During the opening faculty meeting held in August 2014, Dr. Barbara Lyman, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, presented the Provost’s Award for Extraordinary Service. The award is given for exemplary accomplishments in teaching, research/scholarly activities, and/or service. This year’s recipients were Dr. Sherri Bergsten, associate professor of biology, and Dr. Tim Maret, professor of biology. Bergsten and Maret were recognized for their exceptional contributions in creating and implementing the high impact educational practice of a Living Learning Community known as the Biology Freshman Interest Group (FIG). The second academic year of the Living Learning Community at Shippensburg University, it was designed to better support incoming freshman through the adjustment to college level work as well as college life in general. The pilot of the program netted outstanding results as seen in the active engagement and academic achievements of the students involved.

The Teaching Innovation and Pedagogy Spotlight (TIPS) Awards were also presented at the opening faculty meeting. Co-sponsored by the Provost’s Office and the Center for Faculty Excellence in Scholarship and Teaching (CFEST), the awards recognize outstanding tenured/tenure-track faculty in each college and school who have developed an innovative course. The innovation can be in implementing technology to support teaching and learning, integrating research projects, promoting field experiences with authentic and varied assessments, and facilitating collaboration among students. Nominations for the awards came from the campus community then awardees were ultimately selected by the CFEST Campus Support Committee. The four recipients were found to provide especially exemplary academic experiences for their students. Dr. Erica Galioto,

(Continued on page 4)
Welcome Aboard, New Faculty!

Shippensburg University welcomed new tenure track faculty in Fall 2014. The campus community is excited they are here!

**College of Arts & Sciences**

**Dr. Sangkook Lee** – Assistant Professor in Computer Science & Engineering. Dr. Lee received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering in 2011 from SUNY Buffalo, NY. Prior to coming to Shippensburg, Dr. Lee was a visiting Professor at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis.

**John L. Grove College of Business**

**Dr. Edward Pitingolo** – Associate Professor in Accounting & MIS/ITBE. Dr. Pitingolo received his D.Mgt. in Management in 2009 from the University of Maryland, Adelphi. Prior to coming to Shippensburg, Dr. Pitingolo was a tenure track faculty member at Bloomsburg University.

**College of Education & Human Services**

**Dr. Samuel Forlenza** – Assistant Professor in Exercise Science. Dr. Forlenza received his Ph.D. in Kinesiology in 2014 from Michigan State University, East Lansing.

Forlenza was a Teaching Assistant at Michigan State University, East Lansing.

**Library and Media Services**

**Ms. Ashley N. Esposito** – Assistant Professor in Ezra Lehman Library. Ms. Esposito received her M.S.L.S. in 2007 in Library Science from Clarion University, Clarion, PA. Prior to coming to Shippensburg, Ms. Esposito was the Coordinator of Media Services at Merion Mercy Academy, Merion Station, PA.

MSCHE: We Did It Again!

Shippensburg University once again received a commendation on the mid-term report submitted to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). As the institutional accrediting body, MSCHE does a full review of the university every ten years and a periodic review five years after the full review. SU’s Periodic Review Report (PRR) was submitted this summer and then reviewed in the fall by MSCHE. The result: our 2009 reaffirmation of accreditation was upheld and the institution was commended for the quality of the PRR process and report. To put this in perspective: a total of five PASSHE schools underwent a reaccreditation event (PRR, self-study report, or progress report) this year; one school was placed on warning, another must submit a progress report, one progress report was accepted, and the other two (including SU) were continued in their accreditation with no condition attached. “Once again, Ship continues to shine!” said Dr. Tracy Schoolcraft, Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, who co-chaired the PRR Committee along with Dr. Sara Grove, professor of political science. “Our culture of shared governance and continuous improvement is once again recognized by our peers.” Thank you to all who contributed in any way to this successful outcome!

“Once again, Ship continues to shine! – Dr. Tracy Schoolcraft
Pi Alpha Alpha Named Top Political Science Student Chapter in Nation

The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA), the national accrediting body for college and university public administration programs, named Shippensburg University’s chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha the top university chapter in the United States. The award is all the more special since the chapter was chartered less than two years before winning it. The SU chapter is the only one of its kind in the PASSHE system and one of only five chapters in Pennsylvania of this international honor society for public affairs and administration. According to the organization’s website, the criteria for winning the Jacqueline F. Lewis Chapter Award of Excellence include a variety of quality programs and activities that promote and honor public service scholarship, successful recruitment of eligible students, contributions to the national field of public service education, alumni involvement, and being fiscally solvent with a full complement of officers. The chapter’s advisor, Dr. Amanda Olejarski, assistant professor of political science, accepted the award at the NASPAA annual meeting held in November.

