Floss Barber, a Drexel 100 alum and CEO of her eponymous interior design firm, is planning her students’ 30-year anniversary in 2015. In those three decades, Floss has worked on a wide range of projects from hotels to casinos, restaurants to workplaces as well as private residences and multifamily residential buildings. To perform well in all of these different segments of the market, it is important to stay “ahead of the curve.” The way to do that is to make education a neverending endeavor. Everyone goes to the usual industry conferences but in addition, Floss travels extensively both internationally and domestically, constantly keeping her eye out for unique designs and design trends.

Other cutting-edge educational experiences include a conference Floss attended at the Cleveland Clinic held by Delos, an organization launching a Wellness AP program and a co-op program that is now certified for interior design in Nevada.

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As a relative newcomer to the business world since retiring from the US Navy, I am constantly struck by how innovation, thinking “outside the box,” and a willingness to take calculated risks are the engines of growth in today’s world. Though Drexel may not have offered classes on these notions in the past, the University has long instilled in its distinguished alumni a powerful ambition to go their own way. The Close School empowers Drexel students with bold ideas and the ambition to go their own way.

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A Note from the Chair

Dear Drexel 100 Members:

I am honored to be writing to you as the new Chair of the Drexel 100 for the next two years. I know you join me in thanking my predecessor Dana Dornsife ’83, Hon. ’14 for her leadership in this role.

As our cover story makes clear, entrepreneurship and innovation are big themes on the Drexel campus today. The founding of the Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship along with other initiatives is making these concepts a permanent aspect of the University’s mission. Drexel may someday be known for them as much as for the nation’s first freestanding school of entrepreneurship to offer degrees, the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses—Greater Philadelphia Program.

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Mark L. Booser  MS, College of Computing and Informatics, 2001
Dr. Booser is global chief information officer and executive vice president for Cigna Corporation. He has been honored as a Premier 100 IT Leader by Computerworld and a Top 25 Global Digital Leader by Business by Technology magazine. Dr. Booser is a business advocate and champion for advancing the employment of the disabled, receiving the Anthony Coelho ADA Award and sharing the American Association of People with Disabilities’ All-Star Award for All-Around Public Service. Dr. Booser earned a doctorate in global public health from Arizona State University’s College of Health Sciences.

K. Blair Christie  BS, LeBow College of Business, 1994
MBA, LeBow College of Business, 1999
Ms. Christie serves on the President’s Leadership Council and the LeBow Dean’s Advisory Council. She currently serves on the President’s Leadership Council and the LeBow Dean’s Advisory Council. Since 1996, Mr. Wall has been one of the entertainment industry’s top composers of video game music. With more than 30 game scores to his credit, he has built a track record and an international reputation as a composer and music producer in the interactive entertainment sector. In addition to his work as a composer, Mr. Wall co-founded the first worldwide video game concert series, Video Games Live (VGL), an immersive concert event featuring music from some of the most popular video games of all time. Mr. Wall began his career in the music industry as an engineer, producer, and arranger. He has produced soundtracks for the films “Bioshock”, “Somewhere in the City”, “Tin Tin: A Crocodile Hunt” in Budapest” and “House of America”.

Doretha B. Johnson  MD, Woman’s Medical College, 1985
Hon., School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems, 2013
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Robert Lifshin  BS, Goodwin College of Arts & Sciences, 1958
A dedicated supporter of students at Drexel University, Mr. Lifshin is a retired manager in the chief maintenance engineering division of the Veterans Administration, where he held responsibility for Veterans Administration Hospitals in six states. Previously, he had been chief engineering officer of the VA Hospital in Coral Gables, Florida. He began his career working at VA Hospitals in New York, New Orleans, and Washington, DC after serving in the U.S. Army in World War II.

Gary M. Mignogna  PhD, College of Engineering, 1980
MS, College of Engineering, 1974
Dr. Mignogna is the president and chief executive officer of AREVA Inc., a leader in nuclear energy and a growing player in the renewable energies sector. He is the first person in business, industry or government to have a strong commitment to operational excellence through a number of initiatives launched under his leadership. He started AREVA’s engineering qualification program and is the founding sponsor of the Voyager rotational program for up-and-coming engineers in engineering. Mr. Mignogna has been a member of the Nuclear Issues Strategies Advisory Committee since 2007.

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Arye Rosen  PhD, College of Engineering, 1993
Dr. Rosen is a visiting professor and associate vice president for Biomedical Research Partnerships at Rowan University. Rosen University, where he was a faculty advisor at Drexel University. Dr. Rosen has been involved in research and development of micro/millimeter wave devices and circuits, including the norms and values of the workforce. His work is critical to the NIH’s efforts to stimulate the development of a healthy workforce environment. In addition, in 1985, she became the first woman president of the American Occupational Medical Association.

Richard J. Cohen  PhD, Medical College of Pennsylvania, 1978
Since 1980, Dr. Cohen has served as president and chief executive officer of the Public Health Management Corporation, a non-profit public health institute in Philadelphia that builds healthier communities through partnerships with government, foundations, businesses and community-based organizations. Dr. Cohen leads close to 1,400 employees, more than 250 public health programs and approximately ten regional organizations. Regionally and nationally, Dr. Cohen is sought not only for his depth of experience in public health delivery and management, but also for his insight into the underlying issues.

