Since 1980, the Fashion Archives and Museum at Shippensburg University has offered unique opportunities for students and community members to appreciate the history and trends of style.

Directed by Dr. Karin Bohleke, the archives houses nearly 30,000 pieces of clothing, shoes, and accessories ranging from the second century to the more recent 2000s. Since the archives’ longtime home, Harley Hall, was recently demolished, the program has temporarily relocated to Memorial Auditorium until its new home at the Davis House is ready. A recent appraisal of the collection placed its value around $700,000, but the value of the collection extends far beyond its suggested worth.

“Shippensburg’s collection is a wonderful resource.”

Bohleke highlights the hands-on opportunities afforded to students as one of the many reasons the archives is an asset to the university and community. “Students learn how to run a museum,” she said. “They enjoy hands-on, multifaceted work.”

There are abundant research and conservation opportunities available for both undergraduate and graduate students, making the archives an excellent introduction to the real world of historical research, preservation, and exhibition. In recent years, students have spearheaded conservation projects and helped to coordinate the exhibition of the pieces in the collection. The nearest collection of similar size is housed in Philadelphia, making Shippensburg’s

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As you’ve seen in the past editions of our newsletter, the College of Arts and Sciences at Shippensburg University continues to deliver excellent academic programs to our students. Through a variety of focused majors and minors, the college offers a robust general education program that emphasizes hard-and soft-skills and lifelong learning as well as a number of high-impact learning experiences.

One, perhaps too often understated, aspect of our college, has been the development of several centers that serve to support the academic excellence of our departments and programs. Such centers often provide service and engagement opportunities for our community, too. The centers featured in this edition of our newsletter include the Shippensburg University Fashion Archives and Museum, the Broadside Center, and our two Writing Centers.

More and more, students and their families want to be assured that the investment they are making in the pursuit of a bachelor’s or master’s degree is a worthwhile one. This is an investment that must help launch graduates on the pathway to a more successful life and career than if they had not pursued a degree program. One of the ways that centers in the College of Arts and Sciences can help meet such an expectation is by providing students the opportunity to gain skills and experiences that are highly relevant to their programs of study as well as to the world in which they will live and work once they graduate.

Centers are those places where students can practice what they have learned and can reinforce that learning in meaningful ways. In much the same way that participation in an activity such as undergraduate research is a high-impact learning experience, participating in an internship, work-study employment, or activity associated with a center enhances learning and provides material for employment portfolios and resumes. Such experiences also provide a wonderful way for students to learn the value of work and important interpersonal skills such as networking.

I hope that as you read through these pages, you will come away with a deeper understanding of our college and our continuing pursuit to bring the best educational experiences that we can to our students.

James H. Mike, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Student Competitions

Charting the Course, Lighting the Way, the Campaign for Shippensburg University, has been highly successful thanks to our generous alumni, faculty, and friends. Still, there is much work to be done as many unmet needs exist.

One of the exciting programs for which we are raising funds through this campaign is student academic competitions. Academic competitions help to transform students into sharper scholars as they test their classroom knowledge against peers at other universities. Many of these activities showcase our students’ knowledge, reinforce their quality of education, and empower them with an understanding that their education meets or exceeds their own expectations as well as that of other institutions of higher learning.

Nick Hydock ’15, who majored in software engineering, is the president of the Game Development Club and recently attended a competition in Canada. He was excited to participate because Canada has many software engineering schools that offer vast resources and a different type of educational system. The challenge for the competition was to build an app from the ground up in two hours. He found the experience both demanding and encouraging. He was pleased that Ship ranked within the top five spots among these elite competitors.

Nick said the experience was “life changing.” He was able to engage with students who had more available resources and knew that Ship had prepared him for the challenge. Nick also recognized that networking with students from other schools will help him in the future. He hopes that more students have the opportunity to attend this and other competitions, and can do so with the same resources their counterparts have, such as transportation, additional materials, and sponsorships.

An endowment to fund student academic competitions allows engaged students of Shippensburg University to access the tools, transportation, and resources they need to experience these life-changing events. These experiences will propel our students to success and accelerate the prominence of Shippensburg University.

If you would like to make a gift to support student competitions, please visit our website at www.LightingtheWayforSU.org.

ADVISORY BOARD

CINDY DUNN ’80-’81M

As the newly appointed secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Cindy Dunn ’80-’81M finds no shortage of ways to use her biology degrees from Shippensburg.

