As co-captain of Widener’s lacrosse team and a member of the Presidential Service Corps, Annalicia Geeter channeled her love of sports and her passion for helping others to co-found North Star Sports, a program that matches Widener athletes with opportunities to serve as coaches and mentors to children in the Chester community. As a participant in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, this sport management/marketing major is a perfect role model to her “little brother” Michael, pictured here. She shows him what it means to be a true champion.

The Widener Fund makes it possible for students like Annalicia to make the most of their Widener experiences. Go online to campaign.widener.edu to read more about Annalicia and others at Widener who dare to be champions.

And the Widener Fund is at the Heart of it All
- Initiating programs that inspire students to become involved, engaged citizens
- Providing financial aid to motivated and deserving students
- Supporting critical needs such as library resources and classroom technology

Annalicia Geeter ’12

The Heart of a Champion
Defining Leadership:
A discussion with Arthur Schwartz, founding executive director of the Oskin Leadership Institute.

Triple Plays: Two sets of triplets—one from Central Pennsylvania and one from the Jersey Shore—have attended Widener University in the past decade.

A Big Battle at the Smallest Levels: A Widener biomedical engineering professor’s research focuses on the use of nanoparticles to save lives in the fight against breast cancer.

Instilling Entrepreneurial Skills in Engineers: The School of Engineering is placing emphasis on teaching entrepreneurial skills to students and has joined the Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network (KEEN), a collaborative effort of colleges and universities nationwide.

Sowing the Seeds of Electricity: Students in Widener’s chapter of Engineers Without Borders are set to provide solar-powered electricity to a Panamanian jungle village.

150 Years of Engineers: Key figures and photographs from the past and present of Widener engineering.
President’s Message

Engineering Is Everywhere

By Lindsay Pepino ’12

As his basketball team’s leading scorer, Mark Gryn is known for being calm and clear-minded before tip off. “I don’t get nervous,” said the 21-year-old from Allentown, Pa. “I play for the fans, and I like hearing my name from the stands.”

The stands from which he will hear his name called this spring are those at Widener University. Mark is just one of the 400 Special Olympians who will participate in Widener’s annual basketball tournament and swim meet on April 14.

Mark has participated in past events at Widener, winning both gold and silver medals. Achieving victory, however, is not the most important part of the Special Olympics. “It’s not about winning or losing,” said Linda Gryn, Mark’s mother. “It’s mostly about playing the sport, coming together, and having fun.”

Although the NCAA Division III recently initiated a national partnership with the Special Olympics, Widener has been hosting competitions for 27 years. The relationship between Widener University and Special Olympics started in 1985 when fraternities and sororities hosted a basketball competition on campus.

Since then, the Special Olympics events hosted at Widener have evolved and grown, especially in the past decade. Now, more than 200 Widener student-athletes volunteer each year as officials, scorekeepers, coaches, and food servers. The students also provide dancing, karaoke, carnival games, and face painting in the “Olympic Village” for the players in between games where they get to interact and make new friends.

Denise Dellaratta, a student at Widener’s Delaware campus in the late eighties who is now event coordinator and co-manager for the Special Olympics of Delaware County, said the event at Widener thrills the Special Olympics participants. “Most of our population don’t get to go to college,” she said. “Connecting with college athletes is very exciting for them.”

The connection works both ways. Said junior football player Gerry Pacitti. “It’s great to watch all the competitors give their all regardless of their condition,” he said. “It was helpful for my teammates and myself to witness their tremendous heart. They set a great example for us to pursue our goals with the same determination and competitive fire.”

Women’s soccer coach Brian Sheehan has been orchestrating the event for six years. “We’ve been holding it here for so long that the Special Olympic athletes and Widener athletes have become friends,” Sheehan said. “There is a special bond and they seek each other out from year to year. It is one of the biggest events Special Olympics has in this area. I think it reflects well on President Harris’s overall mission statement of giving back to the community.”

Lindsay Pepino ’12 is a creative writing and communication studies major from Oceanside, N.Y., and a member of the basketball team.
Defining Leadership
A question and answer session with Arthur Schwartz

Dr. Arthur Schwartz seized the reigns last fall as the founding executive director of the new Oskin Leadership Institute. Formerly a senior scholar for the Center for Character and Leadership Development at the United States Air Force Academy and a senior executive for the John Templeton Foundation, Schwartz has taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and served as a director of dropout prevention programs for the School District of Philadelphia, an effort that resulted in recognition at a White House ceremony in 1991. He is interviewed here by Sam Starnes, editor of Widener Magazine.

With our campaign Widener Leadership Works, Widener has become more widely known as a university committed to developing leaders. What do we mean when we say “leadership?”

Leadership is conviction in action. It starts with passion and the courage to say, “This is how I want to make the world a better place.”

How is leadership different from management? Leadership is not simply holding a position of authority. If you believe in something, you can live into that conviction whether you are in a position of leadership or not.

How is the Oskin Leadership Institute unique? To my knowledge there is no undergraduate college or university that is intentional in its effort to make leadership a core attribute of an undergraduate education. When a Widener student graduates he or she will understand what it means to be a leader and will possess the qualities, the habits of mind, the habits of action, and the integrity required of leadership. We will develop a common language to talk about leadership, and students will understand the courage, character, and competencies required of leaders. We have the potential to lead the country’s colleges and universities, to be a pacesetter.

The institute began with a $5 million gift from Pennsylvania Military College alumnus David Oskin and his wife, JoEllen, and their son, the late David Oskin Jr. How will the institute function within the university?

The Oskin Leadership Institute serves all the schools, all the centers, all the colleges, and every student—undergraduate and graduate. We are drawing on a long tradition of leadership at Widener going back to the Pennsylvania Military College days when leadership was in the air. It was infused in everything that the PMC cadet did. It’s that spirit—that comprehensiveness—that we are trying to live into.

University trustee Richard Tan recently committed $1 million to the Oskin Leadership Institute to expand partnerships with universities in China. What will this mean for students?

We often grow most when we are outside of our comfort zone. The Tan gift will provide opportunities for Chinese students and our students to get outside of their comfort zones. That’s the vision—to challenge our students to understand and practice the global competencies they will need in the global marketplace.

What will be the long-term impact of the Oskin Leadership Institute?

We will offer each Widener student a leadership toolbox that they will be able to carry around with them no matter where they go or what they do. They will grasp that leadership is not limited to a particular situation or job responsibility.

How does the Oskin Leadership Institute fit into Widener’s mission?

If you view Widener as a three-legged stool, two legs of the stool are very well established: The benefits of a liberal arts education and the university’s commitment to civic engagement and service learning. Leadership is the third leg of the stool. Through inspiring our students to lead, to put their convictions into action, the Oskin Leadership Institute is continuing Widener’s long and noble tradition of developing leaders who will affect positive change throughout the world.
The Right Steps

The Widener Dance Company has become a prominent campus organization.

By Allyson Roberts

When Lauren Borders ’10 took over as president of Widener’s student dance organization in spring 2008, the group didn’t have enough members to spread across a stage. She set a goal of recruiting at least ten members—enough to be officially recognized by the Office of Student Life. “The organization was then named D.E.S.I.R.E. and had a history of performing mostly hip hop,” Borders said. “A change in name to the Widener Dance Company in the fall of 2009 helped us rebrand the club and attract participants who came to us willingly.”