Robert Scheller  BS, Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, 1980
Ms. Scheller is a leading philanthropist and civic leader. She is a co-founder of the Roberts and Ernest Scheller, Jr. Family Foundation, which is a notable funder of Jewish organizations and higher education, among other causes. Ms. Scheller has served as the corporate secretary for Silhouette Manufacturing and, before enrolling in Drexel for her degree, she worked for Condé Nast Publishing.

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Dr. Taffer is a scientist, entrepreneur and currently interim department head of the Department of Chemistry at Drexel University. In 1985, Dr. Taffer co-founded BRAXIOS, International, a producer of research products for the basic medical research market that was sold to Enzo BioChips, Inc. in 2008. Dr. Taffer is dedicated to the advancement of the medical sciences. He is also the co-founder of the Medical Technology Center for Infants and Children at St. Peter’s University.

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Mr. Rosen has consistently demonstrated a growing player in the renewable energies sector. In addition, he is a fellow at the Center for Non-Violence and Social Justice at the School of Public Health. In 2014, the Stephen and Sandra Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services Center was named in honor of Ms. Sheller and her husband.

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Sandra Le Sheller
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CE, College of Nursing and Health Professions, 2005
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**Member Profile: Floss Barber ’75**

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Other cutting-edge educational experiences include a conference Floss attended at the Cleveland Clinic held by Deloit, an organization launching a Wellness AP program modeled after LEED AP. As casino work has become an important part of her business, Floss has recently passed certification exams and is now certified for interior design in the state of Nevada.

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**The Drexel 100 Newsletter**

**A Note from the Chair**

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No one should make the mistake, however, that these ideas are new ones for Drexel. The membership of the Drexel 100 counts numerous individuals who excelled by launching new enterprises or changing existing organizations with bold new ideas — not to mention those whose inventions disrupted business as usual.

**Disrupting Higher Education**

The Close School prepares game-changing entrepreneurs

_**Founding Dean Donna De Carolis calls Drexel’s Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship a “disruptive innovation in higher education.” As the nation’s first for-credit school of entrepreneurship to offer degrees, the Close School empowers Drexel students with bold ideas and the ambition to go their own way._

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“Drexel has given me no walls,” Cavote says. “And it’s been successful for me.”

As a relative newcomer to the business world since retiring from the US Navy, I am constantly struck by how innovation, thinking ‘outside the box’, and a willingness to take calculated risks are the engines of growth in today’s world. Though Drexel may not have offered classes on these notions in the past, the University has long instilled in its distinguished alumni a powerful drive to be creators and change agents. With programs like the Close School now in place, we are sure to induct many more successful entrepreneurs and innovators into the Drexel 100 in the future.

This year, the Drexel 100 proudly welcomes seventeen remarkable individuals who hold degrees from eight different Drexel schools and colleges and represent the breadth of the University. While their expertise and accomplishments vary widely, one thread ties them together: they have resisted accepting the status quo and chose to make a difference. And that is the essence of innovation.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Ferguson ’84, Hon. ’09

Christopher Gray

Collin Cavote

**Visit Us Online**

The Drexel 100 has an online presence. Visit our website to find a full list of members and biographies. Visit www.drexel100.drexel.edu

**ICON:** 1616 Walnut Street interior design for conversion of Art Deco office building into high-end multifamily residential apartments

**Holle Callaghan & Co., 5 Tower Bridge in Conshohocken:** interior design of “cutting edge luxury” firm, a 20-year client for Floss Barber Inc.
Lucille L. Adams-Campbell, PhD (BS, CoAS, 1977; MS, Biomed, 1979) professor of oncology, associate director of minority health and disparities research, and associate dean of community health and outreach at the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, DC, was honored with the 10th annual American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Minorities in Cancer Research (MICR) Jane Cooke Wright Lectureship at the AACR Annual Meeting 2015.

Joseph Carleone, PhD (BS, CoE, 1968; MS, CoE, 1970; PhD, CoE, 1972) was appointed to the board of directors of Sensient Technologies Corporation, a global manufacturer and marketer of colors, flavors, and fragrances.

Joan Dawson McConnon, CPA (MS, LeBow, 1989) was profiled in an article, “25 Years of Helping the Homeless” on philly.com. Ms. McConnon co-founded the non-profit organization Project HOME which provides shelter, permanent housing and educational and work opportunities to the homeless of Philadelphia.

Nicholas DeBenedictis (Trustee; BS, LeBow, 1968; MS, CoE, 1969; Hon., 1987) was elected president of the Pennsylvania Society. He was also awarded a Freedom Medal by the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association. In addition, he was named to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf’s Environment Protection transition review team.

Dana Dornsife (BS, LeBow, 1983; Hon., 2014), founder and president of Lazarex Cancer Foundation, and her husband, David Dornsife, established the Dornsife Global Development Scholars Program at Drexel University. The Program partners Drexel University with World Vision, a humanitarian organization, with the goal of preventing the spread of waterborne illness in 10 countries in Africa.

