Senior Joseph Santone Serves as President of Widener University—For a Day

Just a few short months after taking over as the 10th president of Widener University, President Julie E. Wollman passed over the reins to Joseph Santone, a senior accounting major.

On April 6, Santone served as the 14th student president of the university, but it was President Wollman’s first time taking on the role of Widener student.

“It’s important for me as president of Widener University to understand the student experience,” Wollman said. “I know how every little thing can impact their time at Widener, and I want them to have the best possible experience while they are here.”

Santone was selected from three finalists who gave presentations to a selection committee based on an issue they would address if they were president.

President–for–a–Day Santone had the opportunity to take action on his platform of organizing a “Widener Pride Day,” while juggling a number of meetings with university leaders. He also met with a potential donor, had a stewardship meeting and toured new construction upgrades on campus.

Meeting Board of Trustees members Miguel Pena and Tom Bown was Santone’s favorite part of the day. “As a business student, I look up to these guys,” he said. “This is who I want to be. It was an honor to meet with them.” In his first meeting of the day with Pena, Santone jumped right to the point, asking how he could one day end up a trustee.

While Santone was running the university, President Wollman relished the role of student for a day, dressing in a Widener hoodie and jeans to tackle such courses as Database Management Systems and Operations Management.

The highlight of Wollman’s day, however, was meeting with School of Business Administration Student Ambassadors (Santone serves as one) and sitting in on a strategy session as part of Santone’s Senior Project team with Justin West and his wife, Brieanna, regarding their rapidly growing Brookhaven, Pa., business: What a Crock.

“The work that Joe’s group is doing is so emblematic of Widener,” Wollman said. “They’re working a project that will have a direct impact on a business in our local community—it’s a perfect example of Widener Leadership Works.”

To see photos from the day, visit the Flickr gallery.
Former U.S. Ambassador Dennis Ross worked for the administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, serving both Republicans and Democrats. He said he is often asked how he manages working with two parties so philosophically opposed. “I’ve spent 30 years working with Israelis and Arabs, and I managed that,” Ross told a sold–out audience on April 4 at the Philadelphia Speakers Series presented by Widener University at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia.

Ross spent much of his talk explaining the multitude of problems that face the Middle East, a task he called, “much more manageable than explaining American politics right now.” He also outlined a multi-part strategy to defeat ISIS and begin to stabilize the region. He said the United States must work with countries in the region to set ISIS back by defeating them in Rocca and Mosul, use social media more effectively to break their morale and discredit ISIS with other Sunnis, who currently see Iran—not ISIS—as the primary threat to the region.

“We need the Sunni governments to join us in the fight,” Ross said. “We need them to be the troops on the ground.”

Earlier in the day, Ross also appeared on Widener’s Main Campus, fielding questions from Widener students, faculty and members of the community. There, he touched on the current presidential election and the candidates’ platforms regarding the Middle East. He suggested that the public and the media are asking the wrong question.

“Instead of asking them how to fix the problems in the Middle East, we should first ask them to describe the problems to see if they fully comprehend what is going on,” Ross said.

Interdisciplinary Sexuality Research Collaborative Helps Facilitate and Fundraise for Human Sexuality Research

The Interdisciplinary Sexuality Research Collaborative, established last year by the Center for Human Sexuality Studies, supports interdisciplinary research endeavors focused on topics related to human sexuality. With a well-organized and dedicated staff comprised of faculty and graduate students, the ISRC is equipped to execute research projects of various scopes and sizes and assist with fundraising for proposed projects.

Currently, the ISRC has funding from a leading consumer packaged goods corporation through the spring of 2017 to support a multi-phase, multi-site study of the ways in which young adults think and talk about sex and relationships. The collaborative is currently recruiting participants for that study through the website www.sextalkstudy.com.

In addition, the staff is overseeing several other research projects, including two studies examining sexological worldview, comprised of the perspectives people have about their own and others’ sexuality; the development of effective sexuality education programming in the Chester community; and a recently completed national survey of the characteristics and behaviors of sex party attendees. The ISRC staff also continuously fundraises, recruits new partners and solicits project proposals.