Since then, the Widener Dance Company has grown into one of the largest student organizations on campus, boasting more than 100 members. Company members choreograph and perform routines that showcase a variety of cultures and genres of dance, and its popular shows each semester feature performances that run the gamut from Bollywood and bellydancing to modern dance and jazz. “Diversity has always been a goal of ours,” said past president Amy Oakes, a senior elementary and special education major.

The dancers represent a mixture of races and ethnicities and even both sexes. Although the company is made up mostly of women, five to ten percent of the company each semester is men. “We welcome all kinds of dance and all levels of performers,” Oakes said. “If a member can teach it or perform it, we’ll find a place for it.”

During her term as president, Oakes represented the Widener Dance Company on the Multicultural Student Association President’s Council. She said the position not only helped her increase awareness of the dance company among other student organizations on campus, but it also allowed her to realize the role the club played in fostering diversity on campus.

As the dance company grows, so too does its impact on the community. The club has participated in the university’s Relay for Life event and adopted families in need for the holidays. It also held a dance-a-thon to raise money for anorexia nervosa treatment and awareness.

“Community service supports the university’s mission while getting everyone in the club working together toward a charitable goal,” said Brianna Weimer, a senior nursing major who is the company secretary and former community service chair. “We’d love to one day direct our efforts toward helping the university raise funds for a new performing arts center to host our shows.”

Widener sophomores Marisa Santiago, left, and Lucinda Travaline, right, practice a lyrical piece.
By Jennifer Dubinsky ‘11

Annamarie Widener will never forget the second day of 2001. While celebrating the New Year with a girlfriend, Annamarie, then 38, leaned over a table to hear her friend more clearly when she felt a lump in her breast. A regular at giving herself monthly check-ups, the size of the lump alarmed her. She scheduled a visit to the doctor. Two days later he told her, “You are too young to have breast cancer. You don’t have a family history—it’s probably a cyst.” He sent her home with the recommendation to take vitamin E.

Still wary, Annamarie sought a second opinion from a general surgeon a friend recommended. The surgeon scheduled an immediate biopsy and removal. A week later doctors revealed that she had breast cancer rated as Stage 2B/3 estrogen negative Her2/Neu; level 3+—the highest level of this form of cancer. “His immediate reaction saved my life,” said Annamarie. “The cancer would have taken over my whole body within months.”

Doctors believed her aggressive form of cancer would not respond well to a standard chemotherapy regimen, so they prescribed an aggressive course of treatment using multiple methods. Thus began 18 months combining chemotherapy, radiation, and a new drug known as Herceptin. With her two children—Jim, then a junior in high school, and Deanna, in eighth grade—Annamarie, a Yardley, Pa., resident who works in payroll management, had a challenging path as a wife and mother. She persevered through her treatments trying to keep everything as normal as possible for her family.

Despite the severity of her breast cancer, the treatment went well but the threat of reoccurrence was always with her. “You still have the fear that it could happen and you think about it everyday,” she said. “Soon after my treatments my doctor asked me to build a five-year plan for my family—‘in case.’”

Part of that plan was getting her children through college. She and her A Widener biomedical engineering professor is fighting the nation’s second largest killer—breast cancer—with a tiny weapon: nanoparticles.

A BIG BATTLE AT THE SMALLEST LEVELS

By Jennifer Dubinsky ’11

Annamarie Widener will never forget the second day of 2001. While celebrating the New Year with a girlfriend, Annamarie, then 38, leaned over a table to hear her friend more clearly when she felt a lump in her breast. A regular at giving herself monthly check-ups, the size of the lump alarmed her. She scheduled a visit to the doctor. Two days later he told her, “You are too young to have breast cancer. You don’t have a family history—it’s probably a cyst.” He sent her home with the recommendation to take vitamin E.

Still wary, Annamarie sought a second opinion from a general surgeon a friend recommended. The surgeon scheduled an immediate biopsy and removal. A week later doctors revealed that she had breast cancer rated as Stage 2B/3 estrogen negative Her2/Neu; level 3+—the highest level of this form of cancer. “His immediate reaction saved my life,” said Annamarie. “The cancer would have taken over my whole body within months.”

Doctors believed her aggressive form of cancer would not respond well to a standard chemotherapy regimen, so they prescribed an aggressive course of treatment using multiple methods. Thus began 18 months combining chemotherapy, radiation, and a new drug known as Herceptin. With her two children—Jim, then a junior in high school, and Deanna, in eighth grade—Annamarie, a Yardley, Pa., resident who works in payroll management, had a challenging path as a wife and mother. She persevered through her treatments trying to keep everything as normal as possible for her family.

Despite the severity of her breast cancer, the treatment went well but the threat of reoccurrence was always with her. “You still have the fear that it could happen and you think about it everyday,” she said. “Soon after my treatments my doctor asked me to build a five-year plan for my family—‘in case.’”

Part of that plan was getting her children through college. She and her A Widener biomedical engineering professor is fighting the nation’s second largest killer—breast cancer—with a tiny weapon: nanoparticles.
Some patients can become “chemo-resistant,” meaning that once a tumor is treated with the drug, it builds resistance and therefore cannot be treated effectively with chemotherapy again. “The scary truth is that there is nothing currently available to breast cancer survivors who have to face recurrence and become chemo-resistant,” he said.

Wang and his research team are currently growing cells to treat with chemotherapy so that they become resistant. He will then use nanoparticles—microscopic particles—to deliver drugs to the cells. (Nanotechnology is the use of particles consisting of a small number of atoms or molecules—a scale normally measured in nanometers, or billionths, of a meter.) “We always deal with something we can see; however, there are different phenomena that can happen when you study something so small,” he said. “In my research, I have found that an injection of medication through nanoparticles goes through cells into the tissue and can stay in the blood for a long time, protecting the drug while traveling to the affected cell.”

Currently, doctors use liposomes—essentially tiny, manmade bubbles—which are filled with chemotherapy drugs and then injected into the body to identify the tumors and release the drug. The downside of this method is that drugs often damage other parts of one’s body, specifically “good cells,” said Dr. Curtis Miyamoto, chairperson and professor of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Temple University School of Medicine. “There is always a race to get more chemotherapy into the cancer without harmful cells will be destroyed.”

Dr. Sabitha Pillai-Friedman, assistant professor of human sexuality at Widener and a certified sex therapist, is a breast cancer survivor who be able to inject nanoparticles and kill all tumor cells.” Wang said. “They will be like small robots in our bodies defending our good cells, and only harmful cells will be destroyed.”

Dr. Sabitha Pillai-Friedman believes that a targeted delivery system of chemotherapy can benefit all breast cancer survivors. “Most patients that I treat in my practice are emotionally devastated by the side-effects of chemotherapy,” she said. “Side effects such as hair loss, drastic weight changes, and skin problems contribute to altered self-image. This method of delivery could reduce side effects, subsequently reducing the emotional, psychosocial, and relationship problems that breast cancer patients and their partners face.”

Cases like Annamarie’s are far too prevalent. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in American women—one in eight women will develop breast cancer—and the second leading cause of cancer death for women. The impact of the disease has been felt by others in the Widener University community. Dr. Barbara Kay Toner, 52, of Mount Laurel, N.J., died of breast cancer shortly after completing her doctoral work in Widener’s Center for Education in 2010. In November, Rebecca L. (Calabiano) Cancila, 38, of Mullica Hill, N.J., a 1996 nursing graduate, died after battling the disease.

Developing treatments that cure breast cancer is the goal of Dr. Bin Wang, a Widener University assistant professor of biomedical engineering who joined the faculty in 2011. Wang’s research is supported by a $450,000 grant from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation for a three-year project he started while teaching at Temple University in 2010. His research strives to develop a drug delivery system to overcome resistance to chemotherapy in breast cancer patients.

