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A Full Day: Widener junior Kate Dellinger stars in the classroom and on the basketball court. How does she do it? She narrates one very busy day in the life of a Widener student-athlete.

Running with the Big Dogs: Widener’s sport management program brings students in contact with the major league franchises in the Philadelphia area.

A Gridiron Turning Point: Widener’s last national championship season in 1981 included an epic game against nearby Swarthmore that marked a critical moment for both teams.

Bigger than Cosell and Costas Combined: Pennsylvania Military College alumnus Bill Stern ’30 was a giant figure in the early days of sports broadcasting.

A Deep and Storied Tradition: Athletics on campus date back 145 years to when baseball began at Pennsylvania Military Academy, and it is still going strong today.

From the Killing Fields to Protecting American Presidents: The journey of Widener alumnus Leth Oun, a ’98 sociology graduate, started in Cambodia and culminated in a job with the U.S. Secret Service.
President’s Message

Widener Athletics: A Tradition and Future of Success

Dr. James T. Harris III welcomed the Widener University Board of Trustees recently elected five new members to its ranks including the former publisher of The Philadelphia Inquirer, an executive for the Royal Bank of Scotland, the president of an international investment and community conglomerate, a technology and information scientist, and an undergraduate student leader.

Five New Trustees Named

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Widener Athletics: A Tradition and Future of Success

President’s Message

For all of these students, being an athlete is planning to introduce majors in media informatics. We expect our students with the skills to succeed in the financial sector.

New Majors on Campus

Biomolecular engineering major begins, informatics and finance to start 2012

Fourteen freshmen who make up the Widener School of Engineering’s first class of biomolecular engineering students began their studies this semester. The university next year is planning to introduce majors in finance, business informatics, and media informatics.

The informatics and finance majors will be offered in fall 2012, pending approval of the Board of Trustees. The informatics majors focus on a wide range of skills in the rapidly changing business and media environments, while the finance major will provide students with the skills to succeed in the financial sector.

Workplace demands for graduates with expertise in these varied fields are expected to grow. Jobs in biomedical engineering—a field combining engineering and medical technology to find ways to improve the quality of human life—are expected to increase by 72 percent by 2018. Philadelphia ranks as the second largest area of employment in the nation for biomedical engineers.

Labor statistics also show strong growth projections for fields related to informatics, including graphics and web development, artificial intelligence, and information gathering and dissemination. Widener will offer informatics majors through both the School of Business Administration and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Finance is ranked among the highest-paying college degrees, and the market for financial analysts is expected to grow more than 30 percent in the next decade. For more information on these majors, visit www.widener.edu.

Anthony R. Britton Jr. of Darlen, Conn.
A managing director for the Royal Bank of Scotland, he graduated from Widener with a bachelor's degree in business management and economics in 1982 and served as captain of the 1981 Widener national championship football team.

Anna Miller of East Prospect, Pa.
A junior chemistry major, she is a member of the Presidential Service Corps/Bonner Leaders program and was one of only 136 students nationwide to be honored as a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, an honor recognizing college student leaders.

Robert E. Samuel of Blue Bell, Pa.
A senior technology architect for Aetna, Inc., he is the incoming president of the Widener University-Pennsylvania Military College Alumni Association. He holds a 1991 bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a 2000 master of engineering degree from Widener.

Richard L. Tan of San Diego, Calif.
President of Pacific Millennium Holdings Corporation, he has more than 30 years of experience in the paper and finance industries. He received an honorary doctorate in international business from Widener in 2009.

Brian P. Tierney of Bryn Mawr, Pa.
Former publisher of The Philadelphia Inquirer, Tierney is chief executive officer of Realtime Media and leads its parent company, Brian Communications. He is a 1987 graduate of the Widener University School of Law.

New Majors on Campus

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Widener Students Rub Shoulders With Accomplished Writers

Alumni and members of Widener Community invited to attend literary readings

By Lindsay Pepino ’12

Kyle Gies never worries about sharing his creative work with his peers and professors. As a Widener creative writing major, he is comfortable exchanging his stories and participating in class workshops. It wasn’t until he was given the opportunity this year to have a one-on-one tutorial with writer George Saunders—a renowned author who has appeared on “The Late Show with David Letterman” and is a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*—that Gies became nervous.

“After reading Saunders’ books I was excited about my tutorial and felt that he would be an easy person to talk to about writing,” said Gies, a senior from Wilmington, Del., whose minor is professional writing. “That being said, the quality of his writing made it really daunting for him to be reading my work.”

The purpose of these visits is not just to benefit students but also to expand Widener as a writing community where students make connections with writers from other institutions. Each visiting writer gives a reading that is open to the public; alumni and other members of the Widener community are welcome to attend.

In addition to Saunders, other writers who have visited campus include Heidi Durrow, author of the bestselling 2010 novel *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky*, and Kevin Wilson, author of the recently released novel *The Family Fang* and the acclaimed 2009 short story collection *Tunneling to the Center of the Earth*.

Writers are chosen based on the success of their work and also their ability to relate to students and make personal connections when they come to campus. The series is not about fame or dropping names in order to get noticed. Instead, creative writing faculty stress the importance of bringing in writers who are at various points in their careers from experienced to emerging. This mixture benefits students who get to see all stages of being a professional writer.

Originally visiting writers were brought in once a year, but as the series progressed, the visits became more frequent. The series now hosts two writers each year. During the two-day visit, writers speak to classes and give a reading of their own work. In class students can ask questions about the writing process and receive insight about the life of a writer. After the public literary reading, Widener students and faculty have dinner with the guest of honor.

Pobo, a professor and poet who has been part of Widener’s faculty since 1987, said the program enriches the campus experience for all. “The Distinguished Writers Series offers a wonderful opportunity for the creative writing students, but it also extends Widener’s outreach to the community at large,” he said.

Lindsay Pepino ’12 is a creative writing and communication studies major from Oceanside, N.Y.

Literary Readings:

4 p.m., Oct. 27, Anjali Joseph, whose first novel *Saraswati Park* was published in 2010, will read in the Webb room in University Center.


“The Distinguished Writers Series offers a wonderful opportunity for the creative writing students, but it also extends Widener’s outreach to the community at large.”

—Dr. Ken Pobo
IN THE CLASSROOM.  
ON THE COURT.  
AND IN THE COMMUNITY.  
These are the places where Widener University student athletes like Kate Dellinger excel.

A psychology and pre-physical therapy major from Wrightsville, Pa., Dellinger maintains a 3.996 grade point average, has been named to the Dean’s List four times, and earned a spot on The Philadelphia Inquirer Academic All-Area Team.

On the basketball court, as a sophomore she led Widener’s team with 17.1 points and 7.8 rebounds per game, results that earned her second team honors for the All-Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) South Region Team.

