International Educator

Dr. Norman Smith credits Drexel for launching his impressive higher education career.

Dr. Norman Smith ’89 ’71 has built his more than 40-year professional career on export leadership and an open-minded approach to running a variety of academic institutions in places like London, New York, Boston and Egypt.

As such, Dr. Smith is not only a renowned chief executive, but he can offer advice on surviving a grueling winter in coastal Massachusetts as well as how to get a well-lit photograph in front of the Sphinxes, in a full suit.

His passion for efficient and inspiring leadership emerged early in his career, when he was enrolled in an MBA program at Drexel University, shortly after earning his B.S. in business here. After serving as president of a wide array of student activity groups on campus, Dr. Smith became the Assistant Dean of Students. Making the jump into academia, he says, was not initially his focus, but he is thankful for the opportunity Drexel provided him. “I have to credit Drexel for opening the door to higher education,” he says. “That was the beginning of what was the next 40 years, really.”

Having to put himself through college, Dr. Smith says he could not have made it without his Drexel co-op positions, which he held while also leading groups like the Student Program Board. “I saw the co-op program as my financial salvation, as they were making Drexel among the very few private institutions on my radar screen,” he says, “in fact, the only one.”

While president of the Student Program Board, Dr. Smith organized a study trip to London for 399 per person. Though not as modest a fee as it seems today, he says, “everybody thought it was the bargain of a lifetime.”

The trip did more than offer Dr. Smith rest and relaxation. It sparked his passion for travelling as a way of life. “This was the first time I’d ever gone to London, as a junior,” he says. “I fell in love with London and was awakened to the importance of world awareness and how insulated I had been until then.”

For the rest of my life, I’ve been a strong advocate of American college students spending at least a piece of their college career somewhere other than the United States. “Every country I’ve visited is like a new university,” he says. “Every country has its own culture and way of doing things.”

In 2002, Dr. Smith would find himself back in London, this time serving as president of the highly regarded Richmond, the American International University, until 2007. During his time there, he was able to reverse the two prior years of multi-million dollar deficit spending, ensuring five consecutive years of fiscal balance.

Later, while president of Al mamun University in Cairo, Egypt at the time of the Arab Spring revolution, Dr. Smith was forced to act fast and leave Cairo in order to save his own life. Luckily, he was able to catch the last flight out of the country before embarking on a week of empty skies. “It was very harrowing,” he says. “Everybody was saying, ‘if you’re an American, be very careful. It was a stale feeling.”

His main lesson from this experience feeds his theory that educating yourself about the world we live in is endlessly important. “If more Americans could go out and see what’s really happening in the rest of the world, they would be less insular and less disengaged with others,” he says.

Dr. Smith was serving as president of Al mamun University in Egypt during the Arab Spring uprising and feels lucky to have caught the last flight out before the July 4th holiday in 2011.

Back in America, Dr. Smith remains the only living President Emeritus of Wagner College in New York City, where he served as president from 1998 to 2002. During his tenure, the college saw four consecutive years of fiscal balance, doubling enrollment to capacity. In 2010 Dr. Smith translated his experience at Wagner into a successful book, entitled From Bottoms To Top Tier In A Decade: The Wagner College Turnaround Team, which has been cited by the Council of Independent Colleges as a “Book of Note” for college presidents and academic leaders and was distributed to attendees of the CIC President’s Institute in 2012. His first book, Selecting the Right College, was also very successful and was used as a reference for many school counselors for more than six years after it was first published in 1999.

His latest book, What College Tourists Need to Know, is based on his work with the Registry for College & University Presidents, where he presently serves as Consulting Interim President. The Registry is a highly regarded 80-year old organization that offers leadership assistance to universities and colleges, through consultation from a couple hundred well-respected veteran presidents, most of whom are retired in one way or another. Dr. Smith takes his position extremely seriously, saying he may need to step in and lead a university for several months sometime, while they search for an appropriate replacement.

“Our clients have a lot of trust in this organization,” he says. “I’m never in a position to say where I am or who I am helping, because they don’t want that to be known in the outside world.”

Protecting his sources is not a new practice for Dr. Smith, however, who financed his Drexel thesis by working at the now-defunct Philadelphia Bulletin as a night reporter, where his passion for writing began. “I got in the habit of having to hang out a story very quickly and put it into a readable context,” he says.

And now, after continued positive feedback on his books, he says, “Hey, I should keep doing this!”

Along with his membership in the Drexel 100, Dr. Smith’s awards and honors include honorary doctorates from Richmond University, Wagner College, and Philadelphia University.

