

# THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE.

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Stewardship publication  
in support of The Campaign for Drexel



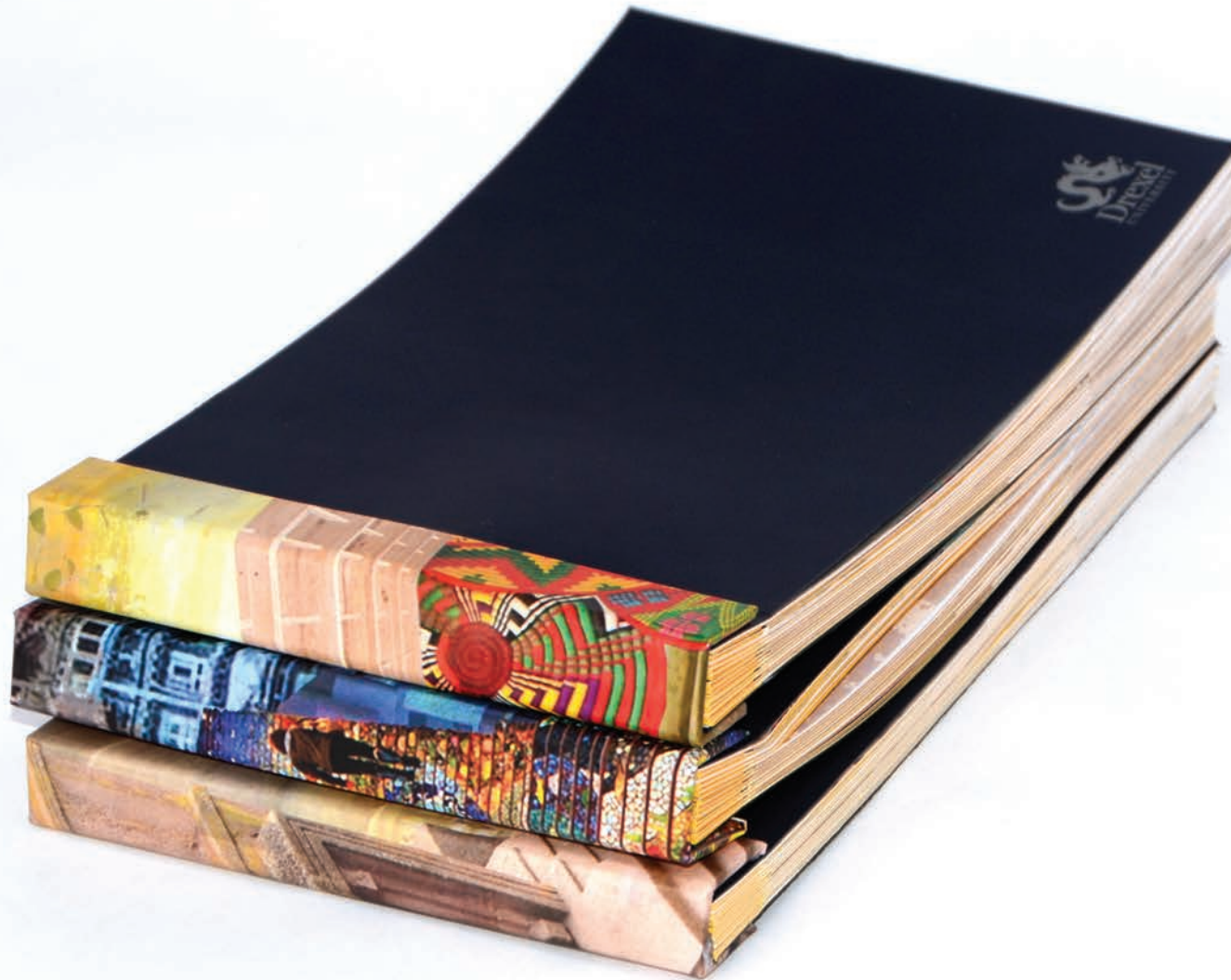


**STEARDSHIP PUBLICATION: "THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE"**

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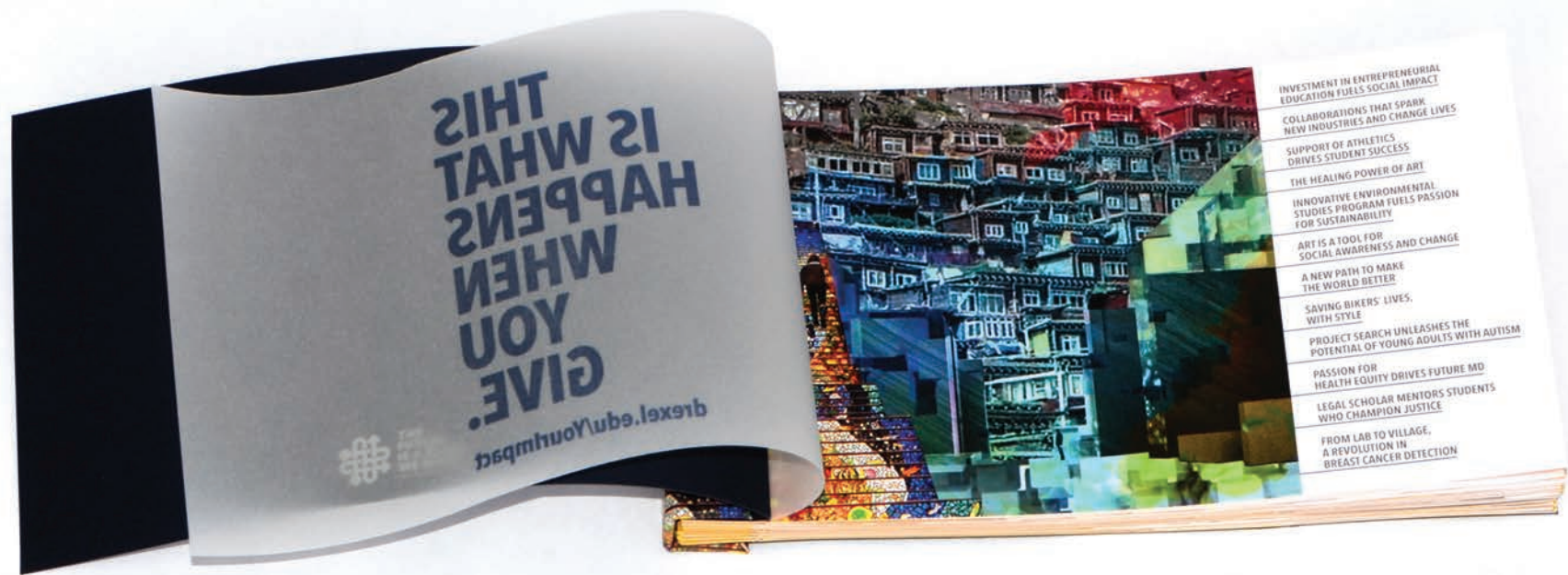
THREE (OF A TOTAL OF TEN) STUDENT-GENERATED SPINE DESIGNS



**INSIDE FRONT COVER**

**TRANSLUCENT INSIDE COVER OVERLAYS SHORT LEAF WITH STUDENT ART AND TABLE OF CONTENTS**





GIVE.  
YOU  
WHEN  
WHAT  
IS  
THIS  
HAPPENS



drexel.edu/YouImpact

- INVESTMENT IN ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION FUELS SOCIAL IMPACT
- COLLABORATIONS THAT SPARK NEW INDUSTRIES AND CHANGE LIVES
- SUPPORT OF ATHLETICS DRIVES STUDENT SUCCESS
- THE HEALING POWER OF ART
- INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM FUELS PASSION FOR SUSTAINABILITY
- ART IS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL AWARENESS AND CHANGE
- A NEW PATH TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER
- SAVING BIKERS' LIVES, WITH STYLE
- PROJECT SEARCH UNLEASHES THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG ADULTS WITH AUTISM
- PASSION FOR HEALTH EQUITY DRIVES FUTURE MD
- LEGAL SCHOLAR MENTORS STUDENTS WHO CHAMPION JUSTICE
- FROM LAB TO VILLAGE, A REVOLUTION IN BREAST CANCER DETECTION

