Drexel Athletics
SHAPING FUTURE LEADERS

"It is very likely that the team leader who will cure cancer or solve poverty will be a former student-athlete."
— Eric Zillmer, Athletics Director and Carl R. Pacifico Professor of Neuropsychology

Why? Student-athletes learn essential and unique “soft and hard” skills in the athletic arena including motivation, teamwork, managing risks, and yes, also failure, to position themselves to make the impossible, possible. Thought leaders across multiple industries agree. The change-makers of tomorrow must excel in these translational, applied skills. In an economy shaped by automation, computerization and globalization, attributes like mental elasticity, critical and creative thinking, meta-cognition “thinking-to-think,” entrepreneurship, cultural relativity, and managing complex systems will shape tomorrow’s leaders. At Drexel Athletics we prepare our student-athletes to embrace the challenges of professional life in a diverse and global world. Donating to Drexel Athletics is directly investing in future leaders.

Every great university deserves a great athletics program.

As we embark on an ambitious campaign to position Drexel University as a leading private comprehensive research university, athletics is playing an increasingly visible and important role in the perception and life of this institution. Drexel Athletics can be the front porch of our University and the stewards of University pride. On any given weekend our student-athletes compete their hearts out for Drexel. Drexel teams play a national schedule and have made their mark in NCAA Division I athletics as well as in academic graduation success rates. This competitive spirit is infectious. It creates a can-do attitude on campus that has become a metaphor for our institution's aspirations.

It has been more than 125 years since Anthony J. Drexel built his small gymnasium in the Drexel Institute of Technology’s Main Building. Since then, Drexel Athletics has grown to become a vibrant and dynamic part of the campus that helps drive the pulse of our University’s heartbeat.

Today, more than 450 Drexel student-athletes compete in 18 varsity sports; 1,400 students compete in 34 intercollegiate club sports; and two out of three students participate in intramural competition. In total, more than 700,000 Drexel students, alumni, faculty and staff, and community members use the Daskalakis Athletic Center every year.

Off the “court,” Dragons are national leaders in academic integrity, gender equity, cultural diversity, community outreach and inclusion. In fact, we have been a global pioneer in women’s athletics and gender equity in sports. Women’s basketball was established here soon after our founding, long before most universities even admitted women or the modern Olympics allowed women to participate. More recently, we were named No. 1 in the nation in gender equity by U.S. News and World Report.

Drexel Athletics is the spirit and soul of our University’s commitment to innovation, engagement, inclusivity and excellence.
Supporting Drexel Athletics has an immediate impact and provides incredible value on and off the field.

A 2016 Gallup-Purdue Index study of college graduates shows former student-athletes – particularly women – fared significantly better after graduation than non-athletes in several measures of well-being, including sense of purpose, social relationships, relationship to their communities, and physical health.

Drexel’s own institutional research reveals that students who visit the University’s recreation center 10 or more times a year have a 10 percent higher retention rate and significantly higher GPAs than the student body average.

Perhaps most importantly, Drexel Athletics is an engine for self-confidence, high-performance and institutional pride. Drexel Athletics is a “talent magnet” for the future leadership of the region, our nation and the world. The real-life laboratory of athletics can and will set our students apart for becoming tomorrow’s leaders.

We seek partners who share our vision and passion. Your investment in Drexel Athletics will empower us to realize our greatest potential and put your stamp on the future.

At Drexel Athletics, the future is a place — of health, opportunity, creativity and pride — that we make.

