

Honors Program

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SU Honors Freshmen Present Research Projects in Wisconsin

Two Shippensburg University Honors Program freshmen were invited to give presentations at the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, April 16-18.

Tracy Migliori of Schnecksville and Lexi Wellington of Shippensburg developed research projects in their Honors Writing Intensive First-Year Seminar last fall and presented the projects at the NCUR gathering. NCUR is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study.

Migliori, a history secondary education major, examined contemporary horror films to understand why viewers are drawn to such plots. She found the plots act as a sort of explanation of pain and suffering in the world and help viewers cope with the reality of violence and death.

“I was honored to be selected to participate in the conference,” said Migliori. “It was a great opportunity to come together with my peers to discuss and present our research.”

Wellington, a biology pre-veterinary major, studied letters written by one of her ancestors during the Civil War to understand how the correspondence captured differing views on politics and how Civil War politics affected Union family ties.

“It was great to attend the conference because there were a multitude of interesting people who spoke about research in many different fields,” noted Wellington.

To be invited to present research as a freshman is rare, according to Dr. Laurie Cella, who taught the Honors Writing Intensive First-Year Seminar last fall. The seminar introduces students to the elements of professional discourse and gives them an opportunity to write an essay in their own discipline and learn about academic venues for disseminating their research.

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.