

Broadening opportunities

Preparing students for a multicultural experience

We live in a global society, and the launch of a new interdisciplinary major in the College of Arts and Sciences is helping students prepare for that worldwide experience. Integrating more than 120 existing courses across campus, the college introduced an international studies major at the start of the fall semester. Many of the courses within the college are key components for the major. Without requiring the university to create any additional courses, the new major became a valuable addition to the college. The major developed from the existing international studies minor—one of the university's fastest growing academic programs. Faculty decided to pull existing resources to establish an even more intensive program.

"Various departments realized that their fields are moving in more international directions," said Dr. Jonathan Skaff, Director of the International Studies program. Recognizing the fact that roughly one-fourth of our global economy requires international interaction, Skaff said it is particularly important to adequately prepare students to deal with a multinational workforce. "International studies graduates will have

a lot more cultural knowledge than a graduate from the business college; and companies need people with a deeper cultural knowledge so they can effectively set up operations in other countries," he said.

The major prepares students for the multinational world we live in, regardless of whether they plan to pursue careers internationally or within the United States. The skills developed by international studies majors are useful even in the small town of Shippensburg. Volvo Construction Equipment, located on Volvo Way in Shippensburg, has employees from twenty different countries, requiring intercultural relations skills within the company.

As the only university major that requires students to have two concentrations, graduates will have a deeper knowledge in specific areas of international studies that correspond with their career goals. The major also requires students to study abroad or pursue an internship in another country. Studying abroad presents an opportunity for students to get

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"It was challenging, but the
most amazing
thing I've ever done."



International studies major Shayla Boyce '13 (front) explores a national park in Dakar, Senegal.

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UPCOMING
events

FEBRUARY 1 | 8:00PM
Love Me Tender: The Premier
Elvis Valentines Bash
Luhrs Center

FEBRUARY 6 | 7:30PM
MEMPHIS The Musical
Luhrs Center

FEBRUARY 20 | 8:00PM
HOPE Diversity Lecture
Luhrs Center

FEBRUARY 20–22 | 6:00PM
The Vagina Monologues
Memorial Auditorium

FEBRUARY 27 | 8:00PM
Mandy Patinkin: Dress Casual
with Paul Ford on the Piano
Luhrs Center

FEBRUARY 27–MARCH 1 | 7:00PM
Speak to My Soul:
A Montage of Voices
Memorial Auditorium

MARCH 7 | 8:00PM
The Music of Ella and Ellington
Luhrs Center

MARCH 13 | 8:00PM
Women of Ireland
Luhrs Center

*For more information, visit
www.ship.edu/events.*



Message from the
DEAN

Helping our students excel

This issue of our newsletter focuses on newly developed programs in interdisciplinary study—a major in international studies and a minor in disability studies. It also celebrates the achievement of our Department of Communication/Journalism in the successful accreditation of the undergraduate program by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC).

Interdisciplinary study is increasingly popular among students because such programs focus in areas of intense interest and allow exploration of topics across disciplines that are relevant to today's world. Accreditation of programs is an indicator of excellence and adherence to high academic standards. Such standards are developed by external organizations that develop discipline-specific standards of practice and provide a rigorous external program review. The standards often represent "best practices" within the program and help affirm the good work of the faculty. Accreditation also helps to provide students and parents with indicators that programs are delivering educational excellence. The accreditation of our communication/journalism program by the ACEJMC places us in a select group in Pennsylvania, the United States, and the world.

As I thought about these stories it made me ponder the true strength of the College of Arts and Sciences—the diversity of our programmatic offerings and the fundamental role played by the college in the educational experiences of all Shippensburg University students. The College of Arts and Sciences at Shippensburg University is organized by disciplines into seventeen departments, providing major and minor programming. The college, however, also recognizes the value of cross-disciplinary programs, and the faculty of the college are engaged deeply in developing and delivering interdisciplinary programs to meet the needs and interests of our students.

Program delivery within the college is founded upon the American educational tradition of developing not only deep study within a program, but also providing breadth across disciplines. This is seen in the delivery of the general education program, which provides students with a strong base of knowledge where the "soft skills" are developed and intersect with the majors. These soft skills include development of critical thinking, problem solving, discovery, writing, speaking, numeric literacy, and personal and social responsibility. It is seen in the delivery of content-specific and cognate programming to support majors and minors not only within the College of Arts and Sciences, but in our sister colleges, too. It also is seen in the development of interdisciplinary programs like those featured here—and others—where students study and the intersections of the disciplines to develop tools that they carry into life, advanced study, and the workplace.