Shippensburg University’s award-winning Pi Alpha Alpha chapter as they appear on the NASPAA website.

HR Program & Online MBA Nationally Ranked

The Human Resources program offered through the management and marketing department of the John L. Grove College of Business has been named #10 in the nation by HumanResourceMBA.net. The organization measured bachelor degree programs across the entire country and came up with a list of the top 25. Criteria used included program alignment with Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) guidelines, accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AASCB), having an active SHRM student chapter, rankings by US News and World Report, and four-year graduation rates reported by College Navigator. At #10 in the nation, Shippensburg ranked higher on the list than many larger schools around the country, including California State University – Fresno, University of Colorado, Brigham Young University (UT), Oklahoma State University, and Valdosta State University (GA).

The John L. Grove College of Business received additional national recognition when its online MBA program was named one of the top 100 in the nation by U.S & News & World Report. It is the first year the publication ranked distance education MBA programs. Rankings were based on five general categories: student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology. SU’s online MBA program is in its second full year – and clearly already has the well-deserved reputation of being a quality program.

“These recognitions of the Human Resources and the online MBA programs of the John L. Grove College of Business are yet additional external indicators of the quality of academic programs at Shippensburg University,” said Dr. Barbara Lyman, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. “I commend the faculty and students on receiving these recognitions.”
Awards Presented, continued

Associate professor of English, was chosen for ENG 464 Seminar in Major Authors for the extensive collaboration between Galion, her students, and the community, the varied assessment techniques designed to support successful completion of a final project, and the incorporation of research initiatives within and outside the classroom. Dr. Wendy Becker, associate professor of management, was recognized for MGT 447 Business and Society and how her course design

incorporated field experiences in local companies and innovative risk role-play technology. Dr. Janet Bufalino, associate professor of teacher education, was recognized for her use of technology for attainment of instructional goals and facilitation of collaboration among students and faculty in RDG 607 Reading Recovery Training for Teachers I. Dr. Chad Bennett, assistant professor of academic services, was selected based on his work

with ASP 101 Introduction to Higher Education, which included a variety of pedagogical assessment techniques, the incorporation of assessment results into course design, enhanced student persistence and retention, and structured learning communities. Two additional faculty member nominees were deserving of Honorable Mentions: Dr. Lea Adams associate professor of psychology, and Dr. James Griffith, professor of psychology, were recognized jointly for their work with PSY 621 and PSY 622, Field Experience 1 & II.

The Provost’s Award for Extraordinary Service includes a certificate, plaque, and $500 each to use toward professional development activities this year. The TIPS Award includes a $500 travel grant.

Sandy-Bailey Awarded Fulbright Grant

Dr. Lance Sandy-Bailey, assistant professor of political science received a Fulbright award for the 2014-2015 academic year. The Fulbright program is a highly competitive educational exchange program sponsored by the US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and designed to foster understanding between the US and other participating countries. Sandy-Bailey’s Fulbright Specialist grant sent him to Ovidius University in Romania this fall. While there, he lectured about various aspects of American politics to several classes. He was also a speaker at the annual meeting of the Romanian Association of American Studies. Additionally, he gave a number of presentations in the community at large.

Sandy-Bailey is no stranger to the Fulbright program. He the academic director of the Institute on U.S. Political Thought, itself a Fulbright program, for several years. The institute runs for six weeks each summer during which faculty scholars from all over the world come to the U.S. to study American political thought and the scholars complete part of their studies at Shippensburg University.

“Dr. Sandy-Bailey’s selection as a Fulbright recipient serves as further external validation of the high quality of faculty at Shippensburg and honors his work,” said Dr. Barbara Lyman, provost and senior vice-president for academic affairs.

Sloattery Wins State Teaching Award

Associate professor of teacher education Dr. Cheryl Slattery received the 2014 Teacher Educator of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE). Criteria for the award include professional and leadership experience, scholarship, and service to the organization, profession, and community. Slattery was nominated for the award by her department chair, Dr. Christine Royce, professor of teacher education and a previous winner of the award.

According to its website, the purpose of PAC-TE is to promote quality professional educator preparation programs and to provide opportunity for individual professional growth for all persons in Pennsylvania engaged in professional educator preparation.” Clearly, the organization recognizes Slattery’s contributions towards meeting that purpose. She was presented the award at the annual fall dinner in October.