As the former president and CEO of PennFuture, a Harrisburg-based nonprofit group dedicated to preserving the environment of the Commonwealth, she has been a voice for policy change, an advocate for public education, and a dedicated conservationist. She is surrounded by opportunities to improve the use of Pennsylvania’s natural resources.

At Shippensburg, Dunn worked closely with her professors on a number of projects, including counting populations of bass and bluegill fish and conducting field studies. She noted that the health side of the biology program is growing very quickly, but that the environmental side of the program is still of great importance.

“It’s more important than ever because of climate change and the urgency about caring for the environment,” she said.

Since graduating, Dunn has been involved with a variety of organizations that promote the conservation and correct use of Pennsylvania’s natural resources. After earning her master’s degree from Ship, Dunn worked for several key environmental agencies in the state and surrounding areas, including the DCNR and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

Dunn’s passion for the environment is something she shares with the communities in which she’s worked. She is adamant that public education is an important avenue to explore.

“It’s important to realize that you have a stake in this and you can do something,” Dunn explained that the quality of life in Pennsylvania is high, thanks to the organic resources found in the area. To best preserve Pennsylvania’s land for future generations, she encourages the participation of constituents.

“It’s just finding avenues to jump in and make a difference.”

"It’s important to realize that you have a stake in this and you can do something.”
Creative Writing Nurtured

The Creative Writing Center is a relatively new effort spearheaded by Dr. Kim van Alkemade, professor of English. Founded in 2009, the center seeks to expose students of all disciplines to the many options they have for publishing their written work.

“It used to be a room with storage for things from the music program,” she said. Now the space is home to a sizeable collection of literary journals, most donated by creative writing faculty.

“Students are able to get a sense of what is published. They are exposed to the idea that writing and publishing is continuing, alive, and happening.”

“Writing and publishing is alive and happening.”

Thanks to this collection, students have access to content that wouldn’t be available otherwise, as most journals require a pricey subscription or do not publish content online.

The Creative Writing Center is open ten hours per week, and those hours are mostly available so students can get to know the collection of literary magazines and journals that is housed in the center’s stacks. “It’s just a little space where you can learn about publishing and creative writing,” van Alkemade said.

The center has one student worker each year. Working in the center gives the student a sense of “responsibility and autonomy,” she said. “They have the ability to make the creative writing center their own for the year.”

The student worker not only gains an understanding of how to prepare journals to be cataloged into library collections, but also benefits through experience that he or she can apply after graduation. van Alkemade said she has been a job reference for many student workers, and that working in the Creative Writing Center gives them a chance to learn about publishing, cataloguing, and teaching options after college.

The center gets most of its written materials from professors who attend national writing conferences. van Alkemade said professors often carry large bags of books back from conferences to replenish the collection with new journals. Having this variety of publications at the students’ fingertips allows them to experience written works of every genre they likely wouldn’t have had access to otherwise.

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collection a wonderful resource for both students and community members.

“I know of one student who chose Shippensburg because of this collection,” Bohleke said. “The collection is very much a part of academic life.”

She also noted the incredible way that the archives creates and fosters relationships between students and community volunteers. Given the size of the collection and its historical significance, it is necessary to include members of the community in the restoration and preservation of the pieces.

“The archives is a very important outreach program that looks to the greater local community and works to integrate itself into the public arts life,” she said. “The archives has its feet in two camps: the internal and external communities.”

Relationships flourish cross-generationally between students and volunteers, she added. Because most volunteers are older, the students working with them are able to get a first-person perspective on historical events from people who have lived through them. Working toward a common goal of preserving tangible history creates a bond between students and volunteers.

The archives is “absolutely unique” in that it presents opportunities that otherwise wouldn’t be available to students, Bohleke said. From experiencing what it takes day-to-day to run a museum to gaining a new appreciation for historical artifacts, the archives is a wonderful opportunity for students to apply concepts learned in the classroom to a real-world environment.

“Students leave with a different angle than when they come,” she said.
For Paul Deichmann ’15, the Creative Writing Center is a place to explore the ways that creative writing can connect students on Shippensburg’s campus. Deichmann is an English major and the student worker at the center for the 2014-15 school year. He views his job as part of the larger, long-term goal of the center to “cultivate the literature of the university right now.”

Deichmann works with Dr. Kim van Alkemade, center director, to help connect writers to a system of publishing as well as to encourage and develop their writing. He holds regular hours in the center and makes himself available to writers who might want feedback or help with their work. To aid in this, Deichmann also has created the center’s first blog, which features writing entries submitted by readers, reviews of other literary blogs, and event listings. The blog’s goal, according to its home page, is simply to get writers to write more often.

