

# Drexel @LARGE

DREXEL UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS ANNUAL REPORT • 2007 – 2008



## Democratic Presidential Candidates Debate at Drexel



### Message from the Vice President

The Office of Government and Community Relations was very busy in 2007. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our accomplishments since last year's publication.

We organized two prestigious events at our University. On May 4, 2007, Drexel University hosted the 2007 Philadelphia Democratic Primary Mayoral Debate. Our faculty, staff, students and guests had the chance to see the candidates live and listen to their proposed plans of action if elected the next mayor of the City of Philadelphia. Bob Brady, Dwight Evans, Chaka Fattah, Tom Knox and Michael Nutter faced off in a fast-paced, frequently contentious debate. The debate was televised live by Channel 6, WPVI-TV.

On October 30, 2007, Drexel University was the host of the 2008 Democratic Presidential Debate, one of the biggest events in the university's history. We were thrilled to welcome the candidates to our great City of Philadelphia and host them on our campus for a night of political discourse. Joseph Biden, Hillary Clinton, Chris Dodd, John Edwards, Dennis Kucinich, Barack Obama and

*continued on page 2*



On Tuesday, October 30, 2007, Drexel University 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.

*continued on page 4*



President Papadakis with Drexel Student volunteers at the Debate





President Papadakis congratulates Drexel's Vice President Brian T. Keach on another successful year

**Message from the Vice President Cont'd**

Bill Richardson attended the Debate at Drexel and provided the Drexel Community with an opportunity to see each in person and listen to their proposals for a better America.

Students also had the chance to participate in other academic events throughout the day including interactive sessions with Hardball's Chris Matthews, and NBC anchorman Brian Williams, the co-moderator of the Debate. In addition, that day, Hardball and NBC's Nightly News were both transmitted live from Drexel University.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody that worked hard to make this important event possible; Governor Ed Rendell, the City of Philadelphia, DNC, MSNBC, Drexel University's students, faculty and staff, our volunteers, Pennoni Honors College, LeBow College of Business, our Board of Trustees and our President Constantine Papadakis for his never ending support, leadership and guidance. Also, thank you to our sponsors, AARP, Astra Zeneca, PECO and Teaching Strategies for their support.

Finally, take a moment to visit the OGCR website at [www.drexel.edu/admin/ogcr](http://www.drexel.edu/admin/ogcr) where you can stay informed about past, current and future events and projects on which my office is working.

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 2008 and beyond.

Thank you,

Brian T. Keach



From left: Drexel's President Dr. Constantine Papadakis, PA State Representative James R. Roebuck, Santa Claus, PA State Senator Vincent J. Hughes, Martin F. Cabry from the Office of Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell, and Drexel's Vice President Brian T. Keach

**11th Annual Holiday Toy Drive bags 5,000 presents for Needy Philadelphia Children!**

The University's 11th annual Holiday Toy Drive, organized by the Office of Government and Community Relations, was the most successful in Drexel history, with more than 5,000 toys distributed to needy children. Toys were donated by students, faculty and staff as well as toy companies such as Mattel, Inc., Hasbro, Inc., Vermont Teddy Bears and more. The Toy Drive concluded with a ceremony in the Great Court on December 19, 2007. Representatives from more than 50 community and civic organizations from North and West Philadelphia were on hand to receive the toys. Also present were Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Hughes, Pennsylvania State Representative James R. Roebuck, Solomon Jones from the Office of United States Congressman Chaka Fattah and Martin Cabry from the Office of Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell.

President Papadakis and Santa Claus distribute gift bags to the Community Groups





**Drexel University's College of Law Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

**O**n Monday, April 9, 2007 Drexel University's College of Law celebrated its new building with its students and the community. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held in the new College of Law building located at 3320 Market Street. Distinguished guests included United States Supreme Court Justice Samuel J. Alito, United States Senator Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania State Representative James R. Roebuck, Philadelphia City Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell and Philadelphia Councilman Frank Rizzo. President Constantine Papadakis and the Dean of the College of Law Roger Dennis also provided the opening remarks. Numerous local judges, attorneys, city council members, law students and administrators were present. Drexel University's College of Law joins five other law schools in the area, but differentiates itself by being the first and only one to offer a six-month co-op program.

In addition, the Drexel University College of Law received provisional accreditation from the American Bar Association (ABA), Drexel President Constantine Papadakis announced. The seal of approval comes at the earliest point allowed under the ABA's accreditation guidelines. Provisional accreditation means all Drexel Law graduates will be able to take the bar exam in any jurisdiction. Upon passing the exam, graduates can begin practicing professionally.