Chemotherapy, the most common treatment for breast cancer, is given intravenously and is known to be very toxic, causing severe side effects. Wang, a Widener University assistant professor of biomedical engineering, has a $450,000 grant to support his research of using nanoparticles to fight breast cancer cells.

“My son was a college graduate and … I survived,” he said. “I considered myself lucky to have my mom at graduation after everything that she had gone through.”

Annamarie said attending his commencement “signified two things: My son was a college graduate and … I survived.”

“The way we treat cancer will change because of people like Dr. Wang. He is trying to make a difference that will impact the future.”

Miyamoto also sees great potential in Wang’s research. “This is going to make a difference in people’s lives,” he said. “The way we treat cancer will change because of people like Dr. Wang. He is trying to make a difference that will impact the future.”

Dr. Sabitha Pillai-Friedman, assistant professor of human sexuality at Widener and a certified sex therapist, is a breast cancer survivor who speaks frequently with other survivors. She said that most breast cancer survivors suffer from anxiety about recurrence. “This fear can be more intense for women who do not have a lot of treatment options,” she said. “A targeted multi-drug delivery system to overcome chemo-resistance, like the one that Dr. Wang is working on, would be a gift to women with those types of cancers.”
JOE VISCUSO ’73 had been working as a civil engineer for six years when he launched his own engineering firm in Chester County. It was 1979—a down economic year marked by soaring energy prices and hefty inflation. A friend he ran into didn’t offer much encouragement. “He told me, ‘You couldn’t be starting at a worse time,’” Viscuso said.

But Viscuso’s firm—initially called Brandywine Engineering Consultants—took hold in spite of the lagging economy and grew to employ 50 people. It eventually merged with a larger firm and grew to 650 employees, before being acquired by Stantec, an international engineering corporation traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Viscuso, a member of Widener College’s first graduating class, is now a vice president with Stantec. He said the entrepreneurial urge to start a business in a down economy turned out to be a good decision although it ran counter to the logic of many at the time. “It’s like jumping rope,” he said. “It’s easiest to jump in when the rope is at the bottom.”

Jim McCarthy ’92 took a similar leap when he started his business, McCarthy Engineering Associates, in Reading, Pa., in the year 2000. “It took my entire life savings and then some,” he said.

But McCarthy’s firm grew and was ranked fifth in the nation by CE News among small firms with fewer than 100 employees. An entrepreneurial drive is something McCarthy said he was born with. “I always wanted to own my own business,” he said. “I had a lawn care business from the time I was 12 years old until I went to college.” Although McCarthy and Viscuso are two Widener engineering
graduates who have demonstrated entrepreneurial success, a growing number of engineering educators and industry leaders say that too many engineers lack entrepreneurial skills and business savvy. Dr. Timothy J. Kriewall, an engineering graduate of the University of Michigan who is president emeritus of Wisconsin Lutheran College, said this goes back to a failure of colleges to teach entrepreneurial thinking. “If we teach only math and problem solving, we are going to lose,” Kriewall said. “It’s not about solving problems—engineers have to create and innovate.”

Kriewall, now program director for the Kern Engineering Educational Network (KEEN), visited Widener in December as the university began its association with the collaboration of more than 20 universities. KEEN has agreed to help with grant money and inclusion in the program that pools knowledge on developing an entrepreneurial curricula in engineering education. “We influence 18,000 college students a year,” Kriewall said. Although entrepreneurship is the objective, not all engineering students should expect to follow in the paths of Viscuso and McCarthy. Many might become “intrapreneurs,” a term used to describe innovators who work within companies and bring a creative approach to their position. “This program is not about entrepreneur- ship,” Kriewall said of the KEEN Network. “It’s about introducing an entrepreneurial mindset.”

Dr. Vicki Brown, a Widener associate professor and chair of the civil engineering program, said forthcoming enhancements to the engineering curriculum will emphasize entrepreneurial skills. “Our engineering students need to be educated in technical fundamentals—but they need more than just that,” she said. “They need business acumen. They need customer awareness.”

Brown is working on a plan to inject an entrepreneurial skills education into engineering courses, starting with Engineering Techniques, a freshman year course that will address product innovation and the role of engineers in society. Courses in subsequent years will integrate basic business concepts and cover commercialization of projects, and faculty will undergo KEEN training on best practices for developing an entrepreneurial mindset with students. All of these changes have the goal in mind of creating a well-rounded engineer. “We need a breed of engineer who is more than just a technocrat,” Brown said.

One Widener engineering student is already seeking a blend of engineering and entrepreneurial education. Chas Evans, a junior civil engineering major who is earning a minor in business, said the reason he came to Widener is that it was the only school that would let him major in engineering, minor in business, and play football. A backup offensive lineman, he is taking ten extra courses to earn a minor in business. He said he has heard from employers that when they are look- ing to hire an engineer, many throw out resumes that don’t have any business education. “Employers want engineers with business knowledge,” he said. Evans is helping to lead an effort to start an Entrepreneurs Club on campus that will combine engineering and business students. Plans for the club are to take on a project and to invite a series of speakers who will come to campus to talk about entrepreneurial issues. “We want to get business and engineering students working together,” Evans said.

After graduation Evans wants to go into real estate development and work on building new buildings and restoring old ones. “That’s where I see engineering and business intersecting. You have to make sure from an engineering standpoint that a project can be done. And you have to from a business standpoint make sure it will be profitable.”

As for alumni, McCarthy and Viscuso both applaud the School of Engineering’s move toward integrating entrepreneurial skills into engineering education. McCarthy said that entrepre- neurial spark is something he looks for in engineers he hires—he doesn’t always find it. “Engineers don’t think of things from an entrepreneurial standpoint,” he said, adding that two-thirds of his staff are engineers who also need to think about solutions from a business standpoint. “It’s important to integrate these skills into all classes.”

Viscuso, who has taught Land Development to Widener seniors as an adjunct faculty member for eight years, said he emphasizes what he has learned in the field about project management and business. He said he often tells students that they have to think outside the box. “You’ve got to be more creative,” Viscuso said. “Don’t just sit in your cubicle and think that this is the way it has to be done.”

“The program is not about entrepreneurship,” said Dr. Timothy Kriewall, director of KEEN. “It’s about introducing an entrepreneurial mindset.”

Chas Evans, an engineering major with a minor in business, is leading the creation of a campus Entrepreneurs Club with the help of Vicki Brown, an engineering professor and the chair of civil engineering.
WHEN A GROUP OF WIDENER undergraduate engineering students started designing a power grid for a village nestled in the Panamanian jungle, the one thing they didn’t factor in was how one of the world’s most amazing feats of engineering—the nearby Panama Canal—would affect their project.

Before crews began work to widen the canal during the summer of 2011, the Gatun River was dammed 2.5 miles downstream from the tiny Embera-Wounaan settlement of Ella Drua, where the Widener chapter of Engineers Without Borders had been working. As the wet season progressed and torrents of rain fell, the normally calm river swelled by several feet and caused a major flood. “It was pretty intense,” said civil engineering major Ashley Nilsen ’12, vice president of the chapter. “We were a bit nervous.”

Although village residents tried to convince the students that the flood was a fluke attributable to the temporary dam downstream, Nilsen said she and other Widener engineers nonetheless raised the level of the power lines on the poles they will install. “You can never be too sure,” she added.