Deichmann also cites the creative control he has through the center as something that’s helped him discover what he might pursue once he graduates. “What I’ve learned most is how to reach out and motivate a group of people. And that’s essential no matter what field I go into.”

For Victoria Houk ’15, the Fashion Archives and Museum has been not only a place to work but also a place to learn. The public history major said that the archives “opened my eyes to more possibilities.” She cited the skills she’s learned there as one of the main experiences that’s shaped her career goals. “Working in the archives and knowing how to do things here has helped me understand what I will be doing when I graduate,” she said.

Houk started as a volunteer but quickly realized that the archives was a place where she could hone the skills she’s learned in the classroom. She takes pride in being able to preserve history for future generations and what she’s learned as an archives employee. “Not all museum jobs are about standing and talking,” she said.

Thanks to her experience at the archives, Houk has catalogued, preserved, and exhibited pieces that she wouldn’t have had a chance to work with otherwise. She has been exposed to the workings of a real museum without having to leave campus. “Working with the archives has really been a pleasure,” Houk said. “I love working here.”

As a tutor and lab assistant in the DHC Writing Lab, Ben Anwyll ’16 delights in the opportunity to help students of all majors polish and perfect their writing and research assignments. “If professors are the bricks,” Anwyll said, “tutors are the mortar. Tutors are a good catch-all and a great way to fill in the gaps that might have formed in a student’s writing.”

Anwyll works a variety of hours in the lab and sees a fair number of returning tutees. “My goal is to teach them how to do things,” he said. “I won’t write for them, I won’t research for them, but I can help them learn how to do those things on their own.”

He added that typically, students have the same struggles: grammar, readability, and formatting.

He also cites Dr. Laurie Cella, lab director, as a great teacher and mentor. “She made me a better teacher. It’s hard for anyone to relate natural talent to students in an educational setting, but through her guidance, she’s taught me how to teach students and how to make sure students know that they always have a ready source of help. I don’t want to seem to students like I have all of the answers, but they should know that they aren’t alone when they are writing.”

Students of all majors visit the Writing Lab for assistance, and no matter the subject of the paper, Anwyll always has the same advice. “I encourage all writers to be concise,” he said. “Saying something simply is saying it best.”
Dr. Karin J. Bohleke, director of the Fashion Archives and Museum, wrote “Mummies are Called Upon to Contribute to Fashion: Pre-Tutankhamun Egyptian Revivalism in Dress,” for an issue of Dress, the journal of the Costume Society of America.

Dr. Kurt Fuellhart, professor of geography, co-authored the article “Geographic Correlates of Lowest Available Airfares on Australian Air Routes,” which has been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of Journal of Air Transport Studies.

Drs. Claire Jantz and Scott Drzyzga, geography-earth science, obtained a $1 million grant through the William Penn Foundation to create a system for mapping and tracking land use in the Delaware River Basin. The Delaware River Basin is a source of drinking water to more than 15 million people in four states.

Dr. David E. Kalist, associate professor of economics, and Dr. Daniel Y. Lee, professor of economics, had their paper “The National Football League: Does Crime Increase on Game Day?” accepted for publication in the Journal of Sports Economics.

Dr. Kim Klein, director of the Honors Program and professor of history, received “The Washington Center Award for Excellence in Experiential Learning at a Four-Year Institution” at the 2014 National Collegiate Honors Council conference in Denver, Colorado. At the conference, she also chaired the International Education Forum and served as a judge for the national Honors newsletter contest.

Dr. Luis Melara, associate professor of mathematics, received a Fulbright grant to teach in India next year. Melara will compare teaching of math in the United States and India, with the goal of improving undergraduate teaching practices for Ship students.

The Writing Center and Lab in Dauphin Humanities Center 002 is hailed by adjuncts and tenure-track faculty as a “fabulous resource for the writing classes,” according to Dr. Laurie Cella, associate professor of English. Since coming to Shippensburg in 2009, Cella has supervised the lab through her role as the director of first-year writing. “The tutors in this lab are so different because they’re more integrated in the classroom,” Cella said.

The lab staffs tutors from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, which means that tutors are present in the computer lab while classes are being held. Because of this, tutors are at a professor’s disposal when needed. The value of having the tutors in the classroom lab is two-fold, Cella said. Working in a classroom is more conducive for revisions and a peer is available for review when a student needs it. “Students are more likely to work with tutors at the point of contact,” Cella said.

