Dr. Justin Sitron, associate professor in the Center for Human Sexuality Studies, has spent the past several months seeking out individuals who have the ear of Chester's teens. His goal is to determine who has access to the teens and what programming they provide to find entry points for a coordinated sexual health program.

"Delaware County doesn’t have a unified health department," said Sitron. "There are activities going on related to sexual health for people of many ages, but very little is coordinated comprehensively."

Sitron eventually wants to fill that void with the establishment of a new Widener initiative run by graduate students from the Center for Human Sexuality Studies, which is guided by evidence-based practices.

“I want our group to be the resource community members and organizations could turn to for sexual health information and advice about professional practice,” he said. “We hope to run programs for teens and parents in addition to trainings for professionals working in the community on issues related to sexual health. ”

Supported by a $6,000 Borislow Fellowship, Sitron and a handful of human sexuality graduate students are currently engrossed in a community study to pinpoint the major players and programs with influence over Chester youth. They are collaborating with the Smedley Teen Wellness Center at Crozer Chester Medical Center, the Healthy Start Program, the Delaware County Family Center and other member organizations of the Communities that Care Network to gather information while also piloting sexual health educational programming. Sitron says that this information-gathering stage will help the team determine what the new Widener initiative looks like.

“I eventually see our students running a well-organized community outreach initiative, similar to the variety of on-campus clinics that provide direct services to community members,” Sitron said. “They ultimately will work toward the goal of educating teens and their parents about sexual health and empowering others in the city who work with them to be approachable and knowledgeable resources for sexual health information. We want these individuals to be able to have developmentally appropriate conversations with constituents from birth through adulthood to help people live their best possible life.”
University Honors Distinguished University Professors

A united spirit cannot be beaten.”

Widener faculty and staff recently honored the university’s 2015 Distinguished University Professors with a reception in the Pennsylvania Military College Museum. This year’s honorees are Dr. Iqbal Mansur of the School of Business Administration and Dr. Barbara Patterson of the School of Nursing.

The Distinguished University Professor designation recognizes Widener Main Campus faculty for excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. As Distinguished University Professors, Mansur and Patterson will hold the designation for three years and receive an award of $2,500 for each year of the appointment.

Read the full press release to learn more about the accomplishments of Mansur and Patterson.

Widener Welcomes Dr. Wollman

President Designee Dr. Julie Wollman greeted the Widener community at a Town Hall on Nov. 20. She is pictured meeting junior Nicolette Epifani following her speech and Q-and-A.

For those who missed the Town Hall, video of the event is available at https://vimeo.com/146432856.

Password: Widener

Points of Pride...

Students Host Second Annual Community Tech Day

The Widener Computer Science Department hosted its second Community Tech Day on Nov. 14. Students, faculty and staff volunteered their time on a Saturday to offer computer diagnostic and repair help to Chester residents and nonprofit organizations.

The event, co-sponsored by IBM, is a unique service-learning opportunity for students. Student participants engage in multiple training sessions before using the knowledge they’ve gained to service the computers of Chester residents.

“It’s about helping other people to understand the equipment, because you need to be just as effective helping people rather than just writing code,” said sophomore David Bennett.

To learn more, see the widener.edu homepage feature story with video and a Flickr gallery about this event.
In 2007, Melody Buckholt, assistant director of International Student Programming at Widener, spent a year abroad in London while earning her bachelor’s degree. This experience planted the seed that she could make a career out of assisting international students. It was the start of a journey that ended with her landing her dream job at Widener last September.

“I’ve been looking for this job for seven years,” Buckholt said. “When I was in London, the people there helped me transition. I couldn’t have done it without their support. I realized how important it was to have people assist students with the transition process of living in a foreign country.”

The Wisconsin native studied history and secondary education. She had originally planned on becoming a teacher and even spent a year in Hong Kong teaching and tutoring students in English. Once Buckholt set out to pursue a career in international student services, however, she applied and was accepted into the comparative and international education master’s program at Columbia University.

Before coming to Widener, Buckholt was with the American International Recruitment Counsel in Bethesda, Md., where she worked with agencies to ensure ethical protocols and helped universities prepare for international students.

