

What's Up @ Widener

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University

Story Idea?

- Send story ideas and items for the Noteworthy section to Allyson Wisniewski, alwisniewski@widener.edu

Madeleine Albright: Challenges Await Our President Elect

While President Bush delivered his final State of the Union address Monday, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright shared her own concerns about the state of our country at the Philadelphia Speakers Series. She delivered a list of challenges with bits of advice for our president elect.



Former Secretary of State
Madeleine Albright

Terrorism: Noting that terrorism continues to plague the world and threaten our own safety, Albright said we must fight terrorists at their weakest point, which is “their failure to offer anything to anyone.” She encouraged our next leader, therefore, to “drive a wedge between Al-Qaeda and its supporters.” Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Albright believes success will come from the sustained diplomatic engagement of the United States, which our new leader must initiate.

Consensus on Nuclear Proliferations: After expressing concern about increases in nuclear weapons, Albright called to “restore support for the principle of no new nuclear powers.” Referring to the specific threat of Iran, she encouraged the president elect to work toward creating a broad coalition to isolate extremists.

Worldwide Reversal of Democracy: Afraid that the movement toward democracy may be sliding backward, Albright pointed out organized blocks of governments that are challenging the idea that civil and political rights are universal. She stressed the importance of recognizing and addressing this potential shift, because “when democratic rules are ignored, the people who already suffer the most will also lose the most.”

Backlash Against Globalization: Revealing that “America ranks next to last in percentage of wealth shared with developing worlds,” Albright urged our next leader to tackle dangers like poverty and disease. “Make no mistake, poverty is a jail in which all too many human beings are sentenced to for life,” she said.

While most large-scale initiatives need the support of the United States, Albright acknowledged that a tarnished image may threaten our efforts for change. She made a plea for a new kind of leader, one that steers our country with a “moderate militancy,” careful to stand up to enemies without alienating friends, and one who rises up and fights “to let America at its best once again shine through.”

Students Take on the European Union

Channeling their inner foreign leader, six Widener students traveled to Otzenhausen, Germany to participate in Eurosिम, a simulation of the governing process of the European Union. Participants hailed



2008 Eurosिम participants included (from left to right) Kim Farina, Vitaliy Kin, Kelsey Brown, Amanda Pipenberg, Colin Densford, and Mary Fernandez..

from colleges and universities throughout the world, from Antwerp, Belgium to Buffalo, New York, with each school taking on the roles of their assigned country's leaders. This year, Widener students represented Germany, acting the parts of the host country's EU representatives.

Widener's Vitaliy Kin, a senior international relations and Spanish major, received recognition for his portrayal of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Reporters from a German television program, radio station, and newspaper interviewed him about his Eurosिम experience, all commending his composure and knowledge of the chancellor.

Led by Dr. Rebecca Jones, assistant professor of government and politics, Widener's participants met outside of class to study the EU and prepare for their roles. When the four-day simulation began, however, Jones and the other advisors took a back seat to the students.

"We put together the materials and scenario, but when the simulation officially started, the students had complete control," said Jones, who has been involved with Eurosिम since 2001 and now sits on the governing board of the nonprofit. "We always try to pick a current topic that the EU is working on but hasn't quite finished addressing so the students can work through the issue on their own."



Senior Kim Farina explores Trier, one of the oldest German cities, while on a break from the Eurosिम proceedings.

This year, Eurosिम tackled EU defense and foreign policy, with next year's topic already set as cross-border policing. Jones dedicates the second half of her Politics of European Integration (GP228) class to discussing the topic and encourages all interested Eurosिम participants to take this class in the fall.

To learn more about Eurosिम, visit:

www2.widener.edu/~rrjones

PRSSA Prepares Students For Careers in Public Relations

Widener recently launched a chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). A professional, student-run organization, PRSSA serves the public relations profession by helping to develop highly-qualified practitioners through professional development and networking opportunities.

Amber Lutz, a junior public relations and advertising major, joined forces with Carolyn White Bartoo, senior lecturer of communication studies, to bring PRSSA to Widener. Both attended the PRSSA National Conference in Philadelphia and met other PRSSA groups to learn the workings of successful chapters.



Widener's newly-elected PRSSA officers include (from left to right) Amber Lutz, president; Regina Affatato, vice president of finance; Brenda Wienckowski, vice president of public relations; Megan Vanett, vice president of professional development; and Christie Ferraiolo, vice president of membership services.

Lutz looks forward to the challenge of building Widener's PRSSA chapter from the ground up. "Our chapter will become a valuable resource for students planning a career in public relations as it will expose them to unique educational opportunities and experiences in the field," she said. "We want our members to be fierce competition when they enter the job market."

"We want our members to be fierce competition when they enter the job market."

