

DREXEL AT-LARGE

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE DREXEL UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS • APRIL 2007



Message from the Vice President

The past year has been busy and quite successful for the Office of Government and Community Relations. I want to take a moment to highlight some of our accomplishments for 2006.

My office was pleased to organize and host two high profile visits to our University. In March, former U.S. President Bill Clinton and CNN anchor Dr. Sanjay Gupta, under the network's "Fit Nation" initiative, discussed promoting healthier lifestyles for Americans. In October, OGCR held a Public Policy Forum on "Leadership Challenges in Politics and Business" with U.S. Senator Arlen Specter. Our students had a rare opportunity to ask the Senator questions about both domestic and foreign policy.

As the University moves forward with capital improvements, I am pleased to inform you that OGCR has secured approval from the Philadelphia City Council for construction of the residential dormitory at the corner of 33rd and Race streets. On the state level, our efforts secured several million dollars in funding for various University programs. In addition, OGCR has completed the Summer Winter Garden Beautification Project located on Race Street. This garden will benefit our faculty, staff and students as well as our community neighbors.

I am pleased to report that OGCR has secured a Department of Community and Economic Development grant to support Dr. Itzhak Fischer's Spinal Cord Research Program; renewed a grant for the Governor's School of Excellence for Information Technology; secured a Department of Community and Economic Development grant to support a new "Keep West Philadelphia Warm" initiative in conjunction with the Energy Coordinating Agency and State Senator Anthony Williams; and secured two grants that address tobacco education and prevention. These are just a few examples of the successful funding efforts of my team.

At the federal level, OGCR, in collaboration with the Office of Research, secured a grant from the U.S. Departments of Defense and Transportation for Drexel's National Bio-terrorism Civilian Medical Response Center (CiMeRC) and coordinated the Federal Affairs process to secure funding from the U.S. Department of Defense, Department of the Army and Department of the Navy for Drexel's Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN) Project.

Finally, take a moment to visit the OGCR website at www.drexel.edu/admin/ogcr. As 2007 progresses, legislative actions will be posted to keep our Drexel Community better informed.

Feel free to call upon myself, or a member of my staff, if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you throughout 2007.

Thank you,

Brian T. Keech



President Clinton, CNN Visit Drexel Main Campus

OGCR hosted CNN's "Fit Nation" program on Drexel's University City Main Campus in March 2006. The event was hosted 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.

"Fit Nation" is a nationwide initiative to encourage Americans to adopt healthier lifestyles and combat obesity. Among the program's guest panelists were Drexel School of Public Health Dean Marla Gold and Drexel University College of Medicine Dean Richard Homan, who also provided the event's opening remarks. The Drexel segment, which was taped in Behrakis Grand Hall, aired on CNN in June.

Drexel, U.S. Army Team Up on Research Projects

Drexel houses several research and development projects supported by the U.S. Army, including the Applied Communications and Information Network (ACIN) program and the National Bioterrorism Civilian Medical Response Center (CiMeRC).

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 in the field. OGCR in collaboration with the Office of Research plays a vital role in supporting these important programs by informing federal government institutions about important innovations and challenges to ensure the continuation of Congressional earmarks in support of ACIN.

The CiMeRC project develops technologically enabled solutions to support healthcare delivery and healthcare education as an integral component of disaster preparedness and response to complex medical emergencies. CiMeRC continues to demonstrate leadership in technology-oriented fields such as sensor development, imaging, multiple-source communications networks and microbial decontamination. Within these fields, CiMeRC will continue to recognize and address the distinctive challenges presented by 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.

For more information on ACIN and CIMERC, contact Drexel's Office of Research at 215-895-6699 or visit www.research.drexel.edu.



OGCR Sponsors Garden Beautification Project

OGCR led the initiative to rebuild and beautify the Summer Winter Garden located at 3225-33 Race Street. As part of Drexel's community development program, the University engaged the Powelton Village Community Association and the Neighborhood Garden Association in the project.

Drexel's sponsorship was made possible by a Community Revitalization grant from Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development. OGCR invested in a number of improvements for the garden, including planting trees and removing shrubs, installing fencing and lighting and remodeling the entrance.

Health Explorers Post Grows

In response to the national call to increase the number of minorities in health professions such as medicine, nursing and dentistry and to combat inequities minorities face when encountering the health care system, OGCR established Drexel's Health Explorers Post. One of only a few such programs in Philadelphia, the Health Explorers Post has experienced significant growth in its nine years of existence. In 2006, 50 students from 21 Philadelphia high schools participated in the program.

