Over the summer, Dr. Sarah Roth, associate professor of history, and Taylor O’Connor, a senior history/secondary education major, worked diligently to create more than 200 web pages for the Nat Turner Project. Using Wix.com, they built a rich digital archive featuring original documents related to Turner and the slave revolt he is credited with leading.

“Sometimes I’d work on the site at 1 a.m. and notice that Taylor was also working at that time,” said Roth, who initiated the project after realizing a need to pool and digitize primary sources from Turner’s time. As a scholar interested in race and gender in the United States during the antebellum and Civil War periods, she had a natural fascination with Turner, who to this day elicits controversy among both historians and the general public.

Roth explained, for example, that historians frequently debate how much of the words in the pamphlet “The Confessions of Nat Turner” are actually Turner’s. Authored by attorney Thomas R. Gray, the document is presented as Turner’s account of what had led to and happened during the revolt.

Roth recruited O’Connor last summer to help with transcribing many of the primary documents for the archive. The history student knew little about Turner before embarking on the project, but after transcribing more than 40 different newspaper articles about the slave revolt, she became intrigued. “I must have read 18 different sides of the story,” she said. “There were so many conflicting accounts. I learned that the point of creating this archive is to put all of the credible information that exists out there and encourage people to read it before beginning to deduce what really happened.”

Roth and O’Connor planned ahead for their work together this summer by applying for and securing a Faculty Development Grant and joining the Summer Research Program. Their dedication to the project is evident in the breadth of information now housed on the site. Documents are presented in categories for easy navigation: Setting, Revolt, Aftermath, Impact and Historical FAQs. They say that the beauty of a digital archive is that they can easily grow it and make changes based on the emergence of additional documents and user feedback. Roth plans to use much of the information already gathered to author a book on Turner for undergraduates.

Next up for O’Connor is a presentation at the Summer Research Symposium on Friday, Oct. 2. Poster presentations take place in University Center following a keynote address at 4 p.m. in Lathem Hall by Dr. Michael Platt from the University of Pennsylvania.
Shortly after the start of her Widener University career, Dr. Ning Wang was approached by Dr. Stephen Wilhite and Dr. Tom Young to help develop an instrument that could effectively measure social and emotional competence. Together, they developed the Widener Emotional Learning Scale (WELS) from 2004 to 2008, which assessed awareness of emotions, tolerance, flexibility, self-management and relationship skills. More than a decade later, she continues to be intrigued by non-cognitive skills and the effect they have on student success.

Wang, now a full professor in the School of Education, Hospitality and Continuing Studies, delivered the President’s Lecture on Sept. 21 to help spread awareness of the importance of fostering non-cognitive skills in students. She made her point using data collected from freshman seminars across a three-year span (2008 to 2010) when half of the seminar time in the test groups was devoted to the development of social and emotional competence with WELS-oriented topics such as conflict resolution, time management, relationship building, study tips, emotional processing, acceptance of diversity and other social skills.

The results indicated that students enrolled in the social and emotional learning freshman seminars had higher retention rates and higher levels of self-proclaimed well-being than the control group. The study also demonstrated that these students had higher GPAs across the four semesters upon seminar completion than did the students in the comparison sections, even when controlling for other predictors of academic success, such as high school GPAs and SAT scores.

An interdisciplinary group of faculty members developed the social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum, which was used in the test groups and continues to inform instructors who incorporate social and emotional competence into their lesson plans. A few years ago, Interim President Wilhite received an AAC&U grant to train additional faculty and freshman seminar instructors on teaching social and emotional competence.

Wang suggests that individuals currently interested in learning more about SEL start by contacting Dr. Gerry Bloemker, associate provost, for resources such as handouts, videos and readings. For her next steps, Wang is considering a retooling of the WELS and continues to be intrigued by non-cognitive skills.

“I thought the whole campus would be interested to learn the impact non-cognitive skills can have on our students, whether it’s in terms of their retention or achievement,” she said. “Perhaps it will inspire some to take new and creative approaches to teaching.”

Delaware Law debuted its Supreme Court preview online this week. The program, available at DelawareLaw.Widener.edu/SupremeCourt2015, breaks down cases of interest coming before the U.S. Supreme Court as it begins the 2015 term on Oct. 5.

Law professors explain eight case topics in roughly five-minute segments, using simple language.

The program was produced by the Public Relations Office in cooperation with the school Media Services and Educational Technology departments. It was designed to assist time-pressed journalists with sorting through the pending cases to break down those that have broad appeal. The program is also valuable to alumni, students and the general public, which is why the school has chosen to share it online.