Drexel Athletics Advantage

- In 2018 the men’s basketball program boasted the largest comeback-win in NCAA Division I history by defeating Delaware after being down by 34 points. Women’s basketball won the WNIT championship in 2013 – the only women’s national championship in the city of Philadelphia.
- In only their 7th year as a varsity program, men’s and women’s squash have achieved No. 6 and 7 national rankings, respectively, by the College Squash Association.
- Both the field hockey and men’s lacrosse teams have advanced to the NCAA Quarterfinals in the past 10 years.
- The men’s soccer team advanced to the NCAA Tournament in back-to-back seasons in 2012 and 2013.
- Crew has won the last six Dad Vail Regatta team titles.
- The Drexel Recreation Center was voted the Best Gym/Sports Club in Philadelphia according to the Philly.com 2015 Reader’s Choice Awards. In 2017, we were ranked No. 7 nationally by College Magazine.
- Drexel Golf alum Chris Crawford ’17 qualified for the U.S. Open in back-to-back seasons.
- Tennis, swimming and diving, and wrestling just completed outstanding seasons at Drexel, with wrestling being ranked in the top 25 nationally.
- The graduation rate for Drexel’s student-athletes is consistently higher than other Division I schools nationally, as well as compared to the general student body at Drexel University. For example, the 2018 statistics indicate that six Drexel teams scored a perfect 100 percent on the NCAA Graduation Success Rate report, including men’s basketball.
INVESTMENT IN DIVISION I BASKETBALL

Successful Drexel basketball programs can be an important strategic asset for Drexel. They have the potential to bring brand recognition and prestige to the University on a regional and national level. This halo effect has been demonstrated many times in terms of increased fundraising, prospective students, alumni engagement and impact.

NCAA Division I basketball programs are complex infrastructures that deserve support from many different stakeholders of a university, including its alumni. Such support can be in the form of assistance for recruiting, academics, strength and conditioning, sport psychology and sports nutrition, marketing and promotions, and facilities improvements.

“Having spent my professional career in sports broadcasting, I can assure you a successful athletics program benefits an entire University. It brings national recognition and fosters interest and enthusiasm from alumni and prospective students alike.

As Drexel University continues to define itself as a world class university, let’s work to make sure the Athletics Department grows in its role as ambassador.”

— Chris McKendry Andrade ’90, women’s tennis alumna, trustee and ESPN anchor

Giving Opportunities

$4 million: Daskalakis Athletic Center upgrades including video scoreboard, lighting conversion to LED, south practice court renovation, and Sports Medicine wet area

$2 million: Guarantee games, international trips and recruiting, charter flights

$60,000 annually: Dedicated strength & conditioning coach, sport science architecture, analytics
DASKALAKIS ATHLETIC CENTER UPGRADES

For more than three decades, the Daskalakis Athletic Center (DAC), named after Hall-of-Fame Lacrosse player John Daskalakis ’63, has been the home of Drexel Athletics and a vibrant center of student life at Drexel University. The extensive upgrades that have been made to the DAC in the past decade demonstrate its importance to the life of our campus. Most recently, we have improved the seating, hospitality amenities, lobby and branding of our basketball arena to transform the DAC into one of the nation’s most interesting boutique arenas.

To complete these upgrades, we aspire to replace the basketball arena’s 40-plus-year-old lighting with modern LED lighting and the 20-year-old scoreboard with an LED scoreboard. These improvements will be the jewel in the crown that will increase opportunities for sponsorship of our men’s and women’s basketball as well as wrestling teams, and provide a modern game-day environment for our student-athletes and fans.

Naming Opportunities

$3 million: Fund the installment of LED lighting for basketball and wrestling events

$1.5–$2 million: Fund the installment of an LED scoreboard for basketball and wrestling events

Invest in and name spaces within the Center:

$500,000: President’s Suite

$250,000: Media Room

$250,000: Blue and Gold Room
The Vidas Athletic Complex is named after Drexel alum Vince Vidas ’59, the University’s most distinguished football player. The 18-acre facility is home to nine varsity sports and numerous club and intramural events. The Vidas Athletic Complex serves as the training and competition ground for some of our winningest Division I teams – men's and women's lacrosse and men's and women's soccer. On it, our men's soccer team has won the CAA championship and hosted an NCAA 1st round game. There, our women's soccer team has competed against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea National Team, and our men's lacrosse program has been ranked regularly in the top 20 nationally.

Although the field was upgraded with synthetic turf and improved lighting in 2005, the improvements are reaching the end of their lifespan, and the facility no longer adequately supports the teams’ increased profile and potential. Drexel Athletics has developed a renovation plan for the field that will transform it into a venue suitable for championship athletics.

