

Digital archives allow alumni to search for yearbooks, photos, and more online

The word “archive” conjures visions of locked rooms stacked with old books and dusty boxes filled with artifacts in a place where the past goes to be forgotten. That’s not the case with the Widener University Archives of the Wolfgram Memorial Library, which is giving history new life and bringing it straight to your laptop or smart phone.

Archivists Jan Alexander and Jill Borin have spearheaded an effort to bring the collection into the 21st century by scanning historical documents and photos and loading the images into a searchable, online database available to all. The result, Wolfgram Memorial Library Digital Collections, is available at <http://digitalwolfgram.widener.edu>.

“People are just thrilled when they learn they can receive this depth of information that we formerly weren’t able to provide to them,” Alexander said.

For alumni, Digital Collections is a trip down memory lane. Can’t find your Pennsylvania Military College or Widener yearbook? It has been scanned and uploaded to the database, as have all the issues of *The Dome* and *PMC News*. For genealogists, Digital Collections can be a treasure trove of information on family members who attended the institution.

In addition to yearbooks and newspapers, Digital Archives includes biographies and photos of notable alumni, institutional

histories, old photographs and scrapbooks, and even a digital version of Widener’s award-winning Connections Timeline that is in Alumni Auditorium. Digital Archives is also

becoming an important resource for information on Chester history.

Clyde Tinklepaugh ‘73, a military history buff, has found the Digital Collections to be an invaluable resource. He attended a workshop on how to use the online database during Alumni Weekend in April.

“There is something to be said for actually being able to see the originals,” Tinklepaugh said, “but the database makes it so much easier. I spent hours and hours going through old yearbooks. You can search on keywords and names, and it’s really nice. It’s a great time saver.”

Though all of this content exists at your fingertips, the hard work it required has been a labor of love for Alexander and Borin. They credit undergraduate student Bob Forsythe and archives assistant Rosalie Fisher as being great assets to the project,

each spending a year scanning newspapers and yearbooks.

“I just love creating access to these wonderfully valuable historic materials,” Alexander said. “It has expanded access to our history tremendously.”



Archivist Jan Alexander (standing) readies the camera as Jill Borin arranges an artifact.

Law School earns prestigious accreditations

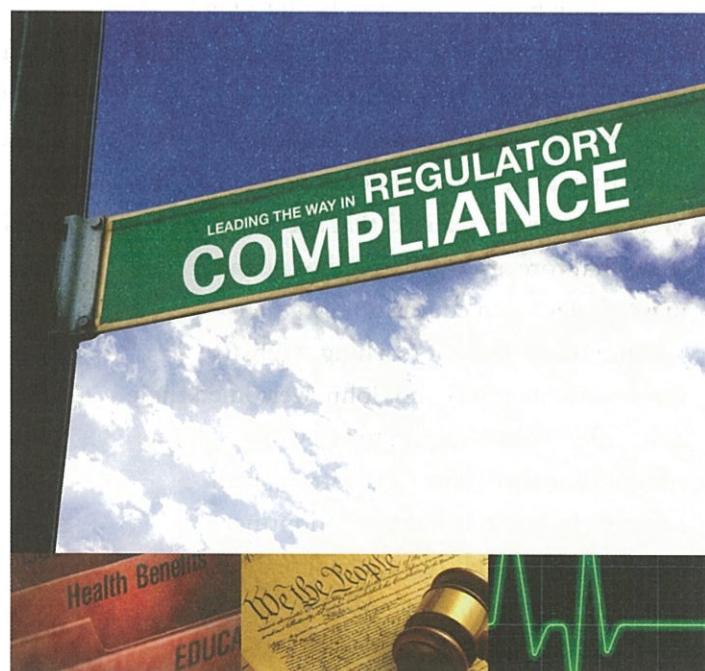
The School of Law recently earned accreditation from the Compliance Certification Board underscoring the quality of Widener’s corporate and health law programs.

CCB is an umbrella organization for several affiliates including the Health Care Compliance Association and the Society for Corporate Compliance and Ethics. The accreditations for Widener’s programs are through these two organizations.

The society accredited the Institute of Delaware Corporate and Business Law’s masters of jurisprudence, doctor of laws, and doctor of juridical science programs in corporate law. Widener boasts the only law school in the nation to hold this accreditation.

The association accredited the master’s of jurisprudence, doctor of laws, and doctor of juridical science degrees offered through the Health Law Institute. Widener is one of only two law schools to hold this accreditation.

