



College of Arts and Sciences: January-June 2024

Strategic Communications Overview by University Marketing & Communications

News & Media Relations

Over the last six months the **College of Arts and Sciences** and/or its faculty members were mentioned or quoted in **99** stories in mainstream media. These stories were the result of a combination of timely direct outreach to reporters, [news releases](#) and [blog posts](#). During this period CoAS faculty and/or researchers have worked extensively with the News & Media Relations team to share their expertise as a resource for, local, regional and national media outlets.

Robert D'Ovidio, PhD, Drexel's go-to cybersecurity expert was featured in six broadcast segments during this reporting period, offering *KYW-TV (CBS-3)* commentary about [using AI to moderate criminal content on online platforms like YouTube](#) and [how to detect and protect against hidden camera technology](#). D'Ovidio contributed in March and April to *WPVI-TV (6-abc)* segments about [ATM skimmers and how the devices are getting more sophisticated](#), the [misuse of customer information by Chinese e-commerce company Temu](#) and how [cryptocurrency scams](#) and [AI is contributing to the exploitation of children](#).

CoAS faculty took advantage of the Drexel partnership with academic news platform *The Conversation*, to share their expertise and research. **C. Clare Strange, PhD**, an assistant research professor published [a March 12 article](#) about the effects of Pennsylvania's changes to its sentencing guidelines that aimed at being more fair and consistent. **Megan Phifer-Rixey, PhD**, an assistant professor published [a March](#)

[14 article](#) about her research into the scientific basis of whether the “town mouse” and the “city mouse” behave differently due to where they live. The article was republished in dozens of outlets across the country, including *Yahoo! News*, *Techincal.ly Philly*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Fast Company*.

Loïc Vanderkluyzen, PhD, an associate professor published [a Jan. 17 article](#) about lava diversion methods and the recent volcanic eruption in Iceland. The article was republished by *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and several additional regional outlets. Vanderkluyzen was also quoted in a Jan. 18 [The Science Times](#) article about dams built to protect Icelandic towns from lava, and spoke on evacuations and the temporary Blue Lagoon Closure following a volcanic eruption in Iceland for [AFAR Magazine](#).

In addition to these stories focusing on the College's Criminology, Biology and BEE's expertise, faculty members also shared their expertise and research in psychology with national media outlets.

John Kounios, PhD, published two research articles in Spring 2024, resulting in 27 media placements. In March, he published a study that reveals how the brain gets to the creative flow state by using brain scans of jazz musicians while playing guitar. He authored an article for [The Conversation](#) and recorded a [podcast episode](#) for the outlet about the creative flow research that was syndicated to 37 additional outlets. He also wrote an article on the research for [Scientific American](#), that will be published in their October print edition. The research was also covered in national outlets like [Fast Company](#) and [Inc.](#) In April, he published research about using machine learning and a low-cost EEG device to estimate a person's brain age. This resulted in several media placements as well, including in [Hackster.io](#).

Charlotte Hagerman, PhD, published research on the practice of self-compassion helping people cope with weight loss setbacks and pursuing their goals faster which resulted in several media placements about the publication, including the national outlet [HealthDay](#).

Overall, **34** CoAS faculty, staff and students were quoted in stories through the process of working with the News & Media Relations team to identify opportunities and prepare for interviews.

Media Highlights:

Jon Gelhaus, PhD, curator of Entomology at the Academy of Natural Sciences and professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, was quoted in a June 7 *Philly Voice* article about Jorō spiders, an invasive species that may show up in Philadelphia. [Link to story](#)

Xiaorui Huang, PhD, an assistant professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, was quoted in a June 11 *Earth.com* article about his recent research into the complicated relationship between income inequality and carbon emissions. [Link to story](#)

Erica LaFata, PhD, an assistant research professor in the Center for Weight, Eating and Lifestyle Science (WELL Center) in the College of Arts and Sciences, was:

- Quoted in a March 6 *UPI* story about a new study claiming that eating refined carbs could reduce perceived facial attractiveness. [Link to story](#)
- Quoted in a March 6 *UPI* story article which was excerpted in a March 7 *Cox Media Group* article about a new study claiming that eating refined carbs could reduce perceived facial attractiveness.