To request the services of or to learn more about the Interdisciplinary Sexuality Research Collaborative, visit www.widenerisrc.com, e-mail isrc@mail.widener.edu or call 610-499-1156.
Bar exams are administered infrequently, but for LaRasz Moody, every workday is about preparing students for them.

As director of bar passage programs at Delaware Law School, Moody’s job is focused on getting law students successfully through the exams, and in successfully executing the summer bar preparation program attended by Delaware Law School graduates and others preparing for the First State exam. The Delaware test is given once a year in July. The Pennsylvania bar exam is given twice yearly.

Moody, a Chicago native and Downingtown, Pa., resident, teaches a for-credit bar preparation course that is an elective for students with a grade point average above 2.7, and mandatory for those whose grades are below. The course has seven sections this semester, and Moody develops the curriculum for the entire program.

Since arriving at Delaware Law two years ago from Villanova, Moody has made changes to the program as she works to boost its effectiveness. She bumped the course up to three credits from two, and has drawn on the expertise of multiple full-time faculty to help her teach the sections, whereas the school once largely relied on adjunct professors. She has partnered with Professor Alan Garfield on the popular Jeop-bar-dy bar prep game show initiative and has an open door.

“I’m glad I can be an ear for students who need it,” she said.

Moody also partners with BarBri, the commercial bar exam preparation provider, on the Delaware bar exam review course that begins May 24. BarBri does a lot of the administrative work, while Moody creates course materials, recruits faculty, sets the schedule and gets vendors in place. Students can attend in person and online.

“That’s a good chunk of my job, particularly in the spring semester,” she said.

Moody also spends a great deal of time analyzing exam results against graduates’ performances while in law school, as she constantly searches for ways to improve bar passage rates.

In her free time, Moody enjoys watching movies and visiting museums with her husband and 5-year-old son, whose interest in dinosaurs has rubbed off on her. “I’m now an aficionado too,” she laughed.
Most law school students will learn about the incarceration process, but few actually get to experience it firsthand through both an inmate’s and a guard’s perspective. Commonwealth Law Professor Amanda Smith gave her Legal Methods III class this experience by taking students on a tour of the State Correctional Institution in Camp Hill, Pa.

The prison visit dovetailed with an assignment that Smith gave to her students, which was to write a legal brief based on a hypothetical case they were working on in which a prison guard is their client. In the scenario, the prison guard is being sued by an inmate.

“I got a sense that a lot of students went in to the tour feeling sympathetic toward the inmate, said Smith. “But in the case I gave them in class, the prison guard was their client. In the scenario, the prison guard is being sued by an inmate.

“Having read many cases in which the term prison official and inmate are used frequently, the tour provided a human element to it,” said Vipul Patel, a third-year law student. “Between the stories of keeping the community safe, and stories told by the lieutenant and the psychiatrist, we do not fully appreciate how difficult their jobs are.”

Other students noticed the relationship that the guards built with the inmates to help build trust and diffuse a crisis situation before it happens.

“I learned a lot about the prisoner’s interactions with each other and the guards. In addition, I noted all of the precautions and safety measures that the guards need to be concerned about in order to protect themselves and the public,” said Jason Caplan, a second-year law student. “Included in this are the quality and upkeep of the facilities that are used to keep the inmates incarcerated.”

Based on the reflection papers students were required to write after the tour, each student seemed to take something different away from the experience. Some focused on the civil rights of the prisoners, while others mentioned that they were surprised how inmates lived and the relationships they had with other inmates and guards.

“I honestly don’t know specifically what I was expecting from this experience; but it wasn’t what I expected at all,” said student Andrea Fitzsimmons in her paper. “So many people only know about prison from what they hear or what they see on TV, and it was nice to get the chance to either prove or disprove much of that.”