FRONT MATTER

STUDENT ART (FROM SPINE) IS A SHORT LEAF THAT PARTIALLY COVERS THE TABLE OF CONTENTS



**THE ARTWORK ON THE SPINE OF THIS BOOK**

This artwork is excerpted from conceptual collages developed by students in the Interior Studio C course in the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design's Interior Architecture and Design program. Students were challenged to think about the growing number of displaced persons in the world today and design community centers where specific refugee populations and the Drexel University community could share and learn skills. The collages draw from the wealth of research students conducted on the culture, traditions, histories, daily lives and aesthetics of their assigned refugee populations.

Genevieve Dion, Professor, Westphal College of Media Arts & Design	Evan Ethlers '19	INVESTMENT IN ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION FUELS SOCIAL IMPACT
Grija Kaimal, Associate Professor, College of Nursing and Health Professions	Drexel Athletics Facilities	COLLABORATIONS THAT SPARK NEW INDUSTRIES AND CHANGE LIVES
Jeffrey Stockbridge '05	Sumita Gangwani '20	SUPPORT OF ATHLETICS DRIVES STUDENT SUCCESS
Robert Ross '19	Rachel K. Benyola '17	THE HEALING POWER OF ART
Yasam Davis	Maryol Encarnacion '22	INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM FUELS PASSION FOR SUSTAINABILITY
Mihir Shah '00 and Wan Y. Shih, Professor, School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems	Rachel E. López, Associate Professor, Thomas R. Kline School of Law	ART IS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL AWARENESS AND CHANGE
		A NEW PATH TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER
		SAVING BIKERS' LIVES, WITH STYLE
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**YOUR  
LEADING COMMITMENT  
TO DREXEL  
HAS EXPANSIVE  
IMPACT.**

Thank you for making it possible for Drexel to propel student success, accelerate discovery and innovation, pioneer teaching and learning, and fuel strategic initiatives.

**NOW, HERE'S WHAT THAT  
LOOKS LIKE.**

INTERSTITIAL





TITLE PAGE OF FOLD OUT STORY





**SHE HAS BEEN CALLED AN HAUTE COUTURE DESIGNER**

GENEVIEWE DION, PROFESSOR OF WESTPHAL COLLEGE OF ARTS AND DESIGN AND DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR FUNCTIONAL FABRICS

and a digital knitter. But the title that Genevieve Dion prefers most is "design scientist." Dion had a stellar career as a designer of bespoke clothing and as a couturier even before she arrived at Drexel in 2007 to direct the fashion design program at Westphal College

of Media Arts & Design. Her clients included rock stars such as Tina Turner and Elvis Costello and her designs appeared in elite venues such as Barneys, New York and the Victoria and Albert Museum. At Drexel, Dion's fascination with manipulating fabric evolved from high design to high technology. She recognized that the future of fibers and textiles lay in their ability to store and transmit energy and information. Scientists were talking about "wearable electronics," with potential applications in health, energy, communications and national defense. But the field was in its infancy.

Dion, who also has a master's degree in industrial design, quickly grasped that she would need to combine her mastery of textiles and product design with expertise in biotechnology, medicine, material sciences, electronics, and computer science. And she saw Drexel as the ideal place to build those collaborations and give them a home.