**"INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY...
ALLOWS EXPLORATION OF TOPICS
ACROSS DISCIPLINES THAT ARE
relevant to today's world."**

James H. Mike, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

*nurturing
excellence*

Message from the College of Arts and Sciences Campaign Committee

This is a very exciting and important time at Shippensburg University. In October 2012, we launched the public phase of the *Charting the Course, Lighting the Way* Campaign, a comprehensive campaign for the university with a \$45 million goal. This is the largest goal by any foundation affiliated with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. I am pleased to announce that more than \$36 million has been raised to date.

The College of Arts and Sciences plays a significant role in the success of the campaign. With a goal of \$7.5 million, there have been \$5 million in commitments toward the College of Arts and Sciences. These generous gifts by alumni, parents, friends, and current and retired faculty include funding to benefit student scholarships, faculty research and professional development, joint undergraduate/faculty

research, faculty chairs, student academic conferences and competitions, facilities, technology, and equipment. Although much has been accomplished, we still have a great deal to do. With your help, we will achieve our goal, which will position the university and college for future success.

In closing, as chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Campaign Committee, I am fortunate to collaborate with many wonderful and generous individuals. Our committee is comprised of dedicated volunteers who have committed their time, talent, and treasure. Their service and loyalty to the university is truly appreciated.

For additional information on the *Charting the Course, Lighting the Way* Campaign, please contact Lori Smeigh at (717) 658-7376 or lmsmei@sufoundation.org and by visiting our website at www.sufoundation.org/lighting_the_way_campaign.

Dr. Jill Gunter Kaufman '80, chair

College of Arts and Sciences Campaign Committee Members

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profile



NELSON FERNANDEZ '80

An advocate of a well-rounded education, Nelson Fernandez '80 recognizes Shippensburg as a key to his successful career. Despite his high level of intelligence and success, Fernandez knows that his learning potential has yet to reach its full capacity. "I never stop learning," he said.

Early in his college career, he discovered one of the secrets to making it big in the business world. "The ones who are successful have the complete package. You've got to know how to market yourself and your ideas," Fernandez said. So he made it a priority to learn as much as he could across all disciplines by always asking questions.

"I've seen my life as a continuous learning experience and, at a large measure, it started at Shippensburg. They gave me a nice broad basis to build my career on." Although his passion for learning developed at a young age, Shippensburg provided him with the academics he needed to establish the broad-based skill set he uses everyday. At the start of his career, Fernandez conducted basic research at Bell

Laboratories where programming languages like C and C++ were invented. Here, he became known as an ethical hacker. "I had license to hack within my company and fix anything I found wrong," he said. His work got noticed beyond the company, and Fernandez began consulting for people around the world.

Shifting gears, Fernandez explored other opportunities and pursued a management position that allowed him to build a new set of skills. His job required him to communicate with and travel to other countries, teaching him how to be a leader and also how to relate to a wide range of cultures.

He is now running a business for IBM, and using the knowledge he learned and developed during his former job experience. Learning about different cultures and how people think have allowed Fernandez to understand the best use of each individual's strengths in the workplace. "As a leader, you have to know how to motivate them, and you can only do that when you understand their culture."

**"I never STOP
LEARNING."**

rising to the top

Communication/Journalism steps it up with accreditation

After years of hard work and patience, the Communication/Journalism Department reached an accomplishment that no other university in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education has achieved.

The department earned accreditation this past spring by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC), raising the bar for other communication/journalism programs state and nationwide. Shippensburg joined Penn State and Temple as one of only three colleges in Pennsylvania with an ACEJMC accredited communication/journalism program. It stands as one of the 111 fully accredited institutions nationally and internationally.

Dr. Joseph Borrell, chair of the Communication/Journalism Department, said

that Shippensburg's low tuition rates do not compromise the quality of the education it offers. "We provide a high quality education, and nationally we hit the same standards as schools that are four or five times our price." Becoming an accredited university provides advantages to students beyond a quality education. There are scholarships and job opportunities made available to students who

attend accredited schools. Communication/Journalism Department. Now as department chair, he has dedicated countless hours toward earning national accreditation. "You can have a good program without being accredited, but it's nice to have the outside recognition" he said.

According to Borrell, when ACEJMC representatives made their first visit, they were very impressed with the program, but advised the faculty that changes were necessary to earn full status. The ACEJMC defines nine standards that accredited institutions are required to achieve: mission, curriculum, diversity, faculty, scholarships, student services, facilities and equipment, professional and public service, and assessment of learning outcomes. These standards guarantee Ship's communication/journalism students the resources they need to gain industry knowledge and experience necessary for success in their prospective careers.

"Here at Shippensburg, students can

**"WE HIT THE *same standards*
AS INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE FOUR
OR FIVE TIMES OUR PRICE."**

attend accredited schools.

Upon Borrell's employment as an associate professor at Shippensburg more than a decade ago, he quickly learned of the positive reputation held by the



FACULTY *focus*

participate in, manage, and lead the various student media groups, including the student-run radio, television, newspaper, and yearbook, gaining high impact experiences that prepare them for their futures,” said Dr. Barbara G. Lyman, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Borrell said he noticed increased interest in the program during a fall open house that was one of the largest he’s witnessed while at Ship. With a high-quality, low-cost initiative, “why go anywhere else,” he said.

(Opposite page, left) Communication/journalism students work behind the scenes in the SUTV control room; (opposite page, right) Charles Jones, a non-traditional electronic media student, goes on air at WSYC, the university radio station; (right) Kyle Stum (pictured left), SUTV’s general manager, prepares co-anchors Lance Kopp and Emily Larsen for their weekly newscast; (below) Public relations students gather at the PRSSA national conference in Orlando, Florida.



DR. JOHN BLOOM, associate professor of history and philosophy, won the Phillip S. Klein Prize for best scholarly article in the *Journal of Pennsylvania History* during 2012-13 for his article, “The Farmers Didn’t Particularly Care for Us’: Oral Narrative and the Grass Roots Recovery of African American Migrant Farm History in Central Pennsylvania.”

DR. SEAN CORNELL, associate professor of geography-earth science, helped obtain a \$64,400 Together Green grant from the Toyota Foundation for environmental restoration projects at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station Greenbackville Field Site. The grant runs through fall of 2014.

DR. SCOTT A. DRZYZGA, associate professor of geography-earth science, attended Google’s first Geo for Higher Ed Summit. Instructors and researchers in GIS, GPS, and remote sensing went to Googleplex in California, and focused on learning and testing new tools proposed by Google for classroom use.

DR. KIM KLEIN, director of the Honors Program and professor of history, co-edited “Preparing Tomorrow’s Global Leaders: Honors International Education” published by the National Collegiate Honors Council.

IN MEMORIAM:

DR. GEORGE SNOW, history, October 24, 2012

DONALD E. MORNINGSTAR, physics, January 15, 2013

DR. JOHN S. “JACK” MOWBRAY, mathematics, April 30, 2013

DR. STEPHEN G-M SHENTON, communications/journalism, June 7, 2013

DR. JAY FRANK DAVIDSON, biology, November 2, 2013

DR. FRED HOCKERSMITH, psychology, December 31, 2013

MARGARET EVANS, communications/journalism, January 1, 2014

tying the knot

New disability studies minor spans several disciplines



Dr. Allison Carey, director of the disability studies minor, teaches class.

The College of Arts and Sciences is proud to be the foundation of education for many students at Shippensburg University. The launch of the college's new disability studies minor has a mission to integrate and enhance academics across disciplines and all three colleges.

The disability studies minor was introduced last spring, allowing students to broaden their horizons and become better prepared for their prospective careers. The minor was officially launched during the fall semester with the start of the program's introductory course.

According to Dr. Allison Carey, director of the program, there is increased awareness and respect for those with disabilities in response to civil rights legislation such as the Disability Rights Movement and the American's with Disabilities Act. Carey

said the faculty realized they needed to link the various courses already offered and merge them into one program that would provide a stronger course of study for students. "There was a core group of faculty who wanted to bring it together so that students could have an interdisciplinary experience and cross out of their major to build disability awareness," Carey said.

"DISABILITY IS A *fact* OF LIFE."

The minor examines how the understanding of disabilities shape people's lives, relationships, and societies. It will raise awareness of disability issues, improve the understanding of disability rights, and develop best practices toward creative,

inclusive, and accessible environments and communities for those with disabilities.

Students from any major can benefit from the disability studies minor and implement what they learn from the coursework into the workplace. "Disability is a fact of life, and so the issue comes up in all career fields," Carey said. She explained how important it is for students to recognize and understand the disabilities people face so students are not unexpectedly confronted with these issues when they move into the workforce, regardless of their career choice.

"For example, if you're in HR, you're going to have to think about disability policy; if you're in criminal justice, there's going to be people with disabilities in the system; and a historian would want to consider disability in the same way as class, gender, and race," Carey said. Understanding disabilities is useful in all careers. Students taking this minor can gain more from their required coursework in conjunction with their major. With twelve different areas of study, the minor allows students to tailor the program to their own specific career goals.

The eighteen-credit minor includes two core requirements and four approved electives. It will provide students with interdisciplinary skills that consider the impact of disabilities across time, place, and groups. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the diversity of our society, preparing them for disability-related careers or further education in the field.

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away from home and reap benefits far beyond the pure excitement of an international vacation. "How better to learn about other cultures than to go abroad and spend some time there," Skaff said.

Shayla Boyce, an English and international studies double major, traveled to Africa and spent a week with a Peace Corps volunteer there (see page 7). "It was challenging, but the most amazing thing I've ever done," she said.

The College of Arts and Sciences presents students with the

opportunity to gain a deeper knowledge in international studies and a second area of study. According to Skaff, it's very practical for students pursuing Bachelor of Arts degrees to double major with international studies. Due to the major's interdisciplinary nature, students can double up to four courses toward their degree requirements.

The international studies program will produce graduates who are well prepared for the growing number of positions that require international experience.

STUDENT *spotlights* MANDY OFAK '14



“I’M ABLE TO TAKE CLASSES THAT GO TOWARD WHAT WILL REALLY HELP ME IN MY JOB.”

“Instead of taking random classes to fill my electives, I’m able to take classes that go toward what will really help me in my job,” she said. Ofak will graduate in May and plans to continue her education by attending graduate school to pursue a masters degree in applied behavior analysis.

Mandy Ofak '14 wants to work in a school helping children—but she doesn't want to be your typical teacher or school counselor. Instead, she has hopes to impact the lives of children with autism. Interested in gaining a better understanding of disabilities and wanting to help children who face these issues, the disability studies minor provided the perfect addition to Ofak's psychology major.

“It gives me an edge with my psychology major and helps me gain a different perspectives because it's interdisciplinary,” she said. She is currently working on a student research project with one of her psychology professors, Dr. James Griffith. In the spring semester, she will refocus on working with children as an intern at the Vista School in Hershey.

Her decision to declare a disability studies minor will ultimately help her excel in her career. It will strengthen her educational background in disability studies, making her more qualified to work with children with autism.



“I GOT TO TRAVEL ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.”

so I got to travel all over the country and got to see lots of different things.” Within her travel, she spent a week with a Peace Corps volunteer in a rural village, helping them and learning more about the service they provided. Now, Boyce hopes to join the Peace Corps in the future. Having graduated in December, she plans to continue her education at the University of Pittsburgh to pursue a master's degree in managing global order.

SHAYLA BOYCE '13

Shayla Boyce '13 came to Shippensburg with plans to study chemistry, but fate led her down a different path. Switching gears, she decided to pursue a degree in English with a minor in International Studies—two areas of study for which she's always had a passion. With the introduction of the new international studies major, Boyce upgraded her international studies minor by taking three additional courses.

As her dual majors fell into place, Boyce learned that some things are just meant to be. “International studies for me has been a really happy accident,” she said.

Shippensburg's study abroad program gave Boyce the opportunity to live out her dream to travel to Africa. She attended a school with other American students that was located above an African law school, which allowed her to interact with local students as well. “The program is built nicely because they include a lot of travel into the classes,



TREY KEMBLE '14

Intrigued by the field of communication, Trey Kemble's involvement with SUTV evolved into the decision to change his major from history education to communication/journalism. Now in his senior year, Kemble is the sports director for SUTV and is well on his way to reaching his career goals in sports broadcasting. Shifting from studying the past to exploring new technologies in broadcasting, Kemble still had a fondness for history, so he kept it as a minor.

“I just loved everything about the communications field,” he said. The department's updated, industry-level equipment allows students to build competency with skills that Kemble finds helpful as “the top-notch professional that the world really needs today.”

With hopes to pursue a career in sports broadcasting upon graduation in May, he has chosen to spend his Friday nights in a different setting than many college students. Devoting his time to developing skills from industry professionals, Kemble immersed himself into sports journalism during an internship with ABC27 in Harrisburg. There, he put what he learned from class into action, contributing to the portion of ABC's newscast titled “Friday Night Football.” Responsible for shooting highlights and writing corresponding scripts, Kemble was able to build on the skills he already had from his involvement with SUTV, while gaining real-world experience.

“I JUST LOVED EVERYTHING ABOUT THE COMMUNICATIONS FIELD.”

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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College Of Arts & Sciences

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CAS advisory board

The College of Arts & Sciences Advisory Board is comprised of alumni, friends of Shippensburg University, and faculty emeriti of the college. The purpose of this advisory board is to share professional and personal perspective on matters relating to academic philosophy and practice, internships and cooperative learning opportunities, professional development for faculty, to provide financial assistance, and 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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