

Cover



Five Years  
of Government  
and Community  
Relations



MISSION STATEMENT

*The Office of Government and Community Relations serves Drexel University by administering and maintaining the University's relationships with City, State and Federal elected officials and government agencies, as well as with civic leaders and representatives from community based organizations. In pursuit of our mission, we endeavor to conduct ourselves in a highly visible and ethical manner.*



**Vice President's Welcome**

Dear Friends and Colleagues:



I am proud to present to you this report highlighting the accomplishments of the last five years of Drexel University's Office of Government and Community Relations (OGCR). My department works to secure funding from Washington, D.C. and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to support Drexel University's initiatives. During this process, we identify our University's priorities and submit our annual requests to the appropriate governmental agencies. Among the many successful initiatives highlighting in this effort are the Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN) program and the National Bioterrorism Civilian Medical Response Center (CIMERC).

We also work closely with our City's elected officials and their staff. OGCR plays a vital role in communicating Drexel's mission to our local officials, and seeking their support in all of our projects – from closing streets to building dormitories and recreational facilities – that have contributed significantly to the revitalization of West Philadelphia. In addition, OGCR's Annual Holiday Toy Drive has distributed over 25,000 toys to less fortunate children, and our annual "Celebrate Health" fair offers community residents free health screenings and education on health issues.

In the last five years, my office also organized numerous activities on Drexel's campus including one of the biggest events in the University's history – the 2008 Democratic Primary Presidential Debate in Drexel's Main Auditorium. It was an amazing time for Drexel, appearing nationally on every major channel including a prominent role on *NBC's Saturday Night Live*.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a sincere thanks to my staff for their dedication and hard work without which the accomplishments highlighted within this report would not have been possible. Additionally, I am looking forward to many more years of collaboration and successes of our beloved institution.

Sincerely,

Brian T. Keech

Vice President, Government and Community Relations



2004-2009  
Federal



**Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN) Program**

ACIN is an engineering research collaborative designed to enable the war-fighter and other first responders by targeting high risk, high reward advanced technology concepts and placing this technology into the field by working with program managers and Department of Defense prime contractors. OGCR plays a vital role in supporting these important programs by informing federal government institutions of important innovations and challenges to ensure the continuation of Congressional funding in support of ACIN.

**National Bioterrorism Civilian Medical Response Center (CIMERC)**

The CIMERC project developed technologically-enabled solutions to support healthcare delivery and healthcare education as an integral component of disaster preparedness and response to complex medical emergencies. CIMERC demonstrates leadership in technology-oriented fields such as sensor development, imaging, multiple-source communications networks and microbial decontamination. Within the given concentration areas, CIMERC recognizes and addresses the distinctive challenges presented by the urban and rural population centers in developing a cohesive response to complex medical emergencies and will integrate ongoing efforts at regional, national and international levels.



**Student Lobbying Day**

In conjunction with the Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), the Office of Government and Community Relations brings students interested in government to Harrisburg for a Student Lobby Day.



The students meet elected officials and relate to them some of their personal experiences about financial assistance, public transportation, and our Cooperative Education (co-op) program. Additionally, students gain insight on the legislative process, as well as a better understanding of the role lobbyists play in that process.

*Left, from top, Drexel University students meet with:*

*PA State Representative Robert W. Godshall*

*PA State Senator Edwin B. Erickson*

*PA State Representative James R. Roebuck, Jr.*

*This page: PA State Representative Thomas H. Killion*



2004-2009  
State



**President's Lobbying Day**

Each year, the OGCR coordinates a visit by the University's President to the capitol in Harrisburg to advocate on behalf of Drexel University and the Drexel University College of Medicine. The President meets with elected officials to update them on our activities as well as to advocate for legislative issues of importance to the University and the College of Medicine.





2004-2009

# City/Legislation



Race Street

## City Accomplishments

The Office of Government and Community Relations works to establish good relationships with our City's elected officials and their staff, and seek their support in all of our efforts. In the last five years, OGCR has worked very closely with Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell, who is the District Council member for our University City Main Campus, to pursue Drexel's Master Plan and also revitalize our West Philadelphia neighborhood.