This year’s featured cases involve affirmative action, abortion, death penalty sentencing, juvenile sentencing, right to counsel, one person one vote, unions and free speech and public water supplies.

The 2014 preview took a first place award in the Delaware Press Association communications contest and went on to win a third place award from the National Federation of Press Women. The law school encourages you to check out the 2015 program.
Faces of Widener: Caroline Kulik

Caroline Kulik started as talent acquisition coordinator in the Office of Human Resources last November. In this role, she executes the hiring process from start to finish, which includes posting job openings, writing offer letters and conducting orientation. Kulik is the first point of contact, aside from the hiring manager, for new employees. She oversees background checks and alerts all the necessary departments to ensure that the new hires are prepared for their first day with the university. She distributes and collects all new employee paperwork, including W2 and I9 forms.

One of the highlights for Kulik, who previously worked in sports and recreation, is meeting so many new faces when they start at Widener. “They are always so excited to be here,” she said. “It’s a special time for them as they start a new job.”

Kulik also manages the applicant tracking system, iGreenTree. She assists hiring managers with posting job descriptions and makes sure all jobs are properly advertised. She also provides training for users in iGreenTree on how to access candidate information.

“It’s great to be a part of the entire process,” Kulik said. “I get to be a part of the search process, and then I see the new hires on campus during orientation. It all comes full circle.”

Prior to coming to Widener, Kulik held a similar position at Penn Medicine. She is excited to continue her role in a higher education setting. In her second year, Kulik hopes to get more involved with orientation and to make the onboarding process easier. She also wants to focus more on employee retention.

Until recently, Kulik also worked part-time for the Philadelphia Eagles managing game day staff. She helped hire and train 800 employees. Although she enjoyed the chance to attend football games, she is looking forward to having more free time on the weekends as she is in wedding-planning mode. Kulik is her sister’s maid of honor for an early 2016 wedding and is planning her own wedding to her fiancé, Matthew, scheduled for November 2016.

When the Harleysville, Pa., resident isn’t working on campus—or thinking about weddings—she is either swimming or taking class. Kulik just started taking courses at Widener toward her MBA.

Campus Kudos

Kudos to the members of the Widener University Community who donated school supplies to the Widener Partnership Charter School. Principal April Thomas passed on the following note of gratitude:

On behalf of the faculty, staff, students and families of the Widener Partnership Charter School, I would like to thank you for your generous contributions of school supplies as we start the academic year. Your donations are helping the charter school to carry out the school’s mission and supporting our commitment to serve the families of Chester. These acts of kindness are reflective of the school’s values we seek to teach our students here each day. You have assisted us in making our school a great place to grow and learn. We are happy to be a part of such a caring community!

Sincerely,
April L. Thomas, Principal/CEO
The Delaware Civil Law Clinic at Delaware Law is being honored with a 2015 Delaware Governor’s Outstanding Volunteer Award for social justice and advocacy.

The awards program, facilitated by the Delaware Office of Volunteerism, honors adult individuals, groups, organizations or businesses who engage in volunteer activities that address community needs within the First State.

“We are so grateful to the state of Delaware and Gov. Markell for this award,” said Associate Professor Dana Harrington Conner, who directs the clinic. “It is a privilege to provide these legal services to our clients, most of whom are survivors of intimate partner violence. We are humbled by this recognition and accept it with appreciation.”

Law Dean Rod Smolla said the clinic performs a unique public service in that students provide legal representation to clients under the supervision of Harrington Conner and clinic Staff Attorney Catherine Zwolak Kilian. Clinic student interns swear an oath for the limited practice of law, administered by Supreme Court Justice Randy Holland, each fall and spring semester. It allows them to appear in court on behalf of their clients.

“They are doing all of this as students, and the experience not only builds valuable legal skills, it shows them how their law degrees can help them make a difference in people’s lives. It also gives them a very real appreciation for the power of pro bono service, which is something we hope they take with them into their careers,” Smolla said.

The clinic provides free legal representation that focuses on at-risk individuals and their children who would otherwise struggle to obtain protection from our legal system. The clinic works to ensure the protection of survivors of intimate partner violence and their children through civil protection orders. It also represents clients seeking to enforce their orders of protection, as well as child custody and visitation matters. It occasionally assists elderly and terminally ill clients by drafting wills, power of attorney documents and health care directives.

