Former U.S. Secretary of Defense and CIA Director Leon Panetta kicked off the 2015–16 season of the Philadelphia Speakers Series presented by Widener University on Oct. 5 with some poignant lessons about leadership that he has learned during his 50 years of service to the nation. Addressing a sold-out audience at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, Panetta’s remarks echoed the themes of his 2014 autobiography, “Worthy Fights: A Memoir of Leadership in War and Peace.” He said a democracy can either be governed by leadership or by crisis. “Governing by crisis is the easy way to go,” Panetta said. “Instead of solving crisis, you simply kick the can down the road.”

Panetta said effective leadership is not easy. He remembers many days as a congressman locked behind doors with members of the other party trying to reach accord on pressing issues. “We worked with statesmen on the other side of the isle,” Panetta said. “Yes, we had our differences. Governing is hard work and you have to deal with people you don’t like.”

Panetta said the country is at a pivotal point in its history and is destined to go down one of two paths. “One path can be an America in renaissance,” he said. “We can be that kind of America, or we can be an America in decline, unable to protect our basic freedoms and unable to even engage in trying to find consensus.”

On foreign policy, Panetta said the current administration is facing an unprecedented number of global flashpoints, including Russia, China, North Korea and much of the Middle East. He also highlighted cyber as a particular concern. “Some viruses can shut down entire electrical grids,” Panetta said. “We need to invest more in cyber expertise and ability.”
Dr. Michael Platt, the 16th Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor, was the keynote speaker at the Summer Research Symposium held Oct. 2.

The former Duke University neurobiology professor is a world-renowned neuroscientist whose research focuses on how the brain makes decisions.

“This is a celebration of you and your accomplishments and your decision to make learning hands-on,” Platt said to the Widener students in attendance. “We learn more by doing.”

More than 70 students from disciplines across the university participated in the Summer Research Program this year. The symposium allowed students to showcase their work over the summer and concluded with awards presented to the top research projects in science, engineering and humanities/social sciences.

In his address to a packed crowd at Lathem Hall, Platt discussed some of his most recent research endeavors with rhesus macaque monkeys on the island of Cayo Santiago in Puerto Rico.

Platt and his team studied how social context affects the decision-making process of macaques and how this can be relatable to humans. He hopes the research will help us to better understand social disorders such as Autism.

Platt is a “big champion” of interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research, which Widener aims to foster through its Summer Research Program.

“It is certainly my conviction that scientists need not only know and have expertise at the bench, but they need to be able to communicate, and they need an appreciation for history; the same is true for the folks in humanities and the arts,” he said.

“If you have an appreciation for literacy in the sciences, this is a currency that will carry you forward and allow you to talk with and interact with and push fields in directions that we have never seen before.”

Congratulations to the Summer Research Symposium prizewinners:

- **1st place (science):** Nicole Gilette for Investigating the role of TWIST1 on EOM and cranial nerve development
- **2nd place (science):** Jonathan Rouse for Swimming rainbow trout to evaluate the metabolic cost of group size
- **3rd place tie (science):** Gabriella Faux for Exploration of Substituted Arylaldehydes in a Greener Isoxazole Synthesis and Rina Bhalodi for Expression of EGR-1 as stress response in PVN of adult zebra finch brains
- **1st place (humanities/social science):** Taylor O’Connor for The Nat Turner Project: A Digital Archive of Historical Sources Related to the Nat Turner Slave Revolt of 1831 in Southampton County, Virginia
- **1st place (engineering):** Tulsi Patel for Validation of radius bone model using Finite Element Analysis under single cycle bending load

See photos of the event on Flickr.

The School of Nursing hosted its 15th Annual Nursing Workshop for High School Students on Oct. 10. The workshop provides high school students with a hands-on learning environment that gives them a sense of life as a Widener nursing student.

Participants toured Founders Hall and attended demonstrations in the simulations labs. Cathy Evans, a visiting lecturer of nursing, also led a demonstration on disaster response from the nursing perspective, and Christina Care professionals offered tours of a medical helicopter.

“The workshop is a great opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the nursing field,” said Linda O’Kane, enrollment coordinator for the School of Nursing. “It helps them become more aware of all of the possibilities in the profession.”

For photos of this year’s workshop, visit Flickr.
While many students are on the final leg of their educational journey at Widener, on the corner of campus, a small group of students are just beginning theirs at the The Widener University Child Development Center. The center offers preschool, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten programs. Jean Pitone, secretary for the Child Development Center, has the tough job of greeting the young students each morning.