Accomplishments in the last five years include: the construction of both our Race Street and Millennium Hall dormitories; the expansion of the College of Medicine's Queen Lane campus; the construction of the Earle Mack School of Law; the closure of Race Street between 33rd and 34th Streets; the construction of the new Dining Terrace; the construction of the Papadakis Integrated Sciences Building; and the construction of the new Recreation Center on Market Street, which happened with the transfer of land from the City to Drexel University.



Councilwoman  
Jannie L. Blackwell



Recreation Center



Queen Lane Campus Expansion



Race Street Dormitory



Earle Mack School of Law



Millennium Hall

Papadakis Integrated  
Sciences Building



Dining Terrace

2004-2009  
**Community**



**"Celebrate Health" Fair**

The Office of Government and Community Relations has been organizing an annual "Celebrate Health" Fair for more than 12 years. Drexel faculty, staff and students along with volunteers from external organizations provide free screenings and/or education on health issues to the community. A festive atmosphere is created with music and drum circles, balloons, children's activities, clowns, Mario the Dragon, line dancing, neighborhood drum corps and steppers. Free hot food, beverages, and t-shirts are provided and drawings for donated prizes are conducted throughout the fair.

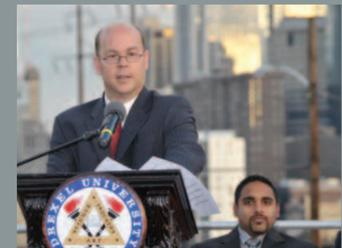


**Drexel Park**

The Office of Government and Community Relations played a vital role in the redevelopment of the former industrial site into an open green space located at 3101-23 Powelton Avenue. With the help of our Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell and the support of the Powelton Village Civic Association and Mantua Community, the space now serves as a recreational park for Drexel and the Powelton Village community. Construction on the 2.5 acre project began in fall 2007. The community park includes new lighting and walking paths, and the addition of more than 45 trees.



*Drexel University officials, Powelton Village Civic Association representatives and Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell open the Drexel Park.*



2004-2009  
**Community**



**Annual Holiday Toy Drive**

Drexel University has been conducting an annual Holiday Toy Drive to collect and distribute toys to needy Philadelphia children since 1996. Each year, individuals and businesses join our students, staff and faculty in this important effort so that together, we can provide toys to the children in our community. Since 1996, more than 50,000 toys have been distributed to children around the Philadelphia region. Toys are placed in eco-friendly bags in order to promote Drexel University's Green Initiative.



**Garden Beautification Project**

The Office of Government and Community Relations led the initiative to sponsor the reconstruction and beautification services at the Summer Winter Garden located at 3225-33 Race Street. As part of Drexel's overall community development program, the University engaged the Powelton Village Community Association and the Neighborhood Garden Association. The sponsorship was made possible with the assistance of a Community Revitalization grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development. The OGCR invested in and sponsored many of the necessary services to make improvements, including planting new trees and removing old shrubs, installing new fencing and lighting and remodeling the entrance to the Summer Winter Garden.



# Democratic Presidential Candidates Debate At Drexel

On Tuesday, October 30, 2007, Drexel hosted one of the biggest and most exciting events in the history of the University – the Democratic Presidential Candidates Debate. The debate, which took place in the Main Auditorium, was broadcast live nationally on MSNBC.

NBC News' Brian Williams and Tim Russert served as the moderators of the two-hour debate which featured Senator Chris Dodd of Connecticut, Senator Joe Biden of Delaware, Former Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, Senator Barack Obama of Illinois, Congressman Dennis Kucinich of Ohio and Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico. The debate pre-program featured a performance by the Drexel University Gospel Choir, as well as comments from Jeff Gardosh, President of Drexel's Undergraduate Student Government Association, Joe Jacovini, Chairman of the Drexel University Board of Trustees, T.J. Rooney, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party, Howard Dean, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell and Drexel University President Constantine Papadakis.

In addition to the Presidential debate, there were several other political events which took place on campus. *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams* was broadcast live from atop MacAlister Hall that evening. Williams also spoke to a group of Drexel students in the Edmund D. Bossone Research Enterprise Center Mitchell Auditorium earlier in the day. MSNBC's *Hardball with Chris Matthews* was broadcast live from the Korman Quad several times throughout the evening. Like Williams, Matthews also spoke to students in the Mitchell Auditorium.



