cum Laude) with a BS in Chemical Engineering from Drexel University and a BA in Chemistry from Lincoln University. Denise also holds a MBA in Finance and Marketing from The Wharton School, Graduate Division, University of Pennsylvania.

Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award

Cleosie Kirkland

Cleosie Kirkland (Cleo) has over 40 years' experience in the highly regulated insurance and financial management industries with a proven track record of optimizing productivity, reducing costs and increasing overall corporate profit. He is a business innovator and entrepreneur with a dynamic record of maximizing corporate profitability without sacrificing the company's mission. In 2010 Cleo, cofounded PK Financial Group, LLC., a full-service national minority owned and operated Insurance Brokerage, Risk Management and Employee Benefit consulting firm, headquartered in Havertown, PA. In his role as Chief Operating Officer/President of PK Financial, he manages a diverse group of insurance agents and administrators nationwide; manages the fiduciary responsibility of the firm, insuring that it remains in line with government and insurance industry regulations and standards; and manages the various contractors used to support business operations.

Prior to forming PK Financial Group, Cleo served as the President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of AV International, Inc. (AVI), a small minority controlled regional insurance broker. With his vision and strategic leadership, he grew AVI's revenues 400% thru expanded



product offerings. Prior to joining AV International, Cleo served as Vice President, Finance & Administration/Chief Operating Officer/Comptroller for the Atlantic City Convention and Visitors Authority where he directed the overall operation and administration of the Authority and the Convention Center. Mr. Kirkland also served as the Vice President, Director of Finance and Controller for Caesars Casino and Resort in Atlantic City NJ responsible for the overall financial accounting operation and administration for 3,500 employees. Cleo was also a member of the executive acquisition team that completed the ITT purchase of Caesars. Cleo honed his financial skills while working at Rohm and Haas Chemical Company in various financial positions including Chief Financial Officer, Leather Business Group and as an Auditor for Mobil Oil.

Cleo is a partner of Agri-Kind, a Pennsylvania Licensed Medical Marijuana Grower/Processor. He also serves on Agri-Kind's Board of Advisors where he serves as the company's Diversity Officer.

An avid supporter of healthcare, education and our youth, Cleo spends a lot of time and funds participating on various local Boards and mentorship programs. Among his various philanthropic endeavors, Cleo has served on various community boards, most recently as Board Chair of Spectrum Health Services of Philadelphia. He has also served as a mentor for both DUBAC's mentor program and for Rutgers University's RUSE Program; and he currently serves on Drexel University President's Leadership Council Board.

Cleo is a 1978 graduate of Drexel University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. He also holds a MBA in Finance, Decision Science and Real Estate from The University of Pennsylvania, the Wharton School, Graduate Division.

Paragon Trailblazer Award

Randolph Holmes III



Randolph (Randy) Holmes III is the recipient of DUBAC's 2020 Paragon Trailblazer Award and being recognized for his unwavering support for Drexel students, the University, and DUBAC year after year.

Randy graduated from Drexel in 1970; soon after graduation he received his MBA from Northwestern University. Randy has had quite the successful life after his graduation. Although he is retired, previously he served as the director of employee benefits for Instinet Corporation, Vice President of employee benefits for Prudential Insurance Company of America, Director of casualty administration & operations for Colonial Penn Insurance Company, and lastly Merchandizing Manager of Acme Markets, Inc.

He is a former lecturer and adjunct professor at Rust College and Trenton State College (Renamed The College of New Jersey). He participates in numerous professional and community service activities, including the Association of Private and Pension Welfare Plans, the National Urban League Black Executive Exchange Program, the National Black MBA Association, the Minority Exchange, the United Negro College Fund,

Chairman, Zoning Board of Edison, N.J., and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of New York University, and has served on the boards of First Concern, and Northwestern University Alumni Association.

Randy currently serves as a member of the LeBow Dean's Advisory Board. He remains active within the Drexel Dragon Communities and has endowed an undergraduate scholarship fund for African American Students. A strong supporter of the LeBow Bridge Program, Randy gifted a study room now known as the Randy Holmes III study room. A loyal dragon, he often attends basketball games and various events hosted by Drexel Alumni, LeBow Bridge and DUBAC. He is a life long member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

EVENT RECAPS

SHEKU KANNEH AT KIMMEL CENTER

From across the Pond to Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, our Drexel Dragon Family and Friends enjoyed a wonderful classical performance by British finest Sheku Kanneh Mason on Cello and Isata-Kanneh Mason (sister) on piano. We were so honored to have the performers attend our meet and greet post concert reception. In attendance were Paul Jensen, Interim Provost, his wife Mary Anne, and Koren Bedeau, Senior Provost.



