

SUAA Annual Report 2008-09

A Year to Connect & Re-connect with Fellow Alums

Message from the SUAA Board of Directors President Jerome Dean '82

This past year the Shippensburg University Alumni Association (SUAA) Board of Directors sought to achieve a few goals and our mission was accomplished. We began by providing all board members with business cards so they may reconnect with fellow alumni. Reclaimed alums could call the Rife Alumni house for Ship happenings and learn how to get involved.



As a result of our outreach, we had an overwhelming interest in alumni chapter activities and in the alumni board. The board consists of twenty-four members and five executive board members: President, President-Elect, Past President, and two at-large members. I served as your president during the past June 2008 to June 2009 term. The next president will be the very capable Wendy McCrory Rotz '81-83M.

We also held our first annual Homecoming service project. The week prior to Homecoming, we collected canned and boxed goods. President Ruud, board members, staff, and alumni then stocked and organized food shelves at King's Kettle food pantry in Shippensburg.

If you are not participating in the local chapter events in your area, please consider becoming involved with your fellow classmates and re-connect to Ship. I encourage you to make your way back to campus and see all the growth and value of your hard earned degree. I look forward to seeing you on campus for Alumni Days and Homecoming weekends.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the board members for their steadfast service, effort, and commitment toward maintaining Ship as #1. I have enjoyed my year as president. It has been a rewarding and memorable experience.

Sincerely,
Jerome M. Dean '82



Shippensburg University Alumni Chapters

Alumni chapters strive to meaningfully engage alumni, students, parents, faculty, and friends in the life of Shippensburg University. They are designed to connect those affiliated with Ship to the community through educational, social, and cultural programs and volunteer service.

Highlights for 2008-2009

We continued to maintain and grow our already established alumni chapters in Pennsylvania including: South-central Pennsylvania, Shippensburg/Chambersburg, and Philadelphia. Out-of-state groups include North Carolina, California, Florida, Phoenix, Ariz. and Washington, D.C.



We added several new alumni chapters based on alumni interest in Reading, Hanover, and Gettysburg.

More than 970 alumni, friends, and faculty participated in 53 chapter events across the country.

We offered several opportunities for alumni to join together and provide volunteer service to the community beyond Shippensburg. Alumni in Harrisburg volunteered at the Cancer Recovery Center and alumni in Philadelphia volunteered at Cradles to Crayons.

We also collaborated with SU Athletics and hosted tailgating at all home and away football games. Watch for SU "on the road" again this year for several games!



Pathways to Success Alumni Career Workshop Series

The University Relations office staff took the success from the first year of the Pathways to Success Alumni Career workshop series and allowed the program to grow and expand in its second year. This series provides career education to SU alumni and helps connect alumni, students and employers together for professional purposes.

Highlights for 2008-2009

We offered nine workshops for alumni on career topics over the course of the year. A total of eighty-four alumni and employers attended the workshops.

The series was concluded with a Networking Reception held in Camp Hill that was extremely well attended by alumni and local employers.

Alumni commented that the workshops provided excellent networking connections as well as professional development opportunities.



Workshops included topics on Developing Supervisory Talent, Navigating to your Next Job, Technology and the Workplace, Personal Marketing, and Branding for the Workplace.

Workshops were held at employer work-sites including: Hershey Entertainment & Resorts, ABF Freight Systems, Commerce Bank, Target, Gannett Fleming, Global Data Consultants, and many more.

Contact us if you are interested in volunteering to present a workshop at your company.

Alumni Career and Employment Services

The Alumni Career and Employment Services (A.C.E.S.) program was very busy this past year. With the economic downturn, a large number of alumni sought the support of their alma mater for career assistance. Alumni requested help revamping their résumé, retooling their job search or assistance with making networking connections. The A.C.E.S. program is designed to help alumni with their career development needs, whether they graduated one year or 25 years ago, link regional employers with alumni for job opportunities, and connect SU alumni employers with internships for current students.

Highlights for 2008-2009

We created an alumni career e-newsletter that any alum can sign up to receive on a monthly basis. The monthly e-newsletters include articles written by employers, upcoming networking opportunities, recent job postings, and much more. Currently 320 alumni are enrolled to receive the newsletters.



The university advertised 304 job postings through the University Relations Office from employers wanting to recruit experienced Ship alumni. The 14 PASSHE schools combined advertised over 5,100 open positions.

Program staff conducted 268 appointments for individual career advising, which was up 35 percent from 2007-2008.

There are 300 mentors willing to talk with alumni and current students about internships, jobs, career paths, resumes, and a variety of other career-related topics.



Alumni Days

This year's Alumni Days weekend held June 5-7, 2009 marked the second year for Art-SHIP: Shippensburg's Arts & Wine Festival. The University Relations Office partnered with the Shippensburg Chamber of Commerce and the SU Art Department to provide alumni and community members with an opportunity to participate in this exciting event. There were six wineries and four microbreweries available for samplings, as well as art sculptures, music, storytelling, and food from several local restaurants and vendors.