Amber Lutz, PRSSA President

Lutz will lead Widener's PRSSA as president with help from other members of the founding executive board. Recently elected officers include: Regina Affatato, vice president of finance; Megan Vanett, vice president of professional development; Christie Ferraiolo, vice president of membership services; and Brenda Wienckowski, vice president of public relations.

To learn more about Widener's chapter, visit www.facebook.com/widener/prssa.

SAVE THE DATE: President's Lecture Series February 11

Dr. Bruce W. Grant, associate professor of biology, will present a program titled "Practitioner Research Improved My Students' Understanding of Evolution by Natural Selection in an Undergraduate Introductory Biology Course" as part of the President's Lecture Series on **February 11**. All members of the university community are encouraged to attend. Stop by for a reception with light refreshments at 11:30 a.m., followed by the lecture at **12 p.m.** in the **University Center Webb Room**.

Faces of Widener: Diana Barraclough

Although a Widener employee for 20 years, Diana Barraclough first established ties to the university through her mother, Mary Kupsis, who worked in the Admissions Office through the 1980s and '90s. Upon joining the Widener staff herself, Barraclough and her mother often met up for lunch on campus.

"I love working at Widener," said Barraclough, associate director of student financial services/bursar. "Maybe in 15-20 years, my kids will even go here."

If Barraclough's children, Noah, 5, and Ava, 2, do indeed attend Widener, they'll follow in both parents' footsteps. Barraclough received her bachelor's degree while working on campus and plans to officially enroll in the master's of criminal justice program in the fall. Her husband, Eric, is also pursuing a Widener degree.

Barraclough has spent her entire Widener career in the Office of the Bursar on the frontline of communication with students and parents. Although her current role has moved her off of the frontline, she still keeps in touch with the many friends she has made across campus.

Sitting in her office, Diana has a front-row view of the setting for the University Crossings project. She's excited about the positive changes that have taken place over the past five years and looks forward to being a part of the new growth.



Diana Barraclough
Associate Director,
Student Financial Services/Bursar

Points of Pride...

Widener ranked among the top 50 national universities in the third annual *Washington Monthly* college rankings. *Washington Monthly* rates individual schools based on their tangible contributions to the public interest: on the degree to which they recruit and graduate low-income students, produce PhDs and research, and encourage students to serve in ROTC, the Peace Corps, and other service programs. This most recent ranking places Widener 47th on the list, a rise from 52nd last year, which represents the university's continued commitment to civic engagement.



Marathon Runners Embody Widener's Mission

Scott Rappaport, assistant director of Career Advising and Planning Services (CAPS), spent months running with Team in Training to prepare for the January 13 Walt Disney World Marathon. However, the “team,” not the “training,” is what ultimately got him to the finish line. At around mile 13 of the 26.2 mile race, Rappaport experienced severe leg cramping. His running partner and friend, Mark, made the selfless decision to stay by his side, and Rappaport made the relentless choice to keep going. With encouragement from Team in Training coaches, Rappaport finished the race with an impressive time of 5:21:48.

“I had a rough day on race day,” Rappaport said. “My proudest accomplishment so far is finishing that run. It was the hardest thing I’ve ever done.”

Equally as impressive as his finish, Rappaport raised more than \$7,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training. He collected donations through both his website and a fundraiser held at Delaware restaurant Trattoria di Napoli. With 22 donations from his Widener colleagues alone, and others from friends and family, Rappaport made a generous contribution to leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma research.



Scott Rappaport, assistant director of CAPS, recently completed the Walt Disney World Marathon, raising more than \$7,000 for charity.

Passing the Torch

While Scott plans on participating in the Christiana Care Marathon on May 18 with the goal of “running his own race,” he does not intend on running it with Team in Training. Instead, he has passed his Team in Training torch on to Widener student Heather Goldy. Goldy, a senior anthropology major and first-year student of the graduate physical therapy program, will run the San Diego Rock N’ Roll Marathon on June 1.

“My personal mission is to help fight a disease by doing something that I am incredibly nervous about,” Goldy said. “My reasoning is that if someone can fight cancer, I can donate parts of my day and endure discomfort to raise money to find a cure.”



Student Heather Goldy has joined Team in Training to prepare for a June 1 race in San Diego.

As a Presidential Service Corps member, Goldy says she always looks for interesting ways to help others. She hopes to raise at least \$4,600 through her Team in Training experience. Visit Heather’s website at www.active.com/donate/tntepa/HeatherGoldy or email her at hrgoldy@mail.widener.edu for more information or to help.

Students Advocate Preservation With Hard Work Abroad

Eight Widener students rang in 2008 with an unconventional New Year's celebration, forgoing late night partying for packing and a good night sleep. Their motivation: an early-morning flight to Costa Rica.

