The Mathematics Department at Shippensburg University is committed to actively engaging students in and out of the classroom environment, along with helping them pursue the course of study they desire. The department currently holds sixteen faculty positions, four of which are occupied by specialists in mathematical education. Students interested in mathematics have four undergraduate tracks to choose from which include Statistics, Applied Mathematics, Secondary Certification, or the option of no concentration (designed for students interested in studying pure mathematics in graduate school). The program also encompasses a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of activities and events. These experiences include and are not limited to the Putnam Exam Team, Math Club/KME, Problem-Solving Contest, a weekly student-centered seminar, walk-in tutoring sponsored by graduate students and courses within the Honors Program. On March 12th, students from the department will be attending the Mathematics Conference and Math/Computer Day.

An interesting class the department offers is Mathematical Modeling (MAT326). Chair of the department, Dr. James "Winston" Crawley, describes the course: "Mathematical Modeling provides a unique opportunity for both mathematics majors and other mathematics-intensive majors. The class focuses on solving real-world problems using mathematics, assisted by computers."

Problems are drawn from many disciplines including physics, biology, and economics. Each student works at a desktop solving problems using Microsoft Excel in an active learning environment. Advanced students in science and business majors looking for experience using mathematics and computers in solving problems should consider the course."

Students graduating from this program take on a variety of occupations including positions as secondary education teachers, actuaries, statisticians or analysts. When asked what he feels are the strengths of the department, Crawley responds: "Like other secondary education departments on campus, the students who wish to pursue a career in teaching benefit from the department's specialists in math education. This means that their methods block and student teaching will be done under the tutelage of persons who not only know about education, but who also know about and love mathematics. Approximately 2/3 of our students are future middle/secondary school teachers. We also have had a number of students successfully complete at least one actuarial exam prior to graduation from Shippensburg. The various undergraduate research opportunities provide valuable experience for the students, especially if they are considering the possibility of graduate studies in math."
SU FOUNDATION UPDATES

Late in 2008, new options emerged for IRA account owners. In October 2008 President Bush signed into law an extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover, which had previously expired in December 2007. Until December 31, 2009, individuals who are 70 1/2 or older can take advantage of this law extension. It allows significant tax savings for gifts made directly to charities from IRA accounts. In essence, such gifts from funds within an IRA account made directly to a qualified charity are tax free. This can be particularly appealing if you are a non-itemizer or you have maxed out your charitable deductions.

Note: Tax benefits apply to gifts up to $100,000 per year and the amount must be in the form of an outright gift.

As another new development, in December 2008 the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act included an important provision for certain retirement plans and accounts. It included a temporary waiver of the required minimum distribution for 2009. This recent tax law change is aimed at helping retirees and retirement plan beneficiaries receive needed flexibility in managing their finances during the current economic times.

If you would like to learn more about how you can support Shippensburg University and its students with a gift from an IRA account, please contact Elizabeth Herr at 717-477-1377, ext. 3186, or email echerr@sufoundation.org.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Barbara J. Denison, associate professor of sociology and coordinator of the graduate program in organizational development and leadership, was appointed to a three-year term on the Cumberland County Commission on Women beginning this month.

Dr. Blandine Mitaut, assistant professor of French, published the article “Vendre la peau de l'ourse: la question due bilinguisme dans l'oeuvre de Pascal Quignard” in the October volume of Contemporary French and Francophone Studies.

Dr. Mike Long, assistant professor of mathematics, was named Honors Professor of the Year in 2008.

Dr. Luis Melara joined the faculty in Fall 2008. His research is an applied mathematics, and he is expected to strengthen the department’s ability to offer applied mathematics courses and experiences. He was instrumental in our recent installation of the Matlab software package this year, which we will be using in our courses. Matlab differs from Mathematica and Maple in that it is commonly used for numerical approximations to solutions to equations in computational mathematics.