The Health Explorers Post meets every two weeks throughout the academic year, providing an opportunity for youth to learn about different health careers from Drexel faculty and students. Although presentations differ from year to year depending on the interest of the youth, core discussions include nursing, physician assistants, physical therapy, medicine and emergency medical services. In addition to acquiring information about health careers, students learn about the college application process, develop leadership skills and participate in hands-on activities.



Students from the Health Explorers Post anxiously wait to see what lies under towels as pathologist George Lamb prepares to show them what disease in real body organs looks like.

Drexel's Public Policy Forum hosts U.S. Senator Arlen Specter



Sen. Specter (right) accepts a memento from OGCR Vice President Brian Keech.

OGCR hosted a Public Policy Forum on "Leadership Challenges in Politics and Business" on October 23, 2006, featuring U.S. Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Forum was attended by more than 400 Drexel students, faculty and staff.

During the Forum, Senator Specter highlighted challenges politicians and businesses face in the United States and abroad. Students had an opportunity to interact with the Senator and to learn about issues related to foreign and domestic policies.

The Public Policy Forum is an innovative educational program developed and supported by OGCR. The Forum brings national and international public policy leaders to Drexel's campus to discuss current events in lectures, workshops and seminars, with the active participation of Drexel President Papadakis and OGCR Vice President Brian Keech. The events inform students and encourage them to take an interest in public policy issues.

OGCR's Constitution Day Gift to Freshmen

In 2004, the passage of an amendment by U.S. Senator Robert Byrd (D-W.V.) to the omnibus spending bill of 2004 designated September 17 as Constitution Day, the day we celebrate the signing of the United States Constitution. To commemorate the occasion, OGCR gave a special gift to each Drexel freshman: a copy of the Constitution. Along with the Constitution, OGCR included a Voter Registration Form to promote civic engagement.



Drexel information science and technology student Artie Woods (left) receives his copy of the Constitution from OGCR Executive Director for Federal Affairs Andrei Muntean.

Celebrate Health Fair Comes to Mantua

OGCR brought its annual "Celebrate Health" Fair to the Mantua community for the first time in June 2006. After several months of planning with key community leaders including Anjali Chainani from Philadelphia Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell's office, the event was held at Morton McMichael School on Fairmount Avenue near 35th Street.

More than 300 neighborhood adults and children were in attendance. Drexel faculty and staff and local community organizations provided 48 educational tables including free screening for cardiovascular risk, blood pressure, vision, lung function, fitness level and body mass index. Attendees also received referrals for free mammograms and rapid HIV testing. In keeping with the "Celebrate Health" festive spirit, free hot food and beverages, music, t-shirts and raffles were featured. More than 30 Drexel undergraduate students volunteered at the event, many helping with the children's games and face painting.

Councilwoman Blackwell also attended Celebrate Health and expressed the sentiment echoed by community that the event was "fantastic" and hopefully the first of many in Mantua.



Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell (middle row, third from left); Rick Young, President and Founder of the Mantua Community Improvement Committee (kneeling, second from left); and OGCR Assistant Vice President Cynthia Livingston (middle row, second from left) are surrounded by Celebrate Health volunteers.



10th Annual Holiday Toy Drive

In 10 years, Drexel's Holiday Toy Drive has become one of the largest non-profit drives in the region. More than 4,000 toys were donated to OGCR for distribution to community organizations in West and North Philadelphia. Mattel Inc. was among the biggest contributors this year, donating more than 500 toys.

A holiday ceremony was held in the Great Court of Drexel's Main Building on December 21, where President Constantine Papadakis had the opportunity to thank contributors as well as faculty, staff and students who helped wrap toys. Joining President Papadakis and representatives of the community groups was Santa Claus, as well as U.S. Representative Chaka Fattah, State Representative James R. Roebuck Jr., Martin Cabry from the office of Philadelphia Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell and Tyree Gladden from the office of Councilman Frank Rizzo.



Santa Claus is joined by (left to right) Martin Cabry from Councilwoman Blackwell's office, Drexel President Papadakis, U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah, State Rep. James Roebuck Jr. and OGCR Vice President Brian Keech.