And in the community, she also has been involved. Dellinger volunteered for the Hoops for the Heart Clinic, a basketball clinic for Chester kids held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and the Special Olympics where she helped to keep score of the basketball games.

How does she achieve such success? Hard work, and some very busy days. Dellinger kindly agreed to keep a journal of an exceptionally hectic day this past winter, Monday, Feb. 21, only two days before Widener’s Middle Atlantic Conference Tournament game.
8 A.M.
My alarm buzzed me awake. I jumped in the shower and got ready for class. I share a suite with four girls: Ro, Nat, Carrie, and KG. We have a kitchen and a common area where we all hang out together.

8:40 A.M.
I turned on ESPN’s SportsCenter and quickly ate a bowl of cereal—Special K Vanilla Almond, my favorite, that I eat every day—and a banana.

8:50 A.M.
I walked to Academic Center North for Elementary Calculus. We reviewed for Wednesday’s exam on first and second derivatives and finding the absolute maximum and minimum values of a function.

9:50 A.M.
After math in ACN I headed to the Kapelski Learning Center for Logic class. I sat beside (Laura) Carson, my teammate. We checked our answers to class. I sat beside (Laura) Carson, my teammate. We checked our answers to class. I turned on ESPN’s SportsCenter and quickly ate a bowl of cereal—Special K Vanilla Almond, my favorite, that I eat every day—and a banana.

10:50 A.M.
When class ended, I met my roommate Ro (Rochele Retirado) at Java City for white hot chocolate. Ro is manager of the women’s basketball team—he runs the clock at every practice and keeps the book at games—as well as a member of the lacrosse team. She prefers to ride her motorized scooter to class, so I then walked down the hall to Sensation and Perception at 11:00 as she zoomed ahead. We spent the class taking notes from a presentation about receptive fields in neurons of the striate cortex, the part of the brain that processes visual information.

11:50 A.M.
Immediately after class I rushed to the library for a picture with President Harris for making the President’s List. There were about 20 other students who each received a 4.0 for at least two consecutive semesters.

12:30 P.M.
I returned to my room and had lunch with my roommates. They made tuna melts, but I don’t like cheese or mayo, so I just ate plain tuna and an apple.

12:50 P.M.
I went to Kirk (Kirkbride Hall) for my final class of the day, Cells and Genes. We chose partners and worked on a case study about inheritance of eye color. We often work on case studies about genetic disorders instead of simply copying lecture notes.

1:50 P.M.
I returned to my room to grab things for basketball practice. I like to shoot on my own for about an hour each day and can’t wait to get to the gym.

2 P.M.
After warming up I went through my normal routine. I worked on jump shots, threes, and pull ups, and then finished off with foul shots. Coach D (Alisa DiBonaventura) stopped by and worked with me and fed balls to me. We worked on shooting when my defender lays off of me just enough to get a shot off, something we knew I’d encounter in our tournament game.

3 P.M.
I went downstairs to the weight room to lift. Mondays are focused on upper body so I did bench, shoulder press, bicep curls, triceps pull-downs, flies, and dumbbell rows. I usually complete three sets of 10, and my arms feel like Jell-O afterwards.

4 P.M.
I drove to Wawa to grab a turkey sandwich, a peanut butter Power Bar, and a Gatorade. I returned to the gym to get dressed for practice and to get my ankle taped.

4:30 P.M.
I ate during a team film session in which we watched Messiah College who we would play on Wednesday in the conference semifinals. They had beaten us by two points on their home court only a few weeks before, and we had beaten them in overtime at home in December. Before we began watching, we each took a quiz on their players and what their strengths were.

6 P.M.
Our team practice followed for two hours. We had a pretty good practice with a lot of drills. However, we had a lot more to go over on Tuesday in order to be prepared for the game. Messiah beat us last year in the conference semifinals. The team went 19–7, tying the 1981–82 squad for most victories in a season at Widener. The team lost to Messiah 63–74 in a hard fought game on Messiah’s home court in Grantham, Pa. It was the Pride’s eighth trip in the last nine years to the conference tournament and the fourth straight year they battled the Falcons in the semifinals. The team won 19–7, tying the 1981–82 squad for most victories in a season at Widener.

8 P.M.
After practice, I went back to my room and took a long, hot shower.

8:40 P.M.
I finished my math homework on MyMathLab, an online tool for the class.

9 P.M.
My roommates decided they wanted to watch a movie. After a lot of arguing, we finally all agreed on ‘Ake. Carrie, who is from Hawaii, made hurricane popcorn which is a blend of popcorn, rice crackers, and nori, another name for seaweed. My roommates go crazy over that stuff but I made my own mini bag of regular popcorn. I had never seen the movie before but I really liked it. By the end, I was really struggling to stay awake.

11:30 P.M.
After the movie I grabbed my iPod and went to bed. I listened to my sleep playlist—it includes slower songs by bands like Bruno Mars and Secondhand Serenade—and spent a few minutes thinking about the three upcoming exams I had that week and the big game on Wednesday. I didn’t last long though, after such a full day. I fell asleep before the second song on my playlist even started.

EDITOR’S NOTE:
Two days later, the women’s basketball team lost to Messiah 63–74 in a hard fought game on Messiah’s home court in Grantham, Pa. It was the Pride’s eighth trip in the last nine years to the conference tournament and the fourth straight year they battled the Falcons in the semifinals. The team won 19–7, tying the 1981–82 squad for most victories in a season at Widener. In the classroom, Dellinger finished the semester with all A’s—another 4.0 average—her fourth consecutive semester on the Dean’s List.

“We often work on case studies about genetic disorders instead of simply copying lecture notes. I hope to someday become a physical therapist, so I found this class very interesting and directly related to my future.”
WIDENER ATHLETICS:
A Program of Pride
Kate Dellinger’s busy day typifies the hard work of 450 Widener student-athletes who compete on the university’s 20 men’s and women’s varsity teams.

For all, coaches, faculty, and administrators emphasize goals for success in various arenas — academics, sports, and community. “Any student-athlete that comes to Widener is going to have a well-balanced experience on and off the field,” said Larissa Gillespie, Widener’s assistant athletic director, senior woman administrator, and coach of the women’s field hockey team.

As the statistics below show, Widener student-athletes perform exceptionally well in and out of the classroom. Unlike higher NCAA divisions, Division III schools like Widener do not grant athletic scholarships. “We are here because we love the sport and we still want to do great in school,” said Jen Harnden, a senior engineering major from Hershey, Pa. who plays on the lacrosse team.

By the Numbers — Widener Student-Athletes Perform ...

In the Classroom:
A total of 48 Widener student-athletes made the Middle Atlantic Conference Spring 2011 Academic honor roll.
Three of Widener’s last five valedictorians have been student-athletes.
Two of the last three winners of Widener’s President’s Award — given to students who contribute the most to campus life — have been student-athletes.
Student-athletes at Widener have higher SATs upon entering college, maintain higher GPAs, and are more likely to graduate.
A total of 44 student-athletes have been selected to The Philadelphia Inquirer Academic All-Area List since 2007.