The clinic was created in 1984 in an effort to fulfill the law school’s mission to provide practical experience to its students through civic engagement in the Delaware community. It was started by a collaboration between the law school, the Delaware Supreme Court and the Delaware State Bar Association, and was led for many years by the late Christine M. McDermott. Since computer case tracking began in 1988, the clinic has opened 2,974 new cases and assisted a total of 7,938 people. Total case hours spent by student interns is roughly 42,988.

Calculated at a reduced rate of $125 per hour, the total student hours contributed by the clinic since computer case tracking began is a value in excess of $5.37 million.

The Outstanding Volunteer Award program is sponsored by the Office of Gov. Jack Markell, the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, the Division of State Service Centers, the state Office of Volunteerism and the Governor’s Commission on Community and Volunteer Service. The honor will be formally given at a public dinner Oct. 6 in Dover, Del.

This marks the third consecutive year a Delaware Law program has been recognized.
Inquirer Internship Leads to Byline and an Encounter with Jane Goodall
By Khalil Williams, '16, communication studies

In 2014, I found my true calling when I took part in a writing class, which culminated with a whole magazine dedicated to the city of Chester. More than a year later, my enthusiasm for journalism has not waned, and I have secured an internship that has afforded me the opportunity to meet a renowned activist.

I started an internship with The Philadelphia Inquirer on Sept. 1. Working out of the newspaper’s Suburban bureau in Conshohocken, Pa., I write my own local news stories, as well as follow fellow Inquirer staff writers and do research on possible news story ideas.

A big highlight of my internship thus far was meeting Jane Goodall, who paid the Agnes Irwin School a visit on Sept. 17. Because she’s done a lot of work on environmental issues, such as climate change, it was an honor to see Goodall entertain and inform the Agnes Irwin student body. It was an even bigger privilege to speak with and write about her. The story earned me my first byline.

Goodall, who was reserved, yet witty and insightful, reminded me that this world is running on finite resources and that it’s our responsibility to take special care of our planet.

In addition to learning environmental lessons from Goodall, I’ve also learned much about news writing from my internship in just a month’s time. The two field supervisors I work with allow me to sit in on editorial meetings that they hold over the phone. Additionally, they forward assignments to me that require me to travel throughout the Delaware Valley and Greater Philadelphia areas to speak with different people and cover events. They point out my writing strengths and weaknesses when I file stories. Overall, our relationship works to further develop my skills as a reporter.

I would highly recommend internships to my fellow students because they allow for an in-depth look at a desired field and acquaint students with a company that could become a future employer. Furthermore, internships lead to skill refinement and invaluable experience to showcase on a resume.

Communication studies student Khalil Williams, '16, shares a photo of world-renowned scientist and activist Jane Goodall (pictured center in yellow), which he took while on assignment for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Professor Publishes Property Law Textbook

Professor Anna Hemingway and University of Toledo Law School Dean D. Benjamin Barros have co-authored a book that provides students with a creative approach to presenting the major topics included in a first-year property course.

The book, “Property Law,” presents concepts simply and builds the complexity of the material as students work through the publication. Also included in the text is a unique presentation of sidebars, illustrations and other creative designs to present material clearly.

“We designed the book based on learning objectives. The book provides extensive context for students to help them grasp the material on their own, and then build upon their knowledge in the classroom,” Hemingway said.

“The feedback from the book has been overwhelmingly positive. Students stop me in the hall to tell me it is their favorite case book.”

Included in the publication are problems and exercises that students can complete on their own and sample documents to help them understand core concepts.

The book has been adopted by several law professors to be used as their 1L property course case book.
Vike Defines Citizenship During Constitution Day Lecture

Widener University celebrated Constitution Day on Main Campus Sept. 16 with a guest lecture by Dr. James Vike, associate dean of the Social Science Division in the College of Arts and Sciences and associate professor of political science. He led students, faculty and staff in a discussion on the general expectations of the responsibilities of modern citizenship in the United States.

Audience members initially suggested that the responsibilities of U.S. citizens include serving on a jury, paying taxes, voting and abiding by the law—all items included in the traditional, duty-based model of citizenship shared by Vike.

“The traditional model requires citizens to have loyalty, social order and obligatory democratic participation—voting and being attentive to public affairs,” he said.

Vike explained that this model is threatened by low levels of voter participation. However, with increasing levels of education, he said that society is changing in ways that is creating a new social norm with increased levels of participation in unconventional ways, whether it’s through volunteerism or activism around a topic of strong interest and passion.