Pitone, who started working at the Child Development Center eight years ago, is responsible for welcoming families to the center; working with the director, Dr. Noreen Yoder, to give tours; and assisting with classroom support throughout the day. Each morning, Pitone assists teachers with morning playtime and breakfast.

“I love working with kids,” Pitone said. “It’s the best part of my job.”

She says that the highlight of her day is when she walks into a classroom and hears the children say, “Hi Miss Jean!” She gets to know the students well as she helps a number of them adjust to their new surroundings at the center. For many, it’s their first time being away from home. “Dr. Yoder and I are the ones who spoil the kids,” she said. “It’s just in our nature.”

At the Child Development Center, Pitone also handles a majority of the administrative paperwork and logistics, including enrolling new students and tracking classroom changes. Because the Child Development Center is ranked by Keystone STARS, it is required to implement an assessment system. Pitone helps manage the Early Learning Network (ELN), which is the assessment tool used as part of the state system.

While Pitone spends much of her time at Widener in the Child Development Center, she does venture onto Main Campus to support her own children. Pitone’s son, Ernie, is currently enrolled in Widener’s School of Business Administration and is a member of the cross country team. Her daughter Alexis graduated this past spring with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education, and her oldest daughter, Caitlyn, graduated in 2013 with a degree in psychology.

“It’s been wonderful to see them all on campus getting such a great education,” she said, noting that Alexis even had a field placement at the Child Development Center.

Off campus, Pitone, a Springfield, Pa. resident, enjoys spending time with her family; she is an identical triplet. She and her husband, Ernie, are looking forward to vacationing in the Poconos this fall as they are in the process of purchasing a home there.

Students enrolled in the Widener University Child Development Center recently visited the Chester Fire Station right off Main Campus to supplement classroom lessons on fire safety. The young students toured the station and a fire engine and met many of the firemen. They also each got their own hat to take home as a souvenir.

Visit Flickr and the Child Development Center Facebook page to see photos from the trip.
Cynthia Figueroa

Figueroa to campus as the 2015–16 Beideman Visiting Scholar. Figueroa is president and chief executive officer of Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Philadelphia’s largest nonprofit agency providing expert services to the Latino community.

Figueroa met with members of the Senior Leadership Team; addressed a Women’s Studies 101 course to offer insight into her leadership trajectory in addition to providing students with interview and career advice; and networked with Latina faculty, staff and students. She capped off her visit to campus with an open lecture on Oct. 6 about Latino leadership in Philadelphia.

Dr. Arthur Schwartz, director of the Oskin Leadership Institute, partnered with Dr. Beatriz Urraca, director of the Gender and Women’s Studies Program, to search for a prominent female leader to serve as this year’s Beideman Visiting Scholar. Urraca suggested a Latina candidate who could also address the recruitment of more diverse faculty and staff—a key component of the university’s strategic plan—while on campus.

“We wanted Cynthia from the start; she is one of the most powerful women in Philadelphia,” said Urraca. “She heads up the largest Latino nonprofit in the city, which aggregates services for the Latino community and has strong ties to business and political leaders. We got our first choice.”

As president and CEO of Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Figueroa is dedicated to strengthening Latino communities though social, economic, education and health services. Under her leadership, Congreso has opened a federally qualified health center, expanded its campus with the addition of the Trujillo Center and earned national recognition for its data and evaluation department, which now provides technical assistance to public and nonprofit agencies throughout the country.

During her Oct. 6 lecture at Widener, Figueroa stressed the importance of nonprofits in cultivating Latino political leaders, especially in Philadelphia. She noted that many Latino nonprofits were started to advocate for language access, but they have since grown into major employers for Latinos as the needs of the community have also grown. With the decline of the textile industry that once employed a significant number of Latinos in Philadelphia, the city’s Latino nonprofit leaders now advocate for whole communities that have been left behind due to loss of jobs and language barriers.

She remarked that given the city’s first influx of Puerto Ricans in the 1800s and other major migrations from Puerto Rico in the 1940s, 50s and 60s, it is disheartening that so few Latinos have been elected to play a role in the city or state governments and that it took until 1968, when German Quiles won a Pennsylvania House seat, for the first Latino to have the chance to represent the community at the state level.