Through a 10-day class taught by Dr. Stephen Madigosky, chair of the environmental science department and professor of science education, and Dr. Itzick Vatnick, professor of biology, the students worked at El Bosque Nuevo (EBN), a large preserve in the northwest corner of Costa Rica. A goal of the preserve is to provide local people with an increased quality of life by presenting them with profits from environmentally-friendly businesses. Madigosky, a member of EBN's advisory board, has dedicated more than 20 years to helping both Peru and Costa Rica establish sustainable development initiatives that provide their populations with reliable income from sources that do not harm the natural state of the land.



Working on the EBN butterfly farm are students (from left to right) Dana Rasnake, Neha Sirohi, Erich Schoenman, and Mary Miller. Other Widener participants (not pictured) included Steve Weisel, Sara Starr, Kasey Butt, and Jennifer Ford.

While on the preserve, most of the students' work benefited the butterfly project: Mariposario del Bosque Nuevo. Through this project, EBN provides training for local villagers to create an environment conducive to the production of butterflies in large quantities. Currently, EBN sells and ships more than 80 species of butterfly pupae to conservatories around the world, making this business its most fruitful source of income.

"This business ensures that Costa Rica retains its biodiversity, because it preserves the rainforest and prevents the land from being sold and subsequently altered for another money-making venture," said Erich Schoenman, a junior biology major.

From mulching to finding and removing insects, Widener students helped with the everyday operation of the butterfly farm. "The students fought to keep the environment in peak condition for the rearing of the butterflies, quickly learning that they were a part of a precise and intense biological operation," Dr. Madigosky said. "I think the trip proved a fascinating experience for them as it demonstrated how the power of biology was harnessed to benefit the local people."



As a reward for their days of labor, the students enjoyed sightseeing trips around Costa Rica, even catching a rare glimpse of adult sea turtles depositing their eggs on the beach and young turtles hatching.

To learn more about EBN, visit www.elbosquenuevo.org.

Exhausted from laying nearly 150 eggs, a sea turtle finds its way back to the ocean with help from student Kasey Butt.

Widener SBDC Hosts Seminar on Doing Business with the Government

Why fight city hall when you can do business with them? Find out how your small business can do business with the government at a free seminar sponsored by the Widener University Small Business Development Center on **Monday, February 11** from **6 to 8:30 p.m.** at the Widener SBDC.

The two-and-a-half-hour seminar titled “Doing Business with the Government” focuses on helping businesses gain information and access to government procurement opportunities including certification for federal Women-owned Business Enterprise (WBE), Minority-owned Business Enterprise (MBE), and similar certifications from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The seminar will be taught by Bruce Downing, business consultant and government marketing specialist for the Widener Small Business Development Center.

SIGN UP NOW!

The seminar is free, but space is limited. Call 610-619-8490 to reserve your place. The Widener SBDC is located at 1450 Edgmont Avenue in Chester.

Spotlight on Sports: Matt Slomiany

Sophomore Matt Slomiany of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, has been a force this season for the Widener men's swimming team. One of the key components in the Pride's bid to win a third straight Middle Atlantic Conference title, Slomiany has become the team's go-to player for points in big meets.

This year, Slomiany has posted seven individual victories and three relay wins. He notched two individual wins and one relay victory against Division I Villanova and won twice individually at Division I Delaware.

Last year's MAC Rookie of the Year, Slomiany won twice at the conference championships. He has excelled in the freestyle, breaststroke, and individual medley this season.

A history major with a minor in exploratory studies, Slomiany will compete at the MAC Championships. The meet takes place February 8-10 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.



Matt Slomiany, sophomore swimming star

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

From Harrisburg to Chester, students, staff, faculty, and community members helped Widener remember and honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Among many charitable acts, the Presidential Service Corps formed what they hope to be a long-lasting relationship with Chester's YWCA, helping the organization with cleaning and repairs. Through such service events and celebrations, King's spirit and legacy were awakened, and inspired many to strive for similar greatness.

MLK Jr. Celebration Snapshots:

- 1.** From left, Catherine Bermudez, assistant dean for Residence Life Programs; Micki Davis, director of Multicultural Student Affairs; Catherine's husband Shammah; and Tracey Jones, president of the Black Student Union, lunch with nearly 300 Chester neighbors.
- 2.** President Harris helps serve the complimentary lunch to the large crowd.
- 3.** Steven Hobbs, University of Alabama School of Law professor, discusses his efforts to remember King at the Harrisburg Campus' annual MLK address.
- 4.** Dr. Jill Lattanzi, clinical assistant professor of physical therapy, commences Widener's First Annual MLK Healthcare Leadership Conference, which focused on identifying and overcoming cultural barriers in physical therapy practice.
- 5.** The Widener University Gospel Choir, with soloist Bernard Pinder, belts out "get on board," encouraging all to aspire to King's greatness at the Foundations of Leadership ceremony.