Her experience was a perfect fit for the role of at Widener. “I’m finally where I want to be,” Buckholt said. “It’s been great having university support to expand programming for our international student population.”

Buckholt works with Kandy Turner, director of ISS, to help international students adjust to life at Widener. She handles all programming for international students, including orientation and International Education Week, and manages the immigration processes for new students.

This past summer, she helped launch a new mentor program that matches Widener students with incoming international students over Skype. The program is set to expand to include students meeting twice a month.

“It’s rewarding to see the international students integrate so well with the students here at Widener,” she said.

In her role, Buckholt also works with American students to help them learn more about other cultures. This past summer, she led a Cultural Immersion Trip to the Gullah/Geechee Nation in South Carolina, and in May, she will take another group of students to the South for a Civil Rights tour.

Off campus, the Sharon Hill, Pa., resident is busy planning her upcoming wedding to fiancé, Cory, which will occur in Wisconsin in June. While she is excited for the wedding, she admits that she is even more excited for the honeymoon because she loves traveling to new places. Buckholt also enjoys exploring Philadelphia with the international students and cooking.

Widener Celebrates International Education Week

Last week Widener University celebrated International Education Week by promoting the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide through a number of events, including restaurant visits and a lecture by Queen Quet, chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation. The week culminated with a “We’re All Widener” Multicultural Fair, pictured above, which featured a showcase of performances and food samplings from around the world.

For more photos of #IEW2015, visit the International Week Fair Flickr album and the International Week Speakers Flickr album.
Faculty Fellow Corner: Preparing Undergraduate Students and Faculty for Research Presentations

By Dr. Mimi Staulters, associate professor in the Center for Education within the School of Education, Hospitality and Continuing Studies and Faculty Fellow

Professional conferences provide undergraduates with opportunities to absorb new information and ideas. For undergraduates studying special education, conferences provide a unique arena for learning how researchers integrate evidence-based practices and how these practices impact children and youth with disabilities. Many undergraduates are enthusiastic about the research process and willingly engage with faculty mentors to conduct and present studies. The experience allows them to generalize information learned in their coursework and prepares them to communicate critical information (Cox & Andriot, 2009) to peers, professionals and to families of children with disabilities.

I have found the process of preparing undergraduates to present research both challenging and rewarding. My experiences working with undergraduates in the research process have taught me to plan carefully. I start preparation earlier because I sometimes overestimate what undergraduates know about research. I provide examples of various forms of research, but begin and end with studies using methodologies similar to the one in our study. I find it important to task analyze the process and illustrate each step in a diagram. To stay active in the process we meet often and use shared spaces to make the work accessible.

In November, I traveled to Phoenix, Ariz., with four undergraduates from the Center for Education’s PreK-4/Special Education Program: Alie Alkins, Jaclyn Bailey, Melanie Joyce and Erin Redding. The students presented an interactive paper at the National Council for Exceptional Children—Teacher Education Division on the interdisciplinary research project initiated by Dr. Nancy Blank and me in August 2014. The research project involves evaluating a service-learning experience in which undergraduates provide literacy instruction to youth on probation. These four students had acted as literacy instructors for two semesters, participated in the paper by writing the literature review and results and presented all components of the project entirely on their own.

Despite having previously traveled with undergraduates, I too learned much from this experience. I will now be prepared when: a) a student’s cellphone falls under the airplane as she steps from the ramp to the plane (thankfully the pilot retrieved it); b) a student’s bag is found shredded at the baggage claim; and c) the terminal gets locked down because a traveler leaves his or her baggage unattended. Despite these events, the trip was a success as the students were amazing in their presentation.

To contact Staulters to continue the discussion about this topic or any of the other Faculty Fellows, contact Dr. Brigitte Valeysey, assistant provost for teaching, learning and assessment at bgvalesey@widener.edu or ext. 4485.


P&L Mini-Grant Funds Art Museum Excursion

Dr. Beatriz Urraca, director of the Gender and Women’s Studies Program and associate professor of Spanish, recently took a group of students to the Philadelphia Art Museum to look at paintings by Miró, Picasso and Dalí as part of her Spanish 304 course titled Spanish Culture and Civilization. The trip was sponsored by a Performance and Learning Mini-Grant distributed by the Office of Student Life.