**"OUR STUDENTS ARE THE INCREDIBLE THINKERS OF TOMORROW."**

Dion's vision of a transdisciplinary hub for functional fabric research at Drexel took shape in 2017, when a leading textile-related manufacturer offered philanthropic seed money. Combining this donor-funded venture capital with startup space inside Drexel's Excite Center, Dion launched what is now the Center for Functional Fabrics (CFF).

wearable device designed to measure contaminants in pregnant women and support in prenatal care. The "high-tech" program's mission and impact began to unfold in 2019 to determine its effectiveness in warning of a potential miscarriage in women or breathing difficulties in newborns.

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Defense established Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFOA), a \$15 million institute established to rejuvenate American textile manufacturing and bring sophisticated new products to market. Drexel is a key stakeholder of AFFOA, along with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, IBM, Jefferson University, the Fashion Institute of Technology, North Carolina

State University, and the University of Central Florida, which all contribute in research powerful enough to spur market innovation.

More recently, CFF collaborated with AFFOA to establish the Pennsylvania Textile Innovation Center (PA-TIC), also managed by Dion. The PA-TIC focuses on helping companies and innovators take their advanced textile concepts from prototype to product, while also preparing the regional workforce for high quality jobs in this growing market sector.

Early in the spring of 2019, the entire functional fabric enterprise relocated to a new 10,000-square-foot home in Schuylkill Park. This space includes everything needed for

cutting-edge textile research, development and prototyping. It also facilitates collaborations and addresses existing research. An annual forum in the Innovation Hub at Schuylkill Park, Drexel's 30th Street Station and Stroud's Campus, offers industry labs will be made accessible to industry, academia and government.

"We are designing not just the materials of the future, but the tools of the future," Dion emphasizes. "It's in involving the best minds of these people - work together. And our students are the incredible thinkers of tomorrow. What emerges has almost limitless potential to ignite new industries." ©

See a list of CFF's major Drexel collaborators on the following page.

Watch Genevieve Dion and some of her graduate students and Drexel collaborators explain the functional fabric revolution.

[giving.drexel.edu/impactdion](https://giving.drexel.edu/impactdion)




FRONT, FEATURING THREE (OF A TOTAL OF TEN) STUDENT-GENERATED SPINE DESIGNS



# HOW CAN THE ARTS TO BETTER HEALTH AND CONTRIBUTE WELL-BEING?

How might technologies such as virtual reality accelerate and improve arts-based therapy? Innovative researchers, such as Associate Professor Girija Kaimal of Drexel's creative arts therapies department in the College of Nursing and Health Professions (CNHP), are at the forefront of exploring these potentially life-changing possibilities.

As primary investigator for the Health, Arts, Learning and Evaluation (HALE) Lab, Kaimal has long been connecting vulnerable populations around the world with the therapeutic properties of creative self-expression. One study showed that making art, at any level, reduced levels of the stress hormone cortisol in participants. In another study, military service members created papier-mâché masks to facilitate their recovery from traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorders – and to provide insight into their experiences. “A lot of research will tell you that when you’re in a traumatic experience, the part of the brain that controls speech shuts down,” Kaimal says. “So, having a non-verbal way – such as art – to communicate is key to understanding what they’re going through.”

## ART THERAPY MEETS THE DIGITAL FRONTIER

Now, Kaimal and the other members of her lab are exploring the next frontier of art therapy, which traditionally integrates physical materials and art-making processes such as drawing, painting, collage, coloring or sculpting to treat individuals, managing a range of challenges such as trauma, everyday stress, and conditions

such as dementia. Kaimal and her team, who have partly been funded by Drexel's Faculty Summer Research Award, are collaborating with the International Arts + Mind Lab, Brain Science Institute at Johns Hopkins University to study how virtual reality might contribute to successful art therapy interventions.

The research conducted through the partnership will be the first systematic examination of how art therapy can be integrated into virtual-reality based creative self-expression. The findings could help expand the potential of art therapy to enhance care for people, including those in physical rehabilitation and those facing psychological stressors and challenges such as mood disorders and chronic health conditions. Additionally, it could provide therapies to potentially help prevent conditions such as phobias and inhibitions, and interpersonal challenges such as social anxiety.