The accreditations mean Widener graduates of these programs are eligible to sit for certification exams without having to complete the normal prerequisite of 1,500 hours work experience in the field. “That prerequisite can be hard to satisfy because it can be difficult to get a job if you are not certified,” said Andrew Fichter, who teaches with the Health Law Institute. “That’s a real advantage for Widener students.”



Alumnus Leads Peace Corps in Micronesia



Renwick Nelson '68 (left) enjoys a little free time with children from Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia in November.

Renwick Nelson '68 and his wife, Brenda Drew, didn't like the idea of "sitting around" in retirement. So, when they both retired – Nelson in 1997 from a career as an attorney and business manager and Drew three years later from a career in information technology – they let Drew's penchant for adventure lead the way. They enrolled in the Peace Corps and traveled to Tonga, where they spent two years, 2000-2002, as volunteers.

At 66, Nelson remains involved with the Peace Corps – now on the administrative side – as the Peace Corps country director in Micronesia. He oversees operations and supports the work of 69 volunteers in posts throughout Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia.

"Most of these volunteers come right out of school and travel to a foreign country to give of themselves for two years, so they deserve all the support I can give them," Nelson said.

His group's primary goal in Micronesia is to teach English in elementary schools, helping students gain a higher self esteem through education. It's a mission near and dear to his heart as Nelson's first Peace Corps experience in Tonga placed him in a classroom to teach business and law courses to students who had poor English skills, yet hoped to attend a university in New Zealand or Australia.

Nelson said that volunteering was the "greatest professional experience" of his life and that the good natured Tongan people forever changed him. "They made me more aware of my responsibility to share my good fortune with others," he said.

Since volunteering in Tonga, Nelson and his wife have each held a variety of administrative roles with the Peace Corps. Nelson became an administrative officer for Peace Corps/Thailand in 2007; chief administrative officer for the Europe, Mediterranean and Asia region in Peace Corps headquarters in 2009; and country director in Micronesia in 2010.

Although Nelson's involvement with the Peace Corps came later in life, he recognized the importance of service early on as a member of the U.S. Air Force from 1964 to 1972. He attended Widener while serving in the Air Force and graduated from the university, then Penn Morton College, in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in systems engineering. He went on to earn an MBA from the University of Utah and JD from the University of Florida.

"I love what I'm doing, so I'll probably keep doing what I'm doing as long as I can," Nelson said. ■

Fashion merchandising grad designs hats for girls; names one blue and gold model, "Chester, PA"

Deborah Webster-Cornell '89 studied fashion merchandising at Widener with the dream of becoming a buyer for Bloomingdales. However, the children's hat designer didn't take the typical career path in the fashion world.

As a student at Widener, Webster-Cornell traveled to Italy and France to visit art museums and fashion houses. "Yes, I've been to Dior," she said. After graduating, she held a variety of jobs in retail, eventually becoming manager at J.Crew in Maryland where she was responsible for more than \$100,000 in sales per day. In time, Webster-Cornell realized that she didn't want to do that forever, and decided to pursue a master's degree in education.

After a few years of teaching, Webster-Cornell and her husband, John, welcomed their first child, Anna Grace, 7, to the world. They adopted another child, Charlotte, 5, from Ethiopia in 2007. It was after adopting Charlotte that Webster-Cornell realized she still had a passion for fashion.

"Soon after adopting Charlotte, winter set in

and we struggled to find winter hats that had satin lining that wouldn't mess up her braids," she said. In an effort to find a solution, the former fashion merchandising major decided to make the hats herself, using satin lining inside a high quality fleece material. The next thing she knew, other parents and children were noticing her daughters' hats and wanted their own. "I had so many people asking for them I felt I needed to make it formal," she said. Thus, Konjono was born.

Konjono, which means "it's beautiful" in Amharic, the primary language of Ethiopia, was officially started in 2009, and is growing in popularity. Though a major part of her orders are sold wholesale to boutiques, she also runs an online store, www.konjono.com, where



Deborah Webster-Cornell with the inspirations for her hats, daughters Charlotte (left) and Anna Grace (right).

customers can customize their own hats. "I never thought it would grow to be an online store," Webster-Cornell said. There are a variety of colors and designs, including one adorned in blue and gold called the "Chester, PA" hat.