We continued our popular Pubs & Grubs tour, SU Night, reunion class dinners and meetings, and a performance at the H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center with Bobby Vinton. We also awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award to the following alumni for achievements in their careers and their contributions to the community and society: Sally Kemp '69; Joseph Rozek II '94M; Donald F. Smith, Jr. '75 and Joel Zullinger '70.

In addition, the 21st Annual Alumni Days Golf Outing raised more than \$6,500 for student scholarships.

Homecoming

More than 500 alumni and friends of the university attend this annual event in the fall that includes a parade, ROTC run, and a football game featuring tailgating before the game. Additionally, Air Supply rocked the H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center with their performance on Saturday night of homecoming weekend.



Alumni Web Site

Have you checked out our alumni web site recently? If not, go to www.ship.edu/alumni and see what changes we have made. Navigate around, and you will find access to our calendar of events, the SU online community, alumni career services and the mentoring network, opportunities for you to get involved, and much more. Update your name and address if necessary, tell us where you work, and/or connect with a classmate or two. There is much to see and do on the new web site!



Freshman Welcome and Senior Send-Off

Six alumni opened their homes this past summer to host a Freshman Welcome. This was an excellent opportunity for accepted freshman students to meet their other classmates who live in the same geographic area and to connect with the local alumni. We will be offering eight Freshman Welcomes this summer!

SUAA also said goodbye to a class of more than 960 graduating seniors the week before commencement during our annual Senior Send-off. Close to 300 seniors attended as we welcomed them officially into the Alumni Association.



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Reaching Out to Alumni, Connecting with Community

This has been a great year for University Relations. We have continued to build on the themes set forth by President Ruud and have developed programs and activities that have shown positive results in the last few years.

The three themes that we have been working on are:

1. Greater visibility/community activity within the H to H corridor (Hagerstown to Harrisburg),
2. Working within the campus master plan to develop funding initiatives that assist with campus development, and
3. Improving on the two major campus event weekends to make them the best for alumni and community participation.

Regarding the H to H corridor, the office has increased alumni regional activities in the corridor. We have become active members of many chambers of commerce, serving on committees that include governmental relations, economic development, membership, and education.

The numerous chamber relationships developed through service within the chamber committees has helped us to coordinate funding initiatives at both the state and federal level as well as to provide a major chamber mega mixer on our campus this past May. The mega mixer referred to as the Cinco de Mayo mixer brought ten chambers together representing Mercersburg, Chambersburg, Greencastle, Waynesboro, Mechanicsburg, Shippensburg, Carlisle, West

Shore, Harrisburg and the Pennsylvania Chamber. Over 600 chamber members from Hagerstown to Harrisburg participated in the event, which showcased the Conference Center at Shippensburg University. This event and service to chamber committees has continued to increase visibility within the business community and not only provide opportunities for funding but also additional internships, job opportunities, and networking for Ship students and alumni.

The final theme of offering major campus events that provide the opportunity for participation by all age groups and the community was accomplished during Homecoming Weekend and Alumni Days Weekend. This year, members of the Alumni Board of Directors and the University Relations staff hosted the inaugural Homecoming Service Project to benefit King's Kettle Food Pantry. During Homecoming week, food donations were collected around campus and throughout the community. On Friday afternoon, President Ruud joined members of the Alumni Board, staff and alumni at King's Kettle to stock and organize the food shelves. To get students involved, a CAN-struction competition was held in the tailgate area where canned goods served as the elements of construction. All canned goods used in the building process were then donated to King's Kettle.

Scott Osiol, a junior art major, took home the first place prize of \$500. The SU Alumni Board looks forward to making this annual Homecoming event to benefit the Shippensburg community.

This year marked the second annual Art-SHIP event working collaboratively with the community in an arts and wine festival. This event for the town of Shippensburg has become an annual event for the community and Alumni Days weekend.

Finally, with the economic challenges that every community is facing, the Shippensburg Chamber of Commerce asked the university to provide a loaned executive during a critical economic and financial challenge for the local chamber. President Ruud, working with the support of the Shippensburg Chamber of Commerce executive board and its board of directors, made the decision to have me assigned to serve as a loaned executive at the Shippensburg Chamber of Commerce beginning in June. The goal is to assist in providing leadership internally to the chamber as the board of directors works to search for a full-time executive director. This decision is one of many examples that display the level of commitment and value President Ruud has placed on University engagement within the community.

As we continue to move forward into the future we will look for ways to provide opportunities for active involvement of our alumni and local community. If you would like to be included in our e-mail list of future community and alumni activities, please contact us at alumni@ship.edu to join the growing number of alumni and university employees participating in regional community activities.

Tim Ebersole, *Executive Director for University Relations*