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Drexel 100 members,

It was a great honor for me to be inducted into the Drexel 100; and I feel doubly honored to now be serving as Chair of the Drexel 100, a position I have been given a rare privilege to be included in such an impressive group.

Let me first thank our immediate past Chair, Dr. Raphael Lee, for his fine service. Dr. Lee took this role very seriously and was a font of good ideas for enhancing the Drexel 100. His use of a distinctive caricature, instead of a photo, was a delightful feature of past newsletters.

Our stellar 2013 class of inductees are featured in this issue. It is our largest group of inductees since the Drexel 100 was inaugurated in 1992. But we have not sacrificed quality for quantity – not by a long shot!

This year’s class of 14 alumni represents five Drexel colleges and a remarkable range of endeavors. We have people who have distinguished themselves in business, medicine, education, design, not-for-profit management and service to our country. This range emphasizes what a truly comprehensive university Drexel has become.

Drexel’s impact on the world is definitely going global. I just had the privilege of travelling to Africa with President John Fry and Public Health Associate Professor Shannon Marquez. That trip made clear to me that Drexel technology — know-how and commitment to practical solutions — can make a difference in people’s lives even in the farthest corners of the earth.

So while our newest Drexel 100 members are a genuinely diverse group I predict that future inductees will reflect an even fuller breadth of human potential and accomplishment. There is an exciting future in store for the University and the Drexel 100, and I am glad to be sharing it with you.

Sincerely,

Chair, The Drexel 100

Dana L. Dornsife ’83

The Art of Innovation

The ExCITe Center opens its doors on Drexel’s main campus.

B ringing together the powers of creative expression and technology, the new Creative and Innovative Technologies (ExCITe) Center is a hub for teams of faculty, students and entrepreneurs to pursue highly multi-disciplinary collaborative projects.

These students and industry professionals come together from the fields of engineering, fashion design, digital media, performing arts, computer and information science, product design, math and many others to meet, work, build and do research in an environment that encourages exploration and innovation. The ExCITe Center places everything they need right at their fingertips.

The 11,000 square-foot space was featured in the Philadelphia wide Science Festival in April for its magnetic resonator piano, a hybrid acoustic-electronic instrument developed by Drexel’s Music & Entertainment Technology Laboratory (MET-lab). The augmented grand pianos enables students to study the science of sound and create unique visuals for concerts.

At its center, the Shima Seiki Haute Technology Lab is a glass-walled room built for designers, artists and engineers to collaborate using innovative computerized knitting technology. This lab is supported by a donation from the U.S. subsidiary of Shima Seiki Manufacturing, Ltd. in Japan, a world leader in this new technology.

The ExCITe Center brings together not only technologists and researchers, but also designers, artists and musicians, city and transportation planners and civic innovators and entrepreneurs,” said Dr. Youngmoo Kim, the director of the ExCITe Center. “It’s a place for creative and passionate people who want to work together to transform Philadelphia through innovation and the digital creative economy.”

The Center has coordinated seed funding for several pilot projects, including the development of a Microsoft Kinect game to help patients with cerebral palsy increase physical activity and fitness; the creation of a virtual opera experience that brings the audience on stage; and the production of “Sonic City,” a educational game that captures the various sounds of daily life designed to connect the city.

These projects are representative of the collaborative efforts that the Center aims to facilitate. The Kinect project brings together faculty from the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts and Design and the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems and the College of Nursing and Health Professions. The virtual opera research unites Drexel faculty with partners from the Opera Company of Philadelphia and The Curtis Institute of Music. The virtual opera research unites Drexel faculty with partners from the Opera Company of Philadelphia and The Curtis Institute of Music. The virtual opera research unites Drexel faculty with partners from the Opera Company of Philadelphia and The Curtis Institute of Music. The virtual opera research unites Drexel faculty with partners from the Opera Company of Philadelphia and The Curtis Institute of Music.
Congratulations to the new Members of Drexel 100

Sylvia "Sibby" Brasler, BS, Home Economics, Visual Communication, Drexel College of Media Arts and Design, 1960 Mr. Brasler served as a Drexel University Trustee from 1982 to 1998 and then was named an Emeritus Trustee in 2010. Ms. Brasler has received numerous awards from Drexel over the years to honor her service to the University and the broader community. Mr. Brasler currently serves on the President's Board of Visitors, Jacarina Award Committee, and Design Council of the Antoinette Westmeyer College of Media Arts and Design.