Our vision for this facility includes:

- Increased seating capacity
- A new video tower on top of the seating structure
- A state-of-the-art video scoreboard
- A new plaza entrance with a permanent ticket office
- New concession and merchandise areas, team rooms, storage areas, and officials’ locker room and restrooms

There are numerous opportunities to invest in the athletic complex renovation and name spaces within it in order to leave a lasting mark on athletic and recreational life at Drexel.

Our student-athletes would benefit from a vastly improved playing environment and increased fan attendance attracted by a superb game-day experience. Most significantly, a first-class facility will boost our ability to vie for top recruits, thereby making a lasting impact on the future of athletics at Drexel.

### Naming Opportunities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$3 million</td>
<td>Tennis Complex, including “bubble,” or air structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1 million</td>
<td>Stadium</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>Entrance Plaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>Press Box</td>
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<tr>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>Grandstand Seating</td>
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<tr>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>Scoreboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>North-End Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>Architectural Tower</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>VIP Section of Grandstand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Ticket, Concession and Merchandise Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Game Day Team Rooms (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Officials Locker Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Assist in funding the project and secure your name on a donor recognition wall</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Recognizing the transformational potential of the Vidas Athletic Complex renovation plan, Drexel University Trustee and former student-athlete Jim Bean ’91 and his wife, Christine O’Sullivan, have invested $1 million to create a matching opportunity for gifts toward improvements.

All gifts and commitments $25,000 and above will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to $1 million, enabling donors to double the impact of their philanthropy.

“There are many pillars that support a world-class University, and athletics is a critical one,” Bean says. “We are excited to welcome fellow Drexel alumni, parents and friends to join us in helping ensure Drexel athletics is a leading contributor to this amazing transformation.”

Hall of Fame men’s lacrosse player Dennis Fink ’78, his wife, Dee, and family took advantage of this challenge to make a significant contribution. The Fink Family Scoreboard, a state-of-the-art LED display for Vidas Field, will mark the first phase of the Complex’s transformation.

“I am grateful for my experience at Drexel as a student-athlete and honored to support Drexel Athletics in this way,” Fink says. “As a former player, proud father to collegiate lacrosse players and current high school coach, I know how imperative it is to have facilities that reflect the hard work and dedication of the student athletes and athletic staff.”
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS AND COACHING POSITIONS

Endowed scholarships and coaching positions fuel access to opportunity and competitive excellence.

The NCAA determines the number of scholarships an institution can provide for each Division I sport. Drexel Athletics currently has the resources to meet this limit for 13 of our 18 varsity teams. We have made it a priority to provide the NCAA-allowed maximum number of scholarships for athletes in all our varsity sports. There is no better tool to recruit and retain the most talented student-athletes from all backgrounds, and to level the playing field with fellow schools in the Colonial Athletic Association that field teams with the NCAA maximum.

Endowed coaching positions sharpen Drexel’s ability to compete for athletic visionaries from across the nation who can develop athletes and programs to their full potential. Such positions confer not only prestige to the holder but also a lasting source of programmatic resources.

Naming Opportunities

$1.5 million: Establish one endowed full scholarship that will exist in perpetuity

$1 million: Establish an endowed coaching position that will exist in perpetuity

$100,000: Establish a sport-specific endowment at the coach’s discretion that will exist in perpetuity

“As an alumnus and a parent, I know first-hand that Drexel Athletics can be the front-porch of our institution and the stewards of University pride. I am proud to be a Dragon.”

— Dennis Murray, ’79, men’s lacrosse alumnus, member of the President’s Leadership Council, and chair of the Athletic Director’s Leadership Council
CREW PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

Rowing at Drexel has progressed a long way since its inception in 1958 as an organized sport. A January 1959 Triangle student newspaper article promised a “workout on the river” to “anyone, frosh or upper classman, who wants a sport which requires a lot of energy, stamina, and conditioning.”

In the past decade, Drexel Crew has become a formidable program with over 100 men and women student-athletes posting national and international victories, including the Head of the Charles and Henley regattas. Our most visible victories have been right in our back yard. For six years in a row, we have won the Dad Vail, the largest collegiate regatta in North America.