Currently, the hats are manufactured in Brunswick, GA, Webster-Cornell's current hometown, but her goal is to have them manufactured in Ethiopia. "In a developing country women are typically the backbone of the culture," Webster-Cornell explained. "In Ethiopia, the

women walk up mountains carrying wood, along with their babies, to earn a penny for 15 hours worth of work." She wants not only provide work options for them, but to take it a step further and set up internships for these women so they learn sewing skills and other business competencies. ■

Widener kicks-off "Taking the Lead" campaign

Alumni Weekend was the backdrop for the kick-off of "Taking the Lead: The Campaign for Widener" with an April 16 pep rally style event. Widener President James T. Harris III announced to an enthusiastic crowd that the university had already raised \$37.3 million toward its goal of \$58 million thanks to the generous donations of Widener alumni and friends. The weekend ended with the annual Widener University-Pennsylvania Military College Alumni Association Awards Banquet. The following alumni received awards:

David M. Hall '06 of Doylestown, PA, received the Outstanding Alumnus Award. A teacher by training and profession, Hall is a nationally recognized educator, distinguished corporate trainer, author and professor. A social studies teacher at North Penn High School in Lansdale since 1998, Hall was named the runner-up for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network Educator of the Year award in 2010, and won the 2004 Teacher of the Year award from the Lansdale, PA, Junior Chamber of Commerce.

John F. Mahoney of Wilmington, DE, an associate professor of hospitality management at Widener, received the R. Kelso Carter Award, presented to a non-Widener graduate. A member of the faculty since 1983, Mahoney has served as director of graduate programs in hospitality management since 2002. He has twice been a finalist for the Stevenson W. Fletcher Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching presented by the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education, and received the Lindback Distinguished Faculty Member Award for Excellence in Teaching from Widener in 1986.

Michael Brady '97, '00 of Springfield, PA, who served as president of the Widener University-Pennsylvania Military College Alumni Association from 2006 to 2009, received the Alumni Service Award. As president of the Widener-PMC Alumni Association, the association embarked on a strategic planning process which has resulted in the structure of the association today. As president of the association, Brady also served as a valuable member of the university's Board of Trustees.

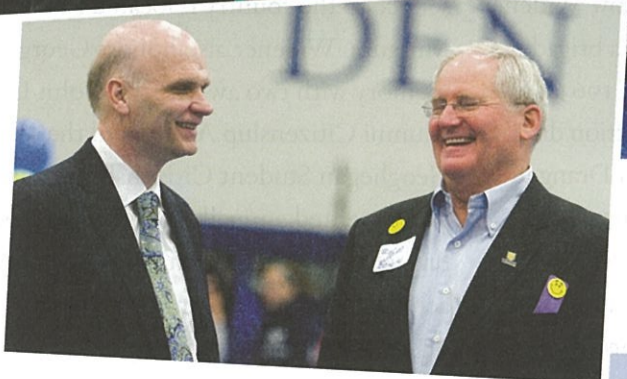
Nicole (Perkins) Siemer '06 of Schuylkill Haven, PA, received the John L. Geoghegan Alumni Citizenship Award. A member of the Reserve



Alumni awards recipients (left to right) David M. Hall '06, Jonathan Krisko '11, Lindsey Boran '06 (accepting on behalf of Nicole Seimer '06), Associate Professor John F. Mahoney, and Michael Brady '97, '00.

Officers Training Corps while at Widener, Siemer graduated with a bachelor's degree in hospitality management as was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Her military service has included running the multi-national Division-South Women's Initiatives Program, managing small business development program for Iraqi widows. In addition, she became the Women's Initiatives Coordinator for the U.S. State Department at the Basra Provincial Reconstructive Team.

Jonathon Krisko of Schnecksville, PA, a May 2011 graduate with a dual major in political science and criminal justice, received the John L. Geoghegan Student Citizenship Award. A member of the Widener Army ROTC, Krisko participated in the color guard, Battery Robinette and Ranger Challenge. As a senior, Krisko was promoted to cadet battalion commander. In addition to his ROTC activities, he was a member of the Honors Program in General Education, the Political Science Honors Fraternity Pi Sigma Alpha, EuroSim, and a special interest housing leader. He was also a President's List honoree. PHOTO



Top: Head Football Coach Isaac Collins rallies the crowd with chants of "Widener Pride."

Bottom: "Taking the Lead" Campaign Chair Tom Bown '67 (right) shares a laugh with St. Joseph's University basketball coach and Widener alumnus Phil Martelli '76.



Former Alumni Association President Ayana Wood (center) starts the crowd dancing with encouragement from Chester, the Widener Pride mascot (right).