Albert R. Checcin, BS, History & Politics, College of Arts and Sciences, 1975 Mr. Checcin is a nationally recognized development leader with 35 years of experience in higher education and health care. He has been the Senior Vice President for University Advancement at the University of Southern California since 2010. His previous experience encompasses the design and execution of fundraising campaigns at Fordham University, American University, Temple University, the University of Pittsburgh, Drexel University, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Joel Cohen, BS, Business Administration, LeBow College of Business, 1968 Mr. Cohen founded Allflex Packaging Products and holds three patents. Mr. Cohen served as a Drexel Trustee from 1998 to 2001 and also as Chair of the Alumni Board of Governors from 2004 to 2006. In 2012, he received the A. J. Drexel Paul Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Alumni Association. He currently serves on the Board of Visitors and Advisory Boards of both the LeBow College of Business and College of Engineering.

Abbie Dean, MS, Interior Architecture, Westphal College of Media Arts and Design, 1970 Ms. Dean has been a Drexel Trustee since 2004. In 2012, she was named a Trustee at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Mr. Dean served as a volunteer Curator and Exhibition Designer at Drexel’s Leonard Pearlstein Gallery (named in honor of her late father) from 2004 to 2011, staging such ground-breaking exhibits as UNA MAS and HALF THE SKY Women in the New Art of China.

Samuel D. De Bow, Jr, RADM, NOAA (Ret.), BS, Business College of Business, 1976 RADM De Bow is President and CEO of I.M. Systems Group, Inc., which supplies environmental and IT solutions to the federal government. Prior to that, RADM De Bow was the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations (NOAA) Commissioned Corps and Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. RADM De Bow was recently selected to serve a six-year term on the Board of Directors of the Military Officers Association of American.

Francis E. Dunlevy, BS, Management, LeBow College of Business, 1977 Mr. Dunlevy is Head of Principal Investments for Global Commodities at J.P. Morgan Chase. Mr. Dunlevy was previously Senior Managing Director in Bear Stearns' Commodity Group, Inc., a leader in supplying and transporting aerial systems and components. He continues to lead Triumph Group as Chairman. In 2009, Ernst & Young named him one of the Entrepreneurs of the Year in the Manufacturing, Distribution & Construction field. Mr. Ill is a member of the Drexel President's Leadership Council.

Beth Baugham DuPrez, MD, Hahnemann University, 1987 Dr. DuPrez is a skilled surgeon recognized for her humanitarian endeavors as well as her medical work. She is the Medical Director of The Breast Health Program at Holy Redemptorist Health System, and is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. DuPrez speaks at many national events on women’s health issues, and is a frequent contributor to the media. Dr. DuPrez was named President of the Board of the Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine (FHWM), an internationally recognized organization whose mission is to promote the history of women in medicine and the medical sciences on a national and international level.

Herbert Kean, MD, Hahnemann University, 1956 Dr. Kean retired from private practice as an Otolaryngologist. He is also Emeritus Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology at Temple University. Dr. Kean has served as the Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. DuPrez speaks at many national events on women’s health issues, and is a frequent contributor to the media. Dr. DuPrez was named President of the Board of the Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine (FHWM), an internationally recognized organization whose mission is to promote the history of women in medicine and the medical sciences on a national and international level.

Dana Dornbluh (BS, LeBow College of Business, 1985) was named President of Finance and CFO of Johnson & Johnson, and was invited to join the inaugural CNBC Global CFO Council. As a member of the Council, Dr. Caruso will share his frontline insight and unique views on key issues and challenges facing today’s CFOs on CNBC and CNBC.com.

Nicholas DeDonatelli (BS, LeBow College of Business, 1987), President of Global Engineering, 1986; Honorary Degree, 1987), Chairman and CEO of Aqua America Inc., was recognized at The Philadelphia Business Hall of Fame. 

James L. Madora, MD, Hahnemann University, 1975 Dr. Madora is in CEO of the American Medical Association (AMA). Prior to joining the AMA, he served as the Director of Health Information Systems at the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center. During his tenure at Illinois, he developed the AMA Physician Services Program, which provides access to clean water to 5.2 million people in developing nations. Dr. Madora is currently a member of the Board of Directors for Genentech, Inc., and serves on the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Philharmonic. Ms. Dornbluh (BS, LeBow College of Business, 1985) was named President of Finance and CFO of Johnson & Johnson, and was invited to join the inaugural CNBC Global CFO Council. As a member of the Council, Dr. Caruso will share his frontline insight and unique views on key issues and challenges facing today’s CFOs on CNBC and CNBC.com.

Nina Henderson (BS, College of Home Economics, 1972) was elected to the board of Walker Energy, a producer of metallurgical coal for the global steel industry.