Law Students Visit Maximum Security Prison as Part of Legal Methods III Class

Amanda Smith

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NO MORE Week Concludes with $1800 Donation

The students and faculty who helped organized NO MORE Week at Widener recently donated $1,800, which was collected through t-shirt sales, a bake sale and other efforts, to two Delaware County agencies: the Domestic Abuse Project and Women Against Rape. Each agency received a $900 check.
Delaware Law Student’s Corporate Law Article Published in National Outlet

Delaware Law School is celebrating the success of student Jason Rigby, who entered and won a national writing competition with an article recently published in The National Law Review.

Rigby, a third-year, extended-division student, authored the 1,500-word piece that analyzed the Delaware Court of Chancery’s recent rulings on disclosure-only settlements, including a standard set out in the much-watched In re Trulia, Inc. Stockholder Litigation, decided in January.

Rigby said he first put the piece together in hopes of getting it published in a Bloomberg news outlet. When that didn’t work out he noticed a call for entries in The National Law Review 2016 Law Student Writing Competition. The opportunity was posted on the What’s Up @ DE Law blog coordinated by the Office of Student Affairs. The online outlet publishes articles for access by lawyers, paralegals, law students, business executives, insurance professionals, accountants, compliance officers, human resource managers and others who want to better understand legal issues relevant to their work.

So Rigby, who works as a law clerk in a Wilmington civil litigation firm, polished his Trulia piece and submitted it. He did all the work on his own.

Nicole Minnis, Esq., lead publications manager for The National Law Review, said the outlet received many submissions. “Jason’s article rose to the top. He was selected because his topic is directly relevant to our audience and it was very well written,” Minnis said. “His article was concise and was written in such a way that it would have appeared to have been submitted by an attorney who writes for our publication.”
Ismail Kul Highlights the Benefits of Undergraduate Research During President’s Lecture

Dr. Ismail Kul

In 1997 undergraduate research was defined as “an inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.” This definition still holds true according to Dr. Ismail Kul, professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Widener, who gave the President’s Lecture on April 11.

Recipient of the Outstanding Research Award in 2015, Kul’s lecture discussed the potential benefits of undergraduate research at predominately undergraduate institutions for students, faculty and even the institutions themselves.

“Undergraduate research provides learning outcome assessments,” Kul said. “It helps increase student retention, as it is an effective pedagogical tool with greater gains in learning, leading to stronger enrollment and more employment opportunities for students.”

Kul explained that research provides students with a hands-on learning experience, and through this experience, they grow professionally and personally. He said that they build more confidence and improve their ability to work independently and collaboratively, as well as increase their problem-solving skills.

He said that some of the specific benefits institutions may enjoy from undergraduate research include attracting faculty and more engaged students, increasing resources for funding and allowing for more innovative curriculum.

He said that faculty engaged in undergraduate research often benefit from having increased enthusiasm in their research, because this can improve their classroom teaching and help them advance their research.

Kul also addressed some of the obstacles regarding personnel and infrastructure that institutions face to support undergraduate research.

His success in incorporating students into his research, however, proves that these obstacles can be overcome. He is the co-author of 20 peer-reviewed journal articles, and nine of them have been written with students. He has mentored 16 students in research that predominately focuses on thermodynamic properties of ionic liquids and pharmaceutically relevant organic molecules.

“The goal of my research at Widener is to increase physical and chemical knowledge in the field of chemistry,” he said, noting that he sees his research as “transformative,” meaning that it has “the potential to radically change our way of thinking.”

Kul urged attendees to follow in his footsteps to reap the many benefits of supporting “transformative” undergraduate student research.

Jayati Ghosh, Ph.D., Named Dean of the School of Business Administration

Dr. Jayati Ghosh

Jayati Ghosh, Ph.D., will join Widener University on July 5 as dean of the School of Business Administration and professor of international business. Ghosh comes to Widener from Dominican University of California, where she has served as associate dean of the Barowsky School of Business since 2010.

Ghosh joined the faculty at Dominican University in 2002 and early on assumed leadership roles in the university as director of the Honors Program and then as director of the Faculty Development Program. She also served as founding executive director of the university’s Office of Internationalization and Global Education. Recognizing the need to prepare students for a global environment, she successfully led the university’s efforts to establish programs for incoming international students and secure authorization to sponsor student and faculty exchanges.