It’s been almost four years since the Widener team first began work on the Ella Drua project, which will bring solar-powered electricity to the community of 22 buildings located about 90 minutes northwest of Panama City and accessible only by boat. The project, known on campus as Project SEED (Solar Energy for Ella Drua), began in 2008 when Widener alumna Alyssa Eagan ’05—who was living in the village on a Peace Corps assignment—connected with the new engineering group. Since then, Widener students and faculty have traveled to Ella Drua on several assessment trips to interview residents, take measurements, and scout for supplies.

Residents of the village, most of whom rely on income generated by the sale of their artisanal craftwork, indicated that their greatest need was for nighttime illumination. Many also expressed a desire for a communal laundry facility—clothes are currently washed in the Gatun River—a computer workstation, and a cell-phone and charging unit.

The students’ initial design called for a solar energy system large enough to provide 100 watts of power for 15 hours of continuous use, with enough storage capacity to maintain that level of service for three cloudy days when solar power cannot be generated. However, due to costs, students had to scale back the capacity to 100 watts for five hours of continuous use, with enough storage to keep the lights on for only two days.

Despite the limited capacity, Nilsen said the group is intent on building a power system that can grow easily with the community. “We’re designing a system that’s able to be expanded,” she said. “Solar panels or batteries aren’t that hard to add to the system. It’s the other components, the charge controller and the inverter, that are much more difficult to replace.”

While the project has progressed relatively smoothly thus far, Nilsen said the group was forced to scale back its original power plant design due to fundraising shortfalls. The group in December put finishing touches on the first draft of a massive 10-part project report to be submitted to the national Engineers Without Borders organization. The report, which Nilsen said includes most project material from travel histories to facility designs, must be approved before the students can begin building. Once the national organization reviews the Widener students’ report, the group plans to make two trips this spring to procure supplies, build the system, and train villagers on maintenance.

Andrew Nodolski, senior lab technician in the School of Engineering and the group’s advisor, said he is confident the Widener team will follow through on their commitment to villagers. “They’re very hard-working students,” Nodolski said. “It’s an awful lot of additional dedication necessary to complete this. It’s way over and above what the average student would get involved in.”
Since 1862, when an engineering curriculum began at Pennsylvania Military Academy, thousands of engineers have passed through the classrooms of what is now the Widener School of Engineering.

Col. George Patten

The first engineering professor, Patten was an 1847 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point who served as a Pennsylvania Military Academy faculty member and administrator from the 1860s through his retirement in 1881. A veteran of both the Mexican War and the Seminole Wars in Florida, he was a South Carolinian who remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. His appointment during the Civil War was the subject of correspondence between President Abraham Lincoln and General George McClellan in 1862. Prior to the Civil War, Patten worked as an agent for patents in Washington, D.C. Patten moved with Pennsylvania Military Academy when it relocated in 1866 to its present campus in Chester, and he later served as vice president of the academy. He “was responsible for the development of the civil engineering curriculum which launched PMA into the field of engineering,” historian Henry J. Buxton wrote. Patten was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1875. The Daily Times newspaper in 1879 noted that he annually invited the first class of Pennsylvania Military Academy to his home for dinner. He died in 1890 at the age of 65 and is buried alongside his wife Emma in Chester’s Rural Cemetery, less than a mile from Widener’s Main Campus. Three years after his death alumni and ex-cadets from PMC erected a tombstone on his grave.

Gen. Carroll A. Devol

An 1878 civil engineering graduate, Devol went on to a distinguished military career that saw him reach the rank of major general. Following the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, he was placed in charge of distribution of all supplies in the city and directed the work until civil authorities resumed control. He later served for five years as chief quartermaster—overseeing purchasing and distribution—during the construction of the Panama Canal. He retired before World War I, but returned to serve in the war with honor. A native of Ohio, he died after a protracted illness in 1930 at the age of 71 in Redwood City, Calif. The cause of death was a self-inflicted gunshot to the heart, fired from a .45 Army revolver.

Sylvanus Griswold Morley

A 1904 civil engineering graduate, Morley was an archaeologist and Mayan scholar whose explorations and research were the basis for the influential first edition of the book *The Ancient Maya* published in 1946. He is noted for the extensive excavations of the Chichen Itza site in the Yucatan in Mexico. Morley, who studied at Harvard after PMC, later worked for the Office of Naval Intelligence gathering information on German operations in Central America. It is often speculated that he served as an inspiration for Indiana Jones, although creator George Lucas has claimed that fictional character is not based on any one person. Morley was born in Chester in 1883, and both of his parents taught at Pennsylvania Military College. He died in 1948 in his home in New Mexico.
Chalmer G. Kirkbride

A trustee and supporter of the engineering program and the man for whom Kirkbride Hall is named, Kirkbride served as an engineer and executive in the oil industry. He later worked for the Federal Energy Administration and served on President Nixon’s task force on oceanography. During World War II, Kirkbride was a science advisor to the U.S. atomic bomb testing program, and he later witnessed tests of the atomic bomb over Bikini Atoll in 1946. His papers, including many photographs from the nuclear tests, are now held in the Widener University Archives in the Wollrogam Memorial Library. A member of the PMC Board of Trustees beginning in 1953, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1970 and the School in 1953, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1970 and the School in 1953.

When the Kirkbrides moved, they donated their personal residence in Wallingford, Pa., to Widener to serve as the president’s official residence. The home was named the Billie Kirkbride House, in honor of Kirkbride’s wife. He died in Bradenton, Fla., in 1998 at the age of 91.

Professor Ray Jefferis

Widener’s longest tenured faculty member, Jefferis joined Pennsylvania Military College in 1966 and still teaches in the program. He developed many undergraduate and graduate courses in his 47 years on campus. He spent two-and-a-half years in Germany on a Fulbright scholarship in the early 1970s, and he hosted four scientists from the Soviet Union who visited the Computer Control Center of PMC Colleges in 1972. He holds two patents—one for the refining of coal, and another for the sterilization of hospital supplies—and created and ran a company that manufactured, sold, and distributed equipment for precise measurements in the pharmaceutical industry. Over the past decade he has become very involved in civic engagement projects, selflessly volunteering tremendous amounts of his time to the Red Cross and Chester County in emergency communications and community service. He continues to undergo 80 hours of training each year in an intensive variety of communications and emergency management skills and says he has no plans to slow down. “I’m not a person who is going to retire,” he said.

Sandra L. (Fay) Morgan ’71

Morgan was the first woman to enroll in the School of Engineering of what was then Penn Morton College, a predecessor to Widener, in the fall of 1967. She learned about the school from a PMC recruiter who discovered that she was interested in studying engineering when he visited her high school in Bradford County in the northern part of Pennsylvania. A native of Big Pond, Pa., a rural farming community, her parents couldn’t afford to send her to college so PMC’s offer of a full scholarship persuaded her to attend college in Chester. She married the summer before her senior year, and went on to graduate in 1971.

“IT was an amazing period of change,” she said. “Not only in the college, but in the United States.” Because her senior project was on kidney dialysis and she was interested in biomedical engineering, she went on to work at Crozer Hospital in Chester for a year and a half. She then took a job with DuPont in the field engineering program and worked five years there. When her first son was born in 1977, she decided to work part-time and raise him, and had a second son in 1981. She taught as adjunct in the Widener School of Engineering from 1978-1986. In 1988, she joined Tamman and Lee Associates (now URS Corporation) in Newark, Del., and has continued to work there in the same office through three ownership changes. Now a grandmother of two, she is a project manger with URS Corporation and lives in Chadds Ford, Pa. “The education I got at Widener was well suited for life as an engineer,” she said.