In the community:
Every Widener student-athlete has participated in community service projects each of the last four years, and Widener student-athletes volunteered more than 800 times last year for a variety of programs.
The Widener Athletic Department’s support of the Delaware County Special Olympics dates back to 2001, preceding by a decade an NCAA Division III effort to support Special Olympic programs nationwide.
In April, more than 400 Special Olympians competed in a swim meet and basketball tournaments on campus at which more than 200 Widener student-athletes volunteered as officials, scorekeepers, coaches, and food servers. Student-athletes also created an “Olympic Village” that included dancing, karaoke, carnival games, and face painting.
Other programs that Widener student-athletes have participated in include Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Walk for Autism, and the Chester PAL soccer league.

And in athletic competition:
Recent NCAA championships include the women’s outdoor shot put title won by Lauren Lucci in 2008 and distance runner Macharia Yuot’s six titles from 2003 to 2006.

Blue & Gold Club
Alumni and others can get involved through the Blue & Gold Club. Visit www.widenerpride.com or contact Michael J. Talirico, associate director of university development, at mtalarico@widener.edu, or phone 610-499-4118.

“... when my defender lays off of me just enough to get a shot off, something we knew I’d encounter in our tournament game.”

KATE DELLINGER’S
STATS:

21
AGE

2013
CLASS

33
TEAM NUMBER

17.1
POINTS PER GAME

7.8
REBOUNDS PER GAME

3.996
GRADE POINT AVERAGE
WIDENER STUDENTS TAP INTO MAJOR LEAGUE SPORTING EXPERTISE

By Allyson Roberts

ONLY TWO MILES from Widener’s Main Campus in Chester sits PPL Park, a state-of-the-art 18,500-seat Major League Soccer stadium that houses the Philadelphia Union.

And only 12 miles away, a straight shot up I-95, Philadelphia’s other major-league sports teams make their home in a multi-venue complex: the Eagles at Lincoln Financial Field; the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park; and the 76ers, Flyers, and Wings at the Wells Fargo Center.

Leveraging Widener’s proximity to these teams has been the mission of Dr. Brian Larson, associate professor of marketing, since becoming coordinator of the School of Business Administration’s sport management program in 2007. By networking with sport industry experts in the Philadelphia sports scene, he has uncovered opportunities for students to work in the field—and often on the field—and form relationships with major players behind the scenes of Philly’s professional teams.

Caryinna Yenchak, a 2011 business management graduate who played on the women’s soccer team, benefited from the school’s relationship with the Philadelphia Union, completing an internship with the team in its inaugural summer. Yenchak said her experience working in the PPL Park merchandise store gave her invaluable insight into the complexities of a major sporting operation. “I was able to learn so much,” Yenchak said.

Often representatives of the various teams visit campus. John Weber, the Phillies vice president of ticket sales, and Rob MacPherson, the team’s director of national sales, together taught an event marketing class at Widener. Students in the class design a “Paint the Town Red” event to create preseason buzz to boost ticket sales. The students are challenged to work through the logistics of the event and to think of the target audience and desired goals just as they would if employed by the Phillies.

For the 2011–12 academic year, the sport management program has further enlisted the help of industry insiders to teach courses in their specialties. Bob Schwartz, vice president of marketing for Comcast-Spectacor Ventures, will teach sport marketing, and Chris Kemple, general manager of the Wilmington Blue Rocks, will teach sport management.

While Larson has become the face of the sport management program on campus, he has looked to his industry adjuncts, peer business faculty, graduates and other leaders in Philadelphia sports, including representatives from Dick’s Sporting Goods, the Eagles, Gore-Tex, and the Union, for guidance in strengthening the program. He calls upon these individuals, his Sport Management Advisory Board, for help with a number of tasks including course development.

One of the program’s biggest supporters is alumnus Tony Pontello, ’61, ’70, owner of Appco’s Sports World in Secane, Pa. Pontello not only sits on the Sport Management Advisory Board, but he also offers financial support for the Sport Speaker Series, which exposes students twice a year to successful individuals working in sports.

Next year, the newly formed Student Sport Network will run the Sport Speaker Series to give students experience in planning, promoting, and executing events. “Experience is the one thing that our advisory board brings up over and over again—students are much stronger candidates for employment when they have a year working in sports under their belts,” said Larson. “We’re looking to do even more. Ultimately, our program will explore every opportunity to better prepare students to compete for a career in sports.”
A loss, on the other hand, meant the end of the season.

The same was true for Swarthmore, an up-and-coming team with a 7-1 record, its most victories since 1919. Fresh off an upset, the Garnet (Swarthmore’s team) also needed to win to reach postseason play.

With the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) title at stake, Widener had reason to be confident. Widener had won 11 straight against Swarthmore, the last loss being in 1969. Bill Manlove’s first season as coach. Furthermore, the team had averaged a stunning 242.4 rushing yards per game that season. “We didn’t set our goal to be national champions,” Manlove said. “But as the season progressed, it got on everybody’s mind. Our goal was to win the conference. But once we won enough games in the conference, we knew we could compete in the tournament.”
“We had to earn every game and we weren’t going down without swinging. We had the confidence that we could win any game.” —Jim Hirschmann, defensive back

Tony Britton ’82, a starting slot back who had three catches for 50 yards against Swarthmore, remembers the aura of the powerful Widener team. “It was great going into a game like that where Widener would have 100 players warming up and other teams would have about 50,” he said. “You could hear the echoing of our warm-up—and the other team was shaking in its boots.”

Widener encountered an unexpected foe during game week—generous local press coverage of Swarthmore, a team Widener had dominated over the past decade. “It was great going into a game knowing who had three catches for 50 yards against Swarthmore, remembers Britton.”

When 9,500 spectators crowded into Clothier Field on Swarthmore’s campus, many on Widener’s side felt Deery had to make key plays for the team to win—and he did.

When Swarthmore scored a touchdown to tie the game at 6–6 in the third quarter, Deery blocked a kick on an extra point attempt to keep the game tied.

On the ensuing kickoff, Deery fumbled, giving Swarthmore the ball at Widener’s 25 yard line. Deery made up for his mistake on the next play, intercepting a Swarthmore pass in the end zone.

After that, Widener took the lead for good, 9–6, with 7:16 left in the third quarter when kicker Mark Stephan booted a 22-yard field goal. The margin grew to 16–6 just 48 seconds later when Widener sophomore linebacker Phil Aruffo picked off a pass and ran 25 yards for a touchdown.

Few big games go without controversy and this contest had an indelible one. With the Pioneers holding a 16–6 lead late in the third quarter, Deery fumbled a punt on his team’s 30-yard line and the Garnet recovered. Deery, however, had called for a fair catch and, under the rule of the time, an official said Swarthmore violated the necessary space to make the catch.