Raphael C. Lee, MD, MD, MBA, Business Administration, LeBow College of Business, 1983 Mr. Lee has had a distinguished career in medicine and the medical sciences on a national and international level. Dr. Gerber is a Senior Member of the Wharton School of Administration as well as her medical work. She is the Medical Director of The Breast Health Program at Holy Redemptorist Health System, and is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. DuPrez speaks at many national events on women’s health issues, and is a frequent contributor to the media. Dr. DuPrez was named President of the Board of the Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine (FHWM), an internationally recognized organization whose mission is to promote the history of women in medicine and the medical sciences on a national and international level.

William Bulkin-Segal, MD (MD Women’s Medical College, 1962; Honorary Degree, 2006) was named President of the Board of the Foundational Support for the History of Women in Medicine (FHWM), and the First Woman to be President of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. Dr. Gerber is a Senior Member of the Wharton School of Administration. Dr. Gerber is a Senior Member of the Wharton School of Administration. Dr. Gerber has served in a number of senior executive positions, including President of American Express, President and CEO of Gannett Co., and President of New York Life Insurance Company.

Captain Christopher Ferguson (BS, College of Engineering, 1984; Honorary Degree, 2009), a retired U.S. Navy captain and space shuttle astronaut, was inducted to the Northeast Philadelphia Hall of Fame.

Loretta P. Fimmen, MD, LL.D Hon., ScD Hon. (MD, Hahnemann University, 1964) served as a consultant for UNICEF traveling throughout Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan lecturing on treatment options for pregnant drug dependent women and the management of infants.

Wayne T. Gattinella (BS, LeBow College of Business, 1977), Chief Executive Officer and Director of DoubleVerify, was inducted into Philadelphia School District’s Achievers Hall of Fame in May.

Robert L. Hall (BS, College of Science, 1987), President and CEO of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, was named Publisher and CEO of Philadelphia Media Network, the company that operates the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Philadelphia Daily News, and Philly.com.

Nina Henderson (BS, College of Home Economics, 1972) was elected to the board of Walker Energy, a producer of metallurgical coal for the global steel industry.

Mike Lawrie (MBA, LeBow College of Business, 1977), President and CEO of Computer Sciences Corporation in Falls Church, Virginia, was profiled in an article in the Washington Post which discussed his struggles and triumphs throughout his career.

Drexel 100 Newsmakers

Congratulations to our new Drexel 100 members. Your service and dedication to Drexel and your communities defines the best of our University’s mission.
Congratulations to the new Members of Drexel 100

Sylvia "Sibby" Brasler, BS, Home Economics, 1960; MBA, Business Administration, 1961; BFA, College of Media Arts and Design, 1960

Mr. Brasler served as a Drexel University Trustee from 1982 to 1998 and then was named an Emeritus Trustee in 2010. Mr. Brasler has received numerous awards from Drexel over the years to honor her service to the University and the broader community. Mrs. Brasler currently serves on the President's Board of Visitors, Jacovini Award Committee, and Design Council of the Antonini Westphal College of Media Arts and Design.

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Abbie Dean, MS, Interior Architecture, Westphal College of Media Arts and Design, 1997; Ms. Dean has been a Drexel Trustee since 2004. In 2012, she received the first A. J. Drexel Paul Award. She is known for her humanitarian efforts as well as her medical work. She is the Medical Director of The Breast Health Program at Holy Redeemer Health System, and is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. DePree speaks at many national events on women’s health issues and is a frequent breast cancer expert on The NBC Nightly News and The Today Show.

Samuel D. De Bovis, Jr., RADM, NOAA (Ret., BS), BS, LeBow College of Business, 1976

RADM De Bovis is President and COO of J.M. Systems Group, Inc., which supplies environmental and IT solutions to the federal government. Prior to that, RADM De Bovis was the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned Corps and Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. RADM De Bovis was recently selected to serve a six-year term on the Board of Directors of the Military Officers Association of American.

Francis E. Dunleavy, BS, Management, LeBow College of Business, 1977; Dr. Dunleavy is Head of Principal Investments for Global Commodities at J.P. Morgan Chase. Mr. Dunleavy was previously Senior Managing Director in Bear Stearns Companies’ commodities business, a top position in a firm of 8,000 people. From 2006 until 2008, he oversaw the development of Bear Energy Inc., a gas and power trading desk in Houston. Mr. Dunleavy contributes his expertise to Drexel as a member of the LeBow College Leadership Circle.

Beth Baughman DuPrez, MD, Hahnemann University, 1987; Dr. DuPrez is a skilled surgeon recognized for her humanitarian endeavors as well as her medical work. She is the Medical Director of The Breast Health Program at Holy Redeemer Health System, and is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. DuPree speaks at many national events on women’s health issues and is a frequent breast cancer expert on The NBC Nightly News and The Today Show.