Joseph Viscuso ’73

Viscuso founded Brandywine Engineering Consultants in 1979. The company merged with a larger firm and expanded to 650 employees before being acquired by the international engineering corporation Stantec. An adjunct faculty member at Widener since 2004, Viscuso’s son Michael is a graduate of the School of Engineering and Widener Law, and his daughter Jessica is a Widener senior in anthropology. (For more on Viscuso, see page 12.)

Skehan is a senior flight control systems engineer with Boeing who holds three degrees from Widener in electrical and chemical engineering and master’s degrees in computer software engineering and secondary mathematics. She has worked at Boeing as an engineer for 30 years in avionics and flight controls. She coached the cheerleaders at Widener University for 17 years and sponsored and advised two engineering senior projects. She created the “What Makes Things Fly Workshop” for students to understand the basics of aerodynamics, a program that has been used at the Society of Women Engineers’ Girls Camp held at Widener each year.

Paul Davison ’86

An electrical engineering graduate, Davison is vice president for operations support of PSEG Nuclear LLC. Davison has also served as the director of nuclear oversight and as site engineering director for the Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Station in New Jersey. Prior to coming to PSEG Nuclear LLC, he was site engineering director at Exelon Corporation’s Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania.
Jim McCarthy ’92

An engineer who earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Widener’s School of Engineering, Pressley is vice president of Hill International. He has won several awards, including being ranked as one of the top 40 industry and community leaders under the age of 40 by the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Sean Pressley ’00, ’03

Anastasia Venable-Nappen earned her bachelor’s and master’s in chemical engineering from Widener and is now a project management superintendent in West Deptford, N.J., for Johnson Matthey, an international specialty chemicals company. A major project she headed up was a $6 million refinery expansion, one of the largest in the region. She is involved in recruiting young women into the field of engineering, and regularly speaks at the engineering camp for high school girls.

Anastasia Venable-Nappen ’00, ’06

Brad M. Isaacson ’07

A civil engineering major pictured here with School of Engineering Dean Fred Akl, Zwissler won the university’s 2011 President’s Award, given to the senior who has contributed the most to campus life. A four-year member of the Dean’s List, she was a member of five honor societies, a founding member of Widener’s chapter of Engineers Without Borders, and was the student selected to serve as Widener’s President for a Day. She is in graduate school at Michigan Technological University.

Bonnie Zwissler ’11

Isaacson, a mechanical engineering graduate, earned a PhD in bioengineering from the University of Utah in less than four years. His dissertation focused on using controlled electrical stimulation to improve skeletal attachment of implants for wounded soldiers. He worked for the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital in Washington, D.C., where he co-wrote a grant that received $5.5 million from the Department of Defense to establish the Center for Rehabilitation Sciences Research. He is now a research and development engineer with Boston Scientific in Marlborough, Mass. His wife, Megan Witherspoon, a ’07 Widener nursing graduate and ROTC cadet, completed active duty in the Army that included a deployment to Afghanistan. They expect their first child in July.

Venable-Nappen earned her bachelor’s and master’s in chemical engineering from Widener and is now a project management superintendent in West Deptford, N.J., for Johnson Matthey, an international specialty chemicals company. A major project she headed up was a $6 million refinery expansion, one of the largest in the region. She is involved in recruiting young women into the field of engineering, and regularly speaks at the engineering camp for high school girls.

A Tribute to the Past, a Vision for the Future

Please join the Widener School of Engineering for the 150th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, Nov. 3, at Philadelphia’s Franklin Institute to celebrate our long history and mark the beginning of a new engineering scholarship fund.

The gala, an elegant reception and dinner, will also mark the launch of the Anniversary Scholarship Fund, a fund that when fully endowed will provide financial assistance to Widener engineering students well past the next milestone anniversary.

The evening will begin with the President’s Reception in the Franklin Institute’s exhibit halls of Electricity and the Giant Heart. Dinner will follow in the rotunda at tables surrounding The Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, a 20-foot marble sculpture of Philadelphia’s best loved inventor and engineer.

Don’t miss out on the chance to be part of history and the future of engineering at Widener. For more information and to reserve space and/or support the scholarship fund, visit www.widener.edu/soe150 or call Rudy Treichel at 610-499-1294 or email at rjtreichel@widener.edu.

Please join the Widener School of Engineering for the 150th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, Nov. 3, at Philadelphia’s Franklin Institute to celebrate our long history and mark the beginning of a new engineering scholarship fund.

The gala, an elegant reception and dinner, will also mark the launch of the Anniversary Scholarship Fund, a fund that when fully endowed will provide financial assistance to Widener engineering students well past the next milestone anniversary.

The evening will begin with the President’s Reception in the Franklin Institute’s exhibit halls of Electricity and the Giant Heart. Dinner will follow in the rotunda at tables surrounding The Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, a 20-foot marble sculpture of Philadelphia’s best loved inventor and engineer.

Don’t miss out on the chance to be part of history and the future of engineering at Widener. For more information and to reserve space and/or support the scholarship fund, visit www.widener.edu/soe150 or call Rudy Treichel at 610-499-1294 or email at rjtreichel@widener.edu.
I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the alumni and friends of Widener who invested in the university with their philanthropic support during this past fiscal year. I want to assure you that every single gift is critically important to allowing us to fulfill our mission as a leading metropolitan university.

Dr. James T. Harris III, President
Send Us Your Class Notes

Tell Us
Who are you now?

Where are you now?
You can now submit your class notes and photos three ways:
1. Join or log on to the Widener Pride Network at alumni.widener.edu/WPN
2. Email Patty Votta at pavotta@widener.edu
3. Mail the Office of Alumni Engagement to
One University Place
Chester, PA 19013

Class of 1949
Capt. “Big Fred” Shahidi, BS, business administration, recently attended the time-honored “dining-in ceremony” as a guest of the Freedom Battalion of the Widener University ROTC in recognition of his staunch support of the Widener ROTC program. The last time Big Fred attended this ceremony was more than 40 years ago as a guest of the entire proud Corps of Cadets of Pennsylvania Military College. He was surprised during the most recent “dining-in ceremony” when he was introduced as a D-Day combat veteran and received a standing ovation.

Class of 1951
Robert Dunhill, has been included in Who’s Who in America from 1986 until the present. Dunhill resides in Boca Raton, Fla.

Class of 1968
Edward Baxter, BS, accounting, was recently re-elected to serve on the board of directors of the law firm Cozen O’Connor. A former chair of the business law department, Baxter concentrates his practice in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, general corporate matters, and corporate taxation. He has extensive experience in the general representation of businesses, both public and privately owned. Baxter earned his law degree from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 1971, where he was an editor of the law review.

Class of 1970
John Elmendorf, BS, management, has been appointed treasurer of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Huntington’s Disease Society of America.

Class of 1974
William J. Anderson Jr., BS, accounting, retired from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in June. During his 37 year career at GAO, Bill served in a number of important and diverse positions with increasing responsibilities in GAO’s Washington headquarters. Since joining GAO in 1974, his duties and responsibilities have included financial and performance auditing, audit policy and standards matters, staff professional development, and liaison with governmental entities and professional organizations to promote the improvement of governmental financial management at all levels of government.

Class of 1981
Helene M. Burns, BSN, nursing, ’94 MSN, has been named vice president of clinical services for Kennedy University Hospital in Stratford, N.J. In this position, Burns—who joined Kennedy in 2008 as assistant vice president—will oversee the operational and clinical aspects of care at Kennedy-Stratford, an acute care hospital with more than 800 employees. Burns has more than 30 years of experience in the healthcare industry. Her management experience includes seven years as director of nursing at Delaware County Memorial Hospital in Drexel Hill, Pa.