The lab benefits the students who use it as well as the tutors who work there. Cella cited the mentor/mentee relationship that forms between the tutors and herself as a large benefit of working at the center. “Students have gotten jobs because of the references I’m able to give,” she said. Being a tutor “helps [them] figure out where they belong in the world” and helps the tutors “reflect on the way jobs and students’ roles are approached.” Working in the lab also helps hone the tutor’s English skills and introduces them to a variety of people.

The center is a valuable resource to all majors. Given that the majority of classes at Shippensburg have some writing component, having the lab and tutors available helps students of all disciplines improve their skills as academic writers. “Every paper, no matter the subject, benefits from having a second set of eyes,” Cella said. “Good writing starts with knowing who your audience is and what you need to cover, and the tutors help with that.”

The DHC Writing Center and Lab is part of a collaborative relationship with the Writing Studio at the SU Learning Center. “Dr. Karen Johnson [the director of the Writing Studio] and I have a great collaborative relationship,” Cella said.

She is enthusiastic about the resources shared between the Learning Center and the Writing Lab. “You can get more accomplished when you work together with someone.”

The tutors started out as lab attendants, but by working with the Writing Studio, they became trained tutors. “If I can have a part in making another venue possible, it’s a real advantage to the students,” Cella said.
BROADSIDE Exposes Students to Real-World Challenges

Tucked away in a small room inside the Mathematics Computing Technology Center (MCT) sits the BROADSIDE Center, a space that creates practical projects for students in the Computer Sciences and Engineering Department. Businesses propose projects to the center, and, with the help of faculty, create a project that students can complete.

Faculty advisor Dr. Carol Wellington, professor of computer science, described the center as “a gentler way to introduce students to the real world of computer science.” Students are faced with real deadlines and real clients, but “it’s gentler because it’s here on campus, and the faculty are still involved,” she said.

Most projects that the center works on deal with computer engineering or software development. Projects have lasted from three months to four years. Recently, students have developed websites, stand-alone applications, and created embedded control systems. Many of the projects completed through the center are still used by the companies for which they were developed.

Wellington said that the center has two main benefits: “When we’re recruiting, it’s a way of showing that this is not an ivory tower. We’re doing it the way it’s done, for real.”

In addition to the students applying their skills, the faculty also benefit from having the BROADSIDE Center on campus. “Prospective students need to be worried about faculty competency,” Wellington said, “and this is one of the ways we demonstrate we’re playing the current game.”

The funds earned from BROADSIDE Center projects are put back into developing the tools used in the computer science and computer engineering disciplines, furthering the opportunities for students in those programs.

FACULTY focus

Creative Writing Professors Encourage Exploration

For Dr. Kim van Alkemade and Professor Neil Connelly, creative writing is an essential part of understanding and making sense of our world.

Along with Dr. Nicole Santalucia, who currently teaches poetry, van Alkemade and Connelly form the creative writing curriculum within the English Department. “With creative writing, you are confronting what it is to be a person. There really isn’t any other class that does that,” Connelly said.

van Alkemade agreed, adding, “every form of writing has its own unique way of seeing what it is to be human and a way of investigating it.”

Despite not having a separate creative writing major, “our department has a longstanding history of valuing creative writing,” van Alkemade said. “We are just as invested in other areas of writing as well,” Connelly added. “We aren’t separate or different. We are very integrated into the department.”

Creative writing classes at Shippensburg are taught workshop-style, meaning that the work the students produce is the main text for the class. Workshops involve students reading and critiquing each other’s work, which both professors said teaches the students the most about writing.

Though traditionally Connelly teaches fiction writing and van Alkemade teaches nonfiction, both professors are practicing writers who have published in both genres. “We are both modeling what we want our students to do,” Connelly said. “We are speaking to (our students) as someone who has put in the work of what it takes to get published and to be a working writer.”

van Alkemade has her first novel, Orphan Number Eight, debuting in July, and Connelly’s most recent work, Pocket Guide to Divorce, is available now from Gorsky Press.

Both professors also are dedicated to providing extracurricular opportunities for students interested in publication. van Alkemade oversees the Creative Writing Center, and Connelly is the faculty advisor for the Reflector, a student-run journal of the arts. “Being a writer makes your life better,” said van Alkemade. “Being a writer gives you life.”

“Every form of writing has its unique way of seeing what it is to be human.”
The College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board is composed of alumni, friends of Shippensburg University, and faculty emeriti of the college. Its purpose is to share professional and personal perspective on matters relating to academic philosophy and practice, internships and cooperative learning opportunities, and professional development for faculty; to provide financial assistance; and to become involved in the curricular and extracurricular programs of the college. With thanks, we recognize the current members of the board:

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