Associate Director of Admission Courtney Kelly '09, and her son, Dylan, enjoy the festivities.

The campus kick-off for the "Taking the Lead" campaign was a rousing success. Check out videos of featured speakers and photos of the event at <http://campaign.widener.edu/index.html> and please consider making a gift.

Malaysia alumni reunite in Cyberjaya

Widener alumni in Malaysia showed their pride in December, turning out for a reunion in the city of Cyberjaya, known as the Silicon Valley of Malaysia.

Reunion organizer Shariman Azeze Otoh '95 welcomed 17 alumni and their families to the reunion. In all, more than 50 people enjoyed the festivities. The group stays in contact through a Yahoo! Group titled Widener-MY Widener University Alumni — Malaysia where they share the latest news on fellow alumni and plan get-togethers. The reunion was the group's second. They gathered for the first time a few years ago in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur. 



Seventeen Widener alumni attended the second Malaysia alumni reunion including (front row, left to right) Khairul Dahri Mohd Aris '98, Ikmal Hisham Ismail '95, Suhaimi Md. Pazil '95, Wan Nuzaimah Wan Mohd Nor '95, Noor Binun Endut '95, Rosaini Ayu Mohammed Razali '95, Amizon Azizan '97, Ainuddin Marzuki '97, Norliza Aida Ujang, Inarini Baidzawi '99, (back row, left to right) Shariman Azeze Otoh '95, Norisham Abdulmutalib '98, Mohd Khairul Adnan '95, Jamaili Basar '99, Kamarul Zaini '99, Rahadi Ramom '96, and Ahmad Nasir Mohd Daud '99.

Alumni regional chapter contact information

Alumni regional chapters are growing rapidly and hosting an increasing number of events. If you are not currently involved in an alumni chapter, and you live in one of the regions listed below, please e-mail the chapter contact to become involved.

If you live in a region not represented by a chapter and would like to start one, please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at 610-499-1154 or alumnioffice@widener.edu.

Philadelphia County, PA
Jeff Flynn '04
jeffrey.t.flynn@gmail.com

Chester County, PA
Frank Pellegrini '66
fpellegrini@maillie.com

Bucks & Montgomery counties, PA
Gregg Strom '64
gstro@stonemor.com

Delaware County, PA
Jim Gentile '77
jjgdds@mac.com

South Jersey
Office of Alumni Engagement
alumnioffice@widener.edu

Wilmington, DE
Vera Kunkel '78
liberal@magpage.com

Atlanta, GA
Morrie Spang '62
morriespang@comcast.net

Baltimore, MD
Donna Spinella '94
dlssai@aol.com

California
Sharon Carothers '92
scarothe@worldnet.att.net

Central PA
Ryan Riley '07
centralpa.alumni@gmail.com

District of Columbia
Dave Almacy '92
david.almacy@gmail.com

Florida – East Coast
Tom Dougherty '93
tdougherty@rccl.com

Florida – West Coast
Office of Alumni Engagement
alumnioffice@widener.edu

Florida – Orlando
Office of Alumni Engagement
alumnioffice@widener.edu

New York City/ North Jersey
Office of Alumni Engagement
alumnioffice@widener.edu

Puerto Rico
Dennis Lopez '85
Dennis.Lopez@compass-usa.com

Washington State:
Alex Poblete '89
alex@dmp-inc.us

For the latest information about upcoming events, please visit:
<http://alumni.widener.edu/events>

Alumnus inducted into Pelham Hall of Honor

It has been 45 years since Pennsylvania Military College alumnus Lt. John L. "Jack" Geoghegan '63 gave his life for his country in Vietnam, but he continues to be recognized for his accomplishments and honored by his classmates.

In October, Geoghegan, a native of Pelham, NY, was inducted posthumously into the Pelham Hall of Honor, with PMC classmate David McNulty '63 assisting in the honors.

McNulty was joined by Geoghegan's wife, Barbara Johns Geoghegan, and daughter, Camile Olson. He gave regards on behalf of Widener University, and talked as a friend and classmate about Geoghegan as a student at PMC. Bill




Barbara Johns Geoghegan (left), Camile Olson (center), and David McNulty '63 at the Pelham Hall of Honor induction ceremony.

Evonsky, a fellow member of the class of 1963, came from Connecticut for the ceremony. Geoghegan graduated from PMC (now Widener University) as a brigade commander in 1963. He was killed in action during the battle of Ia Drang in November 1965 while attempting to rescue a fellow soldier. This event was documented in the book *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young* by Harold Moore and Joseph Galloway. A film based on the novel was released in 2002 and starred Chris Klein as Geoghegan.