Lawler Keynote Speaker for Women's Leadership Forum

Dr. Patricia A. Lawler, a professor in the Center for Education where she teaches and advises in the doctoral program in leadership in higher education, will serve as the keynote speaker for the Widener Women's Leadership Forum on Friday, February 8.



Patricia A. Lawler

Sponsored by the Women's Leadership Subcommittee, the forum will be held from 8:30-10 a.m. in the University Center Webb Room.

Lawler will present a lecture titled "Women in the Academy: Telling Our Stories and Celebrating Our Guides."

Working for more than 25 years in adult and continuing higher education as a counselor, advisor, program administrator, and faculty member, Lawler knows firsthand the special issues that adults bring to the classroom and the challenges adult educators have in working with their learners.

Interested participants should RSVP by February 4 to Ellen Madison via email at etmadison@widener.edu or by phone at 610-499-4549.

Celebrate the Chinese New Year for a Good Cause

"Happy New Year" may seem like a strange comment to most of us when the 2008 New Year is nothing more than a memory. However, the Chinese New Year celebration is just getting started, and Widener's chapter of the National Society for Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH) is on hand to assist the campus community in partaking in the merriment.

On **February 7**, New Years Day, NSMH will host a dinner of traditional Chinese fare in observance of the holiday and to raise money to send its members to the upcoming national conference in Pittsburgh. "It's a wonderful opportunity to ring in the New Year one last time while supporting an organization that embodies Widener's mission to embrace diversity and think globally," said Laura Yang, a graduate student in hospitality management and vice president of NSHM.

Tickets for the event are \$12 per person, and guests have a choice of either the **4:30 or 6 p.m. seating** in the Heintz Dining room in Academic Center North. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please contact Yang at 267-471-7635 or via e-mail at cyang@mail.widener.edu.

Menu

Appetizer Sampler

Egg Roll
Pork Dumpling
Taiwanese Chicken

Soup

Egg Drop

Entrée Choice

Black Pepper Beef

or

Spicy Chinese Chicken
(Both served with steamed rice)

Dessert

Fortune Cookie Ice Cream

Noteworthy

Caitlin Feeser, a senior chemical engineering student, published an article titled “Thiol-Norbornene Materials: Approaches to Develop High T_g Thiol-Ene Polymers,” in the *Journal of Polymer Science*, Vol. 45 (5686-5696), which she co-authored with faculty and graduate students from the University of Colorado at Boulder as part of the Research Experience for Undergraduates program sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Her co-authors included Jacquelyn A. Carioscia, Lauren Schneidewind, Casey O’Brien, Robert Ely, Neil Cramer, and Christopher N. Bowman.

Dr. Brenda O’Hern, assistant professor for the Center for Education, presented a paper titled “A Structure for Innovation” to the elementary steering committee for Cecil County Public Schools in Elkton, Maryland.

Dr. Samuel R. Pierce, assistant professor of physical therapy in Widener’s Institute for Physical Therapy Education and research physical therapist at Shriners Hospitals for Children in Philadelphia, received a two-year, \$100,000 grant from the United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation for a study titled “The Effect of Botulinum Toxin on Neuromuscular Function in the Child with Cerebral Palsy.” Co-investigators include Dr. Feroze B. Mohamed of Temple University, Dr. Patricia A. Shewokis of Drexel University, and Shriners colleagues Dr. Richard T. Lauer, Dr. James T. McCarthy, Carrie A. Stackhouse, and Dr. Carole A. Tucker. **Dr. Pierce** also published an article titled “Examination of Spasticity of the Knee Flexors and Knee Extensors Using Isokinetic Dynamometry and Clinical Scales in Children with Spinal Cord Injury” in the *Journal of Sports Medicine*, Vol. 31 (41-48), which he co-authored with Shriners colleagues Dr. Therese E. Johnston, Dr. Richard T. Lauer, and Dr. Patricia A. Shewokis.

Dr. Michael D. Rosko, professor of health care management, and **Dr. Jose Proenca**, associate professor of health care management, recently published an article titled “The Impact of Membership in Different Types of Systems on Hospital Cost-Inefficiency” in *Inquiry*, Vol. 44 (3). **Dr. Rosko** also published a chapter titled “The Impact of Ownership on Hospital Cost-Efficiency of U.S. Hospitals” in *Measuring Hospital Productivity and Efficiency Advances in Health Economics and Health Services Research*, which he co-authored with Ryan Mutter, staff economist at the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Dr. Nicholas J. Rotoli, adjunct faculty member for the Center for Education, presented a paper titled “Professional Learning Communities: Investing in Teacher Capital for the Future” at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Association for Curriculum Development in Hershey, Pennsylvania.