Class of 1982
Joseph Reagoso, BS, management. An album released by a record company headed by Reagoso was honored with a Grammy awards nomination.

Class of 1987
Stuart Katz, MS, taxation, CPA, has been hired as a tax manager at the accounting firm Shachtman Marks Devor PC (SMD). Katz possesses decades of professional experience in federal, state, and local income tax compliance, and planning services to businesses and individuals. He specializes in business continuation planning and multi-state taxation for families, partnerships and corporations. Katz recently served as a board member and treasurer of the Jenkintown Community Foundation, and is on the sub-committee of the SBA Capital Campaign Committee.

Class of 1988
John Passarella, BS, accounting, has written his ninth novel, Supernatural: Night Terror. It was published in September and is available at Passarella.com, Amazon.com and wherever books are sold. Night Terror is an original novel based on the hit CW series Supernatural and is set in the sixth season of the show. Passarella won the Horror Writers Association’s Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a First Novel for the co-authored Wither.

Class of 1989
Mark Carrow, MS, taxation, is a PICPA member and managing partner of the Philadelphia office of Citrin Cooperman, an accounting, tax and business consulting firm. Shown here (from left to right) are Charlie Chass, president and CEO of TFC Brands, Inc., his wife, Wendi, and Carrow at a franchise networking event.

Class of 1993
Dr. Jane Hokanson Hawks, PhD, nursing, was elected chair of the Medical Surgical Nurse Expert Panel with the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The group of nurses works with ANCC staff to review and revise the Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification examination. Hokanson Hawks is editor of Urologic Nursing and had the privilege to speak at the European Association of Urology Nurses (EAUIN) Congress in Vienna, Austria, in March 2011. She is the co-editor of Medical-Surgical Nursing: Clinical Management for Positive Outcomes. Her primary teaching responsibility is teaching on-line MSN Nurse Executive courses for Care Leadership Network of the Delaware Valley (local Chapter of American College of Health Care Executives), the American College of Health Care Executives, as well as the American Organization of Nurse Executives.

Alfred Carlson III, MBA, business administration, is a partner at Martin Banks, a law firm that ranked 13th on the Philadelphia Business Journal’s list of 2011 Best Places to Work. Martin Banks is one of only two law firms to be listed, and this is Martin Banks’ first year on the list.

Class of 1995
Judy Faust, MBA, health administration, is currently the service line administra- tor and clinical director of Women and Children’s Services at Albert Einstein Health Care Network. Judy has experience in information systems, marketing, staff development, new business development, and more. She is currently a member of the Events and Education Committee for the Health Care Leadership Network of the Delaware Valley (local Chapter of American College of Health Care Executives), the American College of Health Care Executives, as well as the American Organization of Nurse Executives.

Conni (Errickson) Miller, BS, nursing, completed her first half-marathon in November in Philadelphia. Her boys, Matthew, 11, and Danny, 9, participated in the Kid’s Fun Run. Husband Mike Miller, ’93, mechanical engineering, provided excellent support and chauffeur services during all the festivities, especially after Conni was done and couldn’t walk very well. Conni started a master’s program in nursing education at Mountain State University, and she continues to work as an ICU nurse and teach bedside clinics at Harrisburg Area Community College’s Gettysburg Campus.

Class of 1999
Jane Weber, MS, nursing, a Medford, N.J., resident who coordinates the Elementary/Secondary Program at Camden County College (CCC) and serves as the college’s Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) advisor, Homecoming Save-the-Date!

Save the Date for 2012!
2012 Homecoming/Reunion Weekend
October 5 & 6, 2012
We welcome all Widener-PMC Alumni!
For more information please visit alumni.widener.edu/homecoming12

28
29
received the 2011 Community College Counselor Award. She was honored for representing the mission and ideals of the honor society and for her dedication and excellence in guiding students as they pursue studies and careers in the field of education. A CCC faculty member for almost 20 years, Weber was nominated for this accolade by the students she mentors.

Dr. Sharon McGrath ’95, ’10, ME, graduate education, EdD, school administration, has joined the Education Department at Immaculata University as an assistant professor. She is teaching courses on early childhood education and on the roles and responsibilities of special education teachers. Previously McGrath taught classes in educational leadership at Arcadia University. She has 15 years of experience as an elementary school principal in Radnor Township and Eastern Lancaster School Districts, and she was nominated for the 2011 National Distinguished Principal Award.

Class of 2002
James DeGaetano, MBA, was honored as one of the region’s most accomplished young leaders by the Central Penn Business Journal at its 17th annual Forty Under 40 event. Jim was recognized for his commitment to business growth, professional excellence and his community. Jim is a CPC, CPA at First Command Financial Advisor in Carlisle, Pa.

Class of 2003
Kristy Filler, MSW, social work, has joined the staff of Presbyterian Children’s Village as the assistant director of residential treatments/director of cottage life. She will be responsible for the administration and supervision of services provided through the Cottage Life Program in the Village Residential Treatment Facility. Filler, a licensed clinical social worker, previously worked at Terry Children’s Psychiatric Center in New Castle, Del.

Class of 2007
Donna Sabella, MSN, nursing, is currently faculty at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing where she teaches victimology and forensic mental health courses. Sabella was awarded her PhD from Penn’s Graduate School of Education in 2010 and she earned the 2011 Educational Linguistics Faculty Award for Leadership in Educational Linguistics. Recently she was named contributing editor of the American Journal of Nursing Mental Health Matters column which began appearing in February 2012. A recognized expert on human trafficking, Sabella is also a founding member and director of education for the National Research Consortium of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (NRC-CSE).

Class of 2011
Robertta McCann, MSW, social work, was recently selected for a fellowship through Stoneleigh Foundation. Robertta will be working with the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts to identify the most effective and efficient court and legal practices leading to safe and permanent placement for children in the foster care system. This will be presented to judges and assist in the ongoing court system reform work statewide.

Marriages

To Katherine Shragar ’04, ’06 and Aaron Shragar a boy.
David Amiron (named after his maternal great-grandfather). David joins big brothers Izzy and Yaakov.

In Memoriam

DeWitt E. Kleis ’42
Richard S. Nourse ’43
Robert H. Butler ’49
Leonard M. Faiola ’49
Cliff W. Hodgkins ’50
William C. Porter ’51
Henry C. Smedley ’51
Anthony M. Vetere ’51

Class of 2002

Jill Ott and Kevin McDonald, both ’06 Widener graduates, were married in Philadelphia on October 22, 2011.

New Arrivals

Donna Sabella, MSN, nursing, is currently faculty at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing where she teaches victimology and forensic mental health courses. Sabella was awarded her PhD from Penn’s Graduate School of Education in 2010 and she earned the 2011 Educational Linguistics Faculty Award for Leadership in Educational Linguistics. Recently she was named contributing editor of the American Journal of Nursing Mental Health Matters column which began appearing in February 2012. A recognized expert on human trafficking, Sabella is also a founding member and director of education for the National Research Consortium of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (NRC-CSE).

Class of 2011

Robertta McCann, MSW, social work, was recently selected for a fellowship through Stoneleigh Foundation. Robertta will be working with the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts to identify the most effective and efficient court and legal practices leading to safe and permanent placement for children in the foster care system. This will be presented to judges and assist in the ongoing court system reform work statewide.