Keep West Philly Warm: A Partnership with Pa. Senator Anthony Williams and the Energy Coordinating Agency

In collaboration with Drexel Associate Dean of Engineering Dr. Mun Young Choi, OGCR is working with Pennsylvania State Senator Anthony Williams (D) and the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) of Philadelphia on a new project to help residents of West and Southwest Philadelphia reduce their heating bills. The program, called "Keep West Philly Warm," was made possible by a \$100,000 grant that Drexel received from the Commonwealth through the efforts of Senator Williams.

Two workshops have been held so far for the residents of these neighborhoods. The sessions, which included demonstrations by Drexel engineering students and members of the ECA, focused on teaching cost-effective, low-cost and no-cost ways to reduce home heating and water heating bills. Participants were shown how to:

- Locate air leaks and use a caulk gun, expanding foam insulation and other materials to seal leaks
- Install rope caulk, plastic storm windows, weatherstripping and V-seal
- Install and program a clock thermostat
- Install radiator reflectors or change a furnace filter
- Determine whether a home needs additional insulation

or more advanced air sealing work

- Learn how to take advantage of the new federal tax credit for home energy improvements
- Learn how to qualify for Phase II Energy Conservation Treatments in this program.

All participants received the ECA's "Step by Step Guide" and "Energy Savings Guide" to reinforce what they learned in the workshop, as well as the ECA's "Save Energy, Save Money" DVD, which provides detailed instruction on how to install a programmable thermostat and seal leaky windows. Participants were also able to purchase at a reduced price a package of weatherization materials including caulk, rope caulk, pipe wrap, set-back thermostats and other self-help materials.

OGCR plans to hold at least two more workshops. The second phase of the project, which began in November, involves offering workshop participants who have completed installation of the self-help measures in their own homes the opportunity to call the ECA and apply for home insulation and air sealing treatment at a reduced rate. The insulation work will be performed by ECA crews.



A New Dorm Rises on Race Street

OGCR has played a significant role in the construction of Drexel's new dormitory on Race Street. With the support and assistance of Philadelphia Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, OGCR took the lead in negotiations that obtained the approval of the Powelton Village Civic Association. The project was completed in March 2007.

Similar to East and North Hall, the new dorm features common rooms in the floor lobbies and four-person suite arrangements for students. Completion of the project will allow Drexel to move residents from Kelly Hall to the new dorm in order to finish a major renovation of Kelly by September.



State Rep. James Roebuck Jr. (second from left) meets Drexel students (left to right) Dimitrios Boufidis, Jason Abe and Craig Krisulevicz.

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Drexel Students Participate in Lobbying Day

OGCR, in conjunction with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), hosted its annual Student Lobbying Day in Harrisburg on April 4, 2006. Drexel students Dimitrios Boufidis, Craig Krisulevicz and Jason Abe met with elected officials and related some of their personal experiences about financial assistance, public transportation and Drexel's co-op program.

The event also allowed the students to gain insight into the legislative process and develop a better understanding of the role lobbyists play in government. Lobbying Day is a great opportunity for Drexel students to discuss firsthand with the state's elected officials those issues most important to them as members of the University community and Philadelphia residents.

Among the officials the students met was State Representative James Roebuck (D), whose district includes Drexel. Boufidis, Krisulevicz and Abe also joined students from other AICUP member institutions

Gender-Specific Tobacco Programs Continue to Grow

Over the past five years, OGCR has helped more than 500 women make a major life change: quitting smoking. Cessation programs for men and pregnant women began during the past year at the request of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH). In July 2006, PDPH awarded OGCR a grant for a fifth year to provide gender-specific tobacco programs for women, pregnant women and men. In September OGCR was awarded a grant by the American Legacy Foundation to reach 18- to 24-year-old men who are not at a university that offers tobacco interventions.

In order to develop a successful model for reaching and assisting its targeted audience, OGCR has formed collaborative relationships with community organizations that focus on working specifically with women

or men. In addition to providing assistance to individuals interested in stopping smoking, OGCR staff members Alison Tartaglia, MSPH, CHES, TAS, and George James, MFT, offer education programs on tobacco prevention issues for clinical groups and community agencies.



Drexel's unique approach to providing gender-specific tobacco cessation programs for the community has resulted in national recognition. OGCR Assistant Vice President Cynthia Livingston, principal investigator for the grants, received the 2006 DeJong Award for Vision and Leadership in Collegiate Tobacco Control, and three OGCR staff members were invited to present information about their work at the November 2006 national conference of the American Public Health Association.

For more information about the smoking cessation programs, contact OGCR at 215-762-8120.



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