Because of the overflow of attendees, Drexel hosted a separate viewing party in the Mandell Theatre. Several student groups as well as Governor Rendell entertained the crowd prior to the debate. At the conclusion of the debate, five of the candidates – including the now President Barack Obama and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter – joined President Papadakis on stage to address the crowd.

The Office of Government and Community Relations secured and organized the event and coordinated a group of approximately 300 volunteers from the Drexel University community to assist with logistics. These volunteers were engaged in activities throughout the day and were crucial in making this event the tremendous success that it was.



2004-2009

# Public Policy

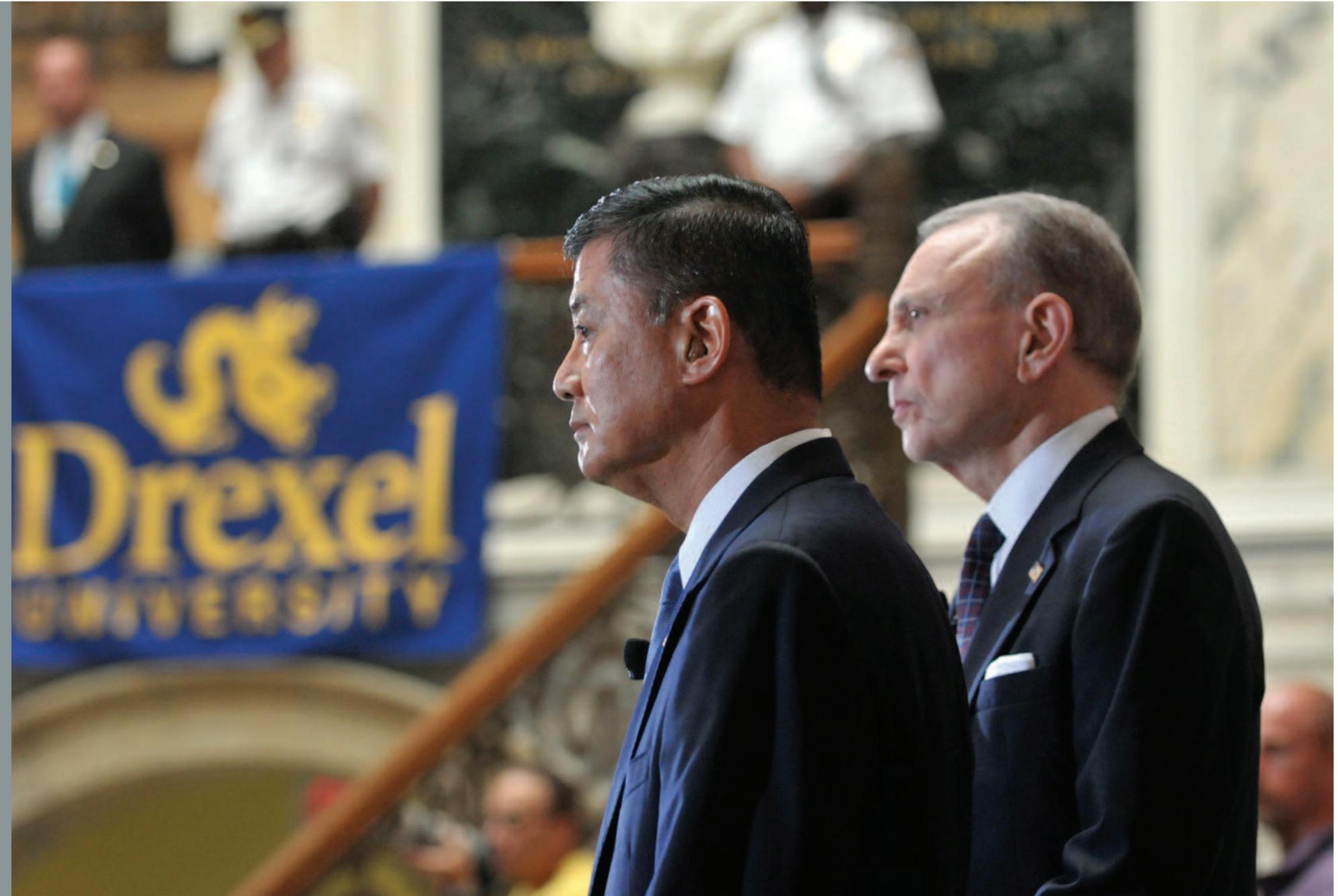


## U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton Visits Drexel University

U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton returned to Drexel University for a town hall meeting. The Senator was joined by PA Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer. Dr. Constantine Papadakis provided the opening remarks highlighting Drexel's commitment to immerse students in the political process and encourage them to register and vote.

## Town Hall Meeting with U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and U.S. Secretary Eric Shinseki

On August 17, 2009, the Office of Government and Community Relations in cooperation with the Office of Enrollment Management and University Relations, hosted a town hall meeting for veterans about the G.I. Bill Benefits. U.S. Senator Arlen Specter with special guest Eric Shinseki, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, answered questions about VA benefits, including health care, insurance, the Yellow Ribbon G.I. Bill and special programs for veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.