The article was published by several *Cox Media Group* affiliates including *WSB-TV* in Atlanta, Georgia and *WFXT-TV* in Boston. [Link to story](#)

Michael Lowe, PhD, a professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, was:

- Quoted in a May 7 *New York Times* opinion piece about the popularity of weight loss drugs like Ozempic, obesity and the modern food industry. [Link to story](#)
- Mentioned in a May 8 *Wall Street Journal* article about a National Institutes of Health-funded study examining why some – but not all – people regain weight after weight loss and how to help people maintain weight loss. [Link to story](#)
- Mentioned in a May 11 *WINS-AM (CBS News)* story about a National Institutes of Health-funded study examining why some – but not all – people regain weight after weight loss and how to help people maintain weight loss. The story also aired on *KYW-Newsradio* and *WBBM-AM* (Chicago). [Link to story](#)
- Mentioned in a June 13 episode of *The Motley Fool* podcast about weight, weight loss and the risks and benefits of weight loss drugs, like Ozempic. [Link to story](#)
- Quoted in a June 18 *Palm Beach Post* review of a new book, “Magic Pill: The Extraordinary Benefits and Disturbing Risks of the New Weight-Loss Drugs,” about weight loss drugs like Ozempic, obesity and the modern food industry. [Link to story](#)

Amanda McMillan Lequieu, PhD, an assistant professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, was quoted in a March 5 *Salon* article about how climate change is threatening the coffee industry. The article was republished by *Yahoo! News*. [Link to story](#) (*Salon*) [Link to story](#) (*Yahoo! News*)

Sean O'Donnell, PhD, a professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, was:

- Mentioned in a Jan. 20 *LiveScience* article about new footage that captured the moment when thousands of fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) created a life-saving raft by interlocking their limbs and mandibles. [Link to story](#)
- Quoted in April 19 *Axios Philadelphia* and May 10 *Montco.Today* articles about the cicada spectacle of Broods XIII and XIX emerging in various regions, but not Philadelphia. [Link to story](#) (*Axios*) [Link to story](#) (*Montco.Today*)

Asta Zelenkauskaitė, PhD, an associate professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, was quoted in a March 2 *Philadelphia Inquirer* article about how age may have a significant impact on how emojis are classified and used for communication. [Link to story](#)

Eric Zillmer, PsyD, Carl R. Pacifico professor of Neuropsychology in the College of Arts and Sciences, was:

- Quoted on how sports fans can cope with the grief from their favorite team’s loss from a 2023 *Philly Voice* article that were featured in a Jan. 29 *Deadline Detroit* article on the end of the Detroit Lions season and the grief local fans are experiencing. [Link to story](#)
- Quoted in a Feb. 14 *PsyCom* article about the psychological benefits of gratitude and how to practice it intentionally. [Link to story](#)

- Quoted an April 27 *Philadelphia Inquirer* article about a Taylor Swift-themed addiction recovery group that uses the fandom to work through addiction, recovery and other mental health issues, which was republished May 6 by *Bucksco Today*. [Link to story \(Inquirer\)](#) [Link to story \(Bucksco Today\)](#)
- Featured on a May 30 podcast episode of *The Museum of Sports* about the history of professional tennis in Philadelphia. [Link to story](#)

Drexel's participation in the U.S. Department of Commerce's AI Safety Institute Consortium was mentioned in a Feb. 28 *Technical.ly* story. Researchers from the **College of Arts and Sciences** will contribute to the consortium's efforts to establish safety standards and practices for the development and use of AI technology. [Link to story](#)

Media Training Workshops: April 18 - **Alexa Tompary, Megan Phifer-Rixley, Xiaorui Huang** attended.

News releases:

- [Can Practicing Self-Compassion Help People Achieve Weight Loss Goals?](#)
- [A Closer Look at Cannabis Use and Binge Eating](#)
- [Your Brain in the Zone: A New Neuroimaging Study Reveals How the Brain Achieves a Creative Flow State](#)
- [New AI-Technology Estimates Brain Age Using Low-Cost EEG Device](#)
- [Income Inequality and Carbon Dioxide Emissions Have a Complex Relationship](#)

Blog posts:

- [Q+A: Can We Reduce Distortions in Our Memory?](#)
- [Q+A: Lights, Camera...Ants!](#)

For a comprehensive daily update of media coverage, [click here and sign up for the Drexel Daily News Report](#). Faculty members interested in promoting their expertise and research to mainstream media should contact Emily Storz, els332@drexel.edu or Annie Korp, amk522@drexel.edu.

Internal Communications & Publications

From January – June 2024, the **College of Arts and Sciences** was featured or referenced in **18 stories** written by the Internal Communications & Publications team in university publications, including *DrexelNow*, *EXEL Magazine* and *Drexel Magazine*.

The college was **mentioned 177 times** in *DrexelNow's* email newsletters, which go out biweekly to faculty and staff, weekly to undergraduate students, and monthly to graduate students and Drexel parents. These stories and mentions were the result of the sourcing, writing and publishing of stories by the Internal Communications & Publications or News & Media Relations teams or by outside sources and redistributed to broader audiences through our print and online publications.