Our success has been facilitated by generous investments from the University and the program’s supporters – particularly in the sophisticated racing shells required to compete at the highest level. We’ve also benefited from the ability to operate out of the Bachelors Barge Club boathouse. Located on the Schuylkill River, it is the oldest continuously operating rowing club in the nation.

Crew is a supreme teacher of collaboration, grit and sportsmanship. To propel the growing strength and impact of Drexel’s largest varsity program, we must secure our home base in the Bachelors Barge Club and build an endowment that sustains in the long term our equipment and opportunities for our rowers to compete.

Naming Opportunities

$1 million: Establish an endowed fund that will sustain Drexel Rowing’s ability to permanently operate out of Bachelors Barge Club

$500,000: Establish an endowment that will enable the purchase of an eight racing shell and sustain its maintenance

$500,000: Establish an endowment that will fund yearly entry fees to the Henley Regatta in perpetuity

$100,000: Establish a Crew endowment at the coach’s discretion that will exist in perpetuity

$40,000: Enable the purchase of and name an eight racing shell

$25,000: Enable the purchase of and name a four racing shell
OLYMPIC SPORTS

Olympic Sports are the bread and butter of any athletics department. As a member of the Colonial Athletic Association, the Collegiate Squash Association, and the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association, our teams compete at the national level. From golf to wrestling, from soccer to softball, from lacrosse to field hockey, and from squash to swimming and diving, our student-athletes have competed for championships and top-25 and even top-10 national rankings. Support for our Olympic sports fuels the success of coaches and student-athletes in the very heart of our Athletics department. Many of these investments positively influence all of our student-athletes and therefore make an impact across the board.

Giving Opportunities

$500,000: Support the student-athlete experience through the John and Jinnie Chapel Achieve Center and Dragon Lounge, Sports Psychology, Sports Science, Strength and Conditioning, Sports Nutrition Funding for international trips, and the Travel Endowment Fund

$250,000: Support academics through the Excellence Pool for programming to enhance student-athlete experiences in leadership development and academic recognition

Invest in specific sports:

$300,000: Fund the installation of an LED videoboard for Field Hockey

$150,000: Fund an upgrade to dugouts for Softball

$150,000: Annual investment in a coaches fund to retain and attract high-level coaches for Wrestling

$100,000: Fund purchase of a Sprinter Van for Golf

$100,000: Fund renovations to the men’s and women’s locker-room for Squash

$25,000: Fund renovations to the student-athlete lounge for Swimming and Diving
EXPAND AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

For every varsity student-athlete, there are at least 20 students that participate in intramural or club sports, and an additional 100 students who engage in recreational programming or workouts.

Recreational activity is an integral part of a campus that is motivated by the modern student's expectations to engage in a healthy lifestyle and to be part of a community – a neighborhood within Drexel. In addition, usage of recreational facilities is associated with higher retention rates as well as higher SAT and GPA scores.

As a great comprehensive urban university, it is essential that Drexel provide our students rich opportunities for teamwork, socializing, fun and fitness. Drexel Athletics has made it a priority to make targeted enhancements to facilities that can catalyze significant growth in our recreational and intramural programming.

“We think that sports are really important. They make people feel connected to the University and help them have a more memorable experience. Students who participate in them also tend to stay more engaged when they become alumni. So, supporting athletics and having a strong program is just really good for Drexel!”

— Andrew Pennoni ’79, men’s lacrosse alumnus, and C. R. “Chuck” Pennoni ’63, ’66, HD ’92, President Emeritus

Naming Opportunities

$6 million: Create two “bubbles,” or air structures, that will provide secure, climate-controlled, year-round use of Buckley Field and at Vidas.

$2 million: Create locker rooms in the DAC for both men and women students, student-athletes, faculty, staff and general members

$1 million: Establish an endowed fund that will sustain programming at the Drexel Rec Center

$500,000: Create a training room for students to participate in Club Sports
LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN MAKE YOUR MARK.

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