The Pioneers held on to win 16–6. The team ultimately finished the season 13–0, winning the school’s second NCAA Division III title, and marking the first undefeated campaign since Pennsylvania Military College went unbeaten in 1954. “We had a lot of guys who really wanted to win, and we had the better record in the end,” said Jim Hirschmann ’82, a defensive back for Widener. “That game served us well heading into the NCAA Tournament. We had to earn every game and we weren’t going down without swinging. We had the confidence that we could win any game.”

The years after saw Widener continue to churn out solid teams, winning four more league crowns before decade’s end and maintaining both a respect and name for itself that remains to this day. Swarthmore’s program went the other direction. The following season, Swarthmore entered the Widener game ranked eighth in the country, but received unfavorable media attention when many of its professors and students said the team’s prominence detracted from the college’s academic reputation. The “NBC Nightly News” and “The NCAA Today” on CBS both featured the controversy.

Widener beat Swarthmore 24–7 in that 1982 matchup. After that season, the schools played only twice more, in 1986 and 1987, with Widener winning 35–0 and 36–3, respectively. The 1987 game marked the end of a rivalry begun in 1879. Over 108 years, Widener and Swarthmore played 41 games with Widener winning 24–18–1 lead.

Swarthmore went on a 28-game losing streak in the late 1990s that ultimately landed the program on ESPN’s list of the ten worst college teams of all time. After posting a 4–5 mark in 2000, the college’s trustees voted to disband the 122-year-old football program.

Despite the end of football at Swarthmore, the longstanding rivalry between Widener and Swarthmore has been revived via the 320 Challenge, named for the route connecting each campus. A 19-sport, year-long event, the 320 Challenge pits the two schools in every shared sport. Widener won the 2009–10 challenge by a score of 12–7, and the 2010–11 edition 10–8. “There is a storied history of athletic competition between these two institutions,” Widener Athletics Director Jack Shafer said. “We hope to continue it with the 320 Challenge.”

Manlove Inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame

Bill Manlove—Pennsylvania Military College and then Widener’s head coach from 1969 to 1991—earned one of the highest honors in college football this summer with his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

He joins players Tom Deery ’82 and Billy “White Shoes” Johnson ’75 as representatives of Widener in the hall. At PMC and Widener, Manlove recorded a 182–53–1 record in Chester, earning two NCAA titles, 10 Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) championships, seven NCAA Tournament appearances and four undefeated regular seasons.

Manlove, 78, now works as a part-time coach at Delaware Valley College. He also does volunteer work, most notably in his church, and often travels to see his grandkids.

The 1981 team went undefeated and won a national championship.
By Dan Hanson ’97

Before the ESPN SportsCenter generation of catchphrase-coining anchors, before Bob Costas or Howard Cosell, another sportscaster ruled the airwaves—both on radio and television—and literally helped pioneer the profession for all who followed him.

Bill Stern, a 1930 graduate of Pennsylvania Military College, captivated radio listeners and later television viewers with a rich, resonant voice and a dramatic flair that earned him the title of most popular sportscaster in the nation annually from 1940 to 1952, according to a Radio Daily Magazine poll of radio editors. In addition, during his career with NBC and later ABC Stern amassed a career of “firsts”—including broadcasting the first televised football game, the first televised Major League Baseball game, and hosting the first sports talk show.

Prior to his stellar broadcasting career, however, Stern was a rebellious youth from Rochester, N.Y., bouncing from one school to the next before his parents, on vacation in Europe, met a cadet from PMC. Impressed by the cadet’s “poise, manner and bearing,” they decided to enroll their son at the school.

“By the way his voice projected. We were hanging on every word.” — Joe Tercha ’49

Pennsylvania Military College alumnus Bill Stern, a giant figure in the early days of sports broadcasting, hosted the first national sports talk show and was the first to broadcast a televised football game and a Major League Baseball game.

“It was one of the best things that ever happened to me.” Stern wrote in his 1959 autobiography, The Taste of Ashes. “When I entered PMC Prep in 1925 it was driven home rapidly that I could go on for the next five years as I had been and remain a scorned private sweeping floors, cleaning brass buttons, and shining shoes; or, if I wanted to give the orders and have my buttons cleaned and my shoes shined for me, I could do so with some intensified application.”

Stern returned to PMC on occasion much to the delight of sports-crazed cadets who regularly listened to his popular Colgate Sports Newsreel. One such cadet was Joe Tercha ’49 who recalls one of Stern’s visits.

“He talked about how proud he was to attend PMC and the lessons that he learned there that carried him into broadcasting,” Tercha said. “He had you with the way his voice projected. We were hanging on every word. At the end of his talk, he said, ‘Fellows, I’d like to ask you to do one favor for me.’ We would have done anything he asked. He said, ‘Use Colgate shaving cream.’”

Stern’s life and career, however, were not without their share of tragedy. In 1935, just as his radio career started, he was in a car accident that cost him a leg. Stern pointed to that incident as the beginning of an addiction to morphine and sleeping pills that would haunt him for the next 21 years and almost lead to the end of his broadcasting career. After going through drug rehabilitation, which Stern describes in vivid detail in his autobiography, he resurrected his career with the Mutual Broadcasting System, and in 1959 was named the favorite radio sports announcer by TV Radio Mirror in a nationwide poll of listeners. The following year, he was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6821 Hollywood Boulevard.

Stern died of a heart attack in 1971 at the age of 64, and much of the recognition of his accomplishments came posthumously. He was inducted into the inaugural class of the American Sportscasters Association (ASA) Hall of Fame in 1984 and the Radio Hall of Fame in 1988. As recently as 2009, the ASA published its list of the Top 50 Sportscasters of All-Time, with Stern ranking at number 20.

Howard Cosell, known for marching to the beat of his own drummer as a sportscaster, paid Stern what was probably the ultimate compliment when he said, “He dared to be different.”
A Long History of Athletics on Campus

For almost 150 years, athletics has been a mainstay at the Main Campus of PMC-Widener
By Sam Starnes

THE CIVIL WAR had been over for one year. Pennsylvania Military Academy, a predecessor to Widener, had a new home in Chester. A new sport, baseball, was spreading across the country.

Two cadets from PMA organized the baseball team, the first athletics program in the school’s history. The Eclipse, as the team was known, played two games against the local Chester Club baseball team.

Eleven years later in 1877 baseball on campus was popular enough that all four classes fielded teams that competed fiercely, according to the school newspaper, The Reveille. “All four nines went to the field with the consciousness of their own superiority over their rivals, and all settled down to work with a determination to win or die in the attempt,” the paper said.

The team representing the school by then was known as The Energetics. The Reveille reported, “On May 10th, the University of Pennsylvania nine visited the Academy to play the Energetics. They were a fine set of young men, but their ability as baseballists was not of a very striking character, for the Energetics had an easy victory.”