Pictured left with the AMOR statue are, from left to right, Trevor Piotti, LaIndia Santos-Phillips, Eric Palmiero, Alexa Steffens, Gabriela Mongelós and Yuheiry Rodríguez.
New Public Service Program Supports Delaware Inventors

Delaware Law School launched a free public service Monday that supports innovation and creativity for people with the next ‘big invention,’ while also providing an experiential learning opportunity for students.

U.S. Sen. Chris Coons served as the keynote speaker for the Delaware Patent Pro Bono Program kickoff, which was attended by about 125 students, attorneys, members of the business community, friends of the school and state and federal officials.

The program, led by Professor Alan E. Garfield, will provide income-eligible Delaware inventors with free legal advice as they maneuver the U.S. patent application process. It is a collaboration between the school and registered patent attorneys and agents, with assistance from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, known as the USPTO.

“By marrying together those from the bar, Delaware Law students and members of the USPTO, we have an opportunity to make history and make a difference,” Coons said. “What you are celebrating today will incentivize creativity and motivate collaboration.”

A new web resource, unveiled at the launch, provides information for prospective inventor applicants, attorneys and agents interested in volunteering with the program, and law students who want to get involved. The resource is located on the law school’s website and can be found at delawarelaw.widener.edu/community-friends/patent-pro-bono-program.

To be eligible for services, inventors must be Delaware residents, meet income eligibility requirements, have a general knowledge of the patent system and have an actual invention—not just an idea. The program is open to solo inventors and small businesses.

“This program represents a unique opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in patent law, counseling and prosecution,” third-year law student Sarah Slinger, vice president of the school Intellectual Property Society, said at the launch. “By working with practicing patent attorneys, students will be able to see real patent practice in action.”

Registered patent attorneys James M. Lennon, a partner at Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, and Joan T. Kluger, a partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP, will serve as lead attorney volunteers for the program. They are seeking additional volunteers.

Dean Rod Smolla said the program launches at an exciting time for Delaware Law School, which is reimagining its future with missions centered on education, intellect and public service. “As the state’s first and only law school, we have a special duty to Delaware,” he said.

Widener Law Commonwealth Honors Vince DeLiberato at Evening at the Capitol

Widener Law Commonwealth recently honored Vince DeLiberato, director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, at the annual Evening at the Capitol event. DeLiberato, who also serves as an adjunct faculty member for the law school, earned the Government Leadership Award for his dedication to students who wish to pursue a career in state government. The award, which was presented by Rep. Ron Marsico–R, was the first of its kind to be given.

Each year the annual Evening at the Capitol event brings students, faculty, alumni and friends together for a night of networking and conversation.

Dean Christian Johnson thanked DeLiberato for his dedication in helping Widener Law Commonwealth students study for the Bar, as well as for the excellent job he does when teaching the legislative drafting courses that are important for students seeking the certificate in Law and Government from the school.

“We are very thankful for all of the help and guidance that Vince provides to our students,” Johnson said. “He dedicates his own time and resources to helping our students succeed, and we see the results of that by looking at our graduates who have gone on to successful jobs in government.”
Students Involved in PUSH take Action on a Local Level

Last spring Widener University joined Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH), a rapidly growing consortium of colleges and universities worldwide that are committed to addressing world hunger through collective action and sharing best practices in teaching, research, outreach and student engagement.

Ronnie Rabena, ’16, led the effort to recruit Widener to join in the consortium after attending the Universities Fighting World Hunger annual summit in Canada.

During a trip to Honduras as a part of a course taught by Dr. Patrica Dyer, director of study abroad and the Writing Center, Rabena and other Widener students had the opportunity to work with students from Zamorano University in constructing a mini-farm on the property.

This fall, a student committee that Rabena started helped develop efforts to fight hunger locally by raising money to purchase a freezer for a food pantry at the North Chester Baptist Church, donating food to the pantry and volunteering at Ruth L. Bennett Farm in Chester.

In 2014 the Chester Housing Authority partnered with the Urban Tree Connection to help transform the space into a fully functional place that inspires and promotes positive human interaction. Terrance Topping-Brown joined the Urban Tree Connection that year as a farm manager and began working in the Ruth L. Bennett Farm. Under his leadership, the farm was able to harvest 2,500 pounds of food from okra and eggplant to sweet potatoes and kale this past spring.

