Widener Expanding Student Housing Offerings

A brand new residence hall will open to students at Widener University in fall 2015. Construction is underway on a 200-bed, $21 million-dollar hall near the entrance to the Main Campus. The four-story residence hall will feature food service on the first floor and spaces for Widener’s Living Learning Communities. Rooms for freshmen will follow a more traditional layout and suites for upper-classmen will offer apartment-style living. Residents will enjoy lounges on each floor and a multipurpose room as a gathering and learning space.

Striking Up the Band

High school musicians should take note: Widener has an esteemed university Pep Band that performs at football and basketball games and other university events. The band’s goal is to bring spirited performances to Widener’s athletic events and create an energetic atmosphere during games and at other important university functions. Widener plans to grow the Pep Band in future years to a full-fledged marching band. Dr. Iain Moyer is the newly appointed director of athletic bands and was previously assistant director of bands at the University of North Alabama.

The Pep Band is open to all Widener undergraduate students with an interest and previous experience in a high school band program. For more information regarding the Widener University Pep Band, contact Dr. Moyer at 610-499-1010 or e-mail imoyer@widener.edu
Students Explore the Culture and Ecology of Trinidad

Undergraduates in an anthropology course entitled *Rum, Rasta, and Revolution* and an education course entitled *Cross-Cultural Research in Trinidad* ventured with their professors to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago during spring break for a week-long exploration of Trinadian culture and ecology. The trip was just one of many opportunities for global outreach accessible to Widener students interested in learning about other cultures while earning credits toward graduation.

The Widener group first stopped at Grand Riviére beach in the village of Toco, a primary nesting ground for leatherback turtles. Students witnessed a behemoth female leatherback measuring more than six feet in length lay her eggs in the sand just a stone’s throw from their hotel. Students then visited the Asa Wright Nature Center before heading to the southern city of San Fernando to witness the spectacular carnival celebration held to mark the beginning of Lent.

The last two days of the trip were spent touring some of the most impoverished regions of the island and “grounding” (talking and spending time) with the local residents.

Living Learning Communities Flourish at Widener

Widener’s Living Learning Communities—known as LLCs on campus—are residential groups of students with similar interests and majors who share a designated space in the university’s residence halls. The clusters of like-minded students allow for in-residence programming, developmental experiences outside the classroom, and learning opportunities that are tailored to academic disciplines. Results at Widener have shown that students living in LLCs perform better and are more likely to graduate. Living Learning Communities on campus are available for majors in biology, chemistry, engineering, environmental science, and nursing, as well as honors students and students focused on leadership and civic engagement.
Counselor Workshop: The Value of a Liberal Arts Education

Join a group of deans and faculty members from area liberal arts colleges to discuss how students benefit from a liberal arts education. Liberal arts students develop the creative-thinking, complex problem-solving, and written and oral communication skills that employers demand. We will dispel false stereotypes regarding a liberal arts education and discuss how and why undergraduate degrees prepare students for meaningful work and lives after graduation. We will discuss how guidance counselors can help high school students make more informed choices about the liberal arts and their college options. **Thursday, November 20, Time TBD**

Scholarship Opportunities at Widener

Widener’s Honors Program in General Education brings together about 200 highly motivated undergraduate students to encourage the highest level of intellectual activity. Students in the top 10 percent of their graduating class who receive SAT scores of 1200 or higher and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 or higher may join Widener’s Honors Program in General Education as entering freshmen. Students in the program are eligible for an annual scholarship of $2,000.

A limited number of full-tuition scholarships are awarded each year to exceptional students. To be considered, students must have a 1350 minimum combined SAT score (Math & Critical Reading components), be in the top 10 percent of their senior class, and have a 3.85 minimum GPA.

Other endowed scholarship programs and scholarships are available for students with an interest in civic engagement and leadership, and in various disciplines, such as ROTC, music, and dance.

Setting the Stage

Two student companies—one old and one new—are bringing drama to life at Widener. The Lone Brick Theatre Company, founded in fall 2013, and the Fresh-Baked Theatre Company, founded in 2001, staged four plays last year, and have plans to present even more dramatic options at Widener in the future.
Widener’s Physical Therapy Program Nationally Recognized

Widener’s graduate program in physical therapy is among the nation’s leading programs of its kind and was among the first to offer a doctor of physical therapy degree. Students may earn a bachelor’s and a doctorate in physical therapy in only six years. Pre-PT students major in one of several academic areas and apply to Widener’s graduate physical therapy program early in the third year of undergraduate study. From their very first day of enrollment, students will be assisted in the preparatory phase by a pre-physical therapy advisor.

The program is home to the Chester Community Physical Therapy Clinic, opened in 2009. All students in the doctoral program volunteer in the clinic under the supervision of licensed physical therapists to serve hundreds of local residents. “It’s completely student-run,” said Caitlin Grobaker, a graduate student in the program.