A century later, Widener baseball continued to field a strong team, making the NCAA tournament three consecutive years, 1976–78 (the team returned in 1999 and 2010).

Gymnastics
Gymnastics, the school’s second sport, began in 1868 when PMA moved to the university’s present location. The new campus featured a gymnasium equipped with “bars, rings, trapezes, springboards, a vaulting horse, clubs, and weights, and many of the cadets … became proficient in gymnastics,” Dr. Clarence Moll, former president of PMC and Widener, wrote in a History of Pennsylvania Military College: 1821–1954.

Other sports were introduced in the next few decades including football, lacrosse, tennis, fencing, hockey, boxing, and basketball.

Football
Football began at Pennsylvania Military Academy in 1879, only ten years after the first intercollegiate game ever played between Rutgers and Princeton. (The school changed its name to Pennsylvania Military College in 1892.)

PMC’s football team developed the play calling system still in use by quarterbacks. “Prior to 1887, when a gridiron play was set in motion it was the custom of the captain to call the names of the players,” writes Henry J. Buxton in Pennsylvania Military College: The Story of One Hundred Years, 1821–1921. “When the Princeton squad came to Chester to play PMC, the captain of the cadet-team called the cader-numbers of his men instead of their names. The effect was bewildering to the Princeton organization and enabled the cadets to make substantial gains. Princeton was quick to see the advantage of the new system, and therefore after the Tigers used the numbers instead of names. The number system soon became universal in football.”

The 1888 PMC team recorded a remarkable nine-game season in which it not only went undefeated, but held all of its opponents scoreless. The team did have one decisive advantage in that all of the games were played on the PMC campus. In the early years of football, President Theodore Hyatt did not allow the team to travel to play away games.
In 1934, PMC played one of the earliest indoor football games on record in Convention Hall in Atlantic City, now known as Boardwalk Hall, the arch-roofed arena famous for being home to Miss America pageants until 2004. The football team played six more games in Atlantic City in the thirties.

The 1954 team tallied an undefeated season, winning all seven games played that year. PMC returned to Atlantic City in 1961 to play in what became known as the Boardwalk Bowl against the Merchant Marine Academy, more commonly referred to as Kings Point for its location in New York state. PMC played a game annually in Atlantic City until 1970. Home games were played on Memorial Field behind Old Main, and would be until the university opened Leslie C. Quick Jr. Stadium in 1994.

Jack Klotz ’56 was one of the area’s top offensive linemen when he competed for PMC in the mid 1950s. He played professionally for the Los Angeles Rams, the New York Jets, and the Houston Oilers.

Billy “White Shoes” Johnson played for Widener from 1972 to 1974, setting multiple records that would gain him notice of the NFL, where he went on to play for 14 seasons with the Houston Oilers, Atlanta Falcons, and the Washington Redskins.

Joe Fields ’75 played in the same era, and went on to play fourteen seasons in the NFL, most of those with the New York Jets. Under Coach Bill Manlove, who was recently selected for the College Football Hall of Fame, Widener won 1977 and 1981 national championships (for more on Manlove and Tom Deery, also a member of the College Football Hall of Fame, and the 1981 championship year, see page 14). The 2000 football team reached the semifinals of the NCAA championships, and in 2001 reached the quarterfinals.

Polo

When polo was introduced as an intercollegiate sport in 1923, PMC took advantage of its existing cavalry and intramural polo program to field an outstanding team that competed with and often defeated prominent schools such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Army. (PMC also featured talented stunt riders as well.) In 1928, PMC won the national Indoor Intercollegiate Polo Championship and the sport became the flagship of the athletics program. The squad also won a national championship in 1944. However, after World War II, high expenses of the sport ultimately brought an end to the program in 1948.

Women’s Sports Begin

Increasing female enrollment prompted Widener College to begin a women’s sports program in 1972. The women’s field hockey team marked the first women’s varsity team on campus.

Women’s Swimming

Men’s Basketball
The men’s basketball team went to the NCAA Division III Final Four in 1978, reaching the championship game. Saint Joseph’s University basketball coach Phil Martelli, a ’76 Widener alumnus who played for the Pioneers, worked as an assistant coach for this team. Dennis James from this team was named an All-American and drafted by the Philadelphia 76ers. The men’s team returned to the Final Four in 1985. Overall, Widener’s men’s basketball team has appeared in the NCAA tournament 17 times, most recently in 2009.

Women’s Basketball
Women’s basketball has reached the NCAA tournament three times, most recently in 2009. In 2011, the team tied its record for most wins in a season with a 19-7 record. For more on the 2011 team’s leading scorer, Kate Dellinger, see the cover and page 6.

Track and Field
Six different Widener track and field athletes have won national titles: Richie Weaver raced to the title in the 440-meter hurdles in 1970; Mike Williams captured the 1975 triple jump title; Rich Grzeszkowiak won the decathlon in 1980; Tony Brown took the 200-meter dash in 1999; Macharia Yuot won six national championships from 2003 to 2006; and Lauren Lucci, now an assistant track and field coach at Widener, won the outdoor shot put in 2008.

Neil Weygandt began running the Boston Marathon as a junior at PMC Colleges in 1967, and has run the race every year since, holding the record for consecutive races at the famed marathon.

In the spring, Michael Garrity, a senior from Glenolden, Pa., became Widener’s latest All-American, earning the honor in the 1,500-meter run at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Men’s Lacrosse
The men’s lacrosse team has appeared in the NCAA tournament nine times since 2000, including the last two seasons, and has won 13 Middle Atlantic Conference titles. The squad has had eight All-America picks in its history.

Much More Online
This photo essay attempts to hit some of the highlights of the 145 years of athletics on campus in Chester, but six magazine pages can never begin to do justice to the many sports, stories, and traditions of Pennsylvania Military Academy, Pennsylvania Military College, and Widener.

For many more photos, please visit the Widener University Archives online exhibit, 100 Years of Athletics: 1866 to 1966, which is accessible via the Wolfgram Memorial Digital Collections at http://digitalwolfgram.widener.edu/cdm. You can also find a slide show of athletics photographs on the Widener Magazine blog at www.widenermagazine.com.

Contributors include:
Jan Alexander, an archivist with the Widener University Archives in the Wolfgram Memorial Library
Derek Crudele, sports information director
Debbie Perreca, senior graphic designer
Rebecca Warda, collections manager for the PMC Museum

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18. Polo action, 1938
19. Stunt riding, 1938
20. Parshing rifles, 1953
21. Parshing rifles competing in formal dress at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Annville, Pa., 1959
22. Field hockey, 1973
23. Women’s swimming, 1976
24. Men’s basketball, 1978
26. NCAA 440-meter hurdles champion Richie Weaver, 1970
27. Lil Carney, a Junior, 2011
BEFORE HE TURNED 10-YEARS-OLD in his native Cambodia, Leth Oun’s father, two grandparents, three uncles, an aunt, and two cousins perished at the hands of the murderous Khmer Rouge regime.

