

Honors Program

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Students Offer Science Research at Professional Conferences

Two Shippensburg University Honors Program students from Franklin County recently presented innovative science research at professional conferences in Maine and Utah.

Kara Bushman of Spring Run gave a poster presentation, "Morphologic Landmark Analysis and Glabellar Fenestrae Count of North American Cryptolithus Trilobites," at the annual meeting of the northeastern region of the Geological Society of America in Portland, Maine, March 22-24.

The trilobite is an extinct ocean-dwelling crustacean similar to a horseshoe crab. Bushman, a 21-year-old junior majoring in geo-environmental studies, obtained trilobite samples from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology. She used the samples to develop a new approach to distinguish between trilobite species and hopes to draw on that approach to identify fossils from the mid-Atlantic region.

Katelyn Moore of Chambersburg presented her research project, "Synthesis of a Lanthanide Transition Metal Double-Decker Metallocrown Single-Molecule Magnet," at the American Chemical Society national conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 22-26.

Moore, a 20-year-old junior majoring in chemistry, synthesized a metal compound that can potentially increase the storage capacity of a computer hard drive sevenfold. She received an undergraduate research grant from Shippensburg University last fall to help fund the project and plans to test the molecule and refine it as necessary.

"Kara and Katelyn are very talented students, and their conference presentations demonstrate the significance of their research," said Dr. Kim Klein, SU Honors Program director. "They are two outstanding examples of the many Honors Program students involved in cutting-edge scientific research at Shippensburg University."

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.