“We want to continue to produce this amount of food throughout the year,” Topping-Brown said. “We need to make room for another greenhouse so that we can extend the growing season.”

After learning of the farm, Rabena saw this as a great project to get involved with, as it aligned with the mission of PUSH. For the past eight weeks, Widener students have spent their Saturdays working on the farm. They have assisted with everything from trash removal and wood shipping to installing garden beds and maintaining blueberry fields.

“The Widener students have been a huge asset in helping us achieve so much in a short period of time,” Topping-Brown said.

For Rabena, it’s been exciting to see so many students volunteering their time at the farm. “It’s a beautiful place, and it’s great to know that what we are doing will help benefit the community.”

National Authority on Engaged Scholarship Named Inaugural Seletz Visiting City Fellow

Widener has announced the selection of Dr. Timothy Eatman, a professor of education at Syracuse University and a national authority on engaged scholarship, as the inaugural Seletz Visiting Civic Fellow for the 2015–16 and 2016–17 academic years.

As the Seletz Visiting Civic Fellow, Eatman will present a talk on his research related to engaged scholarship at 12 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7 in Freedom Hall, Room 122. He will also conduct listening sessions open to Widener faculty at 4 p.m. Dec. 7 and 9 a.m. Dec. 8 in the University Center Webb Room.

“Dr. Eatman will utilize story circles in these listening sessions, so it is a chance to learn something about this methodology,” said Interim President Stephen C. Wilhite.

The Seletz Fellow is an individual external to the Widener community who is selected for his/her expertise in civic engagement. The fellow meets with members of the university community to discuss the university’s civic engagement efforts and to offer advice on strengthening those initiatives in relation to their impact on student learning and on meeting the needs of community partners.

In addition to his faculty position at Syracuse, Eatman is co-faculty director of Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life. He is also co-principal investigator of the Tenure Team Initiative on Public Scholarship. The research focuses on improving rewards systems for faculty who practice engaged scholarship in the cultural disciplines.

Norman Seletz, a 1949 graduate of Pennsylvania Military College, honored Widener with an estate gift upon his death in 2010. This gift funds the Seletz Visiting Civic Fellow Program.
**Noteworthy**

**John Dernbach**, professor of law at Widener Law Commonwealth, and his **Sustainability Law and Practice class** presented to township solicitors at the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. Pictured below from left to right are **Dernbach, Andrew Miller, Inderdeep Paul, Derek Young, Jordan Wartman, Robert Lavelle, Joseph Quinones, Robert Bucher, Brett Flower** and PSATS General Counsel Scott Coburn.

Dernbach also recently spoke on a panel titled “Financing Collective Action to Combat Climate Change” as part of a conference on law, justice and development at the World Bank in Washington, D.C.


Family also was the moderator at the Dauphin County Bar Association’s event, which featured a conversation between John Hanger, director of Planning and Policy for Gov. Tom Wolf, and Geoff Moulton, deputy general counsel for the Governor’s Office of General Counsel, about the role of lawyers in the executive branch.

**Dr. Joseph P. Fuhr**, professor of economics, presented “Biosimilars: Prospects for Competition and Savings” on Nov. 4 at the Rutgers Business School Campbell Pharmaceutical Series held in Newark, N.J.

Center for Hospitality students **Daniel Jarosz** (pictured above, left) and **Leonard (Lenny) Welch** (pictured above, right) each captured a $5,000 scholarship award from the Club Managers Association of America, Philadelphia and Vicinity. Jarosz, a graduate student studying hospitality and tourism, won the Student Intern of the Year award for his contributions to the Union League of Philadelphia. Welch won the Daniel Layman Scholarship Prize, recognizing an undergraduate student in hospitality for his/her contributions and interests in the club industry. The winner must be a student member of CMAA, registered in a club management course, have club work experience and demonstrated good work ethic, both in and out of the classroom. Welch most recently worked (and is still employed) by the Radley Run Country Club in West Chester, Pa.