A contemporary model of citizenship accounts for the idea of a more engaged citizen. “People are getting involved in ways that weren’t typically accounted for under the traditional models, especially the youth,” Vike said.

Vike stressed the importance of programming at the university level and touted efforts at Widener to increase awareness and engagement and promote civic values by developing knowledge and creating a sense of efficacy. He pointed to the Political Engagement Committee, the Office of Civic Engagement and several student-run organizations for their support of various initiatives, including political debate watches, Student Lobby Day, National Voter Registration Day and more.

Dr. James Vike delivers the Constitution Day lecture on Main Campus.

Widener to Have Strong Showing at SASH Conference

Dr. John Giugliano

Dr. John Giugliano, associate professor in the Center for Social Work Education, is president of SASH, a professional organization that deals with the education, treatment and research of problematic sexual behavior. This mission falls in line with Giugliano’s research agenda and clinical specialty of sex addiction.

According to Giugliano, the conference has two big-named keynote speakers from the field: Dr. Sue Johnson and Jon Grant. Furthermore, he is proud to announce conference participants with a Widener connection:

• Dr. Mary Deitch is an alumna of the law and PsyD programs and teaches as adjunct faculty in the clinical psychology program. She is the conference co-chair and will present.

• Dr. Erica Sarr is an alumna of the human sexuality and PsyD programs and has guest lectured in the Center for Human Sexuality Studies. She will present at the conference.

• Dr. Robert Heasley is an adjunct faculty member in the Center for Human Sexuality Studies. He will also present at the conference.

• Social work and human sexuality students will volunteer at the event.

Learn more about the conference lineup. Visit http://www.sashevent.net/SCHEDULE.HTML.
Noteworthy


Dr. Shawn Fitzgerald, dean of the School of Education, Hospitality and Continuing Studies, has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Eastern Educational Research Association for appointment as president-elect and program chair. The president-elect automatically succeeds the president after the completion of a two-year term. The president-elect also has the responsibility for assembling the annual conference program. The mission of the Eastern Educational Research Association is to encourage the growth and practice of educational research—promoting quality educational research and providing a forum for its dissemination.

Michael Dimino, professor of law at Widener Law Commonwealth, testified before the State Government Committee of the Pennsylvania Senate concerning third-party ballot access and the pending Senate Bill 495.

Juliet Moringiello, professor of law at Widener Law Commonwealth, will be honored at the AALS Sections on Business Associations 2016 Annual Meeting for her service to legal education through inspiration and mentorship.

Dr. Sachin P. Patil, assistant professor of chemical engineering and director of engineering honors and undergraduate research programs, collaborated with biomedical engineering students Alexandra Jednorski and Cassidy Kerezsi and chemical engineering student Bridget Hicks to author the paper “Molecular modeling investigation of folic acid conjugation to MDM2 inhibitors for enhanced cellular uptake and target binding” in the Current Computer-Aided Drug Design journal.

Dr. Daniel Robinson, the Homer C. Nearing Jr. distinguished professor of English, has been appointed series editor for Bloomsbury Editions, a forthcoming series of new editions of literary works that will compete with Penguin Classics, Oxford World’s Classics and Norton Critical Editions. This new series, launching in 2018, will include such classics as Emily Bronte’s “Wuthering Heights,” Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice,” Edgar Allan Poe’s tales and poems, and Jonathan Swift’s “Gulliver’s Travels;” each edition will be prepared to the highest scholarly standards, using the Arden Shakespeare series (also published by Bloomsbury) as its model. As series editor, Robinson will assemble an advisory board of scholars, recruiting editors and developing proposals for titles in the series; he will also edit Wordsworth and Coleridge’s “Lyrical Ballads” and Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein” for publication in the series.

Spotlight on Sports: Volleyball

Widener University head volleyball coach Donovan Anglin recently earned his 200th victory and has the Pride off to a strong start this season. The program has already surpassed its win total from last season with a young roster that consists of seven freshmen and no seniors.

The Pride most notably placed second among eight teams at the Knights Invitational, which was hosted by Neumann University on Sept. 18 and 19. After winning all three of its matches in pool play, which included a sweep of Rutgers-Camden for Anglin’s milestone win, the squad’s only loss over the weekend came to a red-hot Swarthmore squad in the championship match. Junior setter and captain Sabrina Barbieri was named to the all-tournament team after averaging 8.69 assists per set and was later recognized as the MAC Commonwealth Player of the Week and the ECAC South Region Player of the Week.