McNulty introduced Barbara who read a letter written by Geoghegan's mother to the town of Pelham after his death. "Barbara agreed to do it if I

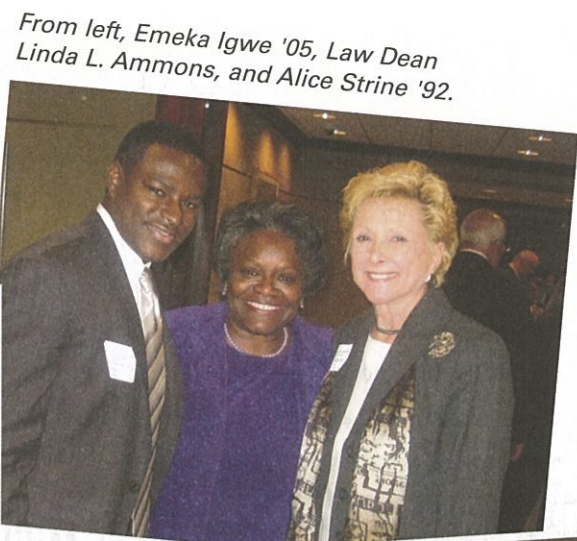
stood behind her," McNulty said. "She got through it and everybody was crying. It was a beautiful event."

Geoghegan is memorialized on campus at the Class of 1963 memorial adjacent the Alumni Auditorium. In addition, a display honoring his service to the country is located in the PMC Museum. Widener also honors Geoghegan's memory with two awards: The John L. Geoghegan Alumni Citizenship Award and the John L. Geoghegan Student Citizenship Award, which are presented annually to individuals who have brought honor to the university through academic achievement, demonstrated leadership capabilities, or service to the community.

The Pelham Hall of Honor Program was established in 2008 to honor and document the lifetime achievements of Pelham Memorial High School graduates and Pelham residents who have made extraordinary contributions to the country and community. 



From left, Tanya Blissman '97, member of the Alumni Association board; Renae Axelrod '91, board president; and Noelle Palazzo '05, board member.



From left, Emeka Igwe '05, Law Dean Linda L. Ammons, and Alice Strine '92.



Judge Batten '79 (sixth from left) celebrates his alumnus of the year award with family and friends.



From left, Judge Paul Panepinto '76, Jay Kennedy '01, and Larry Raiken '75.

Widener Law presents alumni awards

The School of Law honored several distinguished alumni at its annual alumni awards event that recognizes the leadership, service, and achievement of its graduates. The 2010 awards were presented Dec. 8 at the Pyramid Club in Philadelphia.

The Alumnus of the Year Award was given to Superior Court Judge Raymond Batten of Cape May, NJ. The award is presented to an alumna or alumnus who has brought honor, recognition, and distinction to Widener Law. Batten graduated from the school's Delaware Campus in 1979. At 38, he became the first Widener Law graduate to become a Superior Court judge in New Jersey. He serves on the law school's Board of Overseers, is a member of the school's Alumni Association executive board, and has been a strong supporter of Widener students through internship opportunities with his chambers.

The Outstanding Service Award was presented to Bret Keisling of Harrisburg and Gary Traynor of Dover, DE. Service awards are given for outstanding alumni service to the law school as a whole, to a particular concentration within the school, or to the legal profession.

Keisling graduated from Widener's Harrisburg campus in 2005 and he is president of PAC Industries, Inc. He serves on the law school's Board of Overseers and is an active volunteer with the Moot Court Honor Society.

Traynor graduated from the school's Delaware campus in 1982 and he is a partner at Prickett, Jones & Elliott, P.A. Traynor has served on the faculty of the law school's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program and as a mentor to Widener Law students.

The Outstanding Recent Alumni Award was presented to Christopher Cabott of Philadelphia and Jonathan Koltash of Harrisburg. The award recognizes work by recent graduates who show energy and dedication as community leaders or provide invaluable service to the school.

Cabott graduated from the Delaware Campus in 2005 and he is an entertainment, sports and media attorney, and a National Football League player agent for the Law Office of Lloyd Z. Remick and Zane Management in Philadelphia. Cabott frequently returns to the law school's Delaware Campus, where he has spoken at Professionalism Day and Sports and Entertainment Law Association events.