Figueroa suspects that moving forward we will see an increase in Latino political leaders—and politicians advocating for the Latino community—as Latinos come closer to becoming the largest ethnic group in America.

“The next president will not get elected without 40 percent of the Latino vote,” she said. “Typically, Latinos are socially more conservative, but they are watching candidates closely for their stance on immigration.”

Figueroa will return to campus in the spring—tentatively on Monday, March 14—to deliver the Women’s History Month lecture. She will also meet with faculty and staff at this time to discuss issues related to leadership and feminism, and participate in a faculty diversity forum led by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Through a prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship, Figueroa traveled to Chile and Argentina to explore women’s leadership models in government and the private sector. She has received several awards, including the University of Pennsylvania Outstanding Leadership Award, the National Football League/Philadelphia Eagles Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award, and distinction in the Philadelphia Business Journal 40 Under 40.

Paul Beideman and his wife, Caroline, established the Beideman Visiting Scholar program within the Oskin Leadership Institute in 2011. Through their gift, distinguished scholars from outside institutions spend time at Widener sharing their expertise and guiding faculty and student discussion and research.

A member of the Widener Board of Trustees, Beideman received a master’s degree in finance from Widener in 1979 and an honorary doctor of public service in 2014.
Gaining Leadership Experience Across the Globe
By Jordan Saufley, ’17, operations management major and Widener Army ROTC cadet

This past summer, I had the privilege of training with the Malawi Defense Forces (MDF) as part of the Army ROTC CULP (Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency) Program. In the three weeks that I spent in Malawi, I trained through the Malawian Army Officer Course, experienced the Malawian culture and learned about the challenges facing the country and the region in which I was training.

My daily routine consisted of physical training, classroom instruction, platoon and squad tactics, marksmanship training, teambuilding exercises and land navigation. I was required to take and pass all of the same tests that the Malawian recruits took on a weekly basis, which helped me bond with the Malawian soldiers. I still communicate with them whenever possible.

When I was off from training on weekends, I had time to immerse myself in the Malawian culture. I toured a traditional village and met an ancestral chief who can trace his lineage back over 1,500 years. With the modern form of democracy that rules Malawi, the ancestral chiefs were given positions of power as acting governors to avoid conflict during the transition of government. By learning about the way of life for many Malawian citizens and the workings of the Malawian government, I now have insight as to how to best interact with the Malawian people and leaders to effectively accomplish a mission in this country.

In talking with the ambassador to the U.S. embassy in Malawi and the defense attaché for the region, I also grew to understand the problems facing Malawi. A serious lack of infrastructure throughout the country (roads, railways, electrical lines) has hindered the country’s economic development. Malawi’s membership in SADC (South African Developmental Community) has helped to try and get these infrastructure issues resolved, but there is a long way to go.

Overall, the experience showed me how culture and history play a role in the defense and growth of a nation. The lessons I learned will greatly impact my own leadership as I will likely find myself outside of the comfort of my own country once I am commissioned. By far, being able to participate in this leadership training opportunity was the best experience I have had in the Army ROTC.

Delaware Law Professor Honored with Environmentalist Award

Widener University Delaware Law School congratulates Associate Professor Kenneth T. Kristl, who recently received the 2015 Environmentalist Award from the Inland Bays Foundation.

It was the second time the foundation gave the award. The inaugural winner was Gov. Jack Markell, honored for his work introducing a clean water initiative.

Doug Parham, president of the foundation, presented the award during the foundation’s second-annual Love the Inland Bays dinner at Irish Eyes Restaurant in Lewes, Del. on Oct. 7. Delaware House of Representatives Speaker Pete Schwartzkopf was the event keynote speaker. David Small, cabinet secretary for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, also attended, as did Delaware Sen. Bryan Townsend, who spoke about the Delaware Clean Water Task Force.

“The reason we picked Ken was because of his advocacy,” Parham said. The foundation’s 15-member board discussed the award, made nominations and voted Kristl the recipient.

“He has helped many organizations, in addition to ours, who are concerned for the environment. He has spent a lot of time with us, helping us to set our goals for getting pollution out of the water,” Parham said. “We’ve been very impressed with his ability to listen to us and come back with good advice. It was a pleasure to recognize his efforts.”