As associate dean of the Barowsky School of Business, Ghosh has taken the lead on accreditation, curriculum redesign and assessment initiatives. She represented the school at the Aspen Institute’s Undergraduate Business Education Consortium designed to promote liberal arts education in professional programs. She also participated in the White House Convening of Business School Deans and the Business Community on Expanding Opportunities for Women in Business as part of her commitment to recruit and retain diverse faculty, staff and students.

To learn more, read the full news release about Ghosh’s appointment.
Noteworthy

Law Professor John Culhane of Delaware Law presented the talk “Time for a ‘T’ Party? — Taking the Last Initial of LGBT Seriously” at the Main Campus in Chester on April 5.

Dr. M. Elayne DeSimone, professor of nursing; Dr. Shirlee Drayton-Brooks, professor of nursing; and Dr. Paula Gray, clinical assistant professor of nursing, co-authored “Logic Models. Practice based clinical inquiry in nursing: Looking beyond traditional methods for DNP and PhD research.”

Nicolette Epifani, a junior sociology major, is among the 2016 Newman Civic Fellows named by Campus Compact, a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education. The Newman Civic Fellows Award recognizes inspiring college student leaders who have worked to find solutions for challenges facing their communities. To learn more, read the complete news release.


Brittany Hughes, a junior early learning teacher candidate, presented with Center for Education faculty members Dr. Nadine McHenry, Dr. Dana Reisboard and Dr. Mimi Staulters on April 1 at the National Association of Multicultural Education Conference sponsored by West Chester University. Their presentation was titled “The Design and Evaluation of a Community Engaged Teacher Education Program.”

Dr. Stephanie Jefferes, assistant professor of nursing, has been accepted as a scholar into the Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (NFLA) of Sigma Theta Tau International, the international honor society for nursing. The NFLA is a highly selective, 20-month mentored leadership academy designed to foster academic career success, promote nurse faculty retention and satisfaction, encourage personal leadership development and cultivate high-performing, supportive work environments in academia.

Law Professor Randy Lee of Widener Law Commonwealth published the article “Billy Joel and the Practice of Law: Melodies to Which a Lawyer Might Work” in the Touro Law Review.

Dr. Zora Mackiewicz-Wolfe, assistant professor of education, co-authored the text The Feedback Loop: Using Formative Assessment Data for Science Teaching and Learning with Erin Marie Furtak, from the University of Colorado-Boulder, and Howard Glasser, from the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation. The book is published by NSTA Press. It is aimed at in-service and pre-service teachers, especially secondary science teachers.

Law Professor Juliet Moringiello of Widener Law Commonwealth participated in a panel at the American Bar Association Business Law Section Spring Meeting held April 9 in Montreal, Canada. She presented on the topic “Social Media Accounts as Property of the Bankruptcy Estate.” The panel was sponsored by the Section’s Business Bankruptcy Committee.

Three members of the Widener Water Polo Club, sponsored by the Pride Recreation Center: freshman Sam Smith, sophomore Eddie Seyfried and junior Jeff Hicks were named by the Collegiate Water Polo Association as All Mid-Atlantic “B” Division First Team for the 2015–16 academic year.

Hospitality Management Names Cake Boss

Sponsored by the student chapters of the National Association of Catering Executives and the American Hotel and Lodging Association, the fifth annual Cake Boss competition took place on March 31. It was one of the largest to date with a total of 23 cake entries. Jane Cusmano, pictured left, was named the 2016 Cake Boss for her “Best Appearance” cake, which was a BB8 Star Wars-themed cake. “Most Unique Flavor” went to Natalie Winn for her chocolate chip cookie dough cake, and “Grandma’s Favorite” went to Claudette Suarez for a butter rum cake. CBS3 reporter Tori Woodill, pictured right, even joined in the fun by learning the secrets of cake decorating and flavor from Adrienne Hall, assistant clinical professor of hospitality management. Woodill entered the contest and documented her experience for CBS.
### Two-Week Peek

**A Look at the Next Two Weeks in Widener Events**

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**Wednesday, April 13**

6:30 p.m. Symposium on the criminalization of pregnancy; Delaware Law School, Barristers’ Club