2004-2009

# Public Policy



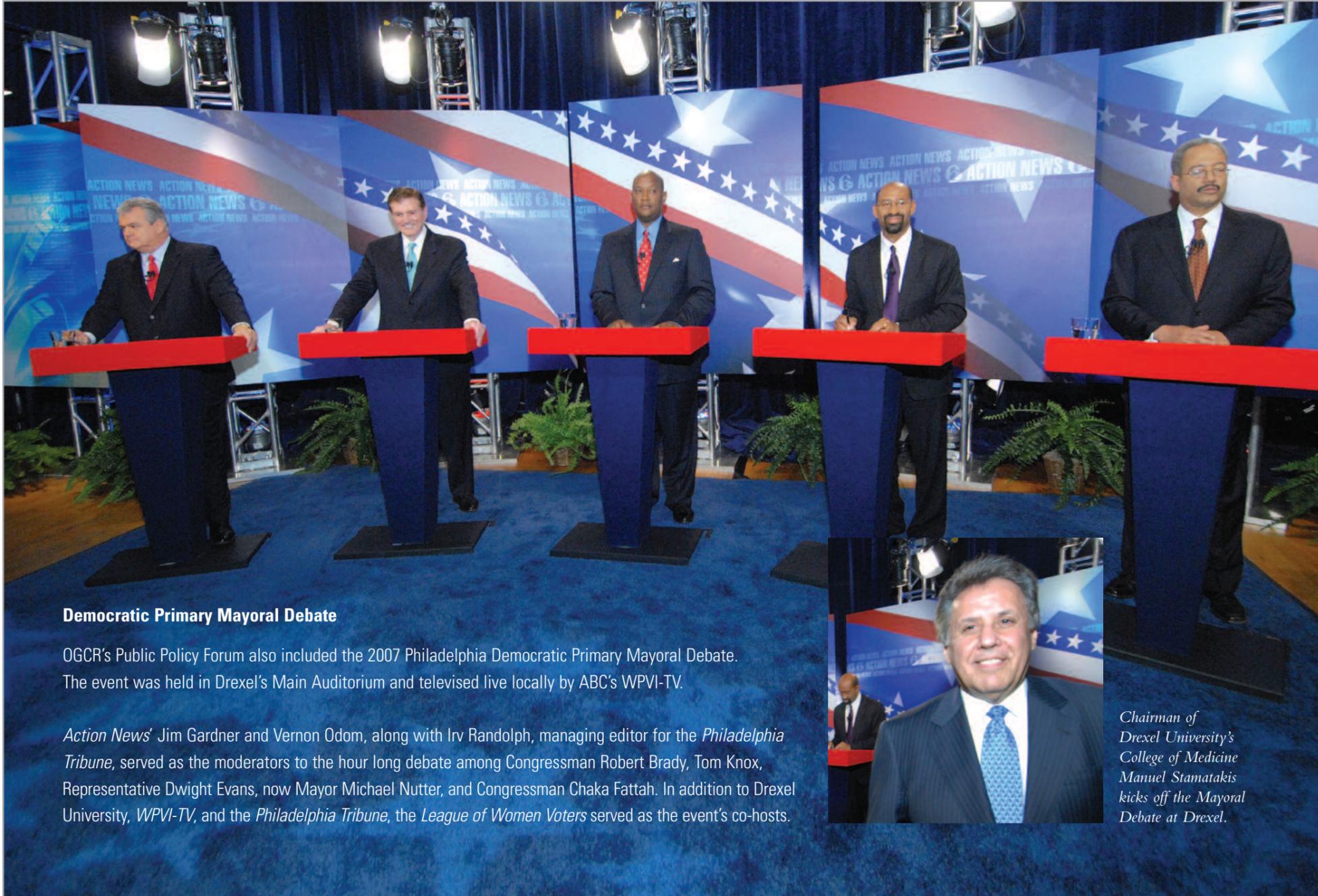
## Drexel's Public Policy Forum

Drexel University's Public Policy Forum (PPF) is an innovative educational program developed and supported by OGCR. The Forum brings national and international public policy leaders to Drexel's campus to speak on current events through lectures, workshops and seminars with the direct and active participation of Drexel leadership and OGCR Vice President Brian Keech. The events serve the purposes of educating, debating and sparking student interest in current public policy issues. Through the PPF, OGCR hosted CNN's *Fit Nation* program, presented by Dr. Sanjay Gupta, CNN senior medical correspondent, and featured former U.S. President Bill Clinton, who discussed his efforts to promote healthier lifestyles for Americans. The Drexel segment, which was taped in Behrakis Grand Hall, aired on CNN in June 2006.



In addition, over the past five years, Drexel has hosted Public Hearings and speakers such as U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, former Governor of New Mexico Bill Richardson, U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah, Philadelphia Councilman Frank Rizzo, former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, former State Representative Thomas Blackwell and President and CEO of the Committee of 70, Zack Stalberg.





**Democratic Primary Mayoral Debate**

OGCR's Public Policy Forum also included the 2007 Philadelphia Democratic Primary Mayoral Debate. The event was held in Drexel's Main Auditorium and televised live locally by ABC's WPVI-TV.