Find out more at the College of Law website: <http://www.drexel.edu/law>



**Drexel University's College of Law Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. From left: Drexel's Vice President Brian T. Keech, PA State Representative James R. Roebuck, Drexel University's Former Chairman of the Board of the Trustees Joseph H. Jacovini, President Constantine Papadakis, Supreme Court Justice Samuel J. Alito, College of Law Dean Roger J. Dennis and Third Circuit Chief Judge Anthony J. Scirica**



**From left: Supreme Court Justice Samuel J. Alito, Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell, U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and College of Law Dean Roger J. Dennis**



**Above: Drexel students Alina Palimaru (L) and Lauren Sapita (R) with Representative Tom Killion and below with PA State Representative Robert W. Godshall**



**Student Lobbying Day**

**O**n Tuesday, March 20, 2007 in conjunction with the Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), David Wilson, Assistant Vice President of the Office of Government and Community Relations, brought two students interested in government to Harrisburg with him for a Student Lobby Day.

Lauren Sapita, majoring in Hospitality Management, and Alina Palimaru, majoring in Political Science, accompanied Dave for the day that included meetings with a number of elected officials including Representative Tom Killion, Representative Gene DiGirolamo, Representative John Yudichak, Representative George Kenney, James Fata from the office of Representative Mario Civera and Tom Golden from the office of Senator Ted Erickson.

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

Highlighting the day was a personal tour of the Chambers of both the House of Representatives and the Senate from Representative Killion. Representative Killion was also able to relate some of his personal experiences from his time serving on the staff of Congressman Curt Weldon as one of our students, Alina, did her co-op in 2006 in the Congressman's Washington D.C. office. The next Student Lobbying Day is scheduled for April 8, 2008.



# Democratic Presidential Candidates Debate at Drexel



Hardball's Chris Matthews with Pennsylvania's Governor Edward G. Rendell



Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell with President Constantine Papadakis



President Constantine Papadakis, Philadelphia Mayor elect Michael A. Nutter and Chairman of Drexel University's College of Medicine Manny N. Stamatakis



Democratic Presidential Candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama

*continued from page 1*

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 South Carolina, Senator Hillary 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.

*continued on page 5*





# Democratic Presidential Candidates Debate at Drexel



U.S. Senator Barack Obama addressing the students at Mandell's watching party



U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton receiving the President's medal from President Papadakis



*continued from page 4*



U.S. Senator Joe Biden receiving the President's medal from President Papadakis



Former U.S. Senator John Edwards addressing the crowd



Drexel University's Main Building

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. In addition, Brian Williams spoke to a group of Drexel students in the Bossone Auditorium earlier in the day. MSNBC's "Hardball with Chris Matthews" was broadcast live from the Korman Quad several times throughout the evening. Like Brian Williams, Chris Matthews also took the time to speak to a group of students in the Bossone Auditorium that day.



U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich receiving the President's medal from President Papadakis



Governor Bill Richardson receiving the President's medal by President Papadakis

To accommodate 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 as well as the newly elected Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, Michael Nutter, joined President Papadakis on stage to address the crowd.



U.S. Senator Chris Dodd receiving the President's medal from President Papadakis

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





Drexel volunteers participate in the Health Fair



Event activities included children's face painting



The OGCR staff and Health Fair volunteers with Mario, Drexel's mascot



From left: PA State Representative Scott Petri and PA State Representative Chris Ross

### Life Sciences Caucus

On Friday, March 2, 2007, Representatives Scott Petri and Chris Ross of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Life Sciences Caucus visited Drexel University to learn more about Drexel University's efforts to utilize its research dollars to foster collaborations with other research institutions in the region as well as to promote economic development.

The visit began with a brief introduction by Dr. Kenneth Blank, Drexel University's Vice Provost for Research, who highlighted Drexel University's rapidly growing research enterprise. Following the introduction, some of Drexel University's top researchers made presentations highlighting collaborations with other research institutions in the region as well as to promote economic development.

They agreed that the day was a great opportunity for them to gain a better understanding of the important role that Drexel University plays within the research community, as well as within the Commonwealth in terms of economic development. Also, it was extremely beneficial to the researchers to be able to interact directly with some of the members of the House Life Science Caucus and learn about the challenges facing them as they attempt to maximize the Commonwealth's resources.

### 2007 "Celebrate Health" Fair

The Office of Government and Community Relations, along with the Mantua Community Improvement Committee (MCIC) and Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell hosted its annual "Celebrate Health" Fair on May 12, 2007. The event took place at the West Philadelphia Community Center, which is located at 3512 Haverford Avenue. This was the second fair that Drexel University held in Mantua. Approximately 250 neighborhood residents attended.

People participating in presenting the Fair broke all records this year, with 53 tables of health education, screenings and community resource information. In addition, more than 30 Drexel University student volunteers also participated. Educational activities such as breathing like a smoker, seeing through the eyes of a drunken person and having a chance to explore the three Haz-Mat engines from the Philadelphia Fire Department were enthusiastically received.