Koltash graduated from the Harrisburg Campus in 2007 and is assistant counsel in the Office of Chief Counsel for the Department of Labor and Industry in Harrisburg. He is one of the longest-serving volunteers of Widener Law's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in Harrisburg, devoting countless evenings and Saturdays to providing free tax preparation help to the elderly, the working poor and others who meet income-eligibility guidelines. [ad](#)



From left, 2010 Alumni Award winners Gary Traynor '82, Jonathan Koltash '07, Bret Keisling '05, Law Dean Linda L. Ammons, Judge Raymond Batten '79, Renae Axelrod '91, president of the Widener Law Alumni Association, and Christopher Cabott '05.

Fred Dohrmann remains at the top of his game

Coaches and student-athletes come and go, but the one constant in the Widener University Athletic Department for the past 31 years is Fred Dohrmann.

One of the most personable people you would want to meet, Dohrmann is known for his sense of humor, his strong work ethic, and his sincerity.

Recently wrapping up his 30th season as Widener's softball coach, he has amassed 477 career victories. He has also served as director of physical education at the university for the past 25 years. Dohrmann arrived at Widener in 1980 as the assistant men's soccer coach. He parlayed that into being the men's soccer head coach,

wrestling assistant and head coach as well as men's tennis head coach. Things seemed daunting at first, but a little push along the way did not hurt.

"At the time I applied to be the assistant soccer coach at Widener, I was waiting on another job and my dad said, 'You got to be kidding. You can work part-time and make ends meet.' I was overwhelmed, but how exciting was this for a 24-year-old. I just finished four years at Pitt (University of Pittsburgh, his alma mater) and was happy to get back into the

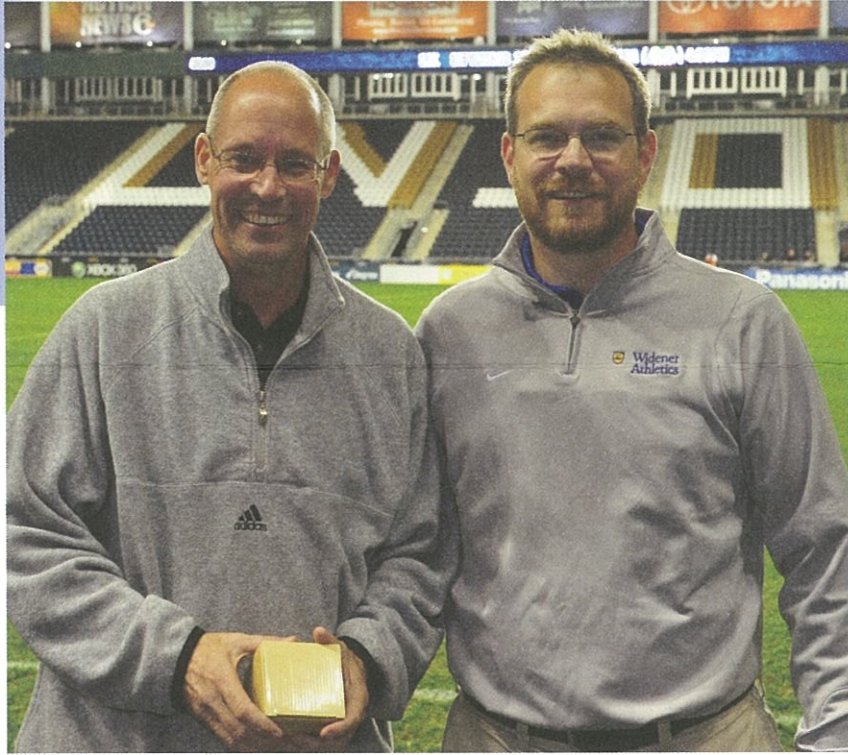
college realm. It's the best rush you can get."

Dohrmann served as wrestling coach until 1985, and stayed on with men's soccer through 2003, leaving as the program's winningest coach. Still, he maintains a heavy schedule and is one many turn to with a question or simply seeking advice. Even with the demanding hours and the changes to his role, Dohrmann would not have it any other way.

"If there is heaven on earth, I am in the middle of it," Dohrmann said. "I get stoked for the start of softball season. I usually don't sleep well before the season and June (his wife of 27 years) tolerates it."

One of his ultimate honors came September 17 when the men's and women's soccer teams played at PPL Park, home of the MLS Philadelphia Union. It was announced before the men's contest that the Pride Cup, men's soccer's end-of-the-year award for leadership on and off the field, would be re-named in his honor. The support from the alumni to push for this change came as a shock to Dohrmann.