Carl Dranoff (Former Trustee; BS, CoE, 1970; Hon., 1986) launched a boutique real estate brokerage firm, Dranoff Properties Realty Inc. He also announced plans for three projects including the 21-story One Riverside at 25th and Locust Streets in Philadelphia, the 47-story SLS International Hotel and Residences at Broad and Spruce Streets in Philadelphia, and the 21-story One Theater Square in Newark, New Jersey.

Richard Goodwin (BS, LeBow, 1948; Hon., 2004), chairman of the Goodwin Foundation and founder and chairman of the Middle East Peace Dialogue Network, was honored by the advocacy group J Street at its National Conference and Gala in Washington, DC.

Rajiv Gupta (Former Trustee; MBA, LeBow, 1972) was named chairman of Delphi Automotive PLC.

Nina Henderson (Trustee; BS, Westphal, 1972) has been elected a non-executive director of the Regus plc and appointed chair of the board’s remuneration committee. Regus is the world’s largest flexible office provider operating in over 100 countries. Nina is also a director of CNO Financial Inc. and Walter Energy Inc.

Raphael C. Lee, MD, Sch, FACS (Trustee; MS, Biomed, 1975) co-invented “compositions and methods for refolding of denatured proteins” which was assigned a patent.

Mianheng Jiang, PhD (PhD, CoE, 1991), president of ShanghaiTech University in China, was featured in an article, “Engine of Innovation” from Chemical & Engineering News magazine, in which he discussed the available research resources and future educational goals of the University.

Thomas Leonard (Former Trustee; BS, LeBow, 1968) joined the 2016 Democratic National Convention Host Committee for Philadelphia.

James L. Madara, MD (MD, HU, 1975), chief executive officer and executive vice president at the American Medical Association, was named to the Crain’s Chicago Business’ “Who’s Who in Chicago Business.”
Drs. Bruce (BS, CoAS, 1969; PhD, CoAS, 1972) and Cynthia Maryanoff (BS, CoAS, 1972) received the 2015 Community Commitment Award from The Hepatitis B Foundation. The Maryanoffs are distinguished scientists who have provided dedicated service to the scientific community and generous support to their local community. In addition, the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI), America Group announced that the 2015 SCI Perkin Medal will be presented to Cynthia. This honor recognizes her outstanding work in process organic chemistry leading to drugs for treatment of epilepsy, Alzheimer’s disease, cardiovascular disorders, AIDS, tuberculosis, and type 2 diabetes. She will receive the medal at a dinner in her honor on October 6, 2015 in Philadelphia.

Denis O’Brien (Trustee; MBA, LeBow, 1987) is serving as chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce for 2014-2015.

Richelle P. Parham (Trustee; BS, LeBow, 1991; BS, Westphal, 1991) was presented with the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) Leadership Award at the inaugural STEAM Gala, a high-profile fundraising event benefiting STEAM programs. Ms. Parham is considered one of the pioneers leading the STEAM movement. She was also named to Savoy Magazine’s 2014 Top 100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America and as one of the 2014 Top Influential Women in Corporate America. In addition, she was named to Black Enterprise’s 2015 50 Most Powerful Women in Corporate America.

C.R. “Chuck” Pennoni (Trustee; BS, Goodwin, 1963; MS, CoE, 1966; Hon., 2009) was awarded the Athletics Director Legacy Award from Drexel University for his contribution to athletics at the university. Mr. Pennoni also received the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Delaware County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers.

The Honorable Sandra Schultz Newman (Former CoM Trustee; BS, Westphal, 1959; Hon., 2001) served on the honorary committee for the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Pennsylvania fundraiser.

Stanley W. Silverman (Trustee; BS, CoE, 1969; MBA, LeBow, 1974) and his wife Jackie established The Silverman Family Professor of Entrepreneurial Leadership at Drexel University. He has become a regular contributor to the Philadelphia Business Journal, writing articles on a variety of business topics including effective leadership, high-performance teams, customer service and the impact of energy on the Philadelphia economy, among many other topics.

Norman R. Smith, EdD (BS, LeBow, 1969; MBA, LeBow, 1971) was named president of Suffolk University in Boston, MA.

Carole Stein Hochman (Former Trustee; BS, Westphal, 1966; Hon., 1986) became the chief creative officer, chief executive officer, and board chair of Naked Brand Group, Inc., a global lifestyle brand currently offering one of the world’s most comfortable and luxurious lines of innerwear and loungewear.

Christopher Stratakis, Esq. (BS, LeBow, 1951) received the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. This award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary stewardship to the Mother Church of Constantinople, the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the United States.

Michael J. Williams (Trustee; BS, LeBow, 1980; MBA, LeBow, 1983) was named CEO of Prospect Mortgage, a residential mortgage lender.

Charles Valutas (Trustee; BS, LeBow, 1973) was re-elected to the board of trustees of GulfMark Offshore, Inc., an offshore support vessel company.