TURKEY DAY

On December 12, 2019, over 100 volunteers helped distribute 2,000 turkeys and 13,000 non-perishables items to more than 50 community partners. Volunteers also crafted 400 cards for children being treated at St Christopher's Center for Urban Child. The 46th Annual Turkey Project also raised a record breaking \$70,000 well exceeding the goal of \$60,000.



ALUMNI BRUNCH

Another enjoyable homecoming brunch!! Our tropical brunch theme was the perfect setting for a blustery snowy January day. It was nice to see many alums from the DC and NY areas make the trip. Alums enjoyed sharing memories while at Drexel and engaging about their lives post Drexel. Key-note speaker Paul Jensen, Interim Provost, shared his insight into the future direction of the University. He welcomed alums to stay connected to their alma mater by getting involved. Kudos to the Drexel's men basketball team - We won!!

Thank you Janai Johnson for chairing the event and Linda Croskey for her presentation on DUBAC's Alumni Support Initiative Program coming soon.



UGLY SWEATER DAY

On December 19, 2019, Alums enjoyed closing out the year attending DUBAC-DC Ugly Sweater Holiday event. While there were a few ugly sweaters, the holiday spirit of giving to others did not go unnoticed. Alums were encouraged to bring warm winter articles of clothing - including hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to donate to Central Union Mission, a local organization.



FASHION INDUSTRY ALUMNI EVENT

On November the 7th, DUBAC, the Drexel University Black Alumni Council, held its first event for alumni in New York City with fifty guests in attendance.



Jerry Martin '77, DUBAC President, and Janeile Johnson, Associate Director, Young Alumni & Student Programs, Office of Institutional Advancement, organized the exciting discussion held at Latitude Bar near Times Square. The Diversity in Fashion panel was moderated by Alphonso McClendon '98, director of the Design & Merchandising program at the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design and former Design Director at Nautica.

Expert panelists and alumni, working in the fashion industry, spoke about the value for companies to address diversity related to promoting talent, developing products, attracting consumers, and

retailing goods and services. The four panelists included Keturah Drake Nunnally, MS Fashion Design '09, Co-Founder of Style Revival NYC; Twyla Grider, Founder and CEO, Stellar Creative Collective; Lendrell Martin, BS Fashion Design '10, Creative Brand Strategist and Technical Designer for Ann Taylor; and Olivia Kelly, MS Retail & Merchandising '19, Sourcing Associate, Ross Stores, Inc. Topics ranged from new priorities by fashion brands (such as Coach, Burberry and other luxury companies) to be inclusive and culturally relevant to career strategies to open doors and advance in corporate leadership positions. Additionally, panelists talked about the ways that consumers dictate diversity trends through music, films, and

media and the oversight of contributions by people of color in design, sourcing and merchandising positions that contribute to significant profits by fashion companies. Keturah Nunnally talked of the need to have a plan in the workplace, listening with eyes and ears, showing up but not oversteering, and knowing your worth.

The big take away for the evening was the concept of recalibrating in one's career path. Each panelist found it necessary to reinvent themselves or change course as they navigated the shifting fashion industry with its growth and contraction. The creation of a fresh point of reference gave visibility to new opportunities

including entrepreneurship. At the conclusion of the panel, Janeile presented each speaker with a gift from Drexel University followed by guests networking. Alumni in attendance represented the Nesbitt College of Design Arts, the Westphal College of Media Arts and Design, and the LeBow College of Business.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Linda Lewis, Drexel '73, Fashion Design: "Fashion Is My Passion!"