For the next six years, until he was 15, he and his mother and one of his sisters struggled to stay alive in what became known as the Killing Fields, frequently claiming fake identities. They feared execution because Oun’s father had been an

Alumni Profile

From the Killing Fields to Protecting American Presidents

Widener Alumnus’ Journey from Cambodia to Widener to the U.S. Secret Service.

By Sam Starnes

Oun graduated from Widener in 1998; his daughter, Jennifer, is a Widener freshman.
Secret Service officers with President Obama in 2011. Oun is fourth from the right in the front row.

officer in the Cambodian Army overthrown by dictator Pol Pot. Oun was forced to labor in rice paddies for as much as eighteen hours a day, and he witnessed many die from starvation and being overworked. Estimates are that almost a quarter of Cambodia's population of seven million perished from 1975 to 1979.

A 1998 Widener graduate, Oun, 45, said he never dreamed during those dark days that he would become an American citizen, much less work as an officer for the U.S. Secret Service with the job of protecting the President.

“Not in a million years did I think I would live in America,” he said. His journey from the rice paddies of Cambodia to the Secret Service in Washington followed a winding path of hard work, determination, and good fortune. In 1979, Oun and his mother and a sister escaped from Cambodia to a refugee camp in Thailand and began seeking political asylum in the United States, Austria, Canada, and France. They did not hold much hope that they would get into the United States, and were thrilled when they ultimately did.

When Oun was 17, he and his mother and sister relocated to Maryland. He found learning English very difficult—the Khmer language, also commonly known as Cambodian, has a different alphabet—but Oun credits his high school teachers as being very helpful.

He learned English and graduated high school and attended community college while also working as a dishwasher in a Chinese restaurant, a job he walked to and from about three miles each way. He later landed a better job at a convenience store that required a much longer commute, so he acquired a set of wheels. “My first car was a bicycle,” he joked.

In the early nineties, he transferred to the Community College of Philadelphia, finishing his associate’s degree. He then applied to Temple, Columbia, Penn State, and Widener. Widener was the first to accept him, and after a campus visit, he made up his mind to attend.

At Widener, he majored in sociology with a minor in criminal justice, disciplines that he said taught him skills that he uses today. A key part of his job is to travel with a bomb-sniffing dog ahead of the president and vice president and other officials, ensuring that the locations they will be visiting are safe.

He has traveled all over the United States and internationally, including Germany, India, Japan, Oman, South Korea, Pakistan, Romania, Turkey, and Vietnam. Oun said a Widener sociology course focusing on societal stratification prepared him for the unique job of performing security in other countries. “The class helped me to understand differences in cultures and societies,” he said. “It helps me today in many ways, working with different cultures and religions.”

This understanding comes in handy when traveling internationally with a canine—the dog stays in hotels with him—in Middle Eastern countries such as Oman. “If someone there touches the dog, they have to pray for forgiveness—they view it as a dirty animal,” he said. “But that’s their culture, their religion. You have to try to understand them.”

After graduating from Widener, Oun worked for a service caring for juvenile offenders for 18 months, and then landed a job in Philadelphia working in corrections with the U.S. Department of Justice. While working in corrections, he applied for the Secret Service. The application process took two years, but ultimately he received a job offer in 2002. “It was like I had just won the lottery,” he said. “I was jumping up and down and in front of my house.”

One of Oun’s favorite parts of his job is working with canines. He smiles when he talks about his dogs. Reik, an 8-year-old Belgian Malinois, the bomb-sniffing canine he cares for and

At Widener, he majored in sociology with a minor in criminal justice, disciplines that he said taught him skills that he uses today, guides, and the family pet, a German shepherd named Buddy. “Dogs are amazing. They are loyal to you, and always love you and protect you,” he said. “And they don’t talk back.”

Oun’s daughter, Jennifer, will enroll as a freshman at Widener in the fall with plans to major in English in preparation for law school. He is pleased that she is following in his footsteps. “There are very good professors here,” he said, noting that Vernon Smith, a senior lecturer in sociology, Dr. Barbara Ryan, and the late Dr. William R.F. Phillips were three of his favorite teachers. “They really helped me a lot, and helped me learn what I needed at the start of my career.”

Reflecting on the brutal experiences of his childhood and teenage years in war torn Cambodia, Oun said his past makes him very appreciative of his life that he and his family have now. “People in the U.S. often don’t realize what they have,” he said. “I am very fortunate to be where I am today.”
Do you know a high school student who would be a perfect fit at Widener?

If yes, please refer them to our Office of Admissions. Alumni make the best recruiters for Widener and we hope you know of recruiters who would be a good fit for Widener! Please send the student’s name, address, phone number, and e-mail address (along with your name) to admissions.office@widener.edu.

on Job Search Strategies, Time Management, Consultative Selling, Career Development, Personal Financial Management, Effective Presentations Skills, Managing Change, Executive Leadership, and many others.

Class of 1990
Armand Chris Dalmass, B.S., management, a four-year football letterman, began his prosthetic education at Northwestern University School of Medicine in Chicago after graduating from Widener. He is now partner of a cutting-edge prosthetic facility in Chester, Prosthetic Innovations, LLC, that celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2013. The company aims to provide the most progressive care available to all upper and lower extremity prosthetic clients across the country. An active member of the Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry as their 2011 Female Business Leader of the Year at the Chamber’s Annual Women in Business Dinner, Urian was recognized for her professional achievements, initiatives in the community, and leadership for other women in business. Donna is the owner/shareholder of Fischer, Cunningham & Associates, Ltd., and is serving as a director of taxes. In 2009, she was recognized as one of Pennsylvania’s Best 50 Women in Business. She was selected as a 2008-2009 Widener Employee of Accomplishment by the Women’s Yellow Pages of Greater Philadelphia. In 2008 she was recognized by Widener University with the Beta Alpha Psi Distinguished Alumni Award. Donna lives with her husband Tom in Glen Mills, Pa.

Class of 1989
Yusuf Wilson, M.S., human resource administration, was president and senior consultant of Wilson Training and Consulting Systems, LLC. Yusuf has over 20 years of executive leadership and training experience. He’s a member of the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia, Society of Human Resources Managers (SHRM), and the International Coaching Federation (ICF). Yusuf has solved problems with leadership and strategic solutions for organizations such as Philip Morris USA, American Express, JP Morgan Chase Bank, TD Bank and MINA. He has helped these organizations achieve their goals acting as vice president of sales, call center director, regional sales manager, training consultant, and production manager. Yusuf has designed and facilitated Human Dynamic Seminars include active duty, reserve, National Guard, and retired commissioned military officers. Here Bill is being congratulated by LCL Charles Sweetman, USAF (Ret) (left).