Collectively, our publications extend the reach of Drexel stories to 60,000 current faculty, students, staff and parents and 175,000 alumni.

The 40 Under 40 edition of Drexel Magazine included these features on CoAS alumni:

- [Cosmetics Get a Makeover](#), a profile of Paige DeAngelo, BA communications '23 and the founder and CEO of Aer Cosmetics in Philadelphia. Concerns about climate change inspired Paige DeAngelo to create sustainable mascara.
- [Jamison John Langguth](#), BS psychology '10 and the senior manager of health strategy innovation at Stanford University.
- [How to Capture the Secrets of Butterflies](#), a profile about Vaughn Shirey, BS environmental science '17 and a David H. Smith Postdoctoral Conservation Research Fellow at the University of Southern California. In a quest to document threats to biodiversity, Vaughn Shirey enlists butterflies to gain insights about climate change.
- [Edward Waddell](#), BS biological sciences '14, MS education '19, PhD biological sciences '19 and an assistant professor of biology at Holy Family University in Philadelphia.
- [The Path of a Cancer Therapy Pioneer](#), a profile about Matthew J. McBride, BS chemistry '14 and an assistant professor at Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey) Drawn to Drexel for its abundant research opportunities, Matthew J. McBride has become a pioneer in studying links between nutrition and cancer treatments.

These research findings were spotlighted on the Research page in Drexel Magazine's Summer 2024 digital edition:

- Expertise combined with flexibility are the conditions for creative 'flow,' a [College of Arts and Sciences](#) study found.
- Recreational cannabis may contribute to binge-eating disorders, according to researchers in the [College of Arts and Sciences](#).

The digital summer Drexel Magazine issue featured a profile, [Rad Grad: Jac Cron](#): Philadelphia in all its late-summer glory takes a star turn in "Chestnut," a feature film by writer and director Jac Cron, BS entrepreneurship '15 who studied film and finance with entrepreneurship and astrophysics minors.

Prominent features published on *Drexel/NEWS* pertaining to the school included:

- [Dragons on Fire: Kudos for Student Achievement](#)
- [Students, Faculty Represent Drexel University at COP28 Through Dialogue and Research](#)
- [Starting 2024 on a Happy Note!](#)
- [40 Years Ago, Drexel Made Computer — and Apple — History](#)
- [Faculty Highlights: Recent Awards and Grants](#)
- [Partnerships and Projects: Drexel's Recent Industry and Civic Engagement Connections](#)

- [The Drexel Ombuds is Here to Listen and Help](#)
- [Drexel Women's Basketball Reflects on a Season of Madness](#)
- [Faculty Highlights: Recent Awards and Grants](#)
- [Drexel University Names 2024 Commencement Speakers and Honorary Degree Recipients](#)
- [Drexel University's Unforgettable 2024 Commencement Ceremony](#)
- [Top 10 Quotes from Drexel's 2024 Commencement](#)
- [Partnerships and Projects: Drexel's Recent Industry and Civic Engagement Connections](#)

Many of the *DrexelNow* mentions were stories sourced from outside sources, including the College of Arts and Sciences and the Academy of Natural Sciences websites, plus news from other entities like the Pennoni Honors College.

- [A Case of Mistaken Identity in the World of Crane Flies](#)
- [Drexel Writing Festival](#)
- [Physics Department's Kaczmarczik Lecture Explores New Era of Astronomy](#)
- [Drexel Libraries Exhibit Explores the Latin American "Cartonera" Movement](#)
- [Congratulations to Drexel's 2024 Goldwater Scholarship Recipients](#)
- [Congratulations to Drexel's 2024 DAAD RISE Recipients!](#)
- [Studying Quality of Life with Aquatic Macroinvertebrates](#)
- [Learning as a "Team Sport" Influences How Eric Brewe Approaches Teaching](#)
- [Climate Change, Politics of Science Shape Ali Kenner's Work](#)
- [Meet Amanda McMillan Lequieu, PhD, Recipient of the Inaugural Provost Award for Pedagogical Innovation](#)
- [2024 Arts and Sciences Symposium](#)
- [No Thoughts Unwelcome at Drexel's First Climate Café](#)
- [Running Wild Press Writing Contest](#)
- [My Experience with the Civic Engagement Living-Learning Community](#)
- [2024 Cooperative Education Awards](#)
- [Announcing Drexel's 2024 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program \(GRFP\) Honorees](#)
- [2024 Award Recipients](#)
- [Learn About Urban Birding: A Q&A with Christian Cooper](#)

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