The Kirkland/Spizuoco Memorial Science Lecture
Dinner Remarks

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

As the 15th President of this incredible university I want to thank you for joining us tonight for the **The Kirkland/Spizuoco Memorial Science Lecture.**

SHIP started this Lecture Series to honor, Dr. Gordon Kirkland Jr., and Dr. Joseph Spizuoco, two long-time faculty members, for their dedication and commitment to SHIPPENSBURG students and to their academic fields of biology and physics, respectively. For those of you who may have had the privilege of working with, or knowing, Dr. Kirkland Jr. and Dr. Spizuoco, you understand why people say that what makes SHIP a great University is the faculty!

Dr. Kirkland, and Dr. Spizuoco were devoted faculty members. Like so many of our faculty, they were dedicated to helping our students participate in experiential learning, to mentoring our students, and to helping our students enter into successful careers. It is the efforts of Dr. Kirkland, Dr Spizuoco, and, faculty members like them, that give SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY the reputation of having faculty who not only share their wisdom and knowledge with our students, but also who become mentors and life-long friends of our students.

During their time at SHIP, Gordon and Joe were outstanding role models, and they continue to serve in that role. I cannot count the number of times a faculty member has stopped me to discuss an experience they had with Gordon or Joe and tell me how that experience influenced their teaching career. These two gentlemen exuded their love of teaching, their passion for their areas of expertise, and their interest and desire to teach students. They remain in the hearts and minds of their students, colleagues, and many friends.

In 1999, our campus suffered an overwhelming loss when Gordon and Joe died. At that time, Gordon had been at SHIP for about 30 years and Joe had been a part of the SHIP campus family for about 11 years. Their deaths left a void—a hole—in the heart of this University. However, their legacy continues in the lives of faculty, staff, and students who had the opportunity to learn from these two remarkable individuals who inspired their lives. It also continues in the dedication their families show to helping students at SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY. We are pleased to have some of their family members with us tonight. Those members are _____.

Would you please stand and let us thank you for helping us to continue Joe and Gordon's legacies?

One of Joe and Gordon's legacies is tonight's lecture. This lecture is part of an Annual Program that allows us to continue celebrating their lives and allows us to attract nationally—and internationally known individuals to our campus. Each year we alternate the topic of the Lecture Series between Gordon's expertise in biology, and Joe's expertise in physics. This year our topic is biology, Gordon's area of expertise, and we have the distinct privilege of having as our speaker **Dr. Carl Safina.**

Dr. Safina is a well-respected and well-recognized author and ecologist who is known for his work in biology—both inside and outside of the classroom. Dr. Safina has a reputation for caring about the world's oceans which began with his work on seabird ecology. His work helps to ensure that our seas remain an important part of our world. Dr. Safina has written several books that blend science with the moral and social implications of our relationship with nature. He has the unique talent of conveying information in a manner that causes us to critically think about, and evaluate, our own relationship with nature.

In the 1990s, Dr. Safina helped campaign to ban high seas driftnets, rewrite federal fisheries law, work toward conservation of tuna, sharks, and other fish, and achieve passage of a United Nations global fisheries treaty. He is a MacArthur Fellow, recipient of

the Pew Scholar's Award, founding president of the Blue Ocean Institute and, is an adjunct professor at Stony Brook University.

Like you, I look forward to Dr. Safina's presentation tonight—and I know that when he finishes his presentation, each of us will *not only* know more about our oceans and our world, *but also*, know more about ourselves and our relationship with our oceans and world.

Ladies and Gentleman, again, thank you for joining us tonight. Now, it is my pleasure to present to you, **Dr. Carl Safina**. Please join me in giving him a warm welcome!!