"It totally took me off guard and overwhelmed me," Dohrmann said. "I don't know anyone who had an award named after them who is still alive. That in itself is pretty fun." 



Fred Dohrmann (left) with Athletic Director Jack Shafer after announcing the renaming of the Pride Cup in Dohrmann's honor.

Tilleli Fellowships helping to develop leaders

Though the doors of the Oskin Leadership Institute will not open until fall, the institute's mission to develop the character, courage, and competencies for global leadership is already having an impact on students at Widener.

Adam Hillner and Jay Chaffin were the first recipients of the General and Mrs. John H. Tilleli Leadership Fellowship, established by Tilleli '63 with a \$225,000 pledge in 2007 – the first gift to Widener's "Taking the Lead"

campaign. The fellowship, which is a part of the Oskin Leadership Institute, is awarded annually to a graduate student with scholarly interests in leadership.

Both Hillner and Chaffin served their fellowship as interns in Widener's Organizational Development Services (ODS), a unit of the Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology that works collaboratively with leaders to increase organizational effectiveness through leadership training programs, workshops, and other services.

As part of his fellowship, Hillner, a resident of Cincinnati, OH who graduated in 2010, served as an executive coach with ODS, working with campus and community leaders on how to optimize their leadership skills. He also conducted training sessions in emotional competence, the ability for people to assess their own emotional reactions to situations to improve their leadership skills. He is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the National Center for Organization Development.

"I can speak from first-hand experience to the value of this fellowship both in

terms of my individual development as a psychologist working to affect positive change in the ways that leaders guide their followers, as well as the contribution to the field that recipients of this fellowship can make," Hillner said. "I'm honored to have been awarded the Tilleli Fellowship."


Chaffin, a resident of Newtown Square, PA, who received his doctorate in clinical psychology and master's in business administration in June,

conducted similar coaching and training. He conducted research on leadership and presented at two national conferences.

"I want to go into consulting psychology focusing on personnel assessment and development," Chaffin said. "I want

to be able to help people in high profile positions get the most out of their potential as leaders."

Tilleli, a retired four-star general who served two tours of duty in Vietnam and commanded the 1st Cavalry Division during the 1991 Gulf War, said his experience as a cadet at Pennsylvania Military College helped shape him as a leader. He sees the Oskin Leadership Institute and the Tilleli Fellowship as an extension of that leadership legacy.

"They are both intended to stimulate character and courage in individuals so when they go out into the career they choose, their leadership skills will transcend the university experience," Tilleli said. "That's what it's all about." 

"I can speak from first-hand experience to the value of this fellowship. I'm honored to have been awarded the Tilleli Fellowship."

—Adam Hillner '10

Law alumni admitted to Supreme Court Bar

Thirty-seven distinguished Widener Law alumni stood before the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court in November and took the oath to become members of the Supreme Court Bar.

With the court's newest justice, Elena Kagan, looking on and Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. presiding, Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy Holland read the names of the alumni and offered them as fit to become members of the court's bar. Holland is a member of the Widener Law adjunct faculty.

Roberts and Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Samuel A. Alito Jr. joined the Widener contingent in a reception room following the 15-minute court proceeding. "Congratulations to all of you," Justice Roberts said. "It's a significant milestone and we're delighted to have you on board."

Each of the justices visited the Widener reception separately. Alito came first and spoke about his time as a judge on the Philadelphia-based Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Roberts entertained the group with stories about the portraits of former chief justices hanging around the reception room. Ginsburg took questions and generated much applause, particularly from her female admirers.

For Delaware Campus alumnus Tom Cushane '07, the experience was a family affair. Cushane's wife, sister and parents accompanied him to the swearing in. At dinner the evening they all arrived, Cushane's father raised his glass, looked his son in the eye and said, "This is the proudest moment of my life."

Disbelieving, Cushane pressed his father, citing other momentous events in the life of their family. But his father insisted someday, when his own three sons were grown, Cushane would understand. "I was just capti-



United States Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. (front right) chats with Widener Law Dean Linda Ammons, Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland (front left) and Widener Law alumni after their induction into the Supreme Court Bar.

vated by my parents' complete exuberance over the whole thing," he said. "It was even bigger than mine."

Cushane's father died suddenly a month later, before Cushane's bar membership certificate arrived. "The experience ended up carrying an even greater significance for me," he said. "I will never, ever gaze at that certificate without thinking of that day, or what it meant to share it with my family."