The 2008 "Celebrate Health" Fair is planned for May 17th, 2008 at the same location. For updates, please check our website at [www.drexel.edu/admin/ogcr/health.fair.html](http://www.drexel.edu/admin/ogcr/health.fair.html)



### OGCR's Co-Op Student

The OGCR is a proud and active participant in the university's Cooperative Education program (Co-Op). In spring of 2007, the OGCR hired Drexel student Sarah Spangler by offering her the Special Projects Coordinator position for a six month co-op experience. Sarah, originally from Pine Beach, New Jersey, is currently a junior majoring in Corporate and Public Relations. The opportunity to work as a Special Projects Coordinator in the OGCR gave her the chance to learn and develop the skills she will

need to use within the work place. Sarah was also able to assist and participate in high profile events within the university like the 2008 Presidential Democratic Debate, the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the New College of Law and the Democratic Primary Mayoral Debate at Drexel. We are really excited that Sarah chose our office for her co-op experience, and we would like to wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.



**23rd Annual Commerce Bank Philadelphia International Championship Bike Race**

**D**rexel University was the proud sponsor of the 23rd annual Commerce Bank Philadelphia International Championship Bike Race that was held June 10, 2007. OGCR coordinated Drexel's sponsorship in the race and the College of Nursing and Health Professions together with the College of Medicine hosted a "Health Hut" tent, which was enthusiastically received by race organizers and attendees. President and Mrs. Papadakis attended the event and were included in the award ceremony.



Drexel University volunteers with President Constantine Papadakis and Mario the Dragon

**Contact OGCR**

**Drexel University  
Office of Government and Community Relations**

3141 Chestnut Street  
Main Building, Suite 228  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2875  
OFFICE: 215-895-2109  
FAX: 215-895-6356

**College of Medicine  
Office of Government and Community Relations**

246 North 15th Street  
Bellet Building, MS 615  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1407  
OFFICE: 215-762-8120  
FAX: 215-762-3952

[www.drexel.edu/admin/ogcr](http://www.drexel.edu/admin/ogcr)

**Early Successes with the Young Men's Tobacco Project**

**W**ith continued efforts to combat the ever-persistent epidemic of smoking, the Office of Government and Community Relations (OGCR) received a grant from the American Legacy Foundation to target young men, 18-24 years old, not in college, who were smokers. The Young Men's Tobacco Project began with focus groups aimed at learning more about the smoking attitudes and behaviors of this rarely-reached population. Data analyses were conducted by our evaluation partner, Dr. Lisa Ulmer of the School of Public Health. Information from the focus groups was then used to inform the development of a 6-session smoking reduction intervention, which has been implemented twice at an E3 (Empowerment, Education, Employment) job readiness community site where young men were already receiving services.

Close collaboration with E3 Center staff on program implementation resulted in 90% of the young men involved in both programs reducing their smoking use. Year 2 will support expansion to other job readiness sites across Philadelphia and Delaware Counties.



The exceedingly hard-to-reach population of young men that is being reached with this project – undereducated, unemployed and from disparately impacted communities – has been left behind by traditional tobacco resources. Interest in Drexel's work with this population led to an invitation from the American Public Health Association to OGCR staff members Alison Tartaglia, George James, Adonis Banegas and Assistant Vice President Cynthia Livingston, principal investigator for the grant, to present first-year findings at the annual conference in Washington, DC in November 2007.

For its 7th consecutive year, OGCR is also offering gender-specific smoking cessation individual and group programs for men, women and pregnant women through funding from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. For more information about the smoking cessation services, contact OGCR at 215-255-7889.



# Democratic Primary Mayoral Debate



Drexel's Vice President Brian T. Keech with U.S. Congressman Robert A. Brady



U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah with OGCR's Director for Business and City Affairs Dimitrios N. Boufidis



2007 mayoral candidate and now Mayor Michael Nutter with Drexel's Vice President Brian T. Keech



PA Representative Dwight Evans with Drexel Trustee Donna Gentile O'Donnell, Ph.D., and College of Medicine Chairman Manny N. Stamatakis



Tom Knox with Drexel's Vice President Brian T. Keech



College of Medicine Chairman Manny N. Stamatakis

On Friday, May 4, 2007 Drexel University hosted the 2007 Philadelphia Democratic Primary Mayoral Debate. This event, which was held in Drexel's Main Auditorium, was 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, Representative Dwight Evans, Congressman Chaka Fattah, Tom Knox and former Councilman Michael Nutter. In addition to Drexel University, WPVI – TV, and the Philadelphia Tribune, the League of Women Voters served as the event's co-hosts.

This event was one of the last debates prior to the May primary in which Michael Nutter was chosen as the Democratic representative in the mayoral race. He subsequently defeated the Republican candidate, Al Taubenberger, in the general election and in January of 2008 was sworn in as Mayor of Philadelphia.



Drexel University  
Office of Government and Community Relations  
3141 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Philadelphia, PA  
Permit # 144

## Visit OGCR on the Web

For more information on the latest OGCR projects and for answers to questions or concerns, visit [www.drexel.edu/admin/ogcr](http://www.drexel.edu/admin/ogcr).