“This promising partnership brings together two institutions invested in creative approaches to



**“THIS PROMISING PARTNERSHIP BRINGS TOGETHER TWO INSTITUTIONS INVESTED IN CREATIVE APPROACHES TO PROMOTING HEALTH AND ENHANCING WELL-BEING MEMBERS’ THE LIFESPAN.”**

promoting health and enhancing well-being across the lifespan,” Kaimal says.

The virtual reality project is the second collaboration between CNHP and Johns Hopkins University. The first, the Tailored Activity Program (TAP), was developed by CNHP Dean Lauren H. Gidycz while she was at Johns Hopkins’ School of Nursing. TAP is an evidence-based program that assesses the abilities and interests of people living with dementia and then instructs caregivers in their use. It is currently being deployed in various countries, including Scotland.

## BREAKTHROUGHS WHERE DISCIPLINES CONVERGE

For Kaimal, who got a master’s degree in art therapy at Drexel before earning a doctorate in human development and psychology from Harvard University, serving on the research faculty in the creative arts therapies department allows her to balance the arts and sciences.

“Coming back to this position as research faculty helps me bring these two interests together and work on understanding what is the role of art in our lives,” she says.

Kaimal’s work has been funded by a wide range of government, academic, and nonprofit organizations, including the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Education, National Endowment for the Arts, and Oaklam America. She’s also forging collaborations to explore the role of art therapy globally, including in India and Australia.



She consults to Save the Children’s art and music psycho-social support program in Liberia and, more recently, a keynote address on a theme at the inaugural International Practice Research Conference.

Kaimal says her role as virtual arts therapist keeps her steps in the right direction – back into the world of art.

# MARYSOL ENCARNACION'S VARIED ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE EXPERIENCES

as a Drexel University College of Medicine student have solidified her determination to tackle health disparities and improve health outcomes for those underserved by medicine. It's a goal rooted in personal experience for Encarnacion, whose family has always lived below the poverty line, and one she has been empowered to pursue by a full-tuition scholarship provided by the College.

## SCHOLARSHIP OPENS DOORS TO MYRIAD OPPORTUNITIES

Encarnacion received funding from the Dr. Susan Northwall Scholarship Fund, established by Brian Alper, MD '96 and his wife, Karen, as well as the Schleyer Family Matching Gift Challenge for Scholarships in Medicine, established by Trustee Emeritus William T. Schleyer '73, his wife, Mary Zygala, and family.



**"I HOPE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BODY OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORK THAT FOCUSES ON HEALTH DISPARITIES AND INTERVENTIONS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES."**