**Thursday, April 14**

4–5 p.m. Environmental Law Distinguished Speaker Series: “Climate Change and the Limits of Administrative Law”; Widener Law Commonwealth

4–6 p.m. ASB: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser; Lathem Hall (Tickets are $5)

5:30 p.m. First Generation Law Students Association panel discussion with area attorneys; Delaware Law School, Main Law Building, Room 119

7 p.m. Stewards of Children training with the Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children; Delaware Law School, Main Law Building, Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom

**Friday, April 15**

3–5 p.m. Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes; Memorial Field (Registration closes April 13 at 3 p.m. [https://form.jotform.com/60804148244957](https://form.jotform.com/60804148244957))

7 p.m. Barristers Ball; Hotel du Pont, Wilmington, Del.

**Saturday, April 16**

9 a.m. Accepted Student Day; Main Campus

9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Speedy Trial 5K and 1-mile Fun Run; Widener Law Commonwealth (You can register [online](https://www.prc.org) at Pretzel City Sports.)

7 p.m. Barristers Ball; Hotel du Pont, Wilmington, Del.

**Sunday, April 17**

9 a.m.–12 p.m. Student Leadership Awards; Lathem Hall

**Monday, April 18**

12–2 p.m. Plant Wall Demonstration; University Center Atrium (Up throughout Sustainability Week)

6:30 p.m. Rain Barrel Workshop; Founders Hall, 109 (Register: [http://prc.org/free-rain-barrel-workshops-in-the-east/](http://prc.org/free-rain-barrel-workshops-in-the-east/))

8:30–9:30 p.m. Stargazing: Widener Observatory

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### Rain Barrel and Storm Water Workshop

**When:** April 18, 6:30–8 p.m.

**Where:** Founders Hall, 109

Capitalizing on the momentum built by the Sustainability Showcase on Main Campus, Widener students have planned a Sustainability Week running April 18–23. A highlight of the week’s activities is a rain barrel and storm water workshop, during which participants will learn how to:

- Make a rain barrel with materials provided
- Reduce water pollution
- Reduce local flooding
- Provide free garden water
- Save money

This workshop is open to the public, and attendees must be able to transport a rain barrel home. Register at [www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org). For more information, call 610-353-1555, ext. 232.

Other highlights of the Student Sustainability Week include a discussion of the Flint, Mich., water crisis at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19 in Lathem Hall, and a plant wall demonstration that will run throughout the week in University Center. See the Two-Week Peek for additional events, and always check [www.widener.edu/greenpride](http://www.widener.edu/greenpride) for updates on Widener sustainability events and initiatives.

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**Tuesday, April 19**

5:30 p.m. Flint H2O crisis discussion for Sustainability Week; Lathem Hall

7 p.m. OPM 360 Dodgeball Tournament to raise money for Shriners Hospital for Children; Dixon Field (Sign up by e-mailing [opmdodgeball@gmail.com](mailto:opmdodgeball@gmail.com))

**Wednesday, April 20**

5 p.m. Annual Student Awards Ceremony; Delaware Law School, Main Law Building, Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom

**Thursday, April 21**

5:30 p.m. Screening of “Can You Dig This?” documentary by the Office of Civic Engagement for Sustainability Week; University Center Webb Room

**Friday, April 22**

12 p.m. Earth Day Sustainability Lecture sponsored by the Biological Society and Environmental Club; University Center, Room A

1 p.m. Tree Planting for Sustainability Week; Washington Park, Chester, Pa.

7 p.m. Widener Dance Company Recital; Alumni Auditorium

**Saturday, April 23**

10 a.m.–3 p.m. “For the Health of it” Health Fair—Sponsored by the School of Nursing; University Center

11 a.m. Tree Planting for Sustainability Week; Front & Engle streets, Chester, Pa.

7 p.m. Widener Dance Company Recital; Alumni Auditorium

**Monday, April 25**

8:30 p.m. Stargazing: Widener Observatory

**Wednesday, April 27**

5:30 p.m. Student Leadership Awards; Lathem Hall