STUDENTS- MATH DEPARTMENT

Lynn Miller — James Eldon Award in Mathematics
Brooks Emerick— Michael D. Seyfried Memorial Academic Achievement Scholarship
Valerie Koontz— Dr. Paul F. and Elizabeth Hoffeditz Cauffman Scholarship

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
FACULTY AND STUDENT PROJECTS: TOM CROCHUNIS

Last Spring Assistant Professor in English Dr. Tom Crochunis led students in the following projects:

- A three half-day field observation and teaching experience for secondary English certification students at Harrisburg SciTech high school. Sixteen methods students worked with seven teachers of English and Social Studies. Students observed classes and in many cases had a chance to lead an activity as part of the cooperating teacher’s lessons. SciTech is a magnet school whose students are selected based on interviews and demonstrated commitment to preparing for college. It is a majority minority school that has a 100% college acceptance rate.

- Honors Communication/Journalism filmmaking student Nick Ray and Crochunis traveled to London twice to record digital video of rehearsals, interviews, and performances during the Finborough Theatre’s work on Joanna Baillie’s 1836 play Witchcraft. The play had never been performed for the public. Ray is currently editing the digital material for his honors project presentation, and Crochunis has been exploring funding opportunities to support the development of a hypermedia edition of Baillie’s play for mounting on the British Women Playwrights around 1800 Website.

PennACE’s Joann Day Student of the Year

The College of Arts and Sciences would like to recognize the Shippensburg University nominees of the PennACE (PA Association of Colleges and Employers) Student of the Year Award, which recognizes outstanding interns:

Non-Technical Nominee  Brittany Modlesky
Technical Nominee  Hugh Lewis

These nominees are commended for their efforts. The application process included a resume, student statement, internship supervisor support statement, and faculty support statement. These students were nominated by their faculty internship advisors who believed they were deserving of this award. Congratulations!
Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following Arts and Sciences secretaries who have recently been recognized for years of service milestones at Shippensburg University.

Becky Fulton, Physics Department - 35 years
Brenda Horst, Psychology Department - 35 years
Melissa Fleming, Psychology Department - 30 years
Pam McLaughlin, Math Department - 30 years

We also recognize Pat Martin, administrative assistant in the dean’s office for 10 years of service to Shippensburg!

SPECIAL EVENTS - LUHRS PERFORMING ARTS

FEBRUARY

2/10 — The 5 Browns
2/17 — Dance Lessons Beginner and Advanced
2/19 — Juan Williams (Lecture)
2/21 — Max & Ruby
2/26 — African Footprint

MARCH

3/11 — Theatre Tales, Tours and Trivia — Open House

For more information contact: 717-477-SHOW or check out http://www.ship.edu/news/index.html
Public Administration major Charles McClister, is a 34-year-old non-traditional undergraduate student at Shippensburg University. As a major in Public Administration, McClister studies how different branches of government policy (e.g. education, local and state government, federal government, non profit agencies, civil service and social justice) operate and function. Public administration also examines the work of non-governmental organizations.

Along with his duties as a student, McClister currently interns for the College of Arts and Sciences working on internship initiatives. Ambitious and willing to serve, McClister is eager to help students find potential prospects in their field of study. Three days a week, he works to organize, centralize and expand the current internship program. Other responsibilities include, planning and executing an internship fair and collaborating with the chairs and internship coordinators from each department to get their recommendations on potential employers.

When asked what he really enjoys about his position, McClister replies, “It’s the interaction not only with the students, but the interaction with the faculty as well. As an intern, you want to make sure you have hands-on experience and that’s exactly what I’m receiving here.”

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES: FACULTY AND STAFF

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<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dean</td>
<td>Dr. James Mike</td>
<td>477-1151</td>
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<td>Associate Dean</td>
<td>Dr. Kim Long</td>
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<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Pat Martin</td>
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If you have items you wish to appear in our next newsletter please contact Laura Beltzner at lb1619@ship.edu
Shippensburg University College of Arts and Sciences
Department secretaries, chairs, and websites

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