Marriages

To Katherine Shragar ’04, ’06 and Aaron Shragar a boy.
David Amiron (named after his maternal great-grandfather). David joins big brothers Izzy and Yaakov.

In Memoriam

DeWitt E. Kleis ’42
Richard S. Nourse ’43
Robert H. Butler ’49
Leonard M. Faiola ’49
Cliff W. Hodgkins ’50
William C. Porter ’51
Henry C. Smedley ’51
Anthony M. Vetere ’51

Class of 2002

Jill Ott and Kevin McDonald, both ’06 Widener graduates, were married in Philadelphia on October 22, 2011.

New Arrivals

To Katie ’04 and Curt Sminkie ’00 a boy, Chase Matthew. Chase came a few weeks early on December 25, 2011. His grandparents are Mary Ann ’08 and Carl ’79 Schoenman.

R. E. Althouse ’53
John D. Boberg ’53
John N. Christian ’53
Francis S. Zarnoski ’53
Edward P. Dodd ’55
Charles X. Suraci ’55
Jeremiah G. Leopal ’56
Francis Jaglowski ’57
John Mitchell ’57
Robert Saunders ’62
Anthony F. Closkey ’64
Joseph V. Friel ’64
Ronald A. Arbogast ’67
Bob Billiard ’67
Thomas R. Ogden ’68
John C. Greer ’68
Richard F. Koppe ’68
John F. Frost ’70
John F. McKeogh ’71
John J. Gaffney ’73
Paul C. Bryant ’75
Arthur C. Greenfield ’75

Paul W. Gery ’76
Elizabeth L. Dickason ’77
George J. Hall ’77
Randall R. Hamilton ’77
Joseph S. Sarnoski ’77
Theresa A. Skelly ’78
Walter W. Speakman ’79
Deborah Carlis ’81
Joseph J. Galinas ’81
Susan L. Smith ’81
Robert B. Goodyear ’82
James J. Kunkel ’82
Michael P. Raleigh ’82
Paula M. Poska ’85
Thomas A. Lee ’86
Lillian N. Dilg ’87
Helen T. Strickland ’87
Paula S. Rubin ’91
James A. Newman ’93
Eve-Marie Nicholson ’93
Bernadette Bongiorno ’94
Claire F. Robinson ’94

Congratulations to the 2012 Alumni Award Winners!
Outstanding Alumnus Award
Michael Scales, EdD ’87, ’92
R. Kelso Carter Award
Don Devillbis
Alumni Service Award
Sheldon Schwartz ’60
John L. Geoghegan Alumni Citizenship Award
Barry Purvis, EdD ’02
John L. Geoghegan Student Citizenship Award
Anna Miller ’12

CHAPTER NOTES

Upcoming Spring/Summer 2012 Events:

APRIL
April 21: CA—Padres vs. Phillies at Petco Park, San Diego

MAY
May 2: Atlanta—Braves vs. Phillies at Turner Field, Atlanta
May 5: CA—Tour/tasting of Maroon Winery (hosted by Paul Maroon 701), Napa, Calif.
May 6: Greater Philadelphia/Wilmington—Point-to-Point Steeplechase at Winterthur, Wilmington, Del.

JUNE
June 20: Greater Philadelphia/Philly—6th Annual Phillies game at Citizen’s Bank Park, Philadelphia

JULY

SEPTEMBER
September 20: Greater Philadelphia/Delco—Union vs. United at PPL Park, Chester

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.

Central PA
Ryan Riley ’07
rileyryan74@gmail.com

District of Columbia
Dave Almyrd ’92
dave.almyrd@gmail.com

FL—East Coast
Tom Dougherty ’08
tdougherty@rccl.com

FL—West Coast
Office of Alumni Engagement
alumnioffice@widener.edu

New England
Kristin McLunough ’02
kmcunough@men.com

NYC/North Jersey
Office of Alumni Engagement
alumnioffice@widener.edu

Puerto Rico
Dennis Lopez ’85
dennis.Lopez@compass-usa.com

Washington State
Alex Policev ’88
alex@drmp-inc.us

Elizabeth A. Walsh ’95
Cancila ’96
Kevin A. Dupont ’98
John W. Bilger ’01
David B. Kozynski ’01
Gary D. Berg ’04
Heather M. Kline ’06
Rachel A. Ramsay ’07
Friends, Faculty, and Staff
Richard Brabender
Martha Z. Brown
Ruth A. Clements
Harold F. Green
Paul J. Hopkins
Susan C. Lee
Dian S. Margolis
Robert C. Molz
Catherine B. Orlando
Claude K. Schrefter
Geoffrey R. Snelling
William A. Zarling

Class Notes

Congratulations to the 2012 Alumni Award Winners!
Outstanding Alumnus Award
Michael Scales, EdD ’87, ’92
R. Kelso Carter Award
Don Devillbis
Alumni Service Award
Sheldon Schwartz ’60
John L. Geoghegan Alumni Citizenship Award
Barry Purvis, EdD ’02
John L. Geoghegan Student Citizenship Award
Anna Miller ’12

CHAPTER NOTES

Upcoming Spring/Summer 2012 Events:

APRIL
April 21: CA—Padres vs. Phillies at Petco Park, San Diego

MAY
May 2: Atlanta—Braves vs. Phillies at Turner Field, Atlanta
May 5: CA—Tour/tasting of Maroon Winery (hosted by Paul Maroon 701), Napa, Calif.
May 6: Greater Philadelphia/Wilmington—Point-to-Point Steeplechase at Winterthur, Wilmington, Del.

JUNE
June 20: Greater Philadelphia/Philly—6th Annual Phillies game at Citizen’s Bank Park, Philadelphia

JULY

SEPTEMBER
September 20: Greater Philadelphia/Delco—Union vs. United at PPL Park, Chester

... 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.

Central PA
Ryan Riley ’07
rileyryan74@gmail.com

District of Columbia
Dave Almyrd ’92
dave.almyrd@gmail.com

FL—East Coast
Tom Dougherty ’08
tdougherty@rccl.com

FL—West Coast
Office of Alumni Engagement
alumnioffice@widener.edu

New England
Kristin McLunough ’02
kmcunough@men.com

NYC/North Jersey
Office of Alumni Engagement
alumnioffice@widener.edu

Puerto Rico
Dennis Lopez ’85
dennis.Lopez@compass-usa.com

Washington State
Alex Policev ’88
alex@drmp-inc.us
President’s Council Dinner
Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership

The November fourth President's Council Dinner brought together some of the university's top donors to celebrate our many accomplishments and achievements over the past year.

1. Eugene McGurk, Jr., Esq. ’78, Trustee and School of Law Board of Overseers Chairman
2. Students Katie Leranian ’12, Annalicia Geeter ’12, Karly Simon ’13, Christian Mullins ’12, Katie Tomeo ’13, Rachel Weller ’13
3. Alice Strine, Vera Kunkel ’78, and Deb McCracken ’89
4. Mark Heim, President of HSC Builders and Construction Managers
5. Student Trustee and speaker Anna Miller ’12

Richard Tan Announces Million-Dollar Gift
During the President's Council Dinner, Richard Tan announced a campaign gift of $1 million to support global leadership initiatives at the university under the auspices of the Oskin Leadership Institute. The gift will serve to expand partnerships between Widener and universities in China, with an emphasis on developing innovative leadership programs, including opportunities for students from both countries to lead outside their cultural comfort zones.