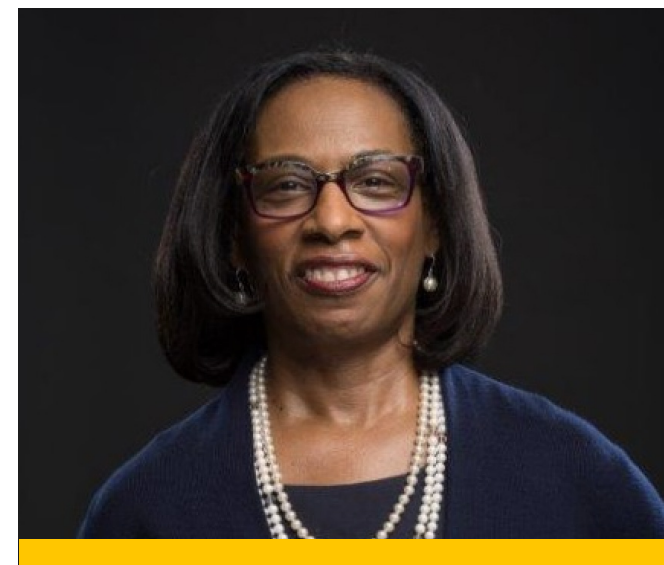
day) for helping them learn how to fit a customer properly and train others to do the same. I've travelled all over the world with this business. Looking back on my career, I learned that I don't have to follow other people's paths to success. By using my Drexel fashion and fit training and following my passion for the consumer, I'm living my best life. If you're just starting your career, while not everyone will be in your corner, your reality may still be that of role model. Learn how to make connections and influence people. Get "it" done, whatever your field or industry, and give "it" your passionate best.

"...Numbers (stats) don't lie."
— Shaun Carter (Jay-Z)

After 30+ years, I am still excited about fashion, even though I retired from retail a year ago. I've been privileged to share my expertise in department (May/Federated) and specialty (Limited/Victoria's Secret) stores in Apparel and Intimates. As Sr. Project Manager, Fit Initiatives for the Ascena Corporation, Plus Division (Lane Bryant, Cacique, Catherines) the last five years before retirement, my focus was Customer-intuitive - making it easier for associates to solve wardrobe challenges by developing a consistent method of communication across all stores and using technology to do the thinking when it comes to determining fit and size. This led to national mentions in customer service satisfaction for the Plus division.

During my role as Sr. Merchant, Cacique Bras, planning and developing an assortment of what is arguably the most complicated garment to make - surely the most fit-focused - was at the heart of my passion for the Customer and the business. I've had many milestone moments in my career; the ones that mean the most, however, are with managers and associates who thank me (even to-

Diane C. Lee



Diane Lee is the Administrator for the Department of Emergency Medicine at Einstein Healthcare Network, a healthcare organization serving over 160,000 patients annually at three emergency departments in Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties. In addition to providing leadership for strategic planning, program development, and business opportunities, her administrative responsibilities extend to support for the department divisions and management of emergency medical services (EMS) contracts, ultrasound sonography, toxicology services, clinical research studies, and medical education programs.

Diane's early career included professional positions in engineering and academic administration, however, it has been healthcare management that has afforded the most rewarding experience. Over a span of 25 years, she has held positions in diverse healthcare environments including primary care and specialty care services, community health centers, academic hospital based ambulatory sites and private practices. Key organizational initiatives involved implementing and monitoring systems and processes to optimize operational and financial performance with a continued focus on employed population health management as an important collaborative strategy to enhance patient centered care delivery,

control cost of care, and impact health outcomes. Among her many healthcare accomplishments were leading a multidisciplinary team in transforming a community practice to a patient centered medical home model that resulted in National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) recognition, a widely recognized evidenced based program dedicated to healthcare quality improvement and measurement. An advocate for women's health, she was instrumental in developing and implementing new protocols for alternative clinical encounters to improve follow up adherence for a prenatal patient population.

Diane's current research interest focus on the medically underserved population and the challenges faced in accessing quality healthcare and self-healthcare management. She recently published a book chapter entitled "Promises and Challenges of Medical Patient Healthcare Portals in Underserved Communities". The ethnographic research addressed social disparities in health and healthcare and the significance it has on influencing patients' participation in their healthcare management and related decisions to adopt technology, such as patient health portals, that may prove valuable in improving health outcomes. This research interest continued in her doctoral program that explored how being a minority might moderate the adoption of medical patient portals for a population utilizing the emergency department for medical care and medical information.

In January 2020, Diane successfully defended her doctorate dissertation with an expected June 2020 graduation date. The most recent academic accomplishment earns her the unique alumni status as a triple Drexel Dragon. In addition to her Doctorate in Business Administration, Diane holds an MBA in Marketing and a BS in Chemical Engineering.