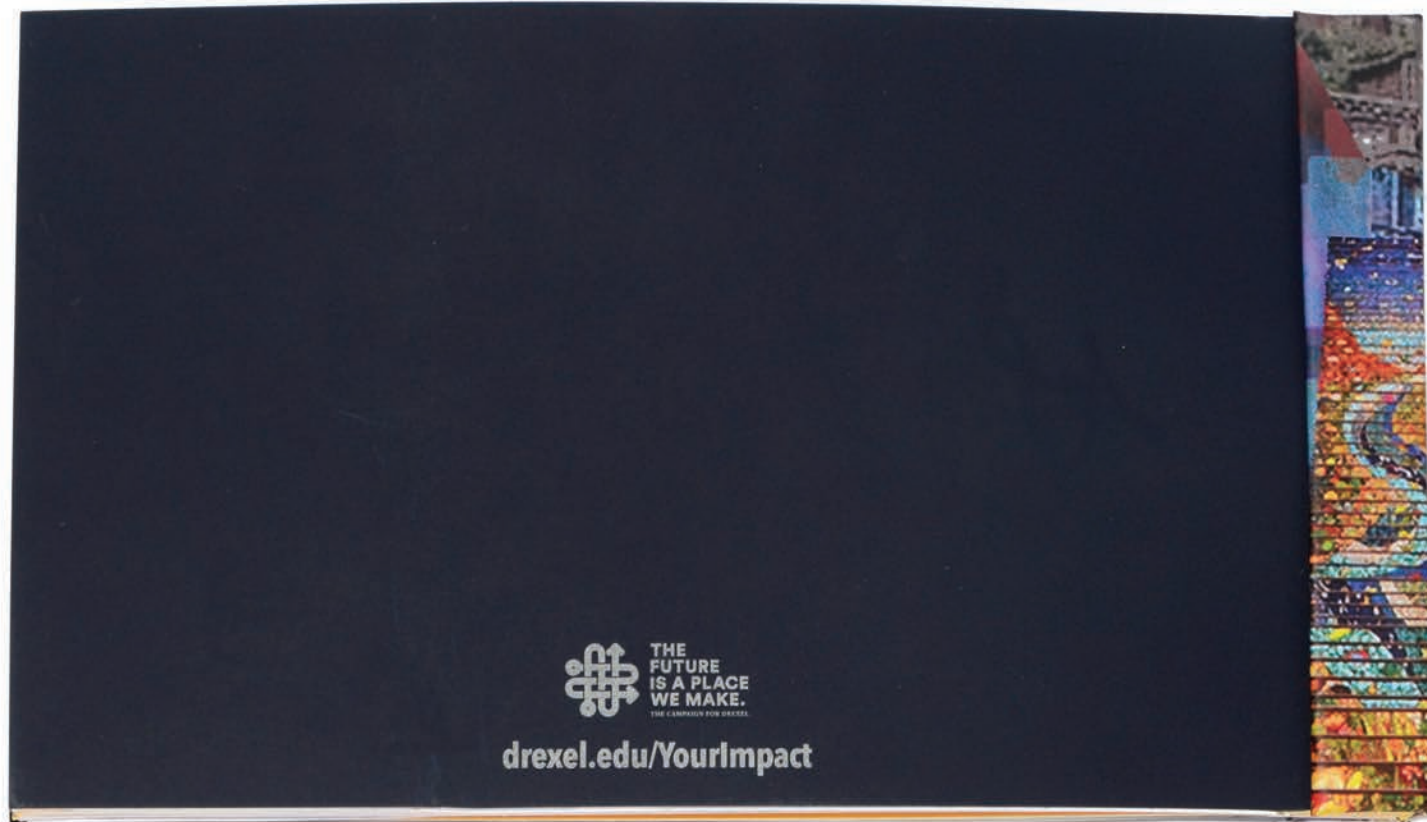
Thanks to scholarship funding, Encarnacion says, "This will be the first time in my life I will not have to worry about finances. I will be able to thrive in a challenging and stimulating academic center to pursue a lifelong dream of mine."

For Encarnacion, thriving includes pursuing comprehensive coursework on topics like anatomy and physiology, public health, health policy and clinical skills, as well as opportunities to conduct research and care for patients. She also serves as co-president of the Latino Medical Student Association.

In many instances, Encarnacion found that her background helped her forge effective connections with the diverse patient base that College of Medicine students are trained to serve. One of Encarnacion's most memorable experiences was volunteering at a health fair held by the Nationalities Service Center, an immigrant and refugee service organization. There she found herself not only measuring attendees' basic vital signs but also becoming an impromptu Spanish translator for doctors and patients.

"That experience bolstered my interest in providing care for immigrant populations, a group with specific primary care needs are often not met," Encarnacion says.

This past summer, Encarnacion worked at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab in Chicago, gaining hands-on experience in the field of medicine and rehabilitation. She treated clinical conditions like traumatic brain injury and amputee rehabilitation while



BACK





FRONT





**BOOK IN TRANSLUCENT DELIVERY ENVELOPE**



OPTIONAL MAILER ENVELOPE





**OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT  
DREXEL UNIVERSITY**

**PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 2020**