Tan, a long-time friend and business associate of David Oskin ’64, has been a strong supporter of the Oskin Leadership Institute and has been instrumental in creating and cultivating partnerships between Widener and universities in China, especially Chongqing Technology and Business University. So far, 97 Widener and Chongqing students and faculty have participated in exchanges between the two universities.

"I am impressed with the mission and vision of the Oskin Leadership Institute and its emphasis on global leadership,” Tan said. ”Because of the institute, Widener is only going to get stronger and its reputation will grow. My family and I are proud to support the university’s progress and development."

The university’s comprehensive campaign, Taking the Lead - The Campaign for Widener, has built strong momentum. With $48 million of our $58 million goal already reached, we are stepping up our efforts to propel the campaign past the finish line. Alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of the university are stepping up to the challenge, each doing what they can to see Widener reach even higher and more ambitious levels of recognition and achievement. Retirees and corporate partners have also joined in helping the university achieve its campaign goals. Campaign priorities include increasing endowment for student aid, ensuring faculty excellence, supporting new program initiatives, and accomplishing capital project objectives.

Campaign Update

The university's comprehensive campaign, Taking the Lead - The Campaign for Widener, has built strong momentum. With $48 million of our $58 million goal already reached, we are stepping up our efforts to propel the campaign past the finish line. Alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of the university are stepping up to the challenge, each doing what they can to see Widener reach even higher and more ambitious levels of recognition and achievement. Retirees and corporate partners have also joined in helping the university achieve its campaign goals. Campaign priorities include increasing endowment for student aid, ensuring faculty excellence, supporting new program initiatives, and accomplishing capital project objectives.

Campaign Progress

| $48.3 million | $58 million |

Amount Raised as of 3/16/12

The university’s comprehensive campaign, Taking the Lead - The Campaign for Widener, has built strong momentum. With $48 million of our $58 million goal already reached, we are stepping up our efforts to propel the campaign past the finish line. Alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of the university are stepping up to the challenge, each doing what they can to see Widener reach even higher and more ambitious levels of recognition and achievement. Retirees and corporate partners have also joined in helping the university achieve its campaign goals. Campaign priorities include increasing endowment for student aid, ensuring faculty excellence, supporting new program initiatives, and accomplishing capital project objectives.
Campaign Update

Faculty Spotlight

Campaign support for endowed funds for faculty excellence helps us attract and retain top faculty.

Barbara Patterson, RN, PhD, ANEF, joined an elite group of nursing educators when she was named a fellow in the Academy of Nursing Education of the National League for Nursing. She joined only 105 other academy fellows who represent nursing schools and programs throughout the United States and are selected based on their sustained and significant contributions to excellence in nursing education. Patterson, professor of nursing and director of Widener’s nursing PhD program, maintains a scholarly focus on contributing to the nursing education community by increasing the research body for evidence-based teaching practice. She said, “Our PhD program prepares students to be nurse educators, leaders and scholars. Through research, we identify those theories, teaching methods, and strategies that are the most effective and valuable to promote the students’ learning process.”

Nadine McHenry, EdD, delights in guiding young people to treasure the earth and its resources, and her work with them helped earn her the prestigious Faculty Award for Civic Engagement. McHenry, an associate professor in the Center for Education and director of the Science Teaching Center, has built strong partnerships with a variety of agencies, schools and universities allowing for the use of innovative fieldwork grounded in civic engagement and environmental education. One such initiative is the Sharing the Environment Program, in which McHenry connects children at the Widener Partnership Charter School with their counterparts at two schools in Trinidad. Using Skype, the students share their experiences and observations while addressing a specific environmental issue. Their current topic is the problem of trash, and the children are joining together to brainstorm solutions. According to McHenry, “Opening the students’ eyes to local environmental issues and helping them understand the global connection will make the world a smaller place. The goal is that they will then move from understanding to action.”

Leaving a Legacy

“Some of my happiest days were spent at Widener, first as a student and later as a faculty member,” said Marye O’Reilly-Knapp, RN, PhD ’91. These fond memories, along with a strong belief in the value of education that she shared with her late husband, Barton W. Knapp, PhD, inspired O’Reilly-Knapp to leave a legacy gift for Widener. She decided to name the university as the beneficiary of her IRA. At her request, Widener will apply half of her gift to endow a scholarship, with the other half equally divided between the School of Nursing Strategic Initiatives Fund and the Widener Fund. Because of her gift, O’Reilly-Knapp joins one of Widener’s most prestigious giving societies, The Widener Legacy Society. This group is comprised of alumni and friends of the university who have provided for Widener in their estate plans through a planned gift or bequest.

O’Reilly-Knapp, who earned her doctorate in nursing from Widener in ’91, credits her experience as a student with helping her grow personally and professionally, and says her education was geared toward her unique needs as an adult learner. Her love of teaching brought her back to Widener’s School of Nursing, where she served as an adjunct for eight years before joining the faculty full time. When she retired in 2010, she was a tenured assistant professor and was named associate professor emeritus in 2011.

O’Reilly-Knapp is animated and passionate when explaining why she chose to make a planned gift to the university. “Widener provided the environment for me to continually stretch and challenge myself to be the best I can. This university is like a family to me and I have been so blessed.” She added, “The gift is my small way of making sure that all this school stands for lives on. It’s where I want to leave my mark.”

Learn more about making Widener part of your will or estate plan by visiting www.widener.edu/plannedgiving or call Catherine DeHart, director of planned giving, at 610-499-1158.
Campaign Update

Taking the Lead ~ The Campaign for Widener places investment in scholarship endowment funds among its top priorities. The Annual Widener University Scholarship Luncheon, which was held November fourth in Lathem Hall, brought together donors and student recipients, giving each the opportunity to get to know the person on the other side of the scholarship. Though donors and recipients were meeting for the first time, they quickly found common ground. Lively conversation filled the hall with topics ranging from donors’ nostalgic memories of Widener’s earlier days to how students’ dreams and aspirations have been fueled by their scholarships.

Richard L. Phillips, grandson of benefactors Eva and Thomas Leet, is shown with Chris Black, recipient of one of the scholarships endowed by the Leets. Thomas Leet ’1913, served as the commandant of cadets and Eva also worked here. Eva’s passion was nursing, which inspired the scholarship Chris now receives. Mr. Phillips, who has attended several Annual Scholarship Luncheons through the years said, “In every instance, the scholarship recipients I have met have been professional and courteous. I’m extremely proud of the role the Leet scholarships play in helping them reach their goals.”

ERIN Engineering and Research Scholarship recipient Steven Pagano took advantage of the opportunity to network with Jeff Gabor, who represented the nuclear safety consulting firm at the luncheon. Gabor also served as a guest speaker for the event. In his remarks, he commented that ERIN Engineering has hired several Widener alumni over the years and was so pleased with the quality of their education that the company established an engineering scholarship. “They’re all superstars,” he stated. “The Widener graduates we’ve hired demonstrate from day one that they know what they are doing.”

Though Alyssa McGill, a recipient of the Ruth Bragg Scholarship, wasn’t able to meet her benefactor, she still attended the luncheon to show her appreciation. She said, “My scholarships have a huge impact on me being able to stay here. In return, I feel a strong obligation to keep my grades up out of respect for those who are helping support my education.”

Today leadership is at a premium. Skilled engineers design structures, devices, and processes every day that improve our lives. Engineering is a profession where leadership separates the good from the irreplaceable. Especially real-time, real-life leadership at work and within our communities. Widener University does more than talk about leadership. It’s why 91 percent of our recent engineering alumni are employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation.

To learn more visit www.widener.edu/leadershipworks