Class of 1972
Bill Speer, BA, history, invites you to join the Joint base mcguire-Dix-Lakehurst Alumni. Bill is a 1972 graduate of the Pennsylvania Military College group Facebook page. More than 100 members now share stories and memories of their time at PMC. David Jones, BA, government fellowships, and his wife, Oclively, were chosen to receive the William J. & Rev. Shirley M. Smith Spirit Award. For the past 29 years the couple has educated more than 1,300 students. Teaching high academic standards, self-confidence and personal pride, many of their alumni serve throughout the U.S. in various capacities. The Joneses have taught in Delaware for more than 30 years. They started the Faith Elementary School in 1982. David and Oclively reside in Dover, Del. They have two grown children.
Class Notes

Class of 1998
Ann Gioia, MSN, an assistant professor in Community College in Carneys Point, N.J., was honored by the National Academy of Admissions (NACADA). Gioia received the Outstanding Advising Award for Faculty Advising from NACADA Region 2 at its annual conference in Charlotte, Va. The Outstanding Advising Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated qualities associated with outstanding academic advising of students. NACADA Region 2 covers Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Monica Lavin, MS, human resource manager, ’96 BA, behavioral science, has been named human resource manager for the law firm Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman PC. Based in the Philadelphia office, Lavin will be responsible for directing all human resource functions at the firm including employee benefits administration, orienting new hires, assisting with the firm’s Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs as well as additional training programs for attorneys and staff. Lavin has 10 years of human resource experience, most recently as assistant vice president, human resources manager, for Managers Investment Group in Conshohocken. Prior to that, she served as assistant vice president, generalist for Rorer Asset Management. She has been a member of the Society for Human Resource Management since 2001.

Class of 2000
Robert Ren, BS, hospitality management will join Brookside Country Club in Lansdale in the newly created position of General Manager, overseeing all operational aspects of the club. Most recently, Mr. Ren served as assistant general manager of The Merion Cricket Club in Haverford, Pa., where he was responsible for day-to-day operations and member services for the 3,200-member club. Mr. Ren is the immediate past president of the Philadelphia and Vicinity Country Managers Association of America and is currently the President of the Philadelphia Club Foundation. He has a strong history in the private club industry with experience at Wayneborough Country Club, Coatesville Country Club, and Manassas River Golf Club.

Class of 2002
Laura Peppard, BS, business administration, has been named an associate, design and production, in the Distribution Team at Turner Investments, an employee-owned investment firm based in Berwyn, Pa. In this position Ms. Peppard assists in the development and production of marketing and client service communications and in the updating of those communications as needed. She previously served as a client-service associate at IGN Clarion Real Estate Securities. She lives in Miltont Park, Pa.

Class of 2003
Michael Charlevoix, BS, management, has been named agency director of Sales for the Providence, RI-based Income & Estate Planning Partners, P.A. in Newark, Del. Mike is a registered representative and investment advisor with Transamerica Financial Advisors. In addition to his personal practice, his responsibility includes managing the sales team, hiring new financial advisors, and training and mentoring the financial advisor intern at the firm. He brings over seven years of experience with ING. He also holds an MBA degree from Golden-Beacomm College.

Class of 2005
Jaclyn Shea, BS, chemical engineering, was an ROTC cadet and commissioned as a second lieutenant. Jaclyn was accepted into the ROTC Educational delay program and she deferred her military commitment to go to law school instead. She graduated law school and passed the Michigan Bar. Ms. Shea was commissioned into the Army JAG Corps to serve her military commitment. She is now a captain for the U.S. Army and is serving at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, as a military prosecutor.

Class of 2005
Jean Rances, Ed.D, has been named an “Outstanding Educator” by Camden County Woman magazine.

Class of 2005
She has been an adjunct professor for Immaculata University for six years, and currently teaches nurses at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP). Most of Dr. Rances’ students are nurses from New Jersey taking courses in Philadelphia sites like HUP. She teaches research, composition and literature courses to adult learners in an accelerated format. She also has been nominated twice for “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.” A longtime resident of Cherry Hill, N.J., she taught for six years in the Humanities Department at Widener.

Class of 2011
Heather Pontello ‘79, ‘03, and Kevin Swartz on May 1, 2010 at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

Obituaries

Dr. Alonzo C. Cavin, 71, professor emeritus in the Center for Education, died Sunday June 5. A popular figure on campus, Dr. Cavin joined the faculty of PMC in 1967 as assistant professor of education and the founding director of Project Prepare. The program has helped thousands of disadvantaged students earn college degrees. Project Prepare’s success made it a model for other colleges and universities, and in 1971, the program inspired Pennsylvania to create the Higher Education Opportunity Act. Dr. Cavin retired from Widener in 2002 but continued teaching as an adjunct professor. He also served the community for many years as a member of the Chester Cricket Club, and as the chair of the Chester-Wallingford Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Widener-PMC Alumni Online Community Ads
Join Widener’s new online alumni community to connect with other alumni, create profiles, class notes, alumni clubs, photo galleries, events, giving, and more. Continue the lasting connection alumni.widener.edu/imc/imcommunity/VPN
Philadelphia area to our alumni who have moved elsewhere. Not only has it been a great way to reunite our local alumni and friends, but it has also allowed us to expand our reach across the country to watch the Philadelphia Phillies. Since the inception of the regional chapter program in 2007, more than 2,000 alumni and friends have gathered at baseball stadiums around the country to watch the Phillies play.

Chapter Notes

For the latest information and more details about these events and others, please visit http://alumni.widener.edu/events or call 610-499-1154.

If you have interest in starting a new chapter, please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at 610-499-1154 or alumnioffice@widener.edu.

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Since the inception of the regional chapter program in 2007, more than 2,000 alumni and friends have gathered at baseball stadiums around the country to watch the Philadelphia Phillies. Not only has it been a great way to reunite our local alumni population, but also an opportunity to bring a little bit of the Philadelphia area to our alumni who have moved elsewhere after graduation!

With the help of one very magical mouse, 28 alumni and guests gathered at ESPN’s Wide World of Sports on the Walt Disney World complex in Orlando in March to see the Phillies take on the Atlanta Braves during Spring Training. Knowing how the Pride can really throw a party, Donald Duck and Goofy stopped by the pre-game festivities to share in a Philly cheesesteak and many other goodies!

Upcoming Fall 2011 Events:

**OCTOBER**
Greater Philly/Philly—Boo at the Zoo, Philadelphia Zoo Event (date TBA)

Greater Philadelphia/Delco—Tequila Tasting (date and location TBA)

**NOVEMBER**
NYC—Broadway Show (date and location TBA)

**DECEMBER**
Dec. 10: FL East—Sunset Happy Hour at Marriott Harbor Beach Resort, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Dec. 11: FL East—Dolphins vs. Eagles at Sun Life Stadium, Miami Gardens, Fla.


