More Than $8,700 Awarded in Grants for Honors Undergraduate Research Projects

SHIPPENSBURG, Pa. – Eleven students from the Shippensburg University Honors Program have received grants to support their undergraduate research and creative projects during the 2012-2013 academic year. The university’s Institute for Public Service recently announced more than $8,700 would be awarded to Honors Program students.

The students’ undergraduate research and creative projects span a variety of fields, including Biology, Chemistry, Early Childhood Education, Mathematics, Political Science, and History, and will take multiple forms, including laboratory research, field work, and artistic projects. Funding is provided by the Shippensburg University Foundation.

“The students who have received grants submitted outstanding proposals,” said Dr. Kim Klein, director of the Honors Program. “One of the Honors Program’s most important goals is to expand our students’ intellectual horizons beyond the classroom by promoting participation in undergraduate research, service-learning, and creative projects, and these grants will allow our students to delve into areas of specialized study.”

Each of the grant applicants was chosen by the university’s Undergraduate Research Grant Advisory Committee based on relevance and significance of topic, adequacy of design and feasibility, likelihood for success, and potential for learning.

The Undergraduate Research Grants Program provides financial support to undergraduate students for research or scholarly activities related to their programs of study to enable them to better understand the scientific process, experience discovery, and develop their analytical and communication skills. The Honors Program grant recipients and their project titles are:

Miranda Aaron, a senior Early Childhood Education major from Eagleville, PA, “Implementing Special Education Strategies at the Pathways of Learning School in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.”

Rachel Aleardi, a junior Biology major from Narvon, PA, “The Effect of Dietary Habits and the Use of Xylitol on Biofilm Formation (Plaque) in the Oral Cavity.”
Teresa Cleary, a junior Biology major from Dallastown, PA, “Comparison of the Roles of Vision and Pheromone Detection in Courtship Behavior of Drosophila Melanogaster.”

Grant Innerst, a sophomore Mathematics major from Red Lion, PA, “Counting Techniques of Open Air Events.”

Melissa Koontz, a senior Early Childhood Education major from Harrisburg, PA, “Fascinating First Graders”: A Triangular Study of First Graders’ Articulation and Demonstration of Key Prosocial Behaviors.”

Shannon Lee, a junior Biology major from Lansdale, PA, “Identification of Bacterial Isolates Using rRNA Gene Sequence Analysis.”


Kelsey Mengle, a sophomore Chemistry major from Carlisle, PA, “Processing of Aerogels in Microtiter Well Plates as a Basis for Multichannel Chemical Sensing.”

Tracy Migliori, a senior History major from Schnecksville, PA, “In-Country, at Home: The Vietnam War as Seen by the Cumberland County.”

Holly Plank, a senior Earth/Space Science and Secondary Education major from Camp Hill, PA, “Environmental Education: Improving Scientific Literacy through Inquiry.”

Christopher Silvia, a sophomore Political Science and Psychology major from Gouldsboro, PA, “This Lesson is a Joke: Does Political Satire Inform?”

The Honors Program at Shippensburg University provides an outstanding undergraduate experience that emphasizes scholarship, leadership, and service. The Honors Program involves approximately 175 students who are selected based on their academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and civic engagement. SU Honors students benefit from small classes; outstanding instruction; Honors research and study abroad opportunities; and special cultural and recreational activities. For more information, please visit http://www.ship.edu/honors.