One of the key reasons leading to the program’s success so far has been the immediate contributions made by the freshmen. The team’s top five leaders in kills as well as the top three in blocks are all members of the Class of 2019. Janie Kalinock leads the MAC Commonwealth in blocks per set and is second in hitting percentage, while Nicole Dorman and Kelsey Lee rank fourth in the league in kills and blocks per set, respectively. Natalie Winn and Kierston Forney have also made a quick impact this season.
Two-Week Peek
A Look at the Next Two Weeks in Widener Events

Wednesday, Sept. 30
11 a.m.–3 p.m. Fall Career Fair; Schwartz Athletic Center
12–2 p.m. Faculty-led Study Abroad Trip Discussion; University Center Atrium
6 p.m. Italian Cinema Night: “Benvenuti al Sud”; Freedom Hall Amphitheater
6–7:30 p.m. SBDC Business Ownership Series; Widener SBDC
7 p.m. Men’s Soccer vs. Stevens Institute; Home

Thursday, Oct. 1
11 a.m.–6 p.m. Women’s Law Caucus bake sale to benefit Making Strides for Breast Cancer; Delaware Law, Main Street
6:30 p.m. “To Kill a Mockingbird” movie screening and discussion with Dean Rod Smolla and Professor Mary Ellen Maatman; Delaware Law, Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom
7 p.m. Women’s Volleyball vs. Cabrini College; Home

Friday, Oct. 2
4 p.m. Summer Research Symposium; Lathem Hall then University Center

Saturday, Oct. 3
5 p.m. Women’s Soccer vs. Lebanon Valley College; Home
7:30 p.m. Men’s Soccer vs. Lebanon Valley College; Home

Monday, Oct. 5
7 p.m. Stargazing; Widener Observatory
8 p.m. Philadelphia Speakers Series: Leon Panetta; Kimmel Center

Tuesday, Oct. 6
3:30 p.m. Advice and a Slice Workshop: Cover Letters; Career Lounge

Wednesday, Oct. 7
12 p.m. Japanese Taiko Drummers Performance and Audience Participation; University Center
1 p.m. Japanese Taiko Drummers Workshop (Contact mmbuckholt@widener.edu to sign up); University Center, Room A

6 p.m. SBDC Business Ownership Series; Widener SBDC

Thursday, Oct. 8
9 a.m. SBDC Government Marketing Seminar; Widener SBDC
3:30 p.m. Advice and a Slice Workshop: LinkedIn; Kapelski 339A

Friday, Oct. 9
8 p.m. Stargazing; Widener Observatory (Moved from Oct. 2)

Saturday, Oct. 10
Widener Day
9 a.m.–9 p.m. Relay for Life; Commonwealth Law School
10 a.m.–1 p.m. Law School Admissions Information Session; Delaware Law, Strine Atrium and Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom
12 p.m. Field Hockey vs. Stevenson University; Home
1 p.m. Men’s and Women’s Swimming at Widener Relay Carnival; Home

Monday, Oct. 12
12 p.m. Sport Management Lunch-and-Learn Speaker Series: Brad Youtz of Harmelin Media; Quick Center, 108
7 p.m. Stargazing; Widener Observatory

Tuesday, Oct. 13
12–1 p.m. 1RD Career Development Office Orientation; Commonwealth Law School, Career Development Office
5–6 p.m. 1ED Career Development Office Orientation; Commonwealth Law School, Career Development Office

Wednesday, Oct. 14
12 p.m. Advice and a Slice Workshop: Graduate; Career Lounge
4 p.m. Distinguished Writers Series Lecture: Dinty Moore; KLC 1
6 p.m. SBDC Business Ownership Series; Widener SBDC

Save the Date: Faculty Fellow CampusCruiser Workshops with Dr. Itzick Vatnick

When: Oct. 16, 4 p.m. (and additional Fridays at 4 p.m.)
Where: Kirkbride 413
Details: Dr. Itzick Vatnick, a 2015–16 Faculty Fellow, shares his knowledge on maximizing the use of CampusCruiser for teaching and learning on Friday afternoons at 4 p.m. He explores the many unknown resources on CampusCruiser that help faculty save time and increase efficiency.

The Oct. 16 session will focus on using Turnitin.com as a teaching tool for graduate and undergraduate writing assignments. Vatnick will share strategies with faculty for using Turnitin to improve student writing and feedback. Vatnick will also help faculty customize their CampusCruiser homepage to remove the “clutter” and improve the page’s organization.

Full-time and adjunct faculty are invited to attend Vatnick’s sessions.

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