California—holiday party at the home of Sharon Carothers '92 (date TBA)

... And many more to be added!!!

For the latest information and more details about these events and others, please visit http://alumni.widener.edu/events or call 610-499-1154.

If you have interest in starting a new chapter, please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at 610-499-1154 or alumnioffice@widener.edu.
Faculty Spotlight

Widener’s reputation for academic excellence is rooted in our outstanding faculty, many of whom enjoy national and international reputations as authors, researchers, and specialists in their fields. Campaign support for endowed funds for faculty excellence helps us attract and retain top faculty. Check back in future Campaign Updates as we turn the spotlight on some of our other award winning faculty.

Joe Hargadon ‘80, ’82
Accounting professor and head of the Accounting and Information Management Department in the School of Business Administration, Dr. Hargadon received the 2011 Dixon Innovation in Teaching Award, which recognizes a faculty member who has designed and implemented an innovative or experimental teaching or learning project. Dr. Hargadon worked with executives from BNY Mellon Global Investment Servicing, now part of BNY Mellon, to develop a course titled Accounting and Taxation of Mutual Funds. It includes real-world simulation exercises at BNY Mellon facilities. Students completing the course found enhanced employment opportunities in the investment accounting arena. The course has also served as the catalyst for the creation of a mutual fund undergraduate accounting course at several other universities and resulted in a co-authored textbook entitled The Fundamentals of Mutual Fund Accounting.

campaign.widener.edu

According to Hargadon, “Creativity is paramount in reaching today’s students. Students learn in different ways, so faculty must use varied avenues to get them excited and make the material relevant to them.”

Esther Brown
Assistant professor in the School of Nursing, Dr. Brown received the 2011 Distinguished New Faculty Award at the 22nd International Conference on College Teaching and Learning for her work to develop a course that blends the nursing process and service learning. Students in the course work closely with a variety of service agencies in Chester to do an assessment and determine how their efforts could better serve the population. The students gain a better understanding of the nursing profession by being immersed in the process. “I want our students to realize that everyone has a story; they are more than simply patients. That's important for a nurse to know,” said Dr. Brown. “The course allows them to practice critical thinking, but it also helps them to feel and develop compassion.” She added, “Nursing is a field beyond tasks. Anyone can be taught to give an injection. It’s more than that; it’s about the care and making connections.”

New Academic Building

The doors of the new academic building are open and students are filling classrooms and labs that weren’t much more than lines on a blueprint this time last year. The new facility, with its bright, open design, welcomes students from the School of Nursing as well as those studying at the new Oskin Leadership Institute.

During construction, students saw the daily effort of the craftsmen who created the building, from the laying of the foundation to the finishing touches on the landscaping. What the students didn’t see were the contributions of many others who gave generously to ensure that the building is not only visually appealing, but also provides them with state-of-the-art academic resources and facilities.

In addition to the $5 million gift from David Oskin ’64 and his family to establish The Oskin Leadership Institute, other organizations and individuals have stepped up in support of the new building. Connelly Foundation awarded Widener $250,000 to support the clinical simulation labs for use by nursing students. These labs give students the opportunity to work with high-tech mannequins that simulate the symptoms and diseases of hospital patients, strengthening students’ critical-thinking and decision-making skills. The Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund made a grant of $150,000 toward the trauma intensive care unit in the building.

In appreciation for their generosity, the university named each area for its benefactor. Beautiful marble plaques at each site reflect the new names: Connelly Foundation Suite, The Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Trauma Intensive Care Suite, and The Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Trauma Intensive Care Suite.

Gifts of every amount are deeply appreciated and add up quickly. More than 50 nursing alumni, along with past and present faculty and staff, combined to contribute upwards of $30,000 to the cause to date.

Though students may not think of it while participating in a leadership seminar or caring for a simulated trauma patient, the new building that surrounds them is held up by more than steel beams and girders. It is supported by contributors, both large and small, who gave generously to ensure that when these students graduate, they will be even better prepared to take on a leadership role in their profession and in the world.
Stepping up to the Challenge
Paul Beideman ‘79 and his wife, Caroline, have made a $500,000 commitment to the campaign in support of The Beideman Visiting Leadership Professor Program, which will be associated with The Oskin Leadership Institute. Through this gift, distinguished scholars from outside institutions will spend time at Widener sharing their expertise and guiding faculty and student discussion and research. The stature of these visiting professors will enhance the reputation of Widener and The Oskin Leadership Institute.

Beideman has achieved the kind of success that serves as inspiration to students who might wonder if their Widener education will pay off. According to Beideman, “Much of my success I attribute to the support of my family and my MBA from Widener. They made all the difference for me.” Since earning his master’s degree in finance from Widener, Beideman’s career followed a remarkable trajectory, culminating in his being named chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Associated Banc-Corp, a bank holding company with 300 offices, 5,200 employees, and total assets of $24 billion.

Recently retired, Beideman continues to be involved in several charitable organizations and also shares his knowledge and expertise with Widener as a member of the Board of Trustees. His commitment and loyalty to Widener are seen not only through his generous financial contributions to the university, but also in the leadership he provides as treasurer of the Board of Trustees and as a member of the Finance and Administration Committee.

Student Spotlight
“I’m not going to college just for myself. I want to use this time to also help people who are less fortunate.” Sophomore Joe Decker of Franklinville, New Jersey, echoes the “learn and serve” philosophy of the Presidential Service Corps/Bonner Leadership program when explaining why he devotes so much of his free time to Habitat for Humanity. Joe, currently working on a third home in Chester, describes his experience with the group as “infinitely rewarding.” The mechanical engineering/physics major anticipates that he’ll continue to be involved with community service in some way or other throughout his career. He recalls the time he witnessed two little boys seeing their new home for the first time. “The boys were so excited and appreciative,” Joe said, “It’s a moment I don’t think I’ll ever forget.”

Investing in the Future
When you give to the Widener Fund, you invest in students like Rachel Randazzo ’12. As a student worker in the phonathon office, Rachel is well aware of the impact the Widener Fund has on her educational experience. It enhances recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty who know Rachel by name and are committed to her success. The Widener Fund helps keep Rachel’s education current through the purchase of the latest library resources and classroom technology. Scholarships and financial aid are also supported by the Widener Fund, which have been a tremendous help to Rachel as she pursues her degree in social work. The Widener Fund supports the development of innovative programs that inspire students to develop their leadership skills and become responsible citizens through community service. The president of the Social Work Club, Rachel has visited and interviewed older adults as part of her service learning experience. She plans on using her Widener degree to launch a career working on issues related to our aging population.

Please consider giving to the Widener Fund. When you do, you invest in the future of our university and students like Rachel Randazzo, who will, in turn, make the future a better place for all of us.

Contact the Widener Fund Office at 1-888-WIDEENER x16
Give online at www.widener.edu/giving