National Conference for Undergraduate Editors Held at Widener

On November 5-7, Widener University hosted FUSE 2015, the fourth annual national conference for undergraduate editors. Widener students collaborated with faculty to plan and bring forth the conference. Nineteen schools from as far away as UCLA and as nearby as Cabrini came together to present on the conference theme of aesthetics and undergraduate publications.

Special guests from the world of publishing included Philadelphia author Lise Funderburg; Nic Esposito, founder of The Head and the Hand Press; and Sam Starnes, editor of Chester Magazine. Janine Utell, chair of English at Widener, spoke about The Space Between, the on-line journal she edits on literary modernism.

In addition to presentations and guest speakers, there was plenty of time for fun and socializing. On Thursday night, Widener hosted an open mic where students read their work in a comfortable and engaging atmosphere.

Sierra Offutt, a senior Widener English and Creative Writing major and V.P. for Operations of FUSE this past year, explained that the “open mic was just a chance for us all come together as a bunch of young people sharing our work and just being a community, which is really what FUSE is all about.”

English major Sierra Offutt with Philadelphia author Lise Funderburg

On Friday, Widener English professors Dr. Robinson and Dr. Graybill performed with their band, Smart Barker. The FUSE Conference concluded with a field trip to the Brandywine River Museum.

Next year, Widener students will travel to the FUSE conference at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Danielle Garr

Major: Fine Arts
Minors: Creative Writing/Spanish
High School: Ridley High School

Academic/extra-curricular interests: Art (studio, techniques, artists, art history), writing, exercise, rock climbing, travel, fashion, understanding the mind

Arts focus: Visual Art—Drawing

Watch a student-produced video report on the 2015 FUSE conference

"If you have a good background in what it is to be human, an understanding of life, culture and society, it gives you a good perspective on starting a business, instead of an education purely in business."

Stewart Butterfield, co-founder of Flickr.com

Why did you choose Widener?
Close to home, small campus, you can get to know faculty, try new things and feel comfortable doing so

Why did you choose your major?
I came in as a Spanish major, but when I took my first drawing class, I fell in love with art. It’s something I truly love and want to inspire the same passion in others. I hope to be an art teacher and keep the discipline going.
Meet the Faculty:
Dr. Yufeng Mao
Assistant Professor of History

I enjoy learning about the diverse and rich cultures of the world. My native language is Chinese, but as I grew up I learned to speak English, Arabic, and Japanese. These helped me better understand the world outside China and allowed me to travel and have a range of interesting overseas experiences.

I chose writing and teaching history as my profession because I find studying history to be like traveling in a foreign land. It enables one to learn the customs and mindsets of different peoples, and also appreciate their deeply shared commonalities. I am currently researching early 20th-century Muslim political activism in China, examining how Muslims articulated their self-identity in a time of heightened Chinese nationalism.

I design my classes to facilitate students’ exploration of different eras and cultures. In Samurai Japan, students trace the evolution of samurai ethics and rituals over centuries. In The Two Koreas, we analyze how South Korea developed into a prosperous democracy while the north sank into poverty and dictatorship under the Kim dynasty. In Chinese Private Lives, students travel to the China of 1,000 years ago, to appreciate the elegant culture and rich commercial life of the Song Dynasty, but also to investigate the cruel realities that induced mothers to break and bind their young daughters’ feet to render them more attractive in the eyes of men of that time.

Join us for Accepted Student Day - April 18

Alumni Profile: Dan DiPrinzio

I've written in higher education for more than 15 years. Working in academia has been meaningful and fulfilling. I feel fortunate to be in a profession that allows me to explore my creativity, strategize and think critically, and mentor a cadre of student writers on a daily basis.

I never took a public relations course, yet I have worked in PR for 15 years. I never took a speechwriting course, yet I have served as the primary speechwriter for three college presidents over the past 10 years. I never took a business writing course, yet I have collaborated with business and legal departments on writing several financial and policy documents. (Okay, that last one is as mind-numbingly boring as it sounds.) I have no doubt about the crucial role my background in the Humanities has played in this adaptability.

Faculty at Widener, especially those in the English department, had a significant impact on my career and my development as a writer. One in particular, with whom I spent many hours in the Writing Center, is Margaret Robinson. In addition to exhibiting a saint-like patience while counseling me on my cumbersome prose, Margaret gave me an invaluable tip: Lose the adverbs and adjectives; let your nouns and verbs do the work. Of all the lessons I’ve learned in school, that remains closest to my heart.

Humanities students shouldn't get discouraged when asked, "What will you do with that degree?" Finding a job will be no more difficult than it is for those in other disciplines. And with a humanities background, you will enjoy what you do.

Daniel DiPrinzio is Director of Communications at Arcadia University. Prior to joining Arcadia, he held positions at Cabrini College and at his alma mater. He has published three books, and his work has appeared in several journals and in newspapers around the country.