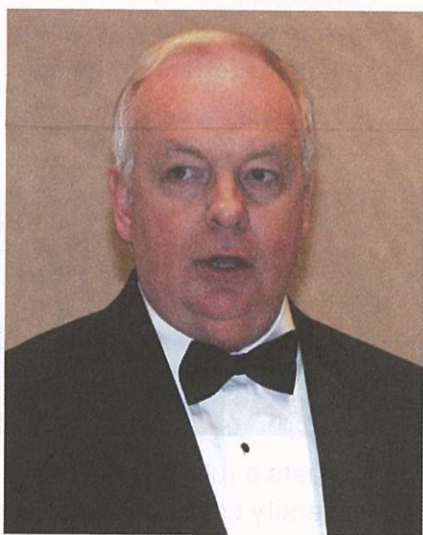
The group also attended a luncheon at the University Club in Washington, where alumna Cynthia Ryan '79 was the featured speaker. Ryan is a member of the school's National Advisory Council and serves as general counsel to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, within the Department of Defense. ■

Law alumnus leads with service, campaign gift

Widener Law alumnus Eugene D. McGurk Jr. is a believer.

He has believed in the law school since he enrolled — when it was so new, the ink was barely dry on the school's ABA accreditation. He believed in it when, as valedictorian of the class of 1978, he was among the first to graduate from the school's "new" campus, which remains its Delaware home on Concord Pike today.

And this year, he backed up his belief in Widener's future by arranging a \$250,000 gift to the school through his estate plan. It is the largest gift of that kind ever made to Widener Law. He made it through the university's campaign, "Taking the Lead: The Campaign for Widener."



Widener Trustee and 1978 law graduate Eugene D. McGurk Jr. made a \$250,000 bequest to Widener Law.

"I really believe in education, the university, the law school and the mission they've dedicated themselves to," said McGurk, a partner at Raynes McCarty in Philadelphia. "I've been humbled to be a part of it."

The 60-year-old New Jersey resident isn't just generous financially.

"Gene is a true friend to Widener," said Deborah McCreery, assistant vice president for Development and Alumni Relations at the

School of Law. "He has devoted a great deal of his time and talents to what we do here. The school is stronger because of his service."

McGurk serves as chairman of the law school Board of Overseers, serves on the dean's National Advisory Council, is secretary

of the university Board of Trustees, and is a former president of the law school alumni association board.

He joined Raynes McCarty 30 years ago and focuses on plaintiff's litigation involving medical malpractice, product liability and catastrophic injuries. The outcomes of his cases can mean the difference between a client being destitute, or going forward without unmet needs. "There are people's lives at stake," he said. A photo of one young girl, a client with a brain impairment case he won, is on his office wall.

McGurk said he is proud of the excellent reputation Widener Law has developed and he found the estate-planning gift the easiest way to give back. It assured him funds for his lifetime, and allowed him to give a larger gift than if he opted for a cash donation now.

"I believe in the school and where it is going," he said. "I'd like to see that continue long after I'm gone." ■



Office of Alumni Engagement
 One University Place
 Chester, PA 19013-5792



Junior Nathalie Carril-King smiles with pride as she completes signing the steel beam as part of the topping out ceremony for the new academic building in November. Hundreds of students and faculty signed the beam which was later raised into place to complete the building's superstructure. The new building, which will be home for the School of Nursing and Oskin Leadership Institute, is slated to be completed by the end of the year.

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Digital archives allows alumni to search for yearbooks, photos, and more online1

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For more Widener University news and views, visit our blog at widenermagazine.com, designed for readers of *Postscript* and the university magazine. You are encouraged to join the conversation by posting your comments and online letters to the editor.

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Save the Date for Homecoming/Family Weekend

Sept. 30—October 1, 2011

Homecoming/Family Weekend 2011 boasts a full schedule of fun and exciting events for all alumni, students, parents, and the university community. Join us for the annual celebration that will include such traditions as the

- 50th reunion class brunch
- Homecoming king and queen ceremony
- School and center receptions
- Homecoming luncheon
- Half-time broom drill
- Post-game events...and more.

Check the Homecoming/Family Weekend website at:

alumni.widener.edu/homecoming11 for more information or to register online!

Attention all reunion classes! This year we are celebrating the reunion classes that end in 1 and 6. If you would like to be help plan your class reunion, please contact Noelle Murphy at ncmurphy@widener.edu.