**Dr. Rebecca Jones**, associate professor of political science, and political science and international relations students **Ronnie Rabena, ’16**, and **Aaron Smith, ’17**, presented their paper “Finding Political Power after Genocide: Albanian Parties in Serbia” at the 47th Annual Northeastern Political Science Association meeting in Philadelphia on Nov. 12. This paper is a continuation of the project the students worked on this past summer as part of the Widener Summer Research Program.

**Dr. Janine Utell**, professor and chair of English, has published “Engagements with Narrative” with academic publisher Routledge (a division of Taylor & Francis). This book is part of the Routledge Engagements with Literature series, which is edited by **Dr. Daniel Robinson**, professor of English at Widener.

The **Widener University Rotaract Club** celebrates 25 years of service through their charter affiliation with the Rotary Club of Chester in November. This student-led organization selects community service projects in the local community to support through their volunteer efforts. **Molly McKeown, ’18**, attended a Rotary Club of Chester luncheon in October to be officially sworn in to her new role as president. McKeown was recognized for her community outreach and accomplishments. Pictured below from left to right are **Karen Daly**, faculty adviser; **Warren Sell**, president of the Rotary Club of Chester; McKeown; and Chad Rosenberg, Rotary District 7450 governor.
Two-Week Peek
A Look at the Next Two Weeks in Widener Events

Thursday, Nov. 26
Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, Nov. 29
3 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. Haverford College; Home

Monday, Nov. 30
1–1:30 p.m. **On-Campus Lecture by Physicist and Futurist Michio Kaku**; Alumni Auditorium (Reserved seating only)

6–7 p.m. **Stargazing**; Widener Observatory

8–9 p.m. **Philadelphia Speakers Series: Michio Kaku**; Kimmel Center

Tuesday, Dec. 1
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. **Hospitality Luncheon Series**; Marriott Dining Room

5 p.m. **Co-op Orientation**; University Center Webb Room

Wednesday, Dec. 2
4 p.m. Hon. Charles P. Mirarchi, Jr. Pennsylvania Bar Induction Ceremony organized by Delaware Law School; Courtroom 653 in Philadelphia City Hall

Thursday, Dec. 3
9 a.m.–12 p.m. **SBDC Government Marketing Seminar**; Widener SBDC

4 p.m. **Human Resources Career Panel**; University Center, Room A

Friday, Dec. 4
8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Legal Writing Institute One-Day Conference: What the Best Legal Writing Professors Do in the Classroom; Widener Law Commonwealth, Library Building, 205

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**On-Campus Lecture by Physicist and Futurist Michio Kaku**

**When:** Monday, Nov. 30 1 p.m.

**Where:** Alumni Auditorium

**Details:** A best-selling author and popularizer of science, Kaku continues Einstein's pursuit to unite the four fundamental forces of nature into a single glorious theory of the universe. He wrote several scholarly pieces and has published more than 70 articles. Kaku authored several international best sellers, including “Physics of the Future,” “Physics of the Impossible,” “Parallel Worlds,” “Einstein’s Cosmos,” “Beyond Einstein” and “Hyperspace”. His most recent book, “The Future of the Mind: The Scientific Quest to Understand, Enhance, and Empower the Mind,” expounds the power and complexity of the human brain.

The event is free and open to the public, but space is limited. To reserve seating, call 610-499-4112 or e-mail cjcaporale@widener.edu.

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7 p.m. **Chamber Music and Dance Recital**; Kapelski Recital Hall

8–9 p.m. **Stargazing**; Widener Observatory

**Saturday, Dec. 5**

1 p.m. Men’s and Women’s Swimming vs. Salisbury University; Home

7 p.m. **Widener Chorale Concert**; Lathem Hall

**Sunday, Dec. 6**

7 p.m. **Vocal Studio Recital**; Lathem Hall

**Monday, Dec. 7**

12 p.m. **Seletz Visiting Civic Fellow Lecture**; Freedom Hall, 122

6–7 p.m. **Stargazing**; Widener Observatory

**Tuesday, Dec. 8**

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. **Hospitality Luncheon Series**; Marriott Dining Room

**Friday, Dec. 11**

Last Day of Classes on Main Campus

Nov. 25 through Dec. 21, the Delaware Law School will run its Adopt-A-Family Program. Donations are accepted in the Public Relations Office, room 276 in the Main Law Building clinic wing, or the Registrar's Office in the Main Law Building student services wing.