Samuel E. Gerber, PhB, BS, Electrical Business Administration, LeBow College of Business, 1942; Dr. Gerber has been a teaching Drexel for 55 years. Today he is an award-winning Full Professor of Finance and Computer Engineering (ECE), and he also serves as Assistant CEC Department Head and a liaison to the Evening Program. Dr. Gerber is a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, a registered professional engineer in the State of Pennsylvania, and a past Fellow of the National Science Foundation.

Richard C. III, MBA, Business Administration, LeBow College of Business, 1973; Mr. III has had a distinguished career as President, CEO, and Director of Triumph Group Inc., a leader in supplying and overhauling aerospace systems and components. He continues to lead Triumph Group as Chairman. In 2009, Ernst & Young named him one of the Entrepreneurs of the Year in the Manufacturing, Distribution & Construction field. Mr. III is a member of the Drexel President’s Leadership Council.

Herbert Keen, MD, Hahnemann University, 1956; Dr. Keen is retired from private practice as an Otolaryngologist. He is also Emeritus Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. He was the Medical Director of the Department of Otolaryngology at Thomas Jefferson Medical College. He performed the first outpatient surgery at Jefferson Medical College Center in 1986, as well as the 50,000th outpatient procedure in 1998. At Drexel University College of Medicine, Dr. Keen currently serves on the Alumni Association Board.

James L. Madaera, MD, Hahnemann University, 1975; Dr. Madaera is in CEO of the American Medical Association (AMA). Prior to joining the AMA, he served as the Director of the National Guided External Support Professor and Dean of the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and as CEO of the University of Chicago Hospitals and Medical Center. An academic pathologist and an authority on epithelial cell biology and gastrointestinal oncology, he has received numerous international awards and was Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Pathology.

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Raphael C. Lee, MD, LLD Hon., ScD Hon., Loretta P. Finnegan, MD, LLD Hon., ScD Hon.; and induction into the World Philadelphia Hall of Fame.

Loretta P. Finnegan, MD, LLID Hon., ScD Hon (HS), FACS (MS, College of Medicine, 1967) was named Publisher and CEO of Daily News.

Congratulations to the new Members of Drexel 100

Ralph L. Hall, BS, Management, LeBow College of Business, 1967; Richard C. Ill, MBA, Business Administration, LeBow College of Business, 1973

Mr. Williams served as Fannie Mae’s President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Finance and CFO of Johnson & Johnson, was invited to join the inaugural CNBC Global CFO Council. As a member of the Council, Mr. Caruso will share his frontline insights and unique views on key challenges and changing landscape facing today’s CFOs on CNBC and CNBC.com.

Nicholas DeNolfo (BS, LeBow College of Business, 1981) was named President of Fire and Safety Systems at The Boeing Company. He joined Boeing in 1977, and has served in a variety of leadership roles throughout his career.

Dana Da russe (BS, LeBow College of Business, 1983), the Founder of the Laureus Foundation Cancer, received the International Breast Cancer Society’s 2012 World Vision Strong Women Strong World Luncheon, which discussed its difference in public education.

Carol Hansen Montgomery (BS, College of Information Science and Technology, 1969, PhD, College of Information Science and Technology, 1980) was a book, Tapping the Fountain of Youth People of 50+. The book includes interviews with 28 women runners.

Michael Williams, BS, Commerce & Engineering and Finance, LeBow College of Business, 1980; MBA, Business Administration, LeBow College of Business, 1983

Mr. Williams served as Fannie Mae’s President and Chief Executive Officer. As a result of his leadership, the company returned to profitability in 2012. Mr. Williams currently serves as a Senior Advisor to Fortress Investment Group and Sterling Partners and was recently named Chairman of the Board of Prospect Mortgage, LLC. He is a member of the Drexel Board of Trustees and serves on the LeBow College of Business Advisory Board.

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Dr. Norman Smith credits Drexel for launching his impressive higher education career

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While president of the Student Program Board, Dr. Smith organized a trip to London for $399 per person. Though not as modest a fee as it seems today, he says, “everybody thought it was the bargain of a lifetime.”

Dr. Smith, not only a man of his word, but of his work, “Before more than a week of empty skies. “It was very harrowing, ” he says, “and I fell in love with London and was awakened to the world of international education, “ he says. “That was the beginning of what was the next 40 years, really.”

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For questions, comments or suggestions about The Drexel 100 Newsletter, please contact Ken Goldman in the Office of Institutional Advancement at 215.895.2607 or goldman@drexel.edu