Action News' Jim Gardner and Vernon Odom, along with Irv Randolph, managing editor for the Philadelphia Tribune, served as the moderators to the hour long debate among Congressman Robert Brady, Tom Knox, Representative Dwight Evans, now Mayor Michael Nutter, and Congressman Chaka Fattah. In addition to Drexel University, WPVI-TV, and the Philadelphia Tribune, the League of Women Voters served as the event's co-hosts.



Chairman of Drexel University's College of Medicine Manuel Stamatakis kicks off the Mayoral Debate at Drexel.

**OGCR DEPARTMENT CONTACTS**



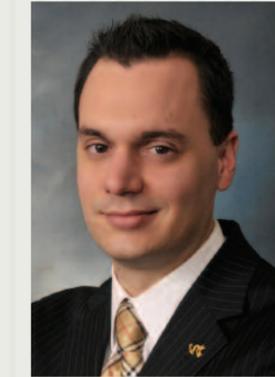
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**David E. Wilson**  
*Assistant Vice President*



**Cynthia M. Livingston**  
*Assistant Vice President,  
Community Relations*



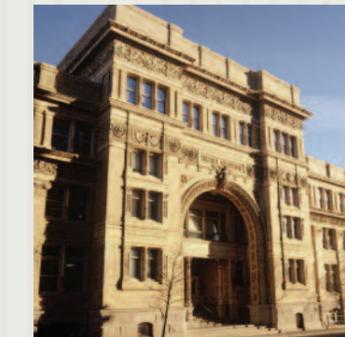
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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

*The Office of Government and Community Relations wishes to thank all Drexel University departments and their staff for their help and support over the past five years. It has been a pleasure and an honor working with all of you, and we are looking forward to many more years of collaborating to build on our institution's success.*

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

HENRY FORD, 1863-1947

*With our sincere thanks,*

***The Office of Government and Community Relations***