Continued on page 6
Zhao “Ruby” Liu, a third-year law student at Widener Law Commonwealth, was chosen for one of only nine highly-sought after spots for the Diversity Clerkship offered by the ABA Business Law Section. Liu is a student in the law school’s Business Advising Certificate Program.

Liu was selected to participate in the Diversity Clerkship Program and assigned to work over the summer under Vice Chancellor Donald Parsons in the Delaware Court of Chancery, the nation’s preeminent business court. Participants receive mentoring and guidance in the business law field and exposure to all types of business law that they may not see in the classroom.

Liu said one of the main things she learned from her clerkship was the amount of attention and detail that must be paid when writing and reading legal documents.

“It is important to know how much to write and how much detail to include,” she said. “You need to be careful about every word and look at it through the chancellor’s eyes. I learned to really look at the detail and how things are written.”

As a participant in the Diversity Clerkship Program, Liu was invited to attend the ABA Business Law Section Annual Meeting that was held in Chicago this year, which allowed her to participate in networking opportunities and substantive committee meetings.

Liu said her clerkship and the experience at the conference really drove home the importance for students to be involved in professional organizations and to really get out into the market to learn more about professional opportunities.

Professor Juliet Moringiello, of Widener Law Commonwealth, a long-time leader in the ABA Business Law Section, also attended the Section Meeting and had strongly encouraged Liu to apply for the Diversity Clerkship.

“The Business Law Section members are eager to get the students involved, and leadership feels very strongly about getting law students engaged in section activities because such involvement provides tremendous professional development opportunities,” said Moringiello.

Events at the annual meeting included a speed networking event and a panel that addressed the topic of how young lawyers can balance their work and professional lives. This topic was especially interesting to Liu, who owns a business and provides the primary financial support for her family.

Kristl directs the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic at Delaware Law School. He has worked closely with the Inland Bays Foundation in that capacity. The clinic has done legal analysis and research work for the foundation for many years. It also represented the foundation in a Superior Court case that challenged a soil and water monitoring plan for a proposed poultry processing plant near Millsboro, Del.

“I am very honored by this award,” Kristl said. “The foundation is a client of the clinic that has been a joy to work for, as the group is very focused on finding ways to improve water quality in the inland bays. I admire the way they look at environmental challenges and seek solutions from multiple angles. The fact that they would choose to recognize me makes this award very special.”

In addition to his clinic work, Kristl teaches property and environmental law classes at the law school and is a master in the Delaware Valley Environmental Inn of Court, the first Inn of Court to focus exclusively on environmental law. He is a member of the American Bar Association Section on Environment, Energy and Resources, and a member of the Delaware State Bar Association Section on Environmental Law. He has written extensively on environmental law issues.

Kristl was valedictorian of his class at Illinois/Chicago-Kent College of Law, and served as editor-in-chief of the Chicago-Kent Law Review.
Noteworthy

John C. Dernbach, professor of law and director of the Environmental Law and Sustainability Center at Widener Law Commonwealth, and Frederico Cheever, professor of law at Denver Law School, published the article “Sustainable Development and its Discontents” in the peer-reviewed publication Transnational Environmental Law. The publication was the third-highest environmental law journal in the 2014 Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Report.

Dernbach also recently took his Sustainability Law and Practice class on a trip to Lancaster, Pa., where the group met with Mayor Rick Gray and visited a number of sites where the city is moving toward sustainability by controlling runoff and creating green infrastructure. Pictured below from left to right are Inderdeep Paul, Lancaster Public Works Director Charlotte Katzenmoyer, Lancaster Stormwater Program Manager Ruth Hocker, John Dernbach, Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray, Jordan Wartman, Kevin Lavelle, Derek Young, Joseph Quinones, Robert Bucher and Brett Flower.

Dr. Joseph Fuhr, professor of economics in the School of Business Administration, presented “Strategic Review of the Impact of Biosimilar on Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement” at CBI’s Value-Based Pricing and Contracting for Biopharmaceuticals, which was held in Philadelphia on Oct. 8.

Drs. Zora Mackiewicz-Wolfe and Meghan J. Pifer of the School of Education, Hospitality and Continuing Studies have been named co-editors of the Journal of Research in Education. The Board of Directors of the Eastern Educational Research Association has approved their appointments, which come at a critical time for a journal that has a nearly 40-year history of serving and informing the 400-plus members of the association and others in the field of educational research. With changes to open-access publishing, accessing and counting publication relevance and recruiting new authors for contributions, the need for contemporary, high-impact research journals is of primary importance to advancing the field of educational research. The co-editor appointments for Mackiewicz-Wolfe and Pifer are effective December 1, 2015 through January 1, 2019.