Dr. Argie Allen-Wilson



With over 20 years' experience as a Relationship Therapist Dr. Argie Allen-Wilson is the former Director of Clinical Training at Drexel University's Couple & Family Therapy Department and the founder and CEO of her private practice F.A.I.T.H. Inc. (Family and Individual Therapeutic Healing). Also, Dr. Allen-Wilson is the Co-founder & CEO of Connections Matter LLC along with her husband. Prior to her appointment as Director of Clinical Training at Drexel University, she received her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Couple & Family Therapy in 2009 from Drexel University and her Master of Family Therapy degree in Marriage & Family Therapy from Drexel University (formally Hahnemann University) in 1998. Dr. Argie Allen-Wilson is also a former Assistant Director of Training for the Post-Master's Certificate Program, Co-Director of the Anger Management program and a full-time clinical practitioner working with individuals, couples and families at Council for Relationships in the University City section of Philadelphia. Dr. Argie Allen-Wilson has served as an adjunct professor at Palmer Theological Seminary Teaching Supervision of Marriage & Family Studies in their Doctorate of Ministry Program and has taught as an adjunct professor at Drexel University Couple & Family Therapy Master's Program and Psychology Undergraduate

Programs. She has also served as a faculty member for the Multi-Cultural Institute and served as a regular presenter in round table discussions at their Annual Culture Conferences.

Dr. Allen-Wilson is a Clinical member of (AAMFT) The American Association of Marriage & Family Therapist. Specialized populations that Dr. Allen-Wilson has served, include addicted women with children, high-risk adolescents, grieving families impacted by violence, families affected by incarceration and many couples/families from various cultural, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. She facilitates workshops, retreats and is a frequent speaker at seminars where she presents on many topics related to maintaining healthy relationships. She is asked to present at various local and national spiritual organizations, schools, conferences, fraternities, sororities, civic organizations and work-related environments. Dr. Allen-Wilson is a past keynote speaker at the "Stakeholders" Annual CYOC (Charting Your Own Course) Career Development Conference. She has presented at the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Conference, the American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy (AAMFT) Conference, the American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA) Conference, Council for Relationships Couples and Clergy Conferences and many other Men's and Women's Conferences and retreats internationally, nationally and in the Tri-State area.

Dr. Allen-Wilson is a national television and radio personality, you may have seen her on some of the "Today Show" major segments, and she is a frequent guest in the fourth hour with Hoda and Kathy Lee of The Today Show, MSNBC, CNN, Radio One The Tom Joyner Morning Show with Jacque Reid, iHeartRadio WDAS Patty Jackson "Rewind-Real Relationship Talk" Segment every Sunday morning, Radio One WRNB 100.3 "Philly Speaks" with Senator Vincent Hughes, Good Day Philadelphia on Fox29 News and in 2015 Dr. Argie received an (Emmy Nomination Mid-Atlantic) to add to her achievements for her expertise in a

Fox 29 News segment called "All Teched Out" by Special News Reporter, Joyce Evans. In 2017, Dr. Argie was recommended and appointed by PA State Senator Vincent Hughes and PA State Democratic Leader, Jay Costa to the Advisory Committee on College Suicide Prevention. More recently, Dr. Allen-Wilson host a weekly engagement on the Facebook platform called "The Ask Dr. Argie Courageous Conversations Connect Series" where she facilitates a live non-clinical discussion on hot topics and all things surrounding mental health and relationship issues. In 2015 Dr. Allen-Wilson co-founded Connections Matter LLC with the vision to speak love, light & life into diverse global communities, empowering all people to live life to their fullest potential by helping them develop the "how to" skills, tools and coping strategies necessary to have and maintain healthy relationships in every area of their lives. The mission is to make a difference globally by creating a generational movement that will radically shift our relationship culture, impacting the masses both personally and professionally.

The goal under the leadership of Dr. Argie Allen Wilson, (Global Relationship Transformationalist) and her husband Morgan E. Wilson Jr. is to empower our communities therapeutically, spiritually, artistically & creatively through motivation, inspiration, education & transformation. Dr. Argie's tag line is Healing families' one relationship at a time and transforming individuals, couples and corporations' one courageous conversation at a time.