“That the quality of Dr. Slattery’s contributions has been recognized by her peers is not only well-deserved by Dr. Slattery but also elevates the profile of her department, college, and the university across the state of Pennsylvania,” said Dr. Barbara Lyman, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Congratulations, Cheryl!
Student Spotlight: Seize the Opportunities!

A key component of a successful college experience is broadening knowledge and experience. Not only does classroom instruction assist towards that end, so does involvement in learning and service activities beyond the classroom. Involvement in these activities can also enhance academic performance. There are countless opportunities available to all students – they only need to take advantage of them.

Meelika Molder, senior entrepreneurship major, and Joel Marzzarella, junior marketing major, are two students who epitomize “seizing opportunities” at Shippensburg. They are both currently officers on the New Student Orientation (NSO) Committee (Joel as president and student director, Meelika as media coordinator) as well as active in the STARS Ambassador Program, where they have also both served on the executive board.

The students participated in the 2014 ShipTank competition, a campus-wide entrepreneurial contest, and won third prize. They were approached about participating in a hands-on learning experience in their field – they said yes, and were flown to California to help market a product for Freebird Games at the Game Developers Conference.

Meelika and Joel both give freely of their time in a multitude of service opportunities available on campus and in the community. For example, Meelika is from Estonia and she frequently shares information about her home country through international educational panels, elementary school presentations, and the modern language department’s annual immersion fairs. Both Joel and Meelika regularly volunteer at the Grace B Luhrs University Elementary School where they assist with lunch, recess, and classroom activities. Both have been recognized for their contributions to the various organizations and services of which they have been a part; Meelika was even recognized at the university level when she won a Campus Life Outstanding Freshman Award. Looking at this list, one might wonder when they have time for classes – but no worry – both Joel and Meelika regularly appear on the John L Grove College of Business Dean’s List.

Why seize so many opportunities? Meelika said that by seizing opportunities in college, you will continue to do so in your professional life – you have learned how to do so. Joel added that the more you know, the more opportunities you get. Both also noted the benefit of networking with a wide range of people. The skills learned in all these opportunities will serve them well in the years to come. Meelika commented that she is by nature a shy person, but through her work with the NSO and the Ambassadors, her public speaking skills have dramatically improved. She now regularly speaks to crowds of up to 2000 people and to groups of diverse composition.

Joel pointed to the time management and organizational skills he has learned and how they surely will benefit him professionally. They advised every student to get involved in a club or service activity as soon as they can – the skills learned there will not only help with academic coursework, but in life beyond graduation. They especially encouraged commuter students to get involved – both Meelika and Joel are commuter students and their involvement helped them feel more connected to campus and other students. A final piece of advice: “Don’t discount opportunities that may seem difficult or challenging – seize those as well,” said Meelika. “You might be surprised at what you can do. Challenges, not the familiar, are what make you grow.” “Ditto,” said Joel.
And Now a Word from Our Sponsor....  
Barbara G. Lyman, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs

The Academic Master Plan under Strategy P signals our clear and unmistakable intention to provide Shippensburg students with high quality learning experiences that have impact and value lasting well beyond the defined terms of these experiences themselves. Strategy P states that we will:  
  - Expand, support, and assess experiential learning activities that provide students with opportunities for skills development and the application of theory to practice. (Sample experiential learning activities include research, internships, field work, service learning, volunteerism, study abroad, collaborative assignments, and capstone projects.)

This edition of the newsletter reflects that Shippensburg students have opportunities in abundance for what have come to be called “High Impact Practices. These experiences are thus referred to because of their role in increasing students' academic engagement, and as a byproduct increasing their retention and completion rates.

Periodically, we administer the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) which asks a sample of freshmen and seniors about their participation in the High Impact Practices of:  
  - Learning Communities  
  - Service-Learning  
  - Research with Faculty  
  - Internships or Field Experiences  
  - Study Abroad  
  - Culminating Experiences  

First-year students are asked about their opportunities to engage in the first three while seniors are asked about their opportunities to be involved in the entire list of six High Impact Practices across their years at Shippensburg University.

Our seniors, in the last two administrations of the NSSE, have indicated at rates higher than the average for seniors across PASSHE that they have indeed had opportunities to engage in High Impact Practices. The availability of High Impact Practices is a critical element of the larger story of high quality learning that takes place at Shippensburg. Such experiences heighten the quality of students' preparation, making them more competitive for advanced study and for careers. It may be only years later that students also see long term pay offs in the enhanced quality of their lives and communities. As they look back, students will have growing appreciation for the dedication of the faculty and others who afforded them opportunities to engage in High Impact Practices. I join students in appreciation for such high quality learning experiences here at Shippensburg! Thank you!