Maggie Place, coordinator for special programs for the Center for Continuing Studies, sang in the papal choir during the Sept. 27 Mass led by Pope Francis in Philadelphia. She was featured in the Reading Eagle and CBS News.

Spotlight on Sports: Football to Host Food Drive at Remaining Home Games

The Widener football team will host a food drive to benefit the food pantry organized by LifeWerks, Inc. beginning Saturday, Oct. 17 during the Homecoming game against Misericorida University.

Fans attending any of the remainder Widener football games can drop off non-perishable food items in identified bins located on the concourse of Leslie C. Quick Stadium.

“In conjunction with the mission of Widener University, we find it important to use our platform of athletics to give back to the community,” said head coach Mike Kelly. “Our team is fortunate to have something to eat every day, and we ask our fans at each game to help us by providing a canned good for those less fortunate than us.”

LifeWerks, Inc., located in Wallingford, Pa., works to serve those who find it difficult to afford food. Created in 1997, the nonprofit started as a mentoring program by providing leadership training and media/arts and impacting the next generation through hunger outreach and community engagement.
Two-Week Peek
A Look at the Next Two Weeks in Widener Events

Wednesday, Oct. 14
4–5 p.m. Distinguished Writers Series: Dinty Moore; KLC 1
5–6:30 p.m. PA Supreme Court Candidate Debate; Commonwealth Law, Administration Building
5 p.m. Student Bar Association Town Hall Meeting; Delaware Law, Polishook Hall, Room 104

Thursday, Oct. 15
12–1:30 p.m. PA Intermediate Appellate Court Candidates to Speak; Commonwealth Law, Administration Building
4 p.m. Career Services Nonprofit Career Panel; University Center, Room A
5–6 p.m. Salsa Lesson; University Center, Lower Level Lounge

Friday, Oct. 16
Homecoming and Family Weekend 2015 Oct. 16–18
Attention Widener students, faculty, and staff: Get ready for a fun-filled Homecoming & Family Weekend!
Main events include the Pride Tailgate at the Homecoming Football Game, a Family Weekend Picnic and Academic Row at the stadium in addition to happy hours, dinners and the annual 5K to benefit the Chester Community Physical Therapy Clinic.
Plan your weekend by viewing a complete schedule of events.
Use #HomeatWU this Weekend
Follow along on social media all weekend with #HomeatWU. Visit the Alumni Relations social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
If you take photos this weekend, which is highly encouraged, return to the Alumni Relations social media sites on Monday, Oct. 19 for a contest.

7 p.m. Food Week Event: Chocolat Screening; Wolfgram Memorial Library, Drost Room
7–8 p.m. Stargazing; Widener Observatory

Tuesday, Oct. 20
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Hospitality Lunch Series; Marriott Dining Room
4:30–5:30 p.m. Table talk with Judge Christopher Burke; Delaware Law, Main Law Building, Main Street
5:30–7 p.m. Food Week Event: Oxfam Hunger Banquet; Lathem Hall

Wednesday, Oct. 21
11 a.m.–1 p.m. Food Week Event: Poster Fair; University Center Atrium
4 p.m. LGBTQA History Month Event: Lecture by Law Professor John Culhane titled “Kim Davis and Beyond: When Civil Rights and Religion Conflict;” Lathem Hall
7 p.m. Food Week Event: Supersize Me Screening; Wolfgram Memorial Library, Drost Room

Thursday, Oct. 22
3:30 p.m. Career Services Advice and a Slice; Kapelski 339A
5:30 p.m. Free head shots for students; Delaware Law, Polishook Hall, Room 101
5:30 p.m. Food Week Event: Nonprofit Grocery Model Discussion; University Center, Webb Room
5–7:30 p.m. Fashion show for professional, business casual and casual attire; Delaware Law, location TBD

Friday, Oct. 23
9 a.m.–5 p.m. Food and Drug Law Association food drive with donation drop in the Student Lounge; Delaware Law, Main Law Building

Monday, Oct. 26
8–9 p.m. Philadelphia Speakers Series: Dr. Sanjay Gupta; Kimmel Center

Tuesday, Oct. 27
5–7 p.m. Graduate Open House; University Center Atrium