

## Honors Program

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### SU Students Speak at Regional Honors Conference

Three Shippensburg University Honors Program students recently gave invited presentations on business ethics at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference in Annapolis, Md.

Juniors Grace Burkholder of Harrisburg, Jennifer Coccagna of Chambersburg, and Ally Morgan of Mifflinburg were among the more than 300 honors collegiate students, faculty, and administrators who attended the gathering March 27-29 at Loews Annapolis Hotel.

The conference, themed “Embracing Contradictions,” provided a forum for undergraduate students to showcase their best academic work and for higher education practitioners to share ideas about honors education.

Burkholder and Morgan’s research, “Green Business: A Future without Contradictions,” focused on the intersection of corporate social responsibility and environmentally friendly business practices and strategies. They presented their own variation of an established corporate responsibility business model by providing examples of ways the corporate world can “go green” economically, legally, ethically, and philanthropically.

“For the most part, people in the audience were responsive to the idea of going green because it’s such a hot topic right now,” said Burkholder, an accounting major. “We tried to provide a new perspective on how something that seems in contradiction to the business world can be incorporated into a sound business model.”

“The conference was a great opportunity to see what other honors students throughout the northeast are researching,” added Morgan, a human resource management major. “I’m looking forward to incorporating some of their ideas and techniques into my future research and studies.”

Coccagna’s presentation, “Law Versus Life: A Manufacturing Contradiction for the Department of Defense,” offered an analysis of how the U.S. Department of Defense at times bypasses Environmental Protection Agency standards to meet mission timelines for manufacturing military supplies, vehicles, and equipment.

“I originally came across some information on this topic during an internship at a local military depot, and it piqued my curiosity,” explained Coccagna, an accounting and finance major. “In my research, I tried to suggest a reorganization of the corporate social responsibility model for the Department of Defense.”

The northeast region of the Honors Council Conference includes honors programs from more than 200 colleges and universities. The region encompasses 11 states stretching from Maine to Maryland, along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The SU students developed their business ethics research ideas in Honors Business in Society, an Honors Program seminar taught last fall by Dr. Wendy Becker. For more information about the students and their presentations, contact Dr. Kim Klein, Shippensburg University Honors Program director, at 717-477-1604 or [kmklei@ship.edu](mailto:kmklei@ship.edu).

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The Shippensburg University Honors Program is made up of more than 150 undergraduate students of diverse backgrounds who are accepted to the program based on academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and community service.

The Honors Program offers small, dynamic classes with outstanding instruction; opportunities for research projects, internships, and study